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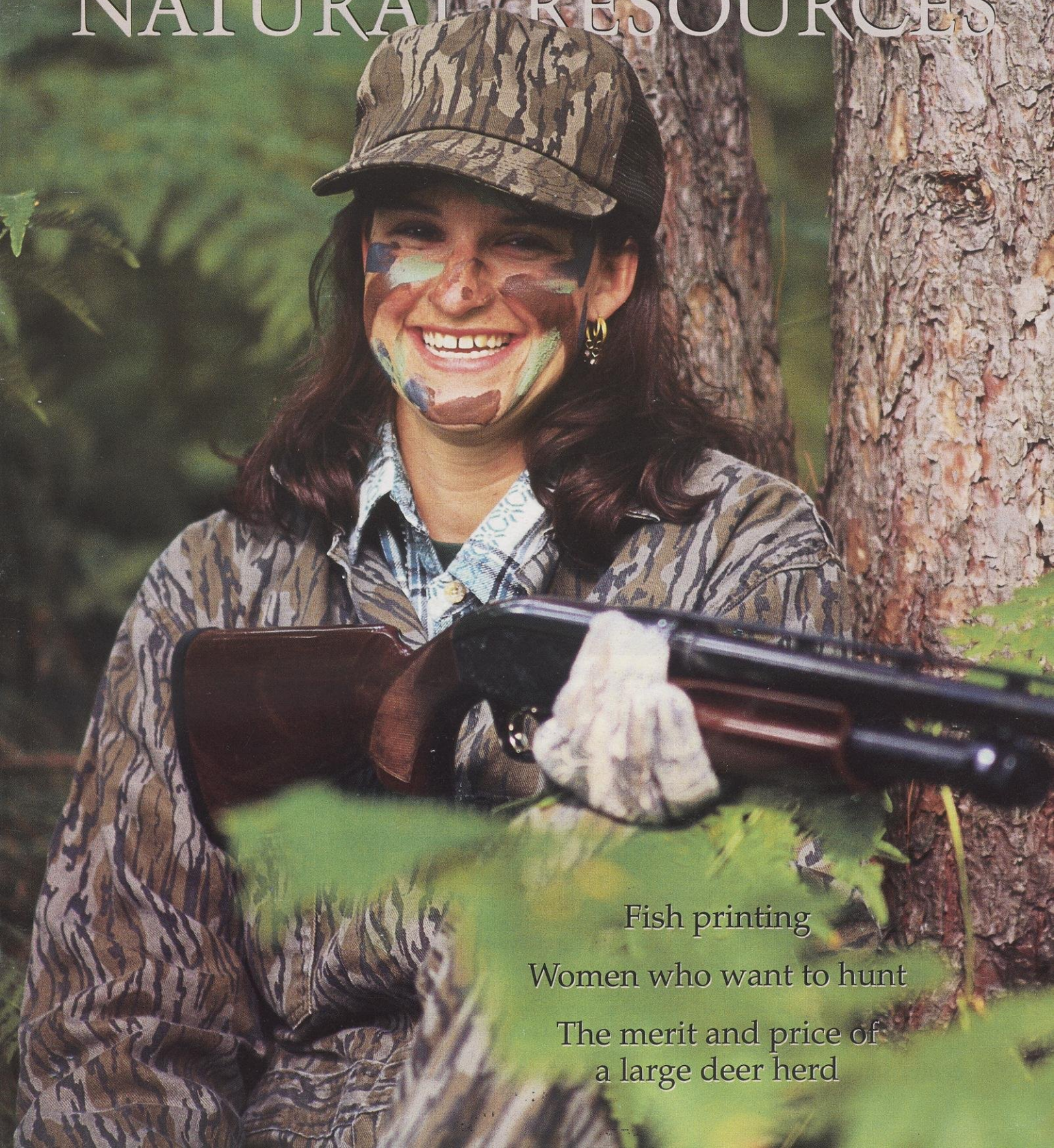
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August 1996 \$3.00

WISCONSIN

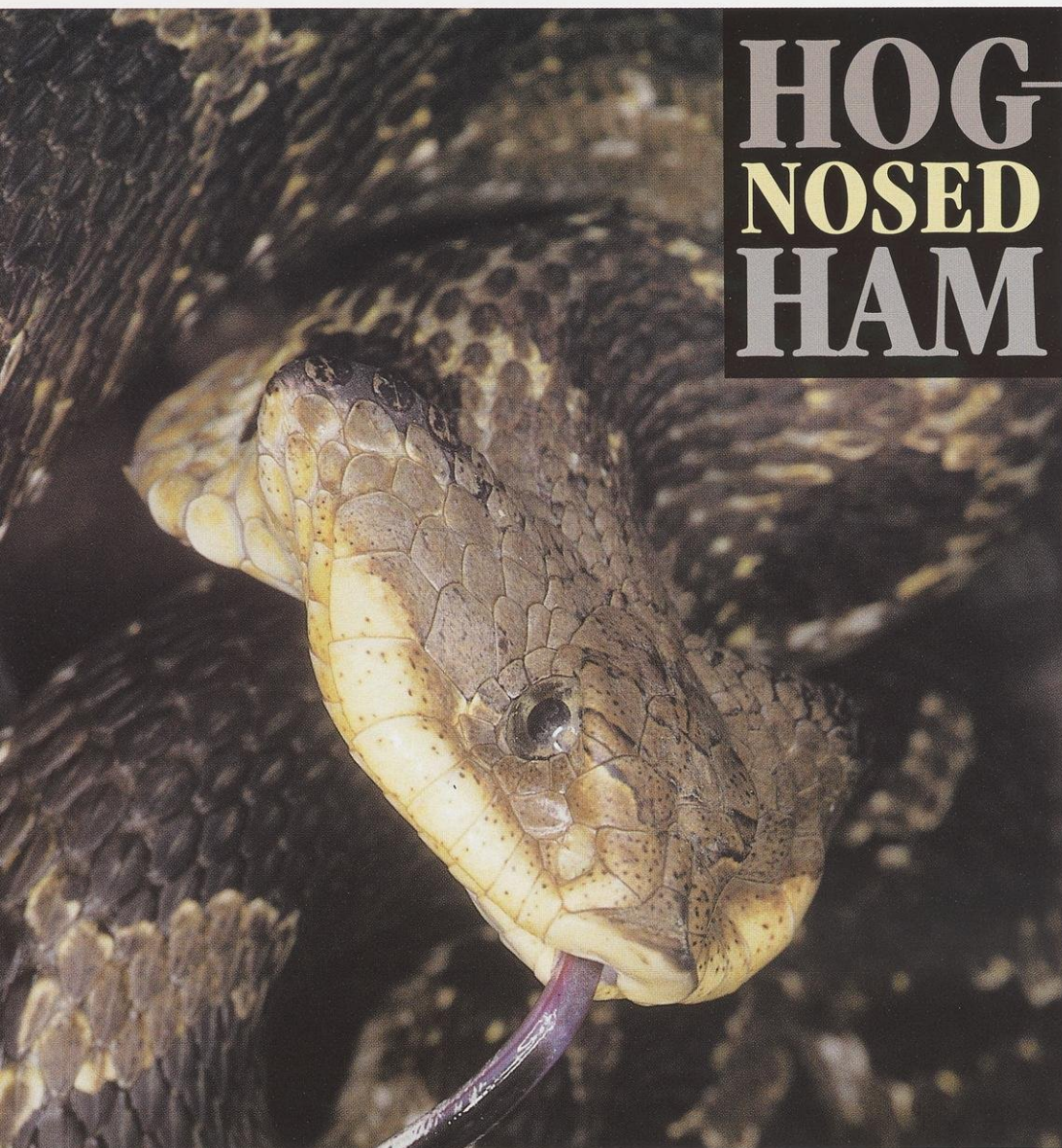
NATURAL RESOURCES



Fish printing

Women who want to hunt

The merit and price of
a large deer herd



HOG NOSED HAM

The hognose's hiss sounds like air leaking from a bike tire. Don't be fooled by its bravado.

Expect an
Oscar-winning
performance
when this
snake takes
center stage.

R. Paul Matty

Years ago, when I was running just to run, I would head down the railroad tracks for a refreshing change from the sterile blacktop. It took plenty of concentration to plant my feet just right on the moving ties: the spaces between them never seemed to quite match my stride. There were rotten ties, and missing one meant there was a good chance of twisting an ankle on the soft, eroded gravel pitted with holes and depressions.

On one warm, sunny morning, I had gone far enough and turned back for the run home. I was concentrating hard on my pace and steps, focusing on the moving ties about 10 feet ahead. I had backtracked barely 30 yards when I saw it dead center on the tie — a fully coiled, ready-to-strike snake. I was *completely* surprised and at full stride. It was now only a step away. I took a BIG leap that I hoped would carry me safely over the impending menace.

I got lucky. Seconds later, I stopped, then turned to see what kind of snake had scared me so. I'm sure I must have startled it on both my outbound run and the return trip.

I had never seen a snake quite like this. It was fully alert, and on the defensive. Parts of its body constantly tensed then relaxed, but most of the body remained coiled and stationary. Its raised head remained eerily fixed in one position. The eyes never wavered from a fixed stare at me. The broad triangular head often associated with poisonous species was hooded by a large, flattened neck complete with black spots on either side. And that noise! Those loud, long, ominous hisses that added to the visual display that screamed *danger, danger, danger!*

All the old jungle movie scenes of poisonous cobras flashed before my eyes. I calmed down a bit, remembered that this was only northeastern Wisconsin, and my breaths came slower and more regularly.

So what was I looking at? I started taking mental notes. The snake appeared about two to three feet long with a girth of two to three inches. It sported a dark brown, almost olive-colored back shadowed by a hint of diamond markings. That hooded, black-spotted neck was attached to a body that kept moving and hissing like a steam-blowing locomotive. I was stumped, and my curiosity demanded a closer look.

I found and grabbed about a six-foot-long stick and slowly approached the snake. I didn't want to hurt it, but I wanted to see it strike from a safe distance to better determine its identity.

The snake's menacing disposition intensified as I neared, but it stayed put. In fact, I never got any response at all until the stick touched its skin.

The reaction wasn't what I expected. The snake acted as if I

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DON BLEGEN

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Editor
David L. Sperling
Associate Editor
Maureen Mecozzi
Circulation Manager
Kathryn A. Kahler
Promotions Manager
Pam Hujanen
Business Manager
Laurel Fisher Steffes
Art Direction
Nancy Warnecke,
Moonlit Ink

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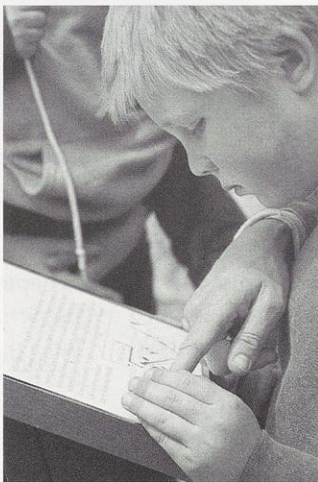
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Diane Schwartz

New signs share new tales on state park nature trails.



JEAN B. MEYER



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Women who want to hunt and fish are helping themselves.

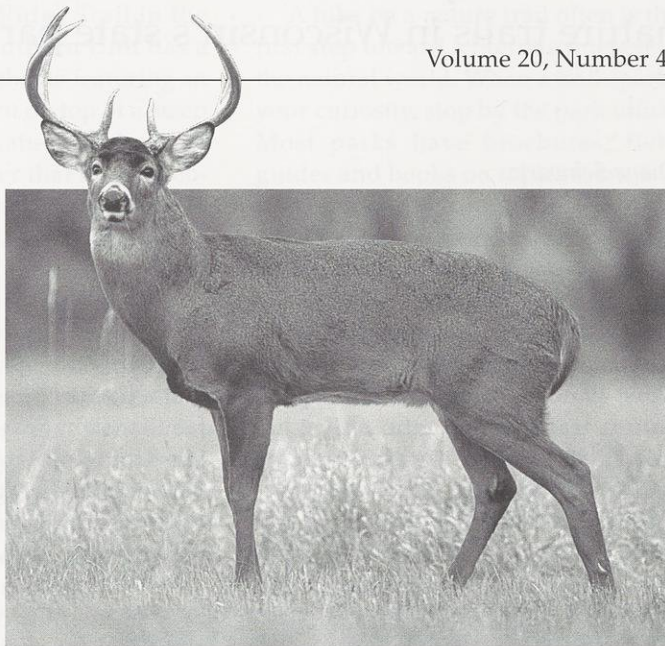
16 Special Insert EXPECT TO BE DAZZLED

A Wisconsin fall travel guide.

FRONT COVER: Learning the right camouflage, gear and location will help a new turkey hunter hit her mark. See our story p.10.

ROBERT QUEEN, Madison, Wis.

BACK COVER: Bottle gentian (*Gentiana andrewsii*) found near Mountain, Wis. AL POWERS, Green Bay, Wis.



HERBERT LANGE

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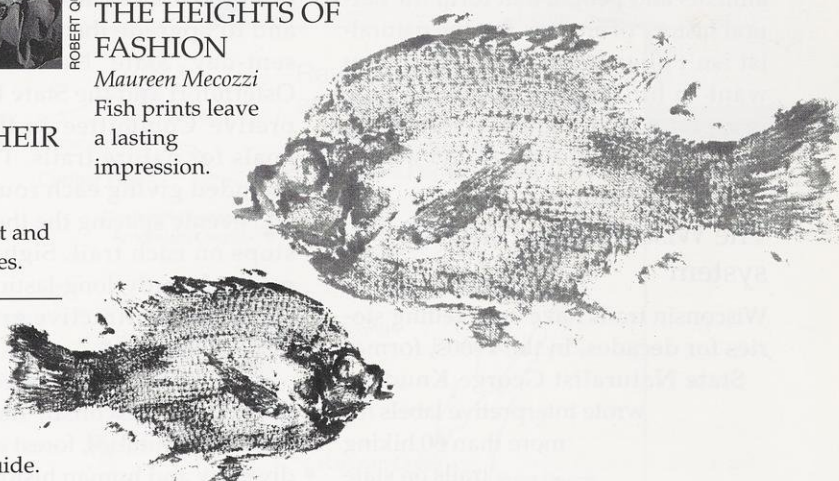
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"The herd" changes our cultural and physical environments.

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Fish prints leave a lasting impression.



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The backyard tent was a summer refuge.

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Talking trails

Listen with your feet on the new nature trails in Wisconsin's state parks.

Diane Schwartz

Nature trails have many stories to share. Animal tracks, browsed twigs, nests and noises all tell who is in the neighborhood as you walk by. Now, 40 newly renovated state park nature trails reveal who and what crossed the same path in years past.

Trails in the north tell of lumberjacks and Ojibwa, of boreal forests and brilliant waterfalls. Trails in the south talk of prairies and oak savanna and hummocky glacial landscapes. Near Lake Michigan, trails ramble on about sand dunes, ancient glacial lakes, and white cedar swamps; to the west, trails speak of lead mining, the Black Hawk War, and ancient marine fossils buried deep in yellow sandstone.

