

FREE



On Wisconsin

Outdoors

with the

Dick Ellis Experts

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- **Fishing and Hunting Tips**
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- **Forgotten Wisconsin**
Battles at a family dinner table
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 - Wern Valley's Great Cancer Shootout
 - The modern American militia
- **Walleyes, Wolves and Whitetails**
Tracking down stories, running down the truth



FREE



DAN MOERICKE

An 'Up Nort' Report

The Sound of Silence

Back in 1964, Simon and Garfunkel came out with a song titled “The Sound of Silence.” Turned out to be a pretty big hit for them.

A few weeks ago, my partner Barb and I were walking my dog Mabel when Barb mentioned that it sure was quiet. We stopped and listened intently for a few minutes. Admittedly, neither of us possess great hearing, but we were unable to hear anything. I mean absolutely nothing. Not a car, not a boat, not leaves rustling, no dogs barking or birds chirping. Nothing.

So, over the past few weeks, I've been noticing more and more those instances where silence is surrounding me. That is one of the beauties of living in the Northwoods. It happens frequently. And, while a total lack of sound may be unnerving to city folks accustomed to constant traffic and other background noise, those of us living in the Northwoods truly enjoy it.

Plenty of the tourism advertising for northern Wisconsin focuses on motor sports. Don't get me wrong, boating, jet skiing, off-roading, snowmobiling and motorcycles are all great. Both for the participants and for the local economy. But ultimately, I think that the peace and quiet of the Northwoods should get equal billing. I would challenge all visitors to take time to listen to and savor the silence that is so abundant here.

There are plenty of hiking and biking trails in Vilas, Oneida, and Iron counties where one can be enveloped with the sound of silence. When you visit, make sure to stop and listen. You just might hear nothing. It's wonderful. Trust me.

Just sayin.' 🍷



The silence can be deafening in settings like this.



A simplistically perfect morning with Dad. Mathias Bump, 6, scores on a beautiful gill the old fashioned way.

JACOB BUMP

Simplistically Perfect

Fishing with Dad the old-fashioned way

Some of the best days on the water don't involve giant boats, expensive electronics, or chasing the newest technology. Sometimes all you need is a canoe, a bobber and worm, and someone excited to catch fish.

My six-year-old son, Mathias, and I had planned a simple fishing trip on a quiet lake near Elroy, Wisconsin. It's the kind of place that feels tucked away from the world. The homes sit back from the shoreline enough that once you push away from shore in a canoe, all you really notice are the trees reflecting off the water and the peaceful feeling of being outside.

Not long into the trip, his bobber disappeared. Large bluegills have a way of surprising people. For a fish that size, they fight hard. The canoe rocked gently as excitement took over. He reeled carefully, smiling bigger with every turn of the handle. When he finally held that bluegill up, proud and grinning ear to ear, it felt like time slowed down for a minute. We admired the fish, snapped a quick picture, and watched it swim away.

Growing up, some of my favorite fishing memories came from a basic 12-foot boat powered by an old four horsepower Johnson and simple equipment. No electronics. No expensive gear. Just fishing. Those simple days taught me something I appreciate even more now: fishing isn't really about the equipment. It's about quiet mornings, patience, excitement when the bobber slips under, and time spent with people who matter. Watching my son hold that bluegill in a simple canoe on a beautiful Wisconsin lake reminded me that some of the best things in life haven't changed at all. 🍷



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PORTA-DOCK



JOHN FAUCHER

Early Summer Wolf River late bloomers

You never know what you are going to catch in the month of June, July or August on the upper stretches of the Wolf River. It could be a late bloomer, back-run walleye; white bass; or a tenacious channel or flathead catfish still working the spawn sites. The approach is similar for all.

The floodwaters are receding and the marshes are draining not only their water, but the baitfish and fry that have thrived there for months ahead of this magic time of year called early summer. Live bait begins to take a back burner to the easier-to-fish plastics for all game fish. As for catfish, fresh cut bait is still a go-to good luck charm.

The more elusive flathead catfish prefer a live morsel in front of them, although more and more anglers are successfully jigging for flatheads in snags with two- and three-ounce jigs tipped with big musky paddle tail swim baits. Hold on tight and keep your drags set in the months of July and August on the Wolf.

Contact Johnny's Little Shop of Bait, 1205 W. Wolf River Drive, New London, at 920-982-4802. Despite the recent flood, Johnny's is once again 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. 🍷



"Mole" Muskevitch holds up a channel cat caught in June on a piece of cut bait on a shallow flat located below an effluent source near New London. John Faucher photo.



Neil Rhines of New London holds up a late bloomer white bass caught on the Wolf River near an out-flowing marsh off the Wolf River in June. John Faucher photo.

On The Cover

That's five-year old Hayden kissing her close friend, Jack, on our cover. And that's two of Butch and Kelly's older grandchildren moseying down a stoney drive in northern Wisconsin on Jack and Buck in the photo you see here.

Good things end, we know, but the ending shouldn't come like this for two mules that were nothing less than part of the family. Jack was killed by wolves in Bayfield County last fall. After watching the slow and horrific take-down of his companion, and Jack missing in the next stall that night, Buck died two days later from stress colic.

Jack and Buck are buried near each other on the family property. Scooter, the family horse, was relocated to be with a receptive neighbor's horses so he wouldn't be alone.

"Those were my kids," Butch told OWO as he detailed the labors of love of exceptional owners like cleaning their barn daily and placing fans that would keep his animals cool. "Jack was a 'meet me at the gate' mule. He came to you when he saw you standing there. I do not hate wolves. But how do I replace my mules? I can't."

OWO received 13 reports from Wisconsin DNR and USDA-Wildlife Services detailing verified wolf attacks on livestock over 43 days beginning April 20, 2026. The attacks on six different species of livestock occurred in six counties located in far north central, northwest, central Wisconsin and in Adams County northwest of

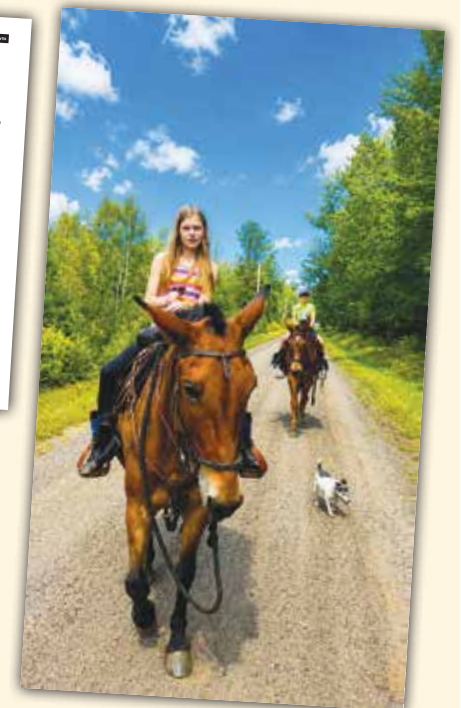
Madison.

Domestic animals "killed, injured or harassed" included calves, cattle, chickens, a donkey, goat, and horses. You'll find those details on page 28 in this issue. Many trailing hounds are also killed in Wisconsin during the summer months in pre-season training.

In mid-June, OWO asked a Wisconsin wolf expert and a retired conservation warden who we trust if they had photos of those livestock attacks for potential publication. We received instead a post-attack photo of Jack, killed on September 30, 2025. Later, the family who lost Jack provided OWO with our cover photo and other family photos of their mules. We will post a not easy to look at photo of Jack on our website, but not here.

We learned that Jack, the "pasture protector" at an enormous 1300 pounds and 16 hands tall, had escorted an intrusive lone wolf off his home turf two years ago. The wolf had come from school

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On Wisconsin
Outdoors
With the Dick Ellis Experts

HUNTING • FISHING • TRAVEL
EXPLORE WISCONSIN

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PHIL SCHWEIK

Go Fish... But When?

Understanding your river environment

I've learned a few things from fishing the Wisconsin River all my life. I've learned techniques, fish locations, their habits, and the best time to... go fish. But one of the most important aspects of fishing on a river system that most people don't talk about, or maybe don't understand, is the water and the system itself.

I fish several different sections of the Wisconsin River, and each one has its own individual characteristics. They all have different compositions and make-up, especially with the impoundments and the lakes that they encompass. Some have several miles of river, and some are more lake-like. And they fish completely differently.

Even though these river sections are connected, they are very independent of each other. On any given day, one section will be better than the other for producing fish. Figuring out which section to fish on any particular day is the ultimate question.

With a lifetime of experience on the river, I can tell you this: Current and water levels are the number one factor in determining which section will produce more fish on any given day. Water flow is everything, and depending on the makeup of the system, whether the water is high or low or fast or slow-moving, determines where I fish every day.

In general, I like to fish the areas that are more lake-like when we have a faster moving current or rising water levels. On days when the current is moving slowly or the water levels are falling, I like the sections that are set up more like rivers.

On most of my outings, I make daytime changes due to the current conditions based on the factors described above. By doing so, I truly believe that I increase the success of my clients each and every time we hit the water. 🎣



Jayden Reed with a nice walleye.

TOM LUBA

A River Runs to it

Tap the brown water for summer success

There are no shortages of busy lake surfaces when summer finally hits. Add bright sun and clear water and sometimes the fishing can be doubly tough.

When the lakes are packed, it's time for a new venue - rivers. Usually brownish in color, mainly from steady water runoff, they also have current. Those two factors can work in your favor. Coincidentally, the two main game fish in rivers are also brown - walleye and smallmouth bass.

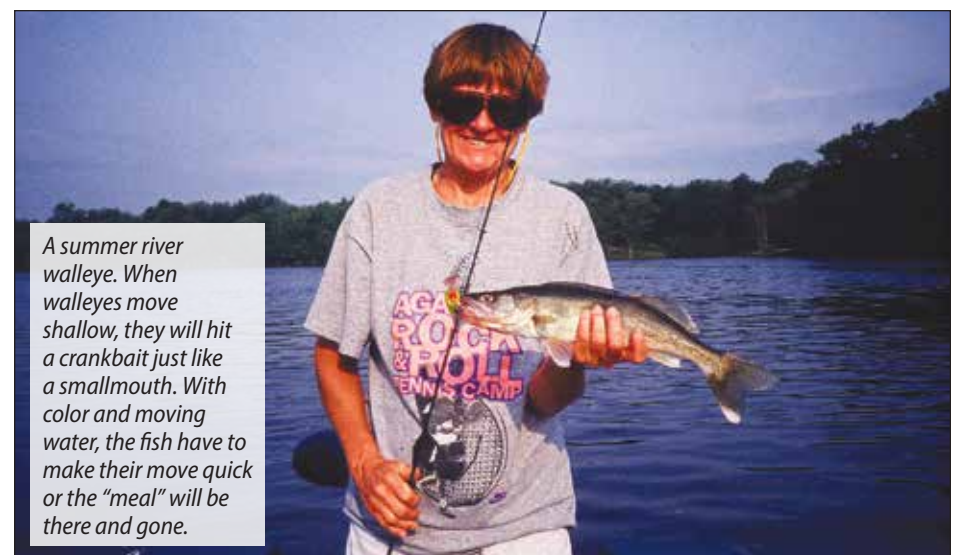
After hosting spring's walleye spawning runs, rivers can become somewhat vacant come summer. That can work for you by creating a lot more areas to fish as the walleyes move back downstream from spawning areas, like river dams. Most rivers have a wealth of structures that provide resident fish good living conditions. Rip Rap, sunken snags, submerged wood and laydowns that reach into deeper water can hold fish. The good areas will replenish themselves as fish are removed. Consider anchoring upstream of a snag once water conditions stabilize (you may have to find them with your depth finder), where you can drift your live bait into the area. High spring current can move snags like trees so be vigilant looking for new spots.

