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MSCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES

October 1996 \$3,00

Your cabin photos
Bowhunting for whitetails
Releasing orphaned bears



The queen would continue laying eggs throughout

the summer.

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October 1996

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Bear-raising

It isn't easy bringing up youngsters that were born to be wild.

Dave Weitz



experience

weet as she sounds in the nursery story, Mama Bear has a fierce reputation in nature as one tough lady when it comes to her cubs. The female bear's legendary protectiveness and mothering skills are the standards by which all maternal instincts, human included, are measured.

In 1995, two cubs — one separated from its mother by accident, the other by design — presented DNR conservation wardens and wildlife managers with a challenge: How to raise those cubs in a way that would do a wild bear proud. Meaning, the cubs would have to be healthy, fit and, most importantly, taught the behavior that would enable them to survive in the wild.

Scores of yearling bear cubs have been reintroduced successfully into the wild out West, but in Wisconsin, cub rearing is still in its infancy. The cub-sitters drew on their knowledge of the species and the help of volunteers to copy Mama's ministrations and get the cubs back where they belonged.

Learning about the wild side of life

Cub Number One, a young female, or sow, was stolen from her den when she was only a week or two old. The Taylor County man who took her claimed he'd forgotten the den location and insisted no harm had come to the mother. Conservation warden Nick Nice at Medford recovered the cub in April 1995; she'd been fed a mix of oatmeal and milk and was already a chunky two-month-old when she was brought to DNR's MacKenzie Environmental Education Center in Poynette.



(left) Can yearling cubs be returned to the wild? Wildlife Technician Dan Mautz wanted to try. (above and right) Accidents and thievery can separate young bears and mothers. Cubs that are relocated in foster dens within a few weeks acclimate well. Could captive yearlings similarly be taught to be wild bears again?

Cub Number Two, a five-month-old male, or boar, was recovered near Cushing after his mother was killed by a passing car in June 1995. Conservation warden Brian Fellrath of Luck found the boar hiding up a tree near its dead mother.

"I had no idea how to get him out of there," Fellrath said. Two animal damage control officers from the U.S. Department of Agriculture baited a live trap with pastry and waited...and waited. The hungry cub ignored the



BREBT I ANGE

Bears get more respect

The black bear is a big game animal in Wisconsin today, respected and studied, but that wasn't always the case.

Until 1956 there was no closed season on black bears and one only needed a small game license to hunt them. That same year mandatory registration of bear kills provided accurate information about their numbers, and in 1974, state law gave the black bear big game status, same as the white-tailed deer. Today, an estimated 14,000 bear inhabit Wisconsin. It's a big change from 1985, when concern for the state's dwindling bear population warranted a closed season. That year the state Legislature mandated that the Department of Natural Resources control the bear harvest.

Interest in bear hunting is increasing, according to Mike Gappa, wildlife manager in Eau Claire. In 1986, when the season reopened, only 503 bear were harvested. Now, a license is needed to pursue bear and an additional permit is required to harvest one. In 1995, more than 30,000 people applied for 2,710 permits and killed 1,737 black bears.

Hunting remains an effective management tool to keep the population at goal levels. "If we didn't have a means to control the bear population, in four years we would be at 35,000 bears," Gappa says. The increase would slow the reproduction rate as bears competed for food and habitat, raise cub mortality due to conflict with other bears, and increase bear cannibalization (a result of population stress for many species).

A larger bear population would likely result in more bear damage and nuisance complaints. The cooperative wildlife damage control program includes Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, counties and the United States Department of Agriculture Animal Damage Control (APHIS). In 1995, APHIS received 1,439 calls about black bear in Wisconsin. After investigations, 607 bears were live-trapped and relocated. There were 872 nuisance complaints where the bears eventually left an area on their own.



Most of Gappa's work takes place in Bear Management Zone C, a 5,989-square mile area of West Central Wisconsin containing about 950 bears in range densely settled by people. He says that today, in Zone C, it's not food or cover that limits bear; rather, it's the human attitude about having bears in the area. "Bears have adapted remarkably well to the presence of people, while people in some cases have not adapted well to bears," Gappa said. "I believe that black bears and people can co-exist. The bears are showing us how that can be done through their actions. I think we owe them the opportunity."

Gappa talks with civic organizations, school groups and landowners to help dispel the "Big Bad Bear" stereotype. He has evidence, too, that more people welcome bears as neighbors these days: When he had to relocate three newborn bear cubs to dens with surrogate mothers, the response from landowners willing to share their knowledge of where bears denned was overwhelming. Most told Gappa they'd never mentioned "their" bear den before because they wanted to protect their black bear neighbors. Old attitudes are changing, and both people and bears are benefitting.

— Dave Weitz

trap, walked past the sweets and stayed near its mother's body. Eventually the men closed in on the cub, and when it scrambled up a small basswood tree, one man shinnied up the trunk and snared the boar with a catch pole. They loaded the cub into a dog kennel and it too was sent to the MacKenzie Center.

Both cubs became the charges of Dan Mautz, a wildlife technician based in Poynette. "The mission of the education center isn't to hold healthy wild animals captive, but to attempt to rehabilitate and reintroduce them to their natural home," Mautz said. He placed the two cubs in a 20 x 20-foot pen with an attached exercise area of the same size, equipped with logs, large rocks, and trees. Although an estimated 35,000 young visitors from regional schools saw the cubs at MacKenzie, Mautz did his best to make sure the cubs didn't become too accustomed to people. He had other plans in mind for the orphaned bears: Mautz wanted to reintroduce the cubs into the wild.

He knew it would be chancy. Cubs can be returned to wild conditions if they are not exposed to people for long, but these bears were growing quickly in captivity. Mautz did some research and discovered that Montana officials had successfully reintroduced 48 of 50 yearling bear cubs to the wild. And he knew DNR Wildlife Manager Mike Gappa had reintroduced three black bear newborns the year before. Mautz gave Gappa a call.

Gappa remembered the conversation. "Yes," I said, "it can be done here in Wisconsin — or at least tried here in Wisconsin." The two wildlife managers decided to tackle the task from different ends: Mautz would work on



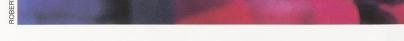
the cubs' diet and conditioning, Gappa would scout out a new home.

In essence, Mautz had to teach the bears how to be bears. The rapidly growing cubs needed to learn the habits and behaviors their mothers would have taught them — and fast. To help the cubs learn to recognize and forage for wild foods after emerging from their winter

dens, Mautz fed them the foods they would find in the forest. He collected wild grapes, acorns, raspberries, blackberries and grasses for the cubs to eat. Even with the help of food-gathering volunteers, Mautz had a hard time keeping pace with the cubs' healthy appetites.

As the winter months neared, Mautz had to encourage the cubs to begin the seasonal shift into denning behavior. He slowly reduced their food supply, causing their metabolism to

(opposite) Black bears adapt remarkably well to human pressures. They are opportunistic, voracious feeders who will down fruits, insects, carrion, prey and food scraps. Many people are protective of bear dens and wild bears in their area, despite such nuisance habits. (left and below) People are moving into wooded areas and bear range is extending southward. Wildlife biologists Mike Gappa and Wayne Hall are marking bears to track their growth and behavior. The research helps gauge how many bears people are willing to tolerate in the urbanizing environment.



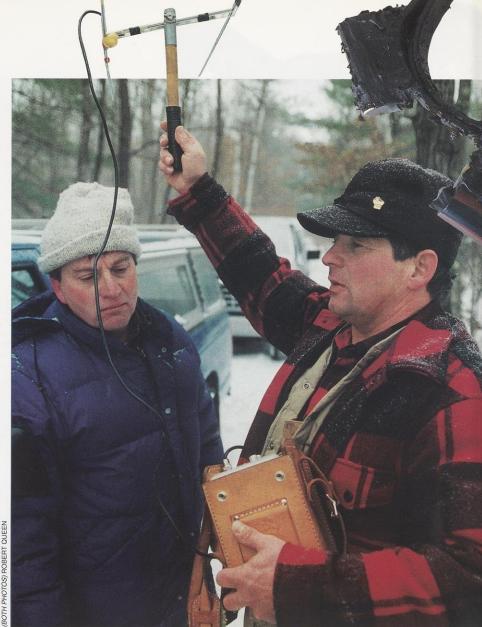


What a lot of work! Orphaned bears were crated, trucked, lifted, dragged on sleds and bundled into wild dens. They slept the whole time.

slow down for the winter rest. These cubs were well-prepared for hibernation. Each had put on a solid fat layer; in fact, they were twice as fat as they would have been had they spent their first year in the wild. The extra size and weight gave them a bit of added insurance for surviving the coming winter and spring. In October, the bears were introduced to wooden crates built into cave-like dens. The fat, sleepy cubs adapted well to the "transition dens" lined with dry grass, leaves and pine branches that served as their homes until wild dens could be found. As food was withdrawn, the cubs settled in for a long winter's nap.

