



Wisconsin natural resources. Vol. 21, No. 4

August 1997

[Madison, Wisconsin]: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, August 1997

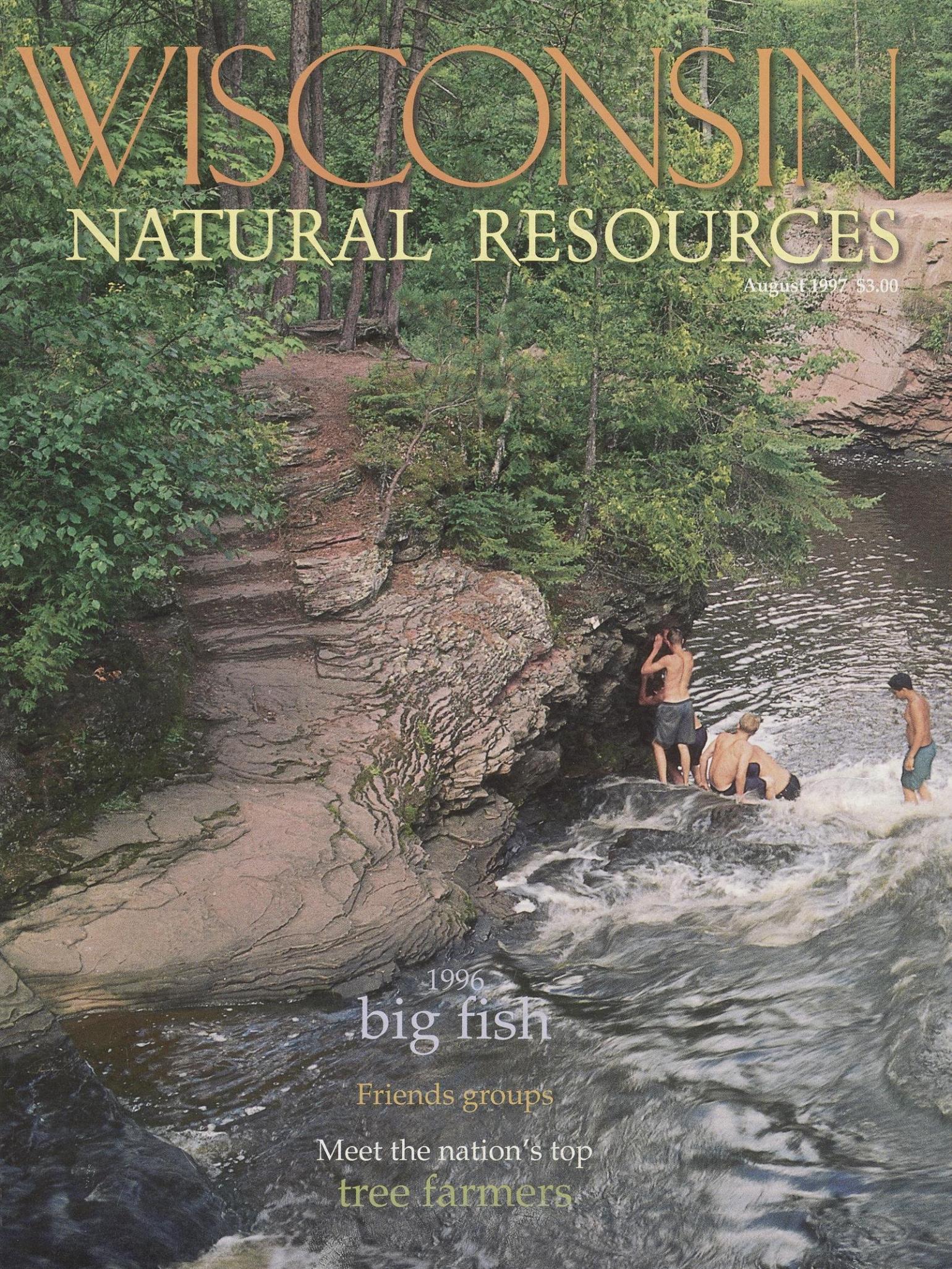
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WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES



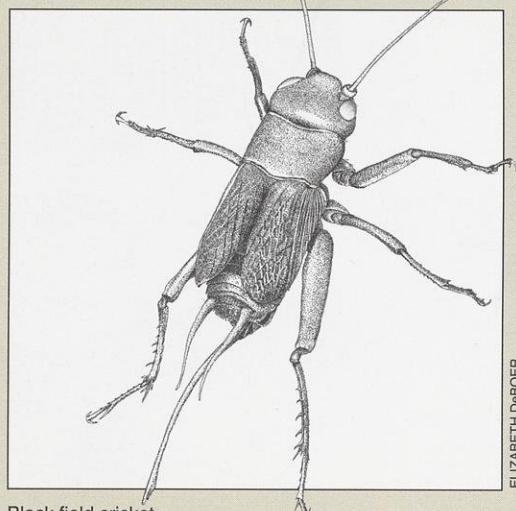
August 1997 \$3.00

1996
big fish

Friends groups

Meet the nation's top
tree farmers

Summertime chorus



Black field cricket.

ELIZABETH DeBOER

Jim Hale

Summer nights can be noisy. Insects, a few birds, thunder, the neighbors' yowling cats, all contribute to a decibel level that might disturb your sleep. One of the most common, persistent and loudest of the noisemakers is an insect, the cricket.

Hundreds of species of crickets have been described in North America. However, there seems to be disagreement among entomologists about just how many species deserve recognition. At any rate, the most abundant one in our area is the black field cricket (*Gryllus* species). These insects are about an inch long, with strong back legs and long antennae. They are widely distributed in the United States. Although they have wings, they rarely fly, but are good jumpers.

They are found in crop fields, pastures, lawns, roadsides, woods and houses, although crickets inside buildings are most apt to be another similar and common species, the European house cricket.

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Printed in U.S.A.
PUBL-IE-012
ISSN-0736-2277



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Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine (USPS #34625000) is published bimonthly in February, April, June, August, October and December by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 101 S. Webster St., Madison, WI 53703. The magazine is sustained through paid subscriptions. No tax money or license fees are used. **Subscription rates** are: \$8.97 for one year, \$15.97 for two years, \$21.97 for three years. Preferred Periodicals postage paid at Madison, WI. POSTMASTER and readers: **subscription questions** and **address changes** should be sent to *Wisconsin Natural Resources* magazine, P.O. Box 7191, Madison, WI 53707. Toll-free subscription inquiries will be answered at 1-800-678-9472.

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WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES

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Volume 21, Number 4

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Tim Eisele

Meet the nation's top
tree farmers, right here
from Wisconsin.



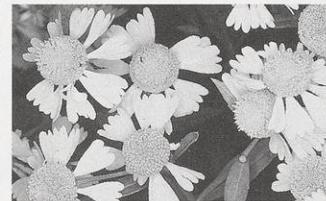
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FRONT COVER: Carved stairway at Amnicon Falls State Park. Learn how volunteers enrich state properties on page 17. *DON BLEGEN*, Spring Valley, Wis.

BACK COVER: Blazing star (*Liatris pycnostachya*) brightens a summer day at a State Natural Area in southwestern Waukesha County.

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YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE FRIENDS

Lisa Gaumnitz

Volunteers make parks and properties special places.



More than TENDING TIMBER

They had a vision, made a plan and stuck to it. Now, 15 years later, this Wisconsin couple has been named the nation's top tree farmers.

Tim Eisele

Rachel and Don Jordan have learned first hand about healthy forests. More importantly, they are willing to share what they know.

In 1996, the Jordans became the first Wisconsin tree farmers honored as the National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year. They were selected from a pool of 70,000 participants by the American Tree Farm System, and their 733-acre tree farm in Iowa County has become a destination for visitors from throughout the state.

"Managing a woodland is a lot like investing," Rachel said. "You have to study and make your decision and then go ahead and do it. Afterward you learn from what you did, but you can't be timid."

"Experience is what you get when you don't get what you want. But you've first got to do something to make progress. If you make a mistake, the forest is a quick healer."

Their 1,026-acre farm, including 290 acres of corn, soybeans and hay, had been owned by Rachel's parents, Elmer and Ada Biddick, since 1947. The Jordans took ownership in 1981, forming a limited partnership with



In just 15 years, Don and family developed a model tree the forest, plants, streams and

Rachel Jordan and their farm that was better for wildlife.

STORY PHOTOS BY ROBERT QUEEN

their children to manage the land and resources. They worked with professional foresters to develop a written management plan for the property.

"The first thing we did was timber stand improvement (TSI)," Rachel said. That involves removing weed trees such as ironwood and musclewood and removing poor quality, poorly formed trees so there is more space for the better trees to grow. Rachel, Don and their three sons did a lot of the work themselves with a chain saw.

"Early on we didn't know too much about it, so the forester would come over and mark certain trees to remove. We'd cut them down and use

the wood for firewood," Don said. "Now, we know what to do and we can mark areas ourselves, although we still have the forester mark other areas for us." As of 1997, they have done TSI, crop tree release and cutting for regeneration on 295 acres.

"Most landowners can't look at a site and tell you what will grow there, but foresters can," Rachel said. "A professional forester can look at the ground and know what will grow

given the soil, subsoil, sunlight and terrain. They see a lot of things the ordinary landowner wouldn't notice."

The Jordans worked with DNR Forester Jim Widder, and hired consulting forester Bill Seybold to make a timber inventory of their property. State foresters are limited in the amount of time they can devote to each private landowner.

"The inventory by the forester is one of the most valuable documents any landowner has," Rachel said. "It provides a baseline and every landowner should have it. Even people who just buy land for recreation should have a cruise by a forester and set up a land account and a timber

Why carry the “Tree Farm” label?

Tree farms are privately owned forests managed to produce renewable crops of forest products, improve wildlife habitat, protect watersheds, and provide outdoor recreation.

Al Barden, executive director of the Wisconsin Forest Productivity Council which manages the American Tree Farm program in Wisconsin, said more than 4,000 tree farms have been certified in the state.

To qualify as a tree farm, the parcel must be at least 10 acres or more in size. The land must be managed to produce and harvest renewable crops of forest products while protecting water, soil and wildlife resources. Owners must agree to manage their parcel following a written plan jointly prepared by the owner and a qualified forester. The property must be protected from fire, insects and grazing, and the land must be reinspected every five years.

Members can compete for the annual award of Wisconsin Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year. Each state winner is then eligible for regional judging and the winning entries are considered for recognition as the National Tree Farmer of the Year award. When the Jordans won the national award in 1996, it was the first time a Wisconsin Tree Farm had been selected.

Tree farms may become automatically certified as producing a sustainable forest product, which can open additional markets for that timber.

For information on enrolling woodlands in the program, write: Wisconsin Tree Farm Committee, P.O. Box 1375, Rhinelander, WI 54501.

account. They may not think about harvesting woodland immediately, but years later they realize that may be something they should do as they begin to understand their woodlot.”

Having a written plan that is reviewed every five years is one key value of the tree farm program for the Jordans. The forester suggests a plan, reviews it with the landowner and periodically inspects the stand to ensure that actions continue to meet the landowner’s management plan.

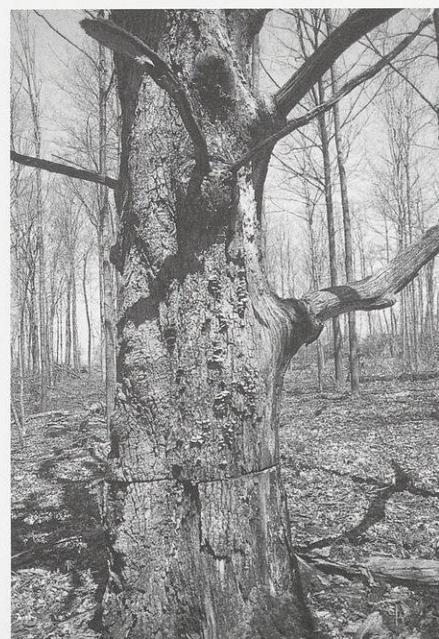
The Jordans’ goals include growing quality hardwood timber and improving the stand. “There seems to be a decline in reliable quantities of quality timber,” Rachel said. “In the years ahead, I feel that regardless of the tree species, the tremendous demand for quality timber will continue. “If you’re growing the trees, you may as well have them straight and tall.”

Their plan also emphasizes continuing research on woodland management, improving wildlife habitat, maintaining trails and enjoying wildflowers.

The Jordans leave behind snags and some poorly formed trees to provide

den sites for cavity-nesting animals. Rachel refers to these as “wolf trees”—dead snags with sprawling limbs and massive trunks that could hold several den sites. The couple intentionally makes other snags by girdling tree trunks, making two parallel horizontal cuts through the bark and first inner layer around the entire trunk. These

“Wolf trees” are massive dead trees that soon become home to cavity nesters like squirrels, songbirds and woodpeckers. Girdled trees will die back creating openings so sunlight, water and nutrients reach the forest floor. Sporadic dead trees are part of a healthy stand and important for wildlife.



trees die back, allowing sunlight, water and nutrients to reach more desirable trees on the forest floor. Girdled trees attract insects sought by woodpeckers and songbirds. By not completely cutting down snag trees, young saplings that would have been crushed had the tree been felled can be saved.

After beginning TSI work the Jordans’ next project was to install gates on all of the entrances to the property. This eliminated youthful partiers and road-hunters.

Rachel hadn’t hunted until 10 years ago. Now, both Jordans hunt deer and wild turkeys. Both have successfully hunted elk in Colorado.

“I make a lot of management decisions while on a deer stand,” she said. “When I’m sitting on a stand I’m looking around, and see trees that should come out or be saved. Landowners don’t normally take the time to sit in one spot in the woods and look at everything they can see. One time while bowhunting I got looking around and saw a field behind me and counted 22 walnut trees. If anyone had asked me if there were that many in that area, I’d have said no. It’s a wonderful way to take a good look at what you have.”

In 1983 they had a lot of over-mature timber and had trees marked for a timber sale. That was a learning experience, “like a semester in col-



The Jordans' managed stand shows a diverse mix of pleasures — robust trees, (inset) white trout lily or dog-toothed violet (*Erythronium albidum*), (above) an indigo bunting (*Passerina cyanea*), (below) a cascade of marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*) that thrives in a meandering intermittent stream.

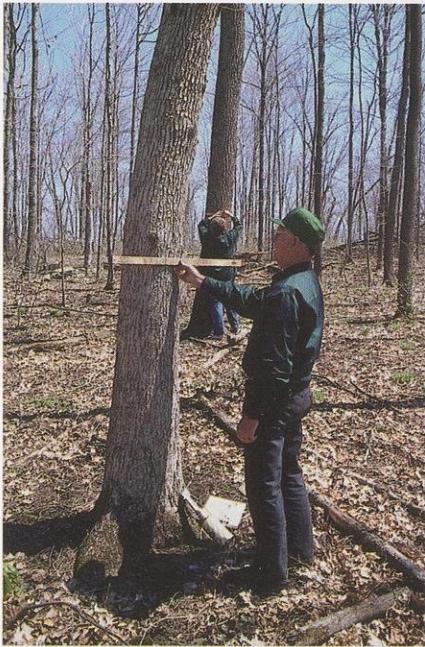
lege," Rachel said. She accompanied the forester and recorded the tally sheet.

"Any landowner who can go with the forester when the trees are being marked will have a much better understanding of what they have and what the possibilities are," she said. "It also takes you off the regular trails and you see [aspects of your property] that you wouldn't see otherwise."

The Jordans selected the logger with the help of their consulting forester. "The private landowner may have no idea of the value of the timber, and the logger is in business to do the best he can for himself," Rachel said. "He is not going to take trees that don't make money for him. But, if you have foresters mark the trees for you, they will mark those trees that need to go, and you won't end up selling some of your high-quality trees before they are ready. They'll get even better."

The consulting forester can give advice on loggers, and help with the contract so the logger agrees to take steps such as seeding the logging trails to save work for the landowner.





Regular inspections and periodic reviews of the tree farm plan help landowners decide when trees should go and when to let them grow.

Rachel learned that during a timber sale a number of small trees will be damaged in the process. To protect some trees, especially walnuts, she ties a pink ribbon around the tree so skidder operators are alerted and can easily avoid the tree.