A six-and-a-half foot medium spinning rod, a reel with eight to 10-pound test mono and enough weight to get a nose-hooked nightcrawler down to bottom is standard. Close-faced set ups with the same elements also fill the bill. When the water color blocks sun penetration, crankbaits in brown or chartreuse can offer another option.

Smallmouth love rivers, too. Fish them shallow early and later, go deeper in mid-day. The same brighter/darker shade crankbaits work, as do artificials like chartreuse grubs on lighter heads and tube jigs. Carry both light and dark colors that can mimic baitfish and craws. Berkley MaxScent tubes are a favorite, as they actually trail scent, which helps fish find it. Since you will be fishing a lot of rock in rivers, key on your baits to avoid snagging. A bait like a light swing jig with a three or four-inch plastic trailer also works. Keep it steadily ticking bottom as you retrieve. Walleye have teeth and crankbaits have treble hooks, so definitely use a good landing net.

Pay particular attention to where the water starts getting shallower before a riffle. That creates a slack area along the bottom where smallmouth can stack up. These locations can be easily overlooked. They're good anchoring locations. Then drift live bait into the areas. Crawlers work for smallmouth, too. Ribbon leeches, which are more durable than crawlers, shine here.

It's summer now! Brown water, brown fish and no crowds. Make your day! 🎣



A summer river walleye. When walleyes move shallow, they will hit a crankbait just like a smallmouth. With color and moving water, the fish have to make their move quick or the "meal" will be there and gone.

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SEA-DOO®

DICK ELLIS

Return Again to Marshall, Minnesota

Quality wild pheasant hunting, close to home

When the **On Wisconsin Outdoors** crew first hunted the Marshall, Minnesota, area targeting wild pheasants in 2022, the story concluded, "...we'll be back." Late season birds were more than plentiful six hours from our southeast 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 Visit Marshall who rolled out the red carpet. Three years later, in October of 2025, Marshall did call us back again. We're planning our fall, 2026 hunt now.

As always, Executive Director Cassi Weiss of Visit Marshall laid out the blueprint, pointing out where to hunt public land and answered questions specific to the essentials like lodging and licensing costs necessary for the traveling hunter. "We love hosting Wisconsin hunters in Marshall," Weiss said. "Not only can we provide a great hunting experience, but also fabulous places to stay and a great experience outside of hunting. Marshall is a great alternative; it's not a far drive, and you get a little bit of everything when you stay here."

We also drew an ace when Cassi introduced us to avid local bird hunter Ron Prorok, who has hunted the Marshall area close to the South Dakota border in southwest Minnesota for 15 years. The Lyons County area, he said, has a great mix of grasslands that provide good nesting cover, croplands that offer food and cattail marshes and trees that offer winter cover. Minnesota has an abundance of public lands including Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Federal Waterfowl Production Area and a State Walk-In Access Program. And public land routinely gives up birds.

"The Lyon County Pheasants Forever Chapter works closely with the local Department of Natural Resources to promote the expansion and improvement of public lands here," Prorok said. "Our regional Department of Natural Resources (MN-DNR) team does a great job. They utilize prescribed fire, rotation grazing, weed control, fence pulling, shrub removal and other methods to



In the fall of 2025, John Ellis of Muskego and Steve Ellis of Wausau leave an isolated 200-yard strip of corn near Marshall, Minnesota, where a half dozen roosters had eluded the push.



With great December weather and birds in the bag, Ron Prorok enjoy a Marshall, Minnesota, sunset with OWO writers in 2022.

promote a healthy environment and excellent pheasant habitat."

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

"All the birds are wild and naturally-producing," Prorok said. "We are 100 percent dependent on the birds' ability to survive but in this environment, we improve their odds through our habitat work. We have had several mild winters that has helped increase our birds counts. We are seeing large, successful broods again this spring that should lead to another successful hunting season. The local bird population has adapted well to our region."

In 2022, our December baptism to Marshall bird hunting meant the roosters had already been hunted for two months. 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 also found other reasons to enjoy the trip, like simply standing at twilight to watch literally hundreds of birds pour back into those roosting marshes from the feeding fields.

Regarding coming earlier in the season like we did last year, or later like we did in 2022, Prorok laid out the pros and cons. "In the early season you will experience more birds that are less educated to hunters," he said. "You will also find the most hunting pressure

PLANNING YOUR HUNT

The 2026 season, said Minnesota DNR Communications Coordinator David Schueller, is tentatively scheduled to open October 10 for both residents and nonresidents and close January 3, 2027. Those dates will be finalized August 1. Look for DNR season forecasts about September 1. Cost of a non-resident, season-long license, remains \$102, or \$76 for a three-day hunt. A \$7.50 pheasant stamp is required. For updates or to order a walk-in access guide, contact the Minnesota DNR at 651-296-6157 or go to their website at www.dnr.state.mn.us/hunting.

OWO writers stay at the Everspring Inn & Suites, 1500 East College Drive, Marshall Minnesota 56258, 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 507-532-3221 or www.EverspringInn.com.

"We look forward every year to welcoming Wisconsin pheasant hunters to Marshall, and of course their dogs, too," said Brooke Holmes, Guest Services Manager. "Like the writers for On Wisconsin Outdoors, once they've experienced both the hunting and our hospitality, we'll often see them again."



The author's Golden Retriever, Deke, highly recommends Marshall, Minnesota, for Wisconsin bird hunters... and their humans.

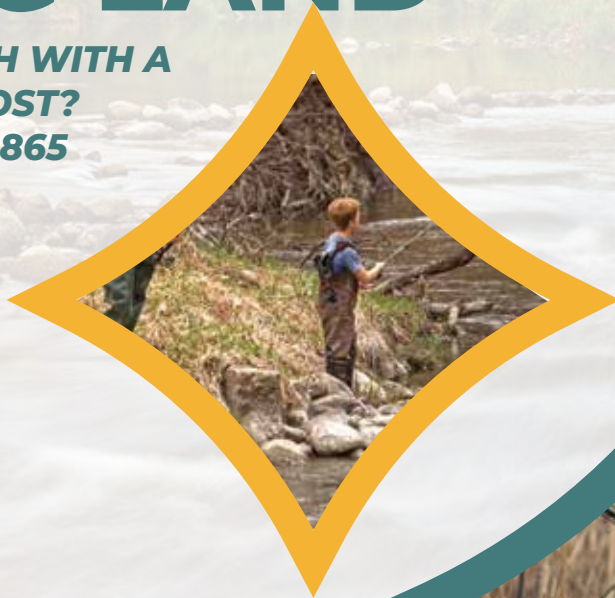
CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



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TOM CARPENTER

Secret Summer Trout

Tough environment brings isolation, good fishing

It is too bad (for them) that most anglers give up on trout fishing after the Fourth of July.

With summer's vegetation at its zenith, and mosquitoes and other insects too for that matter, trout fishing can get gnarly and challenging indeed.

But the streams are still there. The fish are still feeding. And those of us who stick with summer angling often have the water to ourselves.

Consider yourself invited. When you go, put these summertime trout secrets to work.

Summer Trout Love Cover Trout, especially the brown trout that comprise our quarry in most streams, retreat to the hardest-to-get-at cover available. Tree roots, log jams, undercut banks, weedy channels, overhanging grasses ... each one is a hard place to fish, and makes getting your bait in front of a trout difficult. Be patient, painstaking, persistent.

Summer Trout Are Paranoid and Spooky When they come out to feed in a run or riffle, brown trout get extremely spooky. Clomp right up to the creek bank, throw your shadow on the water, or move with heavy footfalls, and you'll be lucky to even see trout scurrying for cover. Be sneaky. Use all that cover to your advantage to hide from fish.

Approach With Stealth Work your way



With summer vegetation at its zenith and mosquitoes too often swarming, trout fishing can be gnarly, challenging...and excellent.

upstream - that is, with the current coming at you. Trout face into the current as they watch and wait for food, and you at least have a smidgen of a chance to locate a fishy spot before the fish see or sense you. Cast, flip dabble or toss upstream of where you

think that fish is. Let the current do the work of carrying your offering naturally to the trout.

Try Unlikely Places While it's true that you'll find browns in some of the standard,

tried-and-true "trouty" looking places we're all used to, consider the brown's penchant for slow-moving bends (if the water is deep), headwaters far upstream (I once caught a two-pounder in a brook only two feet wide), and downstream water that might appear more suited to smallmouth bass or catfish.

They Get Crepuscular or Nocturnal On a cloudy day you can catch a few fish. But when the sun shines and the water is lit up, brown trout retreat to their protected lairs and hidey holes, only to come out when the sun is low, below the horizon or absent altogether. Good fishing becomes an early morning, late evening or nighttime affair.

Keep Your Gear Simple Fly fishing is great now. Opt for caddis and other nymph patterns. Work dry flies if fish are rising. Try hopper or cricket (terrestrial) patterns as summer wears on. On many waters, spinning gear is your best summer brown trout solution. A fat and sassy half-nightcrawler, drifted freely into a brown trout's lair, is usually too much for them to resist. Remember to follow each stream's live bait rules and regulations. On the hardware side, little in-line spinners, tiny spoons and mini minnow baits can trigger strikes.

Get out this summer and cool off in a gurgling trout stream. It's work. It's fun. You will be alone and it all feels good. 🐟

MARSHALL, FROM PAGE 8

and the most habitat available for the birds to hide. As the season progresses and we get snow, the birds are concentrated into less cover and the hunting pressure drops off. I will say that as we see stronger bird numbers, we are seeing more hunting pressure. The good news is that the whole corner of the state has a growing pheasant population so it gives hunters lots of opportunity. You don't have to drive far to find more public land and more birds."

When considering whether to plan your hunt to Minnesota, Prorok said if the weather is mild, hunting pressure will be high on opening weekend, when both residents and nonresidents can hunt. With shooting starting daily at 9 am, he recommends "finding and staking out" that first spot. OWO has at least two hunters go a day early to scout with the dogs. After those first hours of the season, he said, many hunters have already limited out and the pressure begins to disperse.

"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."



For more information, contact Visit Marshall Executive Director Cassi Weiss at 507-537-1865 or cell 612-590-9581 or connect at www.visitmarshallmn.com.



Wisconsin hunters Mike Mroczynski of Polaski, Steve Henske of Stevens Point and John Ellis of Muskego show the results of the first push of the day on public terrain in Lyons County, Minnesota, pointed out by avid local hunter Ron Prorok (right). Several wild pheasants also escaped the push.

DAVE FIDLIN

Kohler-Andrae State Park

A wonder-filled 1000-acre destination

Towering sand dunes, seemingly endless stretches of pine trees and unique, birds-eye views into Lake Michigan are among some of the wonder-filled features found throughout Kohler-Andrae State Park.

The 988-acre parksite, just a few miles from the heart of Sheboygan's downtown corridor, has a storied history that is represented through its current-day name.

Its origins stretch back nearly a century ago - 1927, to be exact - when the Terry Andrae State Park was established on a portion of today's footprint. Andrae ran a company known as Julius Andrae and Sons Electric Supply; upon his death, his widow donated land to the state in his memory.

The Kohler end of the name is linked to the namesake Kohler Company that has long been a prominent fixture of the surrounding area as a manufacturer of plumbing products. John Michael Kohler is the firm's founder. Kohler executives donated land adjacent to the Terry Andrae State Park in 1966, and the combined entity came to be shortly afterward.

Over time, Kohler-Andrae State Park has become one of the hotbeds of Wisconsin's summertime recreation scene, in part because of its unique location.

