

FREE

On Wisconsin

Outdoors



with the

Dick Ellis Experts

■ Great Summer Trips

Invites from OWO's tourism partners

■ New Season Secrets

Finding, catching fish with the experts

■ Forgotten Wisconsin

Excalibur defined unique beauty, speed

■ Walleyes in the Ceded Territory

DNR, tribal management is a net loss

■ The Tie That Binds

American citizenship

■ Memorial Day

Remembering our fallen



FREE



DAVE FIDLIN

Interstate State Park

A shared natural phenomenon

What is widely known as the renowned natural phenomenon of the Niagara Falls straddles a geographic border. What perhaps is less known is Wisconsin has its own serene setting on a geographic border.

While it is not between two nations, as is the case with the Niagara Falls, Interstate State Park is situated in Wisconsin and Minnesota. The St. Croix River, which flows through the park, is the established boundary between the two states and their respective parks that share the same name.

This article focuses on the Wisconsin side of the park, which comprises 1,330 acres of land. It holds the distinction of being the oldest state park under the auspices of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, having been established in 1900.

While there are a number of notable features within Interstate State Park, the geological features in the surrounding area provide the platform for the bountiful beauty that adorns the grounds. A steep-sided gorge situated along the Dalles of the St. Croix provides scenic views of the river and surrounding landscape.

Glacial potholes and other rock formations are credited with forming the

Dalles along the St. Croix River. Over time, some of the unique natural features within the park have gained notoriety, particularly as weathering has taken place.

A formation dubbed the Old Man of the Dalles, for instance, is situated on the Wisconsin shore and, by some accounts, resembles a human face.

Within the park site, visitors have a number of recreational opportunities available. Hiking is especially popular, with more than a dozen individual trails created within the park. The Skyline Trail is the longest of the 13, with a 1.6-mile linear path winding through the park; the Meadow Valley Trail, by contrast, is the shortest with a 0.3-mile linear path.

Hikers have the opportunity to take in the disparate greenery throughout the park site. A range of tree species, for instance, grace the land, including basswoods, eastern white pines, maples and oak savanna.

The park's natural features also provide an ideal habitat for a number of different types of mammals, including beavers, foxes, gray squirrels, minks, muskrats, raccoons, river otters, skunks and white-tailed deer. The land also is a birder's paradise, with approximately 150 species having been




A view of the St. Croix River, which runs through Interstate State Park and serves as the border between Wisconsin and Minnesota.

identified over time.

Other recreational activities within the park, and the surrounding area, include bicycling, boating, canoeing, kayaking, camping, fishing, picnicking, rock climbing and swimming within a beach at Lake O' the Dalles.

In a nod to the area's vast history, the Wisconsin DNR runs the park's Ice Age

Interpretive Center. It features an exhibit area, classroom, auditorium and gift shop. The center is open year-round, though hours are truncated in the colder off-season months. 

Interstate State Park is located at 851 State Highway 35, in St. Croix Falls, half a mile south of U.S. Highway 8. It is open daily from 6 am to 11 pm year-round.

DENNY MURAWSKA

Naturalizing Your Spot in The Woods

Mingling mosses, Creeping Charlie are a landowner's friend

As much as I love my Northwoods home surrounded by tall pines, it is one of the most frustrating places on earth to grow a decent lawn. Too much shade blots out the sun, and dry, sandy soil will frustrate even the most determined landscaper. Being that I dearly love to manipulate the plant world to my liking, it has always been a struggle to maintain anything but a small patch of lawn here. We all aspire to work smarter, not harder, so this year, I have turned my efforts towards more naturalizing. I am not talking about growing a bunch of unsightly weeds in place of a yard. I am letting two of nature's allies give me the green, lush woodland environment most of us relish.



For tastefully greening up areas that might have once been a forlorn lawn, your good friend is Creeping Charlie

Moss is an integral part of any northern scenario. It is not just one type of plant, but many. It takes a magnifying glass to reveal its myriad forms, and it is a rewarding exploration. They anchor to rocks and wood with tiny rootlike structures called rhizoids, which also absorb nutrients and help break down these surfaces. Like all plants, they collect light to turn it into food for the plant. Reproduction is by tiny wind and water borne spores. Reproduction can also be asexual, and like many plants can multiply from mere pieces, even single cells. It is this last feature that can be manipulated to turn moss into living paint.

Some call this a "moss milkshake" since

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

AN H1 FOR EVERYONE



America's favorite rimfire lever-action platform, *the Henry H1*, is now made in Wisconsin for the first time in over 25 years with more options and configurations than ever. From plinking, to target shooting, to small game hunting, there truly is an H1 for everyone.

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TOM LUBA

Double Your Pleasure

Spawning bass, bluegill ready to cooperate

Early summer is prime time to catch two of our most popular fish species, largemouth bass and bluegill, in both quality and quantity. Many anglers' enthusiasm and focus in May is on largemouth bass that are moving shallow to spawn. In June, the scene flips as bluegill move front and center for their mating dance.

May water temperature in the upper fifties means largemouth bass are staging to spawn. Look for shallow cover, as near as possible to deeper water. Largemouth use laydowns, rocks and emerging weeds to set up home. Catching smaller fish means the males are preparing nests. The bigger females are not far behind, holding close to deep cover nearby. But, be aware. Once the water temperature hits the sixties, they can spawn and be gone fairly quick. Water temperature is the key.

Spring is the best season for a big largemouth. Consider a quarter-ounce black and blue bass jig, tipped with a Number 11 pork frog or plastic trailer, like a Max Scent Power Chunk. Work the cover with your offering, through

the tree branches or emerging weeds and along rock. Go to a heavier weight if the fish are still holding deeper. If you are not making contact shallow, try a five-inch Yamamoto Senko stick worm rigged Texas style and weightless, and again work it through the new weed growth. Start with smaller, shallower waters and move to deeper water as May warms.

Male bass will stay to guard fry, but early bluegills have a tendency to raid the bass' nests to feed. It's a convenient food source for the gills. Both species are from the same basic family and they use the same spawning areas. But the bass get their shot, too. Once they start feeding, they'll pick off panfish as they move into the bedding areas.

Ultimately, it's you as the angler with double the opportunity. For tackle, go with medium heavy rods and reels, and 12 - 17 pound test line for bass. Fluorocarbon lines help make the heavier bass line less visible in the water.

For bluegill, use light rods, with four-pound test



monofilament. A slip bobber rig makes fishing easier and you can change depth without re-tying. Start with bobber stoppers. These have a pre-tied knot on a small, hollow plastic tube. Slip line through the hollow plastic, and slide it up to the desired depth. Slide the line off the plastic and remove. Tighten the knot and trim excess tags. Add a small plastic bead that will slide up line to the knot. The bobber top has a hole to slip the line through. Add a sinker, tie on a hook and bait to pull the line through till the bobber hits the knot, setting the depth. Slide the knot to change depth. Pencil shaped bobbers provide less resistance on the bite.

Spring is the real double deal. Big bass in May. Good eating in June, courtesy of our cooperative gill. 🎣

On The Cover

GIRLS RULE...EXCEPT WHEN THEY DON'T

From this old guy's publisher's seat, more and more it doesn't seem like the boys have much if anything over the girls in the field these days. My own daughter and nieces send me photos of their successes often. From the shooting sports, to a duck blind, to throwing a jerk bait to working a Tom, to holding vigil from a tree stand, girls too often...I'm mean sometimes... rule.

In our last issue, March-April for example, Sarah Kozlowski sent OWO a very detailed story of her turkey hunt in the Hayward area in 2025, which included numerous failures before she scores on a beautiful gobbler utilizing the very intriguing "reaper fan" technique. It also proves that love-sick species of any kind, including man and turkeys, can be dumb as a box of rocks. I've never tried the reaper, but if you haven't read it yet, you can read what Sarah did by going to our website at www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com and clicking on "Back Issues".

By the time you get to our homepage that March-April issue will be archived for you, and this May-June issue will take its place prominently posted on the homepage

for your online reading pleasure. Allow me to digress here and say again that all you have to do is send us your name and email at FREEOWO@onwisconsinoutdoors.com to receive every OWO bi-monthly issue as a PDF sent to your inbox at no cost. We don't share your emails. So, in print, on the website, or delivered to your home computer, the choice is yours. And it's all no-cost.

Back to our story. I emailed Mindy Simons, Executive Director of the Hayward Chamber of Commerce who is one of those often-successful women in the field, "Please let Sarah know her turkey story was excellent, as was the photo. The women of Hayward are keeping the journalists of OWO on our toes, both in the field and in front of the computer. You and your writers seriously provide us with great content."

Mindy responded by sending in a crappie story for this issue. The content will help you catch fish. The accompanying photo was so good we slapped it on the cover. That's Mindy, showing us all how to do it right in early summer targeting crappies.

But Hayward is not alone, and hunting and fishing is

far from the only outdoor, and indoor, activities our tourism partners want you to know about, and to come and see for yourself. Of our many tourism and travel partners, this issue also includes "Spotlights" as we call them, highlighting upcoming activities from Ashland, Port Washington, Watertown, Baraboo, Sheboygan Falls, Kenosha, Algoma, Two Rivers, St. Germain and Langlade County. Some of the authors are men, some are women. But they are all experts letting you know what's going on in their own back yards in the coming months. You will want to plan your visits to these places splashed across Wisconsin throughout the summer and coming seasons.