A home for the orphans

Meanwhile, Gappa was searching for the ideal den site. He wanted a proven den, one that had been used by bears in the past but was isolated enough so the cubs wouldn't be bothered by people. He found what he needed in the Eau Claire County Forest: a deep den where a sow had raised two cubs the year before. Miles from traveled routes, it would provide an out-of-theway spot for the yearlings. Some of the



(above) The bears were fitted with transmitters and tracked throughout the winter...until the cubs teamed up, chewed up and slipped off their collars. (opposite) By nature, Wisconsin's 14,000 wild bears are shy and will avoid people. Biologists continue to test techniques for rehabilitating and releasing orphaned bears to the wild.

materials from their captive dens would be transferred to the natural den, to help the bears adjust to the new surroundings.

In early December, the hibernating bears were tranquilized, closed up in their crates, transported to the new den sites, fitted with ear-tags and radiocollars, and placed in their new dens. It sounds relatively easy on paper, but out in the field, the managers literally had their hands full. Each cub now weighed between 85-110 pounds. Mautz and Gappa had to hoist the bears out of the crates, load each one onto a plastic sled, and haul them carefully to the new den site. The weather on moving day proved most foul —

the worst ice storm of the winter. It was almost, well, unbearable.

Still, the release worked out fine. Transferring some of the bedding material from the crates into the den made the bears feel at home, and they stayed in hibernation after the tranquilizing drugs wore off.

Out and about

In early spring, the bears emerged from their den in the Eau Claire County Forest and Gappa kept tabs on them via the radio collars. Both bears were sighted by wildlife biologists and volunteers assisting in the project. All was going well until May. Radio-tracking



Early this June, the young sow bear made an appearance in the community of Fairchild, begging food from people and attempting to enter a vehicle. On the night of June 17, the same bear pestered a homeowner in the Town of Wilson. The bear was tranquilized and euthanized. It just couldn't shake its early imprinting on people. Its fate serves as a sad reminder of why wild animals should not be removed from their natural settings.

The young boar has been sighted and is presumably still roaming the Eau Claire County Forest. The bear-raising experience hasn't discouraged Mautz or Gappa. Mautz is raising two more orphaned bear cubs this fall and is trying new techniques to isolate the bears and give them an even wilder experience. In time, the two wildlife managers hope to perfect the techniques so others will have better luck returning black bears to the wild after they've had contact with people.

Dave Weitz is DNR's public information officer based in Eau Claire.

Three bears who got a break

I wo wildlife technicians on their way from Grants-burg to Spooner stepped out of the January cold and into the DNR's Western District Headquarters to chat with me: A sow bear had been killed by land-clearing equipment and three newborn bear cubs, their eyes still not open, were discovered unhurt. Ordinarily, the cubs would be taken to the MacKenzie Environmental Education Center at Poynette, where trained technicians would care for them until the cubs could be placed in zoos or private game farms.

Perhaps there was another way — nature's way. But, to return the cubs to their natural environment, I'd need help fast. We had to find someone willing to take on the task of providing round-the-clock bottle feedings. We'd also have to find sows with cubs approximately the same age that could handle a quick addition to the family.

We got lucky and found both. John and June Owen of rural Fall Creek have operated White Pine Rehabilitation Center for several years to care for injured animals. When I asked if they could care for three tiny bears, they agreed at once.

Next, we turned to WEAU-TV reporter Dave Carlson for help in finding homes for the cubs. Carlson's Sunday night television program about Wisconsin's resources covers much of central and western Wisconsin — the bear range where there might be a sow with cubs. Carlson was eager to help, too. He aired a story about the three cubs that night, and shortly thereafter my phone started ringing. The story was picked up by the Associated Press, spread nationally, and soon people who wanted to save the orphaned cubs called in from as far away as Montana.

During the next two weeks more than 40 Wisconsin residents, from Kenosha, Racine, Janesville, Spooner, Winter, Park Falls, Superior and a multitude of rural areas contacted me. They all knew of bears denning on their property, but had kept the locations secret to protect the animals.

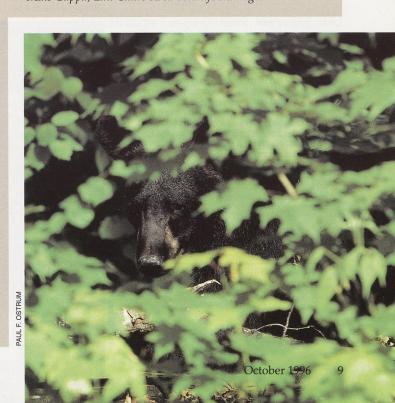
I quietly checked out potential den locations while

John and June Owen cared for the rapidly growing cubs. Some of the den sites looked promising but I couldn't find any with sows and cubs. We really needed dens with a sow and one, or at most two, cubs, to ensure a smooth "adoption."

After a two-week search, we found some good sites. On February 8, accompanied by John and June Owen, I carried the cubs to their new homes. The male cub was placed in a den in Chippewa County with a large sow who had two cubs. The two female cubs were placed in a den with a sow in Price County who also had two cubs.

At the time I truly felt the cubs were going to fit right in, and that's what later happened. Periodic checks later on verified that the new cubs had been fully accepted as litter mates.

— Mike Gappa, Eau Claire Area Wildlife Manager



PAINTTHE



Kids in the country and the city are making their mark to point out that what goes on the ground mark to point out that what goes on the ground flows to the water. By stenciling messages on storm drains and parking lots, the children raise community awareness and launch a program to learn simple steps for reducing runoff pollution. (above and right) A stenciling project on the Bad River Indian Reservation was part of a Youth Summer curriculum in July. (bottom right) Peggy Kendhammer's third graders at Harry Spence Flementary School in La Crosse left their mark or Elementary School in La Crosse left their mark on storm sewers. Different neighborhoods in La Crosse blufflands drain to the Black, La Crosse and Mississippi rivers.



TOWN WITH WAVES

Community groups are leaving their mark for a cleaner environment.

Pamela Packer

een-agers and spray paint — that's a combination guaranteed to draw attention. So, when members of a 4-H club got busy with spray cans in a Madison neighborhood, a police officer pulled over to tell them...what a great job they were doing!

With spray paint and stencils, volunteers from schools, youth groups, adult programs and churches are teaching others about stormwater pollution. Groups in more than 60 Wisconsin communities caught the WAV and passed it on to more than 2,000 people this year.

WAV, pronounced wave, stands for Water Action Volunteers, a partnership combining the Department of Natural Resources' water resource expertise and the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension's educational skills to coordinate a variety of stream and river activities around the state. WAV provides educational materials and knowhow for local volunteers who want to take action to improve water quality. In this case, WAV groups are stenciling the message: *Dump No Waste*, *Drains to River/Stream/Lake* next to storm sewers to remind people that whatever is dumped into storm drains doesn't just disappear — it flows into nearby waterways.

Stenciling storm drains is easy, visible and fun. "Four high school classes stenciled 477 storm drains in less than a week," noted Diane Hanson of the Lincoln County Land Conservation Department. Students in the Green Bay area stenciled over 350 storm drain inlets. 4-H clubs in Green County want to stencil every drain in the county; more than 1,000 drains have been done so far.

One phone call to the WAV program will begin a community building activity that also improves the environment. WAV supplies stencils and step-by-step stenciling directions upon request. Volunteers pick their messages based on where the storm sewers in their community drain. In areas of Milwaukee where sanitary sewers and storm waters combine, the message states: *Dump No Waste, Protect Our Drinking Water*.

WAV also supplies groups with door hanger cards and fact sheets to distribute to nearby residents. The information explains the sources of stormwater pollution, and suggests ways to curb the problem.

Each volunteer group purchases its own paint and supplies or borrows supplies from city government. Local ordinances may limit where stencils can be applied. Get permission from a governmental board, city engineer, public works

department and neighborhood associations before stenciling drains and learn how local decisions are made.

Volunteer stencilers get a close-up view of what flushes down storm sewers. "You wouldn't believe all of the junk in some of the storm drains," said one of the Merrill teens.

In most Wisconsin communities, stormwater is not treated before it reaches the nearest surface water. Rain and snow melt running off from parking lots, driveways, sidewalks, streets, roofs, and yards carries many pollutants.

Common things like lawn care chemicals or soap from washing a car act as fertilizers in aquatic systems and encourage weed growth. Soil from yards and construction sites or farm fields turn local waterways cloudy or turbid. Cloudy water makes it difficult for fish to see and feed, soil in the water is abrasive against fish gills and sediment can smother fish eggs. Bacterial contamination from pet and livestock waste makes rivers and lakes unsafe for swimming and other types of recreation.

