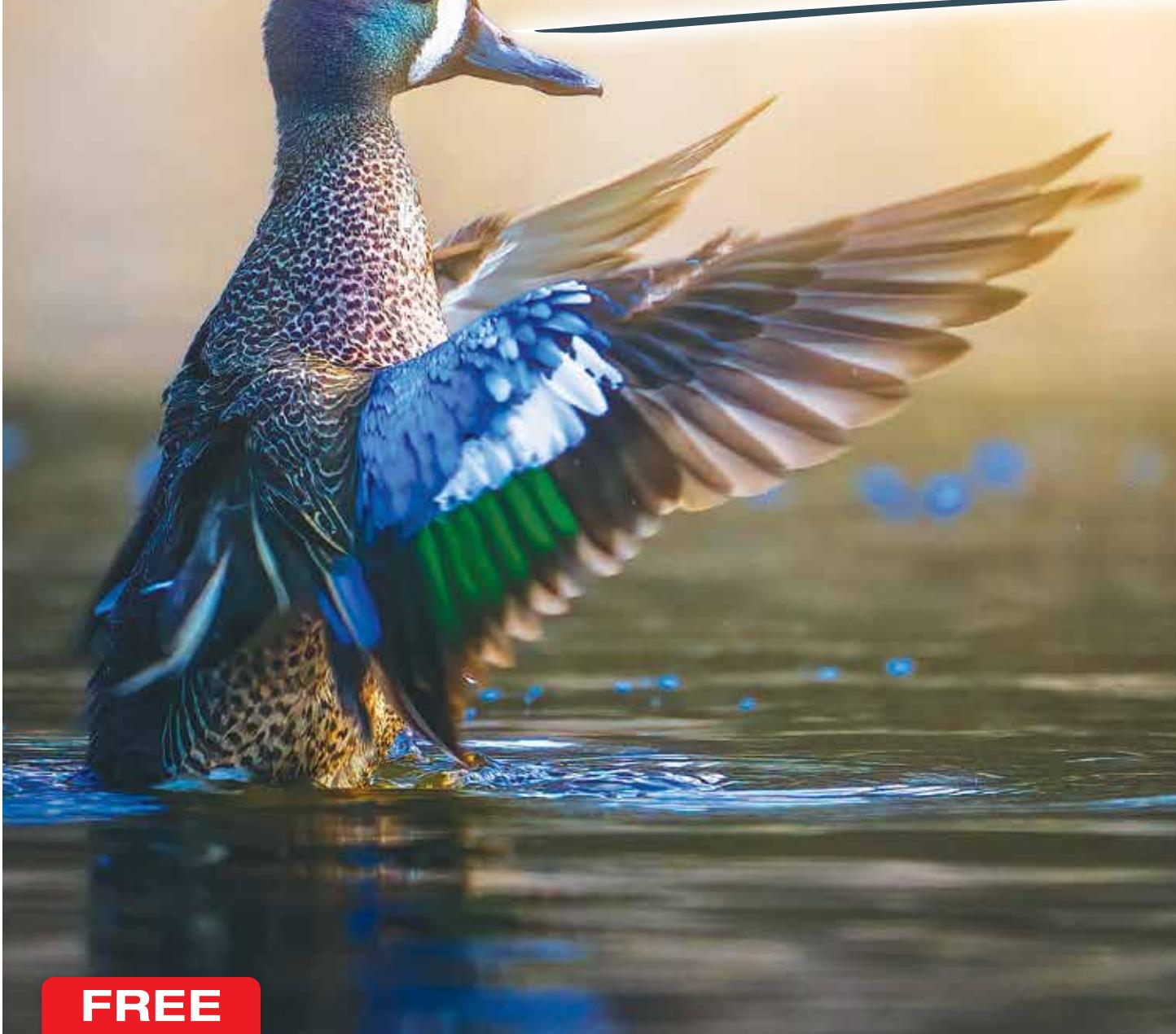


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DAVE FIDLIN

# Wildcat Mountain State Park

## A Vernon County, Kickapoo Valley wonderland

Wisconsin's Highway 33, which runs from Port Washington to the east and Lacrosse to the west, provides a unique glimpse into the state's disparate landscapes. This especially becomes pronounced on the western edge of the 200-mile stretch of roadway that approaches the Mississippi River.

Wildcat Mountain State Park, located within Vernon County, is one of multiple scenic stops along the Highway 33 route. As fall approaches, the park is a popular natural destination for anyone looking to enjoy the best of Wisconsin's autumnal color from the unique vantage point. At its peak, the park site has an elevation that reaches as high as 1,027 feet.

The 3,643-acre park is located within the Kickapoo Valley and features many of the immediate area's characteristics, including limestone-topped bluffs and close proximity to the Kickapoo River.

The unique archeological features interspersed throughout the park site and surrounding areas come by virtue of the park's designation as a Driftless area. In other words, this particular area is not believed to have been covered by glaciers in the last ice age.

The park site stands out for several reasons, including its distinction of having areas that never have been touched by man. This especially is true of Mount Pisgah, an area adorned with old-growth hemlock and white pine trees.



Wildcat Mountain State Park offers a unique glimpse into the Kickapoo Valley.

Neither logging nor livestock grazing are believed to have taken place within the area at any time in recorded history.

Established as an official state park in 1948, Wildcat Mountain offers a number of amenities for visitors considering a stay within its confines for a few hours - or a few days.

Throughout its grounds, Wildcat Mountain State Park features a total of 21 miles of trails that loop through various notable points. The trails offer accommodations for hiking and equestrian travel. For people with horses, a total of 15 miles of trails are available by way of three distinct color-coded loop systems.

Camping accommodations also are possible within the park, with designated areas for families, groups and horseback riders.

In the depths of winter, Wildcat Mountain State Park takes on a new persona and becomes a hot spot for such cold-weathered sporting activities as cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

Other notable amenities within the park include an amphitheater, picnic areas and an outlook viewing tower that provides a clear view into Kickapoo's lower valley and adjoining river.

Birding is another popular activity within Wildcat Mountain State Park. The area ecosystem, powered by the Kickapoo River, provides abundant opportunities to enjoy this time-honored spectacle.

Bird species that frequent the park include - but are not limited to - bald eagles, Canadian geese, great blue herons, red-tailed hawks, sandpipers, tundra swans and wild turkeys.

Visitors stand a good chance of seeing other species within the park as well. Various species of snakes call the park site home, as do beavers, muskrats, red squirrels and white-tailed deer. 

Wildcat Mountain State Park is located at E13660 State Road 33, just outside Ontario, and is open daily from 6 am to 11 pm, year-round.

STUART WILKE

## Forgotten Wisconsin

### More history behind the making of our state flag

Wisconsin's flag was built to last. In fact, the flag has been flying across the state for over 160 years to date with no end in sight. Like most things that last, it is built on a strong foundation, which is where we will begin in deciphering the mystery of the flag - at the bottom.

Holding up the entire flag edifice are what looks to be 13 triangles. In actuality, they are not triangles, they're lead ingots. When the state seal, which the flag is based on, was designed in 1848, mining, especially for lead, was still a big deal. Mining was a major contributor to the state's economy in the early 19th century and a primary driver of its population growth. Lead was used in the manufacture of pipes, paint and ammunition, among many other products. Zinc and copper were also big parts of the state's mining industry and in the late 19th century Mineral Point boasted the largest zinc smelting facility in the world. By 1829, there were 4,000 miners in southwestern Wisconsin, where most of mining was centered, producing some 13 million pounds

of lead a year. Miners also plied other areas of Wisconsin for copper, zinc and iron.

Mining was so important in the early 19th century that it was memorialized in two different illustrations on the flag. One of the two fellows holding up the state seal's shield is a miner. He's the guy on the right holding, appropriately, a pickaxe. Atop all of the flag's other symbols is a badger, not yet then the state animal.

One of the few things Wisconsinites might know about the flag is that the badger represents miners, who, like the animal, burrowed in the ground for shelter. Badgers are also ferocious, tenuous, muscular and ill-tempered, other characteristics it shared with many early Wisconsin miners. Miners of the time were transient. They didn't work in large mines owned by companies, but travelled from region to region in search of minerals that could be extracted from the ground. Among the areas they hailed from were Missouri, Pennsylvania, and when word came from America about Wisconsin mining opportunities, Cromwell,

There's a lot of symbolism crammed into the Wisconsin State Flag.



England. Cromwell was a mining town and home of some of the world's best miners.

There was nothing easy about mining. The trade was (and still is) back-breaking, dangerous and unhealthy. Wisconsin's early miners would plot an area to work and dug pits as deep as they could with pickaxe and shovel. Wood was pounded into mineral veins, set on fire to heat the surrounding rock, and then doused with water, setting off an explosion that allowed more access to more minerals. The mined minerals would then be smelted, leaving a toxic goo that poisoned everything it touched - and still does. The finished ingots would then be sold to investors who, in turn, would sell it to manufacturers throughout the world.

By the 1840s, many of Wisconsin's miners had quit the occupation or moved on to other promising mineral sites, not the least of which were the California gold fields.

Mining still exists in Wisconsin today but nowhere to the extent that it did during its 1820 to 1840 heyday. 

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**DAN MOERICKE**

## An 'Up Nort' Report Northwoods' Celebrity

In the Three Lakes community, he is known simply as Whitey. Not a particularly clever or regal name for such a magnificent buck. I would have thought something more regal, like maybe Thor, Zeus, or Gandalf. But, Whitey it is.

The great white buck of Three Lakes is a local celebrity. And he's not camera shy since there are almost daily pictures of him on Facebook. Talk with most any of the locals and it seems as though everybody has seen Whitey at some point.

Albinos are protected by Wisconsin hunting regulations. While Whitey may not be a true albino, lacking pink eyes and sporting one small patch of brown on his forehead, he is certainly a spectacular sight to see and I would certainly hope no one would look to shoot him. Based on my recent sighting, I think he'll be sporting 14 points this fall.

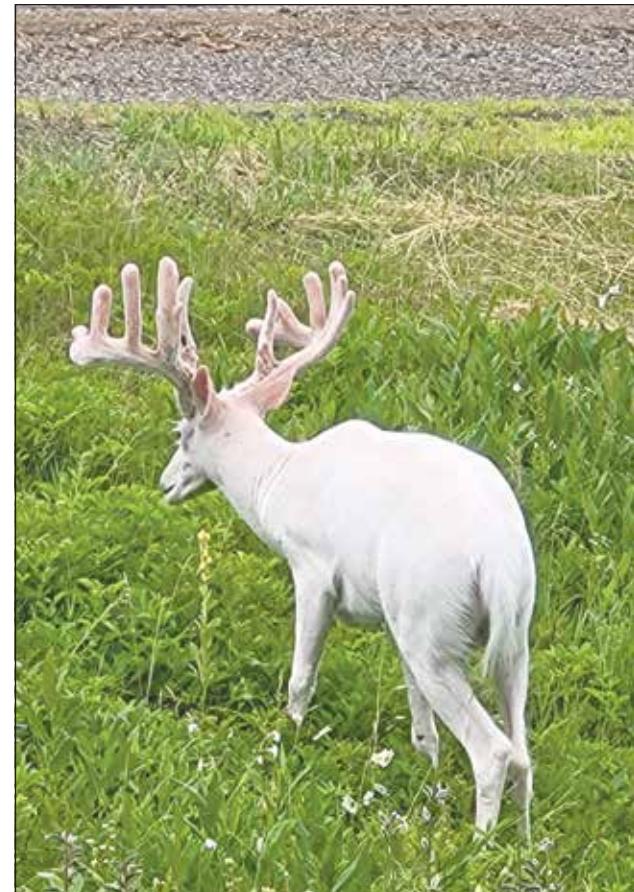
And Whitey has been fairly prolific since the sighting of white deer (no doubt his offspring) has become fairly common in the Three Lakes area. I have seen white does and fawns on several occasions.