Also on our cover, Memorial Day will be observed on Monday, May 25 to honor and mourn United States military personnel who have died in the service to their country. Honor the fallen best by remembering, and protecting, their gift of freedom. 🎣



On Wisconsin
Outdoors
With the Dick Ellis Experts

HUNTING • FISHING • TRAVEL
EXPLORE WISCONSIN

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SPOTLIGHT | HAYWARD LAKES AREA

HAYWARD LAKES
Visitors and Convention Bureau
www.haywardlakes.com



Spring Crappies Are Calling: Discover Hayward's Best Kept Fishing Secret

Ice has loosened its grip on the lakes, the water is warming, and lilacs scent the air. For me, that signals one thing: crappie season in the Hayward Lakes Area. It is one of my favorite times to be on the water, a season that feels both lively and full of opportunity.

May and June remain a hidden gem in the Northwoods. While many wait for summer heat, those in the know understand that spring offers something special. The air is crisp, the lakes are quieter, and the crappies are feeding aggressively. It may not bring steady warmth, and rain can pass through, but those are small tradeoffs for the quality of fishing this time of year.

Crappies are especially enjoyable to catch in spring as they move into shallow water. Their schooling behavior and active feeding create steady action. Success depends on timing and location, and understanding seasonal movements makes all the difference.

In early May, I focus on outside weed lines. As the water warms, crappies stage along these edges before spawning. These areas serve as pathways between deeper water and the shallows, with fish often suspended just off the weed edge. A jig paired with a live minnow works well, and covering water is key until you locate a school. Once you do, the action can be fast.

As late May and early June arrive, things change quickly. When water temperatures reach the low sixties, crappies begin to spawn. They move closer to shore and shift to inside weed lines. If you can see the bottom, you are likely in the right place. Areas with gravel or small rocks along the weed edge provide ideal spawning habitat.

Fishing during the spawn can be highly productive. Fish are shallow, concentrated, and still feeding. A simple jig and minnow is hard to beat. Color becomes important, as crappies often respond to bright hues. In areas with more pressure, switching to natural tones can help trigger more bites.

After the spawn, when water temperatures rise into the upper sixties and low seventies, crappies begin moving back toward outside weed lines. They once again suspend themselves along these edges, and presentations with more natural colors tend to work better as fish become more selective.

Live bait remains essential. Minnows are a reliable choice, but leeches should not be overlooked. Small to medium leeches can be especially effective when fish are less



Spring is one of the author's favorite times to be on the water.

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TOM CARPENTER**Everybody's Fish:
The mighty bluegill**

Too small, too common, too simple, too many, too easy. Whatever the reason, or for many reasons, bluegills don't get much respect.

And I don't understand why. They bite willingly. Fight hard. And taste great.

But the pallet of colors that bluegills display may be the most thrilling characteristic of them all. No two fish are the same.

An olive-green back, dark vertical bars on the sides and flanks, and a cream-colored belly, provide the canvas. A breast of flaming orange, burnt red, deep burgundy, russet brown, bright yellow or soft lemon (depending on genetics, time of year and sex of the specimen) provide the dominant color stroke, and give the bluegill its happy nickname of sunfish or sunny. Splatters of purple, lavender, pink, powder-blue and yellow accent the fish's sides.

So where did the name "bluegill" come from? The scribbles and stripes of aqua blue on the lower half of a sunfish's gills.

Late spring and early summer - May and June in Wisconsin - is the perfect time to catch bluegills.

Anybody can do it. Rig up on a light or ultralight spinning outfit with six- or eight-pound line. Tie on a size six hook. Use a small split shot maybe 18 inches up from the hook, and clip on a slender pencil-style float two to three feet above the hook, as a good "start depth" from which you can adjust up or down until you find the fish.

A garden worm, threaded lightly on the hook, works great. So does a piece of nightcrawler. Waxworms attract June bluegills, too. My favorite bluegill bait, through, may be small crappie minnows. Minnows seem to discourage smaller sunfish from biting, while attracting the bigger fish.

With the sun approaching its zenith for the year in May and June, water temperatures warm up to that magical 70-degree range that pulls bluegills into the shallows to make their dinner plate-sized spawning nests in sand or gravel.

The fish - especially pole-bending slab sunnies that generate whoops and hollers from anglers of all ages - will never be as accessible as they are now.

Cruise the shallows, looking for spawning beds. By the time you spot them, the fish will have fled to deeper water. Just anchor up and wait; the bluegills will be back soon.

If you're shore fishing, poke along and look for spawning beds; the nests are easy to spot.

It's funny, but boat anglers are always trying to get their baits as close to shore as possible, while shore-bound anglers want to cast out as far as they can.

Filleting bluegills can be challenging. A good cleaning plan is to scale the fish, lop off the head, and pull out the innards.

Roll the fish in cornmeal, cracker crumbs or a commercial mix - Fry Magic is my personal favorite - and fry in hot oil. The sides will curl up. "Fillet" the fish with a butter knife right on the plate and prepare for mass consumption. Eat the crispy fins too.

Like the sun that shines above, bluegills give me joy and make me smile. They are my sun fish. Make them yours. 🐟



The author with one of his favorite fish, a bluegill, sometimes referred to as a sunfish.



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PHIL SCHWEIK

Finding Walleyes

Locating post-spawn fish

One of the most asked questions in my boat over the years is where do the walleyes go after they spawn? It is almost like they disappear. Catching walleyes during the spring spawning run in April can be really good and almost anyone can catch them. Post-spawn can be more of a challenge.

I fish the Wisconsin River and, if you know where to look at the right times of the year, walleye fishing can be as simple as one, two, three. Catching a pile of small fish in the deeper water of the Wisconsin river channel anytime of the year especially during the spring spawn is relatively easy. Finding larger eating-sized walleyes and the even larger slot-sized fish and up takes more knowledge.

Understand the species you're targeting in the river system including the time of the year you are targeting them is of course critical to success. River walleyes exert a lot of energy early in the year traveling to and from traditional spawning grounds. Post-spawn fish are naturally fatigued and seek rest. They are looking for areas outside of the current with warmer water offering plenty of food and cover.

Because post spawn walleyes seek out these shallow water refuges in locations well out of the current, so will the successful angler. On the river system, look for locations in one to three feet of water that are well off the main river channel with an ample food supply and good cover. I look for wooded shorelines with sand and mud as opposed to rock. Walleyes gravitate to these areas, and will hold there for up to two months depending on water temperature and conditions.

To target these fish, cast either shallow running crankbaits or jigs tipped with plastics or minnows. I cast my presentation close to shore and retrieve it very slowly while thoroughly searching the area for the walleyes resting there. Once you catch a fish, continue to cast that area thoroughly. If you find one walleye at this time of the year, there likely will be more. To speed things up a little with finding the fish, you can slowly run your boat just outside the shoreline while watching your side imaging. Once you locate some fish or a pod of fish, mark that position on your locator or make a physical note on that location and come back and fish for them later.

These post spawn techniques will work on any river system, but the important part is putting in the homework to find out which areas are holding the fish. So, here is your assignment: Instead of heading out and going to your traditional starting points this year, go off the beaten path, hit some new water, and try some of these techniques. You may be pleasantly surprised with what you find, and you may catch some really nice walleyes. And more than likely, you will have the areas all to yourself. 🎣



Alice Westphal with a nice walleye.

CAPTAIN DAVE DUWE

Back Bay Bobber Fishing

Targeting northern pike with slip-bobbers

Early summer is one of my favorite times of the year to fish. Good things are happening for the angler in less than 10 feet of water, with Northern pike heavily feeding off bluegill, and crappies starting to spawn.

The emerging weeds can make it hard when targeting pike to present a lure though. For this reason, I choose a slip-bobber rig to present my bait. The biggest benefit to bobber fishing is the ability to control the depth of the bait. The rig lets you suspend the bait directly over a fish holding to structure. With a few people in the boat, it also allows you to cover a lot of water spreading the bobbers around the boat.

The slip bobber set-up is a standard presentation consisting of a slip bobber knot, a bead, a slip bobber, weight and a 1/0 hook. The key part of the rig is the bobber. I use the Thill Big Fish slider. This is a large float tapered at both ends that lays flat on the water when the bait is calm. When a fish gets close and excites the bait, the bobber will stand upright alerting you to the proximity of a fish before it strikes. I do not give the pike any time to eat; once the bobber is under, I set the hook immediately. By doing this, the possibility of getting the fish deeply hooked is eliminated enabling easy release. When fishing any slip bobber, before the hook-set, one needs to reel in all the slack line in to increase your odds of hook up.

The rod set I prefer is a heavy one, a seven-foot medium heavy rod, teamed with a bait casting reel spooled with 20-pound monofilament. The most important feature on the reel is a bait clicker. It is a strike indicator and allows you to fish the reel on free spool.

The bait of choice for this time of year is large or medium suckers. Hook the suckers through the lips which allows them to swim freely. If you prefer hooking the sucker in the dorsal fin area, one needs to cast a little softer, so not to cast your sucker off.

