November/December 2026 | Vol. 20, Issue 1

FREE



On Wisconsin Outdoors

with the

Dick Ellis Experts

- **Fabulous Trip Ideas**
  Wisconsin's winter wonderlands
- **Open Water, Hardwater**
  OWO experts put you on the spot
- **Feeding Winter Birds**
  Fun, helpful and rewarding
- **Hunting Wisconsin**
  - Beating the bear odds
  - Deer hunt memories, expectations
- **Forgotten Wisconsin**
  Superior's superior WWII fighter ace
- **Wyalusing State Park**
  Where the mighty rivers meet
- **Wolf Tracks**
  - Livestock depredation reports
  - Ongoing threats to people end with nine wolves euthanized
  - Reader field photos challenge state population claims

FREE



Restrictions apply. See bestwesternrewards.com for program terms and conditions.
Each BWH℠ Hotels property is independently owned and operated. For a list of most properties, local attractions and events, www.bestwesternwisconsin.com. Best Western and the Best Western marks are service marks or registered service marks of Best Western International, Inc. ©2024 Best Western International, Inc. All rights reserved.

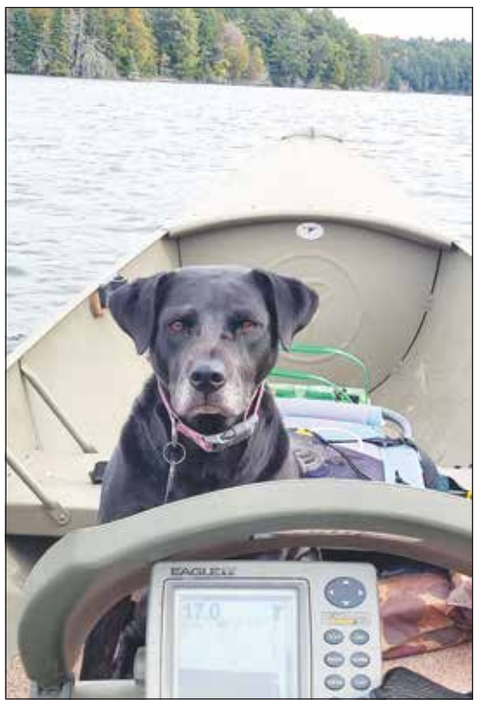
DAN MOERICKE

An 'Up Nort' Report

Places in My Life - Sylvania

There are places I'll remember
All my life, though some have changed.
Some forever, not for better;
Some have gone and some remain.

For some reason, those lyrics from the Beatle's song "In My Life" were running through my mind the other day as I drove up to the Sylvania Wilderness Area for a day of fishing. I've been fortunate enough to visit Sylvania for over 45 years. And it is definitely a place that I'll remember and, thankfully, a place that still remains. It is largely unchanged since my first visit.



Mabel might not catch any fish, but she loves to be there when I do.

Roughly six miles west of Watersmeet, Michigan, the Sylvania Wilderness encompasses over 18,000 acres and includes around two dozen lakes. Sylvania is geared to canoes, kayaks, and hiking. There is a beautiful campground with nearly 50 sites and another 50 remote sites on the lakes, as well. Fishing regulations on most all of the lakes require artificial baits and barbless hooks. The one exception is Crooked Lake, on which normal Michigan fishing regulations apply.

My destination on this day was Crooked Lake, and my goal was to find some panfish (hopefully perch} for a meal or two. My fishing partner on this trip was my dog, Mabel. While she's not great at fishing, she is a good companion and sits quietly in my small sport canoe.

As I pulled into the landing, I was greeted by a grand total of three vehicles in the parking lot. Perfect. To be fair, it was a weekday early in October. You can expect more company during the summer months.

My first hour or two of perch searching resulted in a handful of sunfish and some largemouth bass. I sighted a total of two canoes during that period. Conceding defeat, I headed to a small weed hump that has been a consistent crappie producer over the years. It did not disappoint. After an hour or so of steady action, I decided that 10 or 12 nice crappies were as many as I wanted to clean. Mabel and I made our way back to the landing, loaded up the boat, and headed for home. Happy campers.

The Beatles were right. There are places I'll remember all my life. Sylvania is one of those places. And it remains the same. Just sayin'.

ENJOY MORE OUTDOORS AND REAL NEWS AT WWW.ONWISCONSINOUTDOORS.COM.

CAPTAIN DAVE DUWE

Hardwater Fishing 101

Easy steps to the ice fishing basics

Your boat is parked, the motor fluids are drained and the batteries are stowed. That's no reason to let winter get you down. Try ice fishing. It's easy, relatively inexpensive and fun, and anybody can do it.



Young Nathan Duwe with fish on!

Dress for the weather. Snow boots, snow pants, a windproof parka and a good layer of undergarments are essential. If you're cold, you're not having fun, and if you're not having fun, you're not really fishing.

Find a lake with plenty of fish. Your local Department of Natural Resources can tell you whether a lake has abundant or adequate stocks of the species you want. A lake contour map with tips and stocking numbers is also a smart buy, since it shows whether you're standing over 10 feet or100 feet of water.

Get an auger No hole means no fish. A five-inch hand auger is plenty for panfish, while northern pike call for an eight-inch model. The bigger the auger, the tougher the drilling. A six-inch is a good average.

Pick up a couple of jig rods Wisconsin allows a combination of three tip-ups and/or jigging rods. A good jig rod has a spinning reel and a spring bobber on the tip. Spool it with two-pound test for bluegills and perch, or four-pound test for crappie. For walleye or larger fish, go with six- or eight-pound test. Plastic poles can make good starters for panfish in shallow water and cost as little as 10 dollars. Stock up on small jigs in various colors and sizes. I like Lindy Fat Boys and Genz Worms in chartreuse and orange.

Buy live bait before you head out It will boost your success. Spikes and wax worms work well for panfish, and fathead minnows are better for crappie and walleye. Keep wax worms at room temperature and spikes in the fridge, and never let either freeze on the ice.

Follow the crowds You'll find more active fish and generally safer ice. If you're having bad luck, wander among the veterans. Ice fishing is more communal than open-water fishing, and many anglers are happy to share advice on bait and colors.

Stay mobile It can be a long walk to a hot spot, but if nothing's biting, move and look for the action. A pull-along sled or buckets make carrying gear easier.

Bring company You don't need a boat, and you don't need to buy ice to keep the beverages cold. Invite a friend, or bring the kids and spouse for a family outing.

Upgrade your electronics once you're hooked Electronics show fish movement and aggressiveness. Your jig appears as a green line, and when an active fish moves in, the line turns red. That's your cue to watch the spring bobber and be ready to set the hook.

Put safety first There is no such thing as "safe ice." To reduce your risk, make sure the ice is at least four to six inches thick before going out, and don't assume ice is safe just because others are on it. Learn the lake's ice patterns, since some lakes develop pressure cracks that stay open all year. Fish with a buddy, tell someone where you're going and when you'll return, and stick to that plan or call if it changes. Finally, carry safety picks and a rope for rescuing yourself or others.

For guide trips, contact Dave Duwe of Dave Duwe's Guide Service at 262-728-8063.

TOM LUBA

Time And Temperature

Factors crucial to November angling success

Come November, the water and air are getting colder by the day. But to successfully catch fish, now's the time to be very cognizant of water temperature and time of day. Those factors play a major role for all species as fall progresses. Bass are my top choice, but walleye and crappie can also be on the menu.

Years ago, we formulated a plan for river smallmouth following them from shallow to deep water as they reach wintering areas. Experience showed the fishing from 11 am to four pm proved best. A slight warming trend during mid-day consistently brought an uptick in activity.

Our November arsenal is mainly jigs, tubes and plastics. And I watch the falling water temp closely. We still catch fish from 45 down to 43 degrees, but nothing beats the high 40s. Drop below 40 and it's tough sledding, especially with artificials. I have used a jig and minnow below 40, and did catch fish on plastics at 38 degrees. But there are times when the bass are even live bait shy. Anchoring deep and fishing very slow with live bait may be the best choice.

Largemouth follow a similar pattern. I would suggest



Fall can produce big bass, both largemouth and smallmouth.

mining deeper lakes as the top choice because they stay warmer longer.

Start on dropoffs near green weeds. If you have fished these waters through the season and know where the bass spawn, move deeper as fall progresses. Their wintering areas are usually fairly close.

Fishing 48-degree water for largemouth works. But I am not suggesting that you hit the water early enough for ice to freeze in your line guides. The water will react favorably to sunlight now also. Sometimes it takes that to wake them up. Even virtually no action early will often escalate to a steady bite in correlation with the warmth of the rising sun.

At this time of year, largemouth can become active on suspending deep water jerkbaits that reach down far enough to motivate strikes on the deeper drop. They will also start hitting slower moving tubes. Forty-eight degrees has been productive for us. But we found that as the water dropped down to 43 over the next few weeks up to Thanksgiving, the bite slowed. Live bait is always an option. But deeper water is tougher to position the boat in.

The time of day and water temperature determine fish activity. But when a roasting turkey gets you thinking Holiday Season, it's about time to store the boat.

And over the winter, make sure you remember just how vital those two elements are.

On The Cover

America's Founding Fathers often used Thanksgiving and Christmas as occasions to call the nation to prayer, gratitude, and moral reflection, blending patriotism with religious conviction.

John Jay's 1776 Christmas Address is a striking example of a founding father's moral and spiritual message during the Revolution.

Jay urged Americans to recognize that "you and all men were created free" and that government exists to preserve that freedom against oppression

Remember that blessings come from "Divine Providence" and that forgetting this source leads to moral decline .

Reject "false suggestions, artful misrepresentations, and insidious promises" from enemies, and to stand firm in virtue and faith .

Jay's speech, delivered at a time of war and uncertainty, combined patriotic duty with a call to moral and spiritual vigilance, noting that "no virtuous people were ever oppressed" and that divine favor was tied to moral conduct.

May the foundation on which the forefathers built our Constitutional Republic be reaffirmed in the decisions of we the people in the days ahead.

A blessed and healthy Thanksgiving and Christmas from On Wisconsin Outdoors' family to yours.



On Wisconsin Outdoors
With the Dick Ellis Experts
HUNTING • FISHING • TRAVEL
EXPLORE WISCONSIN

Published bi-monthly by ON WISCONSIN OUTDOORS, LLC. ©Copyright 2026 ON WISCONSIN OUTDOORS, LLC with all rights reserved. Reproduction or use without permission, of editorial, advertising or graphic content in any manner is prohibited by law. ***NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS:*** All advertising is subject to publisher's approval and acceptance without recourse. Advertisers and their agencies assume responsibility for the condition of the contents of advertising printed, and agree to indemnify the Publishers of *OWO* for any and all claims and expenses arising there from. ***CORPORATE OFFICES LOCATED AT:*** 20240 West Rustic Ridge Drive, New Berlin, WI 53146 ***PHONE:*** 262-352-5579 ***WEBSITE:*** www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com

PUBLISHER | EDITOR:
Dick Ellis
ellis@onwisconsinoutdoors.com

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR:
Stuart Wilke
submissions@onwisconsinoutdoors.com

DESIGN | PRODUCTION:
A. Garrigan
ali@onwisconsinoutdoors.com



Unwrapped on Christmas, Remembered for Generations

TOP PICKS FOR 2026



GOLDEN BOY YOUTH
H004Y – .22 S/L/LR

MINI BOLT YOUTH G2
H005RMG – .22 S/L/LR
H005R – .22 S/L/LR

HOMESTEADER CARBINE
H027-H9G – 9mm

THE AMERICAN EAGLE
H004AE – .22 S/L/LR

HENRY Made In America, Or Not Made At All

Long after the wrapping paper is gone, the lights come down, and the tree hits the curb, a rifle, shotgun, or revolver from Henry Repeating Arms will still be treasured.