Years ago, there was another white buck that was a legend in the community. He was killed by a car and his mount is now on display at the Three Lakes High School. Most likely, Whitey will also meet the same fate someday since he has a propensity to cross Highway 45 on a daily basis.

I just hope and pray that it isn't me that hits him. Just sayin'.



Whitey in November 2023.



Whitey in July 2025.

## On The Cover

Migratory birds, like the Blue-Wing Teal on the cover, often move through Wisconsin with the speed of our own seasons. Blink, it seems, and another fleeting summer is gone, with the cooler air and colors of autumn bearing down hard behind it. For many, a good bye to the dog days and a reprieve from school is a hard goodbye. For hunters, and those of us who look forward to the Packers and Badgers while

anticipating a long run for the Brewers, fall is an easy hello.

The first time OWO writers settled in to a blind in the lightest of camo to take in the early teal season (from September 1 in 2025), we never pulled the trigger. Paranoia at dropping a duck other than teal and a lack of confidence in our skills at waterfowl

identification will do that to a hunter. Since then, we've had some great mornings with birds down and early dog work in a blind.

Mainly though, we're just out there to welcome another Wisconsin fall, and all that's about to come with it. Enjoy it now. We think we hear the breath of winter, just over the horizon.



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SPOTLIGHT | ALGOMA

CAPT. LEE HAASCH

# Algoma Autumn Magic

Looking for a great adventure this fall? Check out Algoma. From picking apples to visiting the area farmers' markets to taking in a kermis or two, the Algoma area has lots to offer as the leaves turn colors. Personally, it's my all-time favorite time of the year. I can catch a cooler of fish in the morning and spend time in the woods in the afternoon. So can you, with so much more waiting.

Fall festivals are happening throughout the area and Algoma also hosts the Wet Whistle Wine Fest in mid-September. Almost every weekend within a short drive from Algoma you can attend a community festival and enjoy some of the most delicious local ethnic food fares you can imagine. A short distance to the west you can attend a Packer practice or take in a game and tour the Packer Hall of Fame.

If the great outdoors is your game, from canoeing and kayaking the rivers to waterfowl hunting, this is truly a special place. Kewaunee County also has hundreds of acres of public hunting land and many of them are stocked with

ring neck pheasants for the upland bird hunters. Rich in agriculture, this area produces large numbers of whitetail deer and trophy bucks are a common site feasting in the fields. The Lake Michigan shoreline provides the ideal environment for flocks of geese and the annual migration of diving ducks give waterfowl hunters plenty of action.

A trip to Algoma would never be complete without doing a little fishing. The Ahnapee River running through Algoma is full of ready-to-spawn chinook salmon and later brown trout and even coho salmon. But my favorite is heading off-shore in one of the many local charter boats and filling your cooler with silver steelhead and young salmon.

Heading off-shore in the pre-dawn hours and watching a colorful sunrise while battling a silver dancing steelhead is a thrill like no other. This action can be fast and furious this time of year and these acrobatic fish make for some the best table fare. I like to call steelhead the "prime rib of the lake!" This is one of my favorite times of the year to score some great eating fish for the winter.

Fall is harvest time in Wisconsin and the Algoma area



*From canoeing and kayaking the rivers to waterfowl hunting, Algoma is truly a special place during the Fall.*

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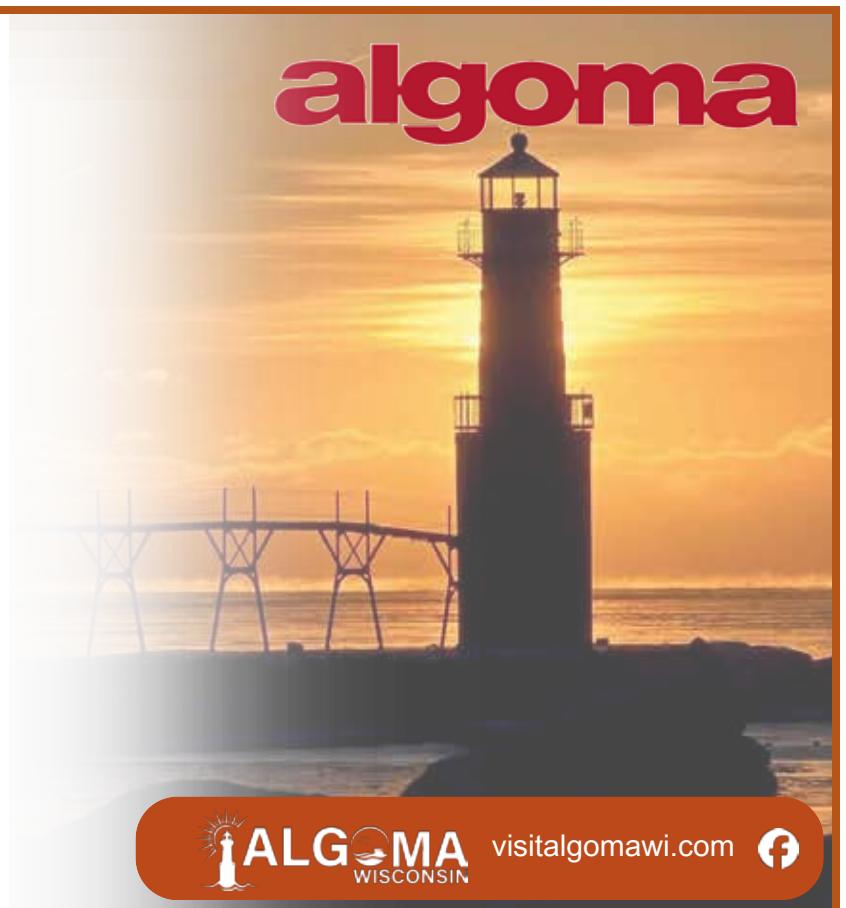


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**JAMES BOHN, GREG GRAMBOW**

## Personal Economics

# Wisconsin's 2025 Budget Leaves Out Taxpayers

This July the Legislature and Governor finalized the state budget for the next two fiscal years. This budget has come to be known as the “all of the above” budget because it ostensibly satisfies the priorities of both parties in Madison.

Democrats wanted increased spending for their priorities. The new budget delivered. Spending over the next two years is 12.5 percent higher than it was in the fiscal year that ended on June 30 of this year.

Republicans claim a win because budget includes current tax rate cuts and certain tax exemptions that they had sought.

But does the “all of the above” budget really have long term benefits for state taxpayers? Like most press releases, what isn’t said can be far more important than what is said. This is not unusual in the political world.

Economist Milton Friedman offered a simple lesson in government finance. He pointed out that the real problem taxpayers should be concerned with is government

spending, not current taxes.

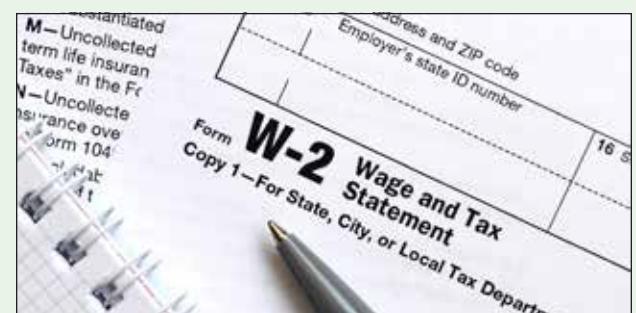
As Friedman put it “keep your eye on one thing and one thing only: how much government is spending, because that’s the true tax.”

Friedman’s point is that the full cost of government spending is borne by the taxpayer, 100%. Thus, the real problem is not to hold down taxes, it’s holding down spending.

The spending growth in this budget is so large, that Wisconsin taxpayers will find their taxes going up over the longer run, not down.

The 12.5 percent spending growth in the new budget substantially exceeds the Department of Revenue’s projections for the growth in personal income or the state’s economy. As a result, Wisconsin taxpayers will find themselves in a position where they have to support a public sector that’s proportionately larger to the state’s private sector than it is today.

This puts the state in a highly challenging fiscal position.



The budget calls for spending from the state’s general fund that’s \$3.6 billion greater than the revenue coming in. As a result, two years out, state coffers will be emptying and there will be structural deficit. The spending genie will be out of the bottle, the “all of the above” budget puts Wisconsin’s next governor and legislature in a fiscal pickle that will very likely necessitate a large tax increase.

The iron laws of economics mean taxpayers will bear the full costs of government spending. Wisconsin taxpayers may think Republicans have won them a reprieve. But the massive spending growth built into the “all of the above” budget sets Wisconsin taxpayers up for a rude awakening down the road.

James Bohn and Greg Grambow are with Personal Economics, an economics and financial education non-profit. Contact them at [personaleconomics.org](http://personaleconomics.org).

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# The Wisconsin Outdoor Events Page

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EVENT	DATES	LOCATION	CONTACT
Fall Women's Sporting Clays	September 10	McMiller Sports Center	<a href="http://www.mcmillersportscenter.com">www.mcmillersportscenter.com</a>
Generac Shoot	September 13	Wern Valley Sportsmens Club	<a href="http://www.wernvalley.com">www.wernvalley.com</a>
Bristlecone Charity Event	September 20	Wern Valley Sportsmens Club	<a href="http://www.wernvalley.com">www.wernvalley.com</a>
Bob Ellis Row trolling Classic	September 27	Vilas County Lakes	<a href="mailto:jeffruffing66@gmail.com">jeffruffing66@gmail.com</a>
Fall Open House 2025	October 3	McMiller Sports Center	<a href="http://www.mcmillersportscenter.com">www.mcmillersportscenter.com</a>
2025 Prairie du Chien Oktoberfest	October 15-18	St. Feriole Island	<a href="http://www.prairieduchien.org">www.prairieduchien.org</a>
Deer Site-In	November 8-9	Racine County Line Rifle Club	<a href="http://www.racinecountylinerifleclub.com">www.racinecountylinerifleclub.com</a>
Deer Site-in	November 15-16	Racine County Line Rifle Club	<a href="http://www.racinecountylinerifleclub.com">www.racinecountylinerifleclub.com</a>
Deer Site-In	November 8-9	Daniel Boone Conservation League	<a href="http://www.dbcl.org">www.dbcl.org</a>
Deer Site-In	November 13-16	Daniel Boone Conservation League	<a href="http://www.dbcl.org">www.dbcl.org</a>
Santa Shoot for Charities	December 13	Mayville Gun Club	<a href="http://www.mayvillegunbclub.com">www.mayvillegunbclub.com</a>
2026 Chicago Muskie Expo	January 16-18	Kane County Fairgrounds	<a href="http://www.muskieexpo.com">www.muskieexpo.com</a>
2026 Milwaukee Muskie Expo	February 13-15	Washington Co. Fair Park	<a href="http://www.muskieexpo.com">www.muskieexpo.com</a>
2026 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Sports Show	March 6-8	State Fair Park	<a href="http://www.jssportsshow.com">www.jssportsshow.com</a>
2026 Wi Decoy & Sporting Collectibles Show	March 13-15	Hilton Garden Inn, Oshkosh	920-379-5889

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MIKE RICHIE

# A Hunt to Remember

## Marathon County crossbow hunter takes 495-pound black bear

As every bear hunter knows, the hunt begins long before opening day. Baiting is a demanding, time-intensive task, and my efforts started in mid-August, 2024. On August 31 at 12:48 pm, I captured my first bear on camera - and it was huge.