I like fishing shallow bays where there is substantial weed growth. A key location is pockets of hard bottom that are weed free. You'll want to fish these holes and let the bobber sit in them.

In early summer, the weedy bays of lakes can provide some of the finest northern pike fishing of the year both in size and quantity. This period is relatively short; once the water warms the pike, head to cooler water on the deeper weedlines. Since I was old enough to hold a fishing pole, a simple slip bobber has been a part of my arsenal. 🎣



Brendan with a nice northern pike.

For guide trips, Dave Duwe fishes the lakes of Walworth County in Southeastern Wisconsin. Call or text him at 262-728-8063 to check availability.



Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | **ALGOMA****CAPT. LEE HAASCH**

Come And Enjoy Lake Michigan's Salmon And Trout Capital

This year started with a winter storm for the record books. A late winter storm and heavy April rains have brought us much needed water for Lake Michigan.

Slow start to spring? I think not. Anglers are tackling feisty brown trout. Lake trout are showing up, flowers are blooming and Algoma is coming alive! I expect to see reports of big kings showing up mid-May with tail-dancing steelhead hanging in the mix along with some trophy lake trout filling out the coolers. May and June are known to be drag-screaming months of exciting salmon and trout action. This year, we also expect swarms of baitfish drawing in bigger kings for the season.

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



It's days like this that bring anglers to Algoma. Day in and day out, it's the smiles that mean the world to us.

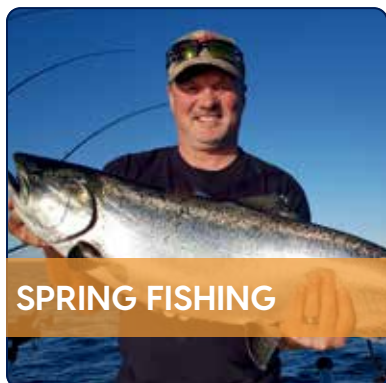
Early spring weather will follow what has started to be a

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

Springtime in Algoma is special and this lakeshore community has a little of everything to offer outdoor enthusiasts. We are looking forward to an incredible 2026. Our summer line up of fishing tournaments, festivals, car shows, cruise ships and musical events are booked and we look forward to seeing all of you returning to visit us. This quaint little lakeside community has it all, including those unsurpassed fishing opportunities that alone will bring you back time and again!

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

The spring outdoors is yours in Algoma!



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SPOTLIGHT | TWO RIVERS



Discovering Shipwrecks by Paddle: Two Rivers And The Wisconsin Shipwreck Coast

Paddling the Lake Michigan shoreline near Two Rivers is more than just a scenic adventure — it's a journey over chapters of maritime history lying just beneath the waves. This stretch of water is part of the Wisconsin Shipwreck Coast National Marine Sanctuary, a 962-square-mile protected area containing dozens of historic shipwrecks that tell the story of Great Lakes navigation, commerce, and tragedy.

From the sandy beaches near Neshotah Park to the rocky reaches of Rawley Point, several wrecks rest in shallow waters easily accessible to paddle craft, snorkelers, and swimmers. The sanctuary protects 36 known shipwreck sites — with research suggesting nearly 60 more may yet be

discovered — offering paddlers unrivaled opportunities to glimpse history while enjoying Lake Michigan's clear waters.

One of the most celebrated near-shore wrecks is the Major Anderson, a rare barkentine built in 1861 that met its end in an October gale in 1871. The remains lie in just three to 10 feet of water, about four miles north of Two Rivers. During summer months (July through September), buoys mark their location, making it a comfortable and rewarding paddle from Neshotah Park beach and other parking locations. The hull is still largely intact beneath a layer of sand, offering paddlers a haunting glimpse of Great Lakes maritime history.

Not far from Major Anderson, the schooner Pathfinder rests in about 15 feet



of water off Rawley Point. Wrecked in an 1886 gale and preserved by the quicksand in which it lies, Pathfinder's bow and lower hull remain remarkably intact, making it an exciting site for kayaking and snorkel exploration.

Another fascinating site is the Lookout, a 19th-century schooner that sank in 1897 and now lies in 11 to 15 feet of water northeast of Two Rivers. Its preserved structure provides a rare underwater window into late-1800s ship construction.

For paddlers planning a trip, calm conditions and clear water are ideal — these wrecks lie within sight of shore on good days. Whether you're a history enthusiast or simply seeking a unique paddling destination, the nearshore waters off Two Rivers reveal stories of the past waiting just below your kayak's wake. For a complete map of shipwreck locations, where to park and more information about each shipwreck visit ExploreTwoRivers.com. 📖

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PORTA-DOCK



Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | PORT WASHINGTON



The Ultimate Coastal Escape

While many know Port Washington for its iconic lighthouse and historic downtown, the warmer months mark the awakening of its rugged outdoor spirit. Whether you're looking to battle a 20-pound king salmon or find zen on a paddleboard, this coastal gem just north of Milwaukee, is the getaway you've been seeking.

As the lake comes alive, Port Washington boasts one of the most successful **charter fishing fleets** on the Great Lakes. This is the peak season for **king salmon, coho, and rainbow trout**. There is nothing quite like the adrenaline spike of a screaming reel as a silver bullet breaches the surface against a sunrise backdrop. Local captains are masters of the water, guiding both novices and seasoned anglers to daily limits that define a Wisconsin summer. They will recommend the perfect spot for your post-charter celebration, too.



of the most dramatic coastal hiking in the Midwest.

Don't let the "New England charm" fool you - Port Washington has a wild side. When the wind shifts, the shoreline becomes a legitimate destination for **Great Lakes surfing**. The freshwater swells provide a unique challenge for those brave enough to catch a wave in the heart of the country.

On calmer days, the harbor serves as a perfect launch point for:

- **Kayaking & Paddleboarding:** Glide past the breakwater to see the art deco lighthouse from a new angle. **Board and kayak rentals** available downtown at Sherper's and The Board Shack.
- **Eco-Tours:** Explore the shoreline's birdlife and limestone formations at your own pace.

The Ultimate Coastal Escape

The beauty of a Port Washington summer lies in the balance. The air is fresh, the lake is an endless horizon of blue, and the natural world is in full swing. After a day of battling fish or hiking the bluffs, the town's waterfront patios are the place to be. Grab a cold drink, watch the fleet return to the harbor, and soak in the realization that you don't need to head to the ocean for a world-class coastal escape. Port Washington is waiting, just 30 minutes north of Milwaukee. 🌊

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For those who prefer their adventures on solid ground, the **Interurban Trail** provides a paved connection for cyclists to traverse through the Ozaukee County landscape. Spanning the entire county, it offers a seamless blend of marshland views and urban convenience. If you're looking to trade pedals for boots, **Lion's Den Gorge Nature Preserve** is a must-visit. Its towering bluffs and wooden stairways lead you down to a pristine, secluded beach, offering some



DICK ELLIS

Trouble in Paradise: Storms, High Water Interrupt Life on The Winnebago System

WOLF RIVER—The Winnebago System, including the upriver lakes and the lower Fox and Wolf Rivers, is known for its world-class walleye fishing year-round, particularly during the spring run. This year, however, fishing was put on hold and life was tested by severe April storms. OWO friends in New London and throughout the region are feeling the impact personally.

Water levels reached record highs in Shiocton, New London, and Fremont by Saturday, April 18. Many residents found themselves stranded without heat or power and with no safe routes for travel.

“The bait shop is a total loss at this point, as well as significant damage to most of my docks, boats, and the houseboat now floating around in the park,” emailed John Faucher, owner of Johnny’s Little Shop of Bait on the Wolf in New London and longtime friend of this publisher.

“It’s bad for everyone along this water corridor, not just us,” Faucher said. “People’s homes and livelihoods are devastated despite huge efforts to save them. Please keep them all in your prayers. The resilience and efforts of people in the Greater Wolf River area is just incredible.”

When John and many others land on their feet again—and they will—we can all return to the Winnebago system ready to support area businesses and catch some fish. 🐟

Contact Johnny’s Little Shop of Bait, 1205 W. Wolf River Drive, New London, at 920-982-4802. Johnny’s will hopefully one day again be a full-service Wolf River bait shop open 365 days a year. Find them on Facebook at Johnny’s Bait Shop or at littleshopofbait.com.



Better days—Jim Main of Shiocton holds up a typical limit of male walleye caught on the Wolf River during a previous season. (John Faucher photo.)

Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | DE SOTO



A Ferry Tale...And so Much More

It’s business as usual in De Soto despite the closure of the nearby bridge over the Mississippi River—a circumstance that has actually created a unique opportunity to experience a ferry crossing to Lansing, Iowa.

The free service connects Wisconsin near De Soto with Lansing while the new bridge is under construction. The ferry transports people in cars or on foot across the river between a location that’s just minutes from De Soto - Highway 82 west of Big Slough Boat Landing - and the Lansing Marina at 590 N. Front St.

Hours of operation seven days a week:

First trip: 5:30 am from Wisconsin, 5:45 am from Iowa

Last trip: 9 pm from Wisconsin, 9:15 pm from Iowa

Frequency: Continuous, not on a fixed schedule -first-come, first-served

The De Soto area also has plenty to offer while you visit for the day or stay at one of nearly 50 lodging units. In addition, camping is available at Blackhawk Park, which also has a boat launch, store, bait shop and concessions.