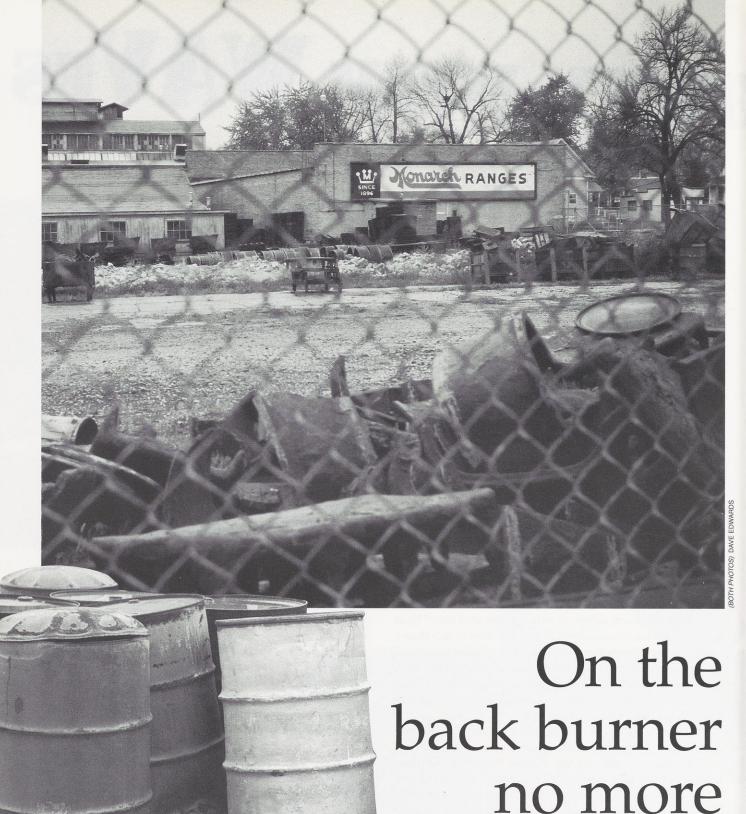
This time of year, leaves and grass clippings are the culprits in stormwater: Yard waste decomposing in lakes and streams consumes the oxygen needed by aquatic organisms, and the decomposed plant matter increases the amount of phosphorus and nitrogen in the water, spurring the growth of aquatic weeds.

Simple steps can make a big difference. Recycling used oil, using lawn chemicals sparingly, mowing your grass no shorter than two inches, washing your car on the lawn, collecting pet waste and keeping fallen leaves out of the gutter until they are collected all help improve water quality.

Based on the feedback from volunteers, I'd estimate that nearly 10,000 storm drain inlets were stenciled this year. In some cases I could not fill specific stencil orders because the demand was so high.

If your group wants to catch the WAV, fill out the card bound into this magazine on page 17. So far, WAV has cooperated with the Lake Michigan Federation, Chippewa and Waukesha County land conservation departments, the Adopt-A-Lake program, the Audubon Society and the Wisconsin River Alliance to paint the towns in Wisconsin.

Pamela Packer coordinates the Water Action Volunteers program for the Department of Natural Resources and the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Service.



A Wisconsin community recently reclaimed a part of itself after a long struggle with hazardous waste. Other towns and cities can do the same.

Greg Matthews

here are few things sadder than an old, abandoned factory. Each broken window, every crumbling brick points to an industry taken unawares by progress, to a product now obsolete, perhaps even to mismanagement and outright neglect. Empty buildings stand as forlorn reminders of jobs lost, of families coping with diminished incomes, of communities sapped of economic vitality.

Cities and towns dealing with old industrial sites often find they've been bequeathed an additional unfortunate legacy: pollution. The wastes from antiquated manufacturing processes linger on, remnants of a not-so-longago time when the hazards of untreated waste materials were unknown and the necessity of environmental regulation was still a matter of debate.

So it was an occasion for much rejoicing in August 1995 when a large group of business and government officials gathered to break ground on a new 31,000-square-foot grocery store at the former location of Malleable Iron Range Co., just north of downtown Beaver Dam.

"It's been a long and very strange trip at times," said former Beaver Dam mayor Steven Sabatke, referring to the site's convoluted 10-year journey from abandonment to renewal. Dave Edwards, DNR hazardous waste investigator based at Horicon, agreed: "I always tell people this has been the most frustrating yet most rewarding case I have worked on in my 17-year career," he said. "It seems like there's no end of legal tangles and financial hassles when a corporation goes under and leaves a mess for the Department of Natural Resources to sort out. The taxpayers pay for it, but it is gratifying to finally see a site restored to usefulness for a community."

Leaving no stove unturned

Beaver Dam's route to urban renewal began with a disturbing announcement in the spring of 1985: The Malleable Iron Range Co., a fixture in the city for almost 100 years, filed for reor-

ganization under Chapter XI of the federal bankruptcy code.

Since 1896, the company had produced quality home appliances under the Monarch label at the foundry located near the center of town. Company employees, many of whom lived across the street or down the block, had cast, electroplated, painted and enameled the stoves, grills, heaters and fireplace inserts that had made Monarch a household name. By the mid-1950s nearly 1,200 workers kept the production lines moving at the plant.

Three decades later, Malleable was bankrupt, pushed into decline by the difficult economic climate of the early 1980s. Malleable's assets, excluding buildings, were sold to the Monarch Appliance and Fabricating Co. (MAFCO), and all usable items were moved to Monarch's Algoma facility.

"What remained at Beaver Dam was trouble," said Edwards. He conducted an inspection at the plant and discovered 500 barrels of toxic and hazardous wastes, 65,000 gallons of dangerous materials, including flammable paint thinner, stripper waste, electroplating solutions, lab chemicals, porcelain enamel waste with high concentrations of heavy metals — and an assortment of barrels "containing who knows what."

By now, the Malleable Iron Range Co. existed only on paper, but the hazardous waste and the threat that waste posed to the community was real. In bankruptcy court, the Wisconsin Attorney General represented the state's interest in a full cleanup of the site. But Monarch was powerless to start removing hazardous waste on its own — all its corporate assets were tied-up pending review of a creditor's committee, and only court approval could release funds.

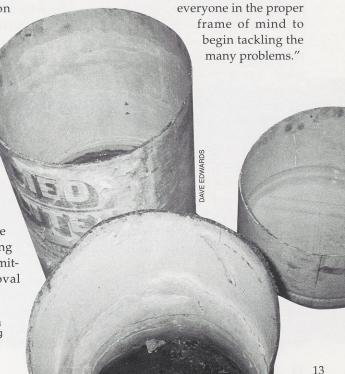
Identifying unmarked residues is a costly, hazardous, time-consuming job

Lacking the resources to hire security guards, Monarch left the 13-acre complex of mostly dilapidated buildings unattended. The buildings were broken into at night and on weekends despite the best efforts of the Beaver Dam police and fire departments. Residents feared fires or accidents would occur at the site.

The problems were just beginning

With most of the hazardous waste still on-site by 1987, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was called in to help. EPA used \$369,000 from the Superfund program to pay for removing wastes during the summer of '87. By law Monarch was required to cover the full cost of the cleanup, but the bankrupt company didn't have the cash. Eventually \$151,000 was taken from the company's assets to partially reimburse EPA.

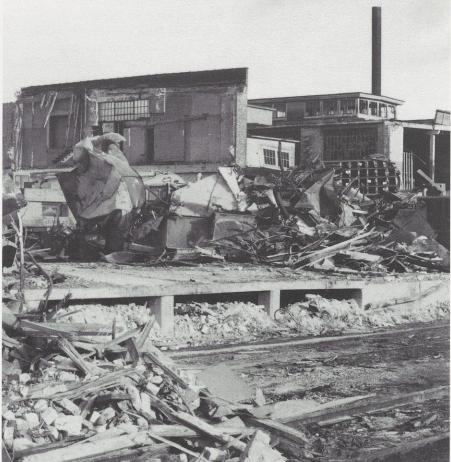
During 1988, Dodge County took over ownership of the site. The county and the city formed a committee to decide what to do with the buildings and lot. "We recognized right away that we [the county] couldn't get out of our responsibilities, so we took a proactive stance," explained Chuck Swain, then and now chair of the Dodge County Board. "It put







One bad thing follows another when businesses are abandoned. This bustling enterprise in Beaver Dam became an eyesore and a gang hangout.



When the old plant burned in a February 1990 fire, the county spent \$360,000 recovering the site. (top left) Old asbestos-wrapped pipes were carefully removed. (above) Remains of the burned-out buildings had to be carefully demolished to separate hazardous materials and avoid injury.

Many they were. Buildings in poor condition needed to be razed — an expensive task, given the asbestos pipe insulation that had to be removed before the structures could be demolished. A closer examination of the site revealed underground petroleum and chemical storage tanks had polluted groundwater and soils.

"The place was an eyesore and a danger," said Swain. "Kids were running through it. We recognized the potential for disaster." The Beaver Dam Fire Department and other area fire departments held drills on the property so each squad would know exactly where to go in case a blaze broke out.

The worst-case scenario came to pass in the early-morning hours of February 16, 1990. As flames set by an arsonist engulfed the buildings, the lean-to structures collapsed "like a

deck of cards," said then Fire Chief Peter Westra.

Officials made an on-the-spot decision to raze some of the surrounding structures, hoping to contain the blaze by creating a fire break. It worked, but they then faced the task of demolishing all buildings on the property. The effort cost the county \$359,000.

Rising from the ashes

However disastrous at the time, the fire ultimately sparked some good. Said Swain: "It really got the ball rolling to finish cleaning up the site." In late 1991 the Hoffman Corp. of Appleton approached the county with a proposal for developing the site. The county and city made commitments to address all environmental concerns and make public improvements associated with the property.