As the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources proclaims on its own website, the park is "one of the last natural preserves along the Lake Michigan shore." Because of this unique phenomenon, visitors

have first-hand glimpses into more than two sprawling miles of shoreline beaches and sand dunes that can be enjoyed and explored.

While the parksite is most recognized for its prime beachfront real estate, Kohler-Andrae offers a number of different land features, including deeply forested areas that offer multiple species of pines. Marshland also can be enjoyed within the park's confines.

The Creeping Juniper, Woodland Dunes and Black River nature trails are great ways of exploring all that Kohler-Andrae State Park has to offer through a hike. The Dunes Cordwalk, meanwhile, gives hikers a first-hand glimpse into the rolling dunes that dot the landscape.

Park staff have installed signage in specific area of the trails to help visitors identify specific tree species and learn aspects about other natural features in the immediate area, including the types of wildlife that call the

area home.

A visit to the seasonal Sanderling Nature Center, open now through October, is another opportunity to learn more about the parksite, its history and how it all plays into the broader Lake Michigan and Great Lakes ecosystem. The center features exhibits, an auditorium and an observation deck.

Recreational opportunities are abundant within Kohler-Andrae State Park. Fishing, boating and swimming all are popular activities because of the close proximity to Lake Michigan. Camping also is an option at the park.

Looking further out into the calendar, and winter, the site also is a popular cold weathered spot because of its accommodations for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. 🏂

Kohler-Andrae State Park is located at 1020 Beach Park Lane, in the Town of Wilson, two miles south of downtown Sheboygan. It is open daily from 6 am to 11 pm, year-round.



Kohler-Andrae State Park has a number of trails, including this one, which gives first-hand views into the sand dunes that have formed along the Lake Michigan shoreline.



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MINDY SIMONS

Discover, Reconnect, Create Your Full Northwoods' Experience



When the calendar flips to July and August, few destinations in Wisconsin offer the breadth of outdoor recreation that the Hayward Lakes area does. Nestled in the heart of the Northwoods, this Sawyer County gem is more than a place to visit. It is a place to discover, reconnect, and create memories that will last long after the summer tan fades. Whether you are packing the minivan with kids and coolers or traveling as a couple seeking quiet adventure, the Hayward Lakes area delivers the full Northwoods experience.

Water is the soul of the Hayward Lakes area, and summer is the season to embrace it. With over 50,000 acres of glacial lakes and rivers spread across Sawyer County, anglers of all ages will find their slice of paradise. The region is legendary for muskies, walleye, crappie, large and smallmouth bass, northern pike, jumbo perch, and abundant panfish. The area is home to the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame, a fitting tribute to its world record muskie heritage. Local guide services make it easy for families to get on the water with expert help, and area bait shops are stocked and ready for any sized adventure, from the seasoned angler to the kid casting for the very first time.

For those who prefer to paddle, the Hayward Lakes area offers a variety of waterways. The Namekagon River, part of the National Park Service's St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, winds 98 miles through scenic, largely undeveloped country, offering everything from calm flatwater stretches to spirited rapids. The Flambeau River is another outstanding paddle destination, ranging from whitewater thrills to slow, peaceful pools, with stretches suited to beginners and experienced paddlers alike. Local outfitters such as Jack's Canoe and Tube Rental and Camp Namekagon offer canoe, kayak, and tube rentals to get the whole family moving.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

CAPTAIN DAVE DUWE

Deep Water Gills

Unlocking the depths

Growing up, it always seemed like the best fishing happened in spring, and as the weather warmed up, the fishing would slow down. I always chalked it up to the “summer blahs!” During spring, the bluegills were in the shallows spawning, and I would always catch a mess of fish. However, with the heat of summer, the shallows became devoid of any keepable bluegills. It wasn't until years later, with the help of good electronics, that I discovered the bluegills had simply moved to the deeper reaches of the lake.

In most lakes in southeastern Wisconsin that have deep water, the bluegills move from the shallow sandy bays as soon as they finish spawning and head for the deep weed lines. The key to finding deeper bluegills is a good depth finder, or now, forward-facing sonar. Today's locators are so clear and precise that they eliminate a lot of unproductive water. I prefer the weed lines off the main lake basin, starting in 15 to 18 feet of water and sometimes going as deep as 35 feet. Bluegills are usually tight to the bottom, within a foot or two, though I have seen them suspend, so be prepared to make adjustments.

Most often, the bluegills will position themselves very closely to the weeds. The fish are actively feeding on bloodworms and other water insects, which makes them relatively easy to catch. A spot-lock trolling motor keeps you in constant contact with the fish, no need for

an anchor like in the old days. Concentrate on subtle points in the weeds. A lot of times the bluegills will be associated with isolated structures, whether a piece of wood or hard bottom surrounded by a muck bottom. The fish will be located in the same locations until the end of August.

My bait of choice is redworms or trout worms. The presentation is simple: a small hook or ice jig with a split shot located about a foot above the hook. I fish the bait straight under the boat or with a short cast. The rig is relatively weedless and offers a very subtle presentation. A bobber would be impractical given the depth of the water. The bite is subtle, just a couple taps. I will then bow the rod for a few seconds then set the hook.

My preferred rod-and-reel combo is a six-foot six-inch medium-light rod paired with a spinning reel spooled with six-pound monofilament line. I prefer six-pound line over four-pound because of the occasional bass or walleye bite. The heavier line won't affect the success or the number of bites.

With a little practice, summertime bluegill fishing will become very productive and far less of a challenge. Don't let deep water intimidate you. As always, take a kid fishing and create some memories that will last a lifetime. 🎣



Young client with a bull bluegill.



SPOTLIGHT | PORT WASHINGTON

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When the mid-summer temperatures rise, the cool lake breeze beckons. Nestled along the dramatic bluffs of Lake Michigan, Port Washington is the ultimate launchpad for your summer outdoor adventures. If you are looking to escape the routine and spend time outdoors, this historic harbor town offers the perfect blend of coastal beauty, thrilling recreation, and small-town charm.

The best way to experience Port Washington's stunning landscape is from the water. Picture yourself waking up early to glide through the glassy morning calm in a kayak or heading out on a charter fishing excursion with the sun rising over the horizon. Take advantage of the midday lake breeze on your sailboat, exploring the shoreline on a paddleboard, or even experiencing the unique thrill of freshwater surfing. The water provides a refreshing escape from the summer heat and the backdrop to an unforgettable day chasing king salmon – or even just a breathtaking sunrise.

But the adventure doesn't stop at the shoreline. Back on land, the region's scenic geography invites endless exploration. Lace up your boots for a hike along the shaded trails of Lion's Den Gorge, where wooden bridges and dramatic overlooks offer breathtaking views of the lake below. If you prefer two wheels, you can hop right onto the Interurban Bike Trail from downtown Port Washington for a smooth, paved journey through the quaint communities of Ozaukee County, or test your skills on the local mountain biking trails.

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For guide parties, please call or text Dave Duwe at 262-728-8063. He fishes the lakes of southeastern Wisconsin.

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

Fishing to Festivals - it's All About Fun!

With one of the largest charter fishing fleets in Wisconsin, Algoma is home to big fish and even bigger summertime festivals. Without a doubt, fun is what's on the menu in Friendly Algoma.

Kicking off the July 4th festivities is Smashed on the Rock's Bloody Mary Extravaganza with their attempt to break the world record with 300 gallons of their famous Bloody Marys. That leads to free Bloody Marys for everyone until gone. To keep the 4th celebration going, there will be free live entertainment all day, Blessing of the Fleet, and capping off the evening, fireworks and more entertainment. This is one 4th you won't want to miss!

July 10 - 19 casts off the Kewaunee/Door Salmon Tournament. Anglers will be competing for over \$100,000 in cash and prizes in this 44th annual event. Big fish, big prizes. No boat, no problem. Reserve one of our large charter boats for a day on the lake and a chance at a fish of a lifetime.

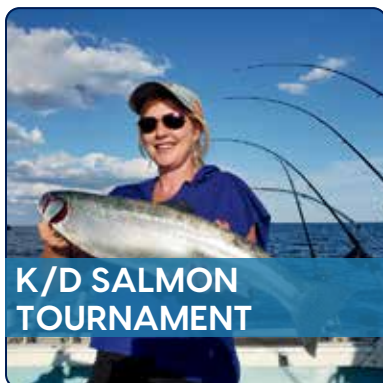
August features two of our most famous festivals. Shanty Days, a Celebration of the Lake, is a three-day, fun-filled family festival held on the shores of Lake Michigan August 14 - 16. Shanty Days features arts & crafts, a beach volleyball tournament, Wisconsin's largest community parade, 5K run, fishing tournament, live music and loads of food and fun. Mark your calendar!

Soar on the Shore Kite & Beach Festival is August 22. Watch as a rainbow of colorful kites fill the skies over Algoma's famous beachfront. This free family event is not to be missed. Celebrate the beauty of our shoreline and the joy of kites.

Don't forget about hiking and biking the Ahnapee Trail, part of Wisconsin's Ice Age Trail, or come and watch the cruise ships that frequent the Algoma Harbor. Algoma is the place to be this summer. Be sure to check out all of the upcoming events at VisitAlgomaWi.org. Come as our guest, leave as our friend! 🍷



The summer outdoors is yours in Algoma!



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SPOTLIGHT | KENOSHA



Late Summer Fun in Kenosha

Late summer is one of the best times to experience Kenosha, where the calendar is packed with festivals, live entertainment, family attractions, and unforgettable community celebrations. Whether you're planning a weekend getaway or an extended stay along the Lake Michigan shoreline, you'll find exciting events happening nearly every week.

From sporting events to music festivals and cultural celebrations, Kenosha offers something for every interest. Cheer on the hometown team during a Kenosha Kingfish baseball game outing or step back in time at the legendary Bristol Renaissance Faire. Spend a Saturday exploring fresh produce and handcrafted soaps at the Kenosha HarborMarket, exploring the food court and fresh baked goods at Kenosha Public Market, or browse one of a kind artwork at Kenosha Art Market.

Food lovers won't want to miss crowd favorites like Taste of Wisconsin and the buttery delights of the Jerry Smith Sweet Corn Festival. Racing enthusiasts can catch the



action at Wilmot Raceway races, while music fans can enjoy performances at the Peacetreer Music Festival, HarborPark Jazz, Rhythm, & Blues Fest, R&B Block Fest, and Bloomin' Bands.

The celebration continues with beloved traditions

including PROST! Das Fest, the Kenosha County Fair, the stunning Art of the Car Show, the nostalgic Kenosha Classic Cruise-In, lively Oktoberfest, flavorful Italian Fest, colorful Festival Orgullo Hispano, and the inspiring Walk in the Woods Art Fair.

Looking for even more excitement? Enjoy the high-energy performances of the Aqanaut Water Ski Shows, experience world-class country music at Country Thunder Wisconsin, or take in countless additional concerts, community gatherings, and family-friendly attractions throughout the season.

No matter when you visit, Kenosha's late-summer lineup delivers memorable experiences, welcoming hospitality, and plenty of reasons to return again and again. Pack your calendar - and your appetite - and discover why this vibrant lakeside destination is one of Wisconsin's favorite places to celebrate the season. **Learn more at [VisitKenosha.com/Events](https://www.visitkenosha.com/events)**



GOOD, OLD FASHIONED FUN

Some things never get old. Like summer days spent at the ballpark, a trip to the beach, or a perfect ice cream cone. Savor all the fun of the season in Kenosha, WI. Whether you catch a Kenosha Kingfish Baseball game, explore the many beaches along Lake Michigan, or stroll through the charming downtown with an ice cream in-hand, you'll find nostalgia all around. From special events and outdoor concerts, to ropes course parks, charter fishing outings, and dirt track car races, there is no shortage of adventure in Southeastern Wisconsin.

