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# WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES

December 2001 \$3.00

A special  
 **winter**  
**recreation**  
issue

Visits to your  
ice shanties

Mad about  
mushing

Winter camping  
tips





# A secret under the snow

An earth essence with cheery red berries and vibrant green leaves lies just under foot in the dead of winter.



© JOSEPH G. STRAUCH, JR.

Anita Carpenter

Winter in the Northwoods: short days, sub-freezing temperatures, desiccating frigid winds and deep snow covering a cold, quiet landscape. Yet life goes on.

To uncover one sign of it, brush aside the insulating snow quilt. Underneath you may discover a little woodland perennial with bright red fruits poking shiny, evergreen leaves through mosses and fallen pine needles. The plant's common name reflects its appearance — wintergreen. Its scientific name, *Gaultheria procumbens*, refers to its procumbent nature to hug the ground and form low, wide green carpets year-round on the forest floor.

Wintergreen prefers the acidic soils of northern Wisconsin. During summer, wintergreen creeps along, extending its underground stem (rhizome) and sending up new shoots. Giant wintergreen shoots may "tower" five to six inches tall while most stems are shorter. Topping each stem is a small cluster of three to five, thick, leathery, oval leaves, measuring three-quarters of an inch to two inches long. A close look through a hand lens shows the leaf edges are slightly serrated and rolled under. A short bristle extends out from each "tooth" and lies parallel to the leaf margin.

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Wintergreen has tiny, drooping flowers in late summer and bright red berries that can last from September through spring.



# WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES

December 2001  
Volume 25, Number 6



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RJ & LINDA MILLER, La Crosse, Wis.

**BACK COVER:** Pine Cliff State Natural Area, Iowa County. For a map or more information, contact the State Natural Areas Program, Bureau of Endangered Resources, DNR, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.

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**Editor** David L. Sperling

**Associate Editor** Natasha M. Kassulke

**Contributing Editor** Maureen Mecozzi

**Circulation Manager** Kathryn A. Kahler

**Business Manager** Laurel Fisher Steffes

**Art Direction** Nancy Warnecke, Moonlit Ink

**Printing** Suttle-Straus Printing Company



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**Step on a dog sled and be carried away by the exuberance of a team in harness and the soft swish of sled runners on snow.**

*Rich Trotto*

**L**eaving Alaska after 20 years in the bush was one of the most difficult decisions our family had to face. There were certainly plenty of reasons for the move: the need for a better school system, the desire to be closer to family, never having to face another April with 50-below wind chill temperatures.

Still, departing our outpost on the tundra for Wisconsin meant saying goodbye to good friends, a lifestyle we loved, the wilderness just down the end of the street and dog mushing.

Mushing dogs was a significant part of my life in Alaska. As a journalist, I covered sled dog racing from local village competitions to the Iditarod, the famed 1,000-mile-plus race from Anchorage to Nome. The mushing bug bit me when I helped some friends train

their dogs for a local mid-distance race, the Kuskokwim 300. I eventually started collecting my own dogs, and for more than a dozen years roamed the snow-covered tundra trails under the cobalt and silver skies of southwest Alaska.

My young daughter also took quickly to the dogs. She knew all their names, and would question me extensively when I moved a dog from one area of the dog yard to another. Although she was only seven when we left, her vivid memories of the dogs and our sometimes-wild rides across the tundra still linger.

After four years as city dwellers, we realized we still missed the sport and the people involved in it. There are many ways to enjoy winter's pleasures, but for me, none is as serene as moving swiftly and quietly through the woods

on the back of a dog sled, the only sound the soft swish of sled runners sliding along the trail. You look down to see your dogs, backs arched, leaning into their harnesses, their quick gait pulling you quickly along the snow-packed trail.

We decided to look for opportunities in Wisconsin to get a small taste of dog sledding again. No matter where you live in Wisconsin, and whether or not you're able to keep a dog team yourself, there are numerous events, businesses and active mushers here that allow you to get involved with the sport and all it offers.

#### **Getting back on the runners**

One way to experience the excitement of mushing is to take a dog sled ride. We began our quest on the Internet. A

# Mad about





search for “mushing Wisconsin” quickly yielded a host of websites on all aspects of the sport, including one titled, “Dog Sled Rides in Wisconsin.” This site lists a half dozen kennels around the state that offer dog sled rides of various lengths for a fee. You can arrange outings from a half-hour ride to excursions of two, three, or more days.

