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On Wisconsin Outdoors

with the

Dick Ellis Experts

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New season, more reasons to be on the water
- **Roosevelt Assassination Attempt**
Teddy's harrowing 1912 Milwaukee escape
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Love for vets, disabled

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KEITH SAEGER

Celebrating Our Veterans

53rd annual disabled vets fish outing was a net success

The 2026 Disabled Veterans Fish Outing was held in Port Washington again this year on June 24. This was the 53rd year of celebrating our veterans with some salmon fishing in the morning and then a buffet lunch at the Port Washington Legion Hall. Thank you to the Zablocki Veterans Center for transporting many of the veterans to the event again this year.

Thank you to the boat captains for donating their boats and equipment for this year's event. Thirty-two captains donated their time and boats to take the vets fishing. Without the boats, there is no fishing. We would also like to thank all the volunteers who helped set up, work the chow line and assist the vets getting on and off the boats. There were 84 vets in attendance and 66 fish landed.

Lastly, a special thank you to the committee members who have worked tirelessly to make this all come together every year.

For more information on donating to our annual event for disabled veterans, or participating as a volunteer, connect with our website at <https://disabledvetsfishouting.org/>. Like our veterans, you are appreciated.

2026 Veterans Fish Outing Volunteer Groups:

LIUNA Local 113, Cement Masons Local 599, Insulators Local 19, Ironworkers Local 8, Associated Bank, Turner-McCarthy Joint Venture, Patriot Riders, Port Washington H.S. Football and Wrestling teams, Christian Motorcyclist Association, Port Washington and Saukville Legion Auxiliaries, Port Washington Marina, Park and Rec and street departments, and Army of Normal Folks. 🇺🇸



Eighty-four vets attending the 53rd annual disabled Veterans Fish Outing in Port Washington landed 66 fish and a limit of smiles on June 29 in Port Washington.



Disabled Veterans Fishing Outing

Sponsored by Fishing Has No Boundaries - Hayward Chapter
Dates: September 16, 2026, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Rain Date 09/17/2026)

Location:

Nelson Lake Landing & County Park
13045 Dam Road, Hayward, WI 54843

Event Highlights

- Fishing for Disabled Veterans - guides, gear, pontoons, and boats all provided
 - Lunch included each day
 - Raffle prizes throughout the event
- Guest speaker: Andrew Hendrickson, Army Veteran & Purple Heart Recipient
- Completely free of charge for disabled Veterans and their caregivers

Limited availability - register early!

For More Information and to Register:

Scan QR Code

Email: vets.haywardfhnbg@gmail.com or call (715) 651-0482



CAPTAIN DAVE DUWE

Walleyes After Dark

Night time is the right time for the autumn angler

For many people, fall is the time to go hunting and they replace their fishing poles for a bow or a shotgun. My situation is different, I keep fishing; less people on the lake, hungry fish and fall colors. What's not to enjoy?

The fish I truly love to target in fall is the walleye, especially at night. Most nights there are very few of us out on the water. Without question, the full moon periods offer the best production, especially if there is some wind. The wind pushes the baitfish around causing the walleye to be more active. I have a lot of success either before turnover or post turnover. Turnover is when the surface water cools and sinks; it will mix with the deeper water making the whole lake the same temperature. Turnover causes the lake to become oxygenated again. This process can take a couple of days to a couple of weeks depending on the wind and air temperatures.

Once the water stabilizes, the fishing will become awesome. Autumn is a great time for both numbers and trophy fish. I love to use crankbaits in the fall. It seems that they are the best presentation for walleyes that are constantly moving, chasing the baitfish and loading up before winter. In fall, the walleyes will suspend over open water. Most of the time, I catch the fish five to 10 feet down in 20- to 25-foot of water. I choose to fish main lake points with scattered weeds and rocky bottoms. On a night with some wind, this is as close to guaranteed success as I've seen.



Client of author with a giant nighttime walleye.

I like to use a two-bait approach. The first is a suspending stick bait, like a Smithwick or Bomber Long A. My favorite colors are chrome/blue and chrome/black. I will almost always use a six-foot, six-inch spinning rod with a reel spooled with eight- or 10-pound monofilament line. The retrieve I employ is a slow crank and pause method. Normally the fish will bite when the lure is paused. Most of the times, the strike will feel more like a

weed; it is very subtle.

The second approach utilizes a medium diving crankbait. The depth they dive is approximately 12 to 15 feet. The crankbait colors are different than my stick bait preferences. With the medium diving crankbaits, I try to match the baitfish of the lake. Perch or crappie patterns seem to work best for me. For the crankbait presentation, I choose my bait-caster rig spooled with 10-pound monofilament line. The retrieve I use is a steady retrieve with an occasional pause approach. In fall, I never use a fast retrieve.

Make sure you know the body of water you are fishing well when fishing at night; use caution and watch for hazards, like floating wood or shallow water. Having a good GPS will help make you aware of your surroundings. Be sure you know the local lake regulations as the speed limits after dark are likely different than during the day. Also, be well versed on the lake's size limits.

For those of you who prefer to hunt in the fall, that's great. For me fall is the right time for the night walleye bite.

Author is the owner of Dave Duwe's Guide Service, in Southeastern Wisconsin. He can be reached on 262-728-8063.

On The Cover

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

But it's a fair guess that the majority of Wisconsin's hunters working the northern forests in the late eighties and nineties would have welcomed the rare chance to cross paths with a wolf.

Those unexpected encounters, like bumping into a pine martin, a fisher, or the most-often nocturnal bear, were part of the many simple payoffs for spending time in the field.

In the case of the wolf, outgrowing a welcome will also change the perspective of the beholder. The wolf will in properly managed numbers always be a beautiful predator that belongs in Wisconsin. But for many hunters, the appreciation of seeing a wolf yesterday is instead associated with a declining heritage today.

Severely decreasing opportunities for deer hunters in the

north over two decades as wolves deplete stable numbers of whitetail deer, wolves moving south to counties where deer numbers remain stable, increasing wolf encounters with people, livestock depredation reports on the rise, unwarranted federal protection of wolves as endangered, and Wisconsin DNR mismanagement when wolf seasons are in play will change perspectives.

2026 Wolf Livestock Depredation Reports received by On Wisconsin Outdoors from USDA-Wildlife Services since July 1st include 34 verified attacks in 13 counties. Read the details and OWO's ongoing reader assisted population census, "Wolf Tracks", starting on page 22 in this issue.

These newest reports detail livestock and other species

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On Wisconsin
Outdoors
With the Dick Ellis Experts

HUNTING • FISHING • TRAVEL
EXPLORE WISCONSIN

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TOM LUBA

Let Class Begin

Schooling fall fish promise action

In Fall, the kids go to school. Fish, on the other hand, simply school up. And that can make for excellent fishing for several species.

Now is the time when largemouth bass visit the shallow water to bulk up for the cold season, making hollow-body frogs an excellent starter after Labor Day passes.

As the temperatures continue to drop, largemouth head deeper. Follow the bite by locating mid-depth, still-green weeds and other cover. Spinnerbaits, shallow crankbaits and jerk baits can cover water. When you do connect, thoroughly fish the locations with slow-sinking plastic stick worms, like Senkos, as multiple bass may be using the areas. Be patient, and be quiet, to avoid spooking the fish.

Further cooling means deeper breaklines and green weeds will soon become home for bass. Jigs and tubes are excellent bottom baits for deeper water as fall reaches out. Rapala's Deep Husky Jerk and other suspending crankbaits can get attention, especially as sun warms the surface. Live bait, like minnows and crawlers, are another option.

Largemouth may winter close to summer homes. Smallmouth are different. River fish migrate from feeder streams to main rivers and lakes when water hits 60 degrees, eventually finding 15- to 20-foot homes. River fish feed shallower early. Deep crankbaits are prime search tools; try brown craw or brighter Firetiger patterns. Don't be afraid to visit the same fish-holding areas every day, as different groups may use the same stops from year-to-year before moving deeper.

Water temperatures in the low 50s mean bottom baits. Grubs, bucktail jigs and tubes are key. Plastic flukes and swing-jigs with a smaller creature type plastic trailer can score. Go as light as possible to maintain bottom contact. With swing-jigs, reel slowly over bottom to stay out of snags.

Don't overlook panfish come fall, either. Crappies are schooling, and they'll use main-river current breaks as well as deeper backwaters and oxbows out of the current. Go with just a light jig and fathead minnow, or a slip bobber set up, which is good in the current-free areas. On one outing, we found crappie suspended deep near bottom and in tree branches just four feet down. It made for a banner day!

Bluegill often get overlooked once they spawn. They can provide good fall action in channels and sloughs off the main river. A light action rod, six-pound test line and a slip bobber rig with a small crawler piece or worm on a number six Eagle Claw Aberdeen hook and sinker is all you need.

Now's the time to be on the water. Fall can produce excellent action on game fish, as well as the opportunity to take home a nice mess of fish for eating. Mark your calendar. 🎣



Deep crankbaits are always a good bet once the smallmouth start migrating. Brown crawfish and the brighter firetiger pattern are good choices.

SHANNAN ROHDE AND DENNY MURAWSKA

Red Fins at Dusk

A new Wisconsin state record

On a warm September evening along the Wisconsin river, the water was nearly still. Barely a breeze. The kind of late afternoon calm that makes an angler believe anything might happen.

Shannan Rohde had already been fishing for a while, passing the time watching the current, tending lines, and enjoying whatever the river had to offer. That evening it was generous. Sturgeon came one after another. A couple of walleye and a smallmouth meandered in. Nearby, Dawson played on the rocks, full of restless energy only a kid can bring to a shoreline.

Then, Dusti Perkins came down to join them. She rigged her line simply with half a green crawler on a drop shot. Nothing fancy. Nothing that announced history was about to happen.

For a while, it was just another fine family evening on the river. Then Dusti felt the rod load.

"I've got a fish," she announced excitedly. "I think it's a big one."

The fish stayed heavy and stubborn beneath the surface for three minutes. At last, the water near shore broke open with splashes. Amidst all the splashing, a flash of red signaled a red horse sucker. It was thick, long, and bright finned with a face that was squat and flat like a bulldog. Specifically, this was a short-nosed red horse sucker, with a face only a mother could love. A cursory weight came in at 4.74 pounds.

Because Shannon had a live audience watching online, he asked viewers to look up Wisconsin state records. Comments streamed in . . . you broke it!

The family knew they had to act quickly. On an official scale, their fish weighed 4 pounds and 5.4 ounces at 22 inches. Months later, the weight became official. What began as a quiet family evening on the Wisconsin River became a state record story, with Dusti holding up the new state hook and line record for short nosed red horse sucker.

Sometimes the river gives up its secrets in dramatic weather, pounding current, or a trophy everyone was chasing.

And sometimes it happens on a calm September evening, with half of a nightcrawler, a kid playing on the rocks, and a flash of red fins at dusk. 🎣



Shannan is an involved angler with his website and youtube feeds.

Website: wakeandlakefishing.com

Video link to this story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKLJkxzpR3o>

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PHIL SCHWEIK

Fall Musky Magic

Autumn factors to more and bigger fish

Autumn is among my preferred seasons for targeting muskies. During this time, their behavior becomes more predictable and they significantly increase their feeding activity. It is common to experience multiple fish days, along with the chance of catching a true giant.

When pursuing muskies in the fall, I consider several factors. These include the time of day I'm fishing, the water temperature and, if I'm fishing a river, the flow rate and whether the water level is rising, falling, or remaining stable. All these elements assist me in determining my approach for the day, where to begin, and which lures to use.

My main focus is on shoreline structures; however, I also target deep river channels, areas with current breaks, and slack-water regions adjacent to the main current. I generally employ large, slow-moving lures such as glide baits, crankbaits, and soft plastics. Additionally, I prefer to use live suckers suspended beneath large slip-bobbers set at various distances from the boat. Typically, I operate two setups, with one positioned about five feet behind the boat and the other approximately 40 feet behind. Both live sucker rigs are adjusted according to the depth of the water.

As winter approaches, muskies intensify their feeding, prompting me to utilize larger baits such as Grandmas, Medusas, Bulldawgs, and Suick's. Once the water temperature drops below 50 degrees Fahrenheit, I begin to slow my retrieval and occasionally pause, which mimics a dying fish scenario, allowing the bait to remain suspended in the strike zone and sometimes enticing the musky to strike with that additional time.

Lastly, it is crucial to closely monitor the flow rate. A swift current tends to drive muskies towards the shoreline and into areas of slack water. This scenario is ideal for fall muskies, as they prefer to avoid the struggle of both current and cooler temperatures, making their locations more predictable. In contrast, with a slower current, muskies tend to disperse and are not compelled to congregate in specific slack water areas, necessitating a broader search to locate active fish.

Implementing some of these recommendations, along with minor adjustments to your presentation and focusing on particular locations, can significantly influence your success, determining whether you return home empty-handed or with the catch of a lifetime. 🐟

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Hunter Moran and his dad Jim with Hunter's first musky.