In addition to boat launches, De Soto has three restaurants, a winery, a camping and surplus store, Redmound Country Store and a gas station with groceries and bait. Plus there are parks, a library and a community center. A new River Goods and Gifts store is under

construction along the old-fashioned Main Street and is expected to open this year. It will sell souvenirs and gifts made by local artisans. And if you look closely, you can spot the bald eagles nesting along the river.

De Soto also is on the route for Rummage Along the River, which features 70 miles of garage sales. Hours are 8 am to 4 pm on Friday, May 15 and Saturday, May 16. Maps can be picked up along the route, including at the Pronto (Arco) gas station in De Soto. 🐟

For more information on the ferry: <https://iowadot.gov/modes-travel/roads-highways/major-construction-projects/mississippi-river-bridge-lansing/car-ferry>.

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Memorial Day...To honor and mourn

Memorial Day will be observed in America on Monday, May 25th to honor and mourn United States military personnel who have died in the service of their country.

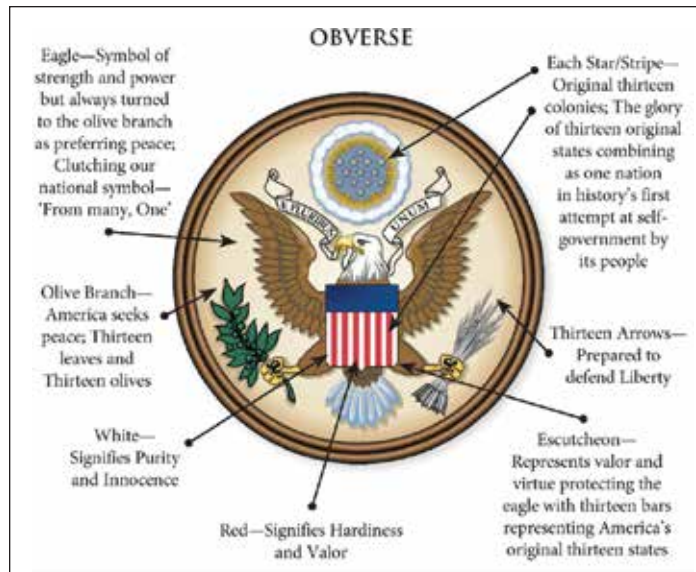
From America's War for Independence which saw 25,000 patriots trade their lives for freedom to be passed down to generations following, more than one

million military men and women have died in the service of their country; the vast majority in armed conflict.

Prominent on the Great Seal of the United States, the founders after the revolution chose the eagle, America's symbol of strength and power clutching the banner inscribed with the term E Pluribus Unum; from many, one. In its talons, the eagle

holds both the olive branch, and 13 arrows representing the original states prepared to defend liberty. Always, the eagle is turned to the olive branch, signifying a preference for peace.

The founders were men of God who knew too well the sorrow of loss; like the families of the one million. Many of the first to fall 250 years ago were militia, an army made up of ordinary citizens rather than professional



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

soldiers.

With eyes on the olive branch and an ongoing quest for truth in our quiver, the common man remains vital to the

preservation of liberty today. Honor the fallen best by remembering, and protecting, their gift of freedom.

Dick Ellis



REEL IN THE MEMORIES.

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

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SPOTLIGHT | LANGLADE COUNTY



Experience The Best of Summer

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

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

Water lovers will cherish the 766 lakes, rivers, and trout streams. There's no shortage of fishing, kayaking, and swimming opportunities. Paddle down the crystal-clear Wolf River, perfect for whitewater rafting, or cast a line in one of the area's many fishing hotspots.

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



Langlade County is a paradise for hikers, ATV/UTV riders, mountain bikers, and golfers.

Summer is the perfect time to experience the Music in the Park series, Antigo Farmers Market, and craft fairs where you can browse fresh produce, homemade goods, and local crafts. Attend a variety of engaging events that Langlade County has to offer, from the Old Time Plow Days on May 9, Memorial Day Weekend Bullhead Fishing Tournament on Upper and Lower Post Lake, Antigo Off-Road National runs May 29-31, Jack Lake Crazy Eights Mountain Bike Race & Trail Run June 6, the Northern Roundup Vintage Weekend Car Show June 25-27, Antigo's Summer Slam & Jam Pickleball Tournament on June 27 and many other events. Check out Langlade County's event calendar at <https://bit.ly/LCEventCalendar>.

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

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



Come for the Trails, Stay the Night



www.CountyOfTrails.org

GARY LANGER

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Innovation driven by real-world use

Legend Brush Guards: Innovation Driven by Real World Use

At Legend Brush Guards, customer feedback isn't just appreciated - it's the engine that drives our innovation. While front end protection and occupant safety remain the core value of every Legend Brush Guard, our commitment goes further. As the manufacturer of the only patented brush guard on the market, we continually expand what your vehicle can do by building smart, load-rated accessories around our robust mounting system.

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For drivers who find themselves navigating snow, mud, sand, or remote terrain, our load-rated Winch Plate paired with the Warn® Zeon SD 10S winch delivers the pulling power needed to get out - and get moving again.

One commercial customer recently shared their experience:

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gravel."

The versatility does not stop at the front of the vehicle. Our Winch Plate can also be inserted into a rear receiver, giving operators the ability to pull from either end of the truck depending on the situation.

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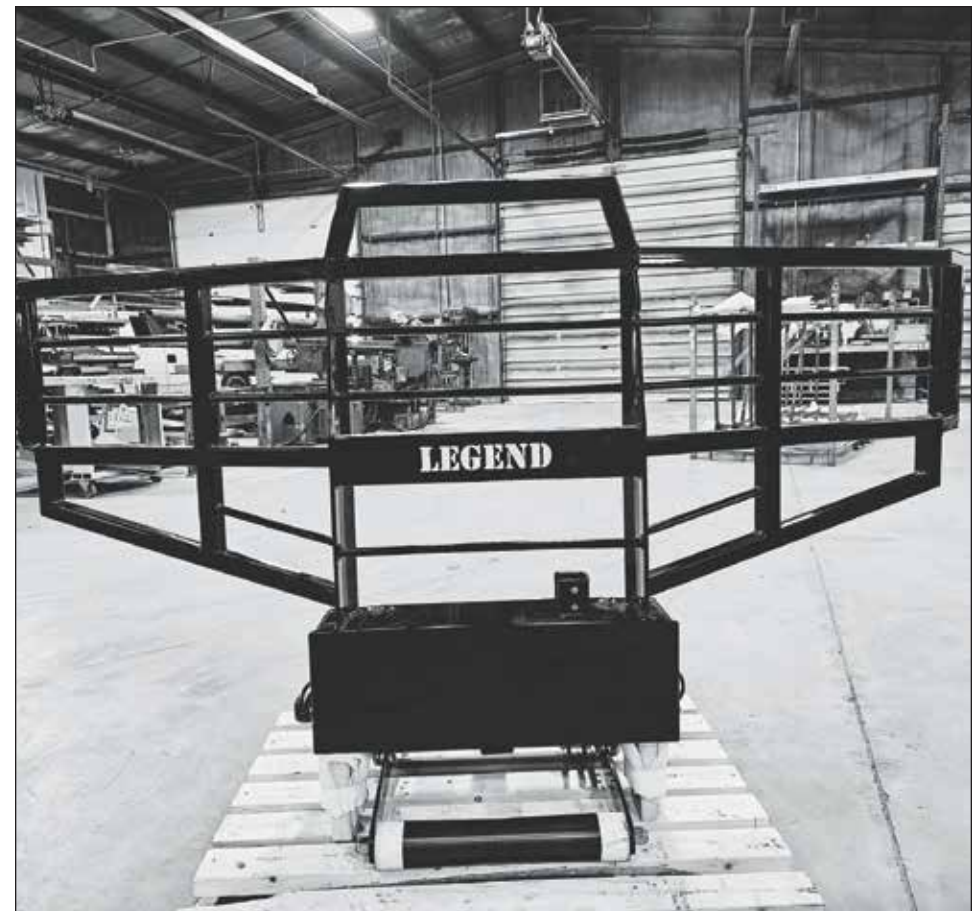


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BOB'S BEAR BAIT

Choosing The Right Bait: Tips And Tricks

For many hunters, bear baiting does not begin until it's too late. In reality, some of the most important work happens much earlier. May and June are a critical window, when bears are active, covering ground, and establishing patterns that carry into fall. During this time, black bears are in their breeding season, and bears travel long distances in search of sows. That movement creates opportunity. A bait site established early can turn a passing bear into a repeat visitor.

Starting bait sites in June, or earlier, gives you an advantage. Early baiting establishes a dependable food source and builds consistent patterns before natural foods take over. It also gives you time to figure out what your bears are responding to and adjust as the season progresses. What you put in your bait, and how you present it, plays a major role in whether bears stop or keep coming back.