We settled on a trip up to Danbury in northwest Wisconsin, to the Paw-Tuck-A-Way Kennel owned by Cliff and Kathy Maxfield. We arrived the day after Christmas and found a kennel of happy, eager dogs waiting to be harnessed. My daughter went straight for the nearest dog, and began to pet and hug him like a long-lost friend. He happily returned the affection.

Sled dogs are some of the most loving and trusting animals anywhere. One reason is that most mushers care deeply about their dogs, and treat them all like pets. A love of dogs is practically a requirement to be a successful musher, considering the amount of time one takes tending to and training the animals. Many veterinarians will attest that dog mushers are among the most

responsible animal owners.

It didn’t take long to see that was the case with the Maxfields, who have good rapport with their dogs. Because my wife and I are both experienced at harnessing a dog team, it wasn’t long be-



This sled dog treated Nina Trotto like a long-lost friend. At least six kennels in Wisconsin offer sled dog rides to customers.

fore we were ready to go. Although he usually drives the sled himself, Cliff agreed to let me drive my own team.

Cliff took off first with my daughter in the basket. My team barked and leapt off their feet trying to take off after them. Then I pulled the anchoring hook and again experienced the rush of excitement from standing on runners as an enthusiastic team of dogs took off down the trail at top speed.

It was a beautiful, cold, crisp northern Wisconsin morning. With the sun shining and the temperature in the low single digits, it was perfect weather for the dogs, although a little nippy if you happened to be riding in the sled. For 90 minutes we enjoyed the beauty and quiet of the woods. It was far too short for me. I could have stayed out all day.

### Take part in races

My interest piqued, I decided to take Cliff up on his suggestion to drive up to Solon Springs a couple of weeks later to see the Empire 130 Sled Dog Race. The Empire 130 has been run

# mushing







Trained dog teams are raring to go! The sled is tethered to a post or anchor until the musher pulls the hook, calls "Hike!" and the team takes off.

RICH TROTTO

for over a dozen years and, as the first race of the season, it draws teams from all over Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. In February 2000 over 100 teams competed in three classes, including a two-dog class for children. Hundreds of people came to watch or assist in race preparations.

"We have over 200 volunteer tasks this year," commented Jeanne Brown of the race committee. "The town really turns out to help with the race. People love seeing and working with the dogs."

One of the most popular volunteer jobs is helping bring the teams to the starting line, a task that draws dozens of local high school students. There was only a one-minute interval between team starts, but with six to eight people helping to run each team up to the starting line, the starts went surprisingly well.

Another group involved with the race is NorWesCo, a team of amateur radio operators who belong to the area chapter of the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES). Members armed with hand-held, battery operated transmitters station themselves along the race route. Their main job is to radio to headquarters the times when



RICH TROTTO

The best sled dog trails are relatively level and have broad sweeping curves. Many dogs run on private trails. Some public trails are open for mushing by special arrangement, but groomed state trails are off-limits to dog teams.

teams pass certain checkpoints along the race route. They also deal with problems such as lost teams and injured mushers.

"We find that this is excellent training," said Wes Jones, president of the chapter. "Our operators have to stay flexible because there's a lot going on out there. It's one of the best training experiences we have."

"I think dog mushing is a great hobby," Jones continued. "With many of these teams, the whole family is involved. It helps keep kids out of trouble."

signaling the team to take off. Others yip and bark, leaping a foot or more into the air in excitement. Still others hold their place, while happily enjoying a pet or scratch from the nearest handler. Some take the opportunity to sniff and lick their partner.

When the count reaches zero and the musher pulls the hook to release the dog sled, the barking stops and the individual dogs become one team racing off down the trail. The Empire 130 crosses several roads, giving spectators a number of places along the trail to view the action.



JOSEPH W. BUTSICK

## Mushing on public trails

To give sled dogs a good workout, mushers need access to long trails with gradual curves over varied terrain. Sled dog teams are not allowed on the groomed ski trails or nature trails in state parks, but many other public trails including some hiking, bicycling, ski and snowmobile trails are available. Mushers can contact DNR property offices ahead of time to find out which trails are open to dog sleds, when the trails are open and whether the local snow conditions are good.

For information about state trails, visit a DNR Service Center, pull up the trails section of the DNR website, [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/trails.html](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/trails.html), or call the DNR Bureau of Parks and Recreation at (608) 266-2181 to discuss which properties may accommodate sled dog training. Also consider contacting county, state and national forest offices in Wisconsin to find out which of their winter trails are available for dog sled training.