JOHN FAUCHER

Picking The Fall Fight

'Bronze back' frenzy on the Wolf

Most North American fishing sites rate the Wolf River as a four out of five, or five stars, when it comes to fall fishing—especially for smallmouth bass.

The effluent of three rivers near New London turns this section of the Wolf River into a smallmouth-gathering epicenter. The Embarrass and Little Wolf rivers meet up with the Wolf within a six-mile stretch, making everything in between a prime target for avid smallmouth bass anglers.

Cooling water temperatures, falling leaves, and seasonal baitfish movements pull tributary and upriver bass back into the main river and lakes for winter.

September and October are remarkable times for schooling smallmouth bass in this system. Around that same time, crappie and walleye anglers take advantage of increasing numbers of active fish as well.

Walleye action, which will be covered in greater detail in the next issue, peaks in November.

In the meantime, dust off your crankbait rods, tube jigs, and grub fishing gear for a fantastic bronzeback frenzy on the Wolf River. 🐟

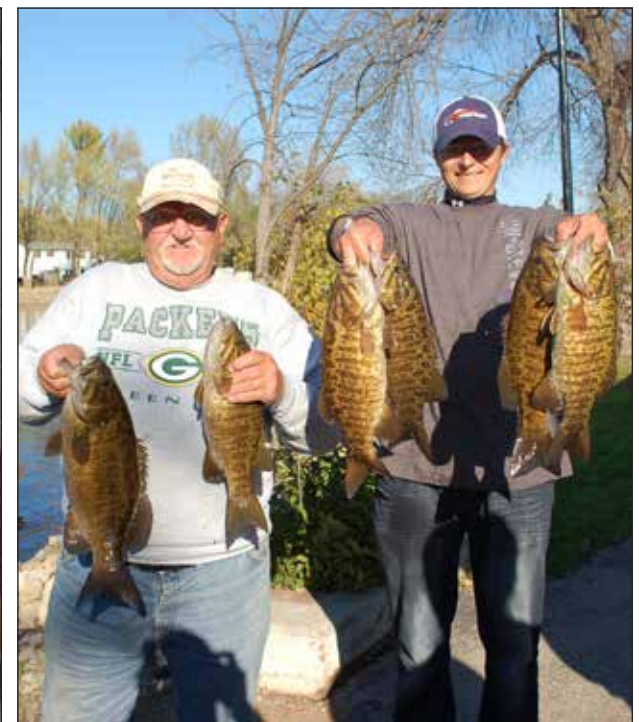


Fall smallmouth bass fishing on the Wolf River is a great time of year to turn beginning anglers onto the love of bass fishing. John Faucher photo.

Contact Johnny's Little Shop of Bait, 1205 W. Wolf River Drive, New London, at 920-982-4802. Despite severe April floods, Johnny's is once again open as a full-service Wolf River bait shop 365 days a year. Find them on Facebook at Johnny's Little Shop of Bait.



The author with a healthy smallmouth bass caught on a jig and a banana scented grub during the fall frenzy. Dick Ellis photo.



Anglers show off an impressive catch of Wolf River smallmouth bass caught and released during the peak fall fishing season in New London. Cooling water temperatures and seasonal baitfish movements bring schooling "bronzebacks" into the main river system throughout September and October. John Faucher photo.

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DAVE FIDLIN

Nelson Dewey State Park

A perfect blend of deep-rooted history, beauty

Situated high up on a 500-foot bluff on the southwest corner of the state, Nelson Dewey State Park blends deep-rooted history with the unmistakable beauty that graces the Mississippi River Valley.

Named after Wisconsin's first governor, Nelson Dewey State Park has been a part of the state's expansive parks system since 1935. In its current form, the parksite is on a 756-acre plot of land within the Grant County community of Cassville.

Because of its unique situation in nature, Nelson Dewey State Park serves as an ideal overlook spot into the Mississippi River and its accompanying valley within the region. This attribute will bring visitors far and wide this autumn to take in the fall color in all its glory.

Cedar Point, Dewey Heights and Mound Point serve as three overlooks that provide specific vantage points into the river and valley down below.

Another way to enjoy the changing seasons within the parksite is through hiking. Nelson Dewey State Park offers more than two miles worth of hiking across five separate trails of varying lengths: Cedar Trail (0.2 miles), Mound Point Trail (0.6 miles), Oakwood



Nelson Dewey State Park provides multiple overlook areas that provide breathtaking views into the surrounding landscape.

Trail (0.4 miles), Prairie Trail (0.2 miles) and Woodbine Nature Trail (0.3 miles).

Each of the trails traverses through unique areas within the parksite. Mound Point Trail, for instance, provides direct views of the Mississippi River and features a wildlife observation area. As its name suggests, Prairie Trail gives visitors a direct glimpse into the native prairie area that adorns some

of the area.

In terms of amenities, Nelson Dewey State Park provides several traditional offerings, including plenty of picnic spots throughout, as well as shelters.

Camping also is a popular activity. Several specific options are available, including a family campground that features 45 individual sites, with approximately one-

third providing electric hookups. The parksite also offers a group camp area that can serve up to 40 people on three separate sites, for a total of 120 people.

Nelson Dewey State Park also serves as a host site for several historic spots. The bluff tops within the parksite preserve Native American burial mounds.

Additionally, in keeping with the parksite's name, the immediate area gives visitors a glimpse into the first governor's estate. Much of today's state park once served as Dewey's private farm and estate during Wisconsin's earliest years of statehood.

The Stonefield Historic Site functions as a preserve area for Dewey's actual home, as well as other old estate buildings from years long since passed.

As seasons change later this year, and winter begins setting in, Nelson Dewey State Park will remain a popular recreational destination for lovers of the season. Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and hiking are popular activities within the parksite in the cold-weathered season. 🍂

Nelson Dewey State Park is located at 12190 County Highway VV, in Cassville. It is open daily from 6 am to 11 pm, year-round.

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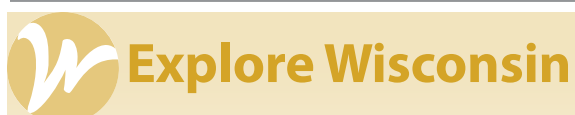
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SPOTLIGHT | PORT WASHINGTON



Catch The Autumn Wave

Autumn on the coast stays warmer longer, transforming into a picturesque retreat of rich gold and rust-colored leaves meeting crisp blue waves. The salmon make their way up Sauk Creek, and the apples add a sweetness to the air. Just a short drive north of Milwaukee, the historic harbor town of Port Washington offers the perfect blend of maritime history, small-town charm, and vibrant fall color.

Start your morning along the marina, where crisp breezes off the lake pair perfectly with a hot, handcrafted latte from a local café. Take a leisurely stroll up to the historic 1860 Light Station and St. Mary's Church perched atop the bluff for sweeping views of the harbor below. For nature lovers, the rustic trails at the city's two nature preserves wind through golden woods, along waterfalls and through bird watching paradise.

Wander the walkable downtown streets lined with 19th-century architecture, independent boutiques, galleries, and gift shops in the afternoon. Stop at the Historical Society to learn about the industrial, fishing, and shipwreck history of Port Washington. When the crisp evening air sets in, gather at the craft brewery or local winery to savor fresh regional flavors and toast to the season.

Whether you are seeking a peaceful weekend getaway or a memorable autumn day trip, Port Washington invites you to **cozy up on the coast** and experience Wisconsin's fall beauty at its finest. Celebrate the season on the coast at Fall Street Festival the first Saturday in October, with live music, street eats, car show, and family fun. Pack a sweater, bring your sense of wonder, and discover why fall is always better by the lake. 🍂

For more information, connect with www.visitportwashington.com.



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SPOTLIGHT | ST. GERMAIN



There Are Many Fall Festivals, But Only One Colorama

Toast the Season at Pints in the Park: NEW NIGHT - September 18, 5 - 8 pm Colorama is home to a craft beer festival. This year, we'll have different flavors of the best that Wisconsin and Michigan have to offer chosen by St. Germain establishments. Sample lagers, IPAs, ales, Oktoberfest flavors and more. If you're more of a wine drinker, join the Wine Walk. We'll have a variety of wines for you to sample, including some from Lake Nokomis Cranberries and Three Lakes Winery. The band "Open Tab" will perform and Northwoods Eats food truck will offer food and beverages.

Admission to Pints in the Park is \$25/ adult. You must be 21 years old or older to participate.

Colorama: September 19, 9 am - 3 pm There are many fall festivals in the



classic car show and more. If you're a Colorama veteran, welcome back. If you're new to Colorama, welcome – we can't wait to see you in St. Germain!

Colorama takes place in the Heart of St. Germain, in the St. Germain Community Park. There will be plenty of parking and general admission is free.

Start Your Engines at the Fall Cruisin' Car and Truck Show: September 19, 9 am - 3 pm As many as 100 cars, trucks and motorcycles will be on hand, and the show is fun for car lovers of all ages. There's a big car culture in the Northwoods and many beautiful cars and trucks will be making an appearance. If you would like to show a vehicle, whether you live in St. Germain or beyond, you can register the morning of the show from 8 am to noon. The event takes place from 9 am to 3 pm.

The show is sponsored by Cathy's Ice Cream 'N Candy Shoppe and Red Canoe Coffee, and participants will compete in 14 different categories. Organizer Don Elfstrom said that after Colorama, people are encouraged to enjoy St. Germain's businesses. Keep the party going," he said. "There's a lot to do here – make St. Germain part of your plans."

Interested in helping with this year's Colorama? We can use more volunteers. It's a great way to support the community and spend time with others who love St. Germain. Contact the Chamber office at st-germain.com/contact-us if you're interested in helping out. 🍷

Northwoods, but the one that started it all was the St. Germain Colorama. The first Colorama began in the heart of St. Germain nearly seven decades ago, and it became a fall tradition that's treasured by generations of locals and visitors.

Over the years, other Colorama events appeared in other communities, but year after year people returned to the event's birthplace in St. Germain to gather under the pines and celebrate the season with family and friends. This is the 68th year for Colorama and it's better than ever. There will be a lively craft fair, fun seasonal activities for kids, face painting, a huge



Sept 18: Pints in the Park
Sept 19: Colorama
Sept 19: Fall Cruisin' Car & Truck Show
Oct 3-4: Greater WI Musky Tournament

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SPOTLIGHT | **ALGOMA**

Fall Into Adventure in Algoma

Experience autumn's best - from colorful shores and harvest flavors to world-class fishing, hunting, festivals, and outdoor adventures.

Looking for a great fall adventure? There's no better place to experience the season than Algoma. As the leaves begin to turn brilliant shades of red, orange, and gold, the Algoma area comes alive with harvest celebrations, outdoor adventures, local flavors, and plenty of reasons to get outside.

Fall has always been my favorite time of year. The cooler temperatures make it perfect for spending a morning on the water, an afternoon in the woods, or an evening enjoying a local festival. In Algoma, you can do all three in the same day.

Harvest season brings farmers' markets, apple picking, pumpkin patches, local wines, and plenty of fresh Wisconsin products. Area communities celebrate the season with

festivals, kermises, and events featuring delicious homemade and ethnic foods. The Wet Whistle Wine Fest in September is another great opportunity to enjoy local wines, food, and the company of friends while taking in the beauty of autumn.

For sports fans, fall means football. Head west for a Packer practice, catch a game, or visit the Packers Hall of Fame. Then come back to Algoma and enjoy everything our Lake Michigan shoreline and surrounding countryside have to offer.

If the great outdoors is calling, fall is prime time. Canoeing and kayaking provide a peaceful way to explore the area's waterways, while hunters can take advantage of hundreds of acres of public land in Kewaunee County. Waterfowl hunters will find migrating geese and diving ducks along Lake Michigan, while upland bird hunters can pursue ring-neck

pheasants. And as harvest season fills the surrounding fields, Wisconsin's whitetail deer become increasingly active.

Of course, no fall visit to Algoma would be complete without fishing. The Ahnapee River attracts spawning chinook salmon, followed by brown trout and coho. Offshore, local charter captains head out early in search of steelhead and salmon. There's nothing quite like watching the sunrise over Lake Michigan while a hard-fighting steelhead tears across the water. These acrobatic fish provide an unforgettable experience - and some mighty fine eating.

Fall is harvest time in Wisconsin, and Algoma is the perfect place to experience it. From colorful scenery and farm-fresh products to award-winning wines, festivals, hunting, and world-class fishing, Algoma has something for everyone.

Come experience autumn in Algoma.