Built with pride in Wisconsin by a family-owned company, every Henry is made in America, backed for life, and supported by the #1 customer service team in the industry.

With a wide variety of American-made firearms for the recreational plinker, seasoned hunter, discerning collector, or the next generation just getting started, there's a Henry for everyone on your list.

This Christmas, choose a gift they'll remember forever. **Put a Henry under the tree.**



ORDER YOUR FREE 96-PAGE CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE!

Scan or Visit HenryUSA.com

PHIL SCHWEIK

Downsizing For Muskies

Understanding your environment

During the autumn season, when water temperatures decline, the majority of anglers operate under the belief that larger baits become necessary for musky fishing. They deploy large, sluggish, gliding jerkbaits and gliders, along with substantial crankbaits and rubber lures that are worked at a deliberate, hypnotic retrieval speed. Although this methodology has proven effective and has demonstrated success for many years in late-season musky fishing, I employ an entirely different approach when pursuing muskies in the fall.

Once water temperatures descend into the mid-to-upper 30-degree Fahrenheit range, I transition to utilizing 1/8-to 1/4-ounce jigs tipped with four- to six-inch sucker minnows. My equipment consists of a 6'8" to 7'2" medium-light spinning rod fitted with 10-pound monofilament line and no leader. My hypothesis centers on the physiological reality that when water temperatures reach the 30-degree range, musky metabolism significantly decelerates, rendering them considerably lethargic. A musky will not expend energy beyond what is necessary to obtain sustenance, and they certainly will not pursue large suckers or artificial baits that demand greater energy expenditure than the nutritional value they would receive from consuming their prey.

To achieve success with this technique, methodically and deliberately work areas where muskies are known to inhabit, presenting a weighted jig tipped with a 4-to 6-inch sucker minnow directly in front of them. This presentation proves nearly irresistible to muskies when the offering is placed so close and with so little effort needed to feed. The fish expends minimal energy pursuing their meal and obtains the nutrition necessary to survive another day. Utilizing this methodology throughout my fishing career, I have successfully landed numerous muskies, including several exceptionally large fish.

The most advantageous aspect of this approach is the heightened excitement generated by employing light line and spinning equipment. I assure you that when you hook a four-foot musky with only spinning gear and 10-pound test line separating you from that fish, you will experience the fight of a lifetime!



Ryan Shorle with a nice musky.

Phil Schweik Hooksetters Guide Service Phone 715-693-5843 Web: www.hooksetters.biz

JOHN FAUCHER

The November Magic of New London

Willing walleyes and the whitetail rut

About the time most everyone has the boat winterized and put away for the season on the upper stretches of the Wolf River, walleye action gets hot. In over 30 years of keeping records, my calendar is always marked up on the week of November 11, Veterans Day. Two words dominate the squares of that week, "Walleyes" and "Rut".

It was my dad's favorite time of year. The whitetail rut season is in full November swing, leaves are fallen and the boat landings are empty. It's hard to choose between an empty tree stand and an idle flat bottom boat here in New London come mid-November. There were times we did both. Bagged a nice buck by morning and caught our limits of walleye by late afternoon.

"Well, enjoy it while it lasts," my dad would always say on days like that. Or, "I can't believe nobody is out here," he'd say with a wide grin on his face and a condensation drip off the end of his nose.

The secret to late-fall walleye success on the Wolf River isn't complicated, but it requires patience and the right presentation.



A young Drake Muskevitsch shows off a mid-November Wolf River walleye taken on a jig and minnow.

As water temperatures drop into the upper 30s and low 40s, walleyes migrate into deeper river bends and wintering holes where the current slows down. They are looking for an easy meal, meaning a vertical presentation right along the bottom is key.

Ditch the fast retrieves and stick to a lightweight lead-head jig tipped with a fathead or emerald shiner. Drop your bait directly beneath the boat, keep your line vertical, and lift the jig just an inch or two off the riverbed with slow, subtle hops. When you feel that slight dead-weight tick on the line, set the hook.

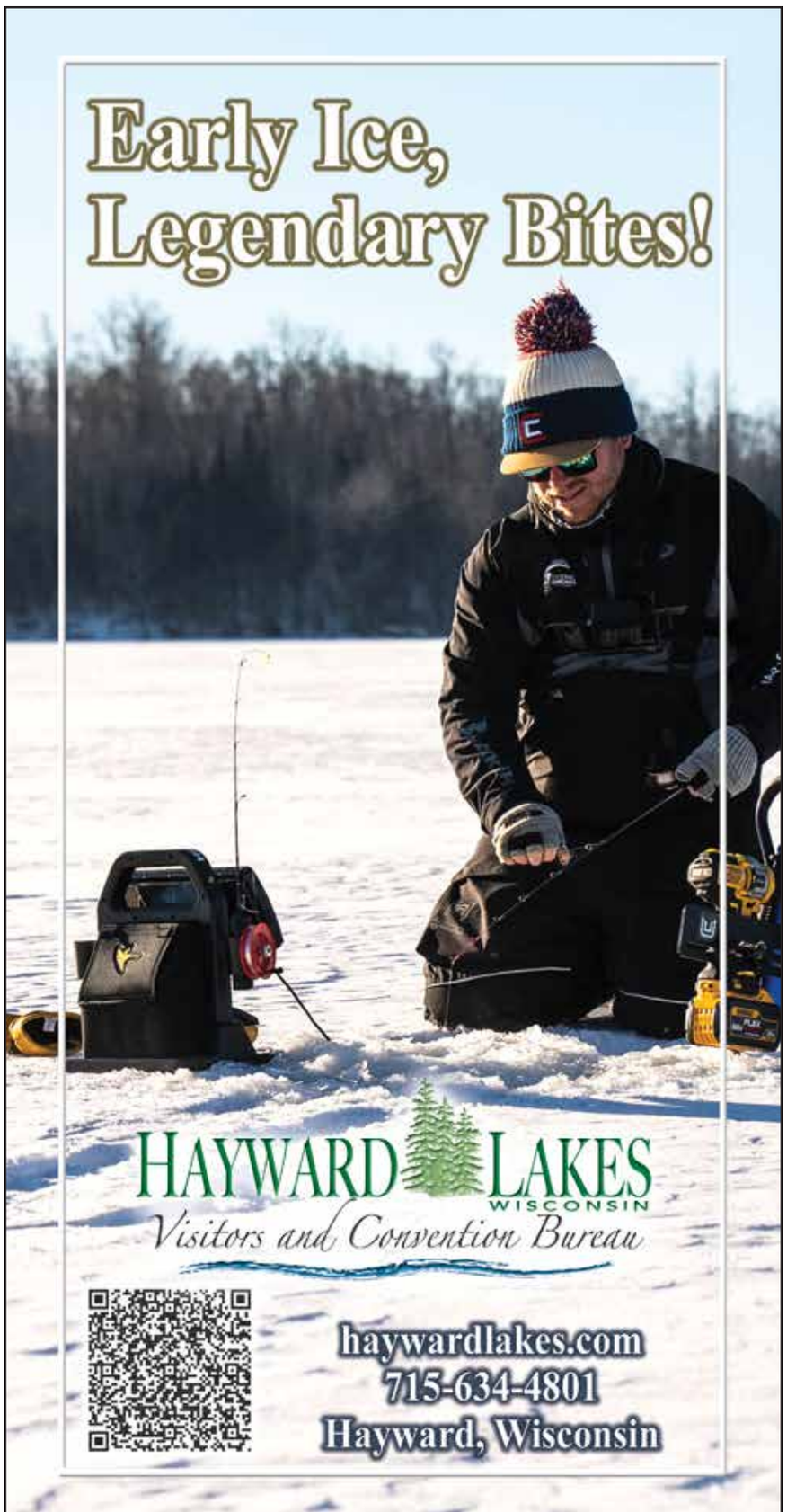
And don't forget to keep a towel handy for those cold hands.



Author John Faucher displays a limit of Wolf River walleyes caught during an unexpected November snowstorm on Veteran's Day. Ann Faucher photo.

Contact Johnny's Little Shop of Bait, 1205 W. Wolf River Drive, New London at 920-982-4802. Find them on Facebook at Johnny's Little Shop of Bait.


Dave's Turf and Marine
1 DAY SERVICE
Over 60 Years of Service
HIGHWAY 16 EAST & EASTGATE DRIVE • WATERTOWN • 920-261-6802 DAVESTURF.NET
PRINCECRAFT
MERCURY
PORTA-DOCK
PRINCECRAFT
MERCURY



Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | HAYWARD LAKES

Things That Make Early Ice Extra Nice



Not all Wisconsinites get excited when winter rolls back around, but hardwater anglers know that early ice can be one of the most productive times to get out fishing. I can't go any further without the obligatory safety message. Early ice has potential to be some of the most dangerous ice. Anyone heading out on the water should wait long enough for ice to fully develop and thicken, and even then, check local conditions and bring safety equipment. But once you can safely venture out, you can enjoy a time of year with some of the highest fish activity.

Early in winter, light is still able to penetrate through the ice, which keeps weed beds green and lush. Those become a magnet for baitfish, panfish, and the predators that chase them. Your favorite weed beds from early summer should be one of your first stops during the early ice season. And anglers shouldn't be afraid to go shallow early in the winter, too. Big pike and walleye are happy cruising shallow bays during this period. Hayward area lakes like Nelson, Lac Courte Oreilles, and Round can be good bets for both species.

To catch them, you may have to be a little clever with your setup. Fish can easily detect people walking above them over shallow water when the ice is clear. Set your tip-ups and then move off a way, ideally onto shore, to wait for that first flag of the season. If you get on a good pike bite, don't be afraid to keep going back to the well. Research has shown that pike can be very nomadic in winter, often traveling several miles a day, crisscrossing through the same areas that hold prey. That means if you find a spot they like, there will always be new pike cruising in. Panfish will often be spending time in the weeds, but bigger ones typically won't be ultra-shallow. Start your search in the five to 10 foot depth range targeting pockets and edges of weeds. Anglers in the Hayward area can find healthy populations of perch in Grindstone and Chetac lakes, while crappie are running big in Lac Courte Oreilles, Round, Sand, the Chippewa Flowage, and Sissabagama. Bluegill can be found throughout most lakes in the area, with good size coming from the Chippewa Flowage, Chetac, and Sissabagama.

Early ice won't last long, so make the most of it once conditions allow safe travel. Whether you're setting tip-ups in a shallow bay for a cruising pike, working the edges of a weed bed for walleye, or dropping down to five to 10 feet for panfish, the Hayward area's lakes offer no shortage of options this time of year. Get out, be patient with the fish and the ice both, and you may find some of your best action of the whole season waiting just below that first solid freeze.

By Max Wolter, DNR Fisheries Biologist


Best Time to Buy!
FACTORY DEALS
ON REMAINING 2026 MODELS!
DONAHUE
SUPER SPORTS
Wisconsin's Powersports Headquarters!
6821 Highway 54 East
Wisconsin Rapids, WI
(715) 424-1762
DonahueSuperSports.com
BOTTOM LINE PRICING.
NO HIDDEN FEES. PERIOD.
© 2026 Bombardier Recreational Products Inc. (BRP). All rights reserved. ®, TM and the BRP logo are trademarks of BRP or its affiliates. Products in the United States (U.S.) are distributed by BRP US Inc. Always ride responsibly and safely.
can-am

Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | KENOSHA

10 Reasons to Visit Kenosha Before The End of 2026

There's still plenty of time to make memories in Kenosha before the calendar turns to a new year. From fall colors and outdoor adventures to holiday shopping, festive events and cozy dining, Kenosha offers endless reasons to plan a day trip, overnight stay or weekend getaway. Here are 10 reasons to visit Kenosha before 2026 comes to a close.