On a hike with a trained naturalist, you'll learn about the geology, plants, animals and people that form the natural history of an area. But the naturalist isn't always available when you want to hit the trail. With the new interpretive trail signposts and labels, you can still enjoy a tale as you walk.

The Wisconsin nature trail system

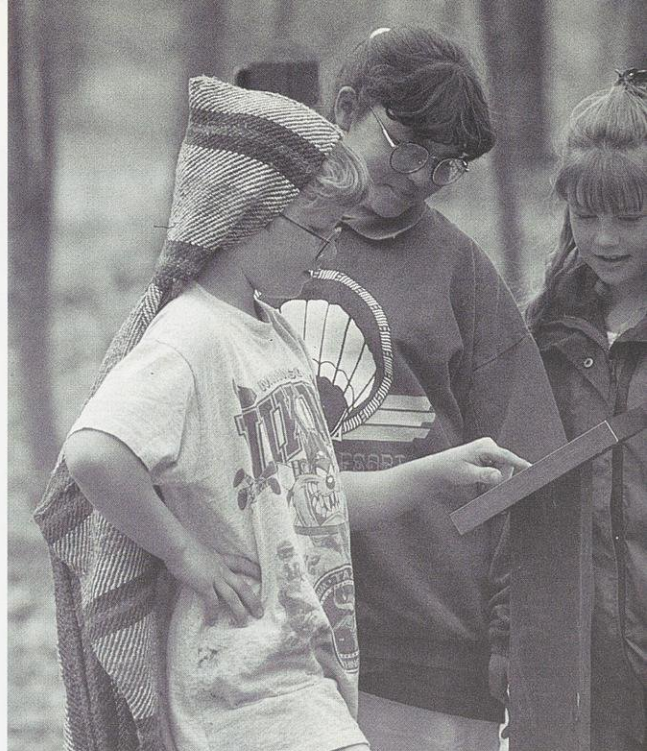
Wisconsin trails have been telling stories for decades. In the 1960s, former State Naturalist George Knudsen wrote interpretive labels for more than 60 hiking trails on state lands.

The trails, marked with familiar signs bearing Knudsen's original drawings and sprightly text, educated countless visitors about Wisconsin's native trees, plants and people.

After 30 years of use, the well-loved paths were showing signs of age. Hikers strained to read the labels and signs faded by sun, snow and rain. Other signposts describing specific plants lost their meaning as the landscape around them changed.

In 1994, Wisconsin State Parks embarked on a statewide overhaul of the nature trail system to reflect changes in the field of interpretation and to upgrade the aging signs. Present-day State Naturalist Laurie Osterndorf and the State Parks Interpretive Committee re-thought the goals for nature trails. Their vision included giving each route a theme, and evenly spacing the the number of stops on each trail. Signs would be made of sturdy, long-lasting materials and feature attractive graphics and illustrations.

The trail themes selected are as diverse as Wisconsin itself. Native plant communities, forest ecology, biodiversity and human history unfold in the signs along the trails. In many cases, the original interpretive signs were simply modified in a new format to make the reader more aware of the theme.



New signs tell new stories.

Now, each stop on each trail forms one "chapter" of a story.

Ready and waiting for you

Nature trails are ready to hike when you are. Trails provide opportunities for day hikers and campers to learn at their own pace and on their own time. Most trails in the system have 10–12 stops along an easy-to-hike half-mile to one-mile route suitable for people of all ages.

People who use wheelchairs will find the Sentinel Ridge Trail at Wyalusing and the Paradise Springs Trail in the Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit perfect for a nature ramble. Trails accessible to people with disabilities have been included in the future development plans for many other parks as well.

State parks have two kinds of self-guided trails: some are labeled with signs, others are numbered with marker posts that correspond to stops listed in a brochure. Trails interpreted with brochures will have a box of pamphlets at the trailhead; pick one up and stop at the numbered posts along the trail to read about a highlighted feature. You're welcome to keep the brochure as a



JEAN B. MEYER

souvenir, or to pass it on to friends and family. Or, you can return the brochure to the box when you're done and leave it for the next hiker.

It wasn't easy constructing attractive trail signs and outdoor exhibits capable of surviving harsh weather, heavy visitor use, and occasional vandalism from humans and critters alike. All labels are sealed tightly between Lexan and aluminum plates. Each label is placed in a rust-proof aluminum frame, bolted to a 4-by-4 post, and sunk deep into the ground. To blend with the natural surroundings, each label has a tan or gray background color. An average trail with 10 labels costs \$1,000 to complete. Brochure trails vary in price, but are less expensive to produce than trails with signposts.

Trails to tweak your curiosity

Interpretive trails strive to pique your interest and help you see everyday things, like oak trees and acorns, in a different way. For example, Shady Oak Trail at Big Foot Beach has a wildlife habitat theme, which points out why oak

trees and acorns are important wildlife food. Stony Ridge Trail in the Kettle Moraine Southern Unit has a glacial topography theme featuring an oak savanna remnant on top of a steep glacial deposit. At Natural Bridge State Park, you'll discover that native people once soaked and dried acorns to make flour for bread and to thicken soups.

Interpretive trails also help you appreciate the people who once walked the land long before the park was established. Jean Brunet Trail at Brunet Island shares the history of fur traders and voyageurs; Stonehaven Trail at Harrington Beach tells about a former limestone quarry and company town that once existed within the present-day park land. Indian Mound Trail at High Cliff circles an outstanding group of panther effigy mounds. Who were the people who built the mounds, and what hap-

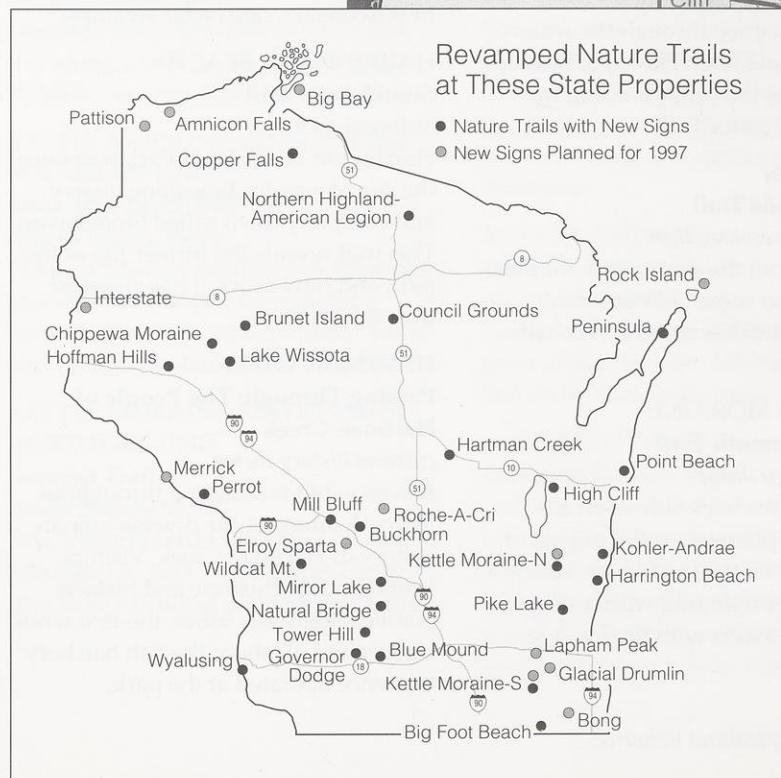
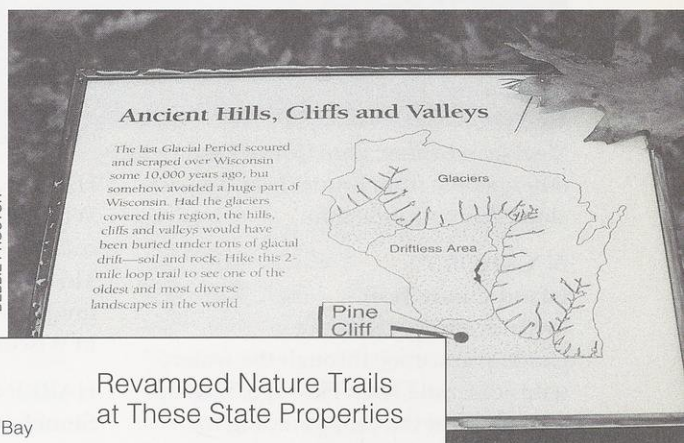
The Pine Cliff Trail at Governor Dodge State Park describes the rugged terrain the glaciers missed.

DEBBIE PROCTOR

pened to them? Illustrations and photographs help you glimpse the past and learn how to read the landscape and the people who walked it.

A hike on a nature trail often is the first step toward a lifetime interest in the natural world. When a trail sparks your curiosity, stop by the park office. Most parks have brochures, field guides and books on topics related to trail themes. Or, ask to speak with the park naturalist who can direct you to a fireside program, guided hike, or the Wisconsin Explorer/Junior Ranger program for kids. Once you and a trail get to talking, it's going to be a long, fruitful conversation. □

DNR Bureau of Parks and Recreation interpretive planner Diane Schwartz worked on the nature trail revision project and wrote many of the new labels.



LINDA POHLOD

Where to find the new trails

Most trails have 10–12 evenly-spaced stops along an easy-to-hike half-mile to one-mile trail. Hilly trails are noted. Wheelchair-accessible trails are marked with an asterisk.

BIG FOOT BEACH

Shady Oak Trail

wildlife habitat theme

Hike this half-mile trail to discover where wildlife live and what they eat.

BLUE MOUND

Flintrock Trail

geology theme

Hike this hilly one-mile trail to find out how you fit into the geologic history of Wisconsin's driftless area.

BONG

Grassland Trail

grassland theme

Grasslands once dominated southern Wisconsin. This three-quarter mile trail interprets the many changes at Bong since European settlement.

BRUNET ISLAND

Jean Brunet Trail

historical theme

Meet Jean Brunet, Ezra Cornell and other people from Brunet Island's past along this half-mile trail.

BUCKHORN

Island Canoe Trail

wetlands ecology theme

Guide your canoe through the watery wilds of Castle Rock Flowage. Pick up a brochure at the canoe landing for this 1.8-mile canoe trail.

BUCKHORN

Central Sands Trail

central sands ecology theme

Find out about the plants and animals that thrive on some of Wisconsin's sandiest and driest soils on this half-mile trail.

CHIPPEWA MORaine

Wooly Mammoth Trail

glacial geology theme

Hike down the back side of an ice-walled lake plain to see the impact of stagnant ice on the landscape. This is a three-quarter mile trail with a steep climb; it intersects with the Ice Age Trail.

COPPER FALLS

Three Bridges Trail

geology theme

Lava-formed rocks, steep gorges, roaring waterfalls and tumbling cascades await you on a hilly 1.5-mile trail, where you'll learn about the geology of this scenic Lake Superior park.

COUNCIL GROUNDS

Big Pines Trail

northwoods ecology theme

The half-mile trail interprets northwoods ecology, plants and animals.

GOVERNOR DODGE

Pine Cliff Trail

driftless area ecology theme

Pine Cliff Trail features ancient hills, cliffs and valleys found only in the unglaciated part of southwestern Wisconsin. Hike the two-mile loop trail to discover one of the oldest and most diverse landscapes in the world.

HARRINGTON BEACH

White Cedar Swamp

cedar swamp ecology

This 0.8-mile loop trail interprets the unique plants and animals found only in Wisconsin's rare cedar swamps.

HARRINGTON BEACH

Stonehaven Trail

historical theme

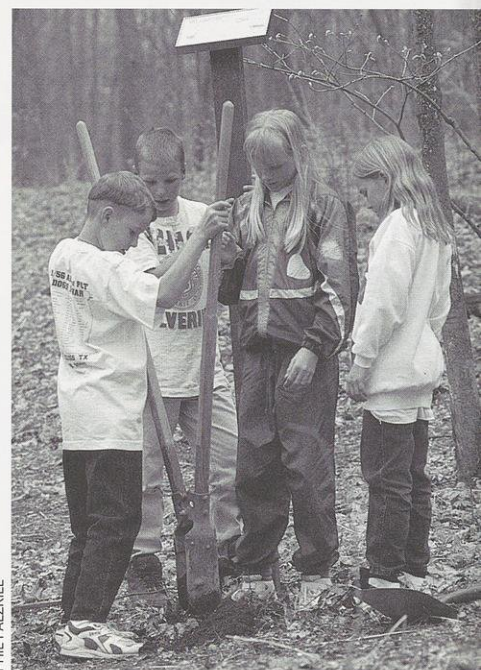
Harrington Beach State Park was once the site of a major limestone quarry and company town called Stonehaven. This trail reveals the former life of the park and how much it has changed over the years.

HARTMAN CREEK

Passing Through: The People of Hartman Creek

cultural history theme

Eleven exhibits scattered throughout the park interpret the diverse human history of Hartman Creek. Visitors learn about prehistoric and historic Native Americans tribes, the first white settlers and all about the fish hatchery that once operated at the park.



PHIL PALZKILL

New, sturdy signs are anchored deep.

HIGH CLIFF

Effigy Mound

mound-builders theme

Native people have lived at High Cliff for thousands of years. This one-mile trail interprets a series of Indian mounds and provides information on how the mound-builders lived off the land.

HOFFMAN HILLS

Tree Tales Trail

tree stories and identification theme

Every tree has a story. Learn unusual stories about the trees at Hoffman Hills on this two-mile trail.

KETTLE MORaine STATE FOREST-SOUTHERN UNIT

Stony Ridge Trail

glacial geology theme

Walk in the shadow of the glaciers as you discover glacial features such as kettles, erratics and cobblestone paths on this half-mile trail.

KETTLE MORaine STATE FOREST-SOUTHERN UNIT

Paradise Springs Trail*

cultural history theme

An old spring house, trout pond and other ruins indicate the former life of Paradise Springs. Hike this half-mile trail to discover history.



PHIL PALZKILL

Volunteers installed signs for the Woodland Shopping Trail at Perrot State Park, which describes plants and animals that Native Americans used for food, clothing and shelter.

KETTLE MORAINÉ STATE FOREST-SOUTHERN UNIT

Scuppernong Springs Trail

cultural history theme

Hike along an old railroad bed and discover the cultural history of scuppernong springs, including marl plant ruins, an old railroad grade and more. 1.5 miles.

KETTLE MORAINÉ STATE FOREST-SOUTHERN UNIT

Bald Bluff Trail

cultural and natural history theme

Hike a half-mile to the top of Bald Bluff to discover a natural prairie and an historic Indian dancing ring.

KETTLE MORAINÉ STATE FOREST-SOUTHERN UNIT

Rice Lake Trail

wetland wildlife theme

Discover the plants and animals that live along a lake on a half-mile walk. Wildlife viewing platform available.

KETTLE MORAINÉ STATE FOREST-SOUTHERN UNIT

Lone Tree Bluff Trail

natural history theme

Hike up 89 steps through oak openings and then walk a quarter-mile for a view of glaciated outwash plain. You'll also ponder the fate of the "lone tree."

KETTLE MORAINÉ STATE FOREST-NORTHERN UNIT

Summit Trail

glacial geology theme

Take a short hike to the top of Dundee Mountain to see Cambellsport Drumlins, Lake Michigan and Dundee Kame.