The Jordans also leave behind tree-tops from felled trees, because hauling them out crushes smaller trees and the additional brush makes good hunting blinds. After the 1983 timber sale, the Jordans converted the logging trails into a 10-mile trail system. Grass and clover were planted and when Don mows the trails he finds that turkey and grouse use them extensively.

The Jordans are keen observers of the woodlands and wildlife. After one harvest, they noticed hillsides where turkeys were scratching. The couple allowed the Department of Natural Resources to live-trap some turkeys for transplanting around the state. Several years later the Jordans observed that the area where young oaks were sprouting was the place where turkeys had scratched the most.

"The turkeys can't get all of the acorns and we think that when the birds are scratching for acorns, they cover some up, scarify the ground, and basically plant acorns," Don said. "Not



Where mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*) grows following a harvest, a young forest will follow.

only is the oak an ally of the turkey, but the turkey is an ally of the oak."

Once, Rachel was distressed by the devastated appearance of the land following a cut and the crop of mullein and bullthistle that had sprung up. Now that she understands how regeneration occurs, she is excited whenever she sees mullein and bullthistle, knowing these species are forerunners of a young forest.

"If you mark the harvest correctly, you will regenerate your next forest," Rachel said. Those trees best suited to the site will regenerate, she said. "Sometimes I think that people shouldn't worry so much what to plant. Instead, they should look at what should be removed. Then decide if you need to plant something."

"Landowners should think about what they'd like to do, then talk to a professional forester," Rachel said. "Start with the DNR forester to learn the history of the land and then work with a good, consulting forester who has graduated from an accredited forestry program. Learn about the different sites, what the soil is and what the possibilities are. So often people plant things that will have negative impact, or spend time and money and end up frustrated."

The Jordans suggest that landowners learn all they can about forestry, obtain the University of Wisconsin-Extension publications and talk with other landowners.

"Join landowner groups such as the Tree Farm system, Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association (WWOA), and the Walnut Council," Rachel said. You'll learn a lot from talking to other members at chapter and statewide meetings.

Rachel serves on the Governor's Council on Forestry. The Jordans are also members of WWOA, the Walnut Council, the National Woodland Owners, Wisconsin/Michigan Timber Producers Association and the Lakes States Resource Alliance. On behalf of such organizations, they meet with legislators and congressmen to discuss regional and nationwide forestry issues and policies. And who could represent the group better than the nation's top tree farmers from Dodgeville? □

Tim Eisele is a freelance outdoor writer, and woodland owner, living in Madison, Wis.

Aiming for the straight and true

Aspiring archers learn to draw with skill and confidence in DNR bowhunting education courses.

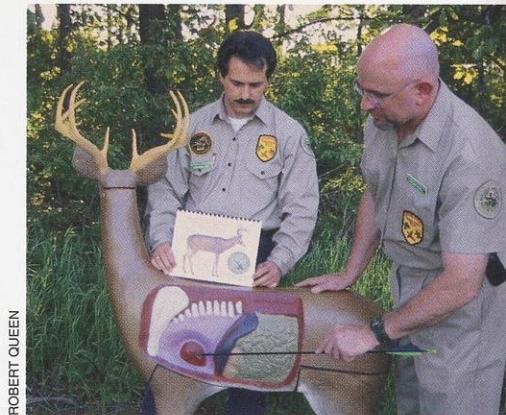
Tim Lawhern

I shot an arrow into the air...it fell to earth, I know not where." After you complete a Wisconsin Bowhunter Education Course, you'll never again wonder about errant arrows. As a responsible archer, you'll know where to shoot, how to shoot, and why.

Many people have heard about DNR's Hunter Education and Firearms Safety program, usually referred to as Hunter Safety. But few know there has been a separate course for bowhunters since 1967. Back then, the course lacked a standardized curriculum, certified instructors, and a recordkeeping system; it was held sporadically throughout the state. Enter the National Bowhunter Education Foundation (NBEF). In 1991, with the help of the NBEF, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources adopted the International Bowhunter Education Program (IBEP) curriculum, a carefully developed program of study. Many other states and Canadian provinces also follow the IBEP program.

Sixteen states now require mandatory bowhunter education. In Wisconsin, bowhunter education remains voluntary. Our 700 teachers make up the largest volunteer instructor corps in the country, and we've certified more than 12,000 students in bowhunter education — the highest number of any non-mandatory program. Because we adhere to IBEP standards, our program is recognized and honored anywhere in the world a bowhunter education certificate is required.





ROBERT QUEEN

(left) Classes encourage hunters to appreciate all aspects of the experience — planning outings, learning hunting skills, handling game and enjoying new foods.

(above) Instructors use a cutaway model to help trainees visualize where to aim for a clean kill. Distance and angle are key judgement calls.

What the course targets

The goal of the Wisconsin Bowhunter Education Program is to train both experienced and new bowhunters in the sport's fundamentals, and to instill in all bowhunters an ethical, responsible attitude towards people, wildlife and the environment. Because the future of bowhunting rests on the actions and attitudes of those who bowhunt today, we aim to ensure that Wisconsin bowhunters are knowledgeable, skillful and aware.

A typical class consists of no less than eight hours of interactive classroom study and at least three hours of practical field training. Classes cover a range of topics including:

- Why you want to be a bowhunter
- Ecological constraints (wildlife management)
- Sociological considerations (acceptable and unacceptable conduct)
- Preparing for the hunt (planning, physical training and equipment)
- Hunting effectively (anatomy, equipment maintenance, arrow dynamics)
- The hunt (methods, game recovery and care)
- Hunting safety (hazards, first aid, survival)
- Field experience (distance judging, tree stands, trails)

Classroom techniques aim to provide practical advice and engage the student. For example in one exercise

Get that certificate!

Hunters must take and pass National Bowhunter Education Foundation (NBEF) certified courses to hunt in Connecticut, Idaho, Maine, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, South

Dakota and Nova Scotia. Also, the course is required to hunt on certain federal lands and/or military reservations in Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Quebec.

A steady hand, a confident draw and an accurate release take practice, practice, practice!



ROBERT QUEEN

that many instructors use, a silhouette of a deer is placed in front of the class. Students are asked to place paper cutouts of the animal's vital organs in the appropriate spot and proper relationship to each other. It's an interesting mix of biology and a hunting lesson as students learn how ruminant animals digest and where to place their shots for a quick, effective kill.

In a second exercise, three students stand in front of the class holding posters with phrases on them. Each poster is shown to the class for just a few seconds. Here's what they say

Poster 1 Bird in the
the hand

Poster 2 Once in a
a lifetime

Poster 3 Paris in the
the spring

The catch is that the last word on the first line of each poster is repeated at the start of line 2. Very few students notice that because the mind tends to override what the eye sees. Since most people are concentrating on content and the general picture instead of detail, they miss the fact that some words are duplicated. The same thing can happen in the field. The hunter thinks he or she sees an animal and the mind starts to fill in part of the image. You need to train yourself to be certain of what you are seeing and to judge if you can shoot safely without injuring yourself or anyone else.

By actively involving the students, they learn faster, enjoy the lessons more and have fun. Before the classes start, many students want the classes to be short. After the bowhunter education course is over, many wish it had lasted longer. The field training portion of the class always receives high marks from everyone.

Why do we hold specific courses for bowhunting? Well, it's true that many of the skills you need to hone for firearm hunting will help you as a bowhunter, but the skills are not identical. Bowhunting is more physically demanding and bowhunters need more practice time to become proficient with a bow. Developing muscles to shoot a bow consistently requires both strength and endurance. That

only comes with time and practice. To get closer, or let the quarry come closer to you, you have to remain motionless for long periods of time. People with less than good conditioning have greater difficulty remaining still.

Stealth and camouflage are very important to a successful hunt. To take a clean shot, the hunter must get much closer to the prey, and exercise greater critical judgement and hand-eye coordination. Whether a bowhunter uses a compound bow with single cam, overdraw, fiber optics, carbon shafts, razor broadheads, mechanical release or an old-fashioned long bow with cedar shaft arrows, each hunter must hunt within his or her own personal abilities. Fancy equipment will not make up for lack of practice and knowledge of the quarry. You also have to overcome "buck fever" to prevent lost opportunities.

Conditioning is also important because bowhunting is generally a solitary activity as opposed to a group effort. Being alone at the end of a hunting trip with a large animal to attend to creates certain dilemmas. First, the hunter must be prepared to care for the game through proper field dressing, skinning, quartering and so forth. The next issue is getting your game out of the field and back to camp or home. Every year, hunters suffer heart attacks from overexerting themselves while trying to drag or carry game from the field. Since bowhunters are typically alone, each must condition carefully to avoid the stress and complications of overexertion.

Every person who has taken a bowhunter education course since Wisconsin adopted the International Bowhunting Education Program has learned something new. Field data shows graduates of the program have greater hunting success than those who have not taken the class.

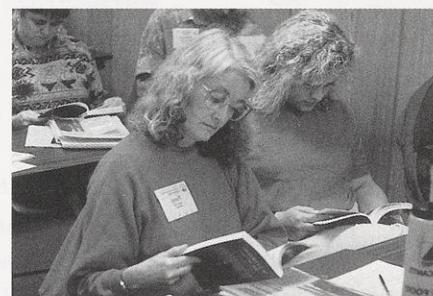
To find a bowhunter education course, call the nearest DNR Service Center. Staff there can access our statewide computer network and find information about bowhunter education classes anywhere in the state. If you represent a club or organization that would like to sponsor a bow-

hunter education course, you may wish to contact your local DNR Law Enforcement Safety Specialist. He or she can connect you with certified volunteer Bowhunter Education instructors in your area. □

If you plan to hunt out-of-state you may be required to have a bowhunter education certificate before you can purchase a license. It's best to check with the specific state or province before you arrive. After all, planning is a part of preparing for a hunt.

Draw on a proud tradition

For 35 years I have pondered the question "Why do you hunt with a bow?" And by accident one day I came upon



MARY KAY SALWAY

Classes offer manuals, tips and discussions on hunting skills and behaviors.

a good answer while listening to an impromptu discussion about the future of hunting. Here's what I heard: "I hunt because I enjoy everything I do in preparing before I go, I have a great time when I'm doing it, and I feel better when the hunt is over for having done it."

Bowhunting goes back to man's earliest times. For me and many other hunters, it is the chance to participate in one of life's great disciplines that prompts us to take up the bow. A successful bowhunt demands excellence in a number of skills. I'm a better backpacker, photographer, camper, bird watcher, orienteer, and cook, all because I am a hunter.

You, too, can become part of Wisconsin's proud bowhunting tradition. Plan to take part in a bowhunter education course soon. □

Tim Lawhern administers DNR's hunter education program.

Sending the right signal?

It's not easy to figure out when you are welcome on public land.

David L. Sperling

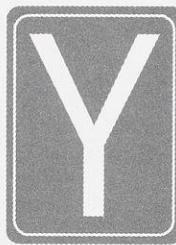
*As I went walking, I saw a sign there.
And on that sign it said "No Trespassing."
But on the other side it didn't say nothing.
That side was made for you and me.*

— Woody Guthrie,
"This Land is Your Land" ©1956



ROBERT QUEEN

ELLEN BARTH



ou're buzzing down the back roads on a warm, sunny day. The windows are rolled down part way and your dog is sniffing and snorting all the new smells. You zip past a wildlife area thinking it would be a nice place to let the dog stretch his legs. Is your pet welcome there?

You're planning a family outing and you remember a nearby public fishing grounds with great birdlife and scattered pockets of wildflowers. Can you picnic there? Or you wonder if your family is welcome to walk the trails on a school forest.

Signs mark a wide variety of public parcels throughout Wisconsin, but it's not clear what activities are welcome on public property.

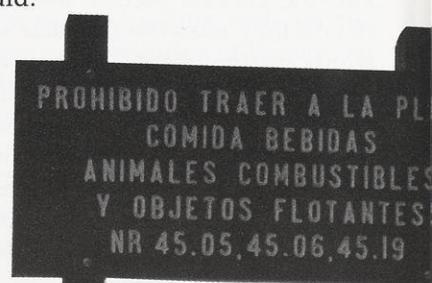
"Most people want to do the right thing," says Doug Fendry, Chief of DNR's Land Management Section. "They are not interested in trespassing, or breaking the law when visiting public lands. They want to know where they can get out and explore a new area. We ought to make that easier for them."

"At one level, it seems pretty simple," Fendry adds. "After all, public lands exist for public use. But every parcel cannot accommodate every activity, so we need to give people better information. Often, this has meant posting signs. We need to find ways to let people know what is allowed on the property without intimidating the visitor.

It's not easy to determine who owns a public parcel. Schools, towns, cities, counties, state and federal governments may manage land differently, Fendry said.

Even if the land is posted with the manager's phone number, there are often no phones available and most people use

Signs on public lands usually indicate what activities are restricted or who paid to restore the property. Signs on private property usually specify what public uses are permitted.



DEAN TVEDT

DNR PHOTO

sites on weekends, early evenings and holidays when offices are typically closed.

Most public lands are open for hiking, picnicking and berry-picking. Some allow hunting and fishing. Generally, the courts require that public sites be posted with signs listing what is prohibited rather than what is allowed.

"That's not very friendly, and it doesn't make people feel especially welcome, but over the years the courts felt it was clearer to list what is not allowed on a property," Fendry said.

"We'd prefer to post signs telling people they should use these properties as long as they don't do something that endangers their own health or safety, the health and safety of others or damages the environment. For instance, I'd much rather post a sign that says 'Please keep your horses on marked trails' than 'Horses restricted to marked trails.'" However, courts have said if we use the word 'please' it is more of a request than a demand, and we would lose leverage to stop that rare visitor who decides to act more selfishly.

"Other places, like our State Natural Areas are sensitive. They contain

parcels with endangered or threatened plants that could be trampled and serve as important breeding sites for some species.

"It is getting people to understand the distinction between picking berries and digging up trilliums; that line between exploring a pond and collecting the tadpoles to take them home; the difference between watching minnows swim in a stream and collecting bait on state waters for commercial purposes. We want to let people know about restrictions without having to plaster signs all over."

Camping is another matter. On most DNR properties, camping is restricted to those areas posted as designated campsites. That's a practical decision, because campers typically want a few amenities like restrooms, drinking water, trash collection, a fire ring, a level place to pitch a tent, a nearby parking spot and, perhaps, electricity. It's not possible to provide those services at the many properties that are not staffed, Fendry said.

How about parking? On some public properties, like public fishing grounds, there is an access sign, but it's unclear where you should park.

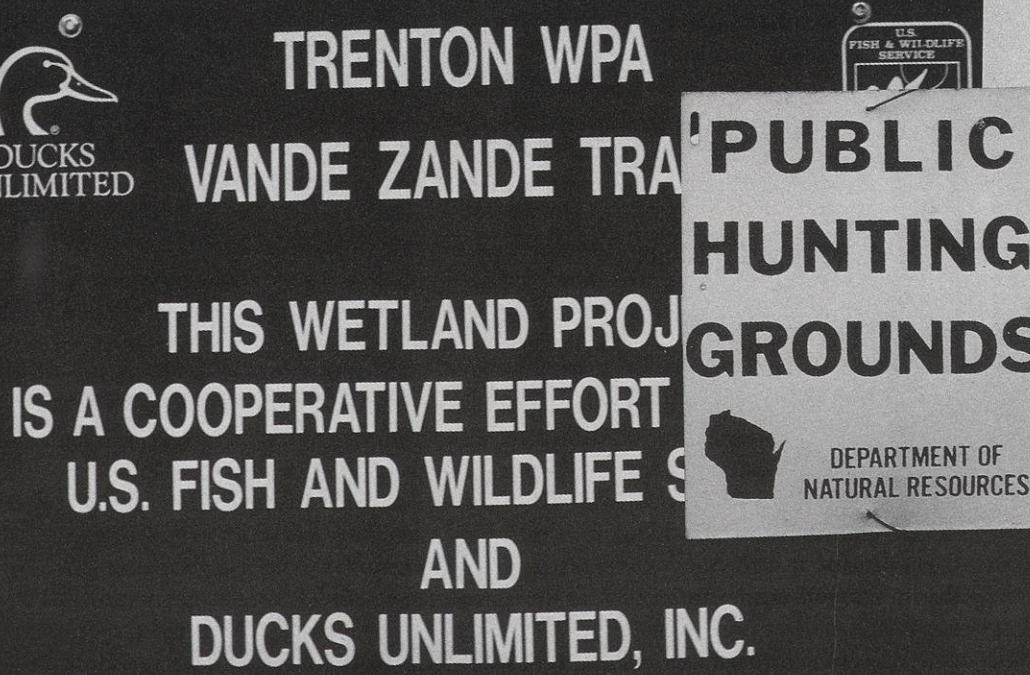
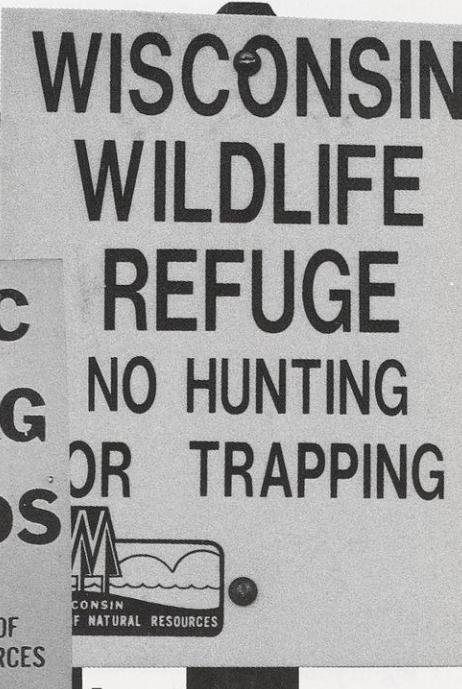
"As long as the local

municipality has not posted the road as closed to parking, all you have to do is get off the road, well onto the shoulder so you are not obstructing traffic," Fendry said. "Where a set-aside parking area is more obvious, that's where we would typically post any regulatory signs and trail information."