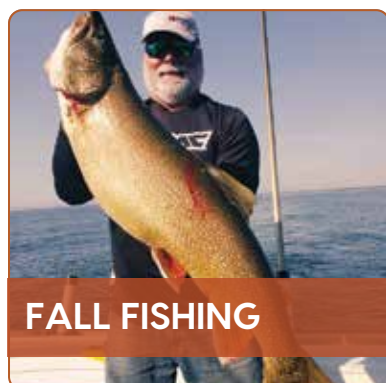


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SPOTLIGHT | ASHLAND COUNTY



Festival Season on Chequamegon Bay

For many travelers, summer has always been the season to head north. But along Wisconsin's beautiful Chequamegon Bay, the secret is out - fall is the new summer. As the temperatures become crisp, the crowds become comfortable, and the forests ignite in brilliant shades of crimson, orange, and gold, visitors discover one of the Midwest's most spectacular autumn destinations.

There is simply nothing quite like the breathtaking burst of fall color surrounding the shores of Lake Superior. Scenic highways become winding tunnels of brilliant foliage, hiking trails transform into colorful carpets of leaves, and every overlook seems worthy of another photograph. Whether you're taking a leisurely drive, hiking to a hidden waterfall, or simply enjoying a warm cup of coffee overlooking the bay, autumn offers a peaceful beauty that is difficult to match anywhere else.

The excitement begins with one of the region's premier racing events - the ABC Raceway Red Clay Classic. This signature event draws racers and fans from across the Midwest for one of the largest weekends of dirt track racing in northern Wisconsin. Featuring an impressive purse for competitors, abundant camping opportunities, family-friendly entertainment, and plenty of activities throughout the weekend, the Red Clay Classic is much more than an evening at the races. Visitors spend their days exploring nearby attractions before gathering under the lights for thrilling competition each night.

Next comes one of Wisconsin's most beloved fall traditions - Applefest in Bayfield. Every autumn, Bayfield and its surrounding countryside celebrate the area's rich apple harvest with a weekend filled with flavor, fun, and community



spirit. The orchards are bustling with activity as families pick fresh apples, sample homemade pies, cider donuts, caramel apples, fresh cider, local wines, and handcrafted treats. Musicians fill the streets with lively entertainment while artisans, crafters, and food vendors create an atmosphere unlike any other. The grand finale, of course, is the Applefest Parade, where colorful floats and hometown pride perfectly capture the spirit of this cherished annual celebration.

Athletes from around the country make their way to Ashland for another nationally recognized event - the Tamarack Health WhistleStop Marathon & Half Marathon. As one of the country's respected Boston Marathon qualifying races, runners arrive hoping to earn one final opportunity to qualify for the world's most prestigious marathon. But the weekend is much more than race day. Downtown Ashland comes alive with the Blues & Brews celebration, live music, great food, local craft beverages, and races for every level of participant, including the 5K, 10K, and the ever-popular Loose Caboose fun run. More than 2,500 runners, their families, volunteers, and spectators fill the community with energy, making it one of the largest annual events in



the region.

The festival season concludes with a trip across the ferry to Madeline Island, where Fall Fest celebrates everything people love about autumn. Pumpkins, seasonal decorations, delicious food, music, shopping, and island hospitality create the perfect ending to an unforgettable festival season. It is the ideal excuse to experience Wisconsin's only inhabited Apostle Island while enjoying one last celebration before winter settles in.

Once school begins, a different kind of traveler begins arriving in Chequamegon Bay. Empty nesters, retirees, and young families load up the car and head north in search of scenic drives, cozy lodging, outdoor adventures, and memorable experiences. Ashland and Ashland County make planning easy with their popular Autumn - Mobile Trip itineraries, guiding visitors through scenic backroads, apple orchards, waterfalls, historic communities, and breathtaking overlooks. Staying in Ashland places visitors in the center of it all, with lodging options ranging from charming mom-and-pop motels and cozy inns to full-service hotels and nationally recognized brands.

Food lovers will quickly discover another hidden gem of the Chequamegon Bay region. Nearly every full-service restaurant is locally owned and operated, each offering its own unique personality and culinary flair. Whether you're craving fresh Lake Superior whitefish, perfectly grilled steaks, handcrafted burgers, homemade soups, or decadent desserts, you'll find authentic flavors served with genuine Northwoods hospitality.

Of course, outdoor recreation remains one of the region's greatest attractions. Autumn is the perfect season to hike wooded trails, bicycle scenic routes, cast a fishing line, paddle quiet waters, boat along the shoreline, or simply enjoy time with family surrounded by nature. Waterfall enthusiasts could spend days exploring the dozens of spectacular waterfalls found throughout Ashland and Bayfield counties - and still only scratch the surface. From waterways to waterfalls, forests to orchards, every turn reveals another reason to fall in love with northern Wisconsin.

This autumn, discover why so many visitors return year after year to experience the beauty, excitement, and hospitality of Chequamegon Bay. Come for the festivals, stay for the scenery, and create memories that will last long after the leaves have fallen.

Start planning your fall getaway today by visiting Visit Ashland, Travel Ashland County, or Travel Bayfield County. 



TOM CARPENTER

Beautiful, Hunttable, Delicious

Set up for Wood Ducks, and a fall reward

To hear the pinions of a flock of wood ducks slicing the early autumn air is to feel your heart in your throat.

A drake looks like a piece of exquisite artwork, featuring a rainbow of colors that only nature's palette could conjure up.

Hen wood ducks are not as colorful, but they are pretty indeed in their olive-gray plumage with sheens of purple and green.

A full-grown wood duck weighs about a pound-and-a-half. Their big beauty makes up for their small size. So does the fact that wood ducks are perhaps the best tasting duck of all.

Holding a wood duck in hand is one of hunting's finest moments. And you can do it with just a pair of waders, some decoys, and a shotgun.

Some folks like to sneak along a waterway and jump shoot wood ducks. Others like to float a stream and try to surprise some birds for a shot. But the best way to hunt wood ducks is to set out decoys and wait for the

ducks to fly to you.

Scout to see where daytime ducks loaf, and set up there. Wood ducks like small ponds and potholes, slow stretches and bends in streams, and notches, little bays and hidden scoops in the shoreline of a lake or river.

These ducks are never far from cover, which serves as a good place for you to hide. A cross wind works well for woodies; a standard wind-at-your-back plan is also good. Woodies have sharp eyes, so wear camouflage, a head net and gloves.

You usually don't need a boat or canoe to hunt wood ducks. Wear waders or tall boots, and carry a bag of a dozen or so decoys to your spot. Have a wood duck call on a lanyard around your neck.

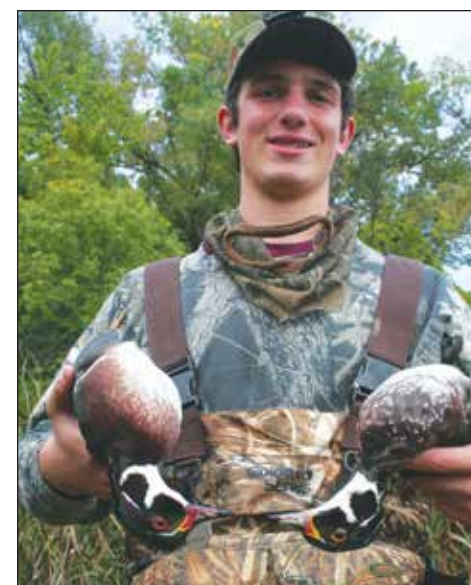
Get out well before dawn, and set out decoys in two small groups, with an opening (for real ducks to aim for) in front of you. Build a little blind, or just hide in the reeds, bushes or vegetation.

True wood duck decoys do the best job attracting wood ducks, but teal or mallard blocks will also do. Wood ducks often travel in small family groups, so anywhere from half-dozen to a dozen blocks is good, with nine or 11 ideal. Make six or eight of these decoys drakes for their increased color, visibility and attracting power.

Spread your decoys out a little because wood ducks only swim in tight formation when they are alarmed. But leave that gap in front of you as a landing zone for incoming ducks.

Call to flying wood ducks to get their attention. Use a wood duck call to make their squeal and whistle sounds. The wood duck's most well-known call is the repeated two-note whoo-eeek squeal that the birds make when flying. If a flock turns to come your way, quit calling and let them come.

If a group of woodies flies past and lands somewhere else, you can often get them to swim toward your setup by making little one-note wheet whistles on your wood duck



Anybody can hunt Wisconsin's most beautiful duck.

call. When the ducks are in range, stand up and flush them for a shot.

After plucking a wood duck, stuff it with cut-up onion and apple, spray it with olive oil, sprinkle on some seasoning (your choice) and wrap it in foil. Put in the oven at 350 degrees for two hours, letting it steam and then crisp up in the pouch. Delicious does not describe the result. 🦆



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-Gregg Borneman



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MIKE FOSS

Simple Bear Necessities

Guide turns hunter as quest to fill first tag continues

It's been a bittersweet ride. I can't believe the Wisconsin bear hunt is already upon us with the season opener first for hunters over bait like me Wednesday, September 9. With an alternating system of hunting first, hound hunters this year begin a week later.

I've been out of the game of guiding bear hunters for a decade. Over 16 years guiding 20 to 29 hunters each fall, I've watched literally hundreds of bears tagged from my camps. The satisfaction I found from strategically placing hunters on stands and bringing bears to the shot could not have been greater if I had been the one holding a tag.

2026 is different. This year, I'm the hunter. Surprising to many, I've never shot a Wisconsin bear, donating tags I did draw when I was a guide to youth hunters. After applying for 11 years, I finally drew that precious tag.

This will be my final Wisconsin bear tag. It takes too long to draw a tag in the zone I hunt. By the time I could potentially draw another one, I'll be well into my 70s. When I think about the energy, time, preparation, and stamina required over these last three months, I know it would simply be too hard on me to do it all again. It's been an emotional last ride, but also motivational.

When I think back over all the years of guiding, remember all the bait stations opened, long days, sleepless nights, excitement, anticipation, friendships, and memories, it's hard to believe how quickly it all went by. Now, I'm putting everything I've learned over the years to the test. And what a test it has already been.

My quest began more than three months ago in June. From the first week of baiting, I'm facing a recurring and escalating problem that we rarely saw during my days of guiding. Wolves are on every one of my six Bayfield County bait stations stretching over 26 miles from the south shore of Lake Superior to the north shore near Washburn and Ashland. In the past, wolf sightings were more memorable. Now, they're routine.

Near the end of those guiding years, a friend and his wife who had a tag came north and I put her on stand over bait. She called us, very uncomfortable, as darkness

came on, because wolves were around her stand and we had to go in and escort her back out. During the walk out, wolves followed, circling in the distance to try and wind us all the way back to the truck.

Baiting that same stand two years later at first light, I walked in on a fight between wolves over food. I couldn't see a thing because of the low light. It was one of the scariest encounters I have ever had, or heard, in the field. I turned around to head out with the hair standing up on my neck but made myself slowly walk back in. At about 25 yards, I tapped my bait bucket a on a tree. They were gone in a heartbeat.

I have always carried bear spray when baiting for protection, but those encounters that used to be rare made me start carrying a handgun when I go in. It's not because of bears. It's because of the wolves.

Wolves are on the baits almost daily now. Included on my trail camera photos, I've captured a female with five pups repeatedly and a pack of at least six adult wolves repeatedly. Three minutes later, there were four bears on a bait station three minutes before three came into the same bait. And on.

This is not nature in balance, nor responsible management. I firmly believe that wolves here in the north country have largely exhausted their main food staple of whitetail deer. Many wolves are migrating south where more deer still are. The many wolves that remain here are turning more and more to livestock, domestic pets, hunting dogs and even the bait of bear hunters.

Because wolves are federally protected and listed as endangered, they cannot be hunted. Without hunting, they have no reason to fear. They have adapted. Throw out everything you've ever heard or learned about wolves being elusive. They are unafraid.

I don't know how this story will end. But I do know after all these years, I'm going to cherish every moment in the woods. I'm grateful for one final Wisconsin bear hunt. I couldn't care less if on the last day I have not tagged a bear. It has to be the right, mature bear that comes in if I am to raise my bow.

And I'll know him when he does.



Let a sleeping bear lie.



Who doesn't need a nice nap after a good meal?



Although the author said he "couldn't care less" if he fills the tag because of his love for simply seeing bears, he will try to take a bruin like this estimated at more than 300 pounds if it offers a shot.



The shadow knows. Note the shadow of this Foss trail camera and the tree seeming to point out the bear cutting a field.



Five wolf pups are seen often on Foss bait stations, with mom and without.



These three bears were off this bait three minutes later with the appearance of three wolves to the same station.



Wolf packs like these six adult wolves make frequent appearances on Foss bait stations.



These three wolves were on Foss bait station three minutes after three bears where on the same bait.

BOB'S BEAR BAIT

After The Shot: Recovering Your Bear

Months of baiting and preparation can come down to a few seconds when a bear finally steps in. Making a good shot is important, but knowing what to do afterward can be just as critical. From reading the bear's reaction to getting several hundred pounds of dead weight out of the woods, recovering a bear presents challenges different from recovering a deer.