KETTLE MORAINÉ STATE FOREST-NORTHERN UNIT

Tamarack Trail

interrelationships in nature theme

Natural events and human actions change the world around us. Some changes are small, others are devastating. Hike this 1.5-mile trail to discover how one small change can make a big difference.

KOHLER ANDRAE

Woodland Dunes Trail

coastal forest theme

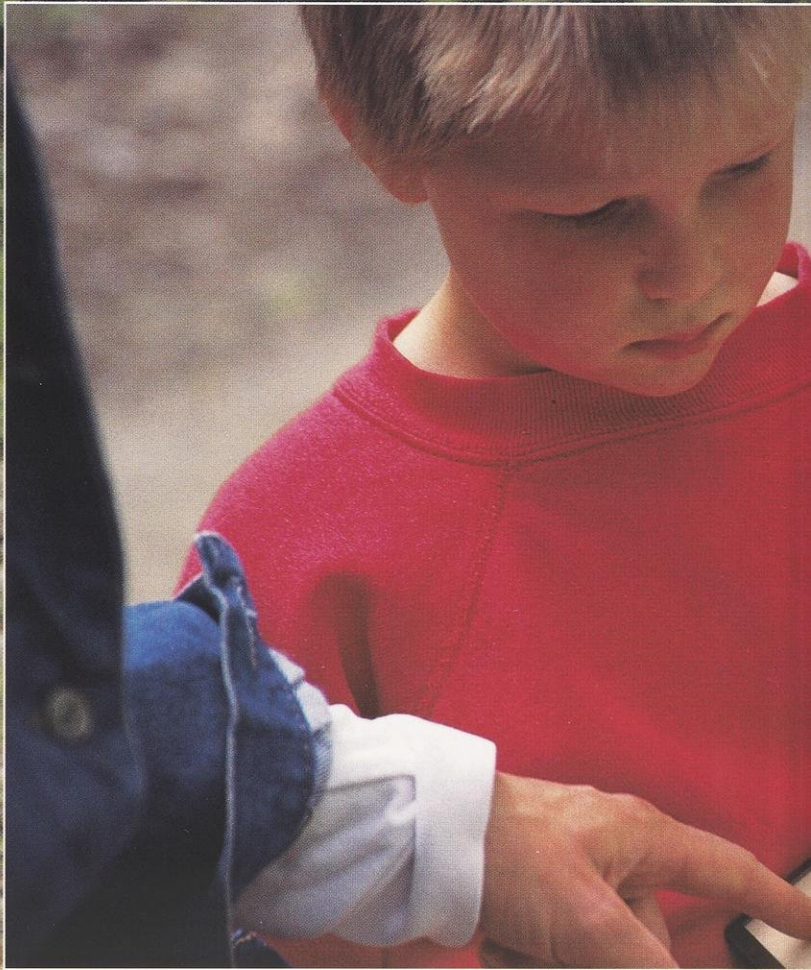
Learn why so many different trees grow along the Lake Michigan shoreline on this half-mile trail.

KOHLER ANDRAE

Creeping Juniper Trail

sand dune ecology theme

Let a half-mile cordwalk guide you through one of the state's unique dune areas. To protect the rare dune plants, this trail and its surroundings have been designated a State Natural Area.



Lake Winnebago:

Food and water

Wald canoe in the fall



Effigy mounds are most often found on bluffs that overlook water. As you walk along this trail and look over Lake Winnebago, think about the importance of water in the lives of the mound builders. The effigy mound people depended on water for aquatic plants, wild rice, mussels, waterfowl, fish and fur-bearing animals which they used for food and clothing. They also used the lake and river system as a means of travel.

**LAKE WISSOTA****Beaver Meadow Trail***wetland ecology theme*

Wetland and water await you along the Beaver Meadow Trail. Learn how a spring works, see a fern garden, and walk in an ancient glacial riverbed along this one-mile trail.

MILL BLUFF**Mill Bluff Trail***glacial Lake Wisconsin theme*

Walk around the base of Mill Bluff (about 0.3 miles) and learn about the geologic forces that created this majestic bluff. Then hike the stairs to the top for a spectacular view of other sandstone bluffs and Fort Douglas.

MIRROR LAKE**Wild Food and Medicine Trail***edible and medicinal uses of plants theme*

Learn about the medicinal and edible uses of common forest plants such as oak, slippery elm and raspberries on this rolling 0.7-mile trail.

NATURAL BRIDGE**Indian Moccasin Trail***medicinal uses of plants theme*

Find out how native people used everyday plants to create love charms, pass gall stones, make rope and relieve the common cold. This one-mile trail passes by an ancient sandstone arch where native people lived some 10,000 years ago.

NORTHERN HIGHLAND AMERICAN LEGION STATE FOREST**Raven Trail***northwoods ecology and history*

Discover the many moods of the North on this 1.5-mile trail. One of Wisconsin's prettiest northwoods trails.

PENINSULA**White Cedar Trail***deer ecology theme*

Learn about the ecology of white-tailed deer on this half-mile loop trail. You may even see a deer or two.

PIKE LAKE**Black Forest Trail***diversity of southern mesic forest theme*

This trail takes you through a small remnant of sugar maple forest. Discover the diversity of this rare forest type on the three-quarter mile trail.

PERROT**Woodland Shopping Center Trail***woodland indian theme*

Learn how native Americans at Perrot State Park used plants and animals of the forest for their food, shelter and clothing.

POINT BEACH**The Swale Trail***ridge-and-swale ecology theme*

The Lake Michigan shoreline is the only place in Wisconsin to see ridge-and-swale topography. Hike this half-mile loop trail to discover how glacial Lake Nipissing created the unusual undulating hummock near the beach.

TOWER HILL**Old Helena Landmark Trail***historical theme*

Tower Hill State Park overlooks the scenic Lower Wisconsin State Riverway. It is the site of one of Wisconsin's oldest settlements and a former summer retreat run by Frank Lloyd Wright's uncle, a Unitarian minister from Chicago. Parts of the trail are steep.

WILDCAT MOUNTAIN**Mt. Pisgah Hemlock-Hardwoods Trail***diversity of remnant hemlock theme*

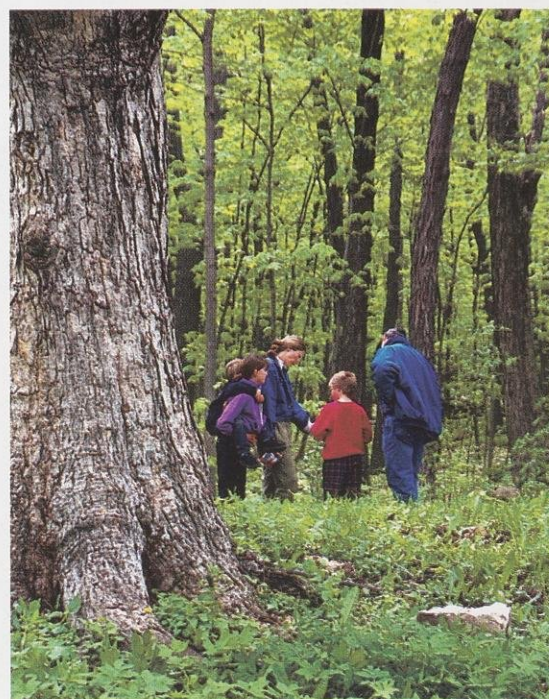
Virgin hemlock and white pine tower over you on this 1.3-mile trail. Discover the beauty and diversity of this state natural area and see a spectacular view of the Kickapoo Valley. Steep climb.

WYALUSING***Sentinel Ridge Trail***cultural history theme*

Sentinel Ridge Trail tells the rich human history of this scenic ridge. The half-mile trail is accessible to people in wheel chairs and circles a series of prehistoric Indian mounds. Parts of the trail overlook the confluence of the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers.

(left) Trail signs encourage visitors to stop, take close looks and wide looks at the landscape, and learn about those who previously travelled these paths.

(below) State Park nature trails provide a relaxing, interesting hike for the whole family.





Forging their OWN WAY

Peggy Kell

Story photos by Robert Queen

Women who
want to
hunt and
fish find
new ways to
help
themselves.

A chilly wind gusted in the first hint of fall at a shooting range in Tomahawk early last September. Fifteen students watched as instructors demonstrated the actions on various shotguns they would use that day. The students had a wide range of shooting experiences and expectations. Their ages and backgrounds spanned from 20-something and looking for work to 65+ and happily retired, but they shared a bond: all were female and all wanted to learn more about pastimes that had largely passed them by. These women and more than 100 like-minded ladies had traveled to Treehaven Field Station outside Tomahawk for a weekend outdoor skills clinic.

Courses like "Becoming an Outdoors-Woman" (BOW) offer the opportunity for women to gain the confidence and skill to participate in activities including shooting sports, angling, canoeing, orienteering and archery.

The concept, developed by Associate Professor Christine Thomas of the College of Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 1991, has served as a model for similar workshops across North America. This year 40 states and four provinces will hold BOW workshops to bring together skilled female

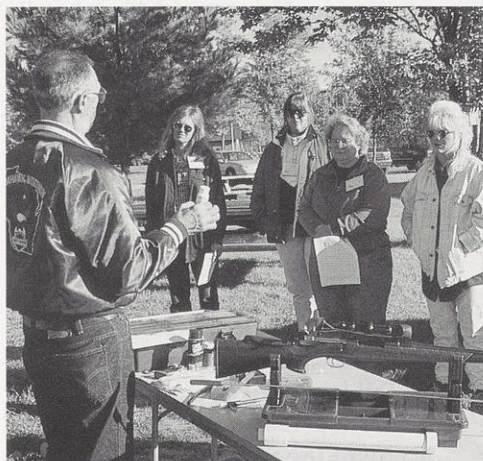
instructors and professional outdoorswomen with newcomers who want to enjoy the outdoors in ways that were formerly closed to them.

The popular courses show that women are as interested in expanding their skills as hunters and anglers as they are in other outdoor pursuits.

Nationwide, women are more active than men in getting regular exercise and enjoying the outdoors. Just as female athletes forged their own path to receive greater recognition and respect in collegiate and professional competitive sports, female hunters and anglers are finding ways to get training that "the hunting fraternity" failed to provide.

By tradition, grandfathers and fathers introduced their nephews, sons and brothers to the fun of hunting and fishing experiences. For men, part of the outdoor experience was getting away from their family for a few days. In the long run, both families and resource management professionals realized it was a tremendous mistake to leave wives, daughters and girlfriends at home. It discouraged females from exploring experiences they could have enjoyed for decades.

Programs like Becoming an Outdoors-Woman offer camaraderie and workshops on a wide range of activities including fly-fishing (*opposite*), firearm handling and cleaning, backyard nest boxes, canoeing and more.



Sports Participation by Gender, 1993

Sport	Percent of all U.S. Adults	Percent Male	Percent Female
Aerobic exercise	11	14	86
Backpacking	4	67	33
Baseball	7	81	19
Basketball	13	72	28
Bicycle riding	21	51	48
Bowling	18	50	50
Calisthenics	5	42	58
Camping (overnight)	19	54	46
Exercise walking	28	33	67
Exercise with equipment	15	48	52
Fishing (fresh water)	20	67	33
Fishing (salt water)	5	69	31
Football	6	88	12
Golf	10	76	24
Hiking	8	55	45
Hunting with firearms	8	88	12
Racquetball	2	77	23
Running/jogging	9	56	44
Skiing (downhill)	5	62	38
Skiing (cross country)	2	47	53
Soccer	5	63	37
Swimming	8	45	55
Target shooting	6	80	20
Tennis	6	59	41
Volleyball	9	48	52

Source: National Sporting Goods Association

Wildlife and fisheries managers want to tap into women's interests in outdoor exercise and environmental stewardship to build a larger base of license buyers, conservation leaders and advocates for the range of outdoor opportunities that resource professionals typically provide.

As populations become increasingly urban and more people lose access to rural lands, family traditions of hunting and angling begin to decline. Likewise, with a 70 percent increase in single-parent households headed by women, family involvement in hunting and fishing continues to dwindle.

"It's very clear to me that the outdoor traditions will be lost if we don't make opportunities for girls and

women to join the hunting and fishing ranks," says Dave Gjestson of the Wisconsin DNR. "Hunting and fishing, like camping, gardening and nature study, can serve as a catalyst to learn more about the things around you essential for our future survival, including tropical forests, ozone deterioration, climate warming, and habitat fragmentation," he added.

In a Fall 1986 issue of this magazine, Wildlife Specialist Doris Rusch asked "Where are the Women?" in the world of hunting. Statistics at that time showed women made up less than seven percent of Wisconsin's deer hunters and even smaller percentages of the small game and waterfowl hunters. Today, the estimates are only

slightly higher; around 10 percent of all hunting licenses are issued to women. The ranks of female anglers is much stronger as 37 percent of fishing licenses were sold to women in 1994.

Still, it's worth examining why relatively few women hunt and fish at a time when a host of other outdoor activities from kayaking to skydiving are attracting newcomers. Let's look at some of the unique barriers hunting and fishing pose.

Few role models

Thumbing through the multitude of fish and game periodicals, we could well ask the question Doris Rusch voiced nine years ago. It's rare to find articles, photos or columns aimed at females. Very few publishers have caught onto this potential market. Females interested in hunting and fishing identify with few of the publications they find in the marketplace. Positive role models — an integral part of promoting success in any new endeavor — are few and far between.

Academicians and resource professionals who examined the issue at a 1990 conference came to the same conclusion. Sixty five professionals from state agencies and sporting groups focused on "Breaking Down the Barriers to Participation of Women in Angling and Hunting." The group was invited to identify potential hurdles that curtail women's access to hunting and fishing.

Lack of positive role models and mentors ranked as a key barrier. Other related barriers included:

- fear of looking stupid (*Can I really expect to do this well?*)
- lack of information (*My mother didn't do this and my friends don't talk to me about outdoor experiences they find fulfilling.*)
- isolation as the only female in a group (*I don't know any other women who will hunt with me.*)
- fear of guns (*In my family, the men hunted, and women weren't allowed to touch the guns.*)

Talking to women at the BOW workshop reaffirmed these points. Many of the women enrolled in the

shooting, archery or angling clinics said they had limited opportunities to try these activities as young people because other female family members weren't involved.

Shelly Bradford, 32, of Eau Claire, told what spawned her interest and access to hunting. In Bradford's family, "Grandma was brought up baking pies



Shelly Bradford grew up in a hunting family where women didn't carry the gun or bow.

and staying in the kitchen. I got to walk with my father squirrel hunting, but carrying a gun was not part of the experience for me." Smiling, she remembers, "I helped skin the squirrels, but I never shot them."

She always wanted to be more than an observer. "I used to babysit for a lady who deer hunted with her husband. She always dressed really nice and had pretty hair and I thought, 'When I grow up, I want to be like her.'" Bradford signed up for the workshop to gain the skills she needed to try her hand at bow hunting.

In addition to offering expert instruction, such course leaders can become mentors and entrepreneurs.