The department also posts wildlife viewing area signs along highways directing people to properties where opportunities to see wild animals are outstanding at different times of the year. These signs complement the *Wildlife Viewing Guide* produced by the DNR Bureau of Wildlife Management.

Different postings at different properties

Some signs are merely informational and don't indicate public access. Signs indicating where wetlands, streams or prairies have been restored are erected to thank the partners who helped fund a project. For instance, Ducks Unlimited and Trout Unlimited erect signs on



(BOTH SIGNS) ELLEN BARTH

DNR PHOTO

PROPERTY SIGNS



DNR PHOTO

Some signs seem cold and unfriendly. Courts have assumed that most activities are allowed on public property unless specific restrictions are posted.

projects, but the signs don't indicate how the property can be used.

The boundaries of National Wildlife Refuges are posted with a flying goose symbol, but these federal lands are not open to all activities. More information is typically provided at nearby parking lots or at the property headquarters. These buildings are usually marked on state highway maps and phone numbers are listed in local phone directories. Since each National Wildlife Refuge is unique in the kinds of public uses allowed on the property, contact the nearest U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office to find out when the site is open to hunting, hiking and other uses.

Waterfowl Production Areas are federal properties also managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These marshes, ponds, dikes, cover and food patches serve as breeding grounds and rest areas for migrating waterfowl.

Signs on federal property saying "Open to Public Hunting" do not mean every property is open for hiking or open to public uses outside of established hunting seasons. A sign stating "Use of Firearms Restricted to Legal Hunting Only" means you can't use the area for target shooting or sight-in your firearm.

The rules on DNR properties are a little easier to interpret. The Department of Natural Resources manages trails, public fishing grounds, natural areas, state parks, state forests, fish hatcheries, recreational areas, islands,

boat accesses, flowages, fire towers, buildings and wild rivers. Unless a site is posted as closed or closed for certain activities, all state lands are open for traditional recreational uses including walking, nature study, berry picking, hunting and fishing. Almost all of these sites can be visited free of charge. Fees are primarily charged at state parks and trails to cover the costs of roads, picnic areas, trails, campgrounds, maintenance and other amenities provided on parklands. The intersections of State Park Trails and public roads are marked to direct riders to nearby amenities and indicate where trail passes can be purchased. State Park Trails are not open to public hunting. On the other hand, State Recreation Trails — including snowmobile and ATV trails — may be open for other uses at the discretion of the landowner.

Generally on DNR lands and WPAs open to public hunting, dogs must be kept on a leash during the breeding seasons for birds (April 15th through July 31st). Also motorized vehicles are restricted to designated trails. Most state parks are closed from 11 p.m. until 6 a.m. except at designated campsites. Camping is restricted to designated sites and campgrounds. However, you can camp on the state-owned sandbars of the Mississippi River and Lower Wisconsin Riverway and you can get a backpacking permit to camp outside of campgrounds on the state forests.



The flying goose marks National Wildlife Refuges managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Call their regional offices or stop at the property headquarters to determine which outdoor activities can be enjoyed on the refuges.

Public Hunting Grounds are available for public uses year round, including hunting during established seasons. A lot of these properties are used for hiking, bird watching, and taking the dog for a walk, Fendry said.

State Forests are vast areas that provide timber management and public recreation. Motorized activities like snowmobiling are restricted to designated trails.

State Natural Areas preserve unique natural features. Restrictions on these fragile lands are also posted. It's okay to look at wild trillium, but you can't pick flowers, dig up plants, remove trees or gather seeds on state properties. State code spells it out this way: Visitors can't destroy, molest or attempt to remove any natural growth or natural archaeological feature except edible fruits, nuts, wild mushrooms or asparagus at most state properties. On State Natural Areas (SNAs), even wild food gathering is prohibited. Rocks in small quantities can also be collected except on SNAs, wild rivers, state parks, state trails and archaeological sites.

Hints for interpreting signs

Access by Foot Travel — means that horses, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles and cars are prohibited. Believe it or not, this has a different meaning



(ALL PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE) ROBERT QUEEN

(top) Buy a trail pass to enjoy State Bike Trails. Signs point the way to intersecting trails and attractions.

(bottom left and right) Some private lands are leased for certain public uses. Don't assume you can camp overnight at a public fishing ground. On the other hand, many signs fail to list a phone number where you can easily get information on what is allowed.



ELLEN BARTH

Even durable signs are not tougher than determined vandals who deny others the chance to learn about places and activities.

than "Vehicle Use Prohibited" which restricts the use of vehicles, including bicycles, but allows horse travel.

No Trespassing — The onus used to be on property owners to post their land at set intervals (one sign per 40 acres) and at road crossings to prohibit public access or prohibit certain activities. Now any visitor must have permission to use a parcel before entering private property.

Private Lands Ahead — This means you are about to leave public land and you either have to stop or have written permission to use those private lands. These signs are typically posted along the back borders of large properties which are not always fenced.

Specialty Trails — Many DNR properties allow horseback riding, skiing and ATV use, but stay on designated trails.

Wisconsin Wildlife Refuges — Portions of state properties may be closed to hunting as wildlife refuges. Actually, most state parks are closed to hunting except the few that are open for deer and wild turkey hunting.

State Natural Areas — These properties preserve unique natural features from development, human recreation and natural changes. Restrictions on these properties are posted.

Stay on Designated Trail — indicates just that! In the absence of such a sign, you can wander the property.

Leased Lands — These properties are privately owned and are only leased for certain activities during set times, as posted.

Hours — Access to some properties is restricted to posted hours. The intention is to make it clear that the area is closed to overnight camping and late-night parties that disturb the peace.

Maps — The Department of Natural Resources must provide or post maps of designated trails, campgrounds, picnic areas and other special use areas. These maps are available at DNR regional offices, at property offices or on signs placed by trails, campgrounds and picnic areas.

"We inspect all designated trails, campgrounds and special use areas at least twice annually," says Fendry. "We also inspect the signs because they are unfortunately used as shooting targets or are stolen. Vandalism is costly in several ways — first, it's expensive to maintain signs, and that money comes from the sporting public. Second, it's illegal, and it gives the impression to nonhunters that the destruction might have been done by a hunter rather than by a vandal. Third, if a sign is illegible,



ELLEN BARTH

The Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) are federal properties managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They are all open for wildlife observation, hiking, cross-country skiing, nature study and photography. No motorized vehicles, camping, campfires, overnight use, horseback riding or target shooting are allowed on the WPAs.

a visitor may miss safety tips. Fourth, other visitors are denied the privilege of reading the provided information."

More friendly signs to come

Fendry notes that one of the goals in reviewing sign policies is to make signs seem less restrictive and more positive. "We're drawing on expertise from our staff and visitors to determine if people understand our signs, to find out if the signs are enforceable and to learn how we can meet legal requirements while still making people feel welcome on public properties," he says. Signs relay important information to ensure our public lands remain in good condition for all users. But a sign should also act as a welcome mat, encouraging people to visit, explore and enjoy the public spaces we maintain as our outdoor heritage." □

David L. Sperling edits Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine.

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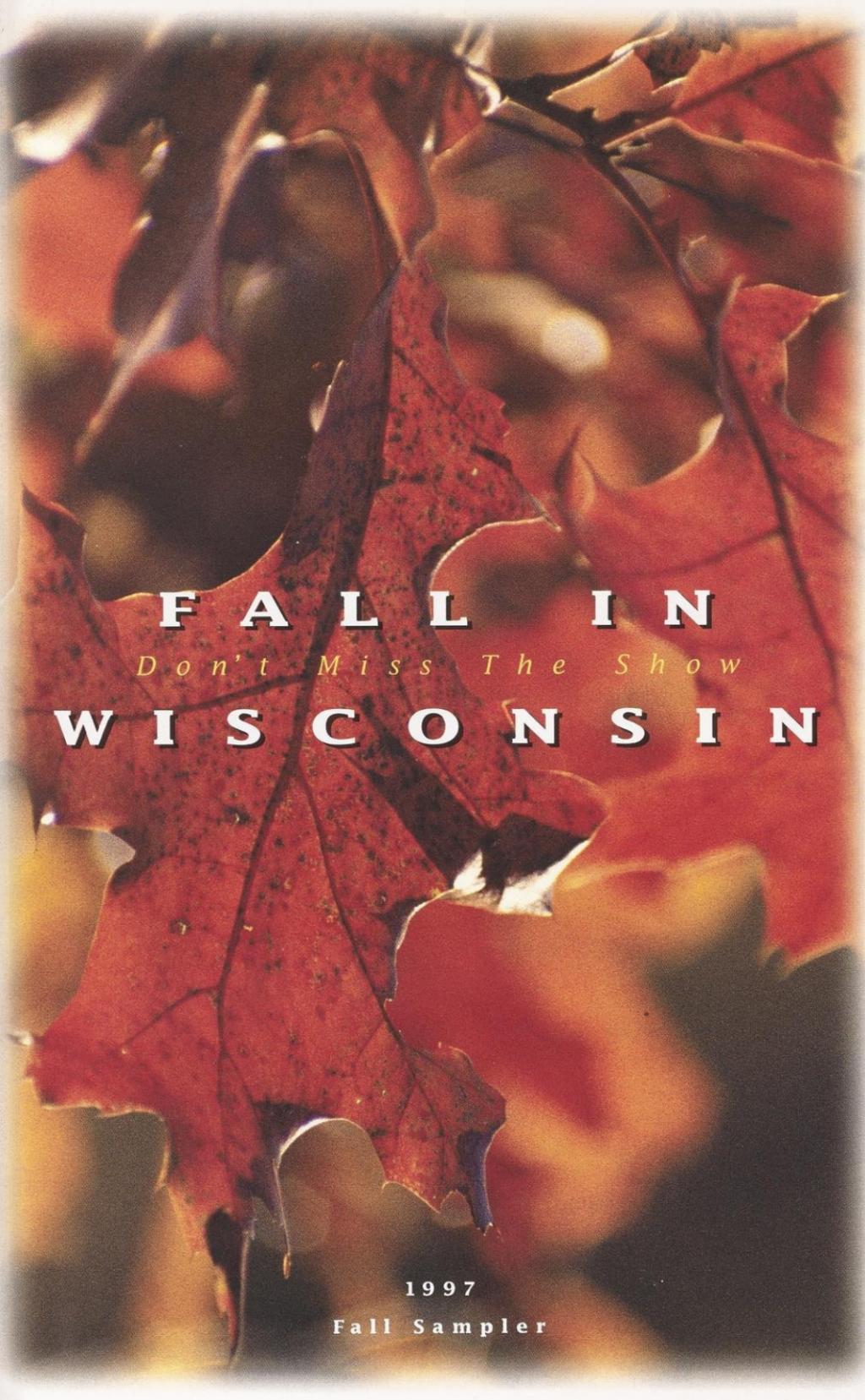
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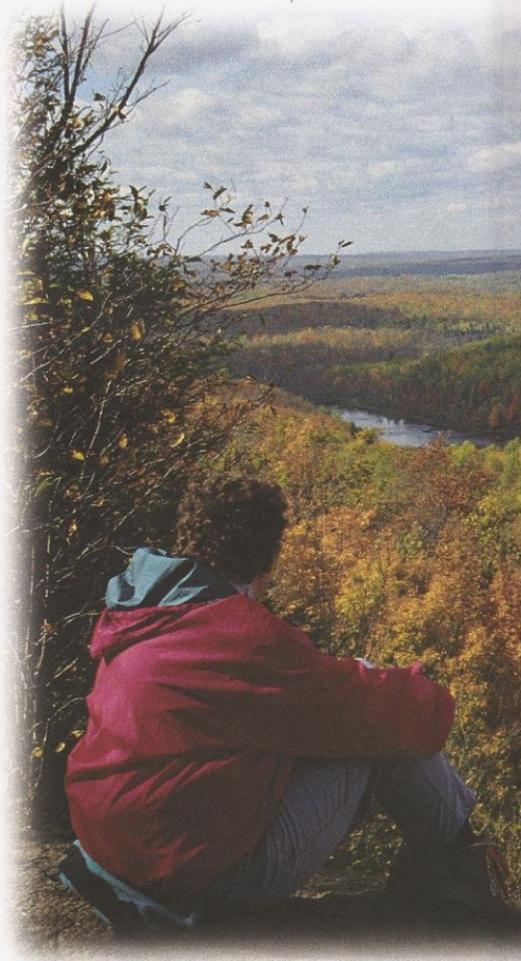
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Fall Sampler

D O N ' T M I S S

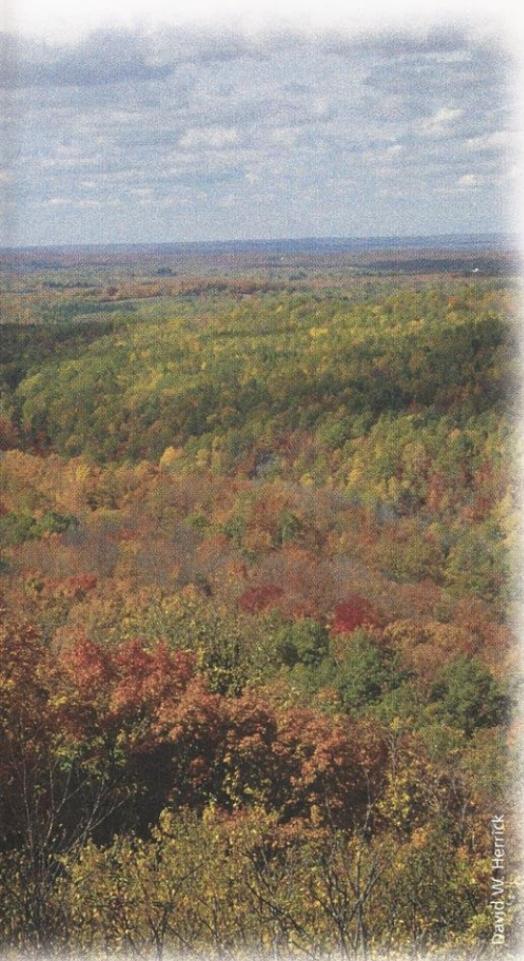
We celebrate fall in Wisconsin, and for good reason. Festivals revel in the bounty of the harvest and roadside stands proudly display crimson apples, golden cider, fresh honey and burnished squash.

Myriad trails beckon hikers and bicyclists. Waterways present perfect vantage points for watching waterfowl take wing. A sojourn in the countryside offers hayrides, fishing or leisurely strolls.



T H E E S H O W

Nature plays her part, painting the trees in vibrant hues that turn an ordinary drive into a front-row seat before a brilliant spectacle. The colorama begins along the shores of Lake Superior in September,



sweeps down to mid-state from the Mississippi River to the Door County Peninsula a few weeks later, then stages the grand finale in southern Wisconsin in late October. Don't miss the show.