1. Experience the Fall Colors

Kenosha's parks, lakefront and trails are beautiful in autumn. Take a scenic walk, bike ride or drive and enjoy the changing colors along Lake Michigan and throughout Kenosha County.

2. Explore Kenosha's Museums

Cooler weather is the perfect reminder to explore Kenosha's museums. Discover fascinating stories at the Kenosha History Center, Dinosaur Discovery Museum, Kenosha Public Museum, Civil War Museum, and Pritzker Military Museum & Library.



3. Get Creative

Whether you take a turn on a pottery wheel at Lemon Street Gallery, take a cooking class at The Teaching Kitchen, or sip and paint at Pinot's Palette – cooler months are a great time to be indoors learning some new skills.

4. Shoppers Paradise

Get a jump-start on holiday shopping by exploring locally owned boutiques, specialty shops, bookstores, gift stores and the Pleasant Prairie Premium Outlet Mall. From foodie themed gift baskets at Tenuta's Delicatessen and specialty gifts at Coopers Uptown, to great deals and top brands at the outlet mall, you'll love a shopping weekend in Kenosha.

5. Find Something Delicious

From classic Wisconsin supper clubs and iconic diners to authentic international cuisine, Kenosha's dining scene offers something for every appetite. Make your visit a culinary adventure by trying a new restaurant, bakery, coffee shop or tavern.

6. Take a Ride on The Electric Streetcars

Hop aboard Kenosha's historic electric streetcars for a unique way to experience the city. The streetcars offer a memorable ride along the lakefront and through downtown. Watch for the decorated cars closer to the holidays.

7. Get Outdoors

Autumn hikes, scenic bike rides, and a round of disc golf are all a great way to enjoy the outdoors. Snowshoeing, ice skating, sledding and skiing are also part of winter fun in Wisconsin. Head out to the many parks in Kenosha County, Wilmot Mountain, and even an ice rink downtown to enjoy crisp air and a little exercise this season.

8. Celebrate The Holidays

As the holidays approach, Kenosha comes alive with festive events, decorations, seasonal shopping and opportunities to celebrate with family and friends. Be sure to check out things like Lightin' Up and the City of Kenosha Christmas Tree Lighting, the Kenosha County Tree Lighting, Snow Daze and more!

9. Sports – But Indoors

Get your golf game in, indoors. Check out the golf simulators at Tavern on Sixth and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



KENOSHA, *FROM PAGE 10*

Brat Stop for year-round practice. Hold My Beer offers indoor axe throwing lanes with the coolest accessories to throw. Action Territory boasts laser tag, bumper cars, and games indoors at the arcade. D's Barn is home to pool tables, retro arcade games, axe throwing lanes and more. You can even climb a rock wall at the Kenosha YMCA.

10. Make it a Getaway

Why squeeze everything into a day? With comfortable accommodations, great dining and plenty to see and do, Kenosha is an easy destination for a relaxing fall or winter getaway. A little escape is exactly what you need this holiday.

Whether you're looking for outdoor adventure, history, shopping, food or holiday fun, Kenosha has plenty waiting for you. Before the year comes to a close, make time to explore why you'll never hear "I'm Bored" in Kenosha. It's worth a visit every season. Learn more at VisitKenosha.com.



HELP WANTED

CNC Machinists
CNC Lathe Operators
Saw Operators

Starting at $25 per Hour
3rd Shift Premium +$3.00 per hour
Monday-Thursday 3rd Shift, 42-Hour Work Week
Weekends Off Starting Friday Night

Call 414-315-2084

Systems Engineering & Automation Corp.
"Custom Engineered Solutions"



LAT 68 backcountry skis

UNLEASH YOUR WINTER ADVENTURES

NO GROOMED TRAILS. NO SPECIAL SKI BOOTS

LAT68.COM

CHOOSE YOUR SKIS AND BINDINGS

FREE SHIPPING WITHIN THE USA

TOM CARPENTER

Feeding Winter Birds

Simple, fun, rewarding, helpful

As autumn becomes winter, many of Wisconsin's songbirds migrate south. But plenty of resident birds stick around to bring us joy on winter days.

Black-capped chickadees, white- and red-breasted nuthatches, northern cardinals, brown creepers, downy and hairy woodpeckers, red-bellied woodpeckers, American goldfinches and tufted titmice lead the backyard bird parade.

We even have a few species that come south into Wisconsin for the winter, most notably the pine siskin and common redpoll.

Right now, before winter really gets going and clasps its grip on the land, is the time to set up a feeding station or two in your yard to attract avian visitors.

Fortunately, you don't need a different strategy to attract each species.

Black oil sunflower is perhaps the best feed of all to offer winter birds. Almost all of the species listed above will heartily dig into a feeder filled with oily and nutritious black oil sunflower seed.

If you wish to keep things simple and offer but one kind of seed, black oil sunflower is it. A fun kind of feeder is the tubular model, with six or eight perches for the birds to land on and reach into the supply to grab a seed. Chickadees will fly away to a tree to crack a seed open. Nuthatches will do the same, or just stash it somewhere in the bark for later.

Everybody loves cardinals, and cardinals love sunflower, but redbirds like a sturdy platform to land on, which makes tray feeders the ticket. The other sunflower eaters will use trays, too.

Some winter birds like their seeds small. Goldfinches, pine siskins and redpolls have short, pointy beaks designed for tiny seeds. Black thistle is the answer here. There are special tube feeders with tiny holes for the birds to grab seeds out of. You can also use mesh "thistle bags," and it is really fun to watch acrobatic birds get their meal from these swinging offerings.

For the woodpeckers and nuthatches, put out a suet feeder. These basket "cages" can hang from a tree limb or porch. Put a block of suet (rendered animal fat, best laced with sunflower seeds) and watch the birds come. Suet is high-protein, high-fat and high-calorie, just what winter birds need.

One of my favorite pastimes is to save and freeze the fat from any deer my sons are lucky enough to get, and stuff that into a suet cage. It does not last long!

Once you start feeding birds and they begin coming regularly (often on sunny mornings and afternoons), the kind thing to do is to keep feeding them. Your feeders will become part of their circuit. They will benefit from a steady supply of food and once you're off the circuit, it may take them awhile to find their way back.

Squirrels can be a problem, it is true. They like seeds, too. One of the best solutions is to set them up with a corn feeder somewhere away from the bird feeders, and let the bushytails have their own place and food.

Feeding winter birds is fun, simple and rewarding. Get in the groove now and start your own feeding station, then watch winter's parade begin.



Red-bellied woodpecker at a home feeding station in winter. (Photo Credit: Pixabay/Perkons.)



"Act natural."

DAVE FIDLIN

Wyalusing State Park

Where the powerful rivers meet

In their own rights, the Mississippi and Wisconsin rivers each are powerful, lengthy bodies of water. Seeing them converge together is a unique phenomenon and possible through overlooks at the Wyalusing State Park.

This 2,628-acre green space, operated under the auspices of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, is situated in the village of Bagley, on the far southwest side of the state.

There are a number of notable natural features in and near the park site. The Mississippi River's signature bluffs, some as high as 500 feet, coupled with the Wisconsin River's large, deep canyon characteristics offers up a set of breathtaking views from lengthy elevations.

Because of its hospitable habitat, Wyalusing State Park has been a popular spot for locating bald eagles gathering near the open water. The spot also is a noted destination late in the calendar year because of the beautiful scenery and late river vistas.

A number of amenities and activities are available within the grounds of Wyalusing State Park.

Hiking especially is a popular activity at the site, with eight dedicated trails having been carved out within the grounds over time, each ranging in length from 0.5 to 3.1 miles. All told, a total of 14 miles of hiking trails are available throughout, ranging from beginner to advanced.

Canoeing is another activity at Wyalusing State Park. A total of six miles of canoe-designated downstream areas have been designated through the backwaters of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

Because of its natural features, a number of bird species flock to Wyalusing State Park. For this reason, bird watching is another popular activity. In addition to the aforementioned bald eagle, popular bird species in the area include Henslow's sparrows, red-tailed hawks, wild turkeys and yellow-throated warblers, among many others.

Camping, fishing, bicycling and picnicking are among some of the other activities possible at Wyalusing State Park. Once the depths of winter set in, cross-country skiing accommodations also will be available through a series of groomed trails.

History lovers also come to Wyalusing State Park because the storied past of the site. Native American burial mounds are prominently displayed on the grounds. This also is Wisconsin's fourth state park, established in 1917 and having gone through several changes and modifications in the past 109 years.



Wyalusing State Park is situated approximately 500 feet above the confluence of the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers. Because of its unique positioning, breathtaking views are possible.

The family of one-time state Sen. Robert Glenn owned the land that today is Wyalusing State Park, and they ultimately sold it to the state of Wisconsin at a time when there was local and statewide interest in having a public greenspace in an area where the Mississippi and Wisconsin rivers come together.

In its earliest years, Wyalusing State Park was a campsite for youth and adults working during the Great Depression as a part of the U.S. Civilian Conservation Corps public works program that was intended to provide income-earning opportunities at a time when jobs were far and few between.

From one generation to the next, the never-ceasing specter of the Mississippi and Wisconsin rivers has brought scores of people to this notable part of the state's natural terrain.

Wyalusing State Park is located at 13081 State Park Lane, in the Grant County community of Bagley. It is open daily from 6 am to 11 pm, year-round.

Forgotten Wisconsin STUART WILKE

America's Greatest Ace Met an Untimely End

America's deadliest flying ace was ironically killed due to concerns about his safety. Richard Bong was born in 1920 in Superior, Wisconsin. His fascination with flight began at an early age. Calvin Coolidge was president during Bong's formative years and the summer of 1928 he vacationed in the Superior area. Coolidge was an avid angler and the area must have been a welcome relief from the D.C's heat and humidity.

Airplanes regularly carried mail to Coolidge's summer residence in Superior. Bong would watch them fly overhead and was inspired to become a pilot. In 1938 he began to take flying lessons from the Civilian Pilot Training Program. In 1941, he joined the U.S. Army Air Forces. He quickly proved his prowess as a pilot and was grounded after he supposedly flew under the Golden Gate Bridge, which he denied. Nevertheless, he remained grounded while the rest of his squadron was sent to England. Bong was eventually sent to the Pacific Theater in July of 1942 where he was assigned to a group piloting the twin-engine P-38 Lightning. He helped them transition from P-40 Warhawks to the P38s.

On December 27, 1942, Bong claimed his first aerial victories, shooting down a Mitsubishi A6M "Zero", and a Nakajima Ki-43 "Oscar" over Buna, during the Battle of Buna-Gona. He subsequently was awarded the Silver Star for his actions.

Bong was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross after he dispatched an incredible four Japanese fighter planes on July 26, 1943, while on a mission over Lea in Papua, New Guinea.

While on leave in the United States during November and December of 1943, Bong met Marjorie Vattendahl at a Superior State Teachers College homecoming event and began dating her. On his return to the Pacific, he had her picture painted on the nose of his plane along with her name. Bong was becoming infamous among Japanese pilots, some of whom would supposedly flee at the sight of Bong's plane's distinctive nose art rather than engage him in combat.

By April 12, 1944, Bong had exceeded World War 1 American ace Eddie Rickenbacker's downing of 26 enemy planes. Bong's total number of victories reached 40 by December 17, 1944. In light of his victories and the fact that he went on many missions he was not required to, Bong was awarded the Medal of Honor. He was presented with the medal by none other than General Douglas MacArthur.