Quick Bait Tips That Make a Big Difference Not all bait is created equal, and what you choose should depend on how you



access your site. If you are packing bait in, weight matters. Lighter options like cereals or popcorn are easier to haul. If you have an ATV or easy access, heavier, high-protein baits like nuts more closely match a bear's natural diet and help keep them coming back. Quality matters. Bears have options, and if your bait is not appealing, they will move on. Using a bear mix, like our peanut butter bear mix, offers a variety of flavors that can appeal to even the pickiest bears.

Toppings that are more water resistant, like frostings and peanut butters, are great when you're expecting rain in the forecast. By topping your dry bait, you can help prevent it from getting soggy, since bears are much less interested in wet bait.

Sticky bait works, even if it is a mess. Products like frosting, peanut butter, and syrups get scent and oils all over a bear's fur and paws. When they leave, they track it back through the woods like a Hansel and Gretel crumb trail, helping lead other bears right back to your site.

Scent is not the place to cut corners. A strong, consistent scent draws bears in from a distance. Once you choose one, stick with it and use it every time. If you are using a concentrate, mix it with cooking oil so it lasts longer and holds up in the weather.

Just Getting Started? Here's What You Need: New to bear baiting? Not sure where to start? Here's what we recommend: three or four barrels (165 – 220 gallons) of at least two different varieties of a high-quality dry bait. Two to four different wet toppings

(peanut butter is a go-to). And finally, strong sprayable scent mixed with oil (anise is a favorite).

Start simple and adjust as you go. How much you'll need depends on when you start, how many sites you run, and how quickly bears are hitting your bait. Don't be surprised if you need to restock sooner than expected. If you're still unsure what you need, stop in and we'll be happy to help you get set up.

We'll be maintaining all of our same locations for 2026, including Appleton, Birnamwood, Tomahawk, Phelps, and Ishpeming, along with stocking bait at Superior Sport & Feed in Crystal Falls, Michigan.

To stay up to date on the latest news and sales, follow us on Facebook. You can view our full lineup of bait and locations at bobsbearbait.com. If you have questions or want to talk directly to Bob, you can reach him at sales@bobsbearbait.com or by phone at (920) 419-1238. Your one stop shop for all your baiting needs!

MURAWSKA, FROM PAGE 2

yogurt is mixed with small tufts of moss collected in moist environment. You read that right, put it in a blender until you get a rich slurry that is applied with a paint brush. The yogurt acts as a glue to hold moss fragments to rocks, wood, or even recycled concrete chunks. Powdered clay and other media can work as well. In a moist environment, mosses will begin to green up their new home in just a few weeks. Larger gobs of moss can be glued here and there as well. Shade and consistent moisture are the only requirements.

For tastefully greening up areas that might have once been a forlorn lawn, your good friend is Creeping Charlie. It is capable of growing in sun or shade. It does not grow tall and provides a natural ground cover that spreads relentlessly and quickly. Some garden suppliers even sell it in flats for this purpose. It has a pleasant odor, and is even edible or a source for tea. You may already have this so-called weed in your lawn or woodland lot. Each year, I have landscaped my yard with boulders, gravel and other riprap, nudging out a scraggly lawn. These days it is a lush, textured green cove befitting of a deep forest glen and its contemplative Zen master.



In a moist environment, moss will help green up a scraggly lawn in just a few weeks.

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Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | ST. GERMAIN



Where The Beat Goes on, Especially For Our Visitors

No matter the season, you'll find exciting events in St. Germain for families, couples, and outdoor lovers. From the famous Monday Flea Market to holiday parades and community dinners, these gatherings are the heart of our town. Check our events page regularly and plan your trip around one of St. Germain's signature celebrations - you won't want to miss the fun!

May / June Events:

Martinis in May (May 2): Don your best derby hat and costume for this year's Martinis in May on May 2. Tony Ocean will be back to entertain the crowd. Mixologists will be making flavors with bourbon and gin.

Classic Sled Roundup (May 24): It may be Springtime, but the thought of owning and admiring a snowmobile never takes a season off. The Snowmobile Hall of Fame

hosts its annual Classic Sled Roundup at the St. Germain Community Park. The event will include vintage snowmobile displays and one of the best swap meets in the Midwest. Visit the Hall of Fame website for spaces and don't forget to buy a raffle ticket!

Flea Market (every Monday): The St. Germain Firefighters Association, Inc., holds one of the Midwest's largest flea markets. It is held every Monday from Memorial Day through Labor Day at the town park. Four hundred vendors from around the Midwest will participate with a mix of crafts, food, art, produce and treasures alike. Monies raised from this event are used to purchase lifesaving equipment for the fire department and community.

Open rain or shine, 8 am to 3 pm, every Monday from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Food provided in the pavilion by the St.

Germain Northwoods Lions Club.

Bingo (every Monday): Join us on Monday nights for an evening of family fun at St. Germain BINGO! Featured are numerous door prizes and a 50/50 raffle. Doors open at 6 pm.

Walk in the Woods (June 13): Stroll among the pines at our 19th Annual Walk in the Woods Art Fair. Shop from regional artists with an eclectic mix of pottery, paintings, photography, wood carvings, homemade candles, and jewelry. Enjoy wine sampling and live music as you walk through the woods to find one-of-a-kind treasures at the St. Germain Chamber. Food and beverages will be provided by the St. Germain Lions Club from 9 am to 3 pm behind the Chamber Building.

Town Garage Sale (June 19-20): Are you looking for a bargain or the illusive childhood toy? Grab a map at the Chamber office or from the website and head out for a day of treasure hunting, adding new-to-you items to your closet, or find something you didn't know you needed.

Freedom 5K (June 28): The Freedom

5K Fun Run is held in conjunction with the annual St. Germain Independence Day Celebrations. The event draws participants from across the United States and around the world. The race course winds through the beautiful Awassa Trails property, which is owned by the Town of St. Germain. We are proud that we have been able to provide residents and vacationers a fun and healthy way to enjoy the beauty of our Northwoods. Registration at 8 am and race at 8:30 am.

Independence Day Celebration (June 28): Get a jump on celebrating our nation's 250th birthday! Spend the day in St. Germain and join in the fun!

Admire the handmade crafts at the Craft Fair sponsored by the St. Germain Chamber of Commerce. Demonstrations by local organizations. Bouncy houses for the kids! Live music throughout the day. Food and beverages will be sponsored by the St. Germain Lions Club. 11 am to 10 pm.

The parade begins at 3 pm on Highway 70 with motorcycles! Fireworks will begin at dusk. Dress up in red, white, and blue and wish our country a happy 250th birthday! 🇺🇸

St. Germain
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Experience the Magic of Wisconsin's Northwoods!

Make no mistake, it's a different world in St. Germain, and with thousands of acres of lakes surrounded by the vast Northwoods, there's plenty of room for everyone. Tucked in the tall pines, surrounded by lakes and rivers, and miles of trails, St. Germain, Wisconsin, stretches out below starry skies. **Whether you're casting a line, biking through the forest, or enjoying a meal at a legendary supper club, St. Germain is a world all it's own!**

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Elmers Fun Park is a place for family fun, featuring mini golf, horseback riding, go-karts, and ice cream.



SPOTLIGHT | WATERTOWN



Come For The River, Stay For The Night

If your ideal getaway includes time on the water, a good trail under your tires, and a downtown you actually want to wander, Watertown is calling. It's the kind of place where the Rock River isn't a backdrop - it's the main character, running right through town and setting the pace for a laid-back, adventure-friendly visit.

The Rock River flows directly through Watertown and is part of the Rock River National Water Trail, offering easy access for paddlers of all experience levels. Kayaking and canoeing here can be as simple as an hour on gentle water or as ambitious as a longer stretch connecting nearby access points. Anglers will also find plenty of opportunity, with shore fishing and boat access that make it easy to spend a quiet morning casting a line surrounded by scenic riverbanks.

For those who prefer to explore on land, Watertown delivers with miles of inviting trails. The Interurban Trail provides over nine miles of paved path perfect for biking, hiking, or skating, while nearby connections to the Glacial River Trail allow riders to expand their adventure through



farmland, wetlands, and small-town landscapes. These trails are designed for enjoyment, not speed, encouraging visitors to slow down and take in the scenery along the way.

Downtown Watertown brings everything together. More than three dozen shops and restaurants are housed in historic buildings that invite strolling and discovery. With the river weaving through the heart of downtown, it's common to see kayaks landing near Main Street or cyclists pausing to grab lunch. Public riverfront spaces make it easy to relax, refuel, and soak up the character of the city.

As the day winds down, Watertown offers a surprise that turns a simple day trip into an overnight stay. The Watertown Concert Series brings professional, live musical performances to local venues throughout the year. Pair an afternoon paddle or trail ride with an evening concert, and you have the perfect ending to a well-spent day outdoors.

Watertown hosts hundreds of community events each year, adding even more reasons to visit. From outdoor recreation to live music and a welcoming downtown scene, this river city invites you to stay awhile. Come see why Watertown feels so easy to enjoy - and so hard to leave. 🍷

ADVENTURES IN WATERTOWN

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Presents Firearms Info from Ron Stresing

RON STRESING

An Historical Look at Monte Carlo Stocks

How gambling influenced competitive live shoots

The development and naming of Monte Carlo buttstocks goes back to live pigeon shoots held at the Monte Carlo Casino in Monaco. From 1872 to 1960, live pigeon shoots were held on a special range built behind the casino. Fortunes were wagered, won and lost as gamblers and sometimes the shooters themselves bet on who would drop the most pigeons released within the 25-meter circle.