Shot Placement Shot placement on a bear can be deceiving. Looking through your sight or scope, especially in low light, you're often looking at one big black mass. Thick fur makes it difficult to distinguish the shoulder and determine where the vitals sit.

The bottom of a bear can also be misleading because you're seeing fur and fat, not just the actual chest cavity. Instead of using the bottom of the bear as your reference point, identify the shoulder and visualize where the lungs sit underneath all that hair. A broadside double-lung shot gives you a larger target and is generally a better goal than trying to specifically hit the heart.

Once you shoot, watch the bear's reaction



and mentally mark where it was standing, its direction of travel and the last place you saw it. You may also hear the well-known "death moan" as a bear expires. If you hear it, it can help determine where the bear went down, but don't rely on it. Not every bear will make one.

Tracking A good hit on a bear doesn't

always produce the blood trail you might expect to see from a deer. Thick fur and fat can hold and absorb blood, leaving surprisingly little on the ground.

If blood becomes sparse, slow down. Look for tracks, turned leaves, broken vegetation and disturbed ground. Always mark your last confirmed blood so you have a point to return to if you lose the trail.

Recovery Before you climb into your stand, ask yourself: What am I going to do if I shoot a 400-pound bear tonight?

A big bear is considerably harder to move than a deer. They're bulky, heavy and difficult to get a good grip on, especially in swamps, thick cover or rough terrain. Know how you'll access your bear and what

equipment and help you'll have available. After dark with a bear on the ground isn't the time to figure it out.

Meat Care Once your bear is recovered and the pictures are taken, don't waste time. A bear's heavy hide and thick layer of fat are excellent insulation. They trap body heat and can prevent the meat from cooling even when the outside temperature feels cool. Leaving the hide on too long can result in spoiled meat.

Get the bear skinned, processed and cooling as quickly as possible. During processing, trim excess fat from the meat. Bear fat can also be saved and rendered into bear grease.

Bear meat can make excellent roasts, burgers and sausages, but unlike some other wild game, it isn't something you want to serve rare. Bears can carry *Trichinella* parasites, so make sure the meat is thoroughly cooked before eating it.

A successful bear hunt doesn't end with the shot. Knowing where to aim, paying attention after the trigger is pulled and having a solid recovery and processing plan will help make sure all those months of work don't go to waste.

From everyone at Bob's Bear Bait, good luck this season and congratulations to everyone who fills a tag! To see our bait, scents and locations, visit bobsbearbait.com. To stay up to date with our latest news and sales, follow us on Facebook. Bob's Bear Bait, your one stop shop for all your baiting needs! 🐾

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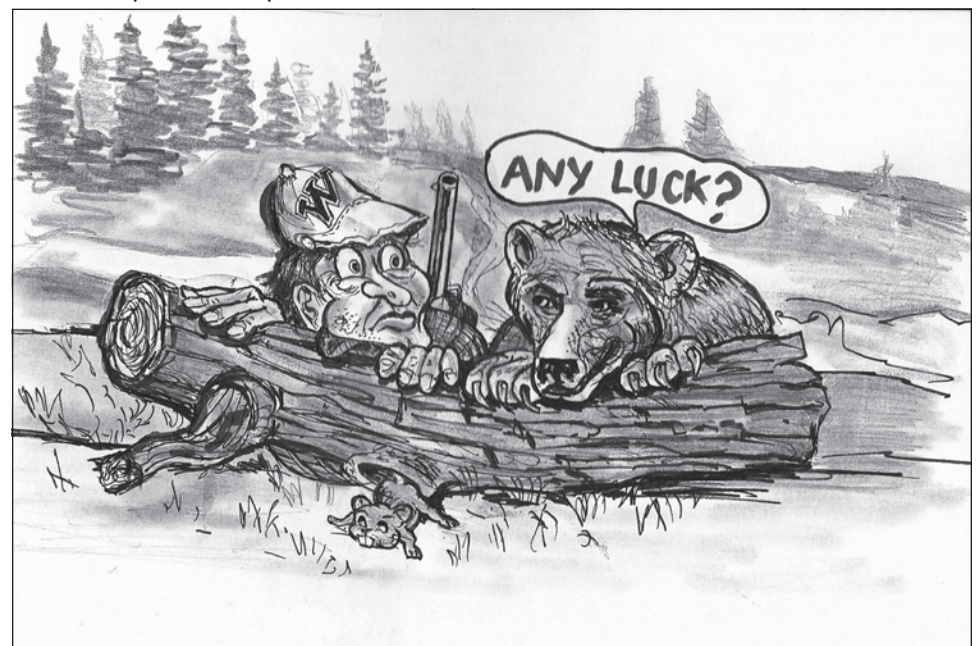
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DICK ELLIS

North Dakota's Western Edge

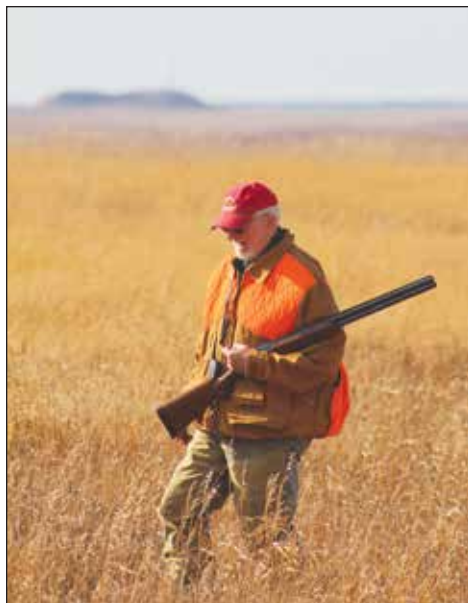
Everything to pull you back again

So different than the flat prairie we had been hunting, a high plateau capped with a sloping checkerboard cover of green crops and brown grassland reached to the North Dakota skies and begged for attention. With our Wisconsin hunting partners spread out over miles hunting pheasants and sharpies elsewhere, John Ellis and I headed up with rookie Shiloh, a one-year old cross of Golden Retriever and Irish Setter leading the way. Our first concern was that Shi would follow his young nose and bird scent right off the edge of this unique cliff before we reached the isolated cover high above. We kept him close.

There's more than just dog work and shooting when hunting upland game, and mule deer staring down at us from a precarious edge had already been part of the payoff Wisconsin hunters don't reap at home. We ascended to another piece of P.L.O.T.S land, or Private Land Open to Sportsmen, crested the ridge and walked into yet another reason to love North Dakota. A herd of 40 antelope maybe 1000 yards distant didn't need more than a few seconds to decide they didn't like us intruding on their high ground. We watched them in a rush crest another ridge on the horizon, marveled at their keen eyesight, and turned our attention to flushing more birds.



Eric Pacey of Wausau and John Ellis of Muskego show the results of a push for birds in front of a P.L.O.T. sign dotting the North Dakota landscape to let hunters know private lands open to all hunters.



Approaching 90, Dick Henske of Manitowish Waters and his pointers take on another piece of North Dakota grassland.

More than a quarter-century ago, lawmakers put the North Dakota Game and Fish Department to task to establish a program using landowner assistance to offer public access to private lands for hunting. The result is the P.L.O.T.S. program, including unmistakable triangular yellow signs dotting the rural landscape and telling hunters like our group from Wisconsin that 800,000 acres the state are wide open to public hunting. Throw in another 200,000-plus wildlife management acres owned or managed by the Game and Fish Department.

The program, North Dakota upland game hunting, and the unique terrain and wildlife are so appealing that we've only missed one October trip back in the last eight years. Some of us will return again to hunt the later season, and we've had our share of duck hunting North Dakota pothole country too. Contingent mainly on spring weather and brood success, our trips have brought hunting varying from excellent to tough. Regardless of whether or not we have full game bags, the North Dakota experience will pull you back.

Our group annually has Wisconsin well represented, north to south. Dick Henske from Manitowish Waters, Eric Pacey from



The Wisconsin crew works for another October flush on the western edge of North Dakota.

Wausau, Steve Ellis from Junction City, Steve Henske from Stevens Point, John Ellis from Muskego, this OWO publisher from New Berlin, and finally, Jim Ellis from Florida if you can pry him out of a boat. Throw in an annual pack of seven dogs or so at various stages of life, and we're ready to hunt.

It can take a bit of time to become acclimated to plots and find terrain holding the most birds. From our group, Steve Ellis and Pacey head out early to scout a day before the season. In my opinion, hunting the smaller P.L.O.T.S. tracts surrounded, if possible, by food crops is the best way to find more birds. Even a tiny-appearing piece of territory in the guide book will take quite a while to work. And then it's on to the next.

Besides finding plenty of birds and close encounters with wildlife anticipate a hunt on a back drop of open land as far as the eye can see. Even though we hunted on a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday we never had

to compete with other hunters. If you want a quality upland bird hunt, that is reasonably priced and relatively close, consider hunting North Dakota's western edge; you're guaranteed a limit of fun.

As for the high ground we worked to start this story, one rooster came down the cliff with us, with other birds busting cover early in escape. While it's absolutely an option to pay for access to private land, we stick with the P.L.O.T.S. To order book laying out P.L.O.T.S locations, contact the North Dakota Game and Fish Department at 701-328-6300 or go to their website at gf.nd.gov. And certainly, check out their double page ad laying out the red carpet for the Wisconsin hunter in this issue of On Wisconsin Outdoors. 🦌

Publisher Note: This story combines a 2021 North Dakota hunting trip for pheasants, sharptailed grouse and Hungarian partridge with just a few of the photos taken on numerous trips over the last eight years.

Flushing mule deer from daylight bedding areas are a frequent bonus for Wisconsin hunters looking for birds.



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DICK ELLIS

July/August Wisconsin Livestock Depredation Reports

The verified Wolf Livestock Depredation Updates below were received by On Wisconsin Outdoors since July 1 from USDA-Wildlife Services. In addition, a livestock guard dog listed as injured by wolves in OWO's July-August issue on property in the town of Barnes, Bayfield County on June 23 and receiving veterinary care has since died.

On July 1, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified that wolves killed a calf on a property in the town of Kelly, Bayfield County. The complainant will utilize night-penning as a non-lethal abatement measure.

On July 2, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified that wolves killed a calf on a property in the town of Hixton, Jackson County. Auditory deterrents have been deployed as a non-lethal abatement measure.

On July 6, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified that wolves killed an adult cow on a property in the town of Springfield, Jackson County. Visual deterrents have been deployed as a non-lethal abatement measure.

On July 6, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified that wolves killed a hunting dog in the town of Komensky, Jackson County.

On July 7, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified that wolves killed a calf on a property in the town of Maple Valley, Oconto County. Auditory deterrents have been deployed as a non-lethal abatement measure.

On July 11, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified that wolves killed a hunting dog in the town of Cedar Rapids, Rusk County.

On July 11, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified that wolves killed a calf on a property in the town of Maple, Douglas County. Auditory deterrents have been deployed as a non-lethal abatement measure.

On July 11, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified that wolves killed a calf on a property in the town of Bayfield, Bayfield County. Visual deterrents have been deployed as a non-lethal abatement measure.

On July 13, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified that 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.

On July 17, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified that wolves injured a pet dog in the town of Amnicon, Douglas County. The dog received veterinary care.

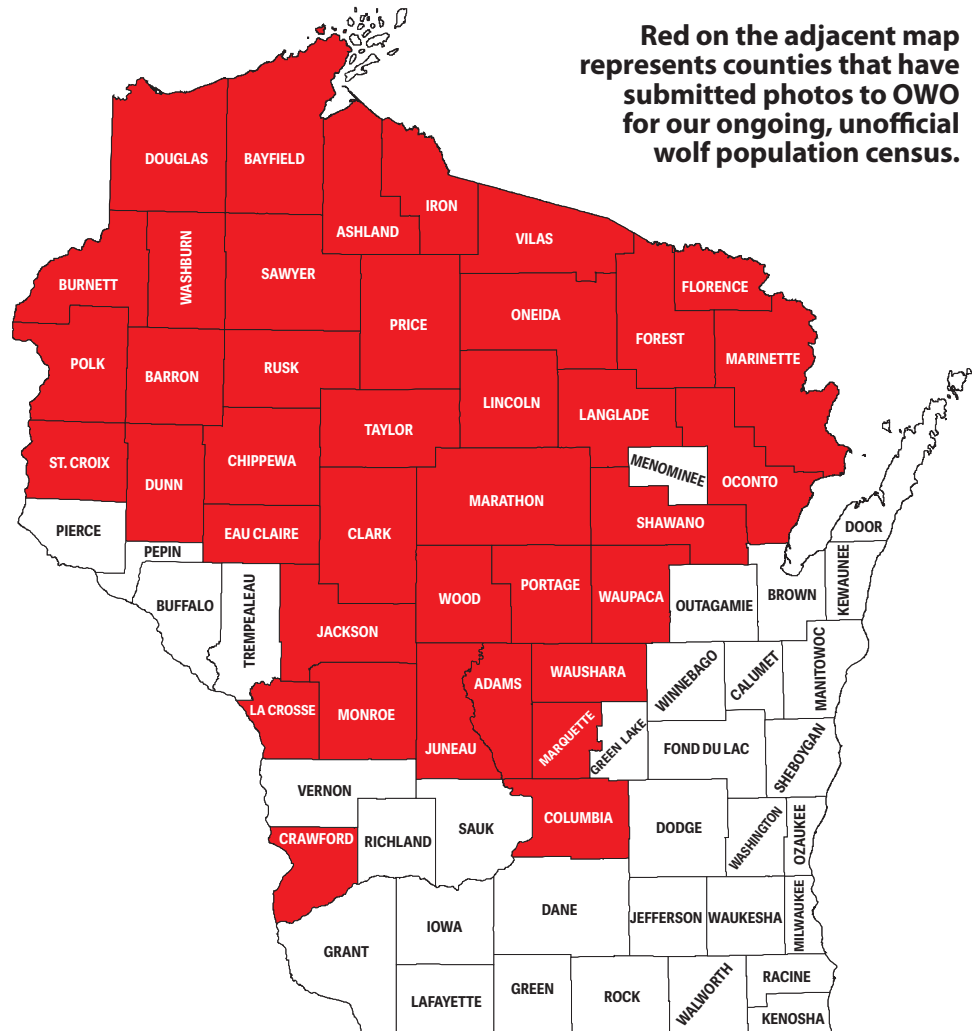
On July 21, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified that wolves killed a calf in the town of Ashland, Ashland County.