Bong's exploits were closely followed by the American public. He was a popular public figure and a big draw during war bond drives. He was also a tempting target to Japanese fighter pilots looking to make a name for themselves. Bong's capture or death at the hands of the Japanese would be a propaganda nightmare. So, the decision was made to get Bong away from combat and back to the United States where he would theoretically be safe.

Ironically, the Army Air Forces, which had wanted him to be out of harm's way, assigned him to one of the most dangerous occupations in the world - test pilot.

On August 6, 1945, Bong was to take a Lockheed Shooting Star jet on a test flight. Tragedy struck almost immediately. Upon take off, the plane's fuel system failed. Bong either forgot to or could not switch on the auxiliary system. The jet stalled and near simultaneously exploded. Bong was able to eject, but he was too close to the ground for his parachute to fully open and he perished. He was 24 years old. Wisconsin's Bong State Park is named in his honor.

Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | PORT WASHINGTON

The Premier Playground-Port Washington's Cold-Weather Escape

As the freezing northern air sweeps across Lake Michigan, Port Washington's coastline transforms into a premier playground for cold-weather adventurers. Winter reveals a more dramatic side of the coast, where open water meets sculpted shelf ice and lake steam rises off the harbor.

At lakeside Rotary Park, bundled shore anglers cast straight into the harbor's steam with the iconic 1935 art deco breakwater light standing tall in the background. Lake Michigan stays open here through the coldest months, producing world-class winter action for tackle-busting brown trout, elusive lake trout, and steelhead wintering right along the downtown shoreline.

Beyond the harbor wall, outdoor exploration opens up in every direction. At nearby Lion's Den Gorge Nature Preserve, towering 100-foot bluffs overlook miles of blue water framed by dramatic ice formations, creating an unmatched backdrop for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and winter hiking through cedar-lined ravines. For two-wheeled explorers, fat-tire biking takes center stage — pedal the hard-packed Ozaukee Interurban Trail for 30 miles throughout Ozaukee county's picturesque landscapes and quaint communities. Or cruise scenic coastal overlooks or frozen beaches where crisp air and frozen shores dominate the view. Down along the open beaches, adventure-seeking cold-water surfers suited in thick neoprene take advantage of powerful midwinter swells, carving breaks against a frozen shore.



The harbor itself invites quiet morning treks. Stroll along the Harborwalk in the crisp morning air to witness some of the most majestic sunrises anywhere on the Great Lakes. Then walk for miles along Lake Michigan in either direction for unparalleled lake access and stunning views.

After braving the elements, trade your boots for fireside warmth in Port Washington's historic downtown, located just footsteps away. Warm up with handcrafted specialty coffees, scratch-made pastries, rich chowders, and local craft brews. Add to your winter wellness escape by warming up in the UV sauna or hot tub at The Harborview. Stay the night overlooking the marina to watch evening twilight settle across the harbor, then wake up ready to tackle the coast again.



Whether you are carving fresh tracks along bluffs or setting the hook in the harbor steam, Port Washington delivers an unforgettable winter escape.

Port Washington Tourism Council
126 E. Main Street, Port Washington, WI 53074
Phone: (262) 284-0900
Port_tourism@sbcglobal.net
visitportwashington.com





Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | ALGOMA



Discover Algoma Along the Ice Age National Scenic Trail

Wisconsin's Ice Age National Scenic Trail offers hikers an opportunity to explore the state's remarkable natural beauty, and the Algoma Segment delivers a hiking experience unlike any other. Located along the shores of Lake Michigan and the banks of the Ahnapee River, Algoma combines scenic waterfront views, local history, and small-town hospitality into one memorable outdoor adventure.

Approximately 2.6 miles long, the Algoma Segment invites visitors to experience the community at a comfortable pace. Designated an official Ice Age Trail Community in 2024, Algoma has embraced its connection to this statewide recreational treasure, creating new opportunities for visitors to discover the area on foot.

The journey begins near Crescent Beach, where the boardwalk provides beautiful



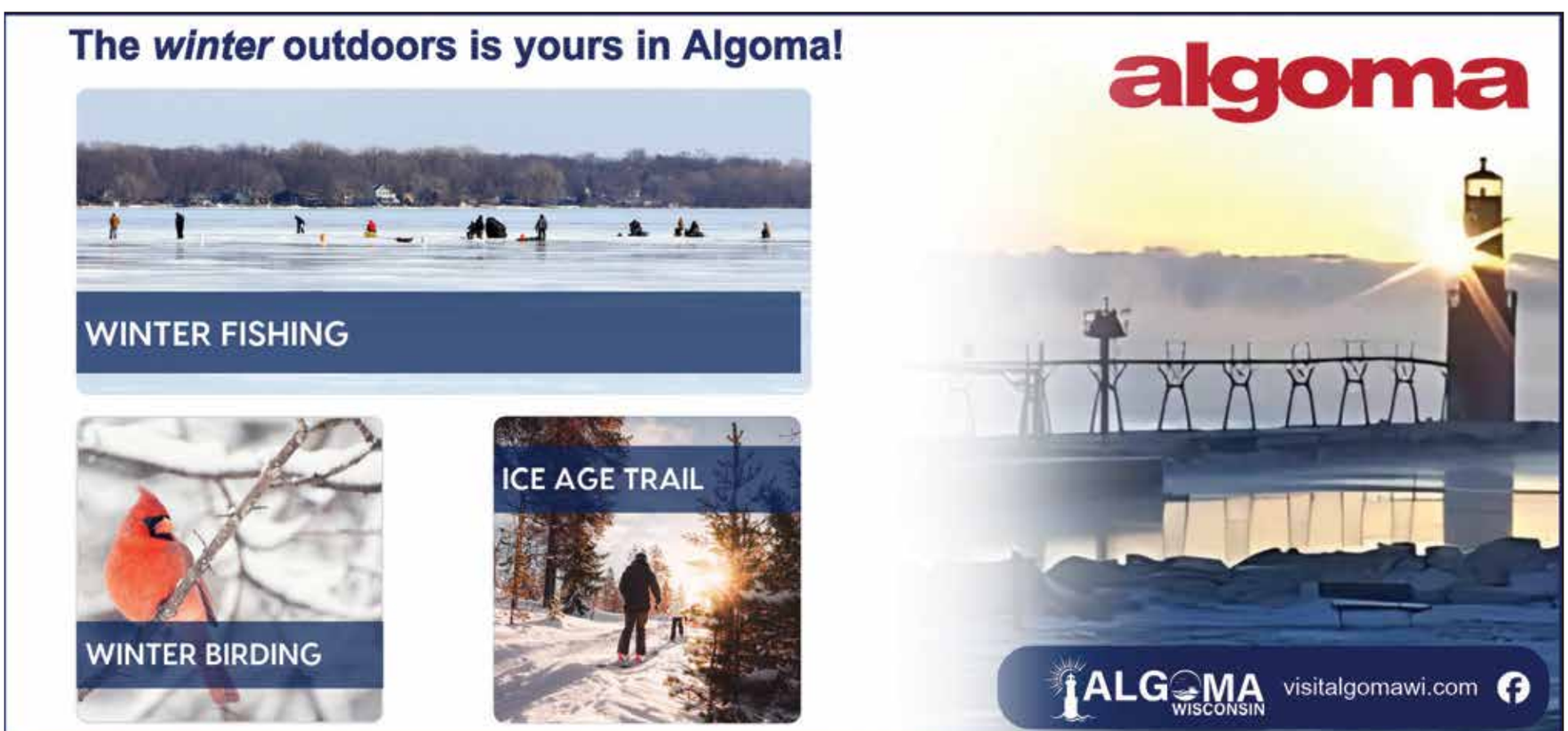
views of Lake Michigan. Depending on the season, hikers may enjoy refreshing lake breezes, colorful sunsets, migrating birds, or the dramatic waves that make Wisconsin's Great Lakes shoreline so distinctive. The beach is an ideal place to pause, take photographs, and appreciate the natural beauty that draws visitors to Algoma year after year.

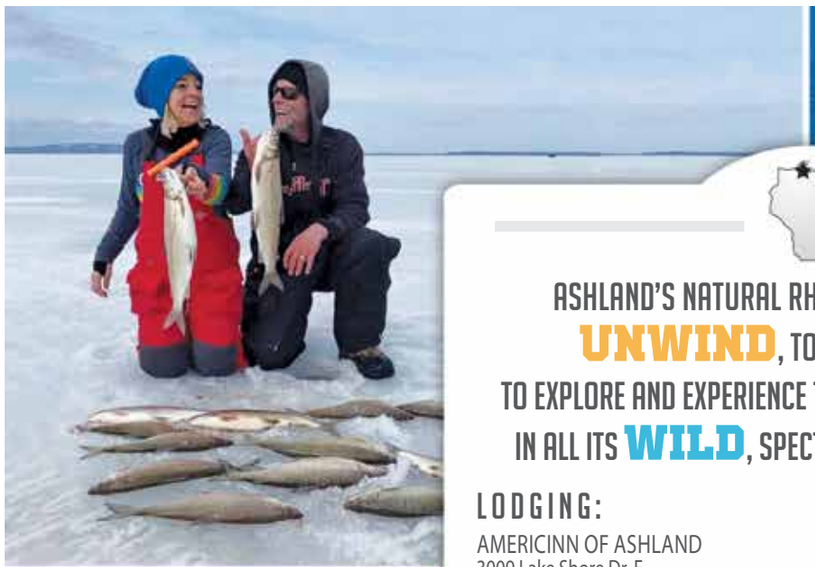
From the lakeshore, the trail continues through historic downtown Algoma, including Steele Street. Here, visitors can experience the community's rich heritage, admire historic architecture, and explore locally owned businesses. The route offers a reminder that the Ice Age Trail is about more than wilderness. It connects people with the communities, culture, and history that make Wisconsin special.

As the trail continues toward the Forestville Segment trailhead northwest of the city, hikers can enjoy a quieter connection with nature. The nearby Ahnapee State Trail follows a former railroad corridor and provides additional opportunities for walking, wildlife observation, and exploring the region's natural landscape.

One of the greatest advantages of the Algoma Segment is its accessibility. At just a few miles long, it offers an enjoyable outing for casual walkers, families, and dedicated Ice Age Trail hikers alike. Visitors can make the experience even more rewarding by pairing their hike with a meal at a local restaurant, a visit to a neighborhood shop, or an afternoon enjoying Algoma's waterfront.

Whether you are passing through on a longer hiking journey or planning a weekend getaway, Algoma offers a welcoming place to slow down and explore. The Ice Age Trail provides the path, but the community makes the experience memorable. In Algoma, outdoor adventure and small-town Wisconsin hospitality come together along one beautiful stretch of the Lake Michigan shoreline.





Find yourself next to the water.

ASHLAND

visitashland.com

ASHLAND'S NATURAL RHYTHM CALLS PEOPLE TO
UNWIND, TO **BREATHE**,
TO EXPLORE AND EXPERIENCE THE PULSE OF THE OUTDOORS
IN ALL ITS **WILD**, SPECTACULAR **BEAUTY**.