Top purses often exceeded \$50,000. Birds not dropped within the ring were considered lost. The high cheek rest used on the buttstocks of competitive Monte Carlo shotguns gave way to the the name Monte Carlo stock. Such buttstocks helped shooters gain an advantage on fast rising birds. Shotguns and loads evolved, with the last live pigeon guns used similar to what we would use today for handicap trap, with 30- to 32-inch barrels, full chokes and vent ribs. In Europe a special, fast-on-the-wing species of pigeon called the zurito, was bred for the live shoots. Shoots in the US

used feral birds trapped on farms or in big cities.

Shells were limited to 1-1/8 ounce of shot. I have a box of Spanish-made, live pigeon shooting competition loads. They feature five percent antimony size 8-1/2 hard lead shot, pushed at a blistering 1340 feet per second (fps) listed velocity. For comparison, most US trap loads are 1200 fps, with hard lead shot for reloading at five percent antimony.

The first recorded live pigeon shoots in the United States were organized by the Philadelphia Gun Club, founded in 1877. Members like the Vanderbilts, and various generals, ambassadors, politicians and even Annie Oakley and Buffalo Bill, shot birds there over the years. The most famous shoot likely was the Fred Coleman Memorial shoot, held on Labor Day from 1934 to 1998 in Hegins, Pennsylvania. Several gun clubs in Pennsylvania and one in Maryland still have live bird shoots today, with either released or tower-style shoots. Reflecting intense opposition to live bird shoots, 14 states

have laws in place prohibiting the shoots.

The 1900 Olympics in Paris, France, held a live pigeon shoot, with a 20,000 franc purse split between the top four shooters. From the 1920s to 1960s, live pigeon competitions were held world-wide, with the 1950s being the Golden Age. Shoots were held throughout Europe, in no less than 11 European countries and additional countries including Egypt, Cuba and Mexico. Author Ernest Hemingway competed at shoots in Europe and Cuba. In Europe, only Spain today still holds live bird shoots.

Times have changed with both higher pigeon costs and pressure from opposing groups initiating the decline in live shoots. In 1972 the famous range behind the casino in Monte Carlo was removed. And one by one, here there and almost everywhere, the live shoots were scrapped for the trap, skeet and sporting clay competitions we know today. 🐦



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Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | SHEBOYGAN FALLS



Small Town Charm, Outdoor Adventure

Nestled along the scenic Sheboygan River, the City of Sheboygan Falls offers a welcoming blend of small-town charm and outdoor adventure that makes it a hidden gem for Wisconsin explorers. With its historic downtown, beautiful natural surroundings, and growing recreational amenities, Sheboygan Falls invites visitors to slow down, explore, and reconnect with the outdoors.

At the heart of the community's outdoor experience is the Jaycees River Walk, a picturesque pathway that winds along the Sheboygan River. This well-maintained trail provides a peaceful setting for walking, jogging, or simply enjoying the sights and sounds of nature. Lined with greenery and charming views, the River Walk seamlessly connects outdoor recreation with the city's vibrant downtown district.

Sheboygan Falls continues to invest in making the outdoors accessible to everyone. A highlight of these efforts is the new ADA-accessible kayak and canoe launch, designed to ensure that individuals of all abilities



can experience the beauty of the Sheboygan River. This thoughtfully designed feature removes barriers and opens the door for more people to enjoy paddling in a safe and

inclusive way. This year a kayak rental station will be added, making it even easier for residents and visitors alike to get out on the water and explore.

In addition, the city recently introduced a new boat ramp, further enhancing river access for anglers, paddlers, and boating enthusiasts. Whether you're setting out for a peaceful morning on the water, casting a line, or enjoying a leisurely float downstream, the improved access makes it easier than ever to take advantage of the river's recreational opportunities.

Beyond the water, visitors can explore parks, gather for community events, or simply take in the welcoming atmosphere that defines Sheboygan Falls. It's a place where outdoor recreation and community spirit go hand in hand.

For those seeking an authentic Wisconsin outdoor experience - complete with scenic beauty, accessibility, and small-town hospitality - Sheboygan Falls is a destination well worth discovering. 🇺🇸

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Looking Back a Bit

Like so many anglers working the major spawning veins of Wisconsin each spring for walleyes, Dave Goodwin, his son, Nick, and friend and Green Bay guide Ben Royce had a day to remember on waters including Sturgeon Bay. Forty walleyes ranging from 23 to near 30 inches, slab pike over 30, and whitefish all cooperated. The walleyes all fell to hair jigs.

Send photos and a few sentences sharing your Wisconsin field adventures to stuart@onwisconsinoutdoors.com for publication in OWO.



Ben Royce and Dave and Nick Goodwin show a few reasons why it's good to be on Wisconsin spawning water in spring.



SPOTLIGHT | ASHLAND COUNTY

Early Birding, Unending Adventures And Fabulous Scenery

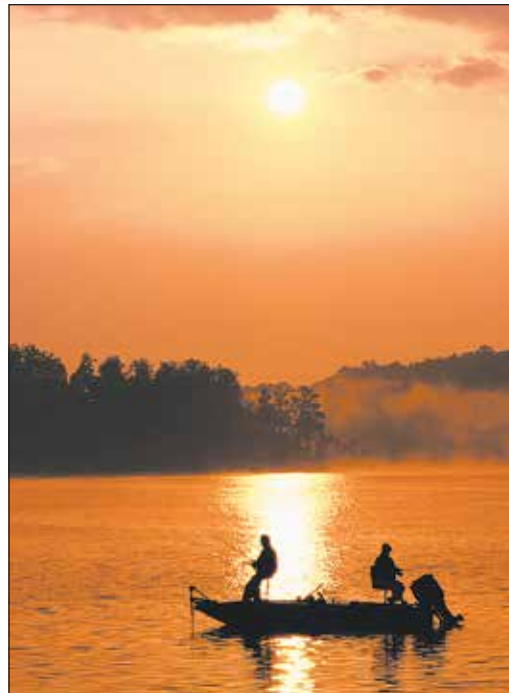
Hike through beautiful northern hardwood forests to the lush, scenic cascades of Morgan Falls. Watch for black-throated blue, black-throated green, mourning, and other warblers, as well as vireos, thrushes, flycatchers, and other forest species.

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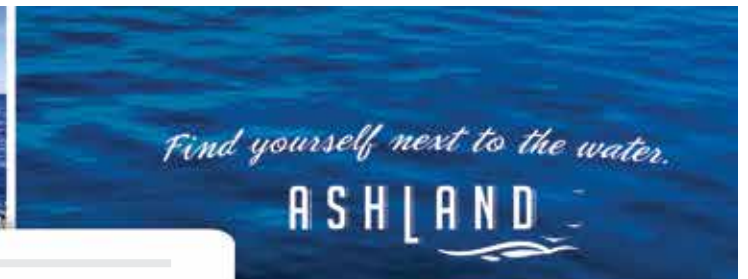
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DICK ELLIS

Experience The Gifts

Kenosha golf and a whole lot more in 24 hours

Peeking in to our tailor-made “travelers’ package” offered to On Wisconsin Outdoors by our tourism partners at Visit Kenosha was a little like savoring an early September Christmas. With so much to see and do in this far southeastern Wisconsin city, and just one day to do it, what would we open first?

Golf, of course. It’s what we do in Waukesha County from spring through fall when work is behind us for the week. With friends Doug and JoAnn Haberlein of Waukesha, Dan and Robin O’Neil of New Berlin, and Jerry & Donna Walsh of Hartland, Lori and I came ready to challenge the two golf courses recommended by our hosts.

Washington Park Municipal Golf Course, known as “Muni”, offers a well-laid out nine-holes splashed with rolling hills and creeks. The wives in this group of young seniors in particular use their weekly golf, kayak and hiking outings as opportunities to stay in physical shape, and almost without exception walk the courses we play. With a few words of advice from the welcoming people at Washington Park, though, they elected to take carts to ensure walking challenges on the moraine-like landscape defining several holes didn’t interfere with the goal of playing the best golf possible.

Our hosts proved correct, and the “girls” were happy to have taken the ride. Washington Park Municipal Golf is the only course within Kenosha city limits and a short journey from the dining and lodging establishments we would



(From the back) Donna Walsh, Lori Ellis, Robin O’Neil, and JoAnne Haberlein outside the Washington Park Municipal Golf Course Clubhouse before playing nine.



The On Wisconsin Outdoors group takes in a cold one after playing the 9-hole “Muni” in Kenosha.

choose later that night. Dedicated in 1922 after World War I when residents petitioned the City Council to create a public course, The Muni celebrated its 100th season in 2022.

Taking on Washington Municipal Golf Course was pure fun, and our hosts made it even more so. Despite a certain score that will remain private, we celebrated the day with a cold one on the patio after our round. Perhaps the next golf challenge waiting on the horizon would offer a better ending. Hope, especially in golf, springs eternal.