During the next several years, Dodge County hired an environmental consulting firm; submitted a site assessment to DNR; installed a system for dealing with petroleum contamination; cleaned up and disposed of contaminated soils; and put together a remedial action plan for removing non-petroleum products from groundwater. The effort cost the county nearly \$1.5 million. The city of Beaver Dam created a Tax Incremental Finance (TIF) District in September 1994 to help spur development on the property, and contributed \$350,000 toward environmental clean-up costs.

The state provided some financial assistance as well. Dodge County received \$657,000 from the state Petroleum Environmental Cleanup Fund to clean up groundwater pollution caused by underground tanks. And the state Department of Development

Community recovery with less risk

he decline of our urban and rural economic centers is both a statewide and national concern. As the suburban fringe expands and prospers economically, many properties in downtown areas have been abandoned. Left behind are residues from the ways we conducted business, bankrupt dreams and environmental contamination. These so-called "brownfields" become pockets of decay—run-down properties that can turn healthy neighborhoods into wastelands.

Brownfields, like the Monarch Range property in Beaver Dam, represent a tremendous opportunity for industry and communities. Unlike undeveloped sites, or "greenfields," brownfields are already located close to a work force and established services, such as roads, public transportation and utilities. These lands on the surface are attractive to businesses and developers. Communities, however, often do not have the resources to determine if abandoned, tax delinquent or bankrupt properties are contaminated. As the Beaver Dam experience has shown, with the right blend of public and private cooperation and funding, brownfields can once again become productive, economic profit centers within communities.

The cleanup and reuse of brownfields offer opportunities for public/private partnerships to reduce health hazards, reduce cleanup costs, return abandoned land to the tax base, reverse neighborhood decay, provide short-term construction jobs, create long-term manufacturing and service jobs, restore the environment, promote growth and preserve the value of urban lands.

To meet this challenge, the Land Recycling Law of 1993 reduces a community's risk and encourages people to buy contaminated properties, clean them up, and put them back to productive use.

Good for the buyer — In the past, one of the main barriers to purchasing and reusing contaminated properties was the risk that purchasers and investors would assume unlimited liability to clean up pollution caused by others. The Land Recycling Law exempts purchasers or "innocent landowners" from future liability if they investigate and clean up polluted property to existing Wisconsin standards. When known pollution is cleaned up, the new owner can develop the site with the assurance that he or she will not have to pay additional cleanup costs if contamination is found that occurred before the purchaser acquired the land.

Good for the community — Abandoned and tax delinquent properties often sit unused because no one will acknowledge ownership. Until someone is available to act as the seller, future development is virtually impossible. The Land Recycling Law provides incentives that encourage municipalities to take title to such properties and start the redevelopment process. The law helps communities act as brokers without bearing the costs for future investigations and cleanup liabilities.

Good for lenders — Lenders have been reluctant to repossess or invest in properties, fearing they would have to assume financial liability for cleaning up contaminated sites. The state law provides relief to lenders who foreclose or provide business loans to those owning brownfields.

For recorded information on the Land Recycling Program, to order publications or have your name placed on a Land Recycling mailing list, call 1-800-367-6076 (in-state calls outside of the Madison metropolitan area) or (608) 264-6020 (Madison callers and out-of-state inquiries).

— Cara Norland, DNR Land Recycling Program.

Soil borings and test wells monitor whether buried wastes or contaminated groundwater migrated toward neighboring properties.



Recovering a brownfield is expensive. At the Monarch Range property, demolition wastes were hosed down to keep foundry dusts and asbestos from drifting into neighboring residential areas.



awarded Beaver Dam a \$350,000 block grant for improvements, including street, sewer and water utilities, engineering and site work.

Clean-up costs for the entire property totaled \$2.6 million. Despite the high price tag, former Beaver Dam mayor Steve Sabatke says it has been

Teamwork and commitment restored the burned-out factory site. (*left to right*) Dave Edwards, DNR solid waste investigator advised on cleanup and disposal methods. Pete Westra, former Beaver Dam fire chief, had to make tough decisions as buildings burned and the site was razed. John Bemis, field supervisor for the Beaver Dam Dept. of Public Works managed the demolition project. Eugene Pritchard, Dodge County board supervisor, kept the county involved and communicated with site neighbors.





"a huge success story highlighted by the textbook cooperation among the city, county and state." Today, Rechek's Food Mart stands on the former Malleable grounds and employs 35 area residents. An adjacent strip mall is under construction and will soon house a video store, restaurant and other businesses.

It's been a long and at times painfully slow process from the bankruptcy to the ultimate redevelopment of the property. "Folks around here have seen Malleable thrive, then dissolve; MAFCO move in, then leave," said Edwards. "They've seen the empty buildings, the vandalism, the removal of thousands of gallons of hazardous waste, the fire, the soil and groundwater clean-up — and now, new businesses. You could say we've come full circle."

Edwards credited the county and city officials who looked beyond the seemingly insurmountable environmental problems to envision the revitalization of the site. DNR hydrogeologist Mark Putra concurred: "The effort put forth by Dodge County and the City of Beaver Dam made our job much easier." Putra cited the Monarch site as a prime example of the Brownfield Initiative.

"The problem Beaver Dam faced is pretty common," said DNR Secretary George Meyer, who toured the site just after the grocery store opened in May 1996. "What's unique is how that problem has been turned around. This is clearly a model for the rest of the state."

Said Edwards, with admiration — and relief: "They have truly made a silk purse out of a sow's ear." \Box

Greg Matthews is the Public Information Officer for DNR's South Central Region.

The recovered site was developed as a supermarket and has attracted an adjacent strip mall. Here chief Westra, site developer Martin Sell, DNR environmental restoration specialist Mark Putra, DNR Secretary George Meyer and DNR Waste Investigator Dave Edwards look over blueprints for the new stores in the renovated neighborhood.

Hunters, take a BOW

Wisconsin archers have enjoyed one of fall's most sporting challenges for more than 60 years.

Kevin Wallenfang

The Vilas County forests were filled with red-coated hunters. Each was searching for a white-tailed buck and all carried modern firearms. All, that is, except an enthusiastic few who had slung homemade bows and arrows over their shoulders.



An early hunt at Necedah and the fall hunt today (inset) invite archers to try the same skills and pleasures.



Since that historic shot more than 60 years ago, Wisconsin archers have had unequaled opportunities to bowhunt whitetails, but we tend to take that privilege for granted. The sport had its growing pains and its critics, but I'm getting ahead of my story.

Much of Wisconsin's howhunting

Much of Wisconsin's bowhunting history can be traced back to that first enthusiastic archer, Roy Case, dubbed by his peers as the Father of Wisconsin Bowhunting.

Prior to that first bow season, archery in Wisconsin focused entirely on target shooting and field competition. In the 1920s, groups of archers gathered for friendly competition at local archery clubs and field ranges. Archery shoots, scheduled almost every Saturday from spring through fall, were often day-long family affairs with picnics and children's games. Unlike gun hunting and turkey shoots, archery shoots were popular with all ages and both sexes.

As field archery grew in popularity, Case organized Wisconsin's first

archery club at Racine in 1927. Two years later, he organized the Wisconsin Archery Association, and subsequently won its championship several times. His dedication to the sport eventually would gain Case national recognition and honors from the National Field Archery Association and others.

His skill as a field archer drew a crowd and provided an audience as Case talked up the dream of bowhunting for big game. The idea of taking game with the bow was not

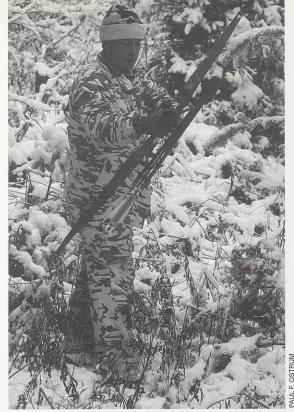
completely unheard of — magazines carried accounts of a few adventurous bowmen in the western states who had killed deer, black bear, and even moose and grizzly bear. However, game officials in Wisconsin were skeptical. The long bow was considered a primitive weapon, some questioned if archers would have the skill to get close



Roy Case (above) poses with that first buck taken by a modern bowhunter. He was a charismatic, skillful archer who built support for big game seasons. Art Laha (top) ran a popular hunting camp in Vilas County that catered to bowhunters. (left) Women were welcome participants at field ranges and archery clubs where target shooting was a popular weekend pastime.

DNB ARCHIVES

Not since the days of the Chippewa and Winnebago had archers stalked deer in Wisconsin's woodlands. But on that cold November day in 1931, the first deer legally harvested by an archer since statehood was brought down. It was a spike buck, killed by one homemade arrow shot from a 54-pound longbow.



Camo clothing, compound bows, sights and stabilizers have made bowhunting equipment more sophisticated, but archers still need to hone their powers of observation and silently stalk. Despite technological advances, the average shot is still less than 20 yards.

enough to their prey, and many doubted that an arrow could effectively harvest big game.

The archers persisted. Reluctantly, state approval was granted so hunters could use archery gear during the 1931 gun deer season. The total bag for the season was Case's spike buck.