LODGING:

AMERICINN OF ASHLAND
3009 Lake Shore Dr. E.
715-682-9950 • www.Americinn.com

ASHLAND SUPER 8 MOTEL
1610 Lake Shore Dr. W.
715-682-9377 • www.super8.com

BEST WESTERN
THE HOTEL CHEQUAMEGON
101 Lake Shore Dr. W.
715-682-9095, 800-780-7234
www.hotelc.com

BLUE WAVE INN
2521 Lake Shore Dr. W.
715-682-3590
www.bluewaveinnashland.com

COBBLESTONE INN & SUITES
818 Main St. W.
715-682-5066 • www.staycobblestone.com

CREST MOTEL
US Hwy. 2 & Sanborn Ave.
715-682-6603

THE INN AT TIMBER COVE
1319 Sanborn Ave.
715-682-9600 • innattimbercove.com

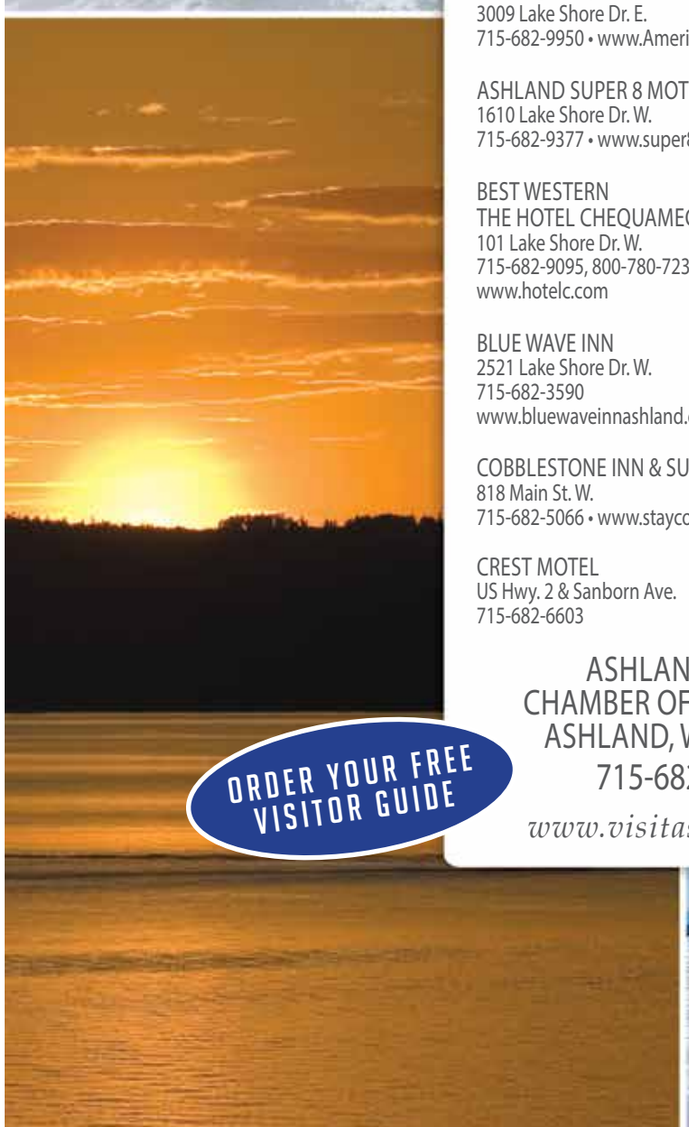
LAKE WALK SUITES
2200 Lake Shore Dr. W.
715-209-5111 • www.lakewalksuites.com

LAKESIDE MOTEL
1706 Lake Shore Dr. W.
715-685-1777
www.lakesidemotelashland.com

QUALITY INN OF ASHLAND
30600 US Hwy. 2
715-682-5235 • www.choicehotels.com

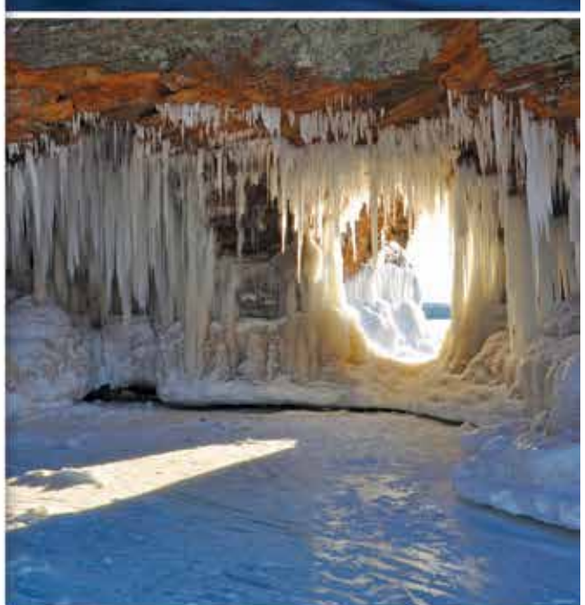
RIVER ROCK INN & BAIT SHOP
1200 Lake Shore Dr. W.
715-682-3232 • www.riverrockinn.net

SECOND WIND COUNTRY INN
30475 Carlson Rd.
715-682-1000
www.secondwindcountryinn.com



ORDER YOUR FREE VISITOR GUIDE

ASHLAND AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
ASHLAND, WISCONSIN
715-682-2500
www.visitashland.com





Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | ASHLAND COUNTY

The Fun Never Stops in Ashland County!

In Ashland County, the changing seasons don't mean slowing down! Every season brings new opportunities for adventure, outdoor recreation, and good old-fashioned fun!

November and December are no exception. Late fall brings hunting, fishing, and plenty of opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors, while the holiday season ushers in a wonderful variety of festive celebrations throughout the county.

From Ashland's annual Garland City Christmas Parade on the first Saturday in December, along with fantastic holiday shopping and retail promotions, to the charming Hometown Holidays celebration in Glidden, there's something for everyone to enjoy!

Whether you're exploring the outdoors, shopping our local businesses, or gathering with family and friends for holiday traditions, Ashland County has so much to offer.

Fall and winter don't slow us down — they simply bring a whole new season of possibilities!

Visit www.travelashlandcounty.com to discover holiday happenings, seasonal activities, and all the reasons to experience Ashland County this November and December!





Your One Stop Truck Center

Come in and see our huge selection of truck accessories.

CAP CONNECTION
The Finest in Truck Caps & Accessories

- Bedliners
- Sport Lids
- Trailer Hitches
- Tool Boxes
- Tonneau Covers
- Running Boards
- Bug Shields
- Much, much more

Whether you're hunting, fishing, camping, or enjoying your favorite outdoor pursuit, The Cap Connection has you covered.



"I know personally what it's like to want to protect your equipment...and your best friend...when heading into the field. We've been taking care of Wisconsin hunters and anglers for more than 30 years. We'll take care of you too and that is my promise. We look forward to seeing you soon."
–Gregg Borneman

262-524-8420

1855 E. Moreland Blvd. Waukesha • Just Off I-94, 1 mile west on Hwy. 18

MasterCard VISA DISCOVER

TheCapConnection.com Store Hours: Mon–Fri 8–6; Sat 8–2

Our 36th Year Serving Southeast Wisconsin

A Fabulous Experience For All Levels

Waukesha Gun Club Winter Leagues

Waukesha Gun Club has announced the return of its annual Winter League, running from November 14, 2026, through February 21, 2027. Featuring both Heated 5-Stand and Trap divisions, the winter league stands as the club's largest league of the year, regularly drawing over 500 competitors.

5-Stand participants shoot 50-target rounds, or 45 targets in 3-Bird, from inside four fully enclosed, heated buildings. The layout features five window stations designed to simulate a variety of field presentations standard in sporting clays.

Designed for flexible participation, shooters can complete their league rounds anytime during standard operating hours without committing to a set schedule, nor needing to be a member to participate. The season will conclude with an offsite awards banquet for all 5-Stand and Trap league participants at the Waukesha Expo Center, featuring dinner, team celebrations, and prize giveaways.

For those hesitant to join without a team, Club Manager Barb Price emphasizes that the facility caters to all experience levels. "You don't have to belong to a league," Price explained. "If you don't belong to one, we'll find you one." Whether a shooter is looking for a team or picking up a shotgun for the very first time, the club provides the instruction and support needed to start.

First-time and novice shooters are invited to participate in a clay target shooting clinic presented in partnership with the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF). Led by experienced instructors, the session features classroom learning and range instruction covering safety and fundamentals. The First Shots program is free to attend, with all firearms, ammunition, and safety equipment fully provided. First Shots is offered once a month. Register by calling Waukesha Gun Club at (262) 547-9785, or email manager@waukeshagunclub.org.

Founded in 1936 by local shotgun enthusiasts, the Waukesha Gun Club has grown from humble beginnings into one of the Midwest's premier clay target shooting facilities. Spanning almost 100 acres, Waukesha Gun Club now hosts a full suite of disciplines, including Trap, Skeet, Sporting Clays, FITASC, Super Sporting Clays, and climate-controlled 5-Stand. The club draws thousands of recreational and competitive shooters annually while supporting youth shooting programs and regional tournaments. Today, it stands as a cornerstone of southeastern Wisconsin's outdoor shotgun sports heritage.

Designed to make clay target sports accessible to the community, an annual family membership costs just $35, which includes two adults and minor children living in the same household. Seniors aged 65 and older can join for an annual rate of $25. Those looking for a lifetime membership can purchase one for $500.



Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | NORTHWEST WISCONSIN

Freedom is Waiting

The air is crisp, the canopy has cleared, and Northwest Wisconsin is calling your name this November and December.

While hunting is at an all-time high for both bow and gun enthusiasts, the late-season magic doesn't end there. Anglers are quietly uncovering treasures on inland waters and the legendary big lake, while the trail systems remain wide open. Whether you prefer the horsepower of an ATV or UTV, or the quiet rhythm of hiking, mountain biking, and e-biking, freedom is waiting.

From Ashland County to Chippewa County, your next great outdoor story starts here. Plan your escape today at northwestwisconsin.com.



WE HAVE OUR WINNERS!

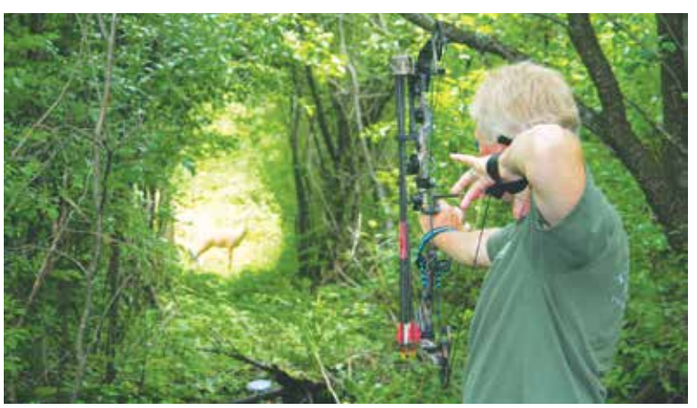
Raffle winners of the $25,000 SPRING SPORTSMAN'S GIVEAWAY have been notified personally.



Spring raffle prizes included:

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







AND WE'RE NOT DONE YET!

TO ENTER THE FALL SPORTSMAN'S GIVEAWAY OFFERED BY THIS PAGE SPONSOR AND AS A BONUS RECEIVE EVERY OWO ISSUE DELIVERED AS A PDF TO YOUR INBOX

CONNECT WITH:

FreeOWO@OnWisconsinOutdoors.com

DICK ELLIS

Beating The Bear Odds

Preparation, work pays double for Foss, Erdody



Preparing six bait sites over 26 miles of Zone A in Wisconsin's northern forest throughout the summer ended with perfect shots on two bears approaching 400 pounds on the first two days of the season for Mike Foss and Jarrod Erdody in September.

Late in the afternoon Wednesday, September 9th, the opening day of the 2026 Wisconsin bear season Jarrod Erdody let Mike Foss know via text that he had just arrowed a big bear. Foss dropped from his own stand to help in the recovery. Both hunters and good friends had been baiting six stands for months over 26 miles of Zone A near Lake Superior.