The next Empire 130 race will be held January 5-6 in Solon Springs. More than 200 community volunteers help get the dogs to the starting line and check on mushers en route.

(below left) Jeanne Brown gets ready for her first dog sled ride. Spectators can take short rides after some races.

Often at races, spectators can take short dog sled rides after all the teams take off. Race Organizer Jeanne Brown took advantage of that chance. "I'm going to take my first ride today," said Brown, who has watched the race every year from its beginning, but has never ridden in a dog sled.

### Help train dogs

Going to a sled dog race is what gets many people interested in mushing, but making the leap from watching a race to having your own team may be difficult. One way to take a partial step is to find a musher in your area who needs help training dogs.

Sled dogs, like other long-distance runners, get in shape by working out mile after mile on a regular schedule. Most mushers will run their dogs hundreds of miles in a season. For distance racing, a rule of thumb is that every dog in the team should train for three times as many miles as it will run in the race. For a team running the 400-mile John Beargrease Race along Lake Superior's North Shore from Duluth, Minn., that means putting some 1,200 miles on the dogs before the middle of January.

Many mushers train more dogs than they need, and pick the fastest ones for

(ALL PHOTOS THIS PAGE) RICH TROTTO



the race. Puppies must also be trained. All this takes time, and most mushers appreciate having someone to help them put those miles on the dogs. Pat Olson of Duluth, Minn., who has her own team now after helping another musher train for several years, sees the advantage: "You get to train dogs and have no food bills or vet bills."

Josh Hall, a 16-year-old high school student, got interested in mushing because "it looked like fun, and I like dogs." Josh puts in some 200 miles weekly for Colleen and Ward Wallin, owners of Silver Creek Sled Dogs in Two Harbors, Minn. Josh's big reward came in the Empire 130, when he ran his first race using their dogs.

Another way to become involved in dog mushing is to work as a handler for a musher. Handlers cook dog food, feed dogs and do a variety of tasks to help mushers prepare for racing. During longer races, handlers will go to different checkpoints to help the musher, if race rules allow. They also provide moral and logistical support by advising the musher of the status of other

teams in the race.

"In order to be a handler, you basically have to fail an IQ test," laughs Doug Welsh, the starter for the Empire 130. "You have to be able to put up with no food, abuse and no sleep. You couldn't pay me enough to do it, but I do it because I love the people and I love the dogs."

### Mushing as a serious hobby

Most people get into mushing through osmosis. They know someone who has dogs, take a ride on a sled and realize it's something they want to do. That was the case for Candy Bradley. She became interested in mushing through Dawn Breedlove, a neighbor near Stoughton. Dawn is one of the top mushers in the state. In 2001, she bested 58 other teams to take first place in the Empire 130, eight-dog class.

Candy started with some dogs she got from a pound: "I had a Giant Schnauzer and a pointer." As her interest grew and Dawn was improving her team, Candy started picking some of

Dawn's dogs and they were no slouches. "Dawn got a lot of her dogs from Jeff King (an Iditarod winner) and Eddie Streeper (a world-class sprint racer)," said Candy, who now has a pretty swift team herself.

Candy's love of mushing was contagious. Her first convert was her husband, Mike, who was hooked on his first ride. "I knew it would be much easier for me to do if Mike loved it," said Candy. Mike not only loved it, he also put his building skills to work creating a first-class mushing operation on their property.

Mike and some neighbors got together to put in almost 10 miles of trails connecting their properties. They have created a small but vibrant mushing community not 15 minutes outside of Madison. "We have about five or six neighbors along the trail who have dogs," Mike commented. "There are also others who live close by who use the trail."

One of those neighbors is Susan Simonson, a travel agent from Oregon, who runs a small team of dogs on the

Mushing is a seasonal sport, but a year-round commitment to keep the dogs happy, well-fed and trained to run. Candy Bradley tends to her dogs.

Mike Bradley caught the sled dog bug. Mushers train twice as many dogs as they need for races and train their dogs so they can comfortably run at least three times the race distance.