This accomplishment proved to be the toehold that became a foothold to gain more bowhunting privileges. Shortly after bowhunting was legalized during the gun season, the deer committee of the Wisconsin Archery Association and influential archers such as Case, Larry Wiffen, and Aldo Leopold petitioned the State Conservation Commission to allow bowhunting in separate areas specifically set apart from gun hunting zones. As a result, Wisconsin became the first state in the country to establish an archeryonly deer hunting season in November 1934. The season was limited to just five days in Columbia and Sauk counties. The bag limit was one adult buck and a license cost one dollar. Forty hunters participated, and the total take for the season was one buck, bagged by Mr. William Ostlund of Chicago, Illinois.

Rules of their own

During those first years of bowhunting, many of the hunting laws that applied to gun hunters were considered irrelevant for archers.

As interest in the sport grew, it became obvious that the ethical issues and safety requirements for bowhunting differed somewhat from gun-hunting. Bowhunters shot from much closer range and had to be more skilled to assure a clean kill. The increased challenges of a bow hunt warranted a longer season.

Again, Roy Case was up to the task. Under his leadership, the deer committee of the Wisconsin Archery Association organized the Wisconsin Bowhunters Association in 1941. This group

gave bowhunters a stronger, unified voice in establishing new standards of conduct to promote safe, ethical bowhunting. New rules included a minimum poundage of bow pull, pro-

hibited the use of crossbows, and barred poisoned or explosive arrow tips.

By 1941, more than 2,000 archery deer hunting licenses were sold annually. During the mid-1940s, the popularity of archery hunting in Wisconsin gained momentum and the number of licenses sold often doubled from year to year, particularly in the years following the end of World War II. Outdoor recreation was revitalized in America and, just as women had opened up the workplace, they opened the door to outdoor experiences a little wider. More and more families could be seen setting up their hunting camps.

The fall bow season offered dyedin-the-wool deer hunters an early opportunity to hit the woods when the fall colors were at their finest and the air was cool and crisp. It gave them a chance to hunt months before the annual gun season, and both women and children already had been more widely accepted as bowhunters. It was an opportunity that many simply couldn't pass up.

In these early decades of Wisconsin's bowhunting history, two areas stand out as the most popular destina-

Even in its early days, the camaraderie of bowhunting extended to a wide mix of families and friends.



BOWHUNTING WHITETAILS

tions for archers. The first was a 54-square-mile tract of Juneau County that comprises the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge; special archery hunts were often hosted there. The second, Vilas County, was the stomping grounds of the sport's first advocates.

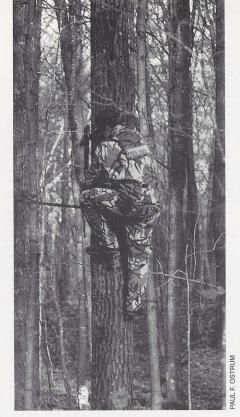
On Opening Day in September 1948, bowhunters notched a new benchmark: more than 3,000 hunters participated in the archery-only deer hunt at Necedah. For the times, that was considered phenomenal interest and clear proof of the growing popularity of the sport.

To respond to a vocal group of skeptics, the Necedah game managers conducted some of the first studies to gauge whether archers wounded or effectively killed deer. By the close of the hunting season, the results showed a surprisingly high percentage of deer shot by bowhunters were cleanly shot and recovered. Those studies gave bowhunters credibility and support for more liberal future hunting seasons.

Vilas County and the surrounding lakes country boomed in bowhunting popularity from the late 1940s through the early 1970s. Deer populations were much higher than in southern and central counties of the state. Moreover, the region was already a popular vacation and resort destination. The sight of lots of deer in the North during summer visits drew many archers back to the area in the fall. And the resorts were well-placed to provide plentiful accommodations for the traveling hunter.

Many hunters spent their time under the guidance of Art Laha, who ran a large deer hunting camp in the Town of Winchester. Laha would often have as many as 100 bowhunters in his camp each week, and in some years accounted for more than half of the total archery deer kill for the county. In 1949, some 266 of the statewide archery harvest of 551 deer were taken in Vilas County.

Many archers enjoyed both of these bowhunting hot spots by starting the opening weekend at Necedah and spending the rest of the season making weekend trips to Vilas County. The combined annual archery deer harvest



Bowhunting rules and regulations change with time. Archers used to wear hunter red coats and tree stands were illegal. Now archers must be especially alert and careful to watch for other camouflaged hunters calling wildlife from blinds and stands.

for Vilas and Juneau counties often accounted for more than half of the statewide kill through the mid-1960s.

The 1950s, '60s, and '70s brought many more changes for Wisconsin bowhunters. Full camouflage clothing, allowed for the first time in 1951, freed bowhunters from wearing the traditional red hunting clothes required of gun hunters. A late December archeryonly season opened in 1953. Hunting from a tree stand was banned in 1966, then reinstated in 1971. For years, the practice remained a very controversial topic among hunters.

Growing local interest in bowhunting was influenced by personalities like Fred Bear and Ben Pearson who made bowhunting movies to further promote the sport and create demand for their lines of archery equipment. By 1967, over 100,000 archery deer hunting licenses were being sold annually in Wisconsin.

In the 1970s, the face of archery was changed forever with the invention of the compound bow, which uses pulleys to dramatically increase the pull archers can comfortably draw and hold. Many hunters put away their tra-

ditional longbows and recurves in favor of this new fast and powerful weapon.

Today, bowhunting in Wisconsin is more popular than ever. The state typically ranks in the top five nationwide in the number of hunters, as well as in number of deer harvested. This year, over 230,000 archery licenses were sold in Wisconsin and, following a decade of mild winters through 1995, another record harvest was set of almost 70,000 deer, ranking Wisconsin's bow harvest as number one in North America.

Bowhunters currently enjoy the most liberal bag limits in the history of the sport, a trend expected to continue.

Technology and aggressive marketing have a way of complicating the simplest things in life. Space-age materials used to manufacture bows, arrows, hunting clothes, and much more, have changed the tools, but not the nature of the bowhunting experience. The challenge of getting within a stone's throw of game continues to be the big draw for bowhunters.

Perhaps as a reaction, many archers have been drawn back to traditional longbows and recurves to recapture the simplicity and romance of archery's earlier days.

Despite the liberal seasons, only three out of every 10 bowhunters will bag a deer, but all find plenty of reasons to stick with their sport. Like the archers during that first bow-only season in 1934, today's bowhunters still enjoy the simple satisfaction of spending a day in the autumn woods: the smell of aspen leaves, the honk of a goose overhead, time with family and friends in camp at the end of the day's hunt. And for those successful few who carry a little luck in their pocket, a hard-earned deer more often than not means succulent steaks on the grill and stories that last a lifetime, rather than a trophy on their wall.

Kevin Wallenfang is an avid bow hunter and is the DNR's Assistant Deer and Bear Ecologist.

That special place

Cabins preserve a place for family, solitude, relaxation and hospitality.

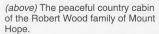
ou opened the front door and invited us in. Last August, we asked readers to share photos and stories about their family cabins. More than 80 of you graciously invited us over and dusted off the welcome mat. Oh, by the way, did we mention we were going to bring all 98,000 subscribers with us?

You told us about your clan. Pointed out the cabin's special features, and shared the warmth of your home away from home. Many of you built your cabins yourself, incor-

porating a bit of an old homestead, preserving an old tradition and adding a few touches to create places of unique comfort and belonging.

Obviously, we can't share 80 stories, but we have selected as many as we can that capture the notion that a family cabin is a place to really relax, get away from daily pressures, pass on family traditions, share good times and enjoy the outdoors with close friends. Thank you for having all of us over for a short visit.





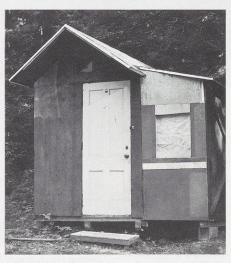
(right) We called it the Cayuga Conrad Hilton up in Ashland near Clam Lake. Two local men built the 16 x 32 cabin of eight- to nine-inch diameter cedar. We chinked it with oakum. The place had a 2x2x4-foot stove of boiler plate steel. We had to make our own firewood, carried two pails of water a day from the spring 200 feet away, and lighted the place with gas lamps. We had accommodations for eight in two sets of bunk beds.

We sold the place a few years ago because we couldn't get anyone with a team of horses to pack us in.

— Robert F. Heinrich, Fond du Lac







(top) Our place is in the Wisconsin River Valley west of Avoca. It's only two years old, but contains hand-me-downs from friends and family. The table is made of cypress from the bottom of an old family beer vat over 100 years old. The 1951 Frigidaire weighs a ton, but has found its final resting place along with family pictures and mementoes.

— Peter Fauerbach, Madison

(above) "The Box" belongs to friends in Oconto County. It was a wooden shipping crate and has runners to double as an ice shanty. Last summer they added a 33-inch addition which was enough to accommodate a table and an extra cot.