"I knew I couldn't sit another two hours without helping track," said Foss, a former guide who had led literally hunters of hunter to bears but had never filled a Wisconsin tag himself. "An hour later, we reviewed video footage of the hit and knew the arrow was placed perfectly."

The bear was dead within 30 seconds of the shot and had fallen in a ravine. Wolves, a major problem on all six stands during baiting, were on the carcass almost immediately and made quick work of the boar although the vast majority of the meat was salvaged. In the black, the wolves remained close and made their dissatisfaction clear that Erdody and Foss were claiming their kill.

Even ravaged by the wolves and skinned, quartered and deboned, Erdody' boar weighed in on the scales later at 380 pounds. The stage was set for day two, and Foss climbed to his stand by 2 p.m. hoping for an encounter with a very big, lone sow that had periodically come to bait during the preseason.

"I'm in their environment, their backyard, their home," Foss said. "To single out and outsmart a mature black bear is what I'm after. I knew which bear I wanted; it was that or nothing at all."

At 6 p.m. Foss said a prayer of thanks for simply being there. By 7 p.m., he heard the cautious approach of a bear that circled wide to his left. There was no wind that would enable her to pick out the danger.

"She appeared at the bait like a ghost," Foss said. "I drew my bow and settled the pin, but had to wait until she moved her right front foot forward to open the bullseye better." Preparation for months and another well-placed arrow was rewarded with another very large bear expiring quickly 15 feet behind the hunter's stand. An old, intelligent Bayfield County sow weighed in at 398 pounds.

"Jarrod and I targeted two mature black bears that had eluded many hunters for many years," Foss said. "Rarely does a plan like this come together, especially in two days. I have always loved and appreciate bears and still get emotional reminiscing about my one and only Wisconsin bear hunt. A memory that I will cherish forever."

BILL THORNLEY

The Wisconsin Deer Hunt

Voices, memories and expectations on the winds

Out in the remote Northwestern Wisconsin hills an elderly deer hunter checks his favorite stand. Memories of past hunts flood over him as he walks, with visions of bucks missed and bucks taken, of old friends and relatives hunted with, and of those no longer around to share the camaraderie of the hunt.

He recalls childhood days when he hunted the same hills with his father. It amazes him that "Dad" has been gone for nearly 15 years already. On the wind he can still hear his father's voice. He smiles.

The old hunter continues his pre-season scouting walk. His back soon gets a bit sore, and his legs don't carry him as easily as they once did. In his mind he is still 22-years old and can walk all day. In reality, his 70-years old body tires.

September blows in on a hot breeze, knows the old hunter, but by October and



into November snowflakes dance in the air. Mother Nature is in transition. Sometimes she can be angry, harsh as a biting winter wind. At other times she is gentle, bathing her landscape in soothing golden sunshine.

On this morning, thick fog hangs over the rivers and ponds where the water is warmer than the air. The sun rises like a ball of fire. In a grassy field to the north a small flock of wild turkeys wanders into the open. Under a tree a squirrel munches on a black walnut. Deer walk through the frosty grass, and a young black bear fattens up on dried berries for the coming winter.

A white-tail buck rises from his bed on the ridge, his back covered in frost. As he shakes himself the frost explodes into multi-colored crystals dancing on the first rays of the morning sun, and his hot breath lifts into the air in puffy white clouds as he moves cautiously into the shadows of the tamarack swamp, avoiding the old hunter he smelled some time ago.

October is Mother Nature's finest hour, and she paints the landscape with a golden brush as the maple leaves turn red, orange, and yellow. With a cold breath, she can coat the morning landscape with thick frost.

A smile crosses the old hunter's face. He loves this time of year.

Soon, knows the hunter, the colors will fade. But that is another season and another



story. It is a story best told by a crackling fire with a hot mug of apple cider and a slice of homemade pumpkin pie. It is a story of a faithful old dog lying beside a warm fireplace, dreaming of days fetching downed ducks.

The old hunter has been through it all before, this change of northern seasons. And he wants to enjoy every minute.

The elderly man leaves the woods satisfied that "his spot" is still as good as ever. Fresh tracks and a few new rubs bring him confidence. God willing, he knows, he'll be back.

As he looks around this place he almost considers sacred, he finds himself in awe of his surroundings. Mother Nature, he realizes, is quite a lady.

BOB'S BEAR BAIT

The Work Between Bear Seasons

When Wisconsin's bear season comes to a close, it can be tempting to pack away the gear and forget about bear hunting until it is time to head back into the woods. But for dedicated bear hunters, the off-season is an opportunity to learn from the season behind them and become a better hunter for the next one.

With many hunters waiting years between harvest permits, the time between seasons is valuable. Whether you harvested a bear this year or are still building preference points, there are ways to make that time count.

Learn From This Season One of the best things a bear hunter can do after the season is take time to look back. If you ran trail cameras, review the photos and videos while the details are still fresh. Look for patterns in when bears visited, how frequently they returned and which locations showed the most activity.

Pay attention to the direction bears travel when approaching and leaving a bait site. Are they consistently coming from the same direction? Are multiple bears using the area, or does it appear to be the same bear making repeated visits? These details can offer clues about nearby travel routes and how bears are using the surrounding area.

Timing is another detail worth tracking. Compare your trail-camera timestamps with historical weather records for those specific days. Did bears show up earlier on cooler evenings or change their patterns when temperatures climbed? Did rain or a change in wind direction seem to coincide with different visit times? Temperature, wind and precipitation can all influence bear activity, so looking at the weather alongside your camera data may help you recognize patterns and make better decisions about bait-site placement and hunting times in the future.

It is also worth looking at the bigger picture. If a site received little activity, consider whether other locations in the area showed signs of bear movement. A quiet camera does not automatically mean a poor location, but it can be a reason to reassess your setup and gather more information before the next season.

Keep notes on what worked, what did not and what you would change next time. Save useful trail-camera photos along with dates, locations, weather conditions and observations so you can refer back to them when planning your next hunt. When several years might pass before your next tag, having those details recorded is far more useful than relying on memory alone.

Do Not Forget Your Preference Point While you are reflecting on the season, do not overlook one important deadline. Wisconsin bear hunters who want to build toward a future hunting opportunity should make sure their 2027 application or preference-point purchase is taken care of by December 10, 2026.

It is an easy deadline to overlook during the holiday rush, so take care of it early and enjoy the rest of the season with one less thing on your to-do list.

Thank You for Another Great Year All of us at Bob's Bear Bait want to thank our customers for your continued support. From our family to yours, we wish you a happy holiday season filled with family, friends and great memories.

Congratulations to everyone who filled a tag this year, and good luck to those looking ahead to future seasons! To explore our bait, scents and locations, visit bobsbearbait.com. Follow us on Facebook for the latest news and sales.

Bob's Bear Bait, your one-stop shop for all your baiting needs!



REACH HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PRINT AND ONLINE READERS EACH ISSUE WHEN YOU ADVERTISE WITH OWO. TO RECEIVE YOUR ADVERTISING KIT, CONNECT WITH LORI@ONWISCONSINOUTDOORS.COM.

BOB'S Bear Bait
FREE SHIPPING ON SCENTS!
16 years serving Wisconsin hunters
Quality Bear Bait
TOTES PRICES AVAILABLE
★ 3000 Apostolic Drive, Appleton, WI
★ 336 US Hwy 45, Birnamwood, WI
★ 4069 Volkman Rd, Phelps, WI
★ 201 N. Tomahawk Ave, Tomahawk, WI
★ Ishpeming, Michigan
★ Crystal Falls, upper Michigan
Ishpeming
Crystal Falls
Phelps
Tomahawk
Wausau
Appleton
Supply varies upon location.
DELIVERY NATIONWIDE
NOW 6 LOCATIONS TO BETTER SERVE HUNTERS
Famous Bear Mix, Cereal, Nutty Trail Mix, Cookies, Frosting, Peanut Butter
Over 100 different baits to choose from, as well as Quality Scents.
WATCH OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR UPDATES
Visit BobsBearBait.com
Call 920-419-1238 or Email sales@bobsbearbait.com

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

DICK ELLIS

Nine Wolves Euthanized

Removal prompted by verified threats to human health, safety

On Wisconsin Outdoors (OWO) on October 6 requested specific details from the Wisconsin DNR after nine wolves were recently euthanized in northern Wisconsin by USDA Wildlife Services after verified threats to human health and safety.

"The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources can confirm that nine wolves were recently trapped and humanely euthanized by USDA Wildlife Services in northern Price County," Molly Meister, Public Affairs Section Manager, DNR Office of Communications responded via email. "The DNR made the decision to pursue euthanasia in response to a series of verified threats to human health and safety in rural northern Price County that were first reported in July 2025 and continued through August 2026."

Initially, numerous non-lethal measures recommended by the DNR and adopted by local residents including auditory harassment, hazing, increased lighting, removal of potential attractants, and increased human activity failed to resolve the threat. "Reports demonstrated a pattern of behavioral escalation, with the wolves showing less response to hazing and more acclimation to human presence," Meister wrote.

Meister stated that lethal removal actions were taken in late August and early September 2026 under authorities given to the DNR for wolf management activities through the Endangered Species Act in cooperative agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The DNR consulted with the USFWS throughout the process.

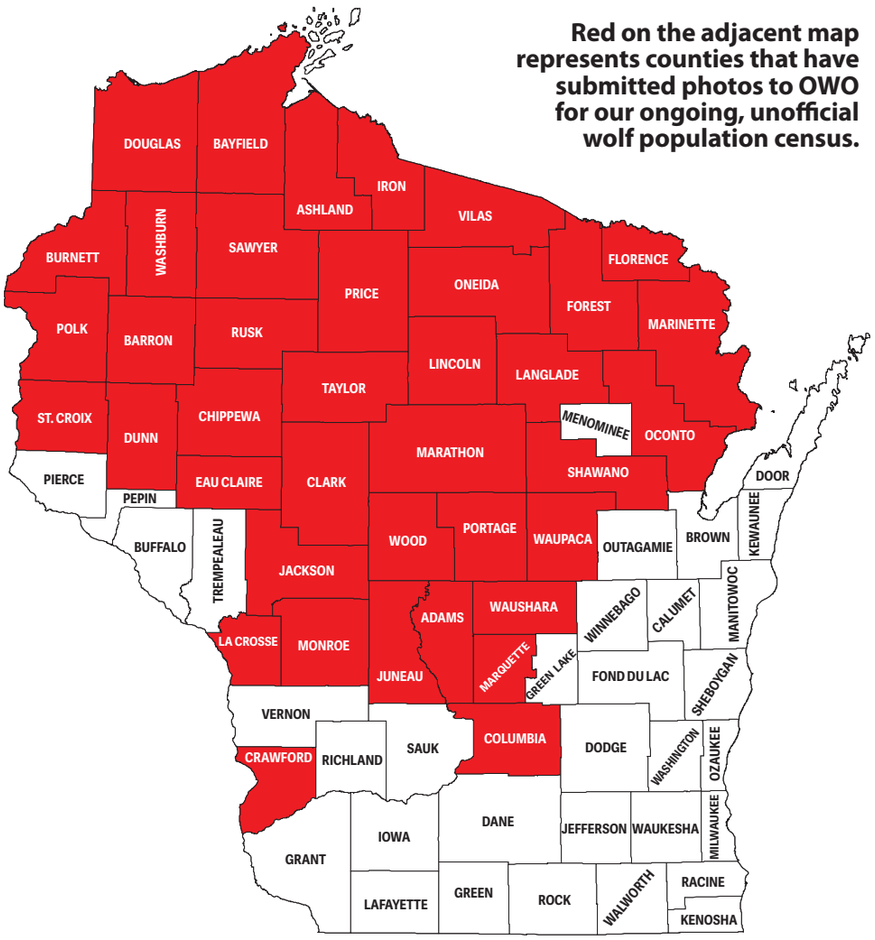


10-21-2026 Bayfield County 5 Wolves

The DNR also worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to transfer the remains of the euthanized wolves to the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) so the wolves may be appropriately and respectfully handled consistent with cultural beliefs of Ojibwe and other tribes.