Wisconsin's colorful fall countryside



Historical & Wildlife Highway Signs

As you travel in Wisconsin, look for these road signs that identify the location of heritage sites and watchable wildlife sites.

Map Key

This map identifies activities in the guide. Colors differentiate the type of activity; numbers identify locations.



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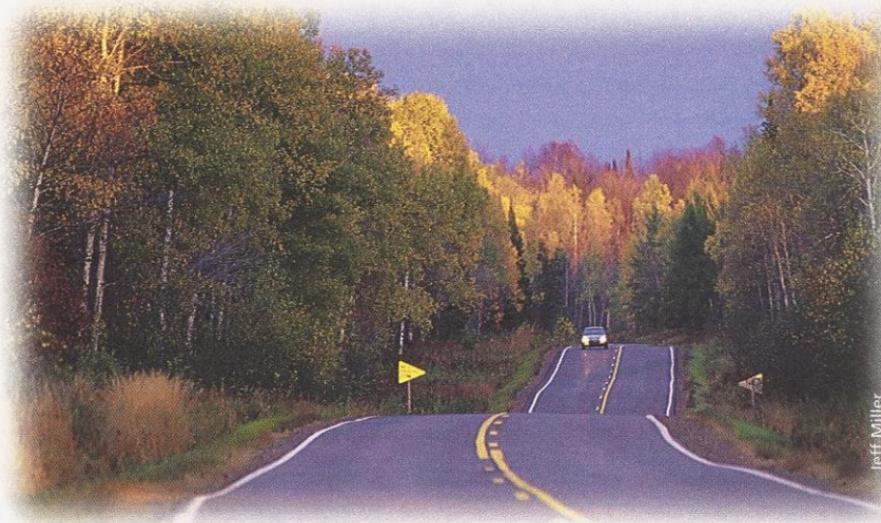
pages 12-13



Fall Color Map

Peak fall colors travel throughout Wisconsin during September and October. For weekly color reports and additional scenic locations around the state, call the Wisconsin Fall Color Hot Line 1-800-432-8747.





Jeff Miller

Peak Performance

With forests covering 40 percent of the state, Wisconsin struts its fall colors with the best of them. Your car provides the ideal seat for this dramatic display. Here's a sampling of the state's stellar driving tours.

(For driving tour locations, see the map on pages 2 and 3 – routes correspond to the purple numbered leaves.)

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, stunning rock formations, and one of the finest collections of lighthouses are scenic highlights. 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 forest's rolling hills, sparkling lakes and rivers are alive with loons and bald eagles. (715/762-2461)

3 Northeastern Wisconsin's Forests and Waterfalls

A drive through the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest and Nicolet National Forest affords spectacular views. Marinette County features one of the largest concentrations of waterfalls in the state. Altogether, there are 15 falls on the Peshtigo, Pike and Pemebonwon rivers. (1-800-236-6681)

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 fantastic views. (1-800-52-RELAX)

5 Hilltop Color Tour

Central Wisconsin offers 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, offers a lofty perspective of the golden wooded hillsides (1-800-269-4505). The Highground at Neillsville sits high atop a ridge overlooking a half-million acres of the Black River State Forest (715/743-4224).

6 The Great Mississippi River Road

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

7 Devil's Lake State Park and the Baraboo Hills

South Shore Road/South Lake Road is a six-mile route through the park and hills. Highlights include 500-foot bluffs and boulder-strewn shorelines surrounding a 360-acre lake. (608/356-8301)

8 Spring Green Valley Tour

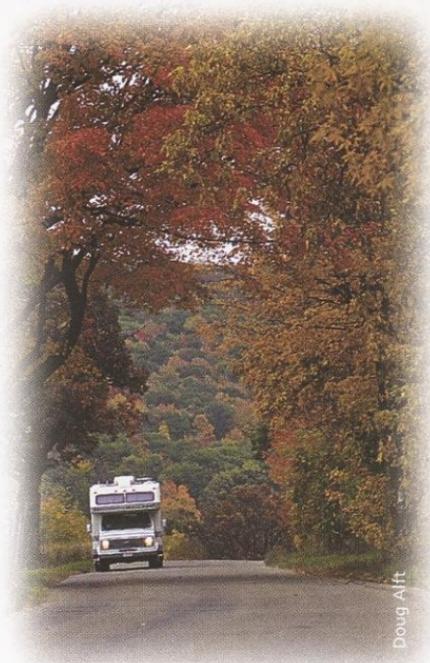
The drive along Highway 23 between Dodgeville and Spring Green is one of the most scenic in southwestern Wisconsin with great vistas of area valleys. Architect Frank Lloyd Wright's home, Taliesin, is built in the hills of the beautiful Wisconsin River Valley and The House on the Rock's daring Infinity Room, a 218-foot-long glass walkway, hangs over the scenic Wyoming Valley, 156 feet below. (1-800-947-2799)

9 Ethnic Settlements & Old World History

A tour of southwest Wisconsin's rolling hills and valleys combines glorious 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. (1-800-947-2799)

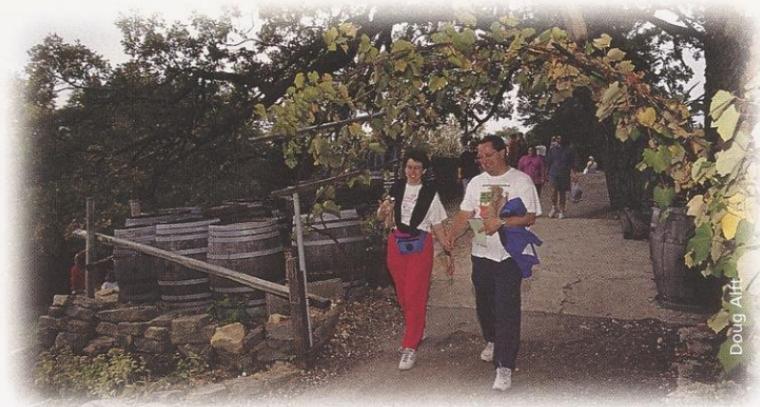
10 Kettle Moraine Scenic Drive

Maples and sumacs burst into bold red along this 120-mile route that connects the Northern and Southern units of Kettle Moraine State Forest from Greenbush to Eagle. Green acorn-shaped signs mark this route. In the Northern unit, Parnell Tower affords special viewing. Holy Hill on Highway 167 near Hartford towers over the colorful countryside and offers divine views. (414/594-6200) (920/533-8322)



Doug Aitken

Ski Hill Road along Devil's Lake



Doug Ahl

A Moveable Celebration

Every Wisconsin community seems to have its own way of celebrating the bounty of the harvest and the turning of the leaves. Attendance at these fall galas is not required, but highly recommended. (For festival locations, see the map on pages 2 and 3 – locations correspond to the orange numbered leaves.)

11 Indian Summer in Milwaukee, September 5-7

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

12 Wine and Harvest Festival in Cedarburg, September 20-21

The entire family will enjoy this old-fashioned fall festival's grape-stomping and grape-spitting contests, apple bobbing and pumpkin carving on one of the top 10 Main Streets in the United States. See the creative scarecrow contest entries while on a hayride. (1-800-CDR-BURG)

13 Cranberry Festival in Warrens, September 26-28

See giant rakes collect the ripe red floating fruit on a bog tour on Saturday. Plenty of cranberry products are for sale, plus a Sunday Cranberry parade, and 600 arts and crafts booths. (608/378-4200)

14 Oktoberfest in La Crosse, September 26-October 2

Steeped in German tradition, this authentic Old World folk celebration held along the Mississippi River features traditional German music, entertainment and food and is known as Oktoberfest USA. (608/784-FEST)

15 Apple Festival in Gays Mills, September 27-28

This is among Wisconsin's impressive crop of apple festivals. More than 20,000 people will visit this small community in the heart of apple country to enjoy a variety of activities, including the Wisconsin State Apple Recipe Contest. (608/735-4341)

16 Audubon Days in Mayville, October 3-5

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. (920/485-4663, 920/387-5776)

17 Apple Festival in Bayfield, October 3-5

Gourmet apple pies, strudels and frosted apple cuts, sundaes and more will be featured at this annual harvest celebration. Area orchards offer 11 varieties of apples. Fair-goers can compete in apple peeling and recipe contests. (1-800-447-4094)

18 Cranberry Fest in Eagle River, October 4-5

Cranberry lovers can eat, drink, and participate in cook-off events at this annual tribute to the cranberry. The "World's Largest Cranberry Cheesecake" will be served. Cranberry bog and winery tours, and other cranberry products and exhibits, are showcased. (715/479-8575, 1-800-359-6315)

19 Wollersheim Winery Wine Harvest & Grape Stomp in Prairie du Sac, October 4-5

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

20 Parsons Fall Friendship Gathering in Wisconsin Dells, October 11

Native Americans demonstrate making pipes, baskets, arrowheads, totem poles, bead-work and leather crafts, as well as cooking, hide tanning and teepee life. Visitors can view an Indian powwow, wedding and naming ceremony. (608/254-8533, 1-800-22-DELLS)

21 Studio Tour of Working Wisconsin Artisans, October 17-19

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 Farm in Eagle, October 18-19

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)

23 Fall Harvest of Music and Tall Tales in Fond du Lac, October 25-26

Gather around the Wade House hearth and enjoy tales once popular in the 1850s, when storytelling and music were favorite evening activities upon completion of the harvest. Partake in pressing apple cider or making popcorn over the open hearth. (920/526-3271)



Oktoberfest in LaCrosse



Theater in the Wild

Hundreds of thousands of migrating geese and other birds stage their own spectacle in Wisconsin in the fall, flocking to the state's fields and wetlands on their great seasonal migrations. Dozens of other species participate, including American bald eagles and swans. Here are a few prime viewing areas. (For wildlife watching locations, see the map on pages 2 and 3 – areas correspond to the rust numbered leaves.)

24 Crex Meadows Wildlife Area in Grantsburg

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

25 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)

26 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)

27 Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Necedah

You can drive through part of this 44,000-acre refuge that attracts thousands of migrating Canada geese and some snow geese. (608/565-2551)

28 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)

29 Horicon Marsh in Horicon

Known locally as "The Everglades of the North," the marsh's 32,000 acres of cattails teem with wildlife and are a popular stop for more than 250,000 migrating Canada geese. (920/387-7860, 1-800-937-9123)

30 Theresa Marsh Wildlife Area in Theresa

This wetland complex near Horicon Marsh provides excellent views of Canada geese at the intersection of Highway 28 and Mohawk Road. (920/670-3400)

Let Your Feet Be Your Guide

Whether you prefer a trail that traverses rugged terrain shaped by Ice Age glaciers or a pleasant lakeside path, Wisconsin's 45 state parks and 60 nature centers offer hiking opportunities that please. And you can't beat the backdrop. Here are several best bets. (For hiking locations, see the map on pages 2 and 3 – areas correspond to the brown numbered leaves.)

31 Pattison State Park in Superior

Spectacular view of 165-foot Big Manitou Falls, Wisconsin's highest waterfall and the fourth highest east of the Mississippi. Hike down to the Black River, the 10,000-year-old basin below the falls. (715/399-3111)

32 Chippewa Moraine Ice Age Center in New Auburn

Colorful hikes also provide terrific geology lessons with views of lakes and hillsides carved out by the glacier as well as kettle lakes, woods and an interpretive center. (715/967-2800)

33 Nicolet National Forest, headquarters in Rhinelander

The Lauterman and Anvil trails are among the most popular of the 11 designated hiking trails in this forest that covers 658,000 acres and features vintage Northwoods scenery – hardwoods, pines and 1,200 lakes. (715/479-2827)

34 Peninsula State Park in Door County

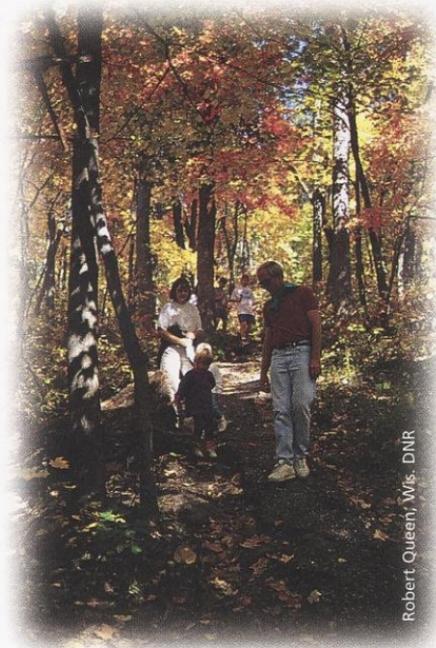
Explore nearly 20 miles of hiking trails through hardwood forests and along towering limestone bluffs. (920/868-3258)

35 Perrot State Park in Trempealeau

Situated on the bluffs at the confluence of the Mississippi and Trempealeau rivers, this park offers panoramic views atop the 520-foot Brady's Bluff. (608/534-6409)

36 Wyalusing State Park in Bagley

Voted one of America's best walks, this park's 500-foot bluffs offer spectacular scenic overlooks where the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers converge. Indian mounds and caves line the Sentinel Ridge Walk in this 2,700-acre park. (608/996-2261)



Devil's Lake State Park

Robert Queen, Wis. DNR

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



Robert Queen – Southern Unit

Two Wheels, No Windows

Bicycling offers another way to enjoy the glories of fall in Wisconsin.

The state's "rails to trails" network offers smooth riding and great viewing, while more challenging off-road biking takes you into the midst of the fall display. Here are a few of the options. (For bike trail locations, see the map on pages 2 and 3 – trails correspond to the green numbered leaves.)

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

38 Red Cedar Trail parallels the Red Cedar River from Menomonie through the historic lumber town of Downsville to the great Chippewa River Valley for 14 miles. (715/232-2631)

39 Bearskin State Trail's 18 miles from Minocqua to County K takes riders through dramatic scenery – lakes, streams, towering forests and plenty of wildlife action. (715/385-2727)

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

41 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)

42 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)

43 400 Bike Trail, a 22-mile state trail from Elroy to Reedsburg, connects with the Elroy-Sparta Trail and runs for a stretch along the Baraboo River. (608/524-2850, 1-800-844-3507)

44 Wild Goose Trail is a 34-mile route skirting the western edge of the scenic Horicon Marsh. (920/386-3705)

45 Glacial Drumlin Trail, 47 miles from Cottage Grove to Waukesha. Named for the elongated hills, called drumlins, that were formed by the glacier and can be spotted along the trail. (920/648-8774)

46 Sugar River Trail begins in New Glarus, the state's "Little Switzerland," and travels 23 miles along the Sugar River to Brodhead. Rolls through meadows and woodlands. (608/527-2334)

Off-Road Biking

47 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)

48 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)

49 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)

50 Greenbush and New Fane Trails in the Kettle Moraine State Forest Northern Unit consist of easy to difficult routes and includes navigating the rolling moraines. Eight trails range from .7 to 5.1 miles. (920/626-2116; weekends 920/533-8322)



Doug Alft



Leave the Driving to Us

When you have a taste for something different, try experiencing the fall colorama from the vantage point of a boat or train excursion. Wisconsin offers both. Here's a sampling. (For excursion locations, see the map on pages 2 and 3 – excursions correspond to the gold numbered leaves.)