— Al and Deb Johnson, Neenah

(right) "The Nut Hut" in northwestern Wisconsin is made of cordwood — 12-inch-thick poplar which was peeled split and dried. Only the outside was sealed so the wood can breathe without rotting. The mortar is a mix of masonry cement and sand. We learn more about deer hunting every year. This year we found if it's noisy in the woods, just pull your ear flaps down and you can walk a lot quieter! — Don Anderson, Turtle Lake

(middle right) Our place is 300 miles northwest from Milwaukee and a mile off the highway. ATVs get us in. My father and uncles hunted here for over 50 years; me for 31 years. No running water, electricity from a generator, wood for cooking and heat. Our menu is wild game from bear to raccoon and, yes, we too have pickled eggs.

When you step out the door, you're in the woods. No long car rides to the hunt. It is like heaven! — Mike Gorski, West Allis







(above) The Buckhorn Hunting Club — We bought an old barn, tore it down and moved the lumber to 40 acres we purchased south of Lake Tomahawk in 1949.

We have four doubledeck beds which sleep four in a bed and a twoholer in the rear of the wood shed. We had gas lights with a stove. Ten years ago, we put in electricity and all the niceties.

The photo was taken in 1950. On the top right you may see a string of unused tags, which now runs five feet. Of the ten shown here, four are still living. We now have our sons and grandsons with us. — John A. Leder, Mayville

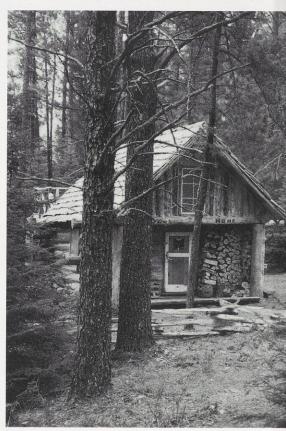


(above) We graduated from an abandoned logging shack to a 12x14 canvas tent to a mobile 46-passenger hunting shack (old renovated school bus) to an 8x20-foot building up in Bayfield County we called the chicken coop. Starting in 1965, Dad and I started building a 10x20-foot addition. It is now carpeted throughout instead of dirt floors. We have electric instead of gas lights. LP gas replaced the old wood stove and air mattresses replaced the alder poles and pine boughs. We still hunt there with my two sons and grandson.

— Gordon Janecek, Adams

(right) Our shack in the Dismal Swamp area between Conover and Land O'Lakes is built from whatever the wind blew down — Cedar shakes on the roof were handmade by my husband. The cabin has no electricity and no phone. It's a great place to sit around a campfire with friends and relatives.

Karen and Russ Anderson-Allard, Conover





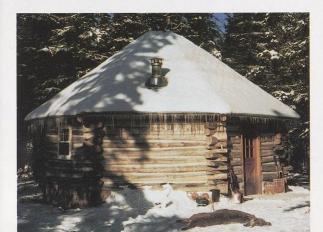
(left) In 1923, Rhinelander attorney A.J. O'Melia built a hunting camp that has since played host to lawyers, judges, politicians, priests, journalists, ne'er-do-wells, local oldtimers and young hopefuls who gathered to hunt the whitetail, mallard, grouse and chase the largemouth. The family has kept the cabin with its bunk room for 16 hunters and a cook. Five generations of O'Melia's have made memories here in front of the massive stone fireplace. — Laurie O'Melia O'Neill, Duluth, Minn.

(below) Our 14x16-foot shack was originally built near Danbury, Wis. and reconstructed in 1984 in Washburn County. A 12-gallon jug supplies water through a siphon. An airtight woodburner heats the place. A window in the gabled end provides ventilation by an intricate system of ropes and pulleys. The "Turdy Point Buck" that graces the front of the shack was created by our good friend, Robert Gothblad. — Bob and Loretta Rand, Spooner









(above left) Quality family life describes our shack. We bought it in 1992 as an unfinished shell on four acres. From drywall and electrical to masonry and painting, mom, dad and two sons have lived for weekends "Up North" to work and play together.

— Kate Mason, Whitefish Bay

(above right) Our cabin was built five years ago in Shawano County by Bill Springborn when he could tear himself away from his restaurant business. The exterior mounts were all donated old heads. — Earl Springborn, Menomonee Falls

(left) Our cabin on the Deerskin River northeast of Eagle River was built of cedar logs cut from the swamp, peeled and carried to the cabin site. I built an octagon because I could carry the 12-foot logs but couldn't carry the longer logs needed to make a rectangle. The design yielded maximum floor space for minimum wall perimeter. Construction took about 65 days spread over four years. We use it year-round for fishing, swimming, canoeing, skiing, hunting and general partying.

— Bob Martini, Rhinelander

CABIN PHOTOS

(right) Our shack in Green Lake County was built in 1960, got electricity in 1974 and water just last year. Oil heat, cast iron pans, a 30-year-old spice rack and the mice make it cozy. The mice will stash acorns and corn in your duffel bag even if you've only been there a day or two.

Our specialty: The front brown section which is made entirely of a solid wall of 2x4s stacked on end.

- Kurt Rossebo, Grafton

(below right) Our friends, the Tesars', cabin lies in Grant County high atop a hill that is only accessible by foot or four-wheel drive. The place was built by the hands of family and friends from trees cut on the property. All the logs were chinked with mud from water that was carried up the hill. There was and still is no electricity. We heat and cook on an old-fashioned stove. Kerosene lanterns provide the light and friendship is the mode of the day. —Kay Morel, Prairie du Chien





(above) We built the cabin in the 60's from logs on the site. There's an inside hand pump for drinking water. The Majestic wood-burning cook stove originates from the 1920s. It was being discarded by my wife's brother when we salvaged it. We made repairs including a gallon of stove black and some silver paint. It has since baked hundreds of cakes, pies and breads and keeps the room warm. The tea kettles produce all the hot water we need. What a break from city life!

Alan Gellings, Milwaukee



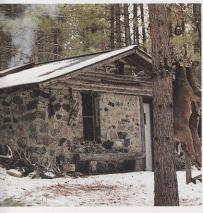


(above) I dismantled and moved this 19th Century log house. It's my basement away from home. When not in use as a hunting shack, it makes a great place for poker and Packer games.

— Denny Wentworth, Arkansaw

(right) The "Wordshop" is in Door County tucked back in the woods near the Appleport area. It was built all with hand tools and all the building materials had to be carried back to the site by hand or wheelbarrow. I started the project about 10 years ago as a retreat so I would have the peace and privacy to write. Construction took many seasons because I was limited to vacation time only. — Richard E. Carter, Evanston, III







(far left) In 1900, this foundation supported a threestory farmhouse. In 1945, it was torn down exposing the stonework to 30 years of nature's forces. The 24-inch-thick fieldstone walls hold secrets of moonshiners, hermits, trappers and unmarked graves. Now it's a cozy winter cabin. - Jim Rollman, Rhinelander

(left) The chickens in the shack have been replaced with a table and refrigerator. The work was done by my dad and grandpa. I don't know if the beauty is in the cabin and land or in the relationship that has formed between my dad and his father, which I can only hope to inherit. — David Rozmarynoski, Appleton

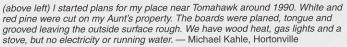
(below) My sons and I built our hunting cabin from old utility poles. Wood ceilings and gables came from a barn we demolished.

We have no electricity. Water is pumped by hand into the tower and flows to provide running water for the sink and toilet. - Ed Braun, Hartford









(above) People that have not visited our place graciously refer to it as a "cottage." It ranks as a pretty nice shack or a pretty shabby cabin. We're located far enough from the hard road that the summer whippoorwills are the most serious threat to a full night's sleep. The snowshoes are not for decoration, They are our primary means of access in the winter. Our cabin in Oneida County was built in 1886 and remains largely original equipment. Wood dowels secure the joists and rafters, popple sticks plug gaps between logs. It has been the focal point of more fun and good memories than any three guys could fairly expect

— Joe Branch, Larry Dalton and Dick Hess, Milwaukee

(left) We kept the shack on the property we bought near Eagle River in 1984. We added a screen porch, new siding, flooring and painted a Navajo style rug design on the floor and cabinets and bunk beds. We use it for extra sleeping space for our eight grandchildren. They love it, especially cooking pancakes for breakfast over an outdoor fire and then eating on the screen porch. James Bragiel, Evanston, III.



Memories of the Grey-Dawn Club



Club members circa 1937–46. Photo taken at the cabin site in Pleasant Prairie Township, Kenosha County along the Des Plaines River in 1938, (*left to right*) Ed Nelson, Chris Sandholm, Clarence Goodman, Charles Voight, Watson Hubbard, author Phil Sander and Chris Radatz.



Phil H. Sander

Editor's Note: One cabin story that came without a photo still paints a picture of a time and place.

ur old gun club was located along the Des Plaines River adjacent to a huge, lush area of marshes and wetlands. The area was within reach of Milwaukee, Kenosha and Chicago, but not widely used in those days.

The river flowed through three townships of Kenosha County on a flyway for migrating waterfowl that follows the Lake Michigan coast. Williams and Holt's sloughs were important resting and feeding sites for the birds. Several bayous were a haven for greenwing and bluewing teal, mallards, shovelers, pintails and wood ducks as well as shorebirds.