According to media reports, after meeting with tribal officials upset with the euthanasia, Wisconsin DNR Secretary Karen Hyun issued a statement of apology October 7 stating, "I am deeply sorry for the DNR's lack of community with tribal nations and GLIFWC in this process. I am committed to improving our collaboration and communication with the tribes around wolf conflicts going forward."

On Wisconsin Outdoors publishers strongly disagree with that statement. Hyun's apology provides ongoing evidence that new leadership is imperative at the DNR. We believe that state tribes representing less than one half of one percent of Wisconsin's population have not been forthright in their significant input specific to wolf management in Wisconsin over many years. The tribes ongoing protection of a skyrocketing wolf population has directly led to decimated deer numbers in northern Wisconsin and the destruction of the hunting culture and heritage of the vast majority of non-tribal state residents.



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

In addition, the DNR has consistently and unlawfully demonstrated preferential treatment to the tribal minority in wolf management issues over the vast majority of Wisconsin residents. To receive at no cost OWO's "Wolf Tracks" PDF of our ongoing investigative reporting of DNR and tribal mismanagement of wolves, connect with wolves@onwisconsinoutdoors.com.



8-27-2026 Outagamie County 1 Bobcat



8-14-2026 Adams County 8 Wolves



8-14-2026 Adams County 7 Wolves



10-5-2026 Clark County 5 Wolves

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

Wisconsin Livestock Depredation Reports



7-5-2026 Adams County 8 Wolves

The verified wolf Livestock Depredation Updates below were received by **On Wisconsin Outdoors** from August 26 through October 26, 2026 from **DNR/USDA-Wildlife Services**, and since state depredation reports published in the **OWO** September-October issue. These newly published attacks include **26 incidents in 11 Wisconsin Counties that targeted seven different species** of livestock or domestic animals including calves, cows, horses, hunting dogs, pet dogs, donkey, livestock guard donkey and cattle.

On Aug. 26, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves killed a cow in the town of Springfield, Jackson County. Auditory/visual deterrents and temporary fencing have been recommended as a non-lethal abatement measure.

On Sept. 2, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves injured a calf in the town of Amnicon, Douglas County. Auditory deterrents have been deployed as a non-lethal abatement measure.

On Sept. 5, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves killed a calf in the town of Jump River, Taylor County. Non-lethal abatement measures are being discussed with the livestock owner.

On Sept. 11, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves injured a calf in the town of Winter, Sawyer County. Livestock are being relocated as an abatement measure.

On Sept. 11, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves killed a calf in the town of Jump River, Taylor County. Auditory deterrents are being deployed as a non-lethal abatement measure.

On Sept. 12, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves killed a calf in the town of Cloverland, Douglas County. Nighttime range riding is being implemented as a non-lethal abatement measure.

On Sept. 14, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves killed a guard donkey in the town of Cloverland, Douglas County. Nighttime range riding is being implemented as a non-lethal abatement measure.

On Sept. 17, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves killed a calf in the town of Lindina, Juneau County.

On Sept. 17, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves killed a hunting dog and injured another in the town of Georgetown, Price County.

On Sept. 18, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves killed a hunting dog in the town of Lincoln, Burnett County.

CORRECTION: On Sept. 18, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves killed two hunting dogs in the town of Minocqua, Oneida County.

On Sept. 22, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves killed a hunting dog in the town of Emery, Price County.

On Oct. 9, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves killed a cow in the town of Cloverland, Douglas County. Fence repairs and nighttime range riding are being implemented as non-lethal abatement measures.

On Oct. 9, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves harassed cattle in the town of Cloverland, Douglas County. Nighttime range riding is being implemented as a non-lethal abatement measure.

On Oct. 9, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves harassed cattle and horses in the town of Cloverland, Douglas County. Auditory deterrents and nighttime range riding are being implemented as non-lethal abatement measures.

On Oct. 12, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves killed a hunting dog in the town of Winter, Sawyer County.

On Oct. 12, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified a wolf threatened two pet dogs at a property in the town of Argonne, Forest County. Auditory and visual deterrents have been recommended as non-lethal abatement measures.

On Oct. 13, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves killed a calf in the town of Cloverland, Douglas County. Fence repairs and nighttime range riding are being implemented as non-lethal abatement measures

On Oct. 16, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves killed a horse in the town of Sterling, Polk County. Auditory deterrents are being implemented as a non-lethal abatement measure.

On Oct. 16, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves killed a calf in the town of Prentice, Price County. Night penning and livestock relocation are being implemented as non-lethal abatement measures.

On Sept. 24, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves killed a livestock guard donkey in the town of Cloverland, Douglas County. Nighttime range riding is being implemented as a non-lethal abatement measure.

On Sept. 25, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves injured a hunting dog in the town of Port Wing, Bayfield County.

On Sept. 25, 2026, USDA-Wildlife Services verified wolves killed a hunting dog in the town of Solon Springs, Douglas County.

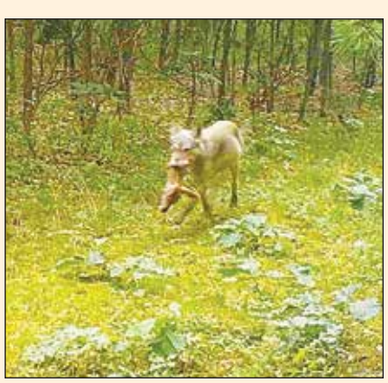
WOLF TRACKS

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.



8-26-2026 Adams County 1 Wolf (With Deer Head)

SKB SHOTGUNS
Presents Firearms Info from Ron Stresing

RON STRESING

Passing The Torch

Inviting the next generation into the shooting sports



"Ron Stresing has been a valuable and knowledgeable writer for OWO over many years, and an advocate for safely introducing young people to hunting and the shooting sports. Ron's retirement is our loss." Dick Ellis

Before my younger son ever pulled a trigger, we went over gun safety basics. We also watched lots of instructional videos teaching the concept of wing shooting. Aiming where the moving target will be, not where it was. It all came together at the local trap range. During off peak hours, some ranges will give beginners a trap house all to themselves for mentored training. McMiller Shooting Center also has an area with trap machines you can use for training.

I'm glad to see high school trapshooting is as popular as ever! Nationwide there are over 1,700 teams with over 50,000 competitors. Here in Wisconsin, we have over 100 high school teams competing with over 1,700 student athletes. In the last 25 years, there has not been a single reported accident. Students can letter in the sport and seniors can apply for a $1000 college scholarship. Students first take a course and earn a SAFE certificate showing they know the rules of proper firearm handling and safety. Shooting trap, skeet or sporting clays is not just fun; they are sports you can pursue into your senior years. At age 72, my reflexes have slowed considerably, but I can still swing, lead the target, pull the trigger, follow through, and miss.

I'm also a big supporter of special youth hunts. The youth hunts and hunts mentored by responsible adults are introducing thousands of youngsters into the hunting and shooting sports communities. That said, parents need to judge their child's level of maturity. The law recognizes age eight as the "age of reason" where children know the difference between right and wrong. They also need to understand the concept of death and the grievous bodily harm that the misuse of a deadly weapon can cause.

My older son Josh had zero interest in shooting or outdoor sports. My younger son Adam could not wait to take Hunter Safety class and apply for goose permits. Both boys were shown the actual damage that a gunshot wound will do to an animal and had an understanding of that reality. After passing Hunter Safety, I handed Adam a brand new 20-gauge H&R single shot shotgun. After a few trips to the clays range, he harvested Canada geese, doves and pigeons his first year in the field.

For a starting-out firearm for either hunting or clays, I highly recommend a 20-gauge shotgun. Recoil is minimal and ammunition is relatively cheap and widely available. Twenty-gauge loads are made in lead, steel, bismuth and tungsten. Ammunition is available to take anything from a Canada goose to a woodcock. Twenty-gauge slugs will drop a whitetail as cleanly as a high-powered rifle with proper shot placement. I would avoid starting out with a .410 bore shotgun; 410 bore shells are very limited in loadings, shot-size, and obscenely expensive.

Sad to say, this will be my last column. I've thoroughly enjoyed writing for On Wisconsin Outdoors over the years. They were great folks to work for. Thanks. Ron Stresing


SKB TARGET SHOTGUNS
HTR
HIGH TRAP RIB
CENTURY III
SKB
R5400 T
SKB

Merry Christmas!

Receive every issue of *On Wisconsin Outdoors* right in your inbox.







And it's still free!

You send us your email to freeowo@onwisconsinoutdoors.com. We send you every issue of *On Wisconsin Outdoors* hot off the press. A simple, no-cost gift for you, a family member, or friend. Your email will not be shared.

We still distribute 600,000 print copies of *On Wisconsin Outdoors* annually throughout Wisconsin, including from 650 Kwik Trip stores. Simply stop in and pick up a copy.

All issues of *OWO* are still posted on our homepage at www.onwisconsinoutdoors.com for the online reader.

OWO hunts, fishes and travels Wisconsin. See you in the field. See you on the water. See you on the road.

Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | CABLE AREA

Winter Comes Alive in The Cable Area of Northern Wisconsin

When winter blankets the Northwoods in fresh snow, Wisconsin's Cable Area becomes a getaway where adventure and relaxation go hand in hand. Surrounded by the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, this welcoming destination offers miles of scenic trails, charming places to stay, and the simple pleasure of slowing down and enjoying the season.

For snowmobilers, the Cable Area is a gateway to an unforgettable ride. The Namakagon Trail Groomers and the Drummond Dirt & Sno-Jacks maintain more than 200 miles of trails around Cable, Drummond Grand View, and Lake Namakagon, connecting riders to Bayfield County's extensive network of more than 600 miles of groomed routes. Cruise through snow-covered forests, discover beautiful winter scenery, and stop along the way for a hearty meal or a warm welcome at a local establishment. Whether you're planning a day trip or a full weekend on the sleds, there's plenty of territory to explore.

Cross-country skiing is just as much a part of the Cable Area's winter identity. As the home of the legendary American Birkebeiner, the area draws Nordic enthusiasts from near and far. Ski the famous Birkie Trail, explore the beautifully maintained North End trails, or visit Mt. Telemark Village, where snowmaking helps extend opportunities to get out on skis. With options for classic and skate skiing, visitors can enjoy everything from a peaceful glide through the pines to a challenging workout on rolling terrain.

Not every winter adventure requires speed. Strap on snowshoes for a quiet walk among frosted trees, try winter fat biking, or spend an afternoon ice fishing. Wildlife tracks, crisp forest air, and sparkling snowy landscapes provide the perfect backdrop for making memories with family and friends.

After a day outdoors, the Cable Area's hospitality is a big part of the experience. Settle into a cozy cabin, lakeside resort, or welcoming lodge. Browse local shops, share stories over dinner, and enjoy an evening away from crowded schedules and city noise. It's the kind of place where an action-packed morning can turn into a wonderfully unhurried night.

Whether your ideal escape involves the hum of a snowmobile, the rhythm of skis on fresh tracks, or simply a peaceful view of the winter woods, the Cable Area has a getaway waiting for you. Here, you can fill your days with adventure while leaving time to reconnect with what matters most. Visit Cable4fun.com for more information.