Suzy Smith, a wildlife biologist and outdoor clothing designer from Colorado is one of those leaders. During an evening outdoor clothing presentation, Smith shuffled before the audience draped in camouflage gear that was two sizes too big. She broke into a warm grin and asked, "Now does this look familiar to anyone? Can you relate?"

Amid the murmurs from women



Wildlife Biologist Suzy Smith teaches archery and designs clothing for field use. She foresees a big market for outdoor garb and gear aimed at women and youth.

who recalled trying to find something that fit from the ratty hand-me-down boxes of clothes from their male hunting partners of past seasons, Smith said, "been there, done that." She now designs outdoor clothes especially tailored for women.

Shedding the old camo garb, Smith revealed a practical, warm and attractive camo jumpsuit hidden underneath. The designer demonstrated that utility can go hand in hand with comfort when it comes to outfitting female hunters. Her audience erupted with applause as the mere mention that the light but warm clothing had a built-in "drop-seat" for outdoor convenience. It's clear there's plenty of room in the marketplace for outdoor suppliers who see a growing clientele in women and children as customers.

Psychological barriers

What about the women who just don't groove on the idea of the harvest? Can we make allies of women who don't choose to hunt or fish, but appreciate why others like these activities?

Many women and men who don't live in rural areas may not see much wildlife and never actually observe people hunting and fishing. They get a narrow vision of hunters from childhood stories, the mass media and

school materials, and it's rarely a positive image. The hunting public is often portrayed as having little feeling for wild creatures. The urban experience can lead people to "ally" themselves with animals they view as defenseless.

"Studies confirm that females especially value wild animals as objects of affection and are more likely to voice concern about consumptive use of wildlife," stated the late Robert Jackson, professor of Psychology who studied how hunting attitudes form at UW-LaCrosse.

Fall Creek's Tammy Koenig was one of these

women. Koenig, a warm-hearted animal lover, held strong anti-hunter sentiment as a teenager. She didn't view any elements of hunting as sporting and she doubted claims that hunters respected game animals.

As the story goes, you never know until you try. At 16, Koenig met her future husband Peter, an avid bow hunter. She was open-minded enough to join Peter's hunts. In fact, she hoped to sway him to view hunting as a crime against beautiful wild animals.

Things didn't go as planned. Koenig began to see that hunting entailed more than tramping into the woods and dragging out a trophy. As she observed hunting challenges first hand, she found she wanted to try it herself. She received her first bow as a gift later that year and began to hone her skills.

Now in her thirties, Koenig hunts, does her own taxidermy, and is on the honor roll of the Wisconsin Bowhunters Association. Koenig also teaches archery at outdoor clinics for women. She explained her change of heart in an interview with *Wisconsin Sportsman*: "There's just so much stuff to see and enjoy when you're out there [hunting]. I experience a great feeling of peace whenever I go into the woods." She adds, "You learn something from every deer that comes by, whether you get a shot or not."

The joy of harvesting your own food

Along with the personal enjoyment found in outdoor experiences, sports-women and men often talk about the added enjoyment in sharing wild foods. Just as gardeners take special pride in canning and freezing their own produce, hunters and anglers marry recreational pursuits with good eating.

Phyllis Speer of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission shared her philosophy and cooking talents in preparing wild game during the Becoming an Outdoors-Woman weekend workshop. With an almost reverent lilt, Speer explained, "When you go out and harvest your own game and you take it from the field to your table, there's such a sense of pride and accomplishment. You feel more a part



Phyllis Speer enjoys serving up the food she has harvested to savor and sustain the joy of the hunt.

of the entire system than if you just go to the store and buy some food placed on styrofoam and wrapped in plastic."

Speer says that sense of accomplishment lasts as long as you have game in the freezer. She inscribes her packages headed for the icebox with notes recalling the day the game was taken, the weather, wildlife seen and special circumstances of the day's events. Then, "six months later when you pull that package out and read what you had written, it brings back all those memories of the wonderful experience you had that day...consequently your hunt lasts much longer...it brings it all home and together."

Garnering greater participation

If the aim in specialty training is greater participation in outdoor experiences, then courses for women pay big dividends. Follow-up contacts with graduates from the BOW program here in Wisconsin show many participants

share their skills with their children. For instance, Sally Scinto-Reinertson of Wausau took the course in 1994 so she could pass on hunter safety basics to her sons. Through sharing knowledge of the outdoors, she hopes to build a stronger bond with her children.

That same desire drew Dale Harrison of Wabeno to get training. Ms. Har-



Jennifer and Bob Foster continue hunting traditions at the family goose blind.

Sharing the hunt

Jennifer Foster of Sheboygan has accompanied her father, Bob, on goose hunts since she was four. Now, at 15, Jennifer is a regular visitor to the goose blind and an excellent shot. She penned this reminiscence of her first waterfowl hunt with her father for the Wisconsin Ducks Unlimited's Green Wing Field Day competition. The essay won the competition last year.

My favorite wild place is "The Goose Blind." It is a family tradition that each father take his child for their first hunt in The Goose Blind. My great-grandfather took my grandfather, my grandfather took my father, and this year, it was my turn for my father to take me hunting.

The Goose Blind is an old run-down farm bridge over a creek on part of our family's farm. We took two-by-fours, camouflage netting and old lawn chairs to make the blind. From there, we watched the sun come up on a cool fall morning. It was like an unreal dream, spending a whole day with your father watching ducks, geese, birds and all sorts of other animals, without even picking up your gun, just watching what God has put on this Earth for us to enjoy with our fathers and grandfathers.

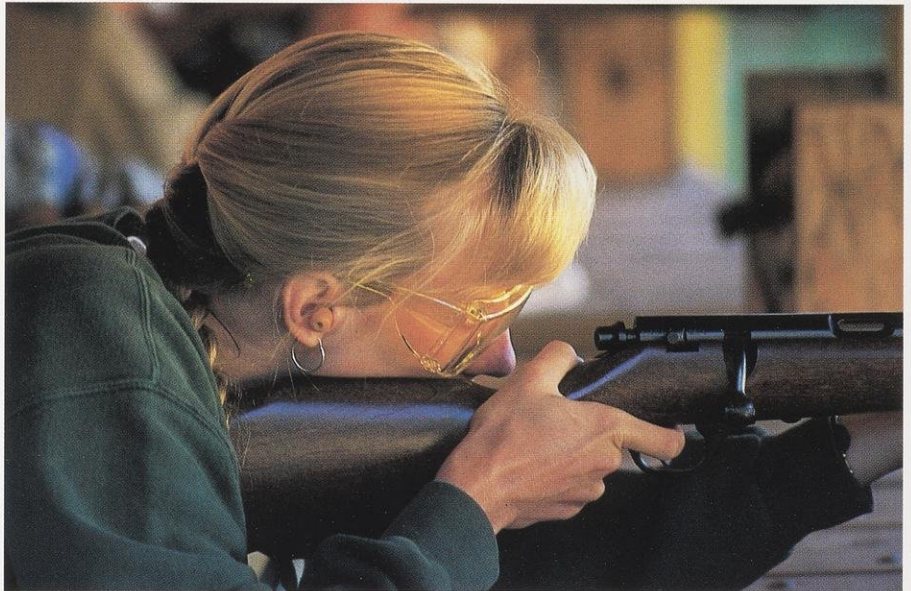
After a long day of goose and duck hunting, my dad and I had dinner at our favorite restaurant not far from our hunting cabin. When we were finished eating, we drove back to our cabin and enjoyed each other's company until bedtime. Then, we hopped into our beds and fell asleep dreaming about what we would do the next morning.

When we woke up, we started the same exciting hunt all over again hoping to see [nature]...one more time before going home to relive what fun we had together for those two days.

rison was frustrated by learning outdoor skills from her husband. He encouraged her interest in the outdoors, but he wasn't the best teacher for her. Workshops in shotgun shooting and on-stream canoeing gave Ms. Harrison added confidence to more fully enjoy these activities with her seven-year-old son and her husband. Teeming up as a family has added a whole new dimension to their outdoor enjoyment.

It's a healthy sign that men are moving from mere acceptance to admiration for their female counterparts. A pair of male trap shooters who watched

Workshops provide the patient instruction and hands-on experience to try new outdoor activities.





Women who find new outdoor hobbies appear more likely than men to engage the whole family.

the beginner's shotgun session at the workshop responded with genuine approval. "We'd like to see even more women out here. It's always good to get new people involved in this sport."

Hunters and Daughters

Most people concerned about a future for hunters and fishers know that we need to attract and recruit younger participants as well as adults, and that new young audience should include a whole lot of young women, said Bruce Matthews, an outdoor recreation researcher from Cornell University.

The hunter education office of the Wisconsin DNR reports that 85-90 percent of students enrolled in hunter safety courses are 12- to 13-year-olds who are seeking certification so they can hunt at a younger age. Those graduates are still predominantly males.

Approximately seven to 10 percent of our course graduates are female, but I don't think hunting has become a male/female issue," said Tim Lawhern, DNR hunter education coordinator. "The main issues today are getting access to hunting lands and exposing people to what hunting is really about. There are a whole host of people — not only women, but children of both sexes, students and men — whose lifestyle and location has left them unaware or misinformed about hunt-

ing. We need to reach them as well," Lawhern said.

One female who will enroll in hunter safety instruction is 14-year-old Jasmine Zimmerman of Wausau. Jasmine's father, David, says she's been his outdoor companion "ever since she was old enough to hang with me." All that time in the woods with her dad sparked her interest, and Jasmine plans to hunt birds and whitetail with her father after completing hunter safety training.

School programs also provided this teen with learning opportunities. During a school-sponsored stay at the Wausau School Forest, Jasmine tried her hand at shotgun shooting with stellar results. "I hit all three clay pigeons," she proudly stated, "three out of three!"

In addition, Jasmine is an avid angler. She wholeheartedly claims, "catching a fish and having the thrill of bringing it in is the best part!" Her list of angling accomplishments includes boasting rights to an impressive 28" walleye.

Another Wausau youth, Rikki Bergs, finds outdoor time with her father a "neat experience." Her family's hunting tradition led her to enroll in a hunter safety course. It helped her feel more comfortable and confident handling firearms.

"I felt a little nervous at first," she

said, "but then we shot both clay pigeons and targets, and I did pretty well. My Dad was [pleasantly] surprised and I felt good about that."

Rikki said she knows other girls who hunt. Even though there are boys at her school who think "girls wouldn't be good at it," she will continue to participate. For Rikki, hunting provides another reason for "being in the woods and seeing animals where it's really peaceful."

For her dad, Tom, hunting provides a chance for more one-on-one time with his children. "Luckily, a lot of my friends also think it's important to involve their families in hunting and fishing excursions," he said

As more training courses introduce women to hunting and fishing, networks of like-minded folks are starting to find each other. Outdoor promoters have sponsored events like the Women's Whitetail Weekend. Outdoor women's groups are forming, and sporting goods stores now solicit women as potential customers for their outdoor workshops.

Taking an outdoor skills workshop gave me the extra boost of confidence that I needed to get out and be involved, said Nancy Roberts of Wausau. "I took a stream ecology course and that interested me in taking a fly-tying workshop through a Gander Mountain store."

"I think the camaraderie at the Becoming an Outdoors-Woman workshop was most memorable for me," said Carolyn Hammerbeck. "It was great to meet so many different people of all ages from all over the state." Both Hammerbeck and Rogers are looking forward to future workshops, special events, and more female company as they explore hunting and fishing as another way to enjoy outdoor experiences. □

Peggy Kell of Wausau, Wis., is studying environmental communication at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. She spent several years publicizing the college's outdoor skills workshops for women. Kell enjoys hiking, kayaking, mountain biking, gardening and angling.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF

WISCONSIN

NATURAL RESOURCES

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How a hazardous waste site emerged as a shopping experience.

TAKE A BOW

For 60 years archers have stalked the wily whitetail.

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Wisconsin

In Autumn.



Expect To

Be Dazzled.



**Fall Sampler
1996**



Wisconsin In Autumn

Fall in Wisconsin is a feast for the senses. The air is crisp, fallen leaves crunch underfoot, geese honk overhead and the harvest moon beams bright. Best of all is the spectacle of color, as woodlands, parks and city streets erupt in blazing reds, burnished coppers, brilliant oranges and smoky golds.

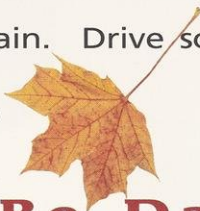


The first blush begins in September along the rugged Lake Superior shore and throughout the Northwoods.

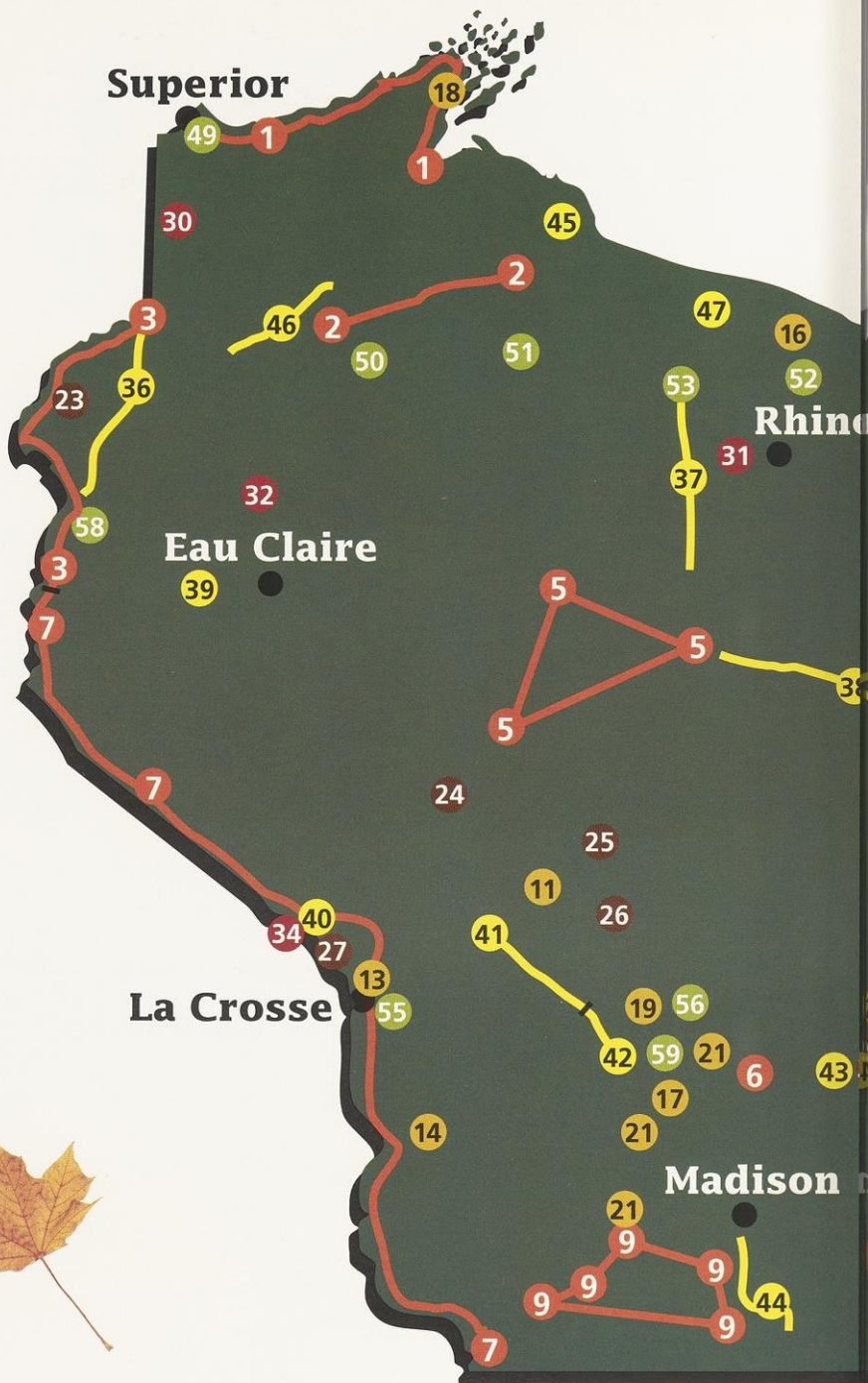


Soon after, color sweeps midstate from the Mississippi River to the Door County peninsula. By late October, southern Wisconsin's farmlands and rolling hills are awash in dazzling hues.