On July 22, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified that wolves injured a calf on a property in the town of Gurney, Iron County. Auditory deterrents have been deployed as a non-lethal abatement measure.



7-8-2026 Marquette County 1 Wolf

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



On July 24, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified that wolves killed a hunting dog in the town of Merrill, Lincoln County.

On July 25, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified that wolves killed a hunting dog in the town of Wilson, Eau Claire County.

On July 26, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified that wolves killed a hunting dog in the town of Port Wing, Bayfield County.

On July 29, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified that wolves killed a calf in the town of Cloverland, Douglas County. Audio deterrents have been deployed as a non-lethal abatement measure.

On July 30, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified that wolves killed a calf in the town of Cloverland, Douglas County. The calving herd has been moved to fenced pasture as a non-lethal abatement measure.

On Aug. 2, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified that wolves killed a miniature horse and injured another horse in the town of Cloverland, Douglas County. Audio deterrents have been deployed as a non-lethal abatement measure.

On Aug. 3, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified that wolves killed a calf in the town of Cloverland, Douglas County. Audio deterrents have been deployed as a non-lethal abatement measure.

On Aug. 5, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified that wolves killed a hunting dog in the town of Gull Lake, Washburn County.

On Aug. 5, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified that wolves killed two miniature horses in the town of Cloverland, Douglas County. Additional non-lethal abatement options are being discussed with the landowner.

On Aug. 8, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified that wolves killed a calf in the town of Lakeside, Douglas County.

On Aug. 9, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified that wolves killed a hunting dog in the town of Barksdale, Bayfield County.

On Aug. 9, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified that wolves killed one and injured another hunting dog in the town of Port

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

WOLVES, FROM PAGE 22

Wing, Bayfield County.

On Aug. 11, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified that wolves killed a calf in the town of Brule, Douglas County. Audio deterrents have been deployed as a non-lethal abatement measure.

On Aug. 12, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified a level 3 human health and safety complaint from wolves in the town of Flambeau, Price County. Level 3 human and health safety complaints are defined under the wolf conflict investigation classifications.

Level 3: Wolf Exhibiting Normal Behavior but in Frequent Close Proximity to People: A wolf is exhibiting normal non-threatening and non-habituated behavior but is in more frequent contact with people than deemed acceptable based upon the totality of the circumstances. Management action may or may not be warranted for this conflict level. USDA WS should consult with DNR (and any other agency/tribe as appropriate) to determine response. Singular encounters with wolves may be classified as Level 3 if unique circumstances exist which could cause a reasonable potential for escalation; this is expected to be uncommon. Examples of Level 3 conflicts include:

- Wolves repeatedly hunting and killing wild prey near human occupied dwellings.
- Wolves in frequent, close proximity to human occupied dwellings, especially during daylight hours.
- Wolves repeatedly active during daylight hours and near humans in a wildland setting but not displaying aggressive behavior.

On Aug. 12, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified that wolves harassed a herd



7-5-2026 Lincoln County 1 Wolf

of cattle in the town of Ashland, Ashland County.

On Aug. 14, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified that wolves killed two hunting dogs in the town of Winter, Sawyer County.

On Aug. 15, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified that wolves killed a beef cow in the town of Brule, Douglas County. Auditory deterrents have been deployed as a non-lethal abatement measure.

On Aug. 17, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified that wolves killed a cow in the town of Ashland, Ashland County.

On Aug. 17, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified a level 2 human health and safety complaint from wolves in the town of Flambeau, Price County. Level 2 human and health safety complaints are defined under the wolf conflict investigation classifications.

Level 2 - Demonstrable but Non-Immediate Threat: A wolf constitutes a demonstrable but non-immediate threat to human safety. Lethal or non-lethal control may be implemented, depending on the situation. USDA WS should consult



8-11-2026 Bayfield County 1 White Wolf



7-21-2026 Bayfield County 4 Wolves

with DNR (and any other agency/tribe as appropriate) to determine response. Examples of Level 2 conflicts include:

- Wolf is sick or injured and unable to leave area where it poses a potential threat to health and safety.
- Wolf is in an urban area and unable to find an escape route.
- Wolf has entered unoccupied structures.
- Wolf shows signs of habituation to people and is reluctant to leave location but is not aggressive.

On Aug. 18, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified that wolves harassed a herd of cattle in the town of Florence, Florence County. Auditory deterrents have been deployed as a non-lethal abatement measure.

On Aug. 19, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified a level 2 (see Aug 17 report above) human health and safety complaint from wolves in the town of Flambeau, Price County. Level 2 human and health safety complaints are defined under the wolf conflict investigation classifications.

On Aug. 23, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves killed a hunting dog in the town of Gull Lake, Washburn County.

On Aug. 24, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves killed a miniature horse in the town of Cloverland, Douglas County.

On Aug. 26, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves killed a donkey in the town of Cloverland, Douglas County. Visual deterrents have been deployed as a non-lethal abatement measure.

On Aug. 26, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified a level 3 human health and safety complaint from wolves in the

town of Cloverland, Douglas County. Level 2 human and health safety complaints are defined under the wolf conflict investigation classifications.

On Aug. 26, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves killed a cow in the town of Springfield, Jackson County. Visual deterrents have been deployed as a non-lethal abatement measure.

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 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 population numbers now, where should population 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. 🐾



Presents Firearms Info from Ron Stresing

RON STRESING

Wisconsin Pheasant Hunting

Habitat loss, time changes state's bird opportunity

When the 2026 pheasant season opens on Saturday, October 17, at 9 am, it will mark Wisconsin's 98th season of regulated pheasant hunting. Different sources cite who was the first to bring pheasants to Wisconsin. Some say local sportsman's clubs were stocking birds in the 1880s. Others mention Captain Frederick Pabst releasing them at his farms in 1917. Whomever stocked them, they flourished in the agricultural areas and prairie habitat. In 1928 the Wisconsin Conservation Commission authorized the first season on pheasants in Wisconsin.

I have harvested pheasants with single shot, pump, double barrel and semi auto shotguns. I've also taken them with .410 bore, 12, 16, and 20-gauge guns. My first pheasant gun was a .410 single shot Model 37 Winchester. Now, I carry my 20 gauge over under, preferring modified for the first shot and full for my second. Unless hunting



late season birds that flush at longer ranges, modified will suit 90 percent of pheasant hunting in Wisconsin. One-ounce loads of five or six lead shot in a 20 gauge or 1 1/4

ounce loads in a 12 gauge are a good choice. If hunting stocked birds over a pointing dog, you can use a lighter gun or load. If you are using steel shot exclusively, try 3/4 ounce loads of steel four shot in a 20 gauge. In a 12 gauge, try 1 ounce or 1 1/8 ounce of 3 or 4 shot steel. I suggest 6 shot as the smallest size to use on pheasants. I cringe when I hear of people taking out 1 ounce game loads with 7 1/2 or 8 shot to pheasant hunt.

Yes, the wild bird heydays of the 1950s and 1960s are long gone. Probably 98 percent of the pheasants taken in Wisconsin today are stocked birds. Nationally, in 1970, it was estimated there were between 45 and 50 million wild pheasants in the US. By 1985 the estimate was 12 - 15 million birds. Clean farming, loss of critical habitat, urban sprawl, and the ever-expanding population of coyotes have all taken a toll. The decline in trapping hasn't helped either. Being a ground nesting bird, fur bearing animals



like raccoons, opossums, and fox often wipe out nests. Yes, there are still a few pockets of wild birds left in Wisconsin, but odds are you will never get permission to hunt them.

Pheasant season runs until January 3, 2027. Check the Wisconsin DNR website for public hunting maps and information. Rules vary for State properties, as some allow for harvest of hens and roosters. Others do not. Have fun and hunt safe. 🦌

ON THE COVER, FROM PAGE 4

killed, injured or harassed by wolves including calves, dairy cows, a donkey, miniature and adult horses, pet dogs, hunting dogs and beef cattle. Also, a livestock guard dog listed as injured by wolves in OWO's July-August issue on property in the town of Barnes, Bayfield County on June 23 and receiving veterinary care has since died.

Also received from the USDA Wildlife Service and published in this issue are Level 2 and Level 3 encounters with people. Level 2 is in part defined as a wolf showing a demonstrable but non-immediate threat to human safety. Level 3 in part is defined by a wolf exhibiting "normal non-threatening and non-habituated behavior but is in more frequent contact with humans than deemed acceptable based upon the totality of the circumstances". Singular encounters with wolves may be classified as Level 3 if unique

circumstances exist which could cause a reasonable potential for escalation. We'll let you read the details inside.

Related, the DNR depredation fund which compensates owners of livestock, hunting dogs and pets killed by wolves, is apparently not able to keep up with payment for those losses. Funding for depredation payments comes from wolf hunting application fees when wolves are under state management, which, with the wolf federally protected, is not currently the case and there is no incoming revenue from Wisconsin wolf hunting applicants.

Since 2022, wolf damage claims have more than doubled from \$100,000 to almost \$323,000 in 2024. The state has paid almost \$4 million in compensation since 1985. The very existence of a depredation payment fund should be viewed as evidence of mismanagement and a predator-prey relationship out of balance.

Randy Johnson, DNR head of the Wolf program, warned the Wolf Advisory Board recently that budget shortfalls could significantly influence compensation payments. His email states there was "increased uncertainty" of covering all claims through fiscal year 2027.

Carl Schoettel, President of the Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association addressed the Natural Resources Board regarding the deficit. "If wolf attacks have become frequent enough that available funding can no longer cover valid claims, that is a shortfall for the state to solve, not a burden to be shifted on to the hunters, famers and families who have already been harmed."

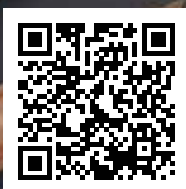
"This rule (making depredation payments uncertain) underscores a larger reality. Wisconsin's gray wolf population has not merely recovered but is thriving, and the rising number of depredations is the predictable result of that recovery."

Also, in this issue on page 19, longtime bear guide and OWO writer Mike Foss describes the escalating number of wolves on his bait stations ranging over 26 miles of zone A heading into the September season in far northern Wisconsin. This week alone OWO received texts, emails and phone calls from trappers, hunters and readers like Foss who describe "sounds they won't soon forget" when wolves who do not know the fear of being hunted hang too close for comfort in the field.

Lay it squarely on man, starting with the clueless federal California judge who labeled the wolf endangered, ending for now any possible hunt that would help manage a properly balanced predator-prey relationship. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Sometimes, though, the scenery gets ugly in a hurry when Wisconsin heritage, property and safety become part of the stakes few of us are willing to lose. 🦌

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SPOTLIGHT | HAYWARD LAKES

SARAH KOZLOWSKI

A Deer Hunter's Dues *Three years for thirty seconds*

If you've spent enough falls hunting in the Hayward area, you know one thing for certain: the woods don't owe you anything.

Every season begins with hope. Trail cameras are checked, stands are hung, gear is organized, and opening morning feels like Christmas. But not every season ends with a filled tag. Sometimes it's a close encounter. Sometimes it's a missed opportunity. Sometimes it's a mistake that stays with you long after the season ends.

For me, 2025 had been three years since I successfully harvested a deer.

Between clean misses and opportunities, I started questioning everything. After last season, I honestly wondered why I kept putting myself through it. I never wanted to blame my equipment, but after countless adjustments, my old crossbow simply wasn't shooting consistently. This fall, a good friend encouraged me to borrow her Ravin R29X, giving me one less thing to worry about as another season began.