Cruises

51 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 19. (715/394-6846, 218/722-6218)

52 Chippewa Queen Tours in Hayward

Enjoy guided cruises on the Chippewa Flowage, which boasts 233 miles of undeveloped shoreline. Through October 5. (715/462-3874)

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 5. (1-800-472-1516 ext. 671, 715/453-3310 ext. 671)

54 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 are also available. August 31-October 15. (715/479-8575)

55 Julia Belle Swain Steamboat Tours in La Crosse

Enjoy a Mississippi River cruise aboard this 24-year-old replica of the original steam-operated stern paddle wheelers of the 1800s. Through October 19. (1-800-815-1005, 608/784-4882)

56 Upper and Lower Dells Boat Tours in Wisconsin Dells

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 October. (608/254-8555)

57 Original Wisconsin Ducks in Wisconsin Dells

Land and water tours on "ducks" offer colorful scenery on the Wisconsin River, Lake Delton and wilderness trails. Through October 26. (608/254-8751)

58 Geneva Lake Cruise Line in Lake Geneva

Maples and oaks don reds and golds across the forested slopes around seven-mile-long Geneva Lake. Boat tours offer spectacular views of the rich autumnal hues that frame the grand homes along the shoreline. Dining cruises available. Through October 26. (1-800-558-5911)

Train Excursions**59 Osceola & St. Croix Valley Railway in Osceola**

Travel along the St. Croix River and Wisconsin River bluffs in a vintage steam or diesel passenger train. Saturdays and Sundays through October. (1-800-711-2591)

60 Mid-Continent Steam Train Autumn Color Tours in North Freedom

Wind through the Baraboo River Valley and past the ghost town of La Rue on an authentic turn-of-the-century steam train. October 4-5 and 11-12. (608/522-4261)

61 Kettle Moraine Steam Train in North Lake

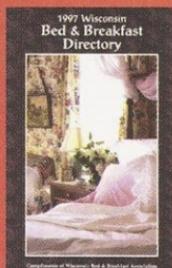
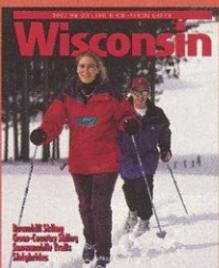
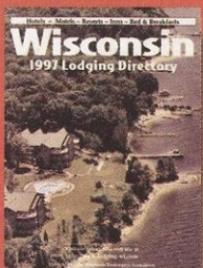
Fall color is vivid on this eight-mile round trip from North Lake to Merton on an authentic steam train. Sundays in September, Labor Day, October 4-5, 11-12, 18-19. (414/782-8074)



Doug Aft

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Join your friends

I want to know more about joining friends groups for state parks and other DNR properties.

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone

The state park, trail, forest, recreation area or property

I'm interested in is

I'm interested in the statewide friends group.





PLACE
STAMP
HERE

FRIENDS GROUPS c/o STATE PARKS

Department of Natural Resources

David Hammer, PR/1

P.O. Box 7921

Madison, WI 53707-7921



You've got to have friends



Friends groups create and enhance amenities at state parks, trails, forests, wildlife areas and recreation areas.

Lisa Gaumnitz

Bad knees slow down Fran Grandlic, and glaucoma forced Jack Grandlic to retire from trucking, but the Sheboygan couple has cut and hauled 112 truckloads of wood annually to Kohler-Andrae State Park to raise money for the property.

Teacher Chuck Manske drives 2½ hours from his Clintonville home, catches a ferry to Washington Island in Door County, boards another to Rock Island, and spends two days readying the rustic park for summer.

Henry Klaproth collected 1,250 signatures two years ago when he had heard that Mill Bluff State Park might be shut down. Now he rolls up more than \$500 in annual phone charges advocating for new and improved services at the park.

These volunteers' stories are dramatic, but not rare. Individual citizens and loosely organized groups have always played a critical role in Wisconsin's park system by donating land, talking with lawmakers, and generously giving their time and money to help run and improve the properties.

Increasingly, however, volunteers are forming independent, nonprofit organizations called "friends groups" to maximize their clout and their results. Such groups sign formal agreements with the Department of Natural Resources and pledge to support a particular park, trail, forest, wildlife area or other property. In return, they gain access to facilities and equipment, and build a more direct connection to park supervisors and DNR managers in Madison.



DNR PHOTO



MICHAEL WEIMER

State parks couldn't ask for better friends.

"Without friends groups, the parks wouldn't look as clean as they do, the interpretive programs wouldn't offer as much as they do, and the trails wouldn't be as nicely maintained," said David Weizenicker, who directs DNR's state parks and recreation programs. "Without friends, a lot of the little extras — the things people have come to expect — wouldn't be there."

What are friends for?

Friends groups and the events they host also are invaluable promoters of DNR properties. They publish brochures, run special events, and show their commitment to state parks, said Ron Nelson, who supervises four parks and three trails in west-central Wisconsin.

The groups provide direct links to local citizens and help the DNR win support for statewide policies and initiatives. "They've been our sounding boards," Nelson said. "What they say and support is pretty well accepted by the rest of the community. They're also conduits to legislative representatives in the area."

Last year, the 55 friends groups in Wisconsin provided the lion's share of 85,000 volunteer hours and \$400,000 in cash donations to parks, trails, recreation areas and other DNR properties.

"Friends" groups of state parks originally formed as nonprofit corporations to efficiently operate parts of the attractions: (top) a Devil's Lake concession stand in 1953, (right) the golf course at Peninsula State Park. (left) The Elroy-Sparta National Trail, Inc. supported the nation's first project to convert abandoned railroad routes into bicycle routes.



ROBERT QUEEN

The groups' structure — and their tax-exempt status — can give properties the donations and the coordinated, concentrated volunteer help that's become increasingly critical in the last decade, Weizenicker said.

Since 1980, the Department of Natural Resources has added 13 more parks to the state system, bringing the total to 90. During the same time, the number of visitors to state parks climbed from 8.3 million to 10.1 million annually. There's demand for public spaces to enjoy more and new recreational sports such as mountain biking and inline skating, while better protecting natural features, cultural remnants and traditional outdoor experiences, and interpretive programs.

At the same time, budgets to operate and maintain parks and other properties fell behind inflation as lawmakers judged education, crime and property tax relief as higher priorities. Even now, after years of attempts by state legislators to pump more operating dollars into the system, Wisconsin invests far less to maintain its parks than most other states — \$2.38 per resident in 1994 to operate state properties compared to the nationwide average of \$4.25 per person.

"Since 1981, the bottom has fallen out of the basket for operating state parks," Weizenicker said. "We've been scrambling for some lifelines to hang on to."

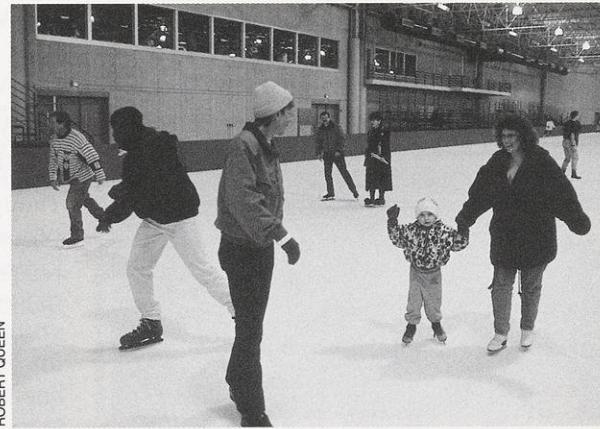
Friends groups first started weaving that safety net for the park system in 1949. Then, business people who worried that Devil's Lake State Park was becoming too commercialized formed a nonprofit board to run the concessions. To date, the board has returned more than \$1.2 million to the park to pay for projects like renovating a campground and buying and operating a shuttle tram and vehicles.

Other groups followed to provide specific services at parks. For example, the Kiwanis Club of Dodgeville arranged to run food and canoe rental concessions at Governor Dodge State Park; Peninsula Golf Associates runs the golf course at Peninsula State Park; a third group formed to operate the Olympic Skating Rink, then an out-

door rink the DNR owned adjoining State Fair Park in West Allis. The group spearheaded the drive for the indoor Pettit National Ice Center that replaced it.

In the 1970s and 1980s, a handful of new groups formed, mainly to enhance interpretive programs at particular properties. One exception, the Elroy-Sparta National Trail Inc. formed to support the state's and the nation's first rails-to-trails project and enhance community tourism along the bike trail.

ROBERT QUEEN



The outdoor Olympic Ice Rink on the State Fair Park grounds was enclosed, heated and now operates for competitive racers and casual skaters as the Pettit National Ice Center.

Friends groups find their best friends are each other

By the end of the 1980s, three developments spurred the creation of many new groups and prompted existing groups to broaden their mission, said David Hammer, chief of recreation management for DNR parks programs.

First, Dave Weizenicker came on board as parks director with a conviction to create partnerships *with* people to protect and enhance public lands, Hammer said.

Second, the parks system formed policies and formal relations with friends groups. These agreements guided new ways to organize, build memberships and raise funds that retained the groups' independence from the DNR.

"We cooperate with the agency, but we're not the DNR. When you join a friends group, you know the money stays at your park," says Lloyd Haupt, president of the Friends of Harrington Beach.

Third, the Legislature created two grant programs to match the funds friends groups raise locally for specific improvements. To date, the grant programs have matched more than \$500,000 raised by volunteers.

This renewed focus on partnership-building culminated last summer when "Friends of Wisconsin State Parks," formed and elected officers, tapping Todd Montgomery, senior vice president of the Milwaukee-based

investment bank Robert W. Baird & Co., as president.

Montgomery had been a key player in operating the Olympic Ice Rink in the late 1970s and replacing it with the \$12 million Pettit National Ice Center.

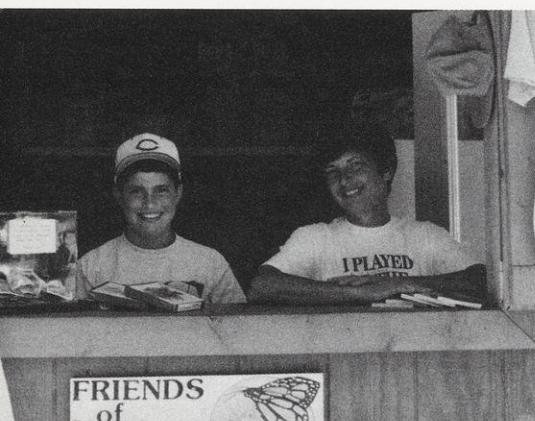
Over the last 10-12 years, many local friends groups had expressed interest in learning from one another, Montgomery said. Groups want to coordinate education and outreach programs, and work more closely with the private sector, he said.

The statewide group will help individual friends groups be more successful in their home parks and properties, Montgomery continued. We will serve as a clearinghouse and share instructions for successful training, planning and events. We will also work to obtain group insurance to cover liability at events friends groups sponsor, he said.

But the statewide group's top goal is to protect and enhance all properties in the friends system. To that end, the group will build up an endowment from which investment income will be available to help complete projects.

Here, the group can count on the experience Montgomery and others have in raising large sums of money. Heritage Hill State Park in Green Bay provides such an example. The Heritage Hill Foundation has raised \$4.7 million for an endowment for the park and is in the midst of a fundraising campaign to push that total to \$6 million.

Income from the endowment, coupled with donations, concessions and



FRIENDS OF HARRINGTON BEACH STATE PARK



FRIENDS OF CREX MEADOWS

Friends bring amenities, programs, events and enthusiasm to properties. (top) At Harrington Beach, the friends raise funds by building and selling bluebird houses. (bottom) The Friends of Crex Meadows sponsored Prairie Day to tell visitors about the region's early settlers, the fur trade, and pioneer uses of prairie plants and animals for food and medicine.

rental of the property for weddings and other special events (which are managed by two other friends groups) has allowed Heritage Hill to operate on its own without any money from state park operations since the 1980s.

Lloyd Haupt, treasurer of the statewide group as well as president of the Harrington Beach friends group, sees advantages to both approaches. He is eager to bring groups low-cost liability insurance for their events. He knows of enjoyable park programs that were stopped when liability insurance costs swallowed up all the profits.

His members are eager to share their fundraising successes. Harrington Beach volunteers build and sell bluebird houses and kits. A trio of retirees spend their winters turning cedar logs into more than 500 bluebird houses that bring several thousand

dollars into the group's coffers each year.

Do you know where your friends are?

Though the 55 friends groups share a common mission, their methods and interests vary widely. The groups range in size from a small core of supporters who are just getting started to the Friends of Crex Association which boasts 500 active members. The groups attract members from every walk of life: doctors, bankers, teachers, truck drivers, geologists, firefighters, and homemakers among them. One member of the Mill Bluff State Park Friends Group, a veterinarian by day and a nurse by night, still finds time to maintain the park's bluebird houses.

Some members live near the property. Others, like Chuck Manske and fellow members of the Friends of Rock Island State Park, must travel several hours and journey by car, ferry and foot, to reach their park.

The distance and lack of electricity on Rock Island prompt long, challenging work weekends. The group focuses on big projects, such as building a welcome/information shelter on Washington Island to entice more visitors to take the ferry to Rock Island.

The Friends of the MacKenzie Environmental Center, Inc., are jacks-of-all-trades, doing everything from daily clerical work to maintenance to food preparation. Environmental and conservation education is their bailiwick.

"If you educate them, you'll never have to pinch them," jokes Jim Chizek, retired DNR conservation warden and president of the group.

Friends groups devoted to trails perform services like building interpretive centers along the routes, renting bikes and keeping a network of sporting goods stores and other locations that agree to sell trail passes. For \$12, the Great River State Trail Friends provide a shuttle service that drives bicyclists to the trailhead before returning their car to the trail end.

In many cases, friends groups serve as volunteer staff members. Such an arrangement allowed Harrington

Beach State Park to extend its season into the winter, and this fall will allow Mill Bluff State Park to stay open on weekends through the fall color season.

In other cases, friends groups have provided the money to hire staff. The Friends of Rib Mountain State Park paid two teachers to develop a study guide so other teachers could use the park as an outdoor laboratory and field trip destination. The group also hired a Hmong interpreter for two summers to make the park more accessible to Hmong people living in the area.

The start of some beautiful friendships

Henry Klapproth came by his interest in Mill Bluff State Park in western Wisconsin the way many did — he has grown old along with the park.

On a drizzly May day, the retired Milwaukee Journal artist traveled 60 yards — and 60 years in time — as he slowly walked from the park entrance off Highway 16 to a trailhead that leads to the top of the 203-foot sandstone bluff.

"The WPA built stone steps up to the top of the bluff. There's 185 of them," Klapproth said. From the top, Mill Bluff provides panoramic views of the sandstone towers that dot the wooded valley. These one-time islands and reefs were carved and buffeted by waves 17,000 years ago when the valley was covered by glacial Lake Wisconsin.

Klapproth pointed out the site of a former log cabin where his family gathered for reunions and his father, a retired farmer, whiled away hours chewing the fat with the park manager. We visit the small lake where he and his friends used to swim.

The park's starring role in his childhood spurred Klapproth two years ago when it appeared Mill Bluff was a candidate for closure. Klapproth marshaled area residents, began a petition drive and faxed Gov. Thompson pages upon pages of signatures opposing the action.

Klapproth and a core group of area residents decided a friends group

would be the best way to promote the park's unique features which have earned Mill Bluff recognition as one of Wisconsin's nine Ice Age National Scientific Reserves. Motorists still zip by the park on Interstate 90-94, oblivious they are cutting through a state park. "It's the best kept secret," he said. "We want the DNR and the public to view Mill Bluff as a destination, not a roadside wayside."

The friends group has successfully advocated for a new sign on the Interstate and an attractive new sign marking the park entrance from Highway 16. They've hosted an art fair for several years now to bring people to the park, and this fall will host a foliage festival.

They are also securing a matching grant to create a wheelchair-accessible trail around the base of Mill Bluff, and would like to convert an abandoned

railroad line to a bike trail that would connect the park with the Omaha Trail.

"I firmly believe our friends groups raise the visibility of the parks," said Dave Hammer. "They help us see each unique property from a different perspective."

Dr. William Scheckler and other members of the Newport Wilderness Society want the department to continue managing Newport Beach State Park as a semi-wilderness with only backpack camping.