Take it all in. It's the season of festivals, celebrations of Wisconsin's bounty. Farmers' roadside stands sell cranberries, apples, pumpkins and Indian corn. There's biking, hiking, canoeing and hayrides. Soak up the scenery by boat or train. Drive scores of scenic roads and country byways.



Expect To Be Dazzled



COLOR-CODED MAP

To help travelers locate the various activities included in this guide, we've added a color-coded map. Activities are indicated by color; numbers identify specific locations, which are detailed in the guide -- see chart below.



1-9 Driving Tours **pages 6 - 7**

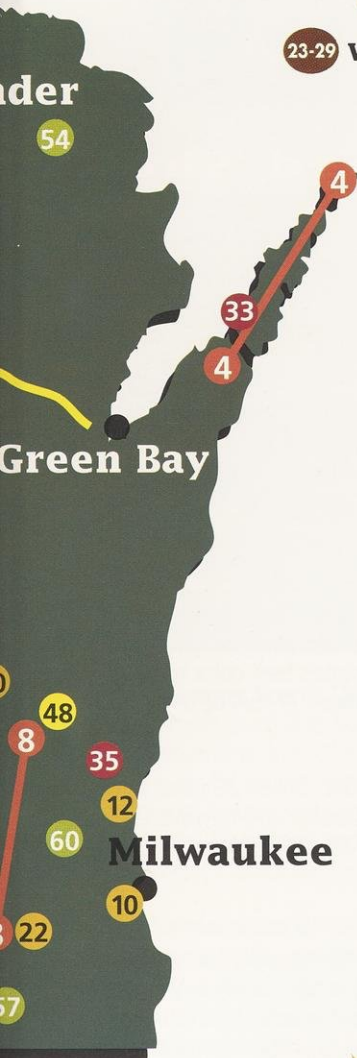
10-22 Fall Festivals **pages 8 - 9**

23-29 Wildlife Watching **page 10**

30-35 Hiking **page 11**

36-48 Bicycling **pages 12 - 13**

49-60 Excursions **pages 14 - 15**



PEAK COLOR

For peak color updates and additional scenic locations around the state, call the Wisconsin Fall Color Hot Line, 1-800-432-8747.





One of Wisconsin's many colorful fall forests.



Catch The Road Show

A fall driving tour is an autumn ritual for many, especially in Wisconsin, where roadways blaze with dazzling colors. From panoramic vistas, to intimate rustic settings, each turn yields an array of bold crimson, brilliant yellow, flaming orange and golden brown. (Numbered tours in this section correspond to the numbered orange dots on the locator map on pages 4 and 5.)

1 Apostle Islands National Lakeshore/Lake Superior Shoreline

Beautiful foliage lines the Lake Superior shoreline along Highway 13 from Superior to Ashland. The Apostle Islands National Lakeshore — a chain of 21 islands — stunning rock formations and one of the finest collections of lighthouses are scenic highlights. Area cruises also provide spectacular viewing. (715/ 779-3397)

2 The Great Divide Scenic Byway

Designated by the National Forest System as a scenic byway, this 29-mile route on Highway 77 takes motorists through the heart of the Chequamegon National Forest (from Hayward to Glidden), and provides some of the state's best color touring. The landscape features rolling hills and sparkling lakes and rivers. (715/762-2461)

3 The St. Croix National Scenic Riverway

The St. Croix River traces Wisconsin's northwestern border some 125 miles through the state's lake country from Prescott to St. Croix Falls to Riverside and beyond. Motorists will find outstanding color at Kinnickinnic, Willow River and Interstate parks, as well as Governor Knowles State Forest. (715/483-3284)

4 Door County

Door County, the state's "thumb" extending into Lake Michigan, offers visitors more miles of shoreline, state parks and lighthouses than any other county in the United States. Fall color provides a brilliant backdrop for the area's coastal towns, sandy beaches, bluffs and woodlands. Observation decks at Peninsula and Potawatomi state parks provide views of stunning vistas. (1-800-52-RELAX)

5 Highground Color Tour

Central Wisconsin offers spectacular panoramas of autumn hues from three of the highest points in the state. A 60-foot observation tower at Rib Mountain State Park near Wausau offers a view of the Wisconsin River Valley (1-800-236-WSAU). At 1,952 feet above sea level, Timm's Hill near Ogema, the highest point in Wisconsin, presents great views of the golden wooded hillsides (1-800-269-4505). The Highground at Neillsville sits high atop a ridge overlooking a half-million acres of forested glacial terrain (715/743-4224).

6 Devil's Lake State Park and the Baraboo Hills

The park's 500-foot bluffs, which surround a 360-acre lake, provide beautiful views of rocky shorelines, dramatic outcroppings and the ancient glacial lake. (608/356-8301)

7 The Great Mississippi River Road

Wisconsin's Great River Road, Highway 35, is among the top scenic drives in the country. Travelers will find vivid colorama along this 250-mile route from Dickeyville to Prescott, and dozens of nostalgic river towns, fall harvest festivals and observation points along the way. (1-800-372-2737)



Sawmill Lake

8 Kettle Moraine Scenic Drive

Maples and sumacs burst into bold red along this 120-mile route that connects the northern and southern units of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. Green acorn-shaped signs mark this route. In the northern unit, Parnell Tower affords special viewing. For displays on glacial history, visit the Henry Reuss Ice Age Visitor Center. A booklet that includes a map to 60 historic and geological sites along the drive can be picked up at either of the forest's visitor centers. (414/594-2135, 414/533-8322)

9 Ethnic Settlements & Old World History

A tour of southwest Wisconsin's rolling hills and valleys combines spectacular scenery with historic sites. From Monroe to New Glarus to Mineral Point to Belmont and Platteville, travelers can tour an old lead mine, visit America's "Little Switzerland," dine on Cornish pasties and Swiss cheese, and tour Wisconsin's first Capitol. (1-800-432-8747)

Take In A Festival

Whether it's a small town festival or a big city bash, Wisconsin communities host hundreds of fall festivals. Celebrate the turning of the leaves, the bounty of the harvest and autumn's crisp air at one of the state's colorama events. (Numbered tours in this section correspond to the numbered ochre dots on the locator map on pages 4 and 5.)

10 Indian Summer in Milwaukee, September 6-8

Traditional clothing, dancing, drumming and singing highlight this festival's Grand Entry Powwow, with Native American tribes from across the country. (414/774-7119)

11 Cranberry Festival in Warrens, September 20-22

Cranberries are featured at this harvest festival with Saturday tours of the colorful cranberry bogs. There are cranberry products for sale, a farm mart and Sunday parade, plus 600 booths offer arts and crafts. (608/378-4200)

12 Wine and Harvest Festival in Cedarburg, September 21-22

The entire family will enjoy this old-fashioned fall festival's grape-stomping and grape-spitting contests, apple bobbing, hayrides, pumpkin carving, arts and crafts show and farmers market on one of the top 10 Main Streets in the United States. (1-800-CDR-BURG)

13 Oktoberfest in La Crosse, September 27-October 3

Held along the Mississippi River, this fall harvest festival is an authentic Old World folk celebration with traditional German music, entertainment and food. (608/784-FEST)

14 Apple Festival in Gays Mills, September 28-29

More than 20,000 people will visit this small community to enjoy a variety of events, including the Wisconsin State Apple Recipe Contest. (608/735-4341)

Oktoberfest in La



15 Audubon Days in Mayville, October 4-6

Bike tours of the Horicon Marsh area, harvest sale of fruits and vegetables, wildlife arts and crafts, and scarecrow decorations mark this festival. Pontoon tours of the marsh are available. (414/485-4663, 414/387-5776)

16 Cranberry Fest in Eagle River, October 5-6

More than 15,000 cranberry lovers flock to Eagle River for its annual tribute to the cranberry, where the "World's Largest Cranberry Cheesecake" will be served. Cranberry bog and winery tours, along with other cranberry products and exhibits, are showcased. (715/479-8575, 1-800-359-6315)



Wollersheim Winery Grape Stomp

**17 Wollersheim Winery
Wine Harvest & Grape Stomp in
Prairie du Sac, October 5-6**

Old World tradition featuring "La Feet Classique Grape Stomp," wine tasting, grape-spitting contests and cork toss. (608/643-6515, 1-800-VIP-WINE)

18 Apple Festival in Bayfield, October 5-6

For the 35th year, Bayfield recognizes the apple harvest with self-guided orchard tours, apple recipes and special apple products for sale. (715/779-3335)

19 Parsons Fall Friendship Gathering in Lake Delton, October 12

Native Americans demonstrate making pipes, baskets, arrowheads, totem poles, beadwork and leather crafts, as well as cooking, hide tanning and teepee life. Visitors can view an Indian powwow, wedding and naming ceremony. (800/22-DELLS)

**20 Warm and Cozy Quilts and Comforters at Wade House in Fond du Lac,
October 12-13**

This festival demonstrates a time when neighbors gathered to carry out traditional fall chores. Partake in a quilting bee, corn husking, making apple cider, and preparing garden produce for winter. (414/526-3271)

21 Studio Tour of Working Wisconsin Artisans, October 18-20

Visitors can drive southwest Wisconsin's scenic roads to the studios of 32 working artists who demonstrate their skills. (Mineral Point, 608/987-2834; Spring Green, 608/588-7049; Baraboo, 608/356-7805)

22 Autumn on the Farms in Eagle, October 19-20

Old World Wisconsin, an outdoor museum, recreates fall tasks. The mood of a fall day on 19th century immigrant farmsteads — from food preparation and stocking pantries to field work — is recaptured. (414/594-6300)



See The Byways And Flyways

Hundreds of thousands of migrating birds flock to Wisconsin's wetlands during fall, with prime viewing times at dusk when the birds land, and early morning, when they take off. Many sites have nature centers with interpretive materials. (Numbered tours in this section correspond to the numbered brown dots on the locator map on pages 4 and 5.)

23 **Crex Meadows Wildlife Area in Grantsburg**

In October, sandhill cranes, Canada geese, eagles and ducks of every sort congregate by the thousands at this prairie and marshland area. (715/463-2896)

24 **Swan Watch at Rieck's Lake Park in Alma**

Hundreds of migrating tundra swans and other waterfowl that are part of the Mississippi Flyway stop here from mid-October through mid-November. (608/685-4249, 608/685-3330)

25 **Sandhill Wildlife Area in Babcock**

From mid-to-late October, Gallagher Marsh attracts 3,000 to 5,000 sandhill cranes. Best views are before sunrise. (715/884-2437)

26 **Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Necedah**

Thousands of Canada geese and some snow geese migrate through this 44,000-acre refuge. (608/565-2551)

27 **Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge in Trempealeau**

Migrating ducks, geese, swans and other birds flock to this 6,000-acre refuge along the banks of the Mississippi. (608/539-2311)

28 **Horicon Marsh in Horicon**

Known locally as "The Everglades of the North," the marsh's 32,000 acres of cattails team with wildlife and are a popular stop for more than 250,000 migrating Canada geese. (414/387-7860)

29 **Theresa Marsh Wildlife Area in Theresa**

Excellent viewing of Canada geese at the intersection of Highway 28 and Mohawk Road at this wetland complex near Horicon Marsh. (414/670-3400)

Hike In The Heart Of It All

Wisconsin's parks and forests are brimming with spectacular color in fall. Enjoy the fresh air and the crunch of leaves underfoot. Take along a camera — even a picnic lunch. Also consider hiking the more than 60 nature centers in the state, many with guides and marked trails. Following are several best bets. (Numbered tours in this section correspond to the numbered burgundy dots on the locator map on pages 4 and 5.)

30 Pattison State Park offers the spectacular view of 165-foot Big Manitou Falls, Wisconsin's highest waterfall and the fourth highest east of the Mississippi. (715/399-8073)

31 Nicolet National Forest, headquartered in Rhinelander, features 658,000 acres of vintage Northwoods scenery. Several of the 11 designated hiking trails are interpretive. The Lauterman and Anvil trails are the most popular. (715/479-2827)



Peninsula State Park in Door County

32 Chippewa Moraine Ice Age Center in New Auburn provides a view of lakes and hillsides carved out by the glacier, with woods, kettle lakes and an interpretive center. (715/967-2800)

33 Peninsula State Park, located in Door County, offers nearly 20 miles of hiking through hardwood forests and along towering limestone bluffs. (414/868-3258)

34 Perrot State Park is situated on the bluffs at the confluence of the Mississippi and Trempealeau rivers and offers panoramic views high atop the 520-foot Brady's Bluff. (608/534-6409)

35 Riveredge Nature Center, with trails along the Milwaukee River, is home to some 750 species of plants, birds and animals. (414/675-6888)

For more information about hiking locations, contact the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Parks and Recreation at 608/266-2181.

Cycling the state's bike routes is a way to be right in the thick of fall color. Avid cyclists, casual riders and mountain bikers will find views of lakes and rivers, covered bridges, waterfalls, bluffs, forests, meadows, Ice Age formations and rustic towns. (Numbered tours in this section correspond to the numbered yellow dots on the locator map on pages 4 and 5.)