From that day through September 12, I had consistent nighttime photos of the same large bear. Aside from the initial daylight visit, the bear only came in after dark, typically between 7:30 to 10 pm and again from midnight to 4:30 am.

I hunted daily from my ground blind, and on September 6, just before dark, I finally saw him in person. He stepped out at 50 yards but caught my scent, winded me, and disappeared before I could get a clean shot.

From September 7 through the 19, I didn't see him again during legal shooting hours. He would show up at the bait pile soon after I left my blind and return multiple times throughout the night. It was frustrating, but I knew he was still around. I just needed

him to make one mistake.

Then, a gap. No sign of the bear from September 13 to 17. I was getting nervous. But on September 18 at 9:32 pm, there he was again - back on camera.

On September 20, with fall settling in, I drove nearly two hours from Wausau to put the pontoon away at our cottage. While finishing the job, I got a notification from my trail camera at 1:10 pm. I expected squirrels or turkeys - but it was the big bear, in broad daylight, at the bait pile. This bear had never come in during the early afternoon, except on August 31. I had baited early that morning and tried something new for bait. Maybe the different scent triggered his curiosity.

I wrapped up my boat project, jumped in the truck, and made the drive back home. I kept wondering what made him show up early. Was it the new bait?

I reached my blind by 4:15 pm, hopeful he would return. After a couple of hours, I



Mike Richie harvested an incredible 495-pound (dressed weight) black bear in Marathon County using a crossbow.

looked up and there he was, about 150 yards out, coming straight toward me. Even from that distance, I could tell he was massive. As he lumbered closer, swaying side-to-side, I froze. At 50 yards, he was still walking directly at me. I worried he might head straight to the blind. But at 40 yards, he turned and moved toward the bait pile.

Now at 30 yards and broadside, I had the perfect shot - and I took it. The arrow hit its mark cleanly. Heart pounding, I waited 20 minutes before exiting the blind. I found my arrow immediately—passed through the bear clean and covered in blood. I marked the spot, returned to my truck, and left the woods. No tracking that night.

My neighbor and hunting partner agreed: we'd wait until morning. With no rain in the forecast and confidence in the shot, we didn't want to risk pushing the bear and losing him.

At first light, my son, my neighbor, and I began tracking. We found blood right away. The bear had gone into a cornfield, leaving a steady trail for about 100 yards—then there he was. Massive. The three of us could not move this beast. With the help of a four-wheeler, we were able to get him to the truck, where it took five people to load him.

This was an unforgettable hunt that involved patience, persistence, and luck. A true once-in-a-lifetime experience. 🐾

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DICK ELLIS

# Marvelous Marshall Minnesota

## Quality wild pheasant hunting, close to home

In the fall of 2022, when the On Wisconsin Outdoors crew last hunted Marshall, Minnesota targeting wild pheasants, the story concluded, "...we'll be back." Birds were more than plentiful and close (six hours) to our Wisconsin homes, competition light, and we had hit good December weather. As novices to the area, we had been helped with everything we needed to know by the people at VisitMarshall who know how to roll out the red carpet. Three years later, in October of 2025, we will be back, no arm twisting required.

In addition to showing us the ropes related to where to hunt public land, answer questions specific to the essentials like lodging and licensing costs necessary for the traveling hunter, Executive Director Cassi Weiss of VisitMarshall had also introduced us to avid local bird hunter Ron Protok. Call it cheating.

In 2022, our baptism to Marshall bird hunting had taken place in late season. The roosters had already been hunted for two months, and many of the birds had been bailing out early as we approached with the dogs through long-harvested crops and vast cattail marshes. We still found ample opportunities to pull the trigger on roosters holding tight, and place birds in the bag. We found other reasons to enjoy this trip, like simply standing at twilight to watch literally hundreds of birds pour back into those roosting marshes from the feeding fields.

Prorok has hunted the area 30 miles from the Dakota border in southwest Minnesota for almost 20 years and was willing to share his knowledge of public land that routinely gives up birds. Good pheasant habitat, he said, requires an entire mix in different areas including nesting cover, chick rearing cover, fall cover and good winter cover. Marshall, he said, has that mix in a good ratio with cattails significantly bolstering the winter survival rate. To serve as true guinea pigs for Wisconsin hunters to follow, we did not hunt private land in Minnesota.

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

Protok said the pheasants in the Marshall region are all "produced on the landscape," meaning wild birds. Both Lyon County Pheasants Forever and the DNR, he said, know the key is habitat and releasing pen raised birds is a waste of resources.

Regarding coming earlier in the season, or later like we did



in 2022, Prorok laid out the pros and cons. "Earlier you are going to see more birds and the conditions are going to be nicer," he said. Later the birds are more concentrated. There are fewer hunters, but you're going to have to work for them. Early you are going to see more hunters, but that's the nice thing about having a lot of areas to hunt. If you see hunters you move to the next public spot. Hunting pressure really slows down after Thanksgiving."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

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**TOM CARPENTER**

# Autumn Flight

## Timing the woodcock migration

**T**imberdoodles provide great shooting when their migration is on and the flight is "in." The trick is predicting when the birds will arrive, then knowing where to find them.

**Timing and Temperatures** You can find local birds in September, but woodcock traditionally migrate through Wisconsin in the first two weeks of October. That said, the flight seems to be getting later every year, and the last couple weeks of October can be prime.

The flight is generally just ahead of deep freezes that lock up the woodcock's food supply of earthworms that the long-billed birds probe for in soft soil.

**Watch the Thermometer** Look to the north. Study the temperatures in northern Minnesota and Michigan, and southern Ontario. When deep freezes (a couple nights of 27 to 28 F or below) happen there, watch for woodcock to arrive in Wisconsin, north to south, as they travel ahead of the cold.

**Moon** Woodcock fly mostly at night, so

the moon likely serves as a navigational tool. Data shows that autumn woodcock movement increases with a gibbous (more than 50% lit) moon. A waxing moon - one moving toward full - seems to induce more woodcock movement than a waning moon.

**Wind and Barometer** A north, northwest or northeast wind brings woodcock into Wisconsin, as the birds ride the flow southward. Rising barometric pressure, associated with the clear blue skies and strong tailwinds of a departing low pressure system, also brings woodcock.

**Map Work** Woodcock concentrate in low, moist spots, the better for hunting earthworms. Look for creeks, brooks, beaver ponds, bogs and marshes, and focus your efforts there. River and stream corridors often serve as migration routes.

**Know Woodcock Cover** Aspen - particularly young stands with trunks of buggy whip to pole size - attract woodcock. The clean forest floor lets timberdoodles hunt for worms, the stem density protects

them from land-based predators, and the overhead canopy foils would-be avian enemies.

Other preferred habitats include alder runs (for their cover density and moist soil), and willows. Dogwood and sumac also produce.

**Hunt Edges** Woodcock prefer transition zones or edges, and a seam between cover types usually holds the most birds. Aspen to tag alders, tag alders to marsh or bog, forest to dogwood, willow to marsh, second growth timber to brush, and any forest to wetland zone, are all worth investigating.

Edges of meadows and abandoned fields also attract woodcock. Meadows with goldenrod really attract woodcock.

**Dog Work** When danger nears, timberdoodles sit tight, relying on cryptic coloration rather than wings for safety. Combined with the thickness of good woodcock cover, these factors mean that you need to keep your dog - flusher or pointer - close.



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

Be ready for an unexpected flush, or a stop-in-his-tracks point from your pointer. To make up for the reduced amount of real estate you'll work, take several swings through good-looking cover.

**Hunt Slow** The best hunting approach is slow, methodical and thorough. Pause often, always with your gun at the ready. Even with a good dog coursing the cover, lots of stops are essential for letting the dog work and come across the narrow scent cone that an

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 22**

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-Gregg Borneman



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**BOB SPIERINGS**

# Bob's Bear Bait

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

**Scent, Scent, Scent**

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

**Dawn and dusk**

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

**Play to the wind**

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

**Go for the double lungs**

Different from deer hunting, you almost always want to aim for the lungs on a bear. A double lung shot will often kill an animal quicker, is a larger target and are further away from big bones that will stop penetration. Also note that with the large

amount of fat and thick hair that bears have, entry and exit wounds get plugged up quickly resulting in weak blood trails so having an accurate, clean shot is crucial in recovery.

**Don't give up**

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

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

For more great tips stop in this season and chat with us, we have multiple staff on hand with over 20+ years of combined experience bear hunting and over 16 years in the bear bait business! ☺

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

**ELLIS, FROM PAGE 11**

The 2025 season opens in October for residents, nonresidents and closes January 1. Cost of a non-resident season long license is \$102 or \$76 for a three-day hunt. A \$7.50 pheasant stamp is required. After a six-hour drive from southeast Wisconsin, we stayed at the Everspring Inn & Suites, 1500 East College Drive, Marshall Minnesota 56258, conveniently located off of Highway 23 and Highway 19. We could not have asked for more from General Manager Londa Lund and her staff. Connect for reservations or information at 507-53-3221. ☺

To order a walk-in access guide contact the Minnesota DNR at 651-296-6157 or go to their website at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/hunting>. For more information contact Visit Marshall Director Cassi Weiss at 507-537-1865 or cell 612-590-9581 or connect at [www.visitmarshall.com](http://www.visitmarshall.com).



# BOB'S Bear Bait

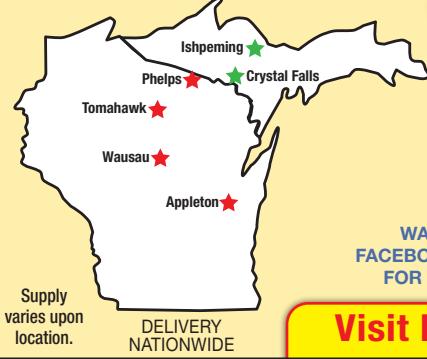


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*Presents Firearms Info from Ron Stresing*

## RON STRESING

# Mayville Gun Club

## *Another great place to shoot in Wisconsin*

Tucked away on 40 wooded acres in Dodge County, the Mayville Gun Club is probably one of the best places to shoot in Wisconsin. And sadly, you have probably never even heard of it. It sits near the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge, and it's my absolute favorite place to shoot sporting clays. They also offer Trap, Skeet and 5-Stand.

What is so special about Mayville that I drive over an hour each way to shoot there? It's a combination of things. The friendly atmosphere, nice folks, clean modern ranges, and even the clubhouse. It's everything you look for in a place to shoot. The taxidermy mounts on display cover everything from Wisconsin whitetails to Alaskan bears. The shooting fees are very reasonable with a bar and lunch available for post-shooting relaxation. They are open to the public on Sundays from 9:30 am to 3 pm.

The Sporties course runs through a wooded area, and it is changed up on a regular basis. It features shots that you will find in the field, whether you hunt upland game or waterfowl. I'm sure the challenging

true pairs of targets thrown on the course are why I had two doubles on mourning doves last year. One station with a wide-open area and fast crossing targets reminds me of pheasant hunting out at Bong State Recreation Area. Another station with targets flying down a narrow lane between pines reminds me of grouse hunting in Price County.

And, just when you think you have a station figured out and plan on running them all, they will change it up! They also have a five-stand range and hold 100 target registered shoots. Note that on days when they have a registered shoot, they don't offer open shooting to the public. The trap ranges are new with state-of-the-art MEC target throwers and good contrast backgrounds. Mayville also features a skeet range, a shotgun discipline that fell out of favor in the 1980s when Sporting clays took off. Not a lot of gun clubs offer skeet anymore. If you know how to shoot this nostalgic game, this is a great place to do it.