Scan to explore Outdoor Recreation in Kenosha!



[VISITKENOSHA.COM](https://www.visitkenosha.com)



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2026

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MAY 29-31

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 **Explore Wisconsin**

SPOTLIGHT | ASHLAND COUNTY



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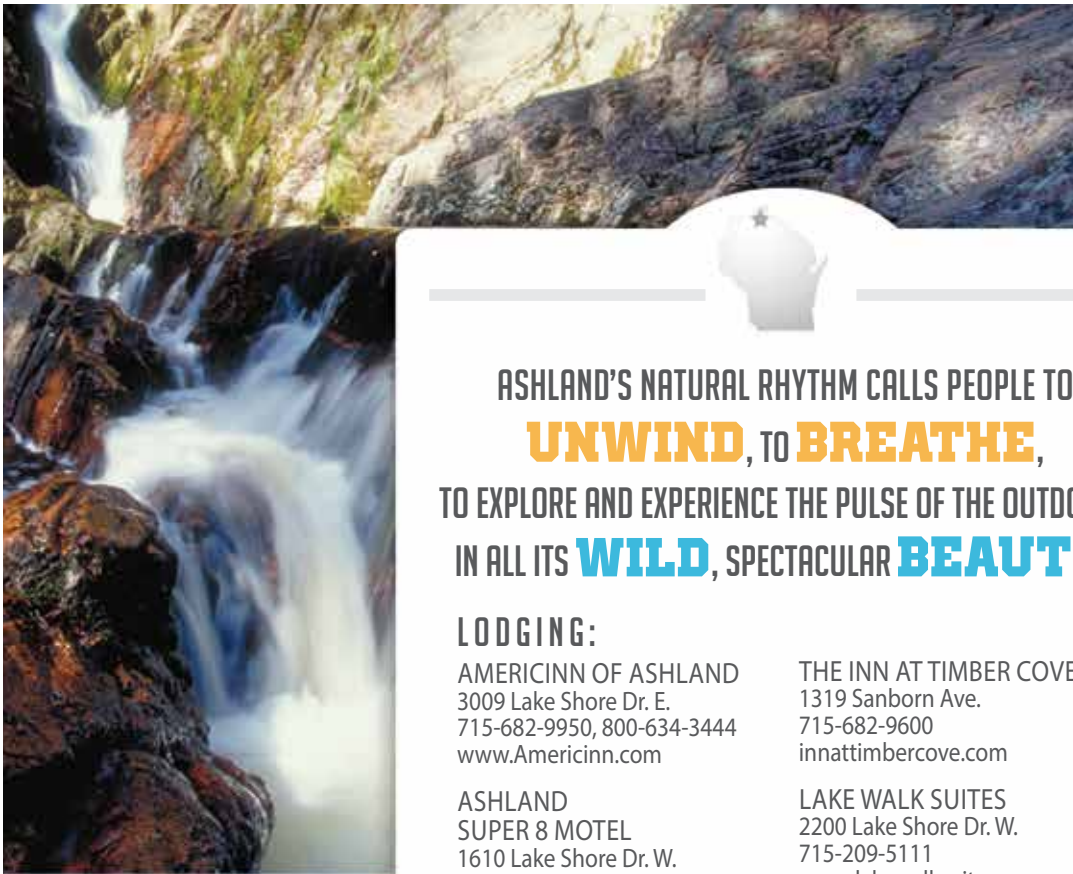
Enjoy an abundance of outdoor recreation from Big Bay State Park in northern Ashland County, Madeline Island and the Apostle Islands, 30,000 acres of water in the Chequamegon Bay, and beaches galore.

Our outdoor history book spotlights 21 buildings in the city of Ashland, the Historic Mural Capital of Wisconsin. In southern Ashland County, you'll find Copper Falls State Park in Mellen and further south Marion Park in Glidden. 📖

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SPOTLIGHT | ST. GERMAIN



A World of Fun, Food, Music And Adventure

There is always something to do in St. Germain and summer is no exception. Come join us this summer for a world of fun, food, music and adventure. The following are some examples of what you will find this season.

2026 Twilight Market NEW A mid-week twilight market with music and food. Local crafters will sell their unique products and you can enjoy music and food while you shop. Come taste barbecues made by local establishments. The first event takes place on July 8 during the Christmas in July Celebration and during the August 12 barbecue from 4 pm to 8 pm at the St. Germain Community Center. Admission is free.

Bingo! Join us on Monday nights for an evening of family fun at St. Germain BINGO! Ten games and a progressive



game are played nightly along with numerous door prizes and a 50/50 raffle.

This event takes place at the St. Germain Community Center. Doors open at 6 pm and the games begin at 7 pm.

Concert Crawl Join us as we 'crawl' around St. Germain every Wednesday

night, rain or shine, from July 8 through August 19 for the Concert Crawl. The first Crawl will take place during the Christmas in July Celebration on July 8.

Local restaurants and taverns will host local musicians. The Crawls begin at Lynn Ann's Camp Ground and takes place from

6:30 pm to 8 pm. Bring your family, your lawn chairs, or a blanket for a fun evening of live music.

Jingle Bell 5k Run This event will also take place during the July 8 Christmas in July Celebration. Bring the family and join us for a fun-filled festive run or walk. This timed 5K event begins and ends at the St. Germain Community Center. Race registration can be completed online or on the day of the event. Dress in your best Christmas costumes!

Participants are encouraged to wear fun costumes and register for the 5K race online. The 5k race starts at 9 am at the St. Germain Community Park. There will also be a free 1K run/walk for kids 10 years old and younger and their families at 10 am. 🎅

For information on these and other events, check out our website at st-germain.com.

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BILL THORNLEY

Gentle on Our Hearts

New fawns are among us

Perhaps no wild baby in Northern Wisconsin is more lovingly embraced than the spotted, wobbly-legged whitetail deer fawns that can be seen following their mothers around woodland trails and wild areas.

Life for the fawns born in spring actually starts in the winter and depends on how severe the weather is. Winter Severity Index, or WSI, measures how tough the winter is, growing by one point for each day with a below-zero temperature and another point is added for each day when snow depths are 18 inches or more. Two points are added per day when both conditions exist. If the points total less than 50, it's considered a mild winter; 50 to 79 is moderate; 80 to 99 is severe, and more than 100 is very severe.

Milder winters are not as hard on the pregnant does, resulting in more and healthier fawns. The "delicate" deer are tougher than they look, but any little breaks that Mother Nature can give always helps.

Some spring and early summer mornings unfold in a swirling fog, with gentle sunbeams breaking through. Such

mornings just seem right for wildlife viewing. Be ready for turkeys running across the road and Canada geese settling into farm fields as the rising sun casts an orange glow everywhere.

Stay alert. If you happen to see deer, chances are the doe will have a tiny newborn fawn or two trying to keep up with her. Sometimes the only things seen above the plants and grasses are ears.

The early life of a fawn is dangerous. Everything from eagles to coyotes to black bears are out looking for a quick meal. If they can survive those first few days and strengthen their legs to gain some speed it makes a big difference in eluding predators.

Fawns also follow their mother across roads, so it pays to be watchful and careful while driving. If you happen to see deer, watch out for the fawns that may follow.

Observing a nervous doe standing in a shaded clump of trees nursing her newborn as sunshine filters through the



A tiny spotted fawn takes milk from her mother. The little ones are wobbly-legged and always hungry. Photo by Bill Thornley.

leaves is a real treat.

Their mothers gave them life, and now they must live it. She will feed them and guide them the best she can. And the best we can do as observers is to leave them alone and let them be wild.

Wish them well on the journey through their brandnew lives. 🍷



Photo by Bill Thornley.

A Fawn Photo Fix

Bo Klevgard of Mellen, Wisconsin, sent OWO this photo of a doe and her fawn while cooling off in a pond near Highbridge in Ashland County.

"I love the outdoors and recently started Klevgard Photography," Bo wrote. "I love sharing photos with others and try to put a smile on people's faces. Photography is an amazing hobby! I'd love to share more."

Contact Klevgard Photography at 1-715-681-0372 or at Klevgard Photography on Facebook.



BOB'S BEAR BAIT

Why Early Bear Baiting Matters in Wisconsin

For many Wisconsin bear hunters, July and August are when baiting season really ramps up. Cameras are checked constantly, bait sites are getting hit hard, and everyone is trying to establish a consistent pattern before season opener. But toward the end of August, natural foods begin changing bear behavior, making strategy more important than ever.

Natural Food Changes Everything

One of the biggest mistakes new bear hunters make in Wisconsin is waiting until just before the season opener to start baiting. By then, you are already behind.

In many areas of Wisconsin, bear activity at bait sites slows dramatically about two weeks before the opener. As field corn ripens and natural foods become more available, bears shift their feeding patterns and many abandon bait sites altogether.

That is exactly why starting early matters.

The goal of early baiting is to establish a routine before natural foods take over. Bears are creatures of habit, and a bear that has been consistently visiting your bait for weeks is far more likely to continue

checking it once other food sources become available.

Consistency Builds Patterns

Consistency is one of the most important factors in successful bear baiting. Once bears establish a feeding pattern, staying on a regular baiting schedule helps reinforce that habit.

One mistake hunters make is abandoning a bait too early when activity slows down. Late summer dips are common in Wisconsin, especially once corn and other natural foods become available. That does not necessarily mean the site is finished.

Another common issue during this time of year is bears becoming more nocturnal. If your bears are consistently hitting after dark, there are a few things you can try to help shift movement earlier. One strategy is changing the time you bait. If you normally refresh your bait in the evening, try switching to mornings, or vice versa.

Another tactic is feeding smaller amounts more frequently. Instead of dumping a large amount of bait that lasts several days, try keeping the site on the leaner side and



05:40AM 06/21/26

refreshing it more often. This can encourage bears to hit the bait sooner before other bears, potentially causing them to hit during daylight hours.

Why Scent Lures Matter Scent lures can make a huge difference, especially once natural foods start becoming more abundant in late summer. A strong scent helps pull bears from a distance and helps your bait site stand out from everything else available in the woods.

One of the most effective ways to use scent is by mixing one of our Bob's Bear Bait concentrated scents or our Liquid Smoke with cooking oil, soaking a rag in the mixture, and hanging it high in a tree near your bait site. The oil helps repel water and prevents the scent from drying out too quickly, helping it last longer between baiting trips.

The higher you can hang the scent rag, the farther the scent will broadcast through the woods. However, I still like to keep it low enough that I can easily reach it with a sprayer from the ground when it is time to freshen it up.

At Bob's Bear Bait, we continue stocking all of our locations throughout the season, including Appleton, Birnamwood, Tomahawk, Phelps, and Ishpeming, along with Superior Sport & Feed in Crystal Falls, Michigan.

You can view our full lineup of bait, locations, and current updates at bobsbearbait.com. Follow us on Facebook for sales, updates, and baiting tips throughout the season. Questions? Reach out directly to Bob at sales@bobsbearbait.com or by phone at (920) 419-1238.

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DICK ELLIS

A New Chapter Begins

Bear expert looks back, and forward

The truth of this matter is both irrefutable and apparently contradictory. Mike Foss is a Wisconsin bear hunting expert. Mike Foss has never tagged a Wisconsin black bear.

The latter he hopes to change sometime between the Wisconsin season opener September 9 and closure on October 15. But then again, he couldn't care less.



This black bear on a Mike Foss bear site in Zone A, Bayfield County, is at or over 400 pounds and an animal that the former guide will try to tag if given the opportunity in September.