Petrifying Springs Golf Course is known as “The Pets” by avid golfers and known for great value in pricing. The Pets is one of two championship golf courses operated by the Kenosha County Park System (the other being Brighton Dale Links). The 18-hole course, 6019 yards from the longest tee, was designed by Joseph A. Roseman and opened on 1936. The Pets offers a short game practice area, putting green, beautiful views, with ancient oaks and elms lining the fairways.

After playing 18, we will without doubt make the one-hour ride again from our homes to take on Petrifying Springs. It was that good for us, from the clubhouse to the

fairways to the layout to contemplating our games outside taking in an early fall afternoon in Kenosha.

This writer did once again protest the scribbling on the scorecard next to my name, something just did not add up. We all agreed though, that 24 hours in Kenosha, plus two great courses, equals one great time.

Open the gifts of Kenosha. To read the entire story detailing each stop of our visit, connect with: Visit Kenosha at www.visitkenosha.com. Our one-day journey included:

Civil War Museum – museums.kenosha.org
262.653.4141.

Washington Park Municipal Golf Course -
golfkenoshamuni.com 262.653.4090

Petrifying Springs Golf Course - petrifyingspringsgolf.com 262.697.4653

The Stella Hotel & Ballroom – stellahotel.com
262.258.0123

House of Gerhard – houseofgerhard.com 262.694.5212



JoAnn Haberlein and Robin O’Neil are ready to take on the 18-hole Petrifying Springs Golf Course in Kenosha.

Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | BARABOO



A Workout You'll Love Hike, bike and catch pike in Baraboo

The best workout is the one you don't even know you're doing. Explore the outdoors in Baraboo, and you'll have too much fun to realize you're exercising.

The Baraboo Area is a haven for outdoors lovers. Start your adventure at Devil's Lake, where opportunities abound. Hikers can walk the Tumbled Rock Trail between the lake's north and south shores. The truly adventurous can climb the east bluff to visit Balanced Rock and Devil's Doorway, enjoying a bird's eye view of the lake's pristine waters.

That's just the start: Climbers can scale the bluffs. Scuba divers can explore the lake bed. Anglers can reel in walleye, bass and northern pike. Devil's Lake Concessions rents canoes and kayaks not only to campers but to day trippers. After your adventure, reward yourself with some ice cream at the concession stand.

If you'd rather reward yourself with an adult beverage

and live music, the Devil's Lake area has you covered. Tumbled Rock Brewery, located just outside the North Shore entrance, pairs its beers with pizza. Just down the road, Balanced Rock Winery specializes in shareable snacks suited to its reds and whites. Play a game of bags at the brewery or stroll among the vines at the winery to unwind after a day of outdoor exploration.

Recreational opportunities abound beyond Devil's Lake State Park. The Baraboo Riverwalk welcomes walkers, bicyclists and dog owners. This three-mile paved path links several city parks and affords views of wildlife ranging from heron to deer to ducks.

The Baraboo Area is home to another state park, Mirror Lake, that delivers a peaceful experience. While Devil's Lake is Wisconsin's most-visited state park, Mirror Lake's placid waters foster a serene environment for walkers and anglers.

Speaking of beautiful settings, let's talk golf. Baraboo



Enjoying the view at Devil's Lake. Photo by Yenti Eilertson.

Country Club is an 18-hole course nestled below the Baraboo Hills. Creeks and wildlife meander through the course, located right next to Balanced Rock.

Devil's Head Resort in Merrimac is another great option. Play 18 or even 36 holes on a course whose sloping hills draw skiers each winter. North of Baraboo, Fairfield Hills is a "par 3" course ideal for families and beginners.

Whatever you choose, be sure to reward yourself after all this exercise. Even though you sort of forgot you were working out. 🍷



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JOHN ELLIS

Voter Fraud Trial Exposes Government Officials as The Real Criminals

The critical need to have Voter I.D. required and enforced nationally, was magnified locally in March at the trial of Wisconsin resident **Harry Wait**.

Wait was wrongfully charged with voter fraud and identity theft by **Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul**, after successfully and transparently exposing massive vulnerabilities in the **Wisconsin Elections Commissions' MyVote** website. The charges were brought to destroy Wait's credibility by having him branded as a felon, and to keep the serious election problems he had uncovered hidden from the public.

The story began four years earlier on July 26th, 2022, when Wait was told by a trusted source that anyone using MyVote could request an absentee ballot for someone else, without a Voter I.D. If that was true, it would be a major security problem for Wisconsin's voters and a violation of Wisconsin law.

To test the system, Wait logged onto MyVote and without I.D. or permission requested absentee ballots for **Assembly Speaker Robin Vos** and **Racine Mayor Cory Mason**. Wait also requested roughly 10 additional ballots from people he had permission from, all to be sent to his Union Grove address.

Crucial to his obvious intent, Wait then notified Vos, Mason, and others, in an email sent at 3:13 A.M. on July 27th, what he had done and why he did it. Written in the subject line of the email was; *The ease of harvesting election ballots online is nothing short of stunning.*

Quotes from Wait's email follow.

"Significant vulnerabilities at Request an Absentee Ballot (wi.gov) have been identified where anyone with a smartphone or computer can order an absentee ballot online in someone else's name and have that absentee ballot sent to an address other than the registered voter. All you need is the date of birth."

"Further, the I.D. of anyone requesting these absentee ballots is not requested or required."

"Yesterday evening to prove how easily absentee ballots can be nefariously ordered, I went online and successfully ordered absentee ballots in Cory Mason and Robin Vos's name to be shipped to my address."

"I will of course return their absentee ballots should they arrive."

The proof that a Voter I.D. was not required while using MyVote came when an absentee ballot in the name of Cory Mason arrived at Wait's home. As

promised, Wait returned it to the Racine County Sheriff's Office, where **Sheriff Chris Schmaling** chose not to charge him. The ballot for Robin Vos never arrived, but the 10 additional ballots Wait requested did.

Wait's trial was held on March 23rd and 24th, 2026, at the William L. McRenolds Law Enforcement Center in Racine. Prosecuting the case for Kaul were **Assistant Attorney Generals Adrienne Blais** and **Leigh Neville-Neil**, who deceitfully portrayed Wait as a thief.

Both Vos and Mason, who knew the truth about what Wait had found, and his intent, testified against him. Vos said that he was "frustrated" that Wait tried to steal his vote, and that he should have called for Wait's prosecution. Mason said that he was "upset" by what Wait had done, and called it "very concerning".

When the trial was over, even though **Judge Daniel Johnson** had instructed the jury to use their **judgement and truth** to reach their verdict, Wait was found guilty of two counts of voter fraud and one count of identity theft. Then, at 11:51 P.M. on the evening the trial ended, one of the jurors posted the following on social media;

"I hope this message is relayed to Harry. I was on the jury, and I want you to know the way questions were framed by the law, we had our hands tied. I'm not going to lie, there are a lot of small-minded people in the world now, and most think more with emotion than logic/truth. I personally want to thank you for what you did, and consider you a true patriot. After what happened today, I have essentially given up on humanity and am saddened all of the work our Founding Fathers did for us is now in vain."

Wisconsin's voter fraud and identity theft laws are intended to prevent people from causing actual harm to someone by stealing their vote or identity. Wait didn't do either of those things. What he did, openly and to the benefit of everyone, was expose one of the many reasons Wisconsin's elections are vulnerable to fraud and easily stolen.

The jury's hands were not tied by the law. They were tied by the lies of **Josh Kaul**, **Adrienne Blais**, **Leigh Neville-Neil**, **Robin Vos** and **Cory Mason**. All of them falsely accused Wait of being a thief, and had him convicted as a felon, to hide the serious problems he uncovered with the MyVote website. Their immoral behavior has exposed them as the real criminals in the Harry Wait trial, and unworthy of holding any position of public trust. 🗳️

JOHN ELLIS

Why You Should Expect, And Welcome, Federal Oversight of Wisconsin's Midterm Elections

As of April 2nd, 2026, the **State of Wisconsin** is one of 30 states, along with the District of Columbia, being sued by the **U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)** for not turning over its voter registration list for inspection as required by the **Civil Rights Act of 1960**. The Civil Rights Act gives the U.S. Attorney General the authority to demand and inspect statewide voter registration lists for improper registrations.

"The Justice Department will continue to fulfill its oversight dutifully, neutrally, and transparently wherever Americans vote in federal elections," said **Assistant Attorney General Harmeet K. Dhillon** of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division. "Many state election officials, however, are choosing to fight us in court rather than show their work. We will continue to verify that all states are carrying out critical election integrity legal duties."

As extensively reported by **On Wisconsin Outdoors (OWO)**, the **Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC)** maintains a statewide voter registration list that includes more than 8.2 million total names in a state with only 4.6 million voting aged citizens. When the DOJ inspects Wisconsin's list, it will find more than **4 million ineligible voter names** on it.

The four million ineligible names are what the WEC is trying to hide from the DOJ and Wisconsin's citizens. It's clear that the WEC has not been maintaining the state voter registration list properly, and their actions have violated the civil rights and denied the will of Wisconsin's voters. Because of the WEC's own corrupt behavior you should expect, and welcome, federal oversight of Wisconsin's midterm elections in November. 🗳️

HAYWARD LAKES, FROM PAGE 5

aggressive or have already seen plenty of minnows. Having both options can give you an advantage.