Mayville is also a good neighbor, hosting a summer tractor pull, and various fund-raising charity shoots for worthy causes. My

*The Mayville Gun Club is one of the best places to shoot in Wisconsin.*



cousins and I enjoy Santa's Shoot for Sharing in December. This year's will be held on December 13th. Last year's fundraiser benefited the local Fire Department. 

For more information, go to [www.mayvillegunclub.com](http://mayvillegunclub.com) | Mayville Gun Club | W2868 Farmersville Rd. | P. O. Box 31 | Mayville, WI 53050 | 920-387-9996

## TOM LUBA

# Fall in to Bass Heaven

## *Two months. Two fish. Great fishing!*

Fall arrives a little earlier than most anglers realize. If you pay attention to the weather, watch for cooler nights in mid- to late-August. As the days lengthen, it's darker longer, and that promotes the cool down. Which makes September and October prime bass months. Work it right and you can have success with both species.

As water cools, weeds begin to recede. Small-lake largemouth, be it in shallower lakes or flowages, get the message – eat. You can be there when they start. Take a small flowage I fish. Two seasons ago,

there were more bass by a bridge near the outlet in September than I ever remember. Cooler water, current-pushing food, and good cover grouped largemouth of all sizes. Fishing jigs around weeds, the deeper wood and concrete pilings provided a gangbuster day!

Spending time on the main flowage found holes and gaps as the weeds died. They provided places to cast and gave the fish time to see the baits and react. We could fish shallow crankbaits and spinnerbaits. If they failed, a switch to a weightless, weedless,

*Late September can be hot for largemouth. Smallmouth action peaks in mid-October.*

five-inch Senko picked up the pace. Getting those down along the deeper weeds coaxed a bunch of bigger largemouth that wouldn't chase the shallower baits.

As September progresses, rivers also cool and smallmouth that summer in shallow feeder streams start moving toward wintering areas. In our location, several tributaries empty into the Wolf River, giving access to deeper waters that provide the food and sanctuary that groups a lot of fish in smaller areas. They'll continue biting into November, with October seeing the hottest



action.

I was lucky to fish one of these feeders on a late September weekend one year, and hit a ton of fish showing up for the winter. We caught all of them in a stretch less than 30 yards from the feeder's mouth. There were smallmouth from 12 inches to four pounds. Crankbaits, mostly brown and red crawfish

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 18**

## SKB TARGET SHOTGUNS

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## Explore Wisconsin

### SPOTLIGHT | ST. GERMAIN

# Book The Best Fall ATV Getaway in Wisconsin

One of the most exciting ways to experience the fall season is on four wheels, and St. Germain is the gateway to some incredible ATV/UTV trails. Located in the heart of the Northwoods, St. Germain is the perfect place to launch an autumn adventure on the trails, whether your destination is a waterfall, a fish fry, or perhaps both!

St. Germain's seasonal trails typically open in early May and close at the end of October, although some road routes and county highways are open year-round. Fall is an awesome time to explore the forest. The insects that appear early in the season are a memory, and days on the trail are simply spectacular! 🚗

For more information, visit <https://st-germain.com/>

### JOHN FAUCHER

## Wolf River Panfish

### *Wolf River haven*



The Wolf River is a panfish haven. Especially during low water, this often occurs late summer into early fall. An abundance of downed trees, rocky riprap shoreline and carved out clay banks near trickling tributaries draws out big gills and crappies from the backwaters.

Anglers targeting these main river panfish like to use an eighth ounce or lighter jig, drop shot, or gold hook with a slip bobber and split shot. Lures like the beetle spin tipped with a plastic, or a tiny rattletrap or cicada can help anglers work more areas faster to locate schools. From there, a gentle anchor job or a spot lock will enable you to catch more fish using slower techniques. The crappies do tend to group up more as water temperatures drop and fall progresses. This requires less spot jumping. 🐡

For all Wolf River fishing needs, connect with Johnny's Little Shop of Bait at [www.thelittleshoppeofbait.com](http://www.thelittleshoppeofbait.com) or 920-982-4802. Photo by John Faucher.



Melony Jennerjohn holds up a hefty 14-inch, 1.5-pound crappie caught on the Wolf River near New London.



## Explore Wisconsin

### SPOTLIGHT | ASHLAND COUNTY



# Your Road Trip Worth Taking

Fall is the most beautiful time of year in northern Wisconsin. The stunning waterfalls, the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, and the majestic views of Lake Superior provide a breathtaking backdrop for a road trip to Ashland County!

You can explore over 30 murals located in the communities of Ashland, Butternut, Glidden, Madeline Island, Marengo, and Mellen. Order your free Muralbrick Road Mural Brochure at [visitashland.com](http://visitashland.com). 🖌



*Autumn is the most beautiful time of the year in Ashland County.*



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Sept 20: Pints in the Park  
Sept 20: Fall Cruisin' Car & Truck Show  
Oct 4-5: Greater WI Musky Tournament

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## Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | HURLEY



# Hurley: Small Town, Big Personality

**D**iscover the Heart of the Northwoods in Hurley! Nestled in the rolling Northwoods along the Wisconsin-Michigan border, Hurley is where rich history, lively bars, and unforgettable outdoor adventures come together. Whether you're a history buff, nightlife lover, or just looking to breathe in that crisp northern air, Hurley has something to grab your heart and keep you coming back.

**Explore the Outdoors** Hurley is a four-season playground! In the summer, hike or bike the beautiful gravel roads or marvel at the waterfalls nearby and explore 175,000 acres of the Iron County Forest. Don't miss the incredible Superior Falls or any of the other 10 area waterfalls, just a short drive away. ATV and UTV fans? With hundreds of miles of trails connecting through the region, Hurley is a motorhead's dream.

Winter brings deep snow and top-tier snowmobiling, skiing at nearby Whitecap Mountains, and snowshoeing through scenic forests.

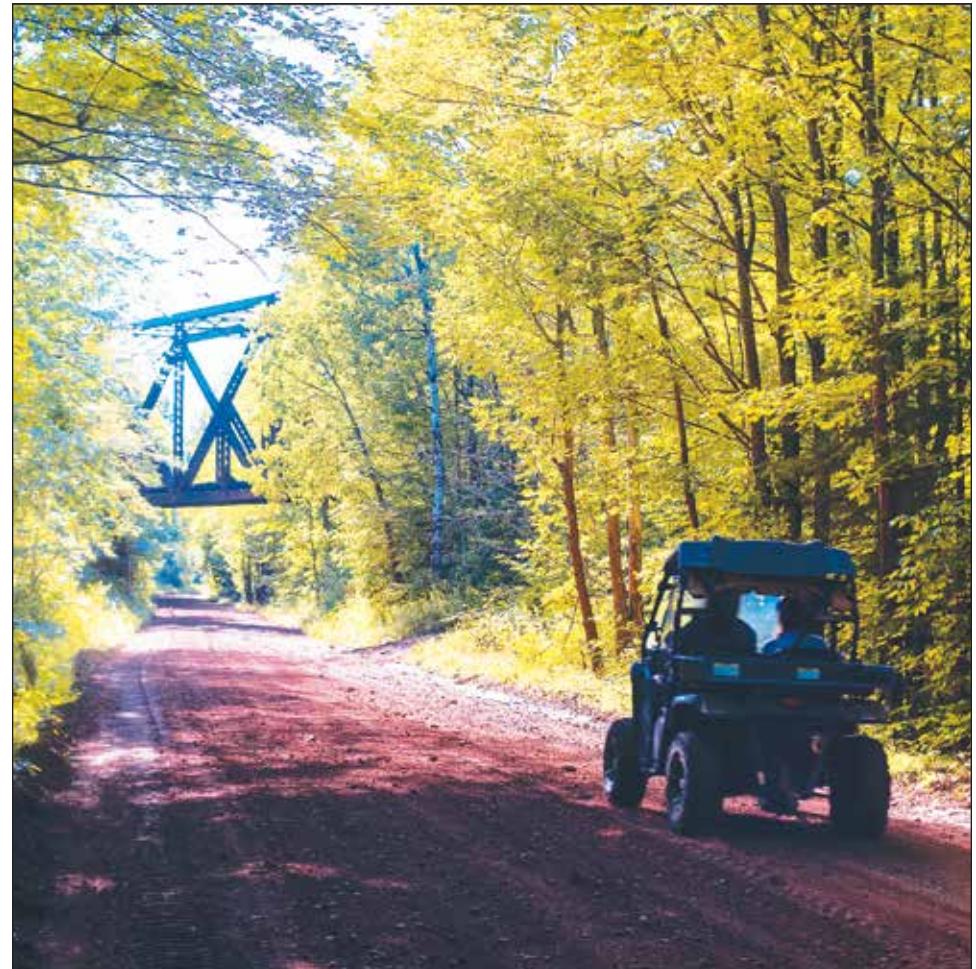
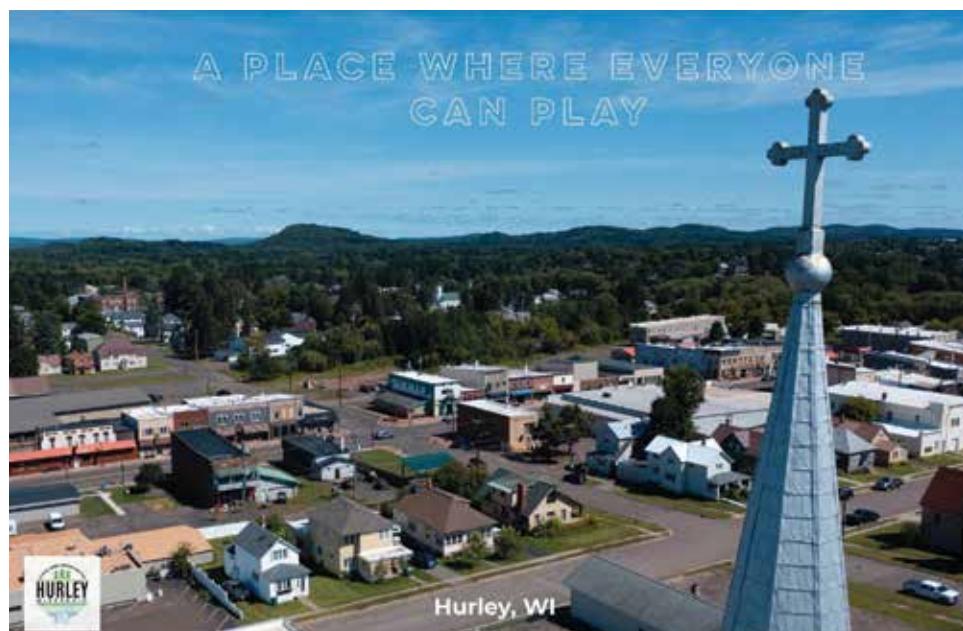
**Legendary Bar Scene** With a bar count that rivals cities five times its size, Hurley's historic Silver Street is your go-to for local flavor and cold drinks. From longtime

staples like *Club Sierra* and *Tails & Trails* to newer favorites, each watering hole has its own personality—and stories to tell. Music, dancing, and good old-fashioned Northwoods hospitality are always on tap.

**Step Back in Time** Don't miss the Iron County Historical Museum, located right in Hurley. Housed in the original 1893 courthouse, the museum showcases the region's iron mining heritage, logging legacy, and colorful past. Did you know Hurley was once known as the "Las Vegas of the North?" You'll find out why.

**Small Shops, Big Finds** Take a drive to local artisans and heritage centers at places like Little Finland on Highway 2 filled with Finnish flair, handcrafted goods, or Saint Mauds in Pence where you can build your own stool (register for classes online) and browse local artist studios throughout the county. Whether you're hunting for a one-of-a-kind souvenir or a unique experience to share, you'll find it here.