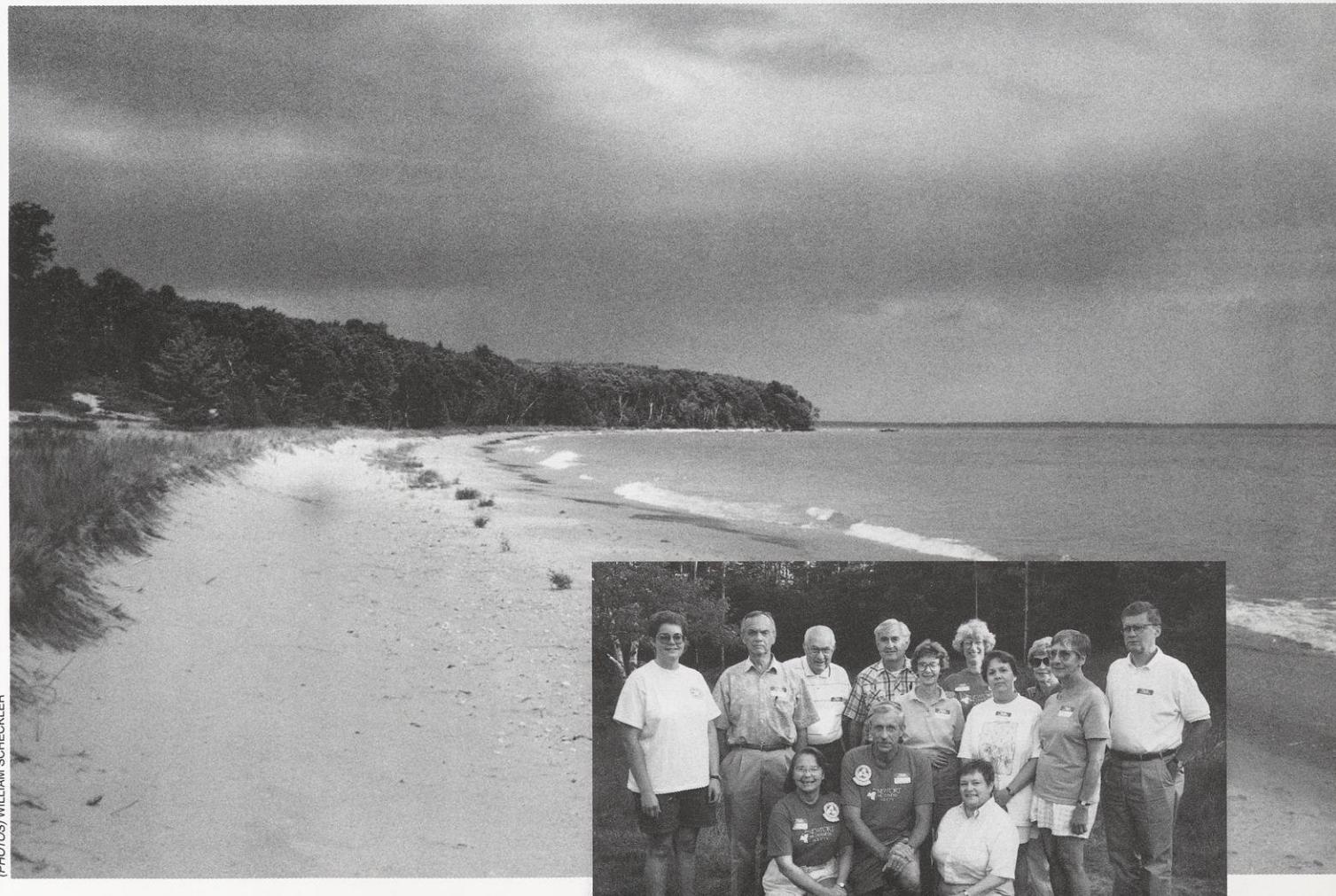
"Part of helping the public enjoy this park is to keep it the way it is now," said Scheckler, a Madison resident and University of Wisconsin medical school professor. Newport's 2,400 acres are not developed like Peninsula and Potawatomi state parks, Scheckler said. "People appreciate variety."

Scheckler fell in love with the park's wilderness a quarter century ago,

bought property and built a cabin next to the park. In the last decade, the group has lobbied to stop snowmobile trails and boat launch development at Newport. In addition to serving as watchdogs to safeguard the property's wild character, members enhanced interpretive displays. They also lead interpretive hikes about the natural and human history of this one-time logging village. Others developed brochures to identify the wildflowers and 175 bird species found in the park.

Downstate, Fran Grandlic and her husband Jack grew to love neighboring Kohler-Andrae State Park. Two sisters who are teachers, Doris Davey and Ruth Saemann, had tired of bringing their classes out to the park only to find the interpretive center closed. They volunteered to staff the center and recruited others. The Grandlics responded to their ad.

The Newport Wilderness Society is committed to maintaining the wild character of this coastal gem in the popular Door County vacationland. The group leads hikes and publishes field guides to identify the park's plants and birdlife.



"We always enjoyed wildlife, nature and hiking in the woods," Fran Grandlic said.

The couple recently turned over their wood-chopping chores to a hired hand when the work became too much to handle. Fran keeps busy running tours at the interpretive center, attending to the organization's business and advocating for horse bridle paths. Jack built a wood platform for the tepee the friends group rents nightly for \$25. He's working on benches to place along the trails.

Friends groups enrich outdoor experiences year-round. Summer nature tours and an interpretive center explain the fragile environment of the dunes and beaches at Kohler-Andrae State Park near Sheboygan. (below) The Friends of the Kettle Moraine prepare hot cider for a refreshing stop on the path of a candlelight ski route.

Paul Dietrich, Scott Wippermann and Jack Travis support different parks for the same reasons. All wanted to preserve a favorite form of recreation. Now, all three see broader missions for the groups they lead.

"We try to make it nice for ourselves and the general public," said Dietrich, president of the Bong Field Trial Association, which formed to designate space where people could train hunting dogs and sled dogs all year long.

Wippermann wanted to ensure that trails remain open to mountain bikers

in Governor Dodge State Park. He attended the initial meeting of the Friends of Governor Dodge State Park, stuck out the bylaws sessions, and now is group president. Already, they've secured matching funds to add a mountain bike rental station to the food and canoe concession the Kiwanis operates. The friends hope bike rentals will be a moneymaker by next summer and will help fund a handicap-accessible trail, topographic maps that highlight scenic views, and a booklet of little-known facts about the park for hunters and other visitors.

Travis joined the Friends of Lapham Peak because the group was working to expand opportunities for skiing. His day job as a geology professor at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater didn't leave enough time for cross-country skiing on weekends at the Lapham Peak Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. The group had already raised money to light the trail for night skiing and improve two warming huts. They've since taken on other projects and raised \$90,000 to build trails accessible to visitors with disabilities. The group plans to create a butterfly garden. Members also train teachers in surrounding schools so students can understand the geologic setting and soils in the area.

Travis sees the Lapham Peak Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest as a valuable remnant of a landscape rapidly being transformed by development. He also views park activities as opportunities for youngsters.

"If we want to preserve this, local people are going to have to get more involved with the daily activity of the park. All the groups need members who will come out on work days, and help us pull off special events."

If you are interested in joining friends groups for DNR properties, fill out the postcard on page 17 or call David Hammer at (608) 264-6034 to find contacts to local groups. □

Lisa Gaumnitz covers environmental and outdoor issues for DNR's Bureau of Communication and Education.



FRIENDS OF KOHLER-ANDRAE



FRIENDS OF THE KETTLE MORaine INC.

A list of our closest friends

Good friends are always looking for more company. If you are interested in joining a group or learning more about any of the groups listed below, please contact DNR's parks and recreation program at (608) 266-2181. We'd be pleased to provide local contacts, addresses and phone numbers for any of these groups. You can also write us c/o DNR Friends Groups, PR/1, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707 or send an e-mail message to: wiparks@dnr.state.wi.us. Friends group contacts are also listed on this magazine's Web site: www.wnrmag.com.

Friends groups of state parks, forests and recreation areas with signed agreements with DNR

Bong Naturalist Association

Friends of Blue Mounds State Park

Friends of Buckhorn State Park

Friends of Buffalo River Trail

Friends of Devil's Lake State Park

Friends of the Glacial Drumlin

Trail, Inc.

Friends of Governor Dodge State Park

Friends of Harrington Beach State Park

Friends of Hartman Creek Cooperating Association, Inc.

Friends of Havenwoods, Inc.

Friends of Interstate Park

Friends of Kohler-Andrae State Park

Friends of Lake Wissota State Park

Friends of Lapham Peak Unit-KMSF

The Understanding Resources Thru Learning Experiences Society

Friends of the Military Ridge Trail, Ltd.

Friends of Mill Bluff State Park

Friends of the Old Abe Trail, Inc.

Friends of Pattison and Amnicon Falls State Parks, Inc.

Friends of Perrot State Park, Inc.

Friends of Pike Lake State Park

Friends of Potawatomi State Park, Inc.

Friends of Red Cedar State Trail

Friends of Rib Mountain State Park

Friends of Roche-a-Cri State Park

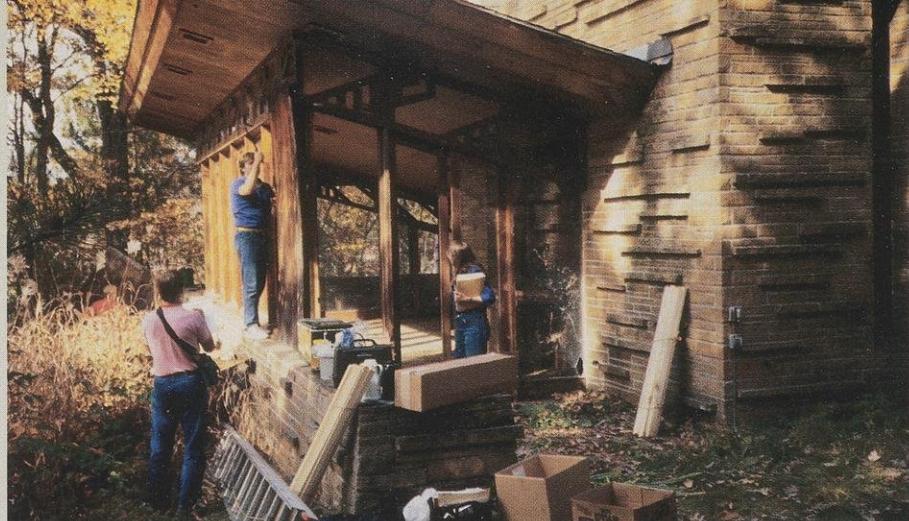
Friends of Rock Island State Park

Friends of the 400 Trail, Inc.

Friends of the Ahnapee

Friends of the Chippewa River State Trail

Friends of the Kettle Moraine, Inc.



SETH PETERSON COTTAGE CONSERVANCY



FRIENDS OF MCGILVRAY ROAD

A common interest in history drew these Friends together. (top) The Seth Peterson Cottage Conservancy restored and rents a Frank Lloyd Wright-designed cottage at Mirror Lake State Park. (below) The Friends of McGilvray Road want to preserve historic truss bridges in the Van Loon Wildlife Area north of Onalaska.

Friends of Whitefish Dunes, Inc.

Great River State Trail Friends

Kettle Moraine Natural History Association

Lake Kegonsa State Park Friends Group

The Newport Wilderness Society

Willow River Organization for Wildlife Learning, Inc.

Friends groups operating entire parks

Heritage Hill Corporation

Heritage Hill Foundation

Heritage Hill Guild

Nonprofit concession corporations

Devil's Lake Concession Corporation

Kiwanis Club of Dodgeville

Elroy-Sparta National Trail, Inc.

High Cliff Yacht Club

La Crosse River State Bike Trail, Inc.

Lafayette County Dairy Sales

Peninsula Golf Associates

Seth Peterson Cottage Conservancy, Inc.

Sugar River State Trail, Inc.

Friends groups for other DNR properties

Chippewa Flowage Citizen Committee

Friends of Crex Association

Friends of the Horicon Marsh

Informational Education Center, Inc.

Friends of MacKenzie Environmental Center, Inc.

Friends of McGilvray Road (Van Loon Wildlife Area)

Friends of Mead/McMillan Association, Inc.

Navarino Nature Center, Inc.

Other cooperating friends groups

The Bong Field Trial Association of Wisconsin, Inc.

Fox Cities Greenways, Inc.

Frederic Historical Society

High Cliff Park & Forest Association

Friends groups now organizing

Black River Forest Trail Foundation

Friends of Aztalan State Park

Friends of the Wild Goose Trail

Friends of the Wild Rivers Trail

Friends of Wyalusing State Park, Inc.

Madeline Island Historical Preservation Association

Mountain Bay Friends

Mother Nature Corporation

Friends of Brunet Island

Shawano County Rails to Trails, Inc.

About Wisconsin, naturally!

View our new back-cover feature and discover the rare beauty of State Natural Areas.

David L. Sperling

Story photos by Thomas A. Meyer

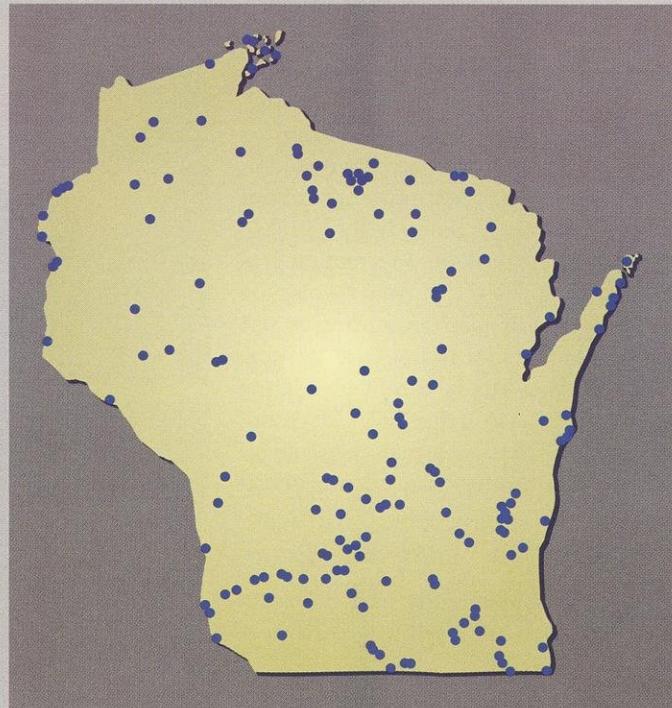
On rare occasions, we polish up the silver, pull out some of the old, favorite family recipes and cook up something special. Well friends, prepare yourselves for a real treat because the good stuff is about to hit the table.

In this issue we launch a new feature, "Wisconsin, naturally," on our back cover. Here we will introduce you to some of Wisconsin's true rare gems, our State Natural Areas.

The State Natural Areas (SNAs) are living museums: remnants of native plant and animal communities, places with a spectacular geologic feature, sanctuaries that shelter threatened or endangered species, storehouses of ecological information. These 316 sites in Wisconsin preserve unique forests, savannas, wetlands, prairies, bogs and other features. Without protection, and in some cases active management to maintain the current conditions, these reservoirs are lost to development, invaded by other plants or changed as the landscape matures.

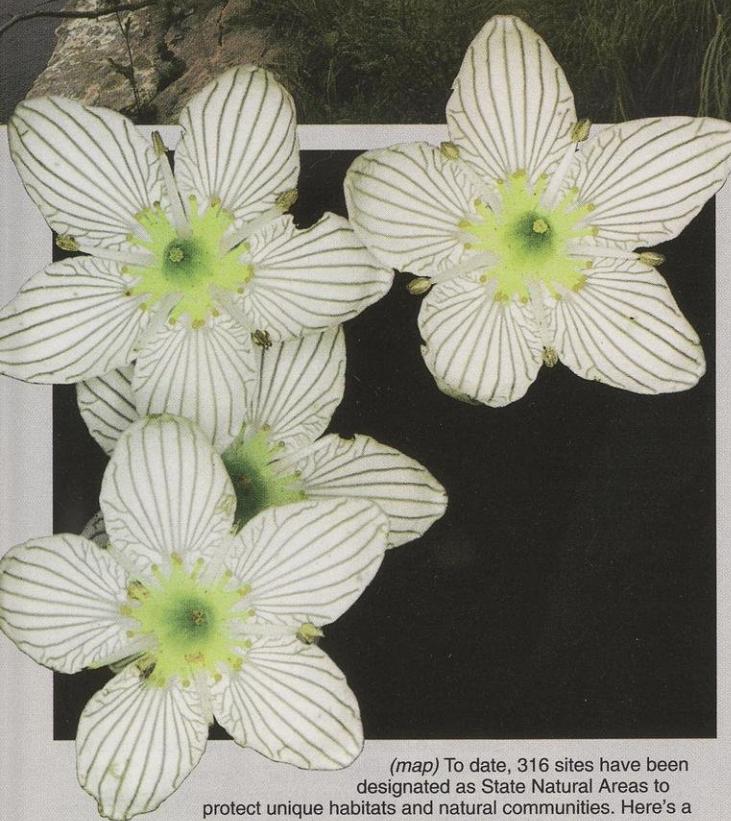
The changes are noticeable within our lifetimes. For instance, in 1980, several southern Wisconsin counties resurveyed natural sites that had been inventoried only 10 years earlier. The follow-up revealed that 10 percent of the unprotected natural features were lost in 10 years time and another 10 percent were seriously damaged.