Like the old days, Foss began his 2026 season fix in the field when the bear baiting opened in mid-April. His natural high will grow with the building and maintaining of six baiting stations in Bayfield County, bear hunting Zone A. It will end when it ends, with either a bear, or the season, down for the count.

This is ground he's intimately familiar with. For 17 years, Foss was a Wisconsin bear guide in Bayfield County, and writer for On Wisconsin Outdoors. We were the recipients of his field work in the form of trail cam photos and field stories of bears taken as enormous as 639 pounds; a waddling ton of blubber with the intelligence to grow so old and large while coveted by so many out for his hide.

His many bear hunting clients, 25 to 29 hunters in camp



Former bear guide Mike Foss sees more wolves on bait sites and believes wolves are adjusting their diet and migrating south as venison is depleted in the north. Bear cubs, he thinks, are part of that diet.



A lone bear on a Foss bear bait.

annually, were the recipients of his field work in the form of expected encounters with bears while on stand, and astronomical success. Hunters under Foss's tutelage could expect nearly 100 percent shot opportunity, and 95 percent success rates.

When Foss did draw a kill permit personally during those years, he donated the tag to youth hunters. You can't fill a tag when you don't carry a tag. Foss had other priorities.

"My hunters came first," he said. "I was committed to their success. By the time I had gone through the baiting season for that many hunters, pulled out bears, and then pulled out stands after the season, I was too burnt out anyway to hunt myself."

After 11 years of applying to hunt himself in Zone A, his tag came in for the 2026 season. He's currently maintaining the six bait sites with a mixture of donuts, Rice Krispie bars, cookies, gummy bears, frosting and peanut butter, "which they love", he said. He will transition to bait heavy on nuts closer to the season.

In a season that annually rotates who has the advantage of going first between bait sitters and hound hunters, bait sitters like Foss get the nod in 2026 starting September 9 until October 6. Hound hunters jump in September 16 and can hunt through October 13.

After six weeks in the field, Foss is seeing far fewer bears, more quality, large bears that he will target if given the opportunity come September, more wolves on his sites, and literally no bears with cubs on any site spread over 25 miles of zone A. He believes wolves are migrating south where deer numbers remain high as venison is depleted in the north country. Part of the wolves' prey, he said, includes bear cubs, especially those denned in the winter.

"The wolves are hitting the bait sites," he said. "It seems like they're relying on bear bait more and more to supplement their own hunting. They wait for the bears to open the bait (heavy capped logs, for example, used to seal



A lone black bear makes sure all is clear before removing the cap on a hollow log holding the goodies on a Mike Foss bait site in Zone A.

the bait in and keep smaller animals out) and then chase the bears off or wait for the bears to finish eating before moving in."

"The highest number of individual bears I have had come to one site is three. It used to be six to 10 different bears on almost every site. The number of bears in Bayfield County is not even close to what it used to be. But I do have bears over 400 pounds coming in."

Foss said it's too early to get excited over the possibility of shooting a very large bear with his bow in September. With virtually every hunter who holds a tag now baiting bears, especially those older, bigger, wiser animals he wants a shot at, won't consistently commit to specific baiting sites until approximately two weeks prior to the season.

"I'm targeting quality bears, but I really couldn't care less if I shoot any bear," he said. "This is about going through the whole process and it always has been. Finding those spots, pre-season baiting, placing the stands, checking the trail cameras. I want a bear that is old enough and wary enough that he can outsmart me. Then I want to outsmart him." 🐾



Former Wisconsin bear guide Mike Foss works to fill his own tag in September by baiting and using Bear Scents bacon spray attractant.



STUART WILKE
Forgotten Wisconsin



Margarine Versus Butter *War at the kitchen table*

If you want margarine on your dinner roll at a Wisconsin restaurant, you'll have to specifically ask for it. Presented to a diner in any other fashion is strictly verboten and the restaurant's proprietor, if serving it without the customer's request, is subject to a fine and even imprisonment.

That is how things roll in the Dairy State, where cows are king, er, queen.

And who would know better than the Wilke family? My father was no stranger to cows and all things dairy. In fact, he raised a prize-winning cow, Mutzi, on the family's small farm in New Berlin in the 1940s. My father never bragged about his cow, probably because he had no interest in ever becoming a farmer.

Much to my grandmother's chagrin, Mutzi spent much of her life grazing in the family's front yard. I'm guessing it was also to my grandfather's family's distaste, if not disgust, that calf brain, cow tongue and tripe (stomach lining) weren't unknown at the dinner table, but they no doubt relished the fresh-from-the-cow milk and its butter and cream derivatives.

Not all Wisconsinites had the good fortune to own a cow or the stomach to eat tripe like the Wilkes. They had to make do with what was available at the local grocery store. Butter, for instance, was widely available, but it was also expensive, especially when compared to oleomargarine, that great bane of Wisconsin dairy farmers.



Oleomargarine, invented in France and more commonly known as margarine, was a butter substitute made from meat tallow and invented during the 1860s. Margarine was far less expensive than butter and quickly found acceptance in French military circles and the less than well-to-do general civilian population. Within a short while, margarine migrated across the sea to America where it found acceptance among the poor and the thrifty.

Which meant it was a dire threat to dairy

farmers across the nation. Even during the 19th century, the dairy industry had quite the powerful lobby. In no time at all, many states had outright banned margarine or allowed it for sale only in its natural, unappetizing, corpse-white color. Dyed yellow, it looked too much like butter and was often sold as such by unscrupulous sellers.

Come the Great Depression and Second World War, margarine became much more acceptable if only because it was

less expensive and more readily available than butter. In time, margarine gained acceptability and was allowed to be sold and sold dyed-yellow across the country.

Except in Wisconsin, where dyed-yellow margarine remained forbidden. As a veritable controlled substance, and, if colored yellow, a black market for yellow margarine existed for decades. Criminal mothers across the state made the great trek across the border to Illinois and Minnesota to buy margarine colored yellow and returned home with it hid in their car trunks.

By 1967, in response to popular demand, yellow margarine became legal in Wisconsin and finally made its debut at the Wilke kitchen table where it was met, led by my father, with a resounding "Blech!" Our complaints fell on the deaf ears of the only person that mattered, my mother, the family accountant. Margarine was simply more affordable than butter. Which didn't mean we had to like it, but we did eventually get used to it.

Butter does remain mandatory on some Wisconsin tables. If you're a public school student, restaurant patron, prison inmate or institutionalized, you can count on butter being served, unless you specifically ask for margarine.

Such is the power of the Wisconsin dairy lobby. 🗣️

HAYWARD LAKES, FROM PAGE 12

The woods surrounding Hayward Lakes are every bit as inviting as its waters. The area features over 300 miles of biking trails, from smooth beginner paths perfect for young riders to winding singletrack through the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest that will challenge the most seasoned mountain biker. Hikers will find countless scenic routes ranging from peaceful lakeside strolls to rolling, wooded hills that reward with quiet moments and sweeping views.

ATV and UTV enthusiasts will find well-maintained trail systems that wind through forested terrain, opening up the backcountry in ways that get the whole family excited. Birding is another rewarding pursuit in this diverse landscape, where the call of a loon drifting across a still morning lake is a sound that defines the Northwoods for so many visitors.

Summer in Hayward is not just about outdoor pursuits. It is also a season filled with community celebrations and world class events. The Lumberjack World

Championships, held each July, draws competitors and spectators from across the globe to witness feats of axe throwing, log rolling, and speed climbing that thrill kids and adults alike. The Honor the Earth Powwow welcomes visitors to experience the living culture and traditions of the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe people. The July Jubilee and Sawyer County Fair round out the summer calendar with local fun that captures the warm spirit of Northwoods community life.

The Hayward Lakes Visitors and

Convention Bureau makes planning your summer getaway straightforward and enjoyable. Visit haywardlakes.com to explore lodging options, browse the full activities guide, check the outdoor report before your trip, and find a complete calendar of events. Whether it is your first trip to the Northwoods or your fiftieth, the Hayward Lakes area will leave you already looking forward to the next one. 🗣️

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

WE HAVE OUR WINNERS!

Raffle winners of the \$25,000 SPRING SPORTSMAN'S GIVEAWAY will be notified soon personally and listed on our website at:

www.hunteractionmedia.com



Spring raffle prizes included:

- Long guns
- Hand guns
- Sporting rifles
- Shotguns
- Archery Equipment
- Fishing Gear
- Optics
- Other Outdoor Items



AND WE'RE NOT DONE YET!
TO ENTER THE FALL SPORTSMAN'S GIVEAWAY,
AND FOR MORE INFORMATION, STAY CONNECTED TO OUR WEBSITE AT...

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Presents Firearms Info from Ron Stresing

RON STRESING

On Target Wern Valley Great Cancer Shootout

The 23rd Annual Great Cancer Shootout will be held at Wern Valley Gun Club in Waukesha on Saturday, July 25. The one day, 50-target event benefits cancer research and support services. Every year, it is the largest, most anticipated shooting event of the surrounding area where you will find over 1000 shooters file through the doors to raise money for this great cause.

With multiple sporting clay courses, flurry events, live music, cowboy fast draw and a fabulous Wolverine Fireworks show to cap off the night, you're sure to have a blast at this family friendly event. No reservations required. Bring your own team or Wern Valley will squad you. \$40 per shooter entry. \$25 per shooter reentry. Live music, raffles and a live auction are all part of the fun.

Shooting opens at 9 am with the last squad out by 3 pm. One raffle ticket per target broken. Raffle tickets also available for purchase to non-shooters. Beginners welcome but must provide your own shotgun. Ammo, eye, and ear protection are available at the club. Bring your own blanket and lawn chair to celebrate with fireworks beginning at dusk.

Shooters, go to www.wernvalley.com or call Steve or Riley Williams at 262-968-2400 for more information or to make a donation. All checks should be made payable to: This Time Tomorrow Foundation or ProHealth Care Foundation. Mail checks to: Wern Valley Sportsmens Club, S36 W29657 Wern Way, Waukesha, Wisconsin 53189. Wern Valley is located two miles east of Highway 83 on Highway D.

Wern Valley has some premium sporting clays courses that make for a challenging shoot. To speed things along, the stations are broken up into three separate courses. The last few years my partners and I have traveled the course to



shoot riding a side-by-side UTV instead of walking. All-terrain vehicles are a common sight. The older I get, the more I'm glad we have the UTV!

Approaching my 10th Cancer Shootout, here are a few suggestions. Dress for the weather and bring a hat, sunscreen, and bug spray. Bottles of cold water are placed along the course. You will need a minimum of 50 shells. If you don't reload your own shells, I suggest buying 100-round value boxes of 7 1/2 or 8 shot. The lighter 1-ounce loads will have a milder recoil than regular 1- 1/8 ounce trap loads. Trust me, after firing about 25 rounds, you will appreciate the reduced recoil.

For a few stations featuring longer shots, it might pay to carry a few regular trap-loads along. If you do reload, consider taking a plastic bag along to collect once-fired casings. Watch how and where other shooters engage the targets, especially on "true pairs" where both targets are thrown at the same time. I like to use improved cylinder for my first shot and light modified for the second. Don't let the lack of a high-end shotgun or worrying about your score keep you from competing. It's a fun outing, for a great cause, that attracts shooters of all ages and skill levels.

Wern Valley also offers a Flurry Shoot where a pair of shooters engage a volley of targets thrown non-stop at various angles. Besides the shooting, they offer a number of

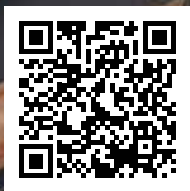
raffles and silent auctions. Good food and cold beverages are available from a number of vendors, and later in the evening there will be live music and fireworks.