**Events You Can't Miss** Our storied fairgrounds are hosting The Faster Horses with Mounted Justice on September 6 - a musical event with an epic equestrian show, to the epic Drive-In Movie Night with Happy Gilmore September 13, there's always



something happening. The town knows how to celebrate, and visitors are always welcome to join the party.

Whether you're looking for a weekend

escape or a new favorite Northwoods destination, Hurley is calling. Come for the trails, stay for the tales—and don't forget to grab a drink on Silver Street while you're at it.

### LUBA, FROM PAGE 14

patterns, were the game and the bite was literally nonstop on both days.

As the fish head toward deeper water, areas could sizzle one day and be empty the next. Good areas can host new groups regularly.

Find the deep holes and slow down. Dragging baits across bottom is the best retrieve. The menu includes jig baits like

tubes, or flukes, stick worms and swing jigs with plastic beaver-style baits as trailers. Natural colors work best, but carry some colorful plastics, like bubble gum or chartreuse. I've seen fish ignore a green pumpkin tube then jump all over a brighter chartreuse color.

Keep your bass focus locked on September and October. You could experience days when you'll be doing a lot more catching than just fishing.



## Explore Wisconsin

### SPOTLIGHT | TURTLE LAKE



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

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We offer vibrant nightlife and weekend entertainment. After a day of outdoor fun, enjoy Turtle Lake's exciting nightlife at one of our hometown hot spots and don't forget that we are home to the St. Croix Casino. With high stakes gaming action and live music every weekend, there's always something happening to keep the energy high.

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## Explore Wisconsin

### SPOTLIGHT | PRAIRIE DU CHIEN



# Capture Your Unforgettable Fall Experience

Fall in Prairie du Chien is a season of vibrant colors, crisp air, and unforgettable experiences along the majestic Mississippi River. The rolling bluffs burst into shades of gold, crimson, and orange, creating the perfect backdrop for outdoor adventures and community celebrations.

The season begins with the Villa Louis Carriage Classic, September 5 – 7, a beloved tradition featuring elegant horse-drawn carriages and finely dressed drivers competing in precision and style on the historic St. Feriole Island. Later in the month, the Driftless Area Art Festival in nearby Soldiers Grove, September 20 – 21, showcases the incredible talent of regional artists, offering everything from fine art and pottery to live music and local foods.

Throughout autumn, apple orchards across Crawford County invite visitors to enjoy fresh-picked apples, cider, and homemade treats - perfect for a scenic drive through the countryside. Then, mark your calendar for Oktoberfest on October 18, when Prairie du Chien comes alive with German food, music, and family fun.

Nature lovers will find no shortage of breathtaking views and outdoor activities. Effigy Mounds National Monument offers trails past ancient Native American earthworks with panoramic vistas of the Mississippi River. Across the river in Iowa, Pikes Peak State Park features towering bluffs, waterfalls, and scenic overlooks. Just south, Wyalusing State Park offers hiking, birdwatching, and sweeping views where the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers meet.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20



- SEPT. 5-7 ..... Annual Villa Louis Carriage Classic
- SEPT. 20-21 ..... Driftless Area Art Festival, Soldiers Grove
- SEPT. 26-28 ..... Gays Mills Apple Festival
- OCT. 4-5 ..... Shihata's Orchard Fest
- OCT. 4-5 & OCT 11-12 ... Flea Market Under the Bridge, Marquette
- OCT. 15-18 ..... Oktoberfest
- NOV. 15 ..... Holiday Craft & Gift Fair, Hoffman Hall
- NOV. 27 ..... Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot



[www.prairieduchien.org](http://www.prairieduchien.org)



## PRAIRIE DU CHIEN, FROM PAGE 19

From cultural events to outdoor exploration, fall in Prairie du Chien blends small-town charm, rich history, and the unmatched beauty of the Driftless Region. It's the perfect time to visit and experience the magic of the season. 

For a full calendar of fall events in Prairie du Chien, visit [prairieduchien.org](http://prairieduchien.org) or call 800-732-1673.



Fall in Prairie du Chien is a season of unforgettable experiences along the majestic Mississippi River. The Villa Louis Carriage Classic takes place from September 5 – 7 and features elegant horse-drawn carriages and finely dressed drivers.

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## Explore Wisconsin

### SPOTLIGHT | RACINE COUNTY



## Welcome to Our Autumn Extravaganza

Racine County LOVES Fall. We embrace the cooler temps, pumpkin farms and hayrides that you can find all over our County. Make a point to stop at Apple Holler, located right along 194, for all the fall activities you can imagine - apple picking, a corn maze, giant slide, jumping pillow, and of course, feed the goats! You can hit up the Red Barn Restaurant for a meal and take a delicious pie or treat home, too.

Another great Racine County option is the Tour and Taste Experience at Spirits of Norway Vineyard in Franksville. This vineyard is family-owned and run and the Tour and Taste offers visitors a chance to check out the grapes, stop in at the boutique winery, and then visit the Tasting Room for complimentary cheese, crackers, chocolates and wine. You'll feel like you're in wine country because you are!

If zoos are more your speed for spending time outdoors, you can try two right here with us. The Racine Zoo is located on the shore of Lake Michigan, is open year-round, and hosts a wild number of events. Coming up soon is Jack-O-Lantern Nights with over 1000 lit jack-o'-lanterns, pumpkin sculptures, and creatively designed spaces. Our other zoo is located on the West End of the County in Waterford. Bear Den Zoo is family-owned and run and they love the month of October. Not only can you see all their incredible animals (pigs, kittens, deer, kangaroo and lemurs!) but you can pick a pumpkin, go for a wagon ride, and choose your favorite caramel apple.

The Eighth Annual Oktoberfest of Greater Racine runs September 25 - 28 at the Franksville Craft Beer Garden and is the largest Oktoberfest celebration in the area. Live music, stein hoisting, hammerschlagen, a pig roast, and over 30-plus craft beers on tap make for one fun family-friendly weekend.

If Halloween is more your scene, Burlington puts on the best family-friendly Halloween event, Spooky City, including trick-or-treating, Dia de los Muertos, live entertainment, movies, hayrides, shopping and more! Do not miss the infamous Coffin Races! Come for a day, an evening or a weekend. No matter what time you have, we have time for YOU. Welcome to Racine County! 

For more information, stop by the Visit Racine County Visitor Center, 14015 Washington Avenue, Sturtevant, or visit [www.visitracinecounty.com](http://www.visitracinecounty.com).

The Spooky City Coffin Races return to Burlington in celebration of Halloween.



SPOTLIGHT | BARABOO

## An Awe-inspiring Autumn

**A**utumn is golden in Baraboo, from the fluttering leaves atop the bluffs at Devil's Lake to the lager pouring at craft breweries.

The rolling, tree-topped hills of the Driftless Region make Baraboo an ideal spot to take in fall colors. Devil's Lake State Park offers recreational opportunities of all kinds, from hiking to kayaking to rock climbing. Your reward for scaling the bluffs is an unparalleled view of the Baraboo Hills' colorful tree canopy.

As long as you're in the neighborhood, why not visit Ski Hi Fruit Farm? This charming apple orchard atop the hills offers a "you-pick" option and a petting zoo. On weekends, charity groups grill bratwurst outside the farm store as shoppers snap up candy apples, fritters and pies.

Seasonal favorites abound in Baraboo. Just down the road from Ski Hi and Devil's Lake you'll find Tumbled Rock Brewery, which serves craft beers alongside lunches and dinners. If you enjoy live music outdoors, you'll love Tumbled Rock.

And if you appreciate craft beer, you'll also want to visit Al. Ringling Brewing. Located just a block off of Baraboo's quaint downtown square, this German-style beer hall was inspired by a long-lost Ringling family beer recipe. Try the Oktoberfest!

Next door to where the Ringlings once housed their famed circus, Driftless Glen Distillery is becoming an attraction on the Baraboo Riverfront. Driftless Glen pairs its award-winning spirits with gourmet meals.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



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SPOTLIGHT | PLATTEVILLE

## Celebrate Fall in Platteville

**P**latteville is a great place to celebrate Fall! There is much to see and do as the air cools and the leaves change. Platteville celebrates the Agriculture and Dairy Industries by hosting its Dairy Days Celebration and Historic Re-Enactment. Both events start on Friday, September 5 and run through Sunday, September 7. A recap of each event can be found below. Saturdays always begin at the Farmer's Market.

**Farmer's Market** Begin your day at the Platteville Farmer's Market every Saturday from 8 am to noon from May to October. Located in the heart of downtown Platteville, the Platteville Farmer's Market is the place to find everything from delicious fruit and vegetables to gift items and just about everything in between.

**Historic Re-enactment** Experience life as it was like during the early 1800s at the Annual Historic Re-enactment at Mound View Park. Featured may be period blacksmiths, woodworkers and men and women dressed in colonial garb. Experience a voyager camp, military demonstrations and Native American storytelling. Kids will love the children's games and food.

Hours: Friday 8 am - 4 pm, Saturday 11 am - 5 pm, Sunday 10 am - 3 pm. Location: Mound View Park

**Dairy Days** This year Platteville Dairy Days will be celebrating 78 years on September 5, 6 and 7. Some events are not free of charge, but many still are, including the parade down Main Street, Main Stage entertainment, and exhibits by local students and adults. The Dairy



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CONTINUED ON PAGE 31



## Explore Wisconsin

### SPOTLIGHT | OCONTO COUNTY



# The Best Views Are Earned

There's something honest about the way fall arrives in Northern Oconto County. No fanfare, no grand announcements - just the quiet transformation of forest into fire, hillside into masterpiece. In the communities of Breed, Doty, Lakewood, Mountain, and Townsend, September and October aren't just months on the calendar. They're an invitation to wander a little deeper for what takes your breath away.

The truth is, our most spectacular views aren't visible from the road. They're tucked behind forest trails, perched atop ridges, waiting at the end of paths that make you pause and wonder if you're heading the right way. But that's exactly the point.

Take Chute Pond Overlook in Mountain, where the climb rewards you with a panoramic sweep of color that seems almost too vivid to be real. Or venture to Hagar Mountain, where the ascent through hardwood forest gives way to views that stretch across counties. These aren't Instagram-ready spots that greet you at the parking lot—they're earned vistas that feel personal, almost secret.

The Oconto County Forest in Breed offers dozens of unmarked moments where the canopy opens just enough to frame the perfect shot. Townsend's Quartz Hill and Jones Springs Natural Area provide their own quiet revelations, while

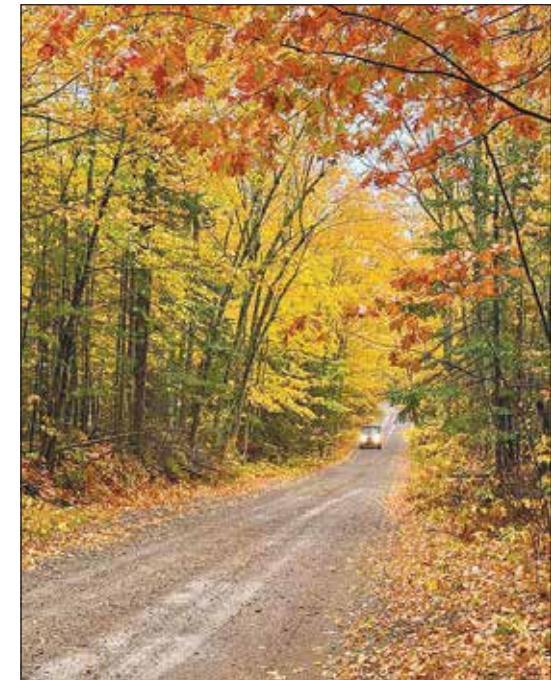
Big Bear Rocky Vista near Lakewood delivers exactly what its name promises—a bear of a view that's worth every step.