Still, having confidence in new-to-me equipment didn't erase the doubt I'd been carrying.

Before daylight on opening morning, I made the mile-long walk into our property. Anyone who knows me knows I'm a bit of a scaredy-cat in the dark. Every snapping twig sounds like a predator, and every shadow makes my imagination run wild. When the full moon lit up a buck and a doe just 50 yards from my stand before sunrise, I figured I'd already blown the hunt.

As the morning went on, deer filtered through the woods. I watched a young buck, a doe being chased, and even another mature buck we'd nicknamed "Socks." Around 11 am, while texting my husband Jay and a few friends, I heard heavy footsteps behind me. I turned around to see a mature buck walking in, mouth open and panting after chasing does.

The next 30 seconds happened faster than I could think.

At first, he ignored my attempt to stop



him. Finally, I yelled, "Hey!" He turned broadside, and I squeezed the trigger.

That unmistakable sound of a successful shot was one I hadn't heard in three years.

After a short, but emotional, track through the swamp with Jay and our friend Derek, we found him. He was an old warrior with busted tines, worn teeth, and a torn ear. Standing over that buck, I wasn't thinking about antlers. I was thinking about every early morning, every missed opportunity, every frustrating season, and every moment I had wondered if I should keep trying.

That's what hunting has always been about for me.

The Hayward area woods have a way of teaching patience. Some mornings the woods are quiet. Some seasons are humbling. But every sunrise in a tree stand reminds us why we keep coming back. It's the anticipation, the tradition, the people we share it with, and the belief that your next opportunity could be just around the corner.

If you're heading into deer season after a few tough years, don't give up. Sometimes it takes three years of frustration for 30 seconds to change everything. And even when the tag stays in your pocket, there's still no place I'd rather spend a fall morning than in the woods around Hayward.

Sarah Kozlowski is a Hayward-based photographer, content creator, and owner of Kozlowski Co., where she specializes in outdoor, travel, and tourism storytelling. 📸

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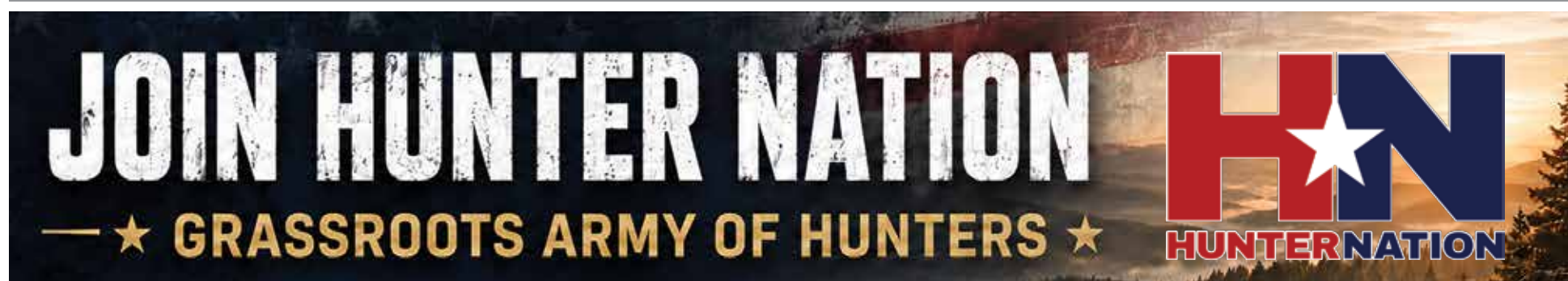


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MESSAGE FROM HUNTER NATION

THANK YOU, CONGRESSMAN TOM TIFFANY

Representative Tom Tiffany Co-Sponsored H.R. 845 **The Pet & Livestock Protection Act** that would remove the gray wolf from the endangered species act and return its management back to Wisconsin.



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THIS MUST STOP!

THE FIGHT ISN'T FINISHED.

H.R. 845 passed the House and now sits in the U.S. Senate.
Contact your U.S. Senators and urge them to pass the Pet and Livestock Protection Act.

HUNTER NATION IS LEADING THE EFFORT TO DELIST THE WOLF!
Scan the code to learn more and to help join the fight.



CHRIS VAUGHAN

Protecting Our Wisconsin Heritage

Hunter Nation rallies sportsmen, women

Chris Vaughan, the author and Hunter Nation Wisconsin Chairman, addresses the rally audience at Rice Lake, Wisconsin.



Hunter Nation kept a busy schedule across Wisconsin this summer, hosting a series of Sportsmen's Rallies that brought hunters, sportsmen, and grassroots supporters together with elected officials and candidates to discuss the issues shaping the state's hunting and conservation future.

Rice Lake-A Rally & Celebration

The summer's events kicked off in July at the Blue Hills Sportsmen's Club in Rice Lake, where the Sportsmen's Rally doubled as a celebration of America's 250th anniversary of independence. The gathering delivered fellowship, shooting sports, and a shared commitment to the hunting way of life, drawing a strong lineup of speakers who addressed the importance of hunters and the outdoor heritage to Wisconsin's future.

A central theme of the day was the role hunters play at the ballot box. Speakers emphasized why elections matter and urged attendees to stay engaged in the political process, reinforcing Hunter Nation's message that an active, informed hunting

community is essential to protecting outdoor traditions for the next generation.

Hiles - Wolves, CWD, and Accountability

Hunter Nation's August Sportsmen's Rally in Hiles, Wisconsin, turned to a wide range of pressing conservation issues, including the delisting of wolves, chronic wasting disease (CWD), holding the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources accountable, and logging policy.

The event was headlined by U.S. Rep. Tom Tiffany, the Republican candidate for governor. He was joined by Eric Toney, the Republican candidate for Wisconsin attorney general, and Michael Alfonso, a Republican candidate in Wisconsin's 7th Congressional District.

Closing Out August with Congressional Leadership

Hunter Nation closed the month of August with an event featuring U.S. Rep. Derrick Van Orden and U.S. Rep. Bruce Westerman of Arkansas, chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee.

Sponsor Henry Repeating Arms Vice President of Communication Daniel Clayton-Luce directs another shooter in safe firearms use on the range at the Hunter Nation Rally in Rice Lake.



The two congressmen and Hunter Nation Wisconsin State Director Chris Vaughan discussed Wisconsin's conservation opportunities, and the influence hunters can have on election outcomes.

A Season Built on Fellowship & Advocacy

Across all three events, Hunter Nation's message stayed consistent: when hunters gather, share stories, shoot together, and

hear directly from the people who represent them, they strengthen the foundation that protects hunting rights and traditions for future generations.

Hunter Nation remains committed to responsible predator management and to mobilizing hunters as a voting bloc heading into the fall election season.

For more information or to get involved, visit www.HunterNation.org.

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GARY LANGER

Legend Brush Guards: Celebrating Three Years of Proven Performance

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As the manufacturer of **the only patented brush guard on the market**, we control quality from start to finish. Every Legend Brush Guard is **sand blasted, zinc-primed, and finished with a durable black powder coat** to deliver long-lasting corrosion resistance. Our actuators are the best available, and our wiring harnesses feature molded connections designed for reliability in the harshest conditions.

Other manufacturers may make similar claims, but none match the **value, versatility, and engineering pedigree** that come standard with every Legend Brush Guard.

To our customers who already trust their vehicles with Legend—**thank you**. Your confidence drives our innovation. To those searching for the strongest, smartest, most dependable brush guard money can buy—we **invite you to experience the Legend difference**.

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fish ... it was 6 feet, easy!"**

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STUART WILKE
Forgotten Wisconsin

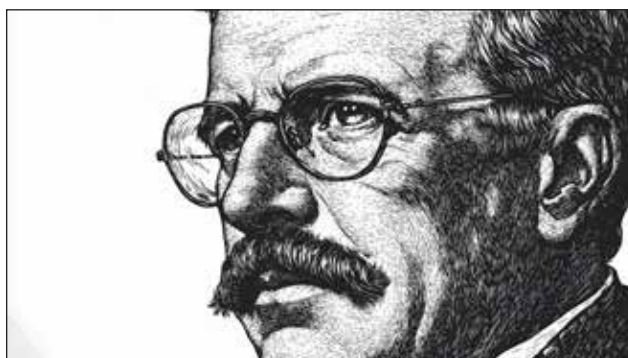


Saved by a Cliche

Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th president of the United States, was saved from an assassin's bullet in Milwaukee as the result of a well-worn cliché.

Having lost the Republican Party's nomination for president in 1912 to incumbent William Howard Taft, Roosevelt left the party to run as the National Progressive Party's candidate for president. The National Progressives were better known as the Bull Moose Party. The Bull Moose moniker originally became associated with Roosevelt. After losing the Republican nomination for president, he told members of the press that, despite the loss, he felt "strong as a bull moose." The term exemplified Roosevelt's determination and resilience in the face of adversity and soon became associated with his National Progressive Party. Roosevelt, who believed that Taft was too conservative, decided to run for president despite the fact that he had earlier forsworn a third term. He ran on a platform of regulating corporations, promoting labor rights and women's suffrage, among other progressive causes.

Milwaukee was one of Roosevelt's campaign stops on October 14, 1912, where he was to give a speech at the Milwaukee Auditorium on Fourth and Kilbourn. Prior to



his speech, Roosevelt stopped at the Gilpatrick Hotel on Third and Kilbourn for dinner. Scores of citizens, having learned that the popular former president was staying at the Gilpatrick, soon began to congregate outside its doors hoping to get a glimpse of Roosevelt.

Among the members of the crowd awaiting Roosevelt was John Schrank, an unemployed saloon keeper from New York. Schrank had been following Roosevelt's campaign appearances beginning in New Orleans. He believed that

Roosevelt was responsible for the assassination of President William McKinley in 1901. Roosevelt was McKinley's vice president and had assumed the presidency after McKinley's murder at the hands of an anarchist. Schrank believed that the ghost of McKinley told him to avenge his death by killing Roosevelt.

Within moments of Roosevelt's appearance, Schrank approached him as he stood in an open car waving to his admirers. Schrank shot him in the chest at a distance of five-feet with a Colt revolver. Roosevelt staggered, but did not fall. Just like the movie cliché, the bullet's impact was diminished by items in his breast pocket. The .38 caliber slug passed through Roosevelt's steel eyeglass case and a folded-in-half 50-page speech manuscript before lodging in a right-side rib. Schrank was immediately subdued by Roosevelt's bodyguards, police officers and citizens.

Many in the crowd thought Roosevelt had been killed by Schrank and shouted "Kill him!" and "Hang him!" Roosevelt, though wounded and bleeding profusely, responded by telling the crowd "Don't hurt him! Bring him here, I want to see him!" Schrank was brought to Roosevelt who asked him "What did you do it for?" Schrank did not respond. Roosevelt then said "Officers, take charge of him, and see that no violence be done to him." As Schrank was being taken away, Roosevelt said "You poor creature." Roosevelt then left to give his speech at the Milwaukee Auditorium.

By running as a third-party presidential candidate, Roosevelt effectively split the Republican ticket between himself and Taft. The result was Woodrow Wilson being elected president.

When brought to trial, Schrank pleaded guilty to Roosevelt's attempted assassination. The judge, however, declared him insane and sentenced him to the Central State Hospital for the Criminally Insane in Waupun. He died in 1943 of pneumonia. His body was donated to the Marquette University School of Medicine where it was dissected.

The bullet that struck Roosevelt remained lodged in his rib for the rest of his life. He died in 1919. 🗳️

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BILL THORNLEY

A Season's Greetings

Early autumn days signal change

The calendar has recently flipped to August, and soon September will follow. School busses carrying kids will travel the morning roads, and in the evening those same busses will haul high school football, volleyball and soccer teams to their games.

Autumn days are beginning. There is that certain “feeling” in the early dawn air beyond just the fact that temperatures have dropped.

Darkness is settling in a bit earlier in the evening now, and taking hold of the landscape a bit earlier each night. The sleek orange deer in the dew-covered fields will soon have their summer coats replaced by darker, thicker fur. And the young bucks with small, velvet antlers will see their headgear grow bigger and the velvet covering rubbed off.

Area gardens are producing nice harvests of tomatoes, squash, sweet corn, green beans, potatoes and onions, though gardeners and farmers alike will tell you that a bit more rain would really be welcome. It's kind of dry out there.

There is nothing like the smell of freshly cut hay, and the first cuts are being made. More will follow soon. We'll see the lights in the fields as area farmers work into the night to bring in their harvest.

Morning grass is now coated in thick dew, and everywhere a gentle white fog covers the landscape, especially in low areas and swamplands. As the early morning sun inches over the horizon, blazing orange from lingering Canadian fire smoke, it illuminates numerous silver spider webs that seem to almost glow.