With the media's constant negative portrayal of gun ownership and the shooting sports, it's good to show our overwhelmingly positive side. My maternal grandmother passed away from breast cancer at age 55. For me, it's personal. For more info, contact Wern Valley at 262-968-2400 or mailwernvalley@gmail.com.



SKB TARGET SHOTGUNS

HTR HIGH TRAP RIB



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Publisher's note: The following excerpts were taken from a column published in May and to be posted in its entirety at www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com. Sean Maloney is cofounder of Second Call Defense and a certified firearms instructor.

SEAN MALONEY

Modern American Militia-Vast, Practical, Alive

The numbers are unmistakable.

Conservative estimates place civilian-owned firearms in the United States at roughly 500 million-more guns than people-based on manufacturing and import data compiled by industry and federal reporting agencies. Industry analysis from the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) shows that 491 million firearms were in civilian hands from 1990–2022, and this number has almost certainly grown to well over 500 million today.

While comprehensive annual ammunition figures aren't consolidated in a single federal database, reporting from the firearms industry indicates that U.S. ammunition production is measured in the billions of rounds each year-with past estimates showing as many as 8.1 billion rounds produced for the U.S. market in a single year. When accumulated over decades of lawful purchase and storage, civilian stockpiles of ammunition likely exceed one trillion rounds, reflecting the scale and preparedness of America's private, law-abiding gun owners.

These are not numbers of idle hobbyists. Many Americans do not hunt, nor participate in organized shooting sports, yet continue to purchase and store firearms and ammunition. They do so because it is the fabric of who we are as a free nation. History has taught us from our earliest education that Americans have repeatedly had to fight—for independence from a tyrant king, for freedom across the world during WWII, and for the ability to pass liberty to future generations. We



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

prepare and maintain our arms not out of fear, but because it is our responsibility as Americans, reflecting a citizen militia that is ever ready to defend the freedoms enshrined in our Constitution.

Citizen militia was not just a concept but a responsibility. These historical voices (of the founders) remind us that an armed citizenry was essential to liberty, not optional.

Why this matters today

In an era of terrorism, violent crime, and emergencies, law enforcement cannot be everywhere. Seconds matter. A prepared citizen can protect families and communities when official responders are not immediately available.

As we approach the 250th anniversary of the United States, the Founders' vision - an armed, responsible, and capable citizenry-still exists. But freedom is never self-executing; it must be defended in the courts, the culture, and in the public square.

The citizen militia lives. The Republic endures. The responsibility to protect both remains with us.

Call to duty for future generations

We are the inheritors of sacred trust. The Founders forged a nation on the principles of liberty and self-governance, and every generation since has carried that torch forward through courage, sacrifice, and, when necessary, with their lives. It is our duty to ensure that freedom does not erode, that the Constitution's God-given rights are defended, and that the flame of liberty burns brighter in the hands of those who come after us.

We must equip future generations with knowledge, instill in them the discipline to act, and awaken in them the desire to protect what was so dearly fought for and won. The fight for liberty never finishes; it continues as long as we are willing to stand as the bedrock of freedom, safeguarding the inheritance of our children, grandchildren, and all who will call America home.

Above all, we must ensure that this great experiment in self-government endures and that the freedom we enjoy as Americans remains constant for generations to come. 🇺🇸

DICK ELLIS

Finding Strength from The Founders

We celebrate now the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

America's founders who signed the document inspired by providence knew that they would be hung if defeated by the greatest armed force in the world. They knew also that defeat was nearly certain.

Leading them was our first president who ultimately in the wake of that unlikely victory and birth of a new nation would turn away from those who would make him king. Behind them was the common man, a militia, 25,000 of whom would be the first of more than one million who would give their lives to pass the gift of the founders on to generations of Americans to follow.

America's forefathers who gave us these precious freedoms and Constitution were

almost without exception men of God.

"Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people," wrote John Adams. "It is wholly inadequate for the government of any other." Benjamin Franklin, when asked what kind of government the founding fathers had created responded, "A Republic, if you can keep it."

The health of our Constitutional Republic, its survival, is dependent upon the active and informed involvement of the people. An informed population across the ages is imperative, Franklin meant, because the decline of character across time of many of those who seek positions of governmental power and wealth was as certain as a sunrise.

Call it prophetic. Our new nation then, belonged to the people. This aging nation, now at 250 years, is threatened by those with power who love the darkness and believe that

Americans work for them. If you are sickened by the term, "public servant" as (self) defining our elected officials, you are among the vast majority.

Christ, who the founders including George Washington turned to often for divine guidance against a tyrannical foe, said this about such men, and now women, in leadership.

"Leave them. They are blind leaders. When one blind person leads another both will fall into the same pit." His metaphor emphasized the danger of following those who lack the spiritual insight or pursuit of the truth as was embraced by the founders. We balance now on the edge of that abyss.

Like the founders who gave us the Great Seal of America that has the eyes of the



eagle, always, turned to the olive branch with arrows at the ready, we also seek peace first. As God commands. This militia, then seeks only to pass on the freedom that comes only with light and with the truth.

Our second amendment though, an inalienable or God-given right as the fathers reaffirmed with their signatures, is also never mans to take away. It is assurance that our ongoing quest for peace has a last option against those who would take your freedoms, and your peace, from you.

This is a time when America needs us all to be part of an informed population who will pass this great gift of the founders on to the next generation. Find strength where the founders did. In this, you are never alone. 🇺🇸

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DICK ELLIS

Wolf Tracks

Seeking Wisconsin wolf photos, accurate state counts

Please send your Wisconsin trail cam photos, videos or hand-held camera shots 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 your permission.

OWO publishers have stated for many years that DNR population estimates are not credible and far underestimate wolf numbers based on our own informal research, personal field experience in the north country, and interaction with hundreds of Wisconsin hunters. We believe that DNR work with the wolf in Wisconsin is not credible and has ignored the most basic information imperative to proper wildlife management; where are the numbers now, where should numbers be for proper balance of predator and prey, and how do we responsibly get there?

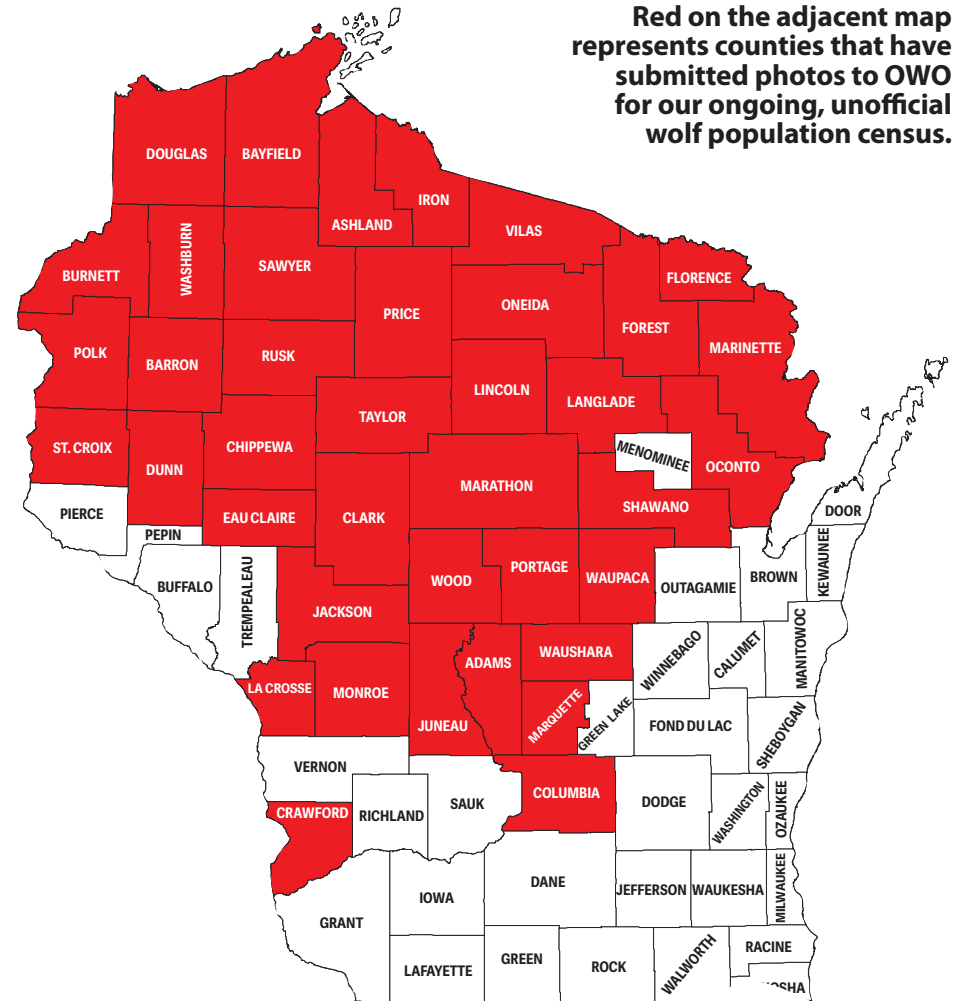
Our conclusions are largely supported in recent years with your photo evidence covering the majority of the state. But we continue to hunt truth in numbers, wherever it leads. Thank you for participating. 🐾



6-14-2026 Clark County 1 Bobcat



6-3-2026 Clark County 3 Wolves



Red on the adjacent map represents counties that have submitted photos to OWO for our ongoing, unofficial wolf population census.



6-10-2026 Marquette County Wolf with Fawn



6-11-2026 Marquette County 3 Wolf Young of Year

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Wisconsin Livestock Depredation Reports

The 13 verified Wolf Livestock Depredation Updates below were received by On Wisconsin Outdoors from the Wisconsin DNR over 43 days beginning April 20, 2026. The wolf attacks took place over six counties located far north central, northwest, central Wisconsin and in Adams County, located northwest of Madison.

Domestic prey killed, injured or harassed included calves, cattle, chickens, a donkey, goat, and horses. The WDNR partners with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services Department to investigate reported conflicts with wolves. Interactive maps, past reports and damage payment information is available on the DNR's website.

Many trailing hounds are also killed in Wisconsin during the summer months in pre-season training.

Livestock Depredation Updates

On April 20, 2026 USDA-Wildlife

Services verified wolves killed a calf on a property in the town of White River, Ashland County. Auditory deterrents have been deployed as a non-lethal abatement measure.

On May 1, 2026 USDA - Wildlife Services verified wolves harassed cattle on a property in the town of Maple, Douglas County. Auditory deterrents have been deployed as a non-lethal abatement measure.

On May 4, 2026 USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves injured a calf on a property in the town of Brule, Douglas County. Auditory deterrents have been deployed as a non-lethal abatement measure.

On May 7, 2026 USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves killed five chickens on a property in the town of Chicog, Washburn County. Auditory deterrents have been deployed as a non-lethal abatement measure.

May 11, 2026 USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves killed a calf on a property



The bluetick hound breed is both a popular family dog and excellent trailing hunter.

in the town of Maple, Douglas County. Auditory deterrents have been deployed as a non-lethal abatement measure.

On May 13, 2026 USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves killed a calf on a property in the town of Dell Prairie, Adams County. Auditory deterrents have been deployed as a non-lethal abatement measure.

On May 14, 2026 USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves harassed cattle on a property in the town of Cloverland, Douglas County. Auditory deterrents have been deployed as a non-lethal abatement measure.

On May 14, 2026 USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves killed a calf on a property in the town of Cloverland, Douglas County. Auditory deterrents have been deployed as a non-lethal abatement measure.

On May 17, 2026 USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves killed two calves on a property in the town of Texas, Marathon County.