36 Gandy Dancer Trail, 47 miles of Northwoods trails, links nine picturesque communities. (1-800-788-3164)

37 Bearskin-State Trail's 31.1 miles link Tomahawk and Minocqua and takes riders through dramatic scenery — lakes, streams, towering forests and plenty of wildlife action. (715/385-2727)

38 Mountain-Bay State Trail offers 83.4 miles of trails through the Stockbridge-Munsee Reservation, Amish settlements, woodlands, marshes and farmlands. (715/847-5235)



Wood County

39 Red Cedar Trail parallels the Red Cedar River from Menomonie through the historic lumber town of Downsview to the great Chippewa River Valley. (715/232-2631)

40 Great River Trail winds along the shores of the Mississippi River, tracing a 22.5-mile path through Trempealeau and Perrot state parks to the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge. (608/534-6409)

41 Elroy-Sparta Trail, one of the nation's first railroad grade bike trails, treats cyclists to a 32-mile ride through three century-old railroad tunnels, wooded valleys and several small towns. (608/463-7109)

42 400 Bike Trail is a 22-mile state trail from Elroy to Reedsburg. It connects with the Elroy-Sparta Trail and runs for a stretch along the Baraboo River. (608/337-4775)

- 43 Wild Goose Trail** is a 34-mile route skirting the western edge of the beautiful Horicon Marsh. (414/386-3705)
- 44 Sugar River Trail** begins in New Glarus, the state's "Little Switzerland," and travels 23 miles along the Sugar River. There's a covered bridge just north of Brodhead. (608/527-2334)

Off-road Biking

- 45 Pines and Mines Trails** offer scenic waterfalls, including the 90-foot Superior Falls, forests, and mining and lumbering sites along 300 miles of marked trails. (715/561-2922)
- 46 Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association (CAMBA) Trail System** consists of six trail clusters totaling over 300 miles and ranges from flat to hilly terrain. Trails run in and around the Chequamegon National Forest, including the communities of Cable, Hayward and Seeley. (1-800-533-7454)
- 47 Bats-Boulder Junction Area Trail System**, covering 10.2 miles, is geared for the beginner to intermediate mountain biker and tours through forests, lakes and streams. (715/385-2400, 1-800-466-8759)
- 48 Greenbush and New Fane Trails** in the Kettle Moraine State Forest Northern Unit consist of easy to difficult routes and include navigating the rolling moraines. Eight trails range from .7 to 5.1 miles. (414/626-2116)

For a free copy of the new 64-page Wisconsin Biking Guide, call 1-800-432-8747.

Country Road in Vilas County



Boat or train excursions are novel ways to experience the season. Wilderness cruises include views of sparkling water, shimmering sunsets and spectacular waterfowl. To adventuresome train travelers, tours showcase unique rock formations and brilliant countryside. Both provide incredible fall color. "Bon voyage" and "all aboard." (Numbered tours in this section correspond to the numbered green dots on the locator map on pages 4 and 5.)

Cruises

49 Vista Fleet Cruises in Superior

Travel from Superior to the Duluth-Superior harbor and view a waterfowl nesting area and historic lighthouse on this narrated 1-3/4-hour tour. Through October 13. (715/394-6846, 218/722-6218)

50 Chippewa Queen Tours in Hayward

Enjoy guided cruises on the Chippewa Flowage, which boasts 233 miles of undeveloped shoreline. Through October 6. (715/462-3874)



Julia Belle Swain in La Crosse

51 Lodge of Lakeview in Butternut

Morning and evening pontoon and nature excursions of the Turtle Flambeau Flowage. Through September 29. (715/476-2506)

52 The Boathouses of Vilas County in Eagle River

View magnificent turn-of-the-century boathouses, each with its own history and unique architecture, on the Eagle River Chain of Lakes. Boats and pontoons are available to rent; tour brochures also available. September 1-October 15. (715/479-8575)

53 Wilderness Cruises in Hazelhurst

Take a wilderness cruise on the Willow Flowage and enjoy a meal on board while gazing at bald eagles. Through October 6. (1-800-472-1516, ext. 671, 715/453-3310, ext. 671)

54 Peshtigo River Tours in Athelstane

This enclosed riverboat cruise features views of rock formations on the High Falls Flowage. Open Saturdays, August 24 through October 5. Group tours can be arranged for any day. (715/757-3769, 414/435-8295)

55 Julia Belle Swain Steamboat Tours in La Crosse

Enjoy a Mississippi River cruise aboard this 23-year-old replica of the original steam-operated stern paddlewheelers of the 1800s. Through October 20. (1-800-815-1005, 608/784-4882)

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Two-hour tours of the Upper Dells take riders to the canyons; cruises below the dam last one hour. The combined trip is a complete tour of wildlife and scenic views. Through November 3. (608/254-8555)

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Tours on Lake Geneva include dinner cruises and the walk/cruise, an eight-mile shoreline walk past Victorian homes followed by a ride on a lake steamer. Through October 27. (1-800-558-5911)

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Mid-Continent Steam Train in North Freedom





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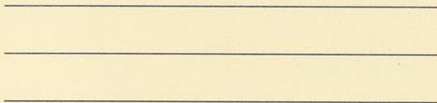
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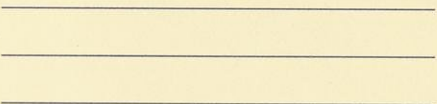
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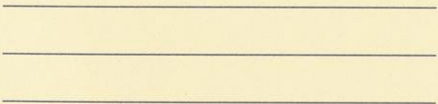
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How deer to Wisconsin?

The results of a 3,000-hour study examine the thrills, the consequences and the future of maintaining a large deer herd in Wisconsin.

Bill Vander Zouwen

As summer lingers and hunting seasons approach, people start looking at deer through different eyes.

Some still see a beautiful, graceful animal with big brown eyes and soft fur turning from auburn red to dull brown. Some start seeing lean cuts of brisket, tenderloin and rump roast on the hoof. Some people start thinking about family get-togethers or honing their hunting skills. Many have already won or lost the annual battle with co-work-

ers over who will take the last week of November as vacation.

On the other side of the fence, homeowners are cussing deer as their plantings and expensive ornamentals are chewed to the nub. Others are badly shaken as their damaged cars are towed to the body shop. Those who tend orchards and Christmas tree plantations calculate how to adjust their prices as deer literally eat up their profits.





HERBERT LANGE

From their first day to their last, white-tailed deer are our favorite wildlife animal to watch and pursue.

Nearly everyone in Wisconsin is affected by deer, even if they rarely see one. All the values and problems that deer bring must be weighed against each other. Let no one say these matters were not carefully considered. Nearly 40 DNR biologists spent more than 3,000 hours gathering information from research publications and field studies, consulting with national experts and meeting with an interest-

ed public. The result was a 305-page environmental assessment measuring how Wisconsin's white-tailed deer management affects nature, neighborhoods, outdoor recreation, and both social and business climates.

The Wisconsin deer herd is so vast and the habitat so variable that wildlife managers have divided the state into 125 units to more capably manage the unique needs and resources in each

smaller area. Deer numbers are estimated in each unit using census techniques, population models, surveys of summer fawn production, and by aging the deer registered by hunters each fall.

Population goals for each unit are based on how many deer the habitat can sustain; winter severity; ecological, social and economic concerns; as well as tribal treaty agreements. Goals



MARK S. WERNER

Maintaining a large, ravenous population of browsing deer changes the natural environment...

How deer affect other plants and animals

Deer are natural members of Wisconsin's wildlife community. Like people, deer definitely affect their environment. Whitetails are large herbivores that eat large quantities of a wide variety of plants. Large populations of deer definitely affect the abundance of plants they feed upon. Further, other animals that depend on certain plants for habitat are affected by deer. That's only natural, but when do the number of deer have too great an effect on the environment? That's a judgement call. Here's a summary of the key research findings:

Some **leafy plants** are stressed when deer populations swell to more than 12–15 animals per square mile. The foliage gets nipped back, which cuts into the plants' energy reserves and reduces successful reproduction. Plants like the bluebead lily and trillium are prime targets for deer.

Trees and shrubs, particularly

cedar, oak and Canada yew, are favored deer foods. When deer populations rise above 20–25 per square mile, these trees are heavily browsed and have a tough time surviving.

Deer don't normally eat **invertebrates**, but insects that rely on certain plants may be harmed if the deer graze on their host species.

It is likewise unlikely that deer directly harm **reptiles and amphibians**, but deer may harm their habitat. For instance, the western glass lizard relies on the same shrubs that deer eat for shade in summer. On the other hand, some browsing keeps shoots from getting brushy and opens up areas where reptiles can sun on colder days.

There is limited evidence that as deer numbers rise above 25 per square mile, habitat for **small mammals** is destroyed. The red-backed vole, for instance, needs a dense understory of low plants to survive.

Deer numbers greater than 15–30 per square mile can browse back the shrubs and leafy plants some **birds** favor for food and cover. Populations of the black-throated blue warbler in northern Wisconsin and the more rare hooded warbler in southern Wisconsin could be affected by deer-browsed habitat.

It is unlikely that **moose** populations would be restored in Wisconsin where we maintain a large deer herd. Deer carry a brainworm that causes a lethal meningitis-like illness in moose. **Elk**, on the other hand, are not threatened by the meningeal brainworm nor do elk compete with deer for the same foods.

Deer are a primary food source for **timber wolves**, and deer populations definitely affect the number of wolves that Wisconsin can support. Given the current deer population, Wisconsin could theoretically support more than 400 wolves. If we reduce northern Wisconsin deer herds to 10 animals per square mile, maximum wolf numbers would be reduced to about 140 animals.

Is the deer herd self-limiting? Yes, but we work to keep the herd below that density. As the herd approaches



DEAN TVEDT

and the food crops we raise, like this corn damaged by nibbling deer.

in the northern forest country are based on how many deer the habitat can support over winter; in the southern farmlands by how tolerant people are to the crop damage and vehicle accidents deer cause. Most parts of southern Wisconsin could sustain more than 100 deer per square mile of habitat, but that is much more than people are willing to tolerate.

ASSESSING THE DEER HERD

the habitat's carrying capacity, deer mortality increases, reproductive rates drop, the herd gets weaker and less healthy. Also, the shrubs and trees that deer eat take an awful beating when the deer herd gets too numerous.

How the deer herd affects the economy and social concerns

The deer herd size creates both opportunity and consequences for people.

As densities approach 20 deer per square mile of deer habitat, the herd can browse enough trees to substantially reduce the yield of high-value trees. Pine plantations and Christmas tree operations are particularly hard hit by large herds. Orchardists and farmers also feel the pinch from a large herd. Damage to corn, soybeans, alfalfa, vegetables, strawberries and fruit orchards increases as the herd size grows.

On the fringes of urban development, deer eat ornamental plantings and damage native plants.

As traffic volumes increase and the deer herd grows, the number of car-deer collisions also increases. Every year, more than 40,000 deer collide with cars on highways and back roads. These accidents injure people, kill deer and cause an estimated \$90 million in damage claims. Some auto body shops report 25–50 percent of their income is generated by car-deer collisions. The accident rates are high in most urban areas with deer habitat and in those rural areas where deer numbers exceed 25 per square mile.

Though deer carry some diseases that can be transmitted to other wildlife, domestic animals and humans, growing deer populations don't appear to increase the incidence of transmitted diseases at herd sizes we have managed.

On the other hand, a large deer herd is a real pleasure for those who enjoy the challenge of hunting whitetails, eating venison, making fine sausages, sharing the camaraderie of a deer hunt, feeding deer or just watching white-tailed deer throughout the seasons.

Fully two-thirds of the people who like to watch wild animals chose



HERBERT LANGE

Our attitudes affect the hunt and the herd size. When deer populations are kept are low, hunters sense less opportunity and are reluctant to shoot does and yearlings. When populations grow too large, the number of antlerless deer that need to be harvested exceed hunter demand.

white-tailed deer as their favorite animals to see in the wild. More than two million Wisconsin residents are wildlife watchers and they spend about \$500 million on their hobby.

Deer hunters annually buy \$500 million worth of goods and services. These purchases generate \$30 million in sales taxes and income taxes related to the hunt. More than 8,000 people make a living from jobs directly related to deer hunting. License fees deer hunters pay contribute \$16 million each year to conservation programs carried out by the Department of Natural Resources. The hunting public also funds the majority of the Wildlife Damage Program that reimburses farmers for deer damage to crops.

Chippewa Indian Tribes have special treaty rights to a portion of the allowable antlerless deer harvest in the ceded territory of northern Wisconsin.

How deer herd size changes effective management

Hunters must take about the same number of deer as are born each year to control herd growth. Not all deer population goals are manageable or realistic. If the deer population goal is set too low, hunters are not as attract-

ed to the area, and they are less willing to shoot antlerless deer. Consequently, these herds grow quickly. On the other hand, if the deer goals are set too high, the number of antlerless deer that must be harvested exceeds hunter demand for permits.

Experience shows that deer hunts are most successful when deer population goals are maintained around 50 percent of the area's carrying capacity. This wildlife principle is called the maximum sustained yield. Though most hunters would prefer to shoot a buck, many are happy to have the opportunity to take does. More than 400,000 hunters apply annually for antlerless deer permits. Yet, this demand is not high enough to control the southern Wisconsin deer herd at that 50 percent level; lower population goals are needed there.

Currently, deer herds in some units are well above goals — so high, in fact, that our traditional hunting seasons and permit systems can't keep the herd size under control. Consequently, the hunting and nonhunting public needs to work with professional managers to consider alternatives. Clearly, some deer herds need to be reduced to a more manageable level. Changes in the hunting season, like those adopted in



DALE LIGMAN

Hunting traditions complicate the need for flexibility in managing the herd. As deer numbers continue to rise, extended seasons and more hunting opportunity is needed to keep crop loss, car-deer collisions and over-browsing under control.

19 units for this fall, will sometimes be necessary.

One over-riding concern is how to manage the herd size on properties that have been closed to hunters. Keeping the herd size in check would help the land, the property owner and the hunter. Traditionally, Wisconsin has not needed incentives to convince non-hunting landowners to allow responsible hunting on their property. Perhaps those traditions are changing and we need to explore other options.

One segment of society recommends curtailing deer hunting and merely letting "nature take its course." That is possible, but not practical.

Nature is no longer so natural; people have altered ecosystems too greatly. Animals that would prey on deer are absent or far less abundant than would be needed to control the herd size. Our land uses have changed the number of deer that can live in an area. Home development may increase or reduce the deer population. Agriculture provides more artificial food sources, increasing the potential herd size. Forest management practices during the last century have changed the mix of trees in our forests, supporting more deer than were found here before European settlement.

In fact, if we just let nature take its

course now, deer numbers would be substantially higher. Who would willingly absorb the additional costs in crop loss, greater numbers of car-deer collisions and over-browsing of wild habitats? Who would stand by idly as the deer herd became less healthy, had fewer fawns or succumbed to disease and starvation?

The public is increasingly aware that a large deer herd has both positive and negative effects in Wisconsin. Hunters and wildlife managers are not the only people who want or deserve a voice in deciding how many deer should be maintained. A wider range of public interests are entitled to a place at the table as deer management decisions are made.

Wildlife managers are making a concerted effort to reach out to a wide range of interests. Seventeen regional Citizens Task Forces have reviewed the deer herd size, discussed how deer affect people and the environment, and recommended deer population goals in their parts of the state. At task force meetings hunters, foresters, farmers, wildlife specialists, environmentalists, motorists and others brought their concerns and desires to the fore. These groups have had the chance to better understand the problems each interest faces and the opportunities that deer herds bring. Their recommendations are being adopted by wildlife managers in most deer management units.


Deer management will continue to be a complex endeavor. Better information and more forums for public discussion are helping develop common understanding and consensus on directions deer management programs should take. Wildlife managers will continue to include a diverse mix of stakeholders throughout Wisconsin as goals, policies and practices for managing the deer herd are carried out. □

Bill Vander Zouwen is chief of DNR's Wildlife and Landscape Ecology Section in the Bureau of Wildlife Management. The 305-page environmental assessment on which this article is based, "Deer Population Goals and Harvest Management" is available for \$10 from the DNR Bureau of Wildlife Management, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.