Some trees are starting to look a little washed out and pale, and soon the first colors of autumn will begin to creep into the leaves. Summertime is fading. And as summer days melt away we welcome early autumn. This is the quieter time. The weekend traffic lines are shorter, the lakes a little less crowded. Stress levels drop a notch.

The late afternoon sun bounces off gentle golden waves on area lakes, creating beautiful diamond lights that dance across the water. The solitary fishing boat passing through becomes a striking silhouette as it moves, the fisherman searching for walleyes and northern pike.

Small flocks of birds are starting to gather on power lines along the roads, and the first hints of dying ferns can be seen in the brown edges on leaves. Beyond the roadsides there are bolder hints of autumn in the suddenly golden farm fields that stretch out to the far horizon. Here and there, small flocks of Canada geese are starting to show up in fields, flying overhead in noisy v-patterns, and bobbing on the gentle waves of backroad potholes.

Mushrooms are beginning to pop up on the lawn once again. Blackberries hang heavy on their bushes, and wild birds eagerly eat them. Bears eat them also, starting to put on fat for the coming winter. At the nearby pond, a beaver busily lives up to her reputation, hurrying to build her lodge. The water in her pond has grown stagnant in places, beaten by the summer sun, its surface covered by vegetation that begins to change from green to yellow.

It is a cycle that continues year after year.

The lazy afternoon stretches into dusk as the sun dips below the tree line, casting long shadows. A short time later, all is quiet in the darkness. A falling star streaks across the sky. The silence is momentarily broken by a solitary coyote as it yips. Then more quiet – beautiful, undisturbed quiet. And it makes one realize just how lucky we are to live in such a place as this.

For many, the best season of the year is starting. And it is as welcome as a hot cup of coffee, the sounds of throaty sandhill cranes settling into a freshly cut field, and the sweet smell of woodsmoke from an early morning campfire.



In the early days of autumn, with temperatures shifting from warm to cool in the morning, a still, foggy lake can be a beautiful part of the landscape. Photo by Bill Thornley.



Wet with the heavy dew of a Wisconsin morning, a spider web glows in the morning sun, showing off the beautiful artwork of Mother Nature. Photo by Bill Thornley.



SPOTLIGHT | KENOSHA



Harvest Season Packs Big Fun in Kenosha

When autumn arrives in the Kenosha Area, the landscape comes alive with brilliant color, crisp lake breezes and plenty of reasons to get outside. From family-friendly farm adventures to hiking, biking and treetop thrills, fall is an ideal time to explore the Kenosha area and enjoy the season at your own pace.

Start your fall adventure at Jerry Smith Pumpkin Farm, a longtime Kenosha tradition. The family-owned farm's fall season typically runs from mid-September through October, offering pumpkins, gourds, hayrides, corn mazes, a petting zoo and plenty of photo opportunities. The farm's famous hand-painted pumpkin displays are a beloved tradition dating back to 1975. Be sure to stop at the Country Store for fresh produce and fall treats, including the farm's famous frosted cookies.

For another quintessential autumn experience, head to Thompson Farm in Bristol. Beginning around Labor Day, the farm transforms into an adventure-filled fall destination. From colorful zinnias and stunning sunflowers, there is beauty at every turn. Don't miss the chance to pick your own pumpkins - including the unique "Carload of Pumpkins" - and explore the adventure farm featuring a playground, bounce pillows, trike track, corn and jungle maze, low-ropes course and other activities. Depending on the season, you can also find U-Pick raspberries and beautiful fall photo opportunities.

If your idea of fall fun includes a little more adrenaline, head into the trees at Boundless Adventures at Bristol Woods Park. This six-acre aerial adventure park features nine courses with four difficulty levels, approximately 20 ziplines and more

than 100 bridges and ladders. Courses range from approachable to challenging, making it a memorable way for families, friends and adventure seekers to experience the woods from a whole new perspective.

For a quieter outdoor experience, explore the trails at Bristol Woods Park, Petrifying Springs Park or Hawthorn Hollow Nature Sanctuary. Mid-to-late October is typically a beautiful time to seek out fall color, with additional scenic options including the Kenosha County Bike Trail, Richard Bong State Recreation Area and the lakefront. Lighthouse climbs at the Southport Light Station Museum continue through October. Take the 72 steps to the top and enjoy a unique perspective of Lake Michigan and fall colors from the tower's peak.

And don't stop when the sun goes down. Fall in Kenosha is also about what happens



Start your fall adventure at the Jerry Smith Pumpkin Farm, a longtime Kenosha tradition.

after your outdoor adventures. Warm up with a great meal at one of the area's locally owned restaurants or cafes. Don't miss out on shopping for fall produce, crafts, and treats at the area's two Farmers Markets, or the fabulous shops in the downtown district. Nightlife fun continues at theatres, comedy clubs, and event spaces throughout the area, and the Visit Kenosha events calendar is filled with details.

Fall in love with Kenosha this season. For more ideas to plan your autumn adventure, explore VisitKenosha.com for fall activities, events, restaurants, attractions and more. 🍂

FALL IN LOVE WITH FALL.

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

Scan to explore
fall fun in Kenosha!



VISITKENOSHA.COM



SPOTLIGHT | **LANGLADE COUNTY**

Fall Into Adventure in Antigo And Langlade County

Fall is some of the best months to explore Antigo and Langlade County, when crisp autumn air and brilliant fall color transform Wisconsin's Northwoods into a seasonal playground.

October is the perfect time to hit the trail during the Ice Age Trail Alliance's Mammoth Hike Challenge. Antigo is a designated Ice Age Trail Community, making it an ideal home base for completing challenge miles, checking in at local businesses, and exploring the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Plan your hike as the leaves reach peak color for an unforgettable look at Langlade County's glacial landscape.

Prefer to enjoy the scenery from the road? Take a fall color drive along the 145-mile Nicolet-Wolf River Scenic Byway, winding through forests, small communities, and the beautiful Wolf River Territory. Stop for a hike, meal, or local attraction along the way

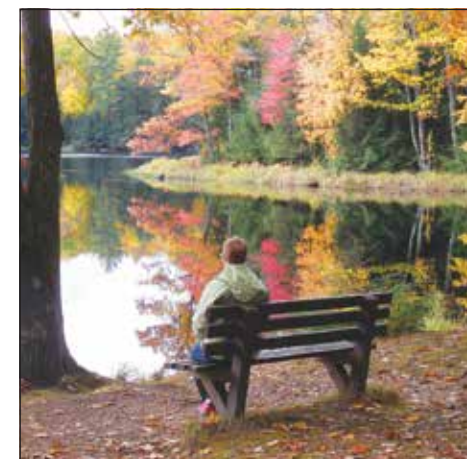
and make a full day - or weekend - of the journey.

Fall also brings some of Langlade County's most anticipated events. Step back in time at the Stumble Stump Rendezvous or Wisconsin Trappers Association Fall Rendezvous, cheer on competitors at the challenging Wolfman Triathlon, or take in the off-road action of Wisconsin Fall 4x4 Fest. Shoppers can browse unique finds at the Antigo Junior Woman's Club Blended Marketplace, while snowmobile enthusiasts can celebrate winter recreation history at the Bryant Ridge Runners Vintage Snowmobile Show.

And that's only the beginning. Visit www.langladecounty.org for even more fall adventure ideas, including ATV/UTV riding, mountain biking, horseback riding, hiking, fishing, and more. With hundreds of miles of trails, scenic drives, outdoor



Springbrook Trail in Fall.



Veterans Memorial Park – Jack Lake in the Fall.

recreation, local dining, and fall events to experience, there is simply too much to fit into one day.

Make it a fall getaway and stay overnight

so you have time to experience Wisconsin's colorful Northwoods. Come Play. Dine. Stay. Shop. Langlade County - Wisconsin's County of Trails. 🐾



Come for the Trails, Stay the Night



www.CountyOfTrails.org

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GREG GRAMBOW & JIM BOHN

Financial Lessons From The Bible

Most people see the Bible as a spiritual work but, it is much more. We found God wanted people to prosper. The bible contains numerous passages that provide practical advice on personal financial management. Indeed, the Bible mentions topics like money, wealth, debt and possessions more than two thousand times. Planning, savings, self-discipline and maintaining a proper perspective are just some of the themes of biblical teachings.

A first step in getting your finances in order, is the financial plan. Going through life without a financial plan is like driving a car without knowing your destination. A financial plan should consider both your goals and whether your income and resources will enable you to achieve your goals.

Jesus spoke of the importance of financial planning and commitment in the Parable of the Tower (Luke 14:28). He asked the crowd assembled before him: “which of you

wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion?”

When applied to our finances, the Parable illustrates the importance of planning before making big decisions, by estimating what it takes to achieve your financial goals. In planning, a basic axiom is: “A goal without a plan is a fantasy”.

Saving is the key to building wealth because it provides insurance against financial risks. Having money in an emergency fund is helpful in dealing with financial bumps in the road like the loss of a job, car repairs, etc.

King Solomon stressed the importance of saving for hard times in the Parable of the Ant: “go to the ant, ... study her ways and learn wisdom, for though she has no chief, no commander or ruler, she procures her food in the summer, stores up her provisions in the harvest” (Proverbs 6:6-8).

The ant provides an example of the value of hard work. The ant is self-motivated as it

takes initiative without a boss or ruler telling it what to do. Like the ant, we should have an emergency fund—to be prepared for unknown hard times.

The Bible also warns against the temptation of “get rich quick schemes.” Christian teachings stress the importance of self-discipline and patience. Proverbs 13:11 counsels that “wealth quickly gotten dwindles away, but amassed little by little, it grows.”

Building wealth requires self-discipline, making thrift a habit, and taking advantage of the power of compounding, not speculative gambles.

Most importantly, the bible tells us to keep money and wealth in perspective. We should not be obsessed with acquiring more. Rather, Jesus tells us to “be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions” (Luke 12:15). Instead, the purpose of money and wealth is to benefit others for “God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians

9:7) and to live a contented, meaningful life.

These passages are just a few of the many useful money and personal economic teachings. We no longer use silver shekels or do our banking in the temple. But human nature and the human spirit have not changed. Long before the advent of credit cards and computer spreadsheets, the Bible laid down timeless principles for managing our finances and living a good, purposeful life.

The USA is the greatest economy in the history of the world as these principals were part of the core for developing the Declaration of Independence and Constitution. There is a reason The Constitution opening paragraph includes the phrase: “Blessing of Liberty” in caps. And the Declaration states: ... “Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them...”.

Note: the passages cited herein are from the New American Bible. Your translation may be different. 🙏

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MONICA SPAENI**"Outdoors Access 4 All!"***The Passion and Purpose Driving Access Ability Wisconsin*

When it comes to experiencing the splendor of the great outdoors, passion and perseverance can move mountains—or in the case of Access Ability Wisconsin (AAW), open whole new adventures to wild spaces! Driven by the motto "Outdoors Access 4 All!" (OA4A), founders Monica Spaeni and her husband, Steve, are on a crusade to ensure access to nature's healing power is available for everyone. Freedom, independence, and social connections are key components to the OA4A model.

Monica's advocacy journey hit a major milestone at age 38 when she founded

Madison Spinal Cord Injury (SCI), Inc., establishing a vital peer-mentor network for families navigating paralysis and those living various medical issues. In 2014, she co-founded AAW to move that mission forward. Today, her vision goes beyond all-terrain trackchairs—expanding to access opportunities like adaptive gardening and educating organizations on community inclusion by staging adaptive kayaks, handcycles, and additional adaptive AAW's fleet placed strategically across the state.

Monica's work has earned top honors, including the Jefferson Award, SCI Pathfinder Award, AARP's Purpose Prize,

and Wisconsin Wildlife Federation's Conservationist of the Year, and she holds degrees in mathematics and instructional design. Her advocacy spans major policy reform, collaborating directly with the DNR, legislature, municipalities, and healthcare clinics to break down barriers in public parks and medical facilities. Behind the scenes, Steve Spaeni—after 35 years retired from Madison Metropolitan School District, avid woodsman, on the board of multiple conservation organizations, and WI DNR Angling and Hunter Education Safety Instructor—serves as Director of Operations, keeping gear running and access seamless.

Together with a dedicated team, board, staff, and volunteers, Monica and Steve are empowering independence veterans, individuals, and families. Backed by 12 years of data demonstrating the therapeutic benefits of access to nature, AAW enables enthusiasts to explore rugged wilderness paths with minimal environmental



Move mountains and open new adventures with Access Ability Wisconsin.

disruption—proving that the great outdoors belongs to everyBODY!

As one member shared: "Had a great time, we would not have been able to access the trails without the help of the chair. Thank You!" 🙌

Connect with www.accessabilitywi.org for more information.



SPOTLIGHT | WASHBURN COUNTY



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Looking for a perfect adventure that combines beautiful Northwoods scenery, miles of trails, and a few unexpected discoveries? Hop on your ATV or UTV and explore the Washburn County ATV Scenic Tour - the only ATV Scenic Tour in Wisconsin!