For those who prefer wheels to boots, Townsend Flowage and Bagley Rapids offer roadside beauty that still feels discovered rather than marketed. Even Slippery Rock in Mountain—despite its playful name—offers serious scenery for those willing to seek it out.

What makes these September and October days special isn't just the explosion of reds, oranges, and golds painting the landscape. It's the crisp air that makes every breath feel intentional. It's the sound of leaves underfoot marking your progress toward something extraordinary. It's the satisfaction of knowing that the view you're about to witness was earned through your own effort, your own choice to venture beyond the obvious.

In Northern Oconto County, we don't hand you beauty on a platter. We point you toward the trailhead, the forest road, the path less taken. Because the views that matter most—the ones that change you a little, that you'll remember long after you've returned home - those views are always earned.

Come find yours this fall.



## NORTHERN OCONTO COUNTY: THE BEST VIEWS ARE EARNED

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### BARABOO, FROM PAGE 21

Local wineries pair their distinctive flavors with breathtaking scenery. Baraboo Bluff Winery rests west of the city, delivering a panoramic view of the hills as they explode with color. Balanced Rock Winery is perched near Devil's Lake, serving its homegrown whites and reds as visitors gaze at yellows and reds.

There's something for everyone in Baraboo during every awe-inspiring autumn. Lovers of the outdoors will enjoy not only Devil's Lake, but the Baraboo Riverwalk. This three-mile paved path along the bubbling Baraboo River is a favorite among walkers, cyclists and anglers. If motor sports are more your speed, check out Sauk County's extensive network of ATV/UTV trails: 1,500 miles' worth!

Start your awesome autumn in Baraboo! Learn more at [baraboo.com](http://baraboo.com).



Apple picking - and eating - is just one of the many highlights of autumn in Baraboo.

### CARPENTER, FROM PAGE 12

idle woodcock creates.

**Shoot Quick** Woodcock zig, zag, juke, dodge, pause, accelerate, dip and rise in flight. They are hard to hit! Shoot quickly as the woodcock rises, with safety for canine and human companions in mind. You'll miss a lot, but that's three-quarters of the fun.



## Explore Wisconsin

**SPOTLIGHT | CITY OF MARINETTE**



# Delta 88 Fall Color Tour

**S**itting in the back of our Oldsmobile Delta 88 was never a comfortable experience. Like a book wedged between two bookends, my brother sat on one side, and my sisters on the other. My brother's elbow in my ribs constantly reminded me that he was the big brother. Every Sunday followed a cherished routine: church, breakfast at the Golden Panda, and then a scenic drive into the countryside. This tradition has been etched in my memory for over 50 years.

Today, I still take "Country Drives," but I've traded in discomfort for comfort. Just last year, I stumbled upon a hidden gem that transported me back to those Delta 88 days. I began my adventure at Joe's Cheese House in the relaxing city of Marinette. Open for over a century, Joe's Cheese House boasts the best aged cheddar I've ever tasted. Run by Joe's granddaughter, Carol, the shop had everything I needed to make my drive exceptional.

As I hit the road, the fall colors reached their stunning peak. The drive was breathtakingly beautiful and deeply serene. I made a stop at Forgotten Fire Winery, where I indulged in an exquisite flight of artisanal wines and ciders.



I then ventured to the Peshtigo Wildlife Harbor. Cheese curds tucked in my pocket, and a smile on my face, I embarked on an adventure filled with spectacular sights and wildlife. As I crossed the wooden bridge, I encountered mallard ducks grazing in the harbor grasslands and spotted

a bald eagle soaring overhead. Those moments washed over me with nostalgia, reminding me of childhood hunting trips with my dad and brother.

Once my journey came to a close it was time to head to my final destination: the Rail House Brew Pub. With 15 expertly crafted, award-winning craft beers on tap, I was treated to the finest brews Northeast Wisconsin has to offer. At that moment, I couldn't help but smile and laugh, feeling transported back to my Delta 88 days. Today truly surpassed them all!

If you're seeking an unforgettable fall color tour, look no further than the city of Marinette. With enticing hotel specials and vibrant Fall Color Tours that promise to create lifelong memories, Marinette has everything you could desire. Don't wait; contact the Marinette Welcome Center at 715-732-4333 or visit [www.fishonmarinette.com](http://www.fishonmarinette.com) and start planning your "Delta 88" adventure today! 

By Shawn Katzbeck, City of Marinette Director of Marketing and Tourism.

## Fall Color Tours **MARINETTE**

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- ⦿ Hotel Specials & Fall Color Tours
- ⦿ Fall Fishing

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## Explore Wisconsin

**SPOTLIGHT | LA CROSSE**

# Take USA Today's No. 1 Scenic Drive to La Crosse

**M**ake every mile count this fall! Take USA Today's No. 1 Scenic Drive to the La Crosse Region and bask in vibrant views, festive flavors, elevated adventure, and cozy charm. Point your wheels toward the La Crosse Region, where the Mississippi River, ancient Driftless bluffs and charming river towns collide. Journey along the Great River Road, recently named the nation's No. 1 Scenic Drive by USA TODAY's 10 Best, for a getaway to remember. The famed Great River Road National Scenic Byway follows the Mississippi River and winds directly through the La Crosse Region.

Fall in the La Crosse Region comes alive with colorful vistas, festive flavors and elevated adventure around every bend. Once you arrive, the blend of nature and culture abounds. Stroll through Historic Downtown La Crosse and pop into cozy spots like Grounded Patio Café or Jules Coffeehouse

for a warm drink and a fresh-baked treat. Just steps away, the iconic Riverside Park invites you to wander through the International Friendship Gardens beside the mighty Mississippi River.

Outdoor enthusiasts will find adventure in every direction, whether it's a river cruise aboard the La Crosse Queen paddleboat, a hike to the top of Grandad Bluff, a stroll along the Great River State Trail, or a scenic overlook selfie with Sunny the Sunfish in Onalaska. Visiting with the family? Get your hands dirty at Hidden Trails Corn Maze in West Salem. The seasonal attraction boasts a corn maze, friendly farm animals, pumpkins, cider, cinnamon donuts, and more.

Those seeking a slower pace and something to sip will find a perfect pairing in La Crescent, Minnesota. Just across the river, Riverview Winery offers local flavors and sweeping views from the bluffs. Or,



*Autumn in the La Crosse Region comes alive with colorful vistas, festive flavors and elevated adventure around every bend.*

hop on the Bluff-to-Bluff Trolley Tour for a narrated ride through the region's natural beauty and historic landmarks with flavorful treats on both sides of the Mississippi.

Sample a true taste of the region along the Coulee Region Craft Beverage Trail, overflowing with local breweries, wineries and a distillery that celebrate the flavors of fall. When evening falls, unwind lakeside

at Red Pines, where the Northwoods fish fry and famed pizza come with an award-winning view over Lake Onalaska. For a formal fare, enjoy innovative dishes and indulge at Lovechild in Historic Downtown La Crosse. Cap off the evening at Starlight Lounge, a retro martini bar, known for bold flavors, live music and an unmatched ambiance.

*explore*  
**LA CROSSE**  
.com

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PHIL SCHWEIK

# The ABCs to Fall Walleye Success

## Simple location lessons for more, bigger fish

With the passing of the Dog Days of Summer, fishing becomes a lot more consistent and predictable. Cooler water temperatures make it much easier to pinpoint and target specific fishing locations. Years of fishing the Wisconsin River has taught me how to look for and approach these locations while targeting walleyes, one of my favorite fall targets.

When fishing fall walleyes, look for three primary locations. One is deep river pools or basins, and the second is very shallow rocky areas that are less than four feet deep. Both locations will hold and concentrate fish in the fall due to their distinct characteristics. The last location is very specific and is usually in that mid-range depth of four to eight feet of water. This spot won't hold a number of walleyes, but it will hold the largest fish.

The deep-water basin will hold fish all year long, but primarily these are smaller walleyes in the 12- to 14-inch range with the occasional larger keeper. I truly believe that these smaller fish rely on the old adage of safety in numbers, which is why they all school together. Targeting these fish will get you numbers, but rarely quality.

My second location of choice is shallow backwater areas, rocky rip-rap shorelines and gravel bars in less than four feet of water. These locations hold numbers of baitfish, especially as the water warms on sunny days. Larger walleyes know this and will take advantage of unsuspecting baitfish hanging out in these shallow locations. They are easy prey. This is not necessarily a numbers game, but you will definitely see larger keeper-sized fish in these locations.

The final locations target the largest walleyes in the system. These are loners or what I like to call nomads. These large



Christie Munson with a nice fall walleye caught after the Dog Days of Summer.

walleyes don't associate with the other walleyes, but rather frequent areas very much like a big musky or pike. They know that they are the top of the walleye food chain, and they don't have time to hang with smaller walleyes and compete for food. They prefer to conceal themselves in a very specific location, like a certain downed tree or boulder in the water, that gives them good cover and allows easy access to prey with minimal effort.

For most of these applications, I use a simple 1/8- or 1/4-ounce jig that is tipped with a fathead minnow or plastic, but in some of the shallower locations I like to toss crankbaits like Rapalas or Flicker Shads in natural colors. Keep a slow presentation and work the areas thoroughly for maximum results. 

Phil Schweik | Hooksetters Guide Service | Web: [www.hooksetters.biz](http://www.hooksetters.biz) | Phone: 715-693-5843

CAPTAIN DAVE DUWE

# Moon Phases And Muskies

## Fish the Full Moon in the Fall

Muskies are like an old friend that I annually clear my calendar for, and I always choose the full moon period in October for the visit.

Like almost everything, the longer you do something the better you will become at it. Fishing muskies for 20 years on the same weekend every year, I've learned a lot by trial and error.

Most of the time, I fish the lakes of Northwestern Wisconsin in Polk County: the Apple Flowage, Deer Lake and Bone Lake. I have found that the fish are very active and feeding after the lake turnover. Turnover is when the lake becomes mixed, the upper part of the water column sinks and the lower waters move to the surface. I have found over the years that ultra clear water can really spook the fish; it's better when the water has a little color.

The lakes I fish all allow trolling and the bait of choice is suckers. I troll them along prime structure. Over the years, I have learned the more suckers I bring, the better. Not all suckers are created equal; never waste time with poor swimming bait. You want a sucker that swims like mad trying to get to the weeds or to the structure. Always consider the size of your suckers. I prefer using medium-sized baits. A medium size sucker, approximately 10 - 12 inches, will catch the 32- to 36-inch fish while allowing the possibility of a trophy.

The key locations to focus on are steep break lines with hard sand or rock bottoms or main lake points. Choose break lines in proximity to large weed flats. With cold water, muskies pull out of the shallow weeds and stage on the break lines. The best depth has averaged 12 - 15 feet of water.

I like to fish the suckers on quick strike rigs. To keep the suckers at the required depth, try a small egg沉器. Always use a沉器 that allows your bait to swim freely. I have experimented with bobbers and have found that the big Styrofoam ones that you peg with a stopper can create a weak spot in the line. I know, because I recently lost a fish because of it. Instead, use sliders that have very little resistance getting pulled under, or



one could also use an ordinary balloon. The balloon will offer the opportunity to adjust the size of the bobber to the size of the bait.

With two people fishing, I usually fish six poles: two bobber poles and four rods with bait under the boat. I use seven foot or longer rods teamed with an Abu Garcia 6500 C3, which has a live bait clicker. I've also figured out that monofilament line is the only way to go. Dacron and fishing lines like them will freeze in cold weather on the spool causing resistance when a fish strikes. Twenty-pound Silver Thread is preferred.