On May 22, 2026 USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves killed a donkey and a goat on a property in the town of Gingles, Ashland County. Auditory deterrents have been deployed as a non-lethal abatement measure.

On May 28, 2026 USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves injured a calf on a property in the town of Brule, Douglas County. Auditory deterrents have been deployed as a non-lethal abatement measure.

On May 29, 2026 USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves harassed horses on a property in the town of McKinley, Polk County. Non-lethal abatement options are being discussed.

On June 1, 2026 USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves killed a calf on a property in the town of Ashland, Ashland County. Auditory deterrents have been deployed as a non-lethal abatement measure. 🐾

DICK ELLIS

On Wisconsin Outdoors

Here we grow again....

Connect with On Wisconsin Outdoors' NEW website at www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com.

At no cost, each OWO issue is posted on our website homepage at www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com for the online reader.

At no cost, OWO distributes 100,000 print copies bi-monthly throughout Wisconsin (600,000 annually), including distribution from 650 Kwik Trip stores.

At no cost, receive every issue of OWO in your inbox. Send your email address to freeowo@onwisconsinoutdoors.com.

Follow us on Instagram: [onwisconsinoutdoors](https://www.instagram.com/onwisconsinoutdoors).

Follow us on Facebook: *On Wisconsin Outdoors*.

To request your OWO advertising media kit, connect with lori@onwisconsinoutdoors.com or 262-352-5579.

On Wisconsin Outdoors hunts, fishes and travels Wisconsin, and we want to know what you're doing. Send us your photos and stories by submitting to our Dropbox at onwisconsinoutdoors.com or by messaging us directly on social media.

At no cost, to receive PDF's of OWO's series on Restoring Verifiable Elections, Walleyes in the Ceded Territory, and of Wolves and Whitetails in Wisconsin, connect with jellis@onwisconsinoutdoors.com.

At no cost, sign up to receive the weekly Beglinger Blast for freedom-loving people by email at www.BeglingerforWisconsin.com.

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STEVE ELLIS

Long Range Planning at The DNR

Periodically, the Wisconsin DNR surveys Wisconsin residents concerning its long-range plans for resource management. For example, a 10-year plan for fish management. These surveys don't serve the general public very well, and here's why:

When the DNR wants to make a plan, (let's say a fishery management plan), the first thing they do is convene a panel of "stakeholders". The stakeholders are often not subject matter experts, but rather representatives of groups that have a particular point of view, and are motivated to advance their view into the plan. Then, without asking the public what we want, a biased plan is formulated.

Only then is the public asked to comment - on a plan that doesn't reflect our interests, and on questions that are only of interest to the flawed committee that made the plan. The result is usually a plan that doesn't reflect what the public wants, but which reflects only the special interests of the "stakeholders" that developed the plan.

The DNR would sell the process as "collaboration", which can be a good thing when subject matter experts work together to achieve a worthy outcome. When the collaboration is between special interests, for a self-serving outcome, it doesn't serve us well at all.

A better approach would be to first convene a small panel of subject matter experts and charge them to develop a plan that best serves the resource in question, and also best serves the GENERAL PUBLIC, without regard to any special interest.

Importantly, members of the general public whose lives or activities are not significantly engaged with the resource should have little or no consideration in the plan. This is critical because currently the DNR seeks input from anyone, including even out of state people, for their opinions. This creates a false narrative that the "public" wants the plan a certain way, when it really doesn't.

I have a good friend in South Carolina who has no idea what a musky even is, so why should he be able to comment on a DNR plan to manage the musky in Wisconsin? Closer to home, I have another friend in central Wisconsin who probably does know what a musky is, but has never seen one, and never will, because she doesn't fish. Why should the DNR seek her input for a good plan to manage musky? Yet they do.

Only after a good plan is formulated, by subject matter experts, which serves the best interests of the resource in question, and the truly impacted general public, should the public be questioned for its opinions. Importantly, to prevent the questions from leading the public to pre-determined answers, which can lead to false conclusions about public support, there should be an opportunity in the surveys for essay-type responses, which should be given serious consideration.

Also importantly, special interest groups should not be allowed to input. Only individuals.

Currently, the DNR surveys reflect the special interests of the committees that formulate the plans. The way it's done, allows the DNR to manage our resources in ways that the using public does not desire, while falsely claiming that it does. 🗣️

ON THE COVER, FROM PAGE 4

forest property that houses a classroom with students just 160 feet from the pasture.

Wolves in proper predator-prey balance, like all wildlife, would be welcome in Wisconsin. *OWO* has over many years strived to verify that current, irresponsible wolf mismanagement will make 'bad endings' frequent, increasing, and inevitable.

Look closely at our cover. Hayden is

not much larger than Jack's head. Those neighboring students are undoubtedly not much larger than Hayden. Across most of Wisconsin, that is a literal human tragedy waiting to happen if any predator becomes emboldened, or simply too hungry. Responsible hunting of wolves and keeping irresponsible federal judges from rendering wildlife decisions for Wisconsin will ensure that the wolf here remains fearful of man,

JOHN ELLIS

Corruption And Negligence Invite Federal Oversight of Midterms

On June 2nd, 2026, and pending appeal, *Harry Wait* of Union Grove was sentenced to three years of probation after being wrongfully charged, tried, and convicted on two counts of voter fraud and one count of identity theft. Wait was charged after successfully and transparently exposing massive vulnerabilities in the Wisconsin Elections Commissions' (WEC) MyVote website. Specifically, anyone using MyVote can request an absentee ballot in someone else's name without an ID, and have that ballot sent to any address they want.

The charges were brought against Wait by *Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul*, to destroy his credibility by having him branded as a felon and to keep the serious election problems he had uncovered hidden from the public. The entire story was reported in the May/June issue of *On Wisconsin Outdoors (OWO)* in an article titled, *Voter Fraud Trial Exposes Government Officials as The Real Criminals*. (View archived issues at onwisconsinoutdoors.com)

At the sentencing Kaul's *Assistant Attorney General, Leigh Neville-Neil*, showed no remorse for her role in Wait's wrongful conviction. She aggressively advocated to have the seventy-three-year-old man recovering from a stroke incarcerated for three months and continued lying as she did during the trial, stating Wait intentionally committed crimes targeting people he disliked. Neville-Neil also embarrassed herself professionally by saying that character is measured by judgement, after showing none herself. Although silent at the hearing, *Assistant Attorney General Adrienne Blais* was complicit in Wait's conviction and her association with Josh Kaul's corrupt Attorney General's Office must not be forgotten.

Judge Daniel Johnson, who after Wait's trial instructed the jury to use "judgement and truth" to reach their verdict, didn't take his own advice when he failed to overturn Wait's conviction. The evidence presented at the trial and reported on by *OWO*, clearly showed that Wait didn't steal anyone's vote or identity. Now, because Johnson failed to right the wrong, Wait remains a felon unable to vote or own a firearm.

The trial and conviction of Harry Wait was immoral, because everyone who participated in his prosecution knows that he's not a criminal. Those people include the prosecution team of Kaul, Neville-Neil, and Blais, along with Judge Daniel Johnson. Also included are *Assembly Speaker Robin Vos and Racine Mayor Cory Mason*; two deceitful prosecution witnesses, who reinforced their earned reputation on stand as elected officials that can't be trusted.

The problems that Wait exposed with the MyVote website, are some of the many that make Wisconsin's elections easy to steal. Those problems have been ignored and covered up by the WEC, Wisconsin's elected officials and the media for years. As a result of the corruption and negligence, the federal government must step in to provide oversight of Wisconsin's midterm elections in November. 🗣️

its numbers properly managed, and its target food sources as intended with proper predator-prey balance.

"Every single day I still stand and look out over the pasture, but there's nothing there," Butch said. "Every single day."

Publisher Note:

On June 23, 2026 a reader trail cam photo was received by *OWO* from Marquette County due north of Madison showing a wolf carrying

a fawn. The county is just east of Adams County where a calf was killed by wolves May 13th. Clearly, the predator is migrating south in search of food.

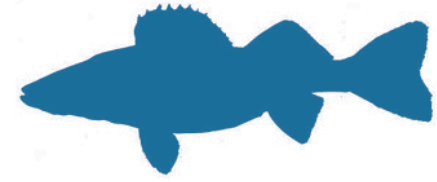
As this story was being written June 24th, another DNR/USDA-Wildlife Services report was received verifying that wolves had injured a livestock guard dog on a property in the town of Barnes, Bayfield County on June 23, 2026. The dog is receiving veterinary care.

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JOHN ELLIS

Walleyes in Northern Wisconsin

Why and how great fishing will be restored



As recently as the mid 1980s, northern Wisconsin was an excellent fishing destination. On the opening day of fishing season continuous lines of vehicles, pulling boats of all kinds, headed north to places like Boulder Junction, Eagle River, and Hayward to catch fish, with walleyes especially sought after. Anglers and their families making the trip pumped millions of dollars into Wisconsin's economy, booking cabins, hotels, and guides, going to restaurants and bars, and buying licenses, gas, bait, and tackle. They only stopped returning after the fishing there was ruined, because Wisconsin failed to protect the walleye resource by equally protecting all citizens.

But the great fishing that northern Wisconsin once provided, and boon to the economy it once was, will be restored. The following is why and how it will happen.

Why it will happen

All Chippewa tribal members born in the United States since June 2nd, 1924, are U.S. citizens; the date the *Indian Citizen Act* was signed in to law by President Calvin Coolidge. Citizenship has given the Chippewa all of the benefits that every citizen enjoys, including the right to participate in U.S. elections and the protections of the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution. The 14th Amendment guarantees equal protection of laws for all citizens.

Walleyes in northern Wisconsin are a valuable resource that belong to all citizens, not only the less than 1% (.04%) known as the Chippewa. But for more than forty years the State of Wisconsin has been violating the 14th Amendment by allowing

only Chippewa tribal members to fish for the walleyes out of season, while preventing all other citizens from participating. Because the ongoing out of season fishing by the privileged few takes place as the fish are spawning, it has resulted in the destruction of northern Wisconsin's walleye resource and caused great economic harm to the entire state.

Since 1985, *On Wisconsin Outdoors* has calculated that, 34,697,302 "keeper walleyes" (fish weighing 1 ¾ to 2 pounds) have been removed from northern Wisconsin lakes by Chippewa out of season fishing. In 2026 alone, as seen in the adjacent table, the 33,169 walleyes that were directly removed by Chippewa out of season fishing, will result in the removal of a calculated 979,918 keeper walleyes from northern Wisconsin lakes.

The destruction of the walleye resource caused by the State of Wisconsin's failure to provide equal protection of laws for all citizens, is the reason great fishing will return to northern Wisconsin. ***It's illegal for the State of Wisconsin to make and enforce laws that apply to one group of citizens and not another. Either we all get to fish out of season, or no one gets to fish out of season.***

How it will happen

As the citizens of Wisconsin celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America, they are becoming reacquainted with The Constitution, including its 14th Amendment. Their eyes are being opened to the fact that citizenship is the tie that binds us all, and that the equal protection of laws is critical to our freedom.

The promise to restore great walleye fishing in northern Wisconsin, by restoring equal protection of laws, will turn Wisconsin's army of 950,000 fisherman out like no other issue during the November election. The next governor of Wisconsin must make it clear that he will accomplish this through the following steps:

1. Because fishing out of season for spawning Wisconsin walleyes by less than 1% (.04%) 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 Wisconsin 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 less than 1% (.04%) of U.S. citizens (Chippewa) allowed to fish out of season for spawning Wisconsin walleyes, to restock them. The money for restocking comes from the more than 99% of non-tribal U.S. citizens who are denied equal protection of the laws.