The tour takes riders along Washburn County's 100-plus miles of ATV/UTV trails, highlighting nearly 40 points of interest along the way. It's a great way to turn a day of riding into a sightseeing adventure, with stops featuring local history, natural landmarks, and plenty of fun photo opportunities.

Keep your eyes open along Trail 35, where Scenic Tour Stop #30 leads adventurous riders down the side of an old railroad grade to a hidden, hand-crafted limestone archway. On Trail 7, Stop #10 tells the story of a major 1980 forest fire that once swept through the area - land that today is once again covered in beautiful Northwoods forest.

Of course, every adventure needs a few fun photo stops! Ride into Shell Lake to find the iconic Two-Tailed Walleye, or follow the Tuscobia State Trail toward Birchwood and pose with the Giant Bluegill, celebrating the community's title as the "Bluegill Capital of Wisconsin."

Summer brings lush green forests, warm riding days, and plenty of opportunities to make a weekend of your adventure. Come fall, the same trails transform with brilliant reds, oranges, and golds, creating an entirely different riding experience.

With connections to the Wild Rivers and Tuscobia State Trails, ATV-friendly lodging, restaurants, and convenient trail access, Washburn County makes it easy to turn your ride into a Northwoods getaway.

Grab a trail map, pick your route, and see what you'll discover along the way!

Kaitlin (Hanson) Horsch | Executive Director | tourism@washburncounty.org | 715-635-9696 📞

Washburn County Tourism Association | 122 N. River Street | Spooner, WI 54801 | www.washburncounty.org

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DICK ELLIS

"A Rich Reservoir for Fraud" *Wisconsin's unverifiable election system*

Former independent candidate for Governor Joan Beglinger called Wisconsin's election system a "rich reservoir for fraud" in her first public address of an ongoing campaign to stimulate voter education and advocacy critical to ensuring the survival of America's Constitutional Republic. During a presentation to a conservative Wisconsin women's group, Beglinger simply defined "verifiable elections" and discussed in part cybercrime, corrupt political parties and media, and the need for local "chain of custody" of ballots.

Beglinger's presentation on the "broken by design" election system was also video-taped and posted on **On Wisconsin Outdoors** homepage at www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com. Also at that site, view OWO's John Ellis's detailed 7-point plan for restoring verifiable elections in the archived November-December 2025 issue.

Election Verifiability - Wisconsin's Highest Priority

"It's very important that everyone knows what verifiable elections are," Beglinger told her audience. "Verifiable means every vote cast can be tied to the name of a currently eligible voter. Elections must be the accurate expression of the will of the people. Verifiability is necessary to believe and peacefully accept results we don't like. Verifiable elections give the voters the power they desperately need to decide who they want in office and to remove those they don't."

Four Million Ineligible Voters

The Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC), she said, maintains a centralized registered voter list that contains more than four million names of ineligible voters; anyone who at one time registered to vote in Wisconsin including those who have died, moved away, been convicted of a felony, declared incompetent or had any other status change that makes them ineligible.

"Why?," Beglinger asked the group with emphasis. "What credible reason would anyone provide that would have us keeping four million names of people who cannot vote on our registered voter list?" Unlike other states who offer review of voter rolls at no cost, the WEC also requires payment of \$12,500 for citizen review of Wisconsin's rolls.

Cybercrime- The Fastest Growing Type of Crime in the World

The FBI logs about 3,000 cybercrime complaints every day, Beglinger said, and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection posts reported incidents of breaches of "secure" data bases. In 2026 breaches resulted in millions of victims with date of birth, social security number, bank account and routing numbers among the personal information stolen.

"Cybercrime is the fastest growing crime in the world," Beglinger said. Elections are not going to be stolen by miscounting ballots. In 2026 the Wisconsin Department of Health Services was hacked and in 2025, the Green Bay Packers organization was hacked. Secure data bases are not secure from sophisticated hackers. The four million ineligible voter names that are on our voter registration list are a rich reservoir of names for sophisticated hackers to create fraudulent ballots."

Beglinger also told the audience that she was shocked when she learned that Wisconsin has issued 250,000 driver's licenses to individuals who are here legally but are not citizens. The licenses are identical to the driver's licenses issued to citizens.

"It was shocking to me," she said. "They come here legally to work but they are not citizens and therefore not eligible to vote. All you need to register to vote and cast a vote is a driver's license. When I moved to Waukesha County from Dane County, I managed my whole election process with just my driver's license. Driver's licenses issued to people who are here legally but ineligible to vote must be clearly marked "Not for Voting".

Beglinger told the group that the University of Wisconsin system can lawfully issue voting IDs to students with no proof of citizenship required even though there are 8,000 noncitizen students from 100 countries at the Madison campus alone. "This is an outrage," she said. "Require the university systems to confirm citizenship as part of the process of issuing voter I.D.s."

No leadership. Only Deflection

Beglinger stressed that it is not the responsibility of the citizens to prove cheating has occurred. It is rather the responsibility of the legislature to maintain an election system that prevents cheating. "Every



Joan Beglinger addresses a conservative woman's group in suburban Milwaukee August 20th.

Wisconsin legislator has been informed of the flaws in the system on multiple occasions and has chosen to ignore them," she said. "No member of the WEC or the Wisconsin legislature has denied these problems exist, because they know they do."

Beglinger emphasized that she and the OWO publishers are working to see Tom Tiffany elected as Governor and Eric Toney as Attorney General. "But they too are aware of the problem and we're going to expect more from them, more leadership from them."

"There has been no serious investigation by the media. When you express your concern as a citizen of this state, you're called an election denier. It's extremely important that each one of us is able to articulate what the problems really are because we're told time and time again that these are debunked claims that have been decided in the courts. We know that this is not true."

A Call to Action-Demand Change Now

Verifiability, Beglinger said, will come from an informed electorate demanding change. She pointed to Governor Tony Evers denying the Department of Justice (DOJ) request to review Wisconsin's voter registration list, and then quoted the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) of 1993: "To ensure that accurate and current voter registration rolls are maintained".

"The Department of Justice has a legitimate role in federal elections at the state level. Demand the DOJ review the Wisconsin voter registration list and loudly reject the idle claims that this is an attempt to federalize elections. Compliance with the NVRA requires it."

All states are required to have a computerized, centralized list of voters. Currently that list is maintained by the WEC. Beglinger argued that the process should be reversed with the Clerks in individual municipalities maintaining accurate local lists and feeding them up to the state level. "Local clerks can verify who their residents are and make sure their lists are correct."

Beglinger also pointed to maintaining "chain of custody" as imperative to ensuring verifiable elections. In the context of voting, maintaining a chain of custody means creating an unbroken, meticulously documented paper trail that tracks every person who touches, transfers or secures election materials. In response to growing voter distrust in 2001, a bipartisan commission led by President Jimmy Carter and Secretary of State James Baker was formed to recommend election reforms.

"When you're dealing with legal evidence, and ballots are evidence, you have to maintain a chain of custody to prevent fraud," Beglinger said. "One of the recommendations that commission made was putting an end to mail-in ballots because bringing the voting process outside of the secure election environment presents the highest risk for fraud."

Beglinger concluded the presentation by encouraging voters everywhere to "make some noise." 🗣️

Joan Ellis Beglinger, MSN, RN, MBA, FACHE, FAAN is a retired Registered Nurse and Healthcare Executive
To invite Joan to speak to your group, contact her at: contact@beglingerforwisconsin.com
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JOHN ELLIS

Victory is Upon us *Target and defeat all Democrats in the midterms*

The movement by U.S. citizens to regain control of government started in 2016, when we elected Donald Trump, President of the United States. That movement was severely wounded, unexpectedly and in the middle of the night by the “extremely unlikely” election of the corrupt Joe Biden in 2020, but it didn’t die.

Instead, it came back stronger than ever with Trump’s massive re-election in 2024. Today, unified around ensuring that only eligible U.S. citizens participate in our elections, and assisted by federal oversight of the upcoming midterms, we stand on the threshold of a major victory in November.

The Save America Act would require the following:

1. A valid ID before registering to vote in a Federal Election.

2. Proof of citizenship before voting in a Federal Election.

3. No Mail-in Voting except for cases of illness, travel, disability, or military service.

According to PEW Research, 83% of Americans favor requiring all voters to show a government issued photo ID to vote, including 95% of Republicans and 71% of Democrats. Only 16% are in opposition.

According to CNN’s Harry Enten, “The bottom line is this: Voter ID is not controversial in this country. A photo ID to vote is not controversial in this country. It is not controversial by party and it is not controversial by race. The vast majority of Americans agree.”

Even though the Voter ID requirements of the Save America Act are overwhelmingly popular with the American people, every

Democrat in the United States Senate, along with a few Senate Republicans, refuse to pass it. They are the 16% standing in our way and this is their last desperate attempt to deny our will and to stay in power.

But President Trump is working hard to prevent another unverifiable election result to be forced upon us by a corrupt few. Assisted by the full force of the federal government, including Harmeet Dhillon and the U.S. Department of Justice, he is moving to ensure that every election law is followed, only eligible voters participate, and the results of the midterm elections are legitimate across the nation.

We must do our part by targeting and defeating every Democrat running for office on November 3rd. The Democratic Party is our most immediate threat, because it has

been taken over by communists who will lie and cheat to take and hold on to power. Anyone running as one is untrustworthy, unfit for office, and dangerous.

After the Democratic Party has been defeated, we will be able to strengthen the election laws critical to our freedom, remove bad politicians from any party at will in future elections, and replace them with true citizen legislators as The Founders intended.

The control of government we’ve been working toward since 2016 is about to be realized, because the Democratic Party is exposed, vulnerable, and completely outnumbered. We must decimate them with our ballots in November and accept nothing less than a verifiable result when the election is over. Stay focused, optimistic, and finish the job, because victory is upon us. 🗳️

JOHN ELLIS

David Crowley And Josh Kaul *Two high-priority Wisconsin Democrats to defeat on November 3rd*

David Crowley and Josh Kaul are corrupt members of a Democratic Party, that will lie and cheat to take and hold on to power. They are enemies of Wisconsin’s citizens, and dangerous.

David Crowley

Crowley is the fraudulent Democratic Party nominee for Wisconsin Governor, who participated in the theft of Francesca Hong’s nomination. Crowley was not the choice of Wisconsin voters during the primary election in August. He was installed by Democratic Party leaders to forward a plausible candidate for the midterm election in November.

On July 8th, 2026, Crowley suspended his campaign for governor because he had single digit poll numbers, no money, and it “became clear” that he had no path to victory.

Crowley’s suspension made it obvious that Hong was going to be the Democratic Party nominee. She had all of the momentum

and an insurmountable lead in the last 5 Democratic Primary Polls before the election:

Public Policy Poll; Hong +20

State Navigate Poll; Hong +29

Marquette University Poll; Hong +25

Public Policy Poll; Hong +18

State Navigate Poll; Hong +22

But on July 18th, 2026, Crowley re-entered the governor’s race after being recruited by Democratic Party leaders, including Gov. Tony Evers, because they knew that Hong couldn’t win the general election.

Then, at midnight on Election Day, August 11th, as has become routine in Milwaukee, election officials announced that “human errors” had occurred while counting absentee ballots, and the results would be delayed.

Finally, at 2:34 A.M. on August 12th, Milwaukee election officials declared Crowley the winner over Hong by less than one half of a percentage point. Crowley

and Democratic Party leaders stole Hong’s nomination from their own Democratic Party members.

Josh Kaul

Kaul is a criminal and the current Wisconsin Attorney General.

On October 28th, 2021, after a ten-month investigation, Racine County Sheriff Chris Schmaling called on Kaul to open a statewide investigation into fraud during the 2020 election.

On November 3rd, 2021, Sheriff Schmaling officially recommended criminal charges against five of six members of the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC). The WEC members were Margaret Bostelmann, Julie Glancey, Ann Jacobs, Dean Knudson, and Mark Thomsen. The charges included misconduct in public office and election fraud.

By November 4th, 2021, Kaul had refused to open the recommended investigation or charge the five corrupt WEC members.

Bostelmann and Jacobs are still on the WEC, and Thompson is the WEC vice chairman.

On July 26th and 27th, 2022, Wisconsin resident Harry Wait exposed massive vulnerabilities in the WEC’s MyVote website. Specifically, Wait proved that anyone using MyVote can order an absentee ballot in someone else’s name without an ID, and have the ballot sent to any address they want.

On September 1, 2022, knowing what Wait had uncovered, and to keep Wisconsin’s serious election problems hidden from the public, Kaul wrongfully charged Wait with identity theft and voter fraud.

On March 23rd and 24th, 2026, Kaul had Wait tried and convicted as a felon, exposing Kaul himself as the real criminal. (See “Voter Fraud Trial Exposes Government Officials as The Real Criminals” in the May/June archived issue at onwisconsinoutdoors.com). 🗳️

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