With four poles under the boat, you want to vary the depths. Don't try to hug the bottom with the baits because the decomposing weeds can become a factor. This time of year, especially with clearer water, the fish will come from a long way away to attack the bait. Back in the day, we all used to cast lures. Now, there's typically only one rod used for casting lures, the purpose is to draw fish into the suckers.

Over the years, I have had some good trips, 15 - 20 muskies in three days and, as was the case last year, I've also been skunked. 

Dave Duwe can be reached for guide service at 262-728-8063.

Want more Outdoor News? Check out [onwisconsinoutdoors.com!](http://onwisconsinoutdoors.com)



SPOTLIGHT | ELKHORN



## The Small Town With The Big Autumn Fun

Highlighting the fall season on October 18 is a local favorite, Elkhorn Oktoberfest. This one-day fest celebrates with German bier, potato pancakes and sizzling sausages. If live music, shopping, eating and beer tasting qualifies for fun, start planning your day trip or long weekend in Elkhorn.

The early morning fun kicks off with the annual Oktoberfest 5K where racers enjoy a run or walk through the Walworth County Fairgrounds. Racers receive a commemorative tasting glass and complimentary beer ticket to celebrate crossing the finish line. Register to walk/run at [5kevents.raceentry.com](https://5kevents.raceentry.com).

The city streets of Elkhorn are lined with food trucks and boutique shopping and an entire classic car show starting at 9 am. Car show participants attend on a first come first park basis.

Taste the German goodness on tap at the two Oktoberfest Beer Tents with smooth and delicious brews that include Hacker-

Pschorr, Hofbrau, and Paulaner Oktoberfest beers. Making the menu is local brews from Duesterbeck Brewing Company located on Hwy O just west of Elkhorn. For more information, visit [www.dbcbrewery.com](http://www.dbcbrewery.com). Swing through this family-owned brewery Tuesday through Sunday to enjoy flights of locally crafted beer. With brews like Pig Farmer, Dairy Aire and Nutty Bill's, there is an entire menu of flavors highlighting the ag-community and the beloved Duesterbeck family and friends.

Be sure to add the Apply Barn Orchard and Winery to your list of stops when visiting Elkhorn. Find year-round attractions like strawberry picking in the spring, pumpkin patches and apple cider donuts in the fall. The wine tasting and gift shop is open all year. Check it out at [applebarnorchardandwinery.com](http://applebarnorchardandwinery.com).

If gifts are what you're in search of, add the Holiday Craft Bash to the list. This one-day craft extravaganza hosted at the Walworth County Fairgrounds on October 4 is loaded with artisanal vendors and

crafters. With over 300-plus vendors and places to stop and grab a bite to eat, you'll spend the entire day strolling the beautiful fairgrounds.

Whether you're coming to raise a Stein at Elkhorn Oktoberfest or making the trek

to Elkhorn to procure seasonal pumpkins, apple cider donuts and do a little Christmas shopping, we're excited to welcome you to our quintessential community where our motto is, small town-big fun! 🍻

#53121FORFUN at [visitelkhorn.com](http://visitelkhorn.com).



*At the Elkhorn Oktoberfest stroll two blocks of colorful cars and learn from the owners themselves what makes their car special.*



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## Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | KENOSHA

# Fall In Love With Kenosha

**F**all in love with Kenosha. This Wisconsin Harbor Town is known for friendly and affordable fun. Midway between Chicago and Milwaukee, Kenosha is a convenient getaway for a night, a weekend, or even a longer stay. Autumn offers many delights from beautiful weather and bold colors on the trees, to incredible flavors of the season.

As summer heat gives way to cooler breezes, it's a great time to explore more than 150 miles of dedicated bike lanes and routes in the Kenosha area. From the Pike Bike Trail which offers amazing views of Lake Michigan to routes through County Parks, there are endless adventures to be had on two wheels.

Climb aboard a hayride, sip apple cider, and explore hand-painted pumpkin displays featuring popular characters and cartoons at Jerry Smith Pumpkin Farm

through Halloween. Your family will love the outdoor activities and strolling the grounds of this locally owned and operated produce farm. Bring your crew to Thompson Farm to pick your own pumpkins.

Take a swing at one of our area golf courses. Petrifying Springs Golf Course is located on the grounds of the oldest Kenosha County Park of the same name. Likewise, Brighton Dale Links is situated adjacent to the Richard Bong State Recreation Area. The two County-run courses offer a combined 63 holes of challenging play on gorgeous greens and tree-lined fairways. Disc golf is a very affordable and fun option at area parks and can be played any season.

Kenosha is home to an incredible indoor axe-throwing bar, Hold My Beer. This venue offers several lanes for year-round axe throwing fun. Digital projectors display targets onto the wood blocks at the end of each alley, keeping the

games fresh and exciting, regardless of how many times you play. Play solo or come as a group.

If you need more adventure, take to the treetops. At Boundless Adventures, thrill-seekers climb, swing, and maneuver through a variety of ropes courses. With options for every age and skill level, you'll trek anywhere from 10 – 40 feet above ground for great views and a day you won't soon forget.

After all the outdoor activities, you'll want to explore the incredible dining scene in Southeastern Wisconsin. From supper clubs to gastropubs, the culinary options in Kenosha will leave you fueled for your next endeavor.

No matter the season, the Kenosha Area is sure to go beyond your expectations with thrills and new experiences. Start planning your getaway at [VisitKenosha.com](http://VisitKenosha.com).



## FALL IN LOVE WITH FALL.

Kenosha is the perfect place to fall in love with outdoor fun. Explore walking paths, bike trails, and dozens of parks spaces. Swing through the tree tops as you navigate a ropes course. Book a tee time for a picturesque round of golf. Tour a pumpkin farm or two, or relax at a biergarten. Stroll through a charming downtown district filled with museums, historic sites, authentic streetcars, unique dining experiences, and so much more. Wherever your interests lie, Kenosha offers adventure beyond the expected.

Scan to explore  
fall fun in Kenosha!



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

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**DICK ELLIS**

# Seeking Wisconsin Wolf Photos

## OWO wolf population census continues

Please send your Wisconsin trail cam photos of wolves for publication to: wolves@onwisconsinoutdoors.com. Include the date, the county where the photos were taken, and verify the number of wolves visible in each photo. Your name will not be published or used without permission.

"This photo of three wolves on a deer kill was taken in broad daylight on one of our food plots 100 yards from our cabin just south of Phillips," wrote Jim Moon in an email sent with his Price County photo submitted in August. His comments are published with permission. "We also found two legs on a road one-half mile from us. This was not a good start to our bowhunting season."

Repeatedly, OWO publishers have stated that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) population estimates that placed wolf numbers in Wisconsin at 1007 animals during the winter of 2022/23 was not credible based on our own ongoing research, including hunter evidence provided statewide. We believe that the current DNR Wisconsin **Wolf Management Plan**, which has no population estimate or population goal, ignores the most basic information imperative to proper wildlife management; where are the numbers now, where do we want to be, and how do we responsibly get there?



6-30-2025 Clark County 6 Wolves



8-4-2025 Price County 3 Wolves on deer kill



1-1-2025 Adams County 2 Wolves



1-25-2025 Oneida County 3 Wolves

### Comparing Wisconsin Wolf Management with Montana, Wyoming, Idaho

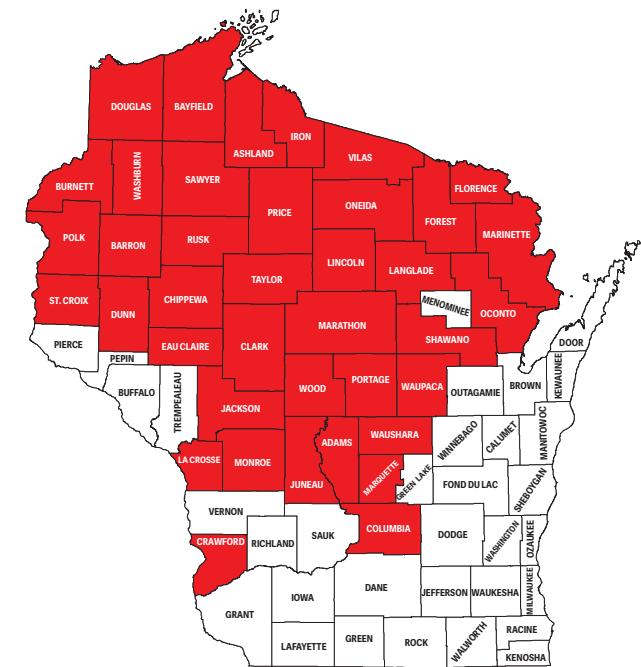
Consider the following in comparing Wisconsin wolf management with three other states:

**Montana** is the 4th largest state geographically in the country, measuring 146,046 square miles with a population of 1,139,507 people. The Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Department has a management goal of 400 wolves.

**Wyoming** is the 10th largest state in the country, measuring 97,818 square miles with a population of 583,279 people. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department has a management goal of 200 to 300 wolves.

**Idaho** is the 14th largest state in the country, measuring 83,574 square miles with a population of 1,973,752 people. The Idaho Fish and Game Department has a management goal of 500 wolves.

**Wisconsin** is the 22nd largest state in the country, measuring 65,503 square miles with a population of 5,904,977 people. While Wisconsin is geographically much smaller than Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho, but with a significantly larger population, the new Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Wolf Management Plan does not include a management goal for wolves.



OWO also believes that an unmanaged wolf population in the state did and will continue to directly correlate with a severely declining deer hunting experience particularly in the north country. We believe that the decline in our Wisconsin tradition has and will magnify further as individual wolves and wolf packs continue to expand to create an increasingly unhealthy and out-of-balance predator/prey ratio. 

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**DICK ELLIS**

# Wolf Tracks

## Wisconsin hunter activism, voter turnout critical to preserving hunting heritage

Radical animal rights organizations that brought a lawsuit enabling another activist judge to interfere with wolf management in western states are among those who also assisted in development of Wisconsin's **Wolf Management Plan** (WMP) adopted in 2023. And, among organizations recently appointed by the Wisconsin DNR to serve on the new **Wolf Advisory Committee**.

Federal Judge Donald Molloy in Montana ruled in early August that the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** broke the law last year when it denied a petition to protect gray wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains under the **Endangered Species Act**. The **USFWS** must now reconsider whether to grant protections to wolves populating Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, along with portions of Washington, Oregon and Utah.

**Sierra Club and Humane World for Animals** (formerly Humane Society of the United States) brought the lawsuit filed last year with Humane World Action Fund (formerly Humane Society Legislative Fund), and the Center for Biological Diversity. **Sierra Club-Wisconsin Chapter** and the **Humane Society of the United States** were also appointed by the DNR to sit on the Wolf Management Plan Committee which included wolf protectionist organizations like **Timber Wolf Alliance** and **Wisconsin Greenfire**.

Sierra Club was **again** appointed in August to serve on the newly appointed Wisconsin Wolf Advisory Committee. The Sierra Club, from its website visited by OWO to review comments on the lawsuit cited above, labels itself "America's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, with millions of members and supporters" coordinating "grassroots activism, lobbying, and legal action."

For the Wisconsin deer hunter, both the Wolf Management Plan and new Wolf Advisory Committee should be reaffirmation that your passion is not the DNR priority. Continued monitoring by hunters, civil discourse and debate on the wolf issue remains critical. But, mobilizing and motivating the too-often disengaged outdoor electorate to vote will be the only safeguard to protect our outdoor heritage. In addition to anti-hunting organizations, and despite its confirmation of established precedent opposing any Wisconsin wolf harvest during development of the Wolf Management Plan, representation of Wisconsin's tribal nations is again disproportionately high on the Wolf Advisory Committee.