In the summer of 1935, a group of Simmons Company sportsmen and two city firemen organized the Grey Dawn Gun Club. The club site was on the western edge of the marsh. Membership originally consisted of 10 seasoned sportsmen. Dues were \$7 — it was still Depression days.

We leased about 160 acres of marsh and woods from the Lee Benedict family for \$50 per year. By luck one member found a small abandoned house. After scraping up funds, we purchased the building for \$90, demolished it, trucked the lumber to the site and built a club house. It was definitely a do-it-yourself project, consisting of a large general room, small kitchen and one bedroom with four bunks.

We called it "The Shack," but to me it was a mansion. The kitchen was furnished with a kerosene stove, the general room with used chairs and a table. Our wives furnished the kitchenware, bedding and other camp necessities. Nearby we built an outhouse. It had a rough seat and we called it The Sliver Room.

Just north of The Shack we discovered a flowing spring. A tile was placed over the bubbling water and the bottom was filled with clean sand. There was always fresh water for coffee and cooking in summer and winter

Carl Anderson, club president, was handy with the carpenter tools and supervised construction. Lawrence Jensen was the cook. During the summer we had family picnics, trap shoots, built wood duck houses and placed them in good marsh locations. In the fall and winter Charlie Voigt, Ed Nelson and Chas James tended a trap line collecting muskrat, mink, skunk and fox.

My partner, Chris Radatz, used to spend mid-summer searching for raspberries and blackberries. During fall, we collected hickory and hazelnuts. We often searched the woods for



The area was within easy reach of Milwaukee, Kenosha and Chicago, but we largely had the river, wetlands and bayous to ourselves. Some weekends in those days we shot our limit of 10 ducks apiece before 9 a.m. It was a duck hunter's paradise.

mushrooms; the prize find we called "the cauliflower." Jensen would slice the mushrooms, place them in egg batter and fry them like a pancake. Boy, were they tasty.

We often gathered on weekends during December, January and February to build spike and canister feeders for wintering pheasants, Hungarian partridge and other wildlife. On our return to The Shack after a cold round of filling the feeders, Jensen had the iron kettle cooking with oxtail soup. Sometimes he would toss a cut-up rabbit or squirrel into the pot with a large piece of Italian bread — what a welcome meal.

Those really were the days of camaraderie: tall stories, hot poker and loud cribbage games filled out a cold afternoon.

Beginning in early September, we prepared for the duck hunting season. The group worked together to build five blinds in strategic locations. Two members were assigned to each blind by drawing numbers, but we often rotated blinds to get some challenging shooting.

Blinds were constructed with chicken wire, laced with cattails, willow and marsh grass. Each blind had a bench or box to sit on. As we built the blinds, it was a thrill to see hundreds of ducks winging over the marsh. Many of the ducks nested and hatched in nearby Holt's slough.

On Opening Day, we gathered at The Shack about 4:00 a.m. for bacon and eggs. Dressed in khaki hunting clothes and hip boots, we headed off to the blinds for the day's shoot.

We always took two boxes of shells as it was tricky shooting at swift passing flights. At the opening time, we followed a strict code to make sure the ducks were in shooting range. During midweek Nelson and James occupied the best blinds, but on weekends the rest of the members filled their assigned blinds. Voigt had a small skiff to punt some shooters to their blinds across the Des Plaines River.

The first two or three weekends offered great shooting, mostly for local ducks. In the bag were teal, mallards, shovelers, pintail, widgeon and the odd coot. On occasions I would take a few jacksnipe and woodcock along the river's wooded areas. In late October and early November, the northern flight winged down the river's flyway.

In the shallow openings where muskrats built their lodges, I would set out a string of mallard decoys I had made from white cedar posts. From my blind, using an Olt call, I could give the ducks a feeding call or a highball, and at times lure a flock within shooting range.

Some weekends we shot our limit of 10 ducks each by 9 a.m. Some members shot only greenheads (mallards) and five or six satisfied them. After a successful duck hunt we often pooled our mallards, and the cook would put on a game feed with wild rice, sweet potatoes and liquid refreshments.

During the second and third weeks of November, flights of canvasbacks and redheads would wing down the river. On a frosty morning, it was worth the cold wait to get a shot at a few of these prize birds. In those days there were few flights of Canada geese. But just south of The Shack in a river bayou we called the Goose Pond, Canadas would gather during the spring migration.

In the '40s, several members were assigned positions in other cities, some were "assigned" to the war effort and still others passed away. There was no time to hunt or to fund the camp, so we disbanded. I still kept my interest in waterfowl, and on noticing how much farmland and marshes were being drained, I joined Ducks Unlimited.

The property was sold and became a Girl Scout camp. Many changes took place; The Shack burned to the ground. The property was sold again and is now a sporting clays operation.

Duck flights still wing over that marsh and river each fall and spring. Time marches on, and I am the last living member of the Grey Dawn Gun Club. Occasionally I visit the property to observe the considerably smaller duck migrations. Geese now outnumber the ducks due to habitat loss, but I am pleased with the progress DU and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources have made in restoring the marshes and wetlands.

Still, I can't visit the old place without recalling the great duck shooting days, old friends and good fellowship we enjoyed there.

Phil H. Sander writes from Kenosha.



Baldfaced hornets strip bits of old lumber and wood to form papery orbs. As the colony grows, the nest is continually enlarged and enclosed.

Continued from page 2

To accommodate a growing colony, the nest is continually enlarged and enclosed for protection. An entrance hole is visible at the base. Nest builders seek out old lumber, trees and fence posts, stripping bits of wood, mixing it with saliva and depositing the mixture on either the inside or outside of the nest. Internal construction involves building additional tiers of hexagonal cells. As the nest size increases, the papery envelope is eaten from the inside and redeposited on outside layers.

Cutting open an old abandoned nest reveals the intricate layers of construction. The external sculpturing is really quite beautiful and durable, tough enough to withstand the ravages of rain and wind.

In late summer, the queen lays eggs that develop into males and fertile females. Once they mate, the social structure of the colony begins to break down and the sterile female workers begin to wander. You will often see them being pesky, buzzing around rotting fruit, flowers, cans of pop and picnic leftovers. They eventually succumb to the cold. Fertilized females overwinter in protected crevices to become next year's queens.

The baldfaced hornet, *Vespula maculata*, is about 3/4" long. The abdomen is black marked with white at the tip and on the face. Some confuse this species with a similar hornet, the yellowjacket (*Vespula maculifrons*), which has a yellow abdomen and face with black markings. Yellowjackets generally nest in the ground. "Paper wasp" is a generic term for several species, including these two.

It is unwise to get near active colonies of either hornet. Both have well-deserved reputations for being unneighborly and aggressive. In my ignorance, I was fortunate not to have aroused the ire of that queen last May. Better to save your hornet nest search for late fall. $\hfill\Box$

Anita Carpenter stirs up an interest in nature near her Oshkosh, Wis. home.

Readers Write

WOLF TALK CONTINUES

The wolf's head insignia on the Endangered Resources license plate was the winning entry for a design to symbolize ALL of the state's endangered resources, not just the wolf.

No one disputes that wolves or any other large predators will attack livestock if they get the chance. What self-respecting predator would prefer a smart, wily meal it had to chase down over a large, slow, defenseless, easy-to-kill domestic animal? It's no one's fault but our own for breeding animals like these in the first place. Even so, farmers get reimbursed for any livestock they lose to wolves.

It is true that wolves are "top predators," but they "saturate"

available territory at extremely low densities. They need large amounts of land to live a territorial lifestyle that guarantees enough hunting area to sustain the pack. Only portions of northern Wisconsin are large enough and empty enough of human habitation to support stable, long-term wolf populations. Any wolf supporters who tried to "treat every patch of woods as if it were prime wilderness in need of wolves" would be poor ecologists indeed, and not worth their salt as project members.

Seth A. Ellestad Madison, Wis.

I read with great dismay the June letter, "No Wolf Fan." Arizona is presently discussing the reintroduction of Mexican wolves. The total hoofed-mammal biomass available to wolves in Arizona is about 85 percent cattle and 15 percent deer. It is mind-boggling why anyone would complain about the existence of wolves in northern Wisconsin, which offers about 95 percent deer and five percent cattle. Believe me, Wisconsin has enough deer for everyone: hunters, campers, photographers and wolves.

The removal of depredating wolves and full compensation in Minnesota shows how responsive agencies have been toward resolving conflicts with private landowners.

Jim Heffelfinger Tucson, Ariz.

Those of us who display the endangered resources plates on our vehicles are not "misled." I'm proud of my plate's message

and hope it instills in others some compassion — if not remorse — for the way the top predator on the food chain has been abused.

It's been more than a half century since I last heard a wild wolf in Wisconsin, and a somewhat shorter span since I enjoyed their noisy socializing on a backpacking trek in Alaska's Brooks Range.

I speak for wolves for the same reason that I speak for the manatee, the hawksbill turtle, the loss of the passenger pigeon and the heath hen. It's the same reason I stop my lawn mower to remove snakes, toads and turtles from harm's way.