After the equal protection of laws is restored, and all out of season fishing is stopped, the great fishing in northern Wisconsin will quickly return through natural reproduction and reasonable bag limits. The fishermen, and benefit to the economy they once were, will follow. 🎣

JIM BOHN AND GREG GRAMBOW

Opportunities For Small Investors Have Never Been Greater

First, let's be realistic. You and I will never achieve the returns Elon Musk does, but that doesn't mean we cannot be successful saving and investing. Never has it been easier for you to participate in America's capitalist system.

Improved technology has made investing less expensive and more accessible. Just a few hundred dollars is enough to get started in the world of investing.

The federal government also encourages small investors to get into the game through a wide range of tax-advantaged investment opportunities like 401(k)s, health and educational savings plans, etc.

Trump's Big Beautiful Bill created the 530A account for young Americans. The account can be established for anyone under the age of 18. The federal government will deposit \$1,000 into the 530A account of any child

born to a US citizen from 2025 through 2028. The money in a 530A account can be invested in low-cost mutual funds or exchange traded funds.

Starting early is important. Time is one of the greatest investment strengths. Don't wait until you accumulate a large sum of money to start. Doing so can mean missing out on years of market growth that would have worked in your favor.

Investing is one of a few ways available to beat inflation. The stock market has provided long-term returns that outpace inflation.

Despite the advantages of investing, many shy away from participating in the capitalist market. Just 62 percent of Americans are invested in the stock market. This percentage falls to 28 percent when making less than \$50,000 a year and only 42 percent for those with a high school diploma or less.

Diversification is a fundamental investment concept. It is the idea it is less risky to hold a bunch of stocks, or a mutual fund, than to put all your money into a single stock.

Yet many don't understand diversification. Just 57 percent of Wisconsinites understood that buying several stocks, or a mutual fund, would reduce risk relative to holding just one stock. That percentage fell to 39 percent among Wisconsinites earning \$25,000 or less and 43 percent of those with a high school diploma or less.

Here are some tips on getting started in investing . . .

Research: There are many sources out there to get you familiar with investment ideas and terms. Our website, www.personaleconomics.org, contains a free guide to personal finance. The website also contains a dictionary of finance and economic terms so you can get

familiar with investment jargon.

Start Small: A few hundred dollars is enough to establish an account and start buying individual stocks or mutual funds. By starting small, you'll get to learn the ins-and-outs of investing without taking large dollar risks.

Listen and Learn: Talk with friends and family who are investors. Or, join an investment club where you can learn from others while sharing the financial risks and make friends in the process.

In summary, technology and changed government policy have made investing cheaper and easier. This gives you a greater opportunity to grow your hard-earned money shift from being a passive saver to a participant in America's free enterprise system. 🎣

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JOHN ELLIS

2026 Chippewa Out of Season Fishing Preliminary Numbers

The table below shows the preliminary number of walleyes removed from northern Wisconsin lakes in 2026, by Chippewa out of season fishing. A “keeper walleye” is a fish weighing between 1 ¾ and 2 pounds.

The numbers indicate:

33,169 walleyes were directly removed from northern Wisconsin lakes as they tried to spawn. Using .24% previously reported by the Wisconsin DNR, a calculated 7961 were females.

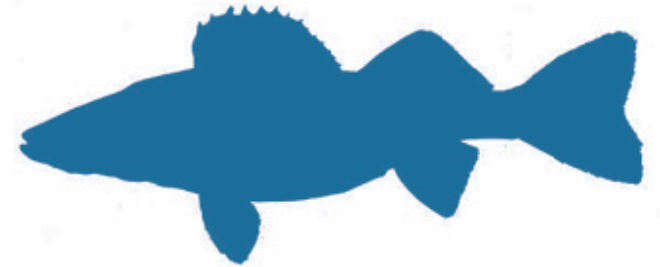
82,927 keeper walleyes will never hatch because of the females taken out of season.

431,911 keeper walleyes will never hatch because of the loss of one spawning year.

431,911 keeper walleyes will never hatch because of the loss of a second spawning year.

Added in total 979,918 keeper walleyes (1 ¾ to 2 pounds) were removed from the northern Wisconsin lakes in 2026 by Chippewa out of season fishing.

Since 1985, On Wisconsin Outdoors has calculated that the total number of keeper walleyes removed from northern Wisconsin lakes by Chippewa out of season fishing is 34,697,302. 🐟



COUNTY	LAKE	WALLEYE
BARRON	BEAR L	24
BARRON	BEAVER DAM L	20
BARRON	DUCK L	0
BARRON	GRANITE L	87
BARRON	PRAIRIE L	519
BARRON	RED CEDAR L	625
BARRON	SILVER L	83
BAYFIELD	DIAMOND L	40
BAYFIELD	L OWEN	118
BAYFIELD	MIDDLE EAU CLAIRE L	59
BAYFIELD	NAMEKAGON L	938
BAYFIELD	PIKE L CHAIN	81
BAYFIELD	SISKIWIT L	50
BAYFIELD	UPPER EAU CLAIRE L	134
BURNETT	BIG MCKENZIE L	117
BURNETT	DEVILS L	9
BURNETT	LIPSETT L	34
BURNETT	LITTLE YELLOW L	14
BURNETT	ROONEY L	6
BURNETT	YELLOW L	200
CHIPPEWA	HOLCOMBE FL	0
CHIPPEWA	L WISSOTA	0
CHIPPEWA	LONG L	38
Douglas	BOND L	7
Douglas	Eau Claire River	3
Douglas	L NEBAGAMON	134
Douglas	LOWER EAU CLAIRE L	16
Douglas	UPPER ST CROIX L	86
Douglas	WHITEFISH L	91
FOREST	L LUCERNE	98
FOREST	L METONGA	866
FOREST	LILY L	176
FOREST	LITTLE SAND L	11
FOREST	STEVENS L	3
IRON	CEDAR L	1
IRON	PINE L	21
IRON	TRUDE L	7
IRON	TURTLE-FLAMBEAU FL	1330
LANGLADE	ENTERPRISE L	201
LANGLADE	ROSE L	19
LANGLADE	SAWYER L	6
LANGLADE	WOLF RIVER	66
LINCOLN	JERSEY CITY FL	168
LINCOLN	L MOHAWK SIN	1

COUNTY	LAKE	WALLEYE
LINCOLN	RICE RES./NOKOMIS CHAIN	1177
LINCOLN	SEVEN ISLAND L	81
OCONTO	ARCHIBALD L	45
ONEIDA	BEARSKIN L	493
ONEIDA	BIG FORK L	320
ONEIDA	BIG L	210
ONEIDA	BOLGER L	40
ONEIDA	BOOTH L	25
ONEIDA	BUCKSKIN L	35
ONEIDA	BUFFALO L	28
ONEIDA	CARROL L	22
ONEIDA	DAM L	71
ONEIDA	HASBROOK L	135
ONEIDA	KATHERINE L	80
ONEIDA	KAWAGUESAGA L	206
ONEIDA	L THOMPSON	0
ONEIDA	LITTLE FORK L	120
ONEIDA	LONG L	50
ONEIDA	MANSON L	0
ONEIDA	MEDICINE L	123
ONEIDA	MINOQUA L	425
ONEIDA	MUSKELLUNGE L	22
ONEIDA	N NOKOMIS L	69
ONEIDA	PELICAN L	484
ONEIDA	PLANTING GROUND L	150
ONEIDA	RAINBOW FL	505
ONEIDA	SAND L	42
ONEIDA	SEVENMILE L	90
ONEIDA	SHISHEBOGAMA L	7
ONEIDA	SQUIRREL L	584
ONEIDA	TOMAHAWK L	
ONEIDA	TOMAHAWK L CHAIN	1827
ONEIDA	TWO SISTERS L	46
ONEIDA	WILLOW FL	1073
POLK	BALSAM L	136
POLK	BIG BUTTERNUT L	114
POLK	BIG ROUND L	0
POLK	BONE L	0
POLK	PIPE L	18
POLK	WAPOGASSET L	347
PRICE	BUTTERNUT L	458
PRICE	LONG L	0
PRICE	PIKE L	113
PRICE	ROUND L	701

COUNTY	LAKE	WALLEYE
PRICE	SOLBERG L	11
RUSK	AMACOY L	4
SAWYER	CONNORS L	91
SAWYER	EVERGREEN L	0
SAWYER	GRINDSTONE L	206
SAWYER	L CHETAC	271
SAWYER	L CHIPPEWA	2323
SAWYER	LAC COURTE OREILLES	263
SAWYER	LOST LAND L	91
SAWYER	MASON L	3
SAWYER	ROUND L	320
SAWYER	SAND L	165
SAWYER	SISSABAGAMA L	322
SAWYER	SPIDER L	91
SAWYER	TEAL L	176
SAWYER	WHITEFISH L	104
SAWYER	WINDFALL L	58
ST. CROIX	CEDAR L	13
TAYLOR	RIB L	89
VILAS	ALDER L	1
VILAS	ALLEQUASH L	85
VILAS	AMBER L	183
VILAS	APEEKWA L	0
VILAS	ARROWHEAD L	4
VILAS	BIG ARBOR VITAE L	468
VILAS	BIG L (BOULDER JCT)	336
VILAS	BIG L (MI BORDER)	363
VILAS	BIG MUSKELLUNGE L	376
VILAS	BIG PORTAGE L	194
VILAS	BIG SAND L	13
VILAS	BIG ST GERMAIN L	213
VILAS	BOULDER L	163
VILAS	CATFISH L	320
VILAS	CLEAR L	84
VILAS	CRAB L	41
VILAS	CRANBERRY L	519
VILAS	DEAD PIKE L	29
VILAS	EAGLE L	316
VILAS	ESCANABA L	218
VILAS	FOREST L	180
VILAS	FOUND L	42
VILAS	HARRIS L	40
VILAS	HIGH L	8
VILAS	HORSEHEAD L	91

COUNTY	LAKE	WALLEYE
VILAS	ISLAND L	312
VILAS	JOHNSON L	3
VILAS	KENTUCK L	420
VILAS	L LAURA	50
VILAS	LITTLE ARBOR VITAE L	166
VILAS	LITTLE JOHN L	77
VILAS	LITTLE SPIDER L	17
VILAS	LITTLE ST GERMAIN L	84
VILAS	LITTLE STAR L	47
VILAS	LONG L	159
VILAS	LOST CANOE L	58
VILAS	LOST L	26
VILAS	LOWER BUCKATABON L	
VILAS	LYNX L	47
VILAS	MAMIE L	35
VILAS	MANITOWISH L	91
VILAS	MUSKELLUNGE L	1
VILAS	OSBOW L	186
VILAS	PAPOOSE L	79
VILAS	PLUM L	106
VILAS	PRESQUE ISLE L	
VILAS	PRESQUE ISLE L CHAIN	302
VILAS	RAZORBACK L	62
VILAS	REST L	96
VILAS	SHIPE L	42
VILAS	SPARKLING L	40
VILAS	SPIDER L	53
VILAS	STAR L	479
VILAS	TENDERFOOT L	31
VILAS	TROUT L	1319
VILAS	TWIN L CHAIN	1668
VILAS	UPPER BUCKATABON L	7
VILAS	UPPER GRESHAM L	48
VILAS	W BAY L	53
VILAS	WHITE SAND L	12
VILAS	WILDCAT L	35
WASHBURN	BALSAM L	67
WASHBURN	BASS (Patterson) L	14
WASHBURN	L NANCY	48
WASHBURN	LONG L	610
WASHBURN	MIDDLE MCKENZIE L	73
WASHBURN	SHELL L	279
TOTAL		33169

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