"The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources would also like to recognize that while many of Wisconsin's Tribal Nations participated in the development of this plan, they have continued to express firm opposition to any wolf harvest seasons," the DNR states in bold font on page III of



*Anti-hunting activists and deer hunters should ask themselves the same question. Is man or wolf the more humane predator and most efficient tool for deer management?*



the Wolf Management Plan. "The department acknowledges these concerns and will continue to respectfully engage with Wisconsin's Tribal Nations regarding wolf management and harvest." Tribal nations represent approximately one percent of the Wisconsin population. There is no similar, prominent DNR recognition in the Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan acknowledging the overwhelming number of Wisconsin hunters who continue to express firm opposition to what we consider to be current state wolf mismanagement and correlating threats to our deer hunting heritage.

You are not, Wisconsin deer hunters, the priority in state deer or wolf management. You are, by far, the majority. Elections matter. Make your voices heard. 

### OWO Publisher Note:

Connect with the On Wisconsin Outdoors homepage at [www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com](http://www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com) to read our work over four years tracking the wolf issue in Wisconsin. This PDF will also be emailed directly to you upon request at no cost. The PDF also includes stories and graphic photos contributed by readers focusing on the loss of pets and livestock from wolf depredation, a waterfowl hunter forced to kill a threatening wolf last October, and a trapper's questioning of wolf population numbers following a wolf encounter that left him badly injured.

### OWO columns included in the PDF include:

- **Wolf Harvest Meets Harvest Goal**

Are state population numbers far understated?

- **Crying Wolf**

Foundation of truth imperative to sound management

- **By the Numbers**

OWO opinions, comments and considerations on wolf management

- **Predator Myths**

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- **The Wisconsin Wolf**

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- **Wolf Mismanagement**

The logic factor in the decline of northern Wisconsin deer hunting

- **The Wolf Factor**

And the decline of Wisconsin deer hunting

- **Casting Truth on the Wolf Issue**

Who supports a Wisconsin population of 350 or less

- **Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Challenges Draft Wolf Management Plan**

- **Aging Hunters, Mast Crops, or Wolves?**

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- **Truth in Numbers**

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- **The Decline of our Heritage**

Perspectives of a northern Wisconsin hunter 

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**JOHN ELLIS**

# Walleyes in Wisconsin's Ceded Territory-Part Six

## The 14th Amendment and Indian Citizen Act

Wisconsin's fishing seasons are timed to allow fish to spawn. When this is combined with proper bag limits, it ensures an ongoing healthy population of fish. If managed properly, there should rarely be a need to restock the resource.

But since 1985 *Chippewa* tribal members, who are U.S. citizens that represent 1% of the population, have been *solely* allowed to fish for Wisconsin's Ceded Territory walleyes as they spawn and before the season for them opens. During the 40 years that this has been allowed, a calculated **33,717,384 "keeper walleyes" (fish weighing between 1 1/4 and 2 lbs.)** have been removed from the Ceded Territory lakes. The out of season fishing has destroyed the natural reproduction of the walleyes there.

Adding insult to injury the *Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR)* has subsidized the destruction of the Ceded Territory walleyes, by paying the Chippewa Tribes to restock them. The money paid for the restocking comes from the 99% of non-tribal U.S. citizens who the DNR won't allow to participate in the out of season fishing. Further, the restocking has been an exercise in futility because there is no substitute for the lost natural reproduction of the fish. (See Walleyes in Wisconsin's Ceded Territory-Parts One through Five, in archived issues at onwisconsinoutdoors.com)

The abuse began when *Federal Judge Barbara Crabb* upheld the Chippewa Tribes' treaty right to "hunt and gather" in the Ceded Territory, but disregarded the *14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution*, the *Indian Citizen Act*, and the damage that would be done to Wisconsin's walleye resource by a small minority of citizens. For 40 years that damage has had a devastating effect on the livelihood of millions of non-tribal citizens throughout Wisconsin. The damage continues today because the State of Wisconsin enables and participates in it.

*The 14th Amendment and Indian Citizen Act*

*Section 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution* ratified on July 9th, 1868 states, "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction equal protection of the laws."

*The Indian Citizen Act* signed into law by President Calvin Coolidge on June 2nd, 1924 states "all non-citizen Indians born within the territorial limits of the United States be, and they are hereby, declared to be citizens of the United States: provided that the granting of such citizenship shall not in any manner impair or otherwise affect the right of any Indian to tribal or other property.

*Together, the Fourteenth Amendment and the Indian Citizen Act mean the following:*

**1. All Chippewa tribal members born in the United States since 1924 are citizens of the United States. Among other benefits, citizenship allows tribal members the right to participate in U.S. elections.**

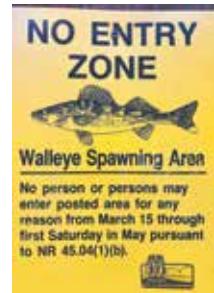
**2. Because fishing out of season for spawning Ceded Territory walleyes by 1% of U.S. citizens (Chippewa) has been proven to severely damage the resource and harm all but a few, the State of Wisconsin must file a federal lawsuit on behalf of all citizens to stop it, based on the 14th Amendment and the Indian Citizen Act.**

**3. Because the State of Wisconsin cannot "deny to any person within its jurisdiction equal protection of the laws", until all out of season fishing for spawning Ceded Territory walleyes is stopped the State of Wisconsin must allow non-tribal U.S. citizens to participate in it.**

**4. The State of Wisconsin must stop**

*paying the 1% of U.S. citizens (Chippewa) allowed to fish out of season for spawning Ceded Territory walleyes, to restock them. The money for restocking comes from the 99% of non-tribal U.S. citizens who are denied equal protection of the laws.*

The 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution is in place to protect every citizen, not just a privileged few. As citizens of the United States, the Chippewa tribal members do not have a "unique right" to destroy the Ceded Territory walleye resource that belongs to us all by fishing for them out of season and before spawning is complete.



If the Chippewa Tribes assert that they do have a unique right, based on treaties signed or their status as a "sovereign nation", they will be undermining their own benefits as citizens, including the right to participate in U.S. elections. It is *not* their right to stand on the reservation or on U.S. soil, depending on which one benefits them most, when it hurts everyone else.

For 40 years, the State of Wisconsin has failed to equally protect all of its citizens as required by the 14th Amendment, and the Ceded Territory walleye resource that belongs to all of us. Wisconsin must now right the wrong, and protect both. 

**JOHN ELLIS**

## Ceded Territory walleye damage more than twice as bad as previously reported

**O**n Wisconsin Outdoors (OWO) has been reporting on the continuing damage being done to Wisconsin's Ceded Territory walleye resource, because 1% of U.S. citizens (Chippewa) are *solely* allowed to fish for them out of season and before spawning is complete. (See Walleyes in Wisconsin's Ceded Territory-Part Six in this issue)

To calculate the damage OWO used basic math and biology, and conservatively assumed that only 10% of the walleyes taken out of season each year were females. The calculations led OWO to report that an estimated **14,714,686 "keeper walleyes" (fish weighing between 1 1/4 and 2 lbs.)** have been removed from Ceded Territory lakes since 1985.

But in an article in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel published on 12-13-2024, Frank Vaisvilas wrote "*the DNR reports that male walleyes constitute about 76% of the walleyes speared each year.*"

Vaisvilas' report, received from the DNR, reveals that **24%** of the walleyes taken out of season each year, not 10%, are females.

When recalculated using 24%, the number of "keeper walleyes" removed from Ceded Territory lakes since 1985 increases to **33,717,384**.

33,717,384 is more than twice the number OWO has previously reported. The math is:

$$33,717,384 \div 14,714,686 = 2.29$$





## Explore Wisconsin

### SPOTLIGHT | TREMPEALEAU COUNTY

# Experience The Allure

Discover the varied terrain of hills, valleys, rock outcroppings, and waterways that make our area the perfect place to enjoy outdoor recreation, while remaining close to the comforts of civilization. Whether your idea of fun is bicycling, hiking or canoeing; afterwards head into the heart of one of our welcoming communities to experience historic architecture, independent shops and locally owned dining establishments.

Trempealeau County's allure resides not only in our picturesque landscapes, squarely in the unglaciated "driftless area," but also in our people - the backbone of our strength and resilience. Visitors and newcomers alike are welcomed with open arms, finding comfort in the genuine friendliness of our residents.

#### PLATTEVILLE, FROM PAGE 21

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

This fun-packed weekend starts Friday with a flea market, amusement rides, beer tent, and musical entertainment. The Saturday morning parade will feature upwards of 80 entries. After the parade, head up to Legion Park, enjoy the flea market and plenty of "fair food"! Evenings are filled with truck and tractor pulls, live music, and much more. Make sure to come back on Sunday for the dairy goat show and music on the Main Stage. Then head over to Platteville High School for the 51st annual car show and swap meet hosted by the Southwest Wisconsin Auto Club.

Platteville Dairy Days website: [www.plattevilledairydays.com](http://www.plattevilledairydays.com) for more information.  
Location: Legion Field.

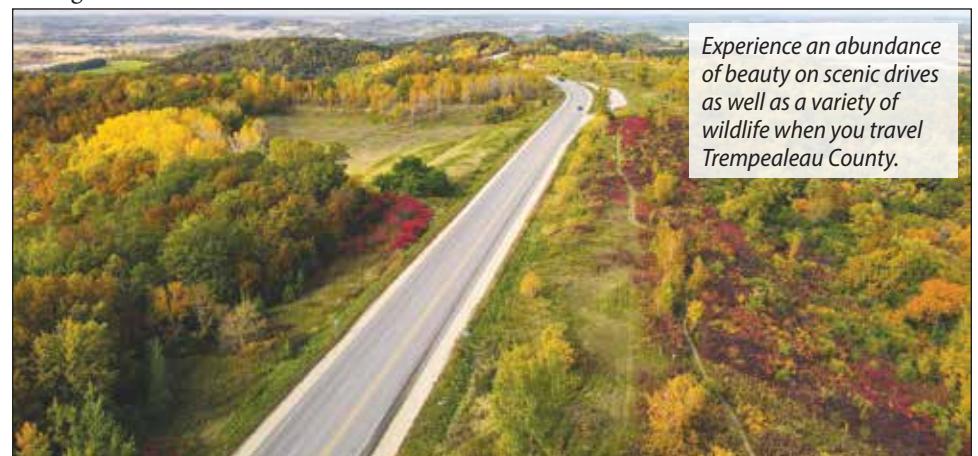
To learn more, visit [www.platteville.com](http://www.platteville.com) or call the Platteville Regional Chamber and Wisconsin Welcome Center at 608-348-8888.



You can find everything from delicious vegetables, flowers, great gift items, canned preserves and everything in between at the Platteville Farmer's Market.



You will experience an abundance of beauty on scenic drives as well as a variety of wildlife. Come visit as the land springs back to life in the spring. Take a drive on the Great River Road (HWY 35), an All-American Road and Scenic Byway. Hike in one of our many parks or bike on the 382 miles of paved and marked back roads. The hillsides, valley and fields come alive with vibrant colors in the fall. In the winter, enjoy snowmobiling on our acclaimed trail system. The area is also great for snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and ice fishing.



*Experience an abundance of beauty on scenic drives as well as a variety of wildlife when you travel Trempealeau County.*



**PIETREK PARK**  
TREMPEALEAU COUNTY, WI

*Pietrek Park sits on the Trempealeau River, a sandy-bottomed, clear, mostly shallow and easy-flowing river that's a popular spot for tubing, kayaking, and canoeing in summer.*



**TREMPEALEAU**  
COUNTY



Photo Location: Perrot State Park



Photo Location: Perrot State Park





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