Shooting a Monster Hole in Cancer

Wern Valley Sportsmen's Club reaches $1 million goal

Wern Wern Valley Sportsmen's Club's Great Cancer Shootout has reached a major milestone, raising more than $1 million in cumulative donations over the past 23 years to support cancer research, patient care, and local cancer initiatives.

Inspired by club owner Steve Williams' own successful battle with cancer, what began in 2004 as a small sporting clays fundraiser has grown into one of Wern Valley's most anticipated annual events and a longstanding tradition of giving back to the community. The Shootout has continued to grow each year, featuring four sporting clays courses, raffles, auctions, live music, food, and fireworks. In 2026, the event drew more than 1,200 shooter entries.

Since its inception, the Great Cancer Shootout has directly supported organizations including the This Time Tomorrow Foundation, ProHealth Care Foundation, and the American Cancer Society, helping fund cancer research, patient services, and programs that provide support to patients and their families.

Wern Valley extends its sincere thanks to every shooter, sponsor, donor, vendor, volunteer, and supporter who has helped make the Great Cancer Shootout possible.



In 23 years, Wern Valley Sportsmen's Great Cancer Shootout has raised more than $1 million toward cancer research, patient care, and local cancer initiatives.



On the line and through corporate and individual donations, sportsmen and women and members of the community have successfully targeted cancer for more than two decades.

Join the Hunt!

WERN VALLEY
HUNTING PRESERVE & SPORTING CLAYS

Wern Valley offers the finest in upland bird hunting and a professional full-time staff dedicated to sportsmen and women. Our nationally recognized sporting clays course and 5-Stand are open to the public. Wern Valley is located just minutes from most of Waukesha County and only a half hour west of Milwaukee, WI. Bring along your family, shooting buddies, or your four-legged companion and see all that Wern Valley has to offer!



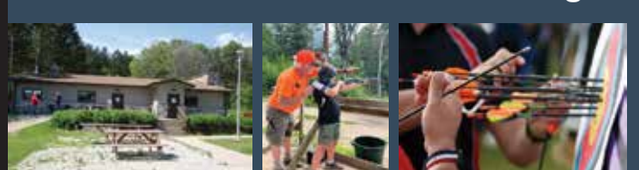
For more information, visit wernvalley.com or call 262-968-2400

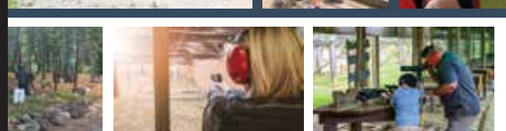
Wisconsin's Largest Outdoor Shooting Range!

McMiller SPORTS CENTER

McMiller Sports Center is the premier outdoor shooting range in Eagle, Wisconsin. McMiller offers something for everyone, featuring rifle & pistol ranges from 25-300 yards, sporting clays, 5-stand, 3D archery, a biathalon range, and more! We draw customers from all across the state and beyond. McMiller provides a safe, fun, and family-friendly atmosphere for shooters of all experience levels.

Now featuring: Heated Pistol Range!





WERN VALLEY
HUNTING PRESERVE & SPORTING CLAYS

For more information, visit mcmillersportscenter.com

Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | WASHBURN COUNTY

Slow Down, And Enjoy a Special Season Change

As autumn settles into winter, Washburn County offers a different kind of outdoor adventure. The crowds have thinned, the landscape has grown quieter, and the forests, lakes and trails invite you to slow down and experience northern Wisconsin at its most peaceful.

Washburn County is home to more than 900 lakes, giving outdoor enthusiasts plenty of opportunities to explore throughout the year. In November and December, anglers can take advantage of late-season fishing, while hunters head into the woods in pursuit of Wisconsin's beloved traditions. The changing landscape creates a beautiful backdrop for anyone looking to spend a day outdoors.

For hikers and nature lovers, the season's crisp air and bare trees offer a new perspective on familiar trails. Head out for a refreshing walk through the woods, take in the final remnants of fall color or simply enjoy the stillness that arrives as winter approaches. With miles of trails throughout the county, there is always another stretch of the northwoods to discover.



As temperatures drop and snow begins to blanket the landscape, Washburn County transforms once again. Winter enthusiasts can look forward to snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and other cold weather adventures when conditions permit. The county's extensive trail systems make it easy to turn a winter getaway into an outdoor escape.

Explore the scenic trails at Hunt Hill Nature Center, take in the quiet beauty of the Namekagon River or discover the natural landscapes surrounding Shell Lake, Spooner, and Minong. These destinations offer memorable ways to experience the Northwoods, whether you're looking for a peaceful walk, a day on the water or a base for a longer winter adventure.

And after a day outside, there is something special about returning to a warm and welcoming place to relax. From locally owned restaurants and shops to comfortable lodging, Washburn County offers plenty of ways to slow down and enjoy the season.

Whether you're coming for the fishing, the trails, the hunting conditions, the snow or simply the chance to reconnect with the outdoors, Washburn County is a destination worth exploring as the seasons change.

For more information on planning your winter adventure, visit washburncounty.org.





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

STEVE ELLIS

Conservation vs Preservation

I spend a lot of time thinking about the way the Wisconsin DNR does its business because, like you, I spend a lot of time, hunting and fishing in our state.

The quality of both has, to my way of thinking, deteriorated considerably over the past 50 years. The DNR mission statement begins with "To protect and enhance our natural resources:" I've been wondering what "protect" means to the DNR, because the deer have been decimated in the northern half of the state by poorly managed wolves, and the walleye fishing has been destroyed in the lakes of the northern half by poorly managed fisheries.

So in thinking about what "protect" means, I got into looking up "conservation" vs "preservation". I always thought they were basically the same thing, but they are actually quite different.

If you ask the internet "Explain hunting conservation vs hunting preservation", you get:

"Hunting conservation refers to the practice where hunters contribute to wildlife management and habitat preservation, ensuring sustainable populations of game species, and protecting ecosystems. In contrast, hunting preservation focuses on maintaining the cultural and recreational aspects of hunting while ensuring that wildlife populations are not threatened, often through regulated practices and ethical hunting standards.".

That still sounds a lot like the same thing, but it goes on to explain that with hunting conservation, the emphasis is to control OVERPOPULATION of a species (say deer), and with hunting preservation, the emphasis is on controlling UNDERPOPULATION of a species (again, say deer).

Hunting preservation also emphasizes maintaining the cultural and recreational aspects of hunting but these are not mentioned with hunting conservation. I didn't look up "fishing conservation vs fishing preservation" but I feel safe in assuming that it's the same as for hunting.

So the food for thought is "when it comes to deer hunting or walleye fishing in the northern half of the state, what does the DNR mean by its mission statement to "protect and enhance our natural resources"?

They haven't protected the deer hunting or the walleye fishing, and they haven't enhanced either population- they are both in serious decline.

CHRIS VAUGHAN, HUNTER NATION

A Need for Change

Your vote is critical to protect your hunting heritage

Licensed hunters do Not Vote

On average, licensed hunters do not vote. This is not a political message, but rather one of reality and concern. Here in Wisconsin, 60% of hunters vote conservative, while the remaining 40% vote liberal. At Hunter Nation, we do not tell you who to vote for. First, register to vote. Then vote your values: God, Family, Country, Constitution and our Outdoor Heritage.

From January through October 2026, Hunter Nation has held or participated in 17 events urging hunters to vote and discuss our efforts toward a federal wolf delisting. Each event was open to the public, and all elected officials were invited to attend.

In Wisconsin, statewide elections are routinely decided by fewer than 20,000 votes.

Where I live in Waukesha County, we have nearly 48,000 low-propensity voters who share our conservative outdoor and Second Amendment values. That alone can win an election. Add in the other 71 counties, and we have an additional 600,000-plus no-, low- and new-propensity voters who share our values.

Following our recent Sportsmen's Rallies in Green Bay and Waukesha, the energy on the ground across Wisconsin is electric. Our message resonates because it reflects the real conversations happening right now in blinds, cabins and hardware stores across the Badger State. Hunters and gun owners are the single most powerful voting bloc in Wisconsin, and when we vote, our way of life is protected.

Federal Wolf Delisting

Hunter Nation is at the forefront of predator management. At the top of our list is a federal wolf delisting that removes judicial review: H.R. 845, the Pet and Livestock Protection Act.

Wolves are fully recovered in the state and need management, not protection. Under the Endangered Species Act, the gray wolf is the single greatest recovery story we have in Wisconsin. The state has a Wolf Management Plan that, even with federal delisting, will struggle to set an accurate harvest quota. Vague adaptive management replaces firm numeric population goals, and a 24-member committee hand-selected by the DNR will decide how many wolves are harvested. Included in that group are three anti-hunting animal-rights groups and three tribal designees, all of whom support a zero harvest. Of the entire 24-person committee, only three members fully support a hunt and a numeric population goal. THREE.

The Wisconsin DNR continues to tell us the state has around 1,200 wolves. The articles, photos and testimonials in this issue of *On Wisconsin Outdoors* alone show we have at least three times that number. Yet our constitutional right to hunt wolves will be placed in the hands of a DNR that drastically undercounts, and are advised by a group whose majority will rely on feelings over facts and reject scientifically proven harvest quota.

I'll ask you this question: Who best represents you?

Vote Your Values

God • Family • Country • Constitution • Outdoor Heritage

Chris Vaughan
Wisconsin State Director – Hunter Nation
Chris@HunterNation.org



Explore Wisconsin

SPOTLIGHT | ST. GERMAIN

Those Magical Holiday Moments



There's something magical about the holidays in St. Germain. Far from crowded malls and generic urban holiday sales, the little town in the forest offers a rare holiday experience. This is a place where you can chat with friendly and knowledgeable shopkeepers, discover unique holiday gifts, take in some spectacular Northwoods scenery, and participate in a lively small-town Christmas event that's like something out of a holiday movie.

The following are some special events that you won't want to miss.

Lighting up St. Germain The heart of the holidays will be in the heart of St. Germain on Nov. 28. From 4 to 6 pm there will be a tree lighting event at the St. Germain Fire Department. Refreshments will be available at the Community Center. It's a timeless event that welcomes all ages. There's a magnificent tree that will dazzle the crowd with light and plenty of hot cocoa and cookies on hand. Santa will be making an appearance – kids will want to bring their wish lists and be sure to stay on Santa's "nice" list!

Admission is free.

Holiday Marketplace On December 5, from 9 am to 3 pm, St. Germain's Community Center will be a bustling and festive place. The Holiday Marketplace is a lively annual tradition that draws a wide range of artists and artisans. There's an amazing selection of special and unique gifts, as well as beautiful holiday and home decor items. This year, decorate your home for the holidays with a touch of St. Germain! There will be 25 vendors on hand and they will be selling everything from fine jewelry and artisan quilted items to tasty baked goods and birdhouses. Enjoy something sweet as you shop – there will be cookies and cocoa to enjoy!

Admission is free.

For more information see the St. Germain Chamber of Commerce web site.

Tree Lighting will be at the St. Germain Fire Department, and refreshments at the Community Center.






SNOWMOBILING IN
NORTHWEST WISCONSIN
IT'S NOT JUST A PASTIME IT'S A WAY OF LIFE
GET YOUR FREE CORRIDOR MAP
TO START PLANNING YOUR VACATION
NORTHWEST WISCONSIN
NWWISCONSIN.COM
FIND US ON FACEBOOK!
Northwest Wisconsin boasts more than 4,500 miles of the most enjoyable riding in the Midwest. Our Scenic corner of Wisconsin is connected by snowmobile trail corridors, allowing for easy access from one county to another. Leave your vehicle behind as you travel from one corner of Northwest Wisconsin to another from the back of your sled. Request your free map today.