If natural areas are so rare, why would we direct you to them? Well, not all the sites are equally fragile. We estimate that about 170 of the 316 sites currently identified are on property that can handle a few visitors. We know that you are interested in such places, even if you don't travel to each site. Also several of the sites are on property managed by nonprofit groups, individuals, universities and private foundations. Many of the natural areas are used solely to conduct research or serve as outdoor laboratories to instruct students in the natural sciences.



MOONLIT INK





(map) To date, 316 sites have been designated as State Natural Areas to protect unique habitats and natural communities. Here's a sample of what these places preserve.

(left) Trout Lake Conifer Swamp SNA, Vilas County.

(left inset) Prairie dock (*Silphium terebinthinaceum*) and yellow coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*) at Snapper Prairie SNA, Jefferson County.

(top) The view north from one of the newer sites — the Dells of the Wisconsin River SNA, Sauk County.

(above) A close look at grass-of-Parnassus (*Parnassia glauca*).

Our goals for natural areas are straightforward, but daunting: find these natural gems and inventory their natural assets; legally protect the properties; form a plan to manage the sites and maintain their natural value; secure sustained funds to provide perpetual care. Many of these sites are maintained with the money you invest in the endangered resources fund and the purchase of endangered resources license plates.

Perhaps by introducing you to some of these places, we can gain greater appreciation and support. Perhaps we can also feed your interest in nature study and your hunger to explore Wisconsin's wilder places.

About your visit

Let's create some reasonable expectations about visits to State Natural Areas. None of these places was designed for intensive use. You won't find picnic tables, drinking water, rest rooms, campsites, paved walkways or even nature trails with signs. Many of the sites don't even provide parking lots, although you can pull onto the shoulder of the road and park without obstructing traffic.

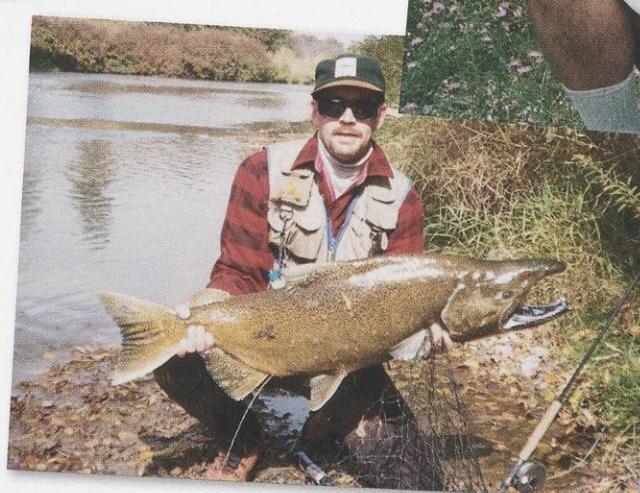
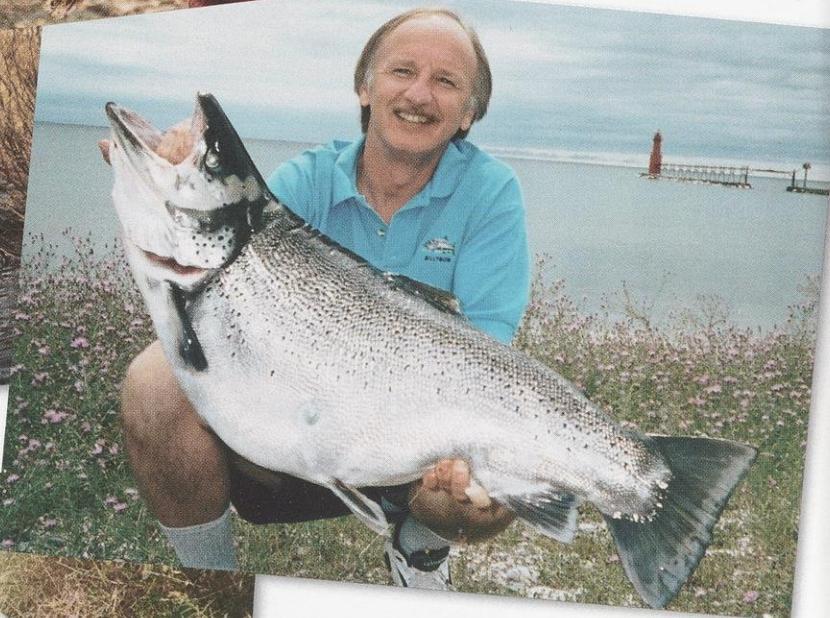
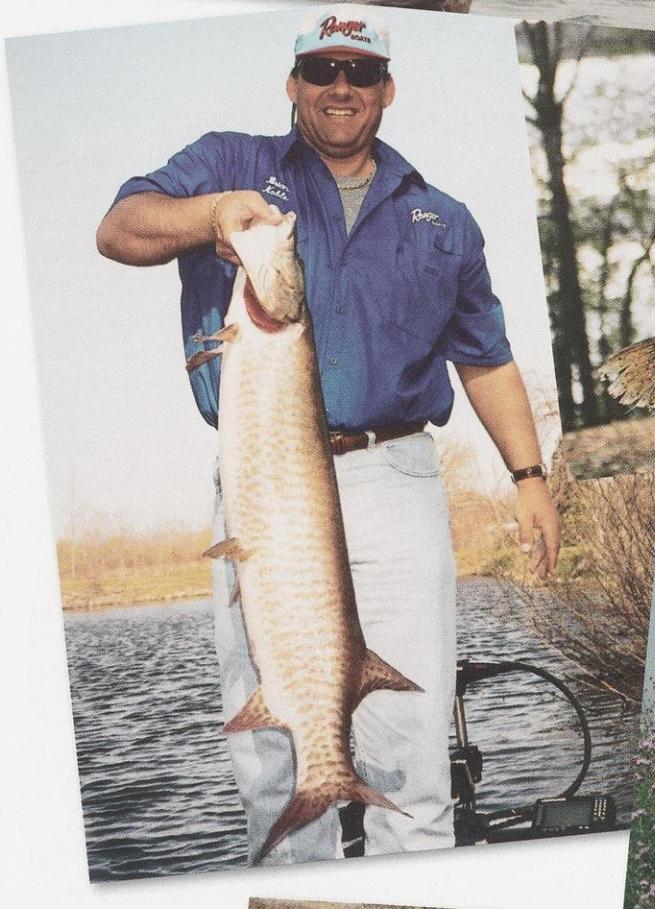
If you want to explore a site we mention, please visit our Web site (www.wnrmag.com) or write us for a fact sheet on a particular location we've mentioned. The fact sheets and Web summaries provide a more complete description of notable features, a property history, a list of plant communities on site and a property map to help you locate features of interest. Contact Thomas Meyer, State Natural Areas Program, DNR Bureau of Endangered Resources, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707, or call (608) 265-0394.

Finding your way around a natural area is a bit more challenging since there are few paths and even fewer signs on the property. Just relax and explore! You will enjoy the experience more if you carry water, insect repellent, field guides to identify species, a camera, binoculars and a hand lens to take a closer look. Be mindful that flowers and other plants cannot be picked or removed.

In our thumbnail descriptions we'll tell you if a site is notable for plant communities, animal migrations or a geologic feature. We'll tell you peak times of the year to visit the site. We'll tell you how to reach the site, including page and reference locations from the "Wisconsin Atlas and Gazetteer," a handy set of detailed topographic maps published by DeLorme and available at book stores. We'll also mention other nearby attractions worth seeing on your journey.

Whether these places become your destination or just a stop on the way, we hope you'll take the time to visit Wisconsin, naturally. □

David L. Sperling edits Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine.



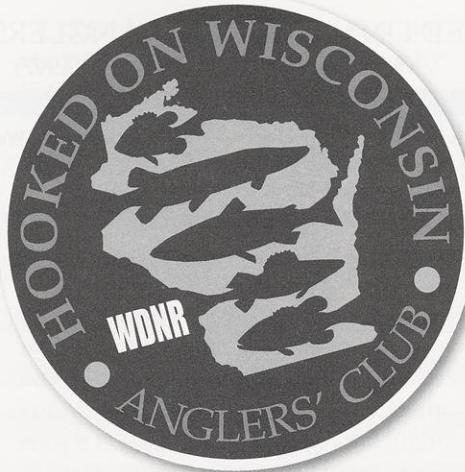
A sampling of the year's real lunkers:
(top to bottom) John McNamara's 21-pound 12-ounce northern pike from Lake Michigan;

Jeff Steltz's 10-pound 15-ounce walleye caught on a rain-swollen Chippewa River;

Brian D. Noble's 29-pound 11-ounce musky from Little Sturgeon Bay;

Bob Wenker's 35-pound 11-ounce brown trout was almost a state record;

Troy Powell's 33 1/2-pound chinook caught on a spawning run up the Sheboygan River.



Join the club

In its first year, the "Hooked on Wisconsin" Anglers' Club catches on.

Karl J. Scheidegger

Given some spare time, some fishing gear and ample opportunities on thousands of ponds, lakes and rivers, you have instant fun. Add a program like the Anglers' Club and you can savor the fishing moment with a memento.

The "Hooked on Wisconsin" Anglers' Club started last year to recognize Wisconsin anglers for their exceptional sportfishing catches. Resident and nonresident anglers can qualify for club membership in three categories: 1) Live Release — catching and releasing a fish that met a minimum length standard, 2) Kept Fish — catching and keeping a fish that met a minimum weight standard, and 3) Mixed Bag — catching and releasing a variety of Wisconsin fishes with no size standards.

The Anglers' Club enjoyed a successful inaugural year: 65 fish were entered by 55 first-year members — mostly Wisconsin residents, but fishers from seven other states made the roster. Thirty-six fish of 10 different species were entered in the Live



George's Liske's 46 3/4-inch musky was released. Liske won a replica mount in a drawing.

Release category. Several of the largest fish caught and released in the program in 1996 were a 49" muskellunge, a 42 1/4" northern pike, a 32 1/2" walleye, and a 21 3/4" smallmouth bass. A 47" hybrid (tiger) musky, a 40" northern pike, and a 21 1/2" smallmouth bass were several of the 23 fish (15 species) registered in the Kept Fish category. The largest fish registered last year was a 43 1/2", 48 lb. flathead catfish from the St. Croix River.

You may recall that each year an angler who releases and registers a

lunker is awarded a replica mount of the large fish. George Liske of Stetsonville, Wis. was the lucky angler for 1996 for his 46 3/4" musky from Holcombe Flowage, Chippewa County. George's replica will be displayed at the DNR exhibit at the Wisconsin State Fair in August. Come take a look.

Why not try and join the club this year! Look for information at your nearest WDNR office, or write: "Hooked on Wisconsin" Anglers' Club, Bureau of Fisheries Management and Habitat Protection, 101 S. Webster St., P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921.

Good luck, tight lines, and get "Hooked on Wisconsin" fishing! □

Fisheries Biologist Karl J. Scheidegger manages the Anglers' Club for DNR's Bureau of Fisheries Management and Habitat Protection. Other sponsors include Uncle Josh Baits, Mercury Marine, Muskies, Inc., the Musky Club Alliance of Wisconsin, and the Department of Tourism.

"HOOKED ON WISCONSIN" ANGLERS' CLUB
Membership List (as of May 20, 1997)

LIVE RELEASE CATEGORY

Name	City, State (if other than Wis.)	Species	Length	Weight	Location
Jim Kurth	Milwaukee	NPIKE	42½"		Lake Michigan
Andy Lecrone	Shelbyville, Ill.	SMB	20½"		Webb Lake, Burnett Co.
Mike Lendobeja	Milwaukee	SMB	20½"		Willow Flowage, Oneida Co.
Brian Noble	Green Bay	MUSKY	49"		Green Bay
Craig Soeth	Burlington	RBASS	12"		Lake Geneva, Walworth Co.
Brian Schultz	Marathon	SMB	20"		Lake Mendota, Dane Co.
Gust Danegelis	Lombard, Ill.	SMB	21¾"		Inkpot Lake, Oneida Co.
George Liske	Stetsonville	MUSKY	45½", 45", 46¾"		Holcombe Fl., Chippewa Co.
Thomas Zeller	Menomonee Falls	SMB	21¼"		Dam Lake, Oneida Co.
Gary Nault	Sturgeon Bay	WALLEYE	29¼"		Sturgeon Bay, Door Co.
Colin Nowaacyk	Barnes	MUSKY	47"		M. Eau Claire, Bayfield Co.
James Barr	Ft. Madison, Iowa	NPIKE	40¼"		Fish Lake, Rusk Co.
Gary Myshak	Rhinelander	LMB	22½"		Alderridge Lake, Oneida Co.
		SMB	21½"		Sugarcamp Lake, Oneida Co.
Ann Orwig	Winnetka, Ill.	MUSKY	45"		Big Lake, Vilas Co.
Bill Capelle	Green Bay	LMB	22"		Big Lake, Shawano Co.
Steven Bridge	Shorewood	CH SALM	41"		Milwaukee R., Milwaukee Co.
Steve Wincek	Bowling Green, Ohio	SMB	20½"		Yellow River, Burnett Co.
Frank Rippinger	Batavia, Ill.	MUSKY	46"		Chippewa River, Ashland Co.
Tim Geschke	Germantown	CH SALM	41", 42", 41½", 42"		Sauk Creek, Ozaukee Co.
		CO SALM	30", 31½"		"
Jennie Gaurke	West Allis	CH SALM	43"		Milwaukee R., Milwaukee Co.
Tim Tiedje	Barrington, Ill.	CH SALM	41½"		Sturgeon Bay, Door Co.
		WALLEYE	32½"		Green Bay, Door Co.
Charles Armitage	Mt. Dora, Fla.	MUSKY	48"		Lake Katherine, Oneida Co.
Michael Marzion	Milwaukee	SMB	20¼"		White Sand Lake, Vilas Co.
William Loewe	Mauston	CARP	37½"		Castle Rock Fl., Juneau Co.
Dan Schumacher	Madison	T MUSKY	41"		Lake Mendota, Dane Co.
Mike Smolensky	Twin Lakes	R BASS	12¼"		Lake Geneva, Walworth Co
John McNamara	Oak Park, Ill.	NPIKE	42½"		Lake Michigan, Door Co.

KEPT FISH CATEGORY

Andy Zommers	Manitowoc	WALLEYE	30"	11 lbs.	Sturgeon Bay, Door Co.
Jeff Steltz	Chippewa Falls	WALLEYE	30¾"	10 lbs. 15 oz.	Chippewa River
Lee Kuepper	Woodruff	WALLEYE	30"	11 lbs. 12 oz.	Minocqua Lake, Oneida Co.
Jack Sullivan	DeForest	WALLEYE	30"	10 lbs. 4 oz.	Black Oak Lake, Vilas Co.
Brad Johnson	Hudson	BRN TRT	23½"	6 lbs. 0 oz.	Willow River, St. Croix Co.
Anson Jimenez	Madison	CARP		27 lbs. 0 oz.	Lake Mendota, Dane Co.
Pieter Froehlich	River Falls	FHCAT	43½"	48 lbs. 0 oz.	St. Croix River, St. Croix Co.
John Imm	Eau Claire	YPERCH	15"	1 lb 8 oz.	Lake Altoona, Eau Claire Co.
Jeff Kollmansberger	Chili	WALLEYE	30¼"	10 lbs. 4 oz.	Mead Lake, Clark Co.
Bob Wenker	White Bear Lake, Minn.	BRN TRT	36"	35 lbs. 2 oz.	Lake Michigan, Kewaunee Co.
Bill Clay	Milwaukee	RNB TRT	40½"	26 lbs. 10 oz.	Lake Michigan, Milwaukee Co.
Jerry Ehlers	Green Bay	LKE TRT		19 lbs.	Lake Michigan, Kewaunee Co.
Rod Mc Laughlin	Franklin	WH BASS	18½"	2 lbs. 11 oz.	Lake Michigan, Kewaunee Co.
Mitch Wold	Portage	BRN TRT	32"	15 lbs. 2 oz.	Lake Michigan, Ozaukee Co.
Chad Miller	Appleton	BRN TRT	37½"	18 lbs. 5 oz.	Lake Michigan, Manitowoc Co.
Don Zimmerman	New Berlin	SAUGER	22"	4 lbs. 4 oz.	Mississippi River, Buffalo Co.
Troy Powell	Nixa, Mo.	CH SALM	42"	33 lbs. 8 oz.	Sheboygan R., Sheboygan Co.
David Neltzke	Fountain City	DRUM	35"	20 lbs. 4 oz.	Mississippi River, Buffalo Co.
Thomas Kraftzenk	Racine	SMB	21½"	5 lbs. 8 oz.	Lake Delavan, Walworth Co.
Richard Mihalko	Port Washington	CH SALM	39¾"	30 lbs. 8 oz.	Lake Michigan, Ozaukee Co.
Russel Olson	Las Vegas, Nev.	R BASS	13½"	2 lbs. 0 oz.	Maiden Lake, Oconto Co.
Fred Niffenegger	Waldo	T MUSKY	47"	23 lbs. 0 oz.	Chippewa Fl., Sawyer Co.
James Cure	Madison	LMB	21¾"	6 lbs. 0 oz.	Lake Mendota, Dane Co.
		LMB	22"	6 lbs. 15 oz.	"

MIXED BAG CATEGORY

Name	City, State (if other than Wis.)	No. species
Randy Williams	New London	30
Dave Wiskersham	Nekoosa	10
Willard Owens	Ft. Atkinson	10
James Rechlitz	Milwaukee	10
Brian Klein	Sussex	10
Dan Detert	Janesville	10

A cricket's life begins as one of up to 300 eggs laid by a female in soil during late summer and fall. Eggs winter underground and hatch out in spring. Adult crickets hibernate in late fall, but seldom survive the winter. A year-old cricket is a rarity.