We can't bring back the dodo and the Carolina parakeet. But we can show concern for those creatures whose numbers dwin-

Readers Write

dle daily due to man's carelessness and contempt, not to mention a peculiar preference for profit and political expediency. Bob Poeschl Shawano, Wis.

I grew up in the rural Jackson County ridge country that forms a wild chain separating the Trempealeau and Black River watersheds all the way from the Mississippi bluffs to the sparsely populated counties to the north.

My Granddad taught me reverence for this natural wildlife highway. During the '50s, '60s and '70s, while experts were claiming there were no bear, wolves, cougars and lynx, we heard, saw sign or sighted and accurately identified members of all of these species in Jackson County on an almost annual basis. No signs of young animals accompanied these singular sightings. We believed these animals, in search of mates or hospitable new territory, traveled our natural pass to avoid the more densely populated areas surrounding us. These animals usually stayed a few months, or less than a year.

I have lived in Monroe County since 1988 and local hunters have known that we've had a pack of 6-8 wolves in the area since before the recent stocking programs. The wolves are here, have been here, and I question the need to stock a creature that will live here on its own, traveling and choosing whatever suitable habitat is available.

We must continue proactive dialogue with DNR and critically think about its activities, but the agency certainly needs to act as a control, particularly for humans! Witness the "go anywhere" ads for four-by-four trucks that depict the violent ripping of our lands.

Among other things, I am a sheep farmer with a love for the wilderness in all its glory.

Coyotes yap and yammer just

outside my electric fences during the cold, hungry months and my "guard llama" earns his keep. My Granddad planted and harvested to the rhythm of one for me, one for the birds, one for God. I prefer to outwit wild animals rather than destroy them.

By the way, I do not view 71,000 wolves as a very large genetic pool for survival of a species. Imagine 71,000 people as the breeding stock for the entire North American continent out-numbered and out-gunned by a greed-driven species of highly mobile super predators who fly their own laws in the face of time-proven natural ones. David Woof Tomah, Wis.

I'm writing to advise your readers of a new publication about wolf/human interactions. "Ecology and Conservation of Wolves in a Changing World," ed. by Carbyn, Fritts and Seip, is available in hard and soft cover for a cost of \$60 and \$40 plus \$7.50 shipping and handling (U.S. dollars) from the Canadian Circumpolar Institute, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2E1. Telephone (403) 492-4512; fax (403) 492-1153 or e-mail: canadian.circumpolar.institute@ualberta.ca. Cindy Reekie University of Alberta

Edmonton, Alberta

ENJOYS TRILLIUMS

This spring I found a glorious expanse of pink trilliums along an abandoned railroad near my home. Remembering from grade school that it is illegal to pick trilliums, I left them alone. Is there a legal way to transplant a clump?

Margaret Brubaker Stratford, Wis.

Trilliums have not been protected since the 1970s and can be moved if you have the landowner's permission, but please don't

take many from a grouping. Wildflowers are best enjoyed where they are originally found. Move them during the warm weather after they bloom and keep the roots moist. Make sure you are transplanting them into similar soil and light conditions.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

In your June article about invasive, weedy plants you gave Alliaria petiolata as the Latin name for garlic mustard. I'm not a botanist, but I'm very interested in wildflowers of Wisconsin. I use several books to identify flowers, and they list very different names for this plant. Britten and Brown's guide uses Alliaria alliaria and Sisymbrium alliaria. Peterson's field guides use Alliaria officinalis. Axel Rydberg in "Flora of the Prairies and Plains of Central North America" gives two names, and so forth. Who is right?

Also, what is the Latin name of the least skipper butterfly pictured in your butterfly story in the same issue?

Robert F. Bierman West Allis, Wis.

All the books you cited are likely talking about the same plant, for which different botanists have used different names at different times. The article's author S. Kelly Kearns explained that commonly accepted scientific nomenclature changes over time.

Our botanists in the Endangered Resources program use Gleason and Cronquist's "Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern US and Adjacent Canada Second Edition" published in 1991 as our official guide to scientific plant names. The nationwide Natural Heritage Inventory Program uses a 1994 text, "A Synonymized Checklist of the

Vascular Flora of the US, Canada and Greenland," by John Kartesz of the Biota of North America program. Both of these texts use Alliaria petiolata as the current name for garlic mustard but cite the following list of older synonyms: Alliaria alliaria, Alliaria officinalis, Ersimum alliaria and Sisymbrium alliaria.

As Ms. Kearns concluded in her note: "Aren't you glad we have globally-recognized scientific names? Isn't science fun?"

The Least Skipper is Ancyloxypha numitor...currently.

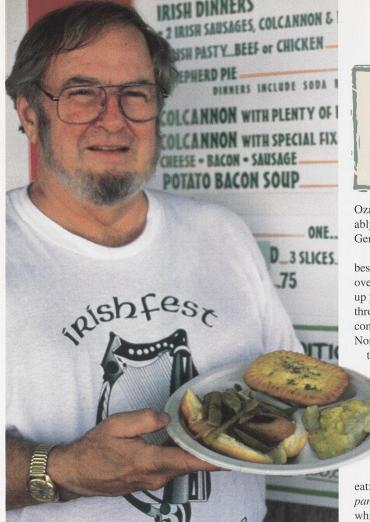
Special deer season update

Those who enjoy hunting in the fall should be aware of a special firearm deer hunting season designed to reduce deer populations in selected agricultural areas of southern Wisconsin overpopulated with deer. Nineteen deer management units will host the October 24-27 season. Some state parks and public recreational lands will also be included in this special season including Governor Dodge, Blue Mounds, Peninsula and Newport state parks as well as the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest and the Bong Recreation Area. Hunters will be restricted to specific areas within these properties so other outdoor recreationists may continue to enjoy the parks as well.

Firearm deer hunting is considered one of the safest outdoor sports primarily due to outstanding hunter education programs and the use of blaze orange clothing. Those venturing out for hikes or other pursuits in late October in these areas should also consider wearing blaze orange clothing for your safety.

Meet us on the web. With Wisconsin Natural Resources, you are always well connected. Now you can correspond with us on the World Wide Web via the Internet. You can

reach our home page at http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/wnr. By the way, don't leave without signing our guest book.



Follow the trail of ethnic foods and festivals from Kenosha north to Rock Island.

Eat your way WEST

hat's this? You don't know aebleskiver1 from booyah?2 Can't get your olliebollen3 in line with your mustreipen?4 Embarrassed to ask for sedsuppe5 in public? And your skorpa 6 walks with a limpa?7

Fear not, ye of timid twisted tongue. Plan an October weekend to go W.E.S.T, and all your linguistic knots will loosen with one bite of a buttery kolache.8

Wisconsin's Ethnic Settlement Trail (W.E.S.T.) follows the paths taken by people who pulled up stakes in far-away places and came to put down roots along the great inland sea of Lake Michigan. The 200-mile route, which traces part of the Lake Michigan Circle Tour and the Historic Green Bay Road, passes through or near scores of communities bearing the proud marks of ethnic heritage.

The names on the mailboxes and above the Main Street shops provide obvious clues to a town's past populace, but the buildings alone tell much about who came before. Immigrants built places of worship in Waukesha County's 16 original townships just like those they left behind in the British Isles -St. Alban's Church in Sussex is a good example. The solid stone walls of homes and mills in Cedarburg and Hamilton in

VISCONSIN

Ozaukee County were unmistakably laid by the precise hands of German immigrant masons.

Look to people and food to best reveal who's been where over the years. You'd better buff up your Czech when passing through the Kewaunee County communities of Stangelville and Norman - some residents still tell jokes (and give directions)

> in the language of the old country. And what do you think the Larsens, Olsens, Jensens and Petersens speak in Denmark, Brown Coun-

ty? Better yet, eat what they eat: Sample medisterpolse9 and pandekager10 at a local cafe while scanning the latest edition of The Denmark Press.

While a leisurely W.E.S.Tern tour can be conducted at any time of the year, TRAVELER suggests you take to the trail on October 7 & 8 for W.E.S.T. Fest at Pioneer Village, Ozaukee County. This celebration of Wisconsin's ethnic folk cultures features live performances of folk music and dance, traditional craft demonstrations, and an incredible spread of the foods you cannot pronounce and can't wait to

taste. The beautifully restored

buildings of Pioneer Village, on

County Highway I just south of Fredonia, provide the perfect setting for the event. W.E.S.T. Fest is open from noon to 5 p.m. Admission: \$5 adults; \$2.50 seniors and students 12-18; \$1 children 5-11; \$8 family rate.

To pick up a free copy of "A Visitor's Guide to Wisconsin's Ethnic Settlement Trail...200 Miles of Living History," including a map and an ethnic events calendar, visit Wisconsin Information Centers in Kenosha. Beloit, Hudson, Hurley, La Crosse, Madison and downtown Chicago.

1-10: If you thought there would be a glossary explaining all the aforementioned ethnic delicacies, forget it. You've got to go WEST and discover them for yourself. Just open your mouth and let the good times rohlik!

(below) Enjoy the ambiance and soak in the scenery at the Cedarburg shops. (bottom) Let the Polish dance troupe take you out for a spin!