One of the best parts of spring crappie fishing in the Hayward Lakes Area is the number of lakes available. There are plenty of opportunities to find active fish while enjoying a peaceful day on the water. It is also a great time to experience the area before summer crowds arrive.

Beyond fishing, there is much to explore. You can visit the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame, walk along Hayward's historic main street, or enjoy a meal at a local restaurant. Whether you stay at a resort, hotel, vacation home, or campground, you will find a welcoming Northwoods atmosphere.

Spring here offers more than great fishing. It is a chance to enjoy quiet lakes, fresh air, and memorable days outdoors. Come for the crappies and stay for everything else. 🗳️

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

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

JOHN ELLIS

Walleyes in Wisconsin's Ceded Territory-Part Seven



Restoring equal protection, and walleyes

On July 9th, 1868, the **14th Amendment of the United States Constitution** was ratified. The 14th Amendment requires equal protection of laws for all U.S. citizens. Section 1 of the Amendment 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.

On June 2nd, 1924, the **Indian Citizen Act** was signed into law by President Calvin Coolidge, and it gave all Chippewa tribal members born in the United States citizenship. Citizenship is the tie that binds all Americans and its given the Chippewa

all of the rights that every U.S. citizen has, including the right to participate in U.S. elections and the protections provided under the 14th Amendment. The Indian Citizen Act 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.

Even though all Chippewa tribal members born in the United States for the last 102 years are U.S. citizens, for more than 40 years the **State of Wisconsin** has been ignoring this fact and violating the 14th Amendment. Wisconsin has been doing this by allowing **only** Chippewa tribal members to fish out of season for spawning Ceded Territory walleyes, while preventing **all** other citizens from participating. The ongoing out of season fishing by the privileged few has resulted

in the destruction of Wisconsin's Ceded Territory walleye resource that belongs to all of us, and caused great economic harm to the entire state.

The unequal protection, destruction, and harm have been thoroughly documented by **On Wisconsin Outdoors** in our series, **Walleyes in Wisconsin's Ceded Territory**. They are the direct result of poor leadership by Wisconsin's elected officials, and within the Chippewa tribes, and must be addressed and corrected by Wisconsin's next governor through the following steps:

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

For more than 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. 🐟

To receive a free copy of **Walleyes in Wisconsin's Ceded Territory**, as well as **Wolf Tracks**, our series on Wisconsin's wolves, and **Restoring Verifiable Elections**, our series on Wisconsin's elections, email jellis@onwisconsinoutdoors.com.

SEEKING CONFLICT, FROM PAGE 28

and tribal communities," said Jason Schlender, GLIFWC Executive Administrator. "GLIFWC looks forward to assisting our member tribes with their seasonal activities in cooperation with our agency partners to ensure safety and a bountiful harvest."

Part of the collaboration between the DNR and the Ojibwe tribes includes working together to set a safe harvest limit for every walleye and muskellunge lake in the Ceded Territory. These safe harvest limits ensure that the walleye and muskellunge harvests do not adversely affect each lake's fishery.

Interfering With Tribal Rights

It is illegal to interfere or attempt to interfere with tribal citizens who are exercising treaty rights, including the spring harvest of walleye. Prohibited conduct against any tribal citizen includes, but is not limited to, stalking, obstructing access to lakes, recklessly operating watercraft, creating hazardous wakes, threatening violence and committing acts of violence.

The Ojibwe Spring harvest, which includes

spearfishing, is an integral and respected part of Wisconsin's history. The DNR is actively engaged with GLIFWC, tribal law enforcement officers and local sheriff's offices to protect tribal rights not only for the upcoming season but for generations to come and will continue to work to ensure all who participate are able to have a safe and enjoyable experience.

Anyone violating tribal rights could be charged under several Wisconsin laws, fined up to \$10,000 and sentenced up to 9 months in prison. Additionally, any tribal member whose rights are violated may bring civil action for damages and seek a restraining order.

Wisconsin's Hate Crime Provisions

Wisconsin law includes hate crime penalty enhancements for many crimes if they are committed, at least in part, based on a "belief or perception regarding the race, religion, color, disability, sexual orientation, national origin or ancestry of" the victim. For example, when a hate crime penalty enhancement applies to a felony, the maximum fine can be increased by up to an additional \$5,000 and the maximum prison term can be increased by up to an additional 5 years.

Tribal Council Approves "Non-Member" Fishing Restrictions to Protect Fish Populations

The Lac du Flambeau Tribal Council Resolution No. 8(26) closing walleye and musky fishing by non-members on lakes within the reservation boundary has been expanded. In late March, Flambeau Lake, Big Crooked Lake, White Sand Lake, Big Crawling Stone Lake, Whitefish Lake, the Sugarbush Chain (Upper, Middle, and Lower), and Pokegama Lake were closed "to protect fish populations and natural resources". Closures have now been expanded to include Fence, Long, Little Crawling Stone, Stearns, Bolton, Ike Walton, Poupart, Fat and Little Sand Lakes.

Closure includes no catch and release of walleye and musky by non-members on these lakes. When contacted by OWO for clarification, communication spokesperson Araia Breedlove said that rule was included to discourage anglers from targeting musky and walleyes but fines would not be issued to anglers catching and releasing those fish. She said tribal members are also being discouraged from targeting muskies and walleyes on those waters.

In addition, the Tribal Council ban on forward trolling by non-members on all lakes within the reservation boundary has been expanded to include forward-facing sonar. This action was taken after review of recommendations from the Tribal Fish Hatchery, which determined that these methods are commonly used to target walleye and muskies and provide unfair advantages and contributes to overfishing and overharvesting.

The Council stated that these measures are part of its authority and responsibility to protect tribal lands, waters, and natural resources for future generations. "Decisions are guided by data, expert recommendation, and a long-standing commitment to conservation," the media release reads.



STUART WILKE
Forgotten Wisconsin



Made in The Badger State, Excalibur Defined Unique Beauty And Speed

Brooks Stevens, one of America's foremost industrial designers, is perhaps best known as the creator of the original Excalibur neo-classic automobile. He designed the car in his Mequon studio and West Allis was where his Mercedes-Benz-inspired Excalibur was built. Stevens also designed the Allis-Chalmers logo, the original Jeep Wagoneer, Harley-Davidson motorcycles and some of Studebaker's last, and most memorable, cars.

His work with Studebaker was the impetus for the Excalibur, as was Al Jolson's Mercedes-Benz SSK, which Stevens owned. (Jolson was the star of the first major motion picture show with sound.) By the early 1960s, Studebaker was in dire straits. The company's partnership with Packard in the late 1950s was a failure and resulted in the death of Packard. Studebaker simply could not compete with the Big Three automakers. The Lark, one of the first American compact cars, debuted in 1959, but its success was short lived when General Motors, Ford and Chrysler and their much larger dealership networks introduced their own compact cars in 1960.

Under the leadership of the company's new president, Sherwood Egbert, Studebaker was not going down without a fight. Egbert was tasked with closing down Studebaker's automotive division, but to the board of directors' frustration, he instead fought to keep it alive with new and exciting Stevens and Raymond Lowey designs developed on minuscule budgets.

Egbert strove to increase awareness of Studebaker and reassure potential customers of the company's viability. To that end, he commissioned Stevens to develop a car to display at the 1964 New York Auto Show that would wow the crowds and bring attention to the Studebaker lineup. Stevens responded with the "Mercedesbaker." (Studebaker was the official importer of Mercedes-Benz cars.) Built on a Lark chassis with a supercharged engine, exposed exhaust system and motorcycle fenders, the car looked like a Mercedes-Benz SSK from the 1920s. Unfortunately, Egbert was diagnosed with cancer and his successor pulled the Mercedesbaker from the auto show because he didn't want people to think that the ailing automaker was in any position to build the vehicle. Stevens then pulled some strings and entered the car under his own name as the Excalibur. The Excalibur was a hit.

So many people expressed interest in purchasing an Excalibur that Stevens and his sons decided to put the



A neo-classic Excalibur Phaeton. Classic car styling with modern automobile underpinnings.

car into production and did so in 1966. The car proved to be especially popular among celebrities. Liberace, Tony Curtis and Sony and Cher were just a few stars who bought Excaliburs. My since departed friend Dean Larscheidt of New Berlin, an Excalibur employee, worked on the intricate basket-weave details of Jackie Gleason's phaeton.

The original Series I Excalibur was not only beautiful, it was also incredibly fast, as you might imagine a 2,000-pound vehicle powered by a 327 cubic inch, 300 horsepower Corvette engine would be. The car clocked 0 to 60 mph in 5.4 seconds and had a top speed of over 130 mph. That was quicker than some of the much-vaunted

Shelby Cobras at the time,

As the years went by, Excaliburs would go through different iterations, power plants ranging from 305 to 454 cubic inches and several owners. Through it all, they retained their neo-classic good looks.

Eventually, increasingly stringent federal safety and emission requirements resulted in the cars simply being too expensive to manufacture. Production halted in 2000 after 3,200 were built.

Today Excaliburs are highly collectible, particularly the early Series 1 versions. They remain one of the most memorable automobiles made in Wisconsin. 🇺🇸



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