Scaling the heights of fashion

You won't need to fish for compliments when you're clad in a *gyotaku* of your own design. Try this ancient fabric-printing technique on for size at this year's Wisconsin State Fair.

Maureen Mecozzi



Come to the fair! Be dazzled by prize boars, be charmed by a junior sheep judging, be thrilled by a hair-raising, stomach-inverting midway ride! And go home with fish *gyotaku* on your shirt!

Excuse me? A splotch of barbeque sauce, a dribble of root beer float, grease from a corn dog — yes, all these remnants of a successful day at the 1996 Wisconsin State Fair can be spotted on the clothing of people touring the West Allis fairgrounds from August 1–11. But what's this new fish dish?

Call it wearable art or call it wearable food: The folks with fish on their collars will be those who have visited the Department of Natural Resources' State Fair exhibit, where they experimented with *gyotaku*, the ancient Japanese art of printing fish on fabric.

More than two centuries ago, Japanese fishermen began making "fish rubbings" to record their catch. Over the years the process evolved from an accounting method into an art form. This simple printing technique produces images of remarkable accuracy and beauty; small details, down to the individual scales, will come through in the print.

In the green, shady oasis of the DNR fair exhibit, visitors will find an open-air tent lined with rows of long tables covered with newspapers...and fish. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every day, the friendly members of the Retired Senior Volunteers organization will guide *gyotaku* novices in proper fish-printing techniques.

T-shirts of any size, from infant to adult, can be purchased at the fish-printing booth for \$4. "It's the best deal at the fair!" says Theresa Stabo, DNR fisheries educator. Or, you can bring your own T-shirts (or tablecloths, scarves, diapers, napkins, aprons, boxer shorts, etc.) and print for free. You'll get the best results if the fabric is smooth, can be machine washed and is a solid color.

Fish printing is a very popular activity, so you may have to wait a while before you can step up to the tables and print. Why not tour the full DNR exhibit before making your prints? This year, the exhibit will focus on the Great Lakes. Perhaps



you'll find inspiration for your *gyotaku* in the displays on Great Lakes fish species, water quality, shoreline management and more.

Wearing a carp on your sleeve

It's not necessary to visit the State Fair to try *gyotaku*, though you'll be missing a great time — and those fabulous cream puffs over at the Wisconsin Dairy Bakers stand for \$1.50 apiece. *Gyotaku* prints can easily be made at home, with just a few simple items.¹

Gather together all the necessary equipment before you begin printing. Here's what you'll need:

- water-soluble block printing ink (easiest to work with because it does not run and dries slowly), textile silk-screening ink, India ink, or tempera. Dark colors give the best effect. If you plan to eat your fish after printing, be sure the paint you use is non-toxic.
- cotton T-shirt (or whatever you want to print). 100 percent cotton works best, but you can also use blends of 50% cotton, 50% polyester.
- a fresh, flat fish with scales intact
- paint brushes (No. 8 or ½-size)
- rice paper or blank newsprint
- newspaper
- modeling clay
- straight pins

- paper towels
- an iron

Prepare the fish by washing it well with biodegradable, non-toxic soap; to get a good print, you need to remove all of the dirt, grit, blood and protective slime. In traditional *gyotaku* the fish is printed whole and intact, but using a cleaned fish stuffed with paper towels also yields good results.

Rinse the fish and pat it dry with some paper toweling. Cover a table with several layers of newspaper and lay the fish down on the paper. Place pieces of modeling clay under the tail and fins to raise them up, making them level with the body. (If you neglect this step, your print will reveal a strange finless species!)

Place pieces of paper towel into the nostrils, gill slits and anus to prevent any liquid from leaking out onto your fabric, then arrange the fish as you want it to appear in the print. You can spread out the fins or shape the mouth as you like. Secure the position with pins stuck through the clay. Let the fish dry, then remove the pins; the fins will stay fanned out.

To make your *gyotaku*, slide pieces of paper towel under the fins and tail to cover the clay. Brush a thin coat of

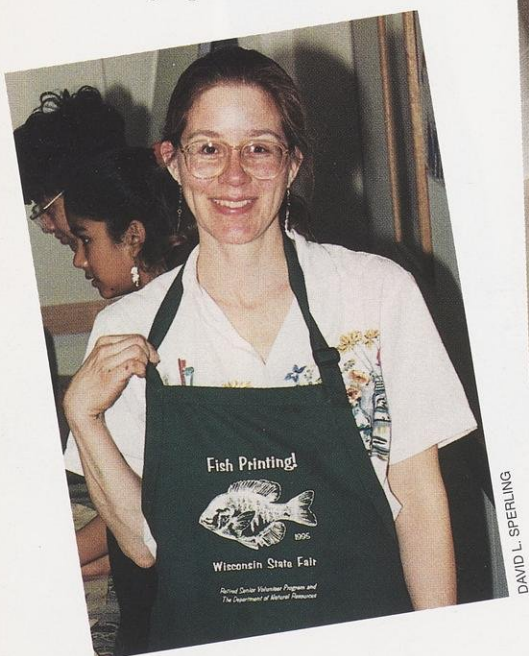
ink onto the fish from head to tail in one direction. Be sure to cover all the fins, the lips and the gill cover, but leave the eyes unpainted.

Remove the pieces of paper towel from under the fins and tail. With clean hands, carefully lay your cloth on top of the fish. Beginning at the head and moving down to the tail, rub your fingers flat over the surface of the fish, being careful not to fold or move the fabric. Any part you don't touch will be left out of the print.

Gently lift the cloth off the fish and set it aside to dry. When the ink has dried, you can use a very small brush to paint an eye in the "eye spot." Try placing a small white dot in the eye to make it look like a real fish eye.

When all the ink is good and dry, waterproof and set the design: Lay the fabric on an ironing board, cover the inked image with a clean plain piece of rice paper or newsprint, and iron over the image at a moderate temperature for two minutes. Or check your ink bottle — the manufacturer may have specific instructions for setting the ink. *Gyotaku*-printed fabrics can be washed normally after the ink is set.

Re-ink your fish and print again; you can print all day, if you can stand the smell! If you used non-toxic ink and made only a few prints, you can still eat your fish — wash it well, fillet it and cook it up.



DAVID L. SPERLING



PAM HJUANEN

Theresa Stabo, aquatic educator, (left) oversees the crews who will help visitors paint a panfish or picture a perch on their T-shirts.



PAM HJUANEN

¹ Instructions adapted from an article by Nancy Pagh, Alaska Fish & Game, Nov/Dec 1987.

Finding the right subject

You can use any kind of fish for *gyotaku*, but scaly fish like carp and bluegills print best, because the scales leave a distinct, recognizable pattern on the cloth. If your lucky lake has skunked you once again and you're left with an empty stringer, visit the local fish market, grocery store or pet shop for likely *gyotaku* prospects.

You needn't limit your adventures in *gyotaku* to fish. Bend tradition by



making imprints of leaves or grasses. Or capture the texture of an oak or birch by inking a piece of bark taken from a fallen branch. Anything with a relatively flat surface will work: Ink up your toddler's hands and feet and the dog's paws, then turn them loose on a cotton sheet. Instant personalized bed linen!

Whatever subject you choose to print, *gyotaku* is a wonderful technique for capturing nature in art, for holding still the cherished moments of life, for creating a record of the world as you see it. Print and enjoy. □

Associate Editor Maureen Mecozzi is sometimes seen in a gyotaku cotton dress created with the help of friendly carp from Dodge County's Crawfish River.



(PAGE 25 PHOTOS) PAM HUJANEN



A careful pat, a little drying time, a light pressing and *voilà!*





Camping at Mauthe Lake, August 1952 in an Army surplus backpack tent.

Sleeping in a tent

Thomas L. Eddy

*In truth, no one fully
appreciated the celebrated
deeds we conceived, or
ill-conceived, in that tent.*

I t's in the genes, deep within the marrow of our bones. Throughout our natural history there endures a biological basis for sleeping in a tent, an innate longing to protect ourselves from sun, rain, darkness and predators. That's what building leaf forts, treehouses, and camping is all about: satisfying a primordial urge to seek out shelter and lay claim to a sense of place.

Excluding our ancient, incontinent cat and the Dalmatian from Hell, ours is a family tent. My wife, our two young daughters and I each value the makeshift "home-away-from-home" — a 144-square-foot geodesic dome tent made from fire-retardant, rip-stop nylon supported by aluminum shock-corded poles. However, it's the smell of musty canvas that evokes my memories of rural darkness and "camping out" in the backyard with my brothers and sister.

The first tent I shared with my older siblings was a wall tent made of faded green canvas; a heavy skin that drooped over a plain, unvarnished wooden skeleton. A two-by-two ridgepole served as the backbone connecting the front and rear uprights. It ran the length of the tent and supported the canvas. To prop up the poles, the tent was moored to the ground by six

pieces of taut baling twine, three to a side. Each piece of twine was knotted to a canvas loop sewn along the sidewall seam about two feet above the ground. The other end was bound to a piece of box elder or green ash that was driven into the ground away from the tent wall. Loops on the base of the sidewalls anchored by wooden stakes kept the 8 x 10 foot tent from collapsing. The half-dozen lengths of frayed twine applied opposing but equal tension; the shelter appeared to defy gravity — it stood, all summer.

The front profile of the tent was an irregular pentagon with short 90° sidewalls and a longer 45° pitched roof. A single entrance consisted of two canvas flaps on either side of the front pole that could be hitched to the outside front corners (doors open) or lashed to the front upright (doors closed). No windows. No floor. Even during the daylight hours the interior light was at best dim, making the inside volume appear more spacious than the true dimensions allowed.

Once the tent was pitched, usually by late May or early June, it remained so well into September, intermittently occupied by us and whatever non-human transients that found suitable habitat there. Although it stood more-or-less erect on the east side of our home, the tent was, in fact, measurably closer to our good neighbors, the Vonderlindes. For me, the seasonal canvas niche was simply an annex of my home.

Despite a few sagging creases and a couple of torn loops, it was a handsome tent. It resembled a lesser version of the military-style wall tent one sees behind Abraham Lincoln and his generals somberly assembled for a Matthew Brady photograph. Or, it could have been a suitable backdrop for some intrepid explorer posing stoically, cradling an elephant gun and smoking a pipe in a remote exotic land. In truth, no one fully appreciated the celebrated deeds we conceived, or ill-conceived, in that tent.

At twilight, we entered the tent to recap the day in rather animated discussions — who “killed” whom while playing “army” at Armfield’s grove, plans for the next day’s fishing at Hank’s Creek, and, of course, baseball. Gradually, as brown bats got down to the business of catching and eating insects, and lightning beetles pricked pinholes in the darkness, the banter subsided. In our sleeping bags, in pajamas, we wriggled forward halfway

*Once the tent was
pitched...it remained so
well into September,
intermittently occupied by
us and whatever
non-human transients that
found suitable habitat there.*

Like father, like son. (left) Author T.L. Eddy and the nylon-coated, ripstop, shock-corded dome tent his family currently uses. (right) Leo Eddy with an old, canvas platform tent on a hunting trip.



COURTESY OF T.L. EDDY



COURTESY OF T.L. EDDY



COURTESY OF TLL EDDY

August 1960. The backyard tent where the Eddy children and Bugs found solace and hatched schemes.

through the tent doors and lay on our backs to absorb the radiating flecks of night sky. Invariably, Mr. Vonderlinde's cigar smoke, along with muffled television noise, diffused through a screened window and seeped across a flower bed border to where we looked out and pondered our place in the universe. Facing the tent, our own kitchen was quiet now, save for the clamorous buzzing of June beetles attracted to the fluorescent beacon above the sink. My dog Bugs, lying nearby, arched his ears whenever he heard something that I didn't — silently reassuring me that he never slept at night when we fell asleep in the tent.

Sometimes we didn't sleep either. While the rest of our little town slumbered, we awoke and armed ourselves with nets and "killing jars." Like the insects we pursued, we were drawn to the town lights — riotous scenes where countless moths, beetles and bugs converged. Cecropias. Click beetles. An occasional giant water bug. And the most rare and beautiful, a Luna moth! A few weeks later some of our specimens would

be on public display at the county fair; and as was ordinarily the case, brother Doug's 4-H insect collection advanced to the state fair.

Our night outings were not limited to collecting insects. In fact, our other diversions verged on the felonious — stealing green apples off Roscoe Carr's tree; smoking cigarette butts fresh-picked off Main Street; and even risking hell and damnation by streaking stark naked from one end of town to the other. Had we never slept in our tent, perhaps none of these unremarkable yet unforgettable deeds borne beneath canvas would have come to pass.

These days the act of sleeping in a tent takes me beyond camping in the backyard, cataloging insects or pilfering green apples. It is a healing process — a therapeutic course prescribed by myself. It is a convalescence of sorts that transports me away from overindulgence and lopsided living. In my tent, I awaken to early morning bird twittering and beaded dew that forms lazy rivulets on the tent walls. At night in a tent, I wake up and drift off to sleep again many times over to the rise and fall of rustling leaves or a chorus of crickets. In my tent, where I ride out a good thunderstorm, the sound of drumming rain makes me neglect the book I've intended to read and leaves me feeling better.

I'm reminded of this passage from W.H. Auden's *The Art of Healing*: "Healing, Papa would tell me, is not a science, but the intuitive art of wooing Nature."

Sleeping in a tent is repose from changes that are too much too soon. It's where I can daydream and nightdream unfettered, while still wearing my mental pajamas. From time to time I retire to my tent with worn emotions only to leave feeling grounded, centered and mended once again.

Well into his seventies, my Grandpa Holland still slept in a tent. He would bundle a small pup tent in his car and drive to visit old friends. At least that's what he said. But I'm not so certain anymore that Grandpa visited anyone. I think he just needed to sleep in a tent — to rest close to the Earth. I suppose it was his way, and now it's mine too, of making ready for the next day. □

Thomas L. Eddy writes from Green Lake, Wis. and still camps in the back yard.

*Sleeping in a tent in the
back yard is a healing
process, a convalescence of
sorts that transports me
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and lopsided living.*

Continued from page 2

had given it a death blow. It buried its head in its writhing coils. Within seconds it acted mortally wounded, turned upside-down and defecated. Soon the writhing slowed and the snake lay completely still, belly up, mouth open with its tongue hanging out. An actual spot of blood glistened with saliva.

It was quite a convincing act, but I knew the snake wasn't dead. As much as I tried to roll it over on its belly, the snake kept returning to its belly-up position. Now I knew just what the slinking thespian was.

It was a hognose snake (*Heterodon platyrhinos*), famous for this show of bravado followed by playing possum when challenged.

I backed off. I knew in a few moments the snake would feel secure again, right itself and crawl away. I didn't want to wait around, but neither did I want to leave the snake out in the open where it would be vulnerable to hawks. I picked up the "dead" snake with the stick, put it down in some brushy cover away from the railroad bed, and moved on.