Crickets feed on lots of things — plant tissues, dead insects, seeds, leather, paper, and old cloth, especially if the cloth is stained by food or perspiration. They are capable of doing considerable damage in storage places.

Adult crickets spend their days in a shallow burrow beneath a stone, clod of dirt or a tuft of plants. They are most active after dark, and that is when males begin their nightly serenading

of potential mates. Their familiar chirps also can be heard occasionally in the daytime. Females don't sing.

A male cricket has a heavy vein with a rough surface at the front of each wing. The upper side of a wing is used as a scraper and produces sound when it is rubbed across the rough vein of the other wing, just as a bow is drawn across a violin. This performance occurs with both wings elevated so that wing membranes can act as sounding boards. The pitch of their chirps is slightly higher than the highest octave on a piano. Air temperature influences chirping rates; the warmer the night, the faster they chirp.

Folklore has it that a pet cricket will

ward off evil spirits, bring good luck or both. For those who wish to test this possibility, crickets are easy to keep in captivity. Put a layer of sand in a fruit jar, add a small bottle cap for water, a cricket, and cover the jar opening with mosquito netting. Feed bits of lettuce, dry oatmeal, melon or chicken bone and your cricket should be happy. Perhaps you will be, too.

Jim Hale is a biologist, former researcher and was the first Director of DNR's Endangered Resources program. He lives in Madison.

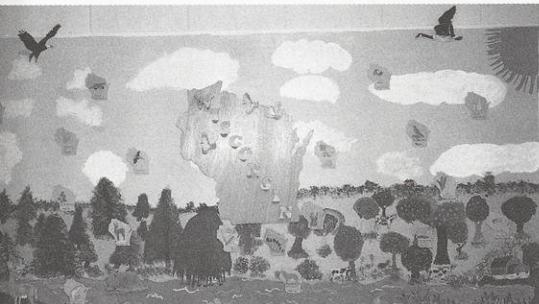
Reprinted with permission from NewsLeaf, newsletter of the University of Wisconsin Arboretum.

Readers Write

SYMBOLIC WISCONSIN

Our class at Elm Dale Elementary School in Greenfield liked the story on Wisconsin state symbols. We made a mural of Wisconsin four feet tall and eight feet long. We used all the state symbols. We painted it during our recesses. We had a lot of fun doing it.

*Kate Esselman
Mrs. Haberlis' Fourth Grade
Class
Greenfield, Wis.*



WEB FANS

I just renewed my subscription. As far as I'm concerned, you are doing everything right. Congratulations on the Web site, too.

Fred Stoeffel

Saw your site www.wnrmag.com and I have to say what a great

thing to have on the Internet. Hats off to you and your associates.

*Joe Sevora
Waunakee, Wis.*

Though I now live in another setting of great beauty, I always look forward to the magazine's arrival in my mailbox. You see, my roots are still in Wisconsin. The original Zettell landgrant farm in Maplewood, Door County is still operated by my father.

Your Web site now gives me another place I can visit for a virtual stroll along the byways of my favorite place, Wisconsin.

*Steve Zettell
Libby, Mont.*

I like the layout and organization of your Web site. It's simple to see what is in the magazine and it's nice to see what's going to be in the next issue. As a subscriber, I read the magazine cover-to-cover within two days of its arrival.

*Jane K. George
Hudson, Wis.*

HAWK PHOTOS AND MEL ELLIS

The sharp photo of a goshawk (February cover) and accompanying article were most enjoyable. We've been seeing goshawks in greater numbers in our travels around Wisconsin. We really appreciate your photographers' expertise. We know how difficult it is to get close enough to hawks to get a shot like the one on the cover. We've seen eagles hunting food on the Wolf River just outside our door for more than 30 years. The current keeps a channel open most of the year and waterfowl flock here. We've never gotten a good photo of the eagles, partially due to inadequate camera equipment and partly due to the eagles keeping a sharp eye on any movement.

Also in that issue, your article of Mel Ellis' essays brought back fond memories of his numerous writings in newspapers and magazines. As a teacher at that time, I used many of his articles in my writing classes to motivate students — especially the boys. I wrote to Mr. Ellis one time about an exceptional article on trees — "A Love Song to Trees." I received a response,

which I still have. Whatever happened to Little Lakes? Does one of the girls still live there?

*Marge and John Eid
Winneconne, Wis.*

Mrs. Ellis still lives on the property. The Little Lakes homestead has been purchased by a private foundation and will be preserved.

KILLING ANGLERS' ENTHUSIASM?

It is a shame you had to ruin such a nice story about steelhead fishing on the Root River (April issue) by scaring people telling them to "Select just a few fish to eat." No wonder our fishery can't support itself. You folks just keep scaring those potential new anglers away! Oh, that's right, wildlife watching is the trend now! Ten years down the road, I wonder who will regret this rhetoric when we have NO fisheries department.

*Maxine Appleby
Milwaukee, Wis.*

Just as the catch-and-release philosophy encourages anglers to enjoy the fishing experience without keeping every fish, we believe our fish advisories encourage anglers to enjoy out-

door experiences and decide for themselves which fish to take home. These advisories are not designed to dampen enthusiasm for fishing as sport or recreation, we want to let people make their own informed choices about which environmental risks they choose to accept.

AND CATS AGAIN

Regarding your December article, I cannot understand why household cats are allowed to run free. So many cat owners feel their cats need to hunt. I used to like cats and darling little kittens, but seeing so many of them attacking birds and leaving the remains in my yard sickens me. I wouldn't want a cat that had been chewing on birds, bunnies, rats and mice.

My friends and my son have cats that have never been out of the house. I consider those animals 100 percent cleaner and I'd say the practice has lengthened their lives. If dogs have to be tied up outside so they won't give chase, why not cats?

We seem to experience another problem — crows in the city. Since our landfills have been sealed off from open garbage, the crows are invading residential neighborhoods. Each summer as the crows feed their young, we lose baby robins, cardinals and finches. The crows sit on our rooftops listening for baby bird twitters and they watch as parents enter and leave to feed their young. The frantic parents are helpless against the larger, aggressive crows.

If there is a solution to stop cat and crow problems, I favor it.
*Ellie McLaughlin
Janesville, Wis.*

REMEMBERING THE KICKAPOO

Thank you for Harvey Black's article "Awakening the Kickapoo Reserve." We have been waiting a long time to see such a piece.

My husband, the late Ronald Rich, started working in 1972 to keep a dam from being built on that beautiful river. He was born and grew up within three miles

of Wildcat Park and explored the Kickapoo Valley all his life. He attended every hearing held all those years, appeared as a witness, wrote dozens of letters, made phone calls, took hundreds of pictures, contacted Senators Nelson and Proxmire, Governor Lucey and anybody else who would listen. He never gave up hope of saving the valley but the going got very hard for a while, since the proponents of the dam got pretty nasty.

My husband died in April of 1994, just before the project was officially halted. I believe he was the first to report the existence of *Primula mistassinica* and the Northern Monkshood — He knew they should be there, and he found them. He knew where the Indians had lived and understood the valley.

That picture you ran in the article of the couple walking in the woods is Ron and me. The article has warmed the hearts of our family.

*Louise M. Rich
Baraboo, Wis.*

While I agree the reserve is a state treasure, the article overlooked an important and dramatic change in one aspect of the Kickapoo: its aquatic resources.

In the summer of 1993, with my partner Lorie Wilson and under the supervision of DNR Fisheries Manager Dave Vetrano, I surveyed fish species on the Kickapoo River between Ontario and Rockton.

Previous surveys in the early seventies showed an almost lake-like assemblage of warmwater species — smallmouth bass, northern pike, bullheads and green sunfish. Most notable was the red shiner which prefers warm, turbid waters.

Our 1993 survey showed a definite shift. In fact smallmouth bass, northern pike, bullheads and red shiners were not found. Instead, the sand shiner, common shiner, redside dace, redbelly dace and a few species of darters were now resident — all clear, coolwater species. We also found longnose dace, which are

only associated with fast-flowing, cold waters.

It is clear that the quality of the Kickapoo's water has changed. What caused this change? *Nothing!*

When the federal government took over the land, intensive agriculture stopped in areas with high runoff. This greatly reduced erosion and nutrient flow to the river. Additionally, many roads through the area were closed and bridges were removed, further reducing impacts from people. Then nature took over and the river flushed out and cleaned itself. Simply leaving the river alone allowed it to return to a more natural state. This change was so dramatic that marked trout that had been stocked in another stream were captured in our Kickapoo survey. Indeed, many species not previously noted were found during our survey including the rare redside dace.

The upshot of all of this is that our nongame fish species deserve more attention and respect. Also, sometimes the best management activity can be no management to let the land recover. This should be kept in mind as we balance "recreational development" with preserving the wilderness experience. The Kickapoo has already recovered once, giving us a second chance. Let's get it right this time.

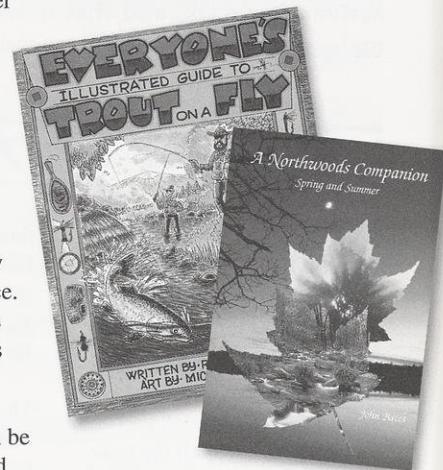
*Tim Roettiger
Kenai, Alaska*

TWO GOOD READS

We gave up providing extensive book reviews several years ago because readers told us it was their least favorite feature. May we recommend two recent arrivals?

"A Northwoods Companion: Spring and Summer," by John Bates is a bi-weekly reader that shares phenological highlights from March through August. Bates is a forest naturalist who now operates a naturalist guiding service in Mercer, Wis., and he knows the northern landscape darn well. The book is chock full of interesting tidbits and is orga-

nized so the reader who wants to study nature's coming attractions or plan a northern vacation can anticipate what will be blooming, crawling and croaking in a particular two-week segment. It would be equally enjoyable to slip this book in your backpack with your sandwich and field guides, take it along when you can sneak in ten minutes of reading between appointments, or keep it on your nightstand for a few minutes of quality reading at the end of the day. Manitowish River Press, 254 pages, \$14.95.



"Everyone's Illustrated Guide to Trout on a Fly," by R. Chris Halla, illustrated by Michael Streef, uses large print narratives and plentiful black and white illustrations on every page to introduce newcomers of all ages to fly-fishing. The basics on selecting rods, reels, line, flies, even fishing clothing are handled with such fun it hardly seems like learning. Essentials like reading the water, making casting choices, selecting flies and understanding trout behavior are all covered in a 96-page quick read. Frank Amato Publications, Inc. \$10.95.

Connect with Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine on the Web. Reach our home page on the World Wide Web at <http://www.wnrmag.com>. Drop us a note — and remember to sign our guest page.



Cruise the Northwoods

Ask a Wisconsin forester to take you on a cruise and sure enough, you won't end up on a boat. You'll find yourself clomping through a stand of trees, measuring such things as height and girth and overall vigor, speculating on ravages of spruce budworm.

"Cruising a stand" may be the forester's time-honored method of nature observation, but it may not be yours — especially if, on this particular cruise, you were hoping to have a nice comfortable seat affording a good view, and perhaps, a nice refreshing drink.

You lucky devil! Seems there are other ways to cruise the forests of the North. The **Wilderness Queen** and the **Denum Lacey**, to name two. These sturdy vessels ply the wilds of the Willow Reservoir and the Chippewa Flowage, where opportunities for nature-watching abound.

The **Wilderness Queen**, operated by **Wilderness Cruises** of Hazelhurst, works the deeply forested shores of the 7,000-acre Willow Reservoir. Watch for loons in the

shallows, and eagles and osprey soaring above their nests as the boat moves slowly past quiet forested islands. Consider planning a boat trip on the Willow to take in the splendor of autumn's colors.

The best way to see the "Big Chip" is from the water — and that's where you'll be on the good ship **Denum Lacey**, owned by Chippewa Queen Tours in Hayward. More than two hundred miles of unspoiled shoreline and a view of 140 islands await passengers who visit this vast watery wilderness. Ducks, cormorants, herons, beaver, otter, bear and scores of other species take refuge in the flowage's woods and waters, so be sure to bring your camera and binoculars.

Both boats offer two-hour sightseeing tours and special evening dinner cruises. The **Wilderness Queen** also features

Practice your outdoor skills

At the first annual **Wisconsin Outdoor Heritage Day** on Saturday, September 27 at the Sheboygan County Fairgrounds in Plymouth, people of all ages can practice tracking, shooting, angling and other outdoor skills. Take part in a turkey calling contest, try your hand at casting, fly-tying or bow-and-arrow target shooting. Learn the safe way to climb a tree stand, the proper way to field dress a deer, and how to cure a fur. Enjoy the food and information booths, the Wisconsin mammals exhibit and the demonstrations on working with a hunting dog. Hear speakers (including Jim Posewitz, author of *Beyond Fair Chase*) who'll address important outdoor issues. The Wisconsin Junior Outdoorsman competition will be held during the event. Oh — need another pair of waders? Don't miss the sportsman's equipment swap sale! 11 a.m.-5 p.m. \$3 adults; under 16, free. For more details, or to buy space on a swap table, call Dan Redman, (414) 565-3615. □

Cast your attention to Plymouth for Outdoor Heritage Day, Saturday, September 27th.

WISCONSIN TRAVELER

a Sunday champagne brunch, a "decadent dessert" cruise, and a moonlight ride.

Ask any forester: Cruising Wisconsin's Northwoods was never so easy.

For schedules, prices and reservations (recommended) contact **Wilderness Cruises** in Hazelhurst at 1-800-472-1516 or (715) 453-3310, or **Chippewa Queen Tours** in Hayward at (715) 462-3874. □



HERBERT LANGE
Tour the Northwoods by water. Enjoy the scenery and wildlife as you quaff a cool one.



ROBERT QUEEN

Wisconsin, naturally

KETTLE MORaine FEN AND LOW PRAIRIE

Notable: 250-acre mosaic of calcareous fen, sedge meadow, wet prairie and an "island" of degraded oak savanna in the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest.

Peak time to visit: Mid-summer to early autumn. Something is always blooming during the growing season. Look for asters, gentians, grass-of-Parnassus and compass plant.

How to get there: Waukesha County. From the junction of highways 59 and 67 in Eagle, go north on highway 67 2.1 miles to a gated access on the left. Walk west along the lane to the site. Gazetteer: p.30, grid A2.