The hognose is often called the "blow snake" or "puff adder," by locals. Its genus, *Heterodon*, is unique to North America. The Eastern Hognose snake we find in Wisconsin occupies a range extending from New Hampshire south to Florida and west to central Texas and South Dakota. Incredibly, these snakes are completely harmless to people. Though they may strike at danger, the literature does not record any incidences of human bites. The hognose is not venomous and has no fangs capable of inflicting human wounds.

The ferocious show discourages some potential predators. Unfortunately, the act is so good that people have destroyed hognose snakes on sight. Tales of "poisonous breath" and claims that the snake can "spit poison in your eyes" are completely false.

The hognose snake inhabits dry sandy areas, though it will move to lowland areas when food is scarce. It feeds entirely on toads and frogs, though it clearly prefers toads. Hognose snakes spend most of their time moving slowly and relying on their excellent sense of smell to detect and locate prey. If a toad or frog attempts to flee, a short, rigorous chase is on. These snakes are not constrictors. They seize their prey and swallow them whole, head first.

In June through early July, the females deposit a clutch of eight to 28 white, leathery eggs. The eggs adhere to each other and conserve moisture until the hatch. Newborn hognose snakes are about six to eight inches long and are gray in color, not brownish like the adults. Some communal nesting sites contain more than 30 snakes in a compact nursery.

If you come across a hognose snake, remember that the reports of poison spit and bites are fable, not fact. Watch it from a distance with renewed interest and less fear. □

R. Paul Matty writes from Crivitz, Wis.



DON BLEGEN

Readers Write

GIVE A HOOT

We live beside the Rock River about seven miles south of Lake Koshkonong. The barred owls in this area hoot in a cadence of four short hoots, a pause, then three more hoots and one long drawn out hoot. This is one hoot less than the number described in your February story, "Critter condos." This reminds me of the old expression, "Who gives a hoot?"

Don Wachlin
Edgerton, Wis.

Each birder and each bird book describes calls a bit differently. The barred owl has been referred to as the "eight-hooter" for its pattern of vocalizing two rounds of four hoots each. The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds (Eastern Region) describes the barred's call as "a loud, barking hoo, hoo, hoo, hoo, hoo, hoo-hooo-aw!" As you noted, verbal descriptions can sometimes fail to capture what we see and hear.

WELCOMING SPRING

We enjoyed every page of the April issue, especially the droll and poetic message from Justin Isherwood.

The photography, sketches and brilliant variety sure give Wisconsin a good send-off for this Virginia transplant and summer resident in Wisconsin.

Kathleen Glenn
Lynchburg, Va.

Thank-you for "A Moment in the Mud" by Justin Isherwood. It was a perfect greeting for spring in Wisconsin.

Shelley M. Johns
Hartland, WI 53029-9365

Isherwood's fans will want to look for his new book, "Book of Plough: Essays on the Virtue of Farm, Family and the Rural Life," published by Lost River Press, Inc.

OPENING SHOOTING RANGES

You have carried articles about sporting clays and shooting ranges. Our small group is looking into opening a facility dedicated to shooting sports, primarily upland bird hunting with any combination of trap, skeet and sporting clays.

Can you tell us which departments or agencies issue licenses or permits for such facilities? Who can help provide wildlife and habitat management plans for such operations?

Robert Allen Borchers
Woodstock, Ill.

No state permits or licenses are required to establish a shooting range. However, conditional use permits are typically required by local government (county and village or township) before such facilities can be established. Permits address safety and noise concerns as well as local zoning ordinances.

The Department of Natural Resources offers financial assistance to establish such facilities if the owners/developers are willing to grant a 20-year lease to allow hunter safety programs to train hunters at the range and if the sites are open to the public during the range's normal hours of operation. The Department of Natural Resources annually receives \$100,000 to build or improve shooting ranges statewide that agree to these conditions. Typically 60-70 of the more than 600 ranges in the state vie for portions of these funds. For more information on this funding, write Tim Lawhern, DNR Hunter Safety Coordinator, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.

Wildlife habitat plans for such properties can be discussed with the DNR wildlife manager responsible for services in the county in which the facility would be located. Contact our Bureau of Wildlife Management

Readers Write

at the same address (P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707) to learn who might help you develop such a plan.

HODAGS AND FROGS

I was extraordinarily pleased that Dreux Watermolen's fine article on amphibians (April 1996) has finally set the record straight on the mysterious and untimely demise of the Calaveras County jumping frog. Certain West Coast herpetological authorities have repeatedly and erroneously attributed the destruction of these noble creatures to a population of Wisconsin hodags accidentally introduced to California via a boxcar of Rhinelander beer.

I hope the facts presented by Mr. Watermolen will put this unfounded, pernicious rumor to rest for once and all.

David J. Cooper
Deerfield, Wis.

No kidding folks. There really was a strain of long-legged hoppers in Calaveras County and transplanted bullfrogs displaced the frogs that were not eaten.

DISAPPEARING TOAD TRICK

The article on amphibians in the April issue reminded me of an observation from a few years ago. I was working to remove the stump of an old oak that had been toppled by the big storm of '89 that blew through our place on Axehandle Lake in Chippewa County.

I was removing the soil from around the topmost roots when a toad came toppling out of the log and landed on a pile of loose dirt near the base of the stump. Instead of hopping away and maybe because of its surprise, it just sat there with what looked like no intent to move.

As a nature lover, I began to consider my options to remove the toad. While I was standing there thinking, I couldn't help

but notice that the toad was sinking very, very slowly into the loose soil with almost no perceptible movement of its body or limbs. I can't recall how long it took, but I watched that toad sink deeper and deeper until finally there was no sign or evidence that the toad had ever been there.

I wonder if this is a common activity for toads and if it is related to the search for food, egg-laying or hibernation.

Delmar A. Halfmann
Eau Claire, Wis.

Dreux Watermolen responds: The activity you describe is a common defense toads use to avoid predation and escape the summer heat. The toad was likely burrowing in with its back feet, but this was difficult to see from your vantage point. As the toad nestles into the soil, its cryptic coloration helps it "disappear" from danger.

MORE ON WOLVES

We enjoy many interesting and educational articles in the magazine, especially recent ones about wolves and Wisconsin license plates. It would be very nice to come up with a special plate or decal for out-of-state wolf lovers. A nominal fee could be charged with a portion of the money going to wolf protection.

Kathryn Krubl
Lyons, Ill.

Your donations to the Endangered Resources Fund would be most welcome. Direct them to the Bureau of Endangered Resources, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707. The idea of decals or static stickers might interest a lot of endangered species enthusiasts.

A DIET OF SONGBIRDS

We notice several recent stories and letters about hawks and hawk recovery. Not everybody likes them. I believe hawks have destroyed the small bird popula-

tion in our area. I used to feed more than 100 pounds of seed to birds through the winter months. Now, we don't even use 20 pounds of seed in the winter.

Viola Pries
Salem, Wis.

Lots of causes could explain why you are seeing fewer birds at your feeder. Bird populations may be dropping, the site may be more exposed to predators, they may not like the seed varieties or other people may be feeding birds more heavily. We will look at one unusual threat to songbirds in our December issue.

IN PRAISE OF SOIL

I enjoy every article in the magazine, no matter the topic — big game, endangered species, wildflowers, water, amphibians and so forth all possess a certain beauty that make them attractive to a readership of all ages.

Wisconsin has another less glamorous resource that we and need to publicize more often — healthy soil.

Wisconsin's economy is largely dependent on the wide variety of soils that blanket the state. We all have a responsibility to conserve and enhance healthy state soils by educating and informing residents and visitors about the uses, potential and limitations of soil.

Wisconsin has several soil inventories in progress. County surveys maintain project offices in Ashland, Spooner, Rhinelander and Ladysmith. Projects in Richland Center and Eau Claire are updating old soil data and the Menomonee Indians have a special soil project.

Soil maps in any form are a powerful tool [in making land use decisions]. I'm sure there's a story here if one were to "dig a little."

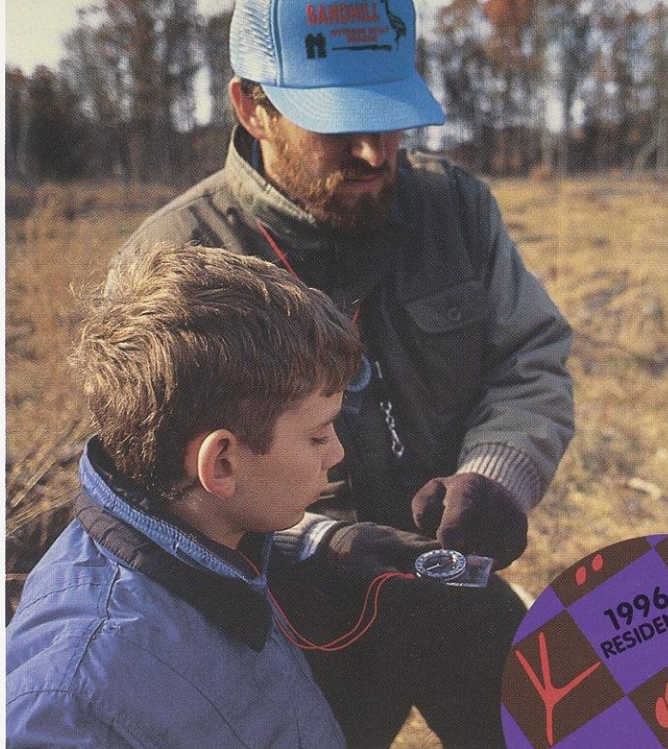
Tim Meyer
Eau Claire, Wis.

UPDATES

Biologists attending a midwestern symposium on cold-blooded animals in Milwaukee on March 30th heard new explanations of why amphibian populations may be declining. Michael Lannoo, Ball State University, told colleagues that development trends which isolate wetlands by surrounding them with housing developments and farms creates barriers for migrating amphibians. If frogs, toads and salamanders can't readily migrate from one wetland to another, they don't reproduce. Lannoo said "the problem is the greatest in the upper Midwest where wetlands appear at potholes in the landscape, rather than in the South where wetlands are usually associated with rivers." — *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*

University of Wisconsin studies verify this trend. Laura Tate, graduate student at the Institute for Environmental Studies, studied how habitat fragmentation reduced spring peeper populations. Wetland size was much less important than the distance from wetlands to the nearest woods. Peepers sang in 60 percent of the wetlands in contact with woods but only about a third of the wetlands that were one to 175 yards from woods. No wetlands more than 175 yards from a woods contained spring peepers.

Frogs dry out easily and hot, dry conditions quickly kill them, noted UW-Madison Wildlife Ecologist Stan Temple. "When you put a hot, dry area in between these habitats, at some critical distance, the frog can't survive the annual migration." Temple said. — *UW-Madison Ag and Consumer Press Service*



Get the point in orienteering.

ROBERT QUEEN



Cheap skills!

Let it not be said that in matters of recreational finance, your TRAVELER is a spendthrift. Not here will you read of those luxe five-star hunting "shacks" where white-gloved valets serve the morning flapjacks from silver salvers while a string quartet plays selections from "Il Cacciatore."

No. The hours you have to enjoy the outdoors are precious, the funds to do so limited. TRAVELER aims to notify you of events and outings offering outstanding value for your time and money. So it is with great pleasure that the T lets you in on an amazing bargain — a sweet deal during which you'll have fun *and* learn something at the same time. Furthermore, you'll get to *keep* this knowledge your whole life long! For the mere, the minuscule, the nearly evanescent cost of admission to a state park!!!

Still breathing? Good. Because you mustn't miss **Outdoor Skills Day '96** — Saturday, August 24.

It's the day members of Wisconsin's conservation and outdoor recreation clubs host work-

shops at state parks and wildlife areas across the state.

These knowledgeable folks will gladly show you and yours the intricacies of navigating through the woods with a map and compass. Perhaps you've always wanted to tie a dry fly; let an experienced fly-fisher teach you the technique. If you're uncertain about how to dress a deer carcass or set up a turkey blind, you can find out on Outdoor Skills Day.

"Hands-on" will be the order of Outdoor Skills Day, so bring the children and let them learn by doing. Together you can practice packing for a wilderness hike, getting up into and down from a tree stand, identifying animal tracks and bird calls, setting tackle for panfish. These are the skills that lead to a lifetime of outdoor enjoyment.

Has your husband never learned how to back up a boat trailer? Does your wife consistently incinerate the perch fillets over the campfire? Attend Outdoor Skills Day and save your marriage! Let someone else — someone with *experience* — handle the delicate matter of

showing your spouse how to paddle a canoe or pitch a tent the right way.

Here are just a few of the workshops and sessions slated for Outdoor Skills Day '96:

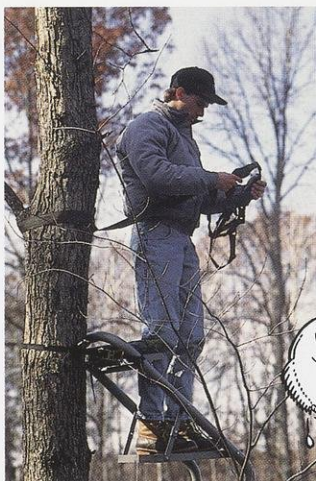
Hoffman Hills Recreation Area

just 10 miles northeast of Menomonie will host rock climbing demonstrations, canoeing instruction, birding advice, fly-fishing, fly-tying and orienteering workshops. (715) 232-1242.

Willow River State Park

near Hudson will offer workshops in a festival format from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Try your hand at archery, using a tree stand and deploying decoys. Learn about big game hunting, bear hunting, working with dogs, outdoor survival skills, treating outdoor injuries, fishing, rigging fishing boats, taxidermy, gun cleaning, tent camping, bird identification, bird calling, SCUBA diving, wildlife photography and more. (715) 549-6410.

Learn tree stand safety.



ROBERT QUEEN



Bong Recreation Area in western Kenosha County. Sessions run 8–11 a.m. or 12:30–3:30 p.m. Attendees will visit six stations — hunting equipment and tips, waterfowl identification and hunting, deer hunting (including bow hunting and tree stand safety), turkey hunting, fishing, trapping (scents, sets and skins), and backpack camping and cooking. (414) 878-5600.

Horicon Marsh State

Wildlife Refuge in Dodge County will host duck hunting, angler education, birding and trapper education programs. (414) 387-7877.

Outdoor Skills Day workshops have also been scheduled at Blue Mound, Buckhorn, Council Grounds, Copper Falls, Devil's Lake, Governor Dodge, Governor Nelson, Hartman Creek, High Cliff, Interstate, Lake Kegonsa, Lake Wissota, Merrick, Mirror Lake, Nelson Dewey, Perrot, Potawatomi, Rib Mountain, Tower Hill, Wyalusing and Yellowstone Lake state parks as well as the Brule River and Kettle Moraine state forests. Call the properties or your regional DNR office for further details.

The workshops may be inexpensive, but there's nothing cheap about the skills you'll take home from Outdoor Skills Day '96. It's the kind of knowledge you can bank on — and build on.

You know the adage: "Feed a man a fish, and he'll be hungry tomorrow; teach a man to fish, and he'll be crazy for the rest of his life."