(BOTH PHOTOS) RICH TROTTO



## Sled dog races in Wisconsin this winter

### DECEMBER 9

#### Shawano Race

Wisconsin Trailblazers Sled Dog Club  
Shawano, WI  
(715) 479-8047, fax: (715) 479-5592,  
witrailblazers@nnex.net

### JANUARY 12-13

#### Menomonie Race

Wisconsin Trailblazers Sled Dog Club  
Menomonie, WI  
(715) 479-8047, fax: (715) 479-5592,  
witrailblazers@nnex.net

#### Merrill Race

Wisconsin Trailblazers Sled Dog Club  
Merrill, WI  
(715) 479-8047, fax: (715) 479-5592,  
witrailblazers@nnex.net

#### Swiss Miss Winterfest

North Star Sled Dog Club  
Menomonie, WI  
(800) 283-1862,  
chamber@menomonie.com

### JANUARY 19-20

#### High Cliff Challenge Race

Wisconsin Trailblazers Sled Dog Club  
Neenah, WI  
(715) 479-8047, fax: (715) 479-5592,  
witrailblazers@nnex.net

### JANUARY 26-27

#### Nicolet Sprint

Wisconsin Trailblazers Sled Dog Club,  
Eagle River, WI  
(715) 479-8047, fax: (715) 479-5592,  
witrailblazers@nnex.net

\*Race day may change to Feb. 2-3. Check before you go.

### FEBRUARY 2-3

#### Headwaters Classic

Headwaters Classic, Inc.  
Land O' Lakes, WI  
(715) 479-9331,  
mrogers@nnex.net

### FEBRUARY 9-10

#### Crandon International Race\*

Wisconsin Trailblazers Sled Dog Club  
Crandon, WI  
(715) 479-8047, fax: (715) 479-5592,  
witrailblazers@nnex.net

#### Battle Axe Open Sled Dog Race

Battle Axe Open  
Iron River, WI  
(715) 373-5489,  
franksto@ncis.net  
www.ncis.net/franksto/battleaxe/  
battleaxe.html

### FEBRUARY 16-17

#### Flambeau International Sled Dog Classic

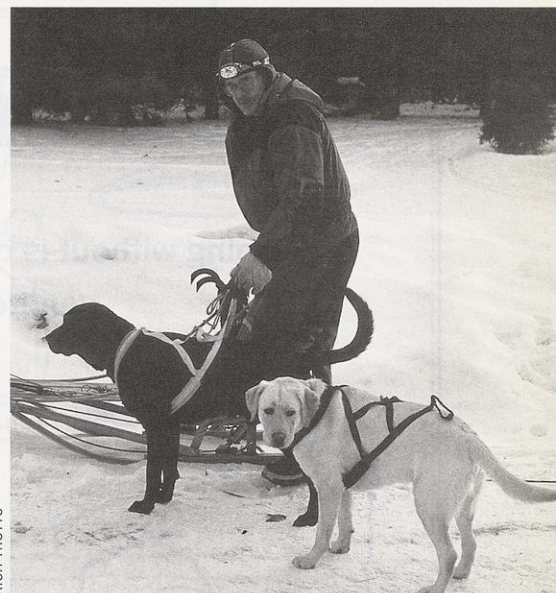
Wisconsin Trailblazers Sled Dog Club  
Park Falls, WI  
(715) 762-1400,  
northwindknl@wageswebworks.com

For an updated listing of dog sledding races and events in the Midwest, send a self-addressed stamped business envelope (#10) with a note requesting the annual directory to Mushing Magazine, Stellar Communications, Inc., P.O. Box 149, Ester, Alaska 99725-0149. If you have access to the Internet, the annual directory is also available on their website: [www.mushing.com](http://www.mushing.com). Click on the icon for the 2001-2002 Sled Dog Events Calendar and then select the Midwestern USA listings.

Bradley's trail. Simonson specializes in setting up travel adventures, including dog sledding vacations to northern Minnesota and Scandinavia. In addition to using the Bradley's trail, Susan often uses other trails in the area. "It's so

beautiful here," she says. "Sometimes you scare up some geese and they fly up in front of the dogs."

Madison resident Hal Leedy also uses the trail, though he has only one dog, a black Labrador retriever named



RICH TROTTO

Huskies aren't the only mushing breed. Hal Leedy takes Labrador retrievers on the trail.

Bud. Hal ran into Dawn Breedlove at a kennel club show in Madison. "She was the one who let me on to the fact that you can train dogs other than Alaskan breeds to pull," he said. "I never realized the power a single dog has to pull." Bud can pull the sled all by himself, but Hal occasionally enlists the services of Dash, a yellow lab. The two together are all Hal needs to enjoy many happy hours on the trail.

The Bradleys enjoy sharing their trail and their love of mushing with others, but for Candy, dog mushing has been much more than just a sport. In 1994, Candy was diagnosed with cancer. "They gave me two months to live and three months later I was running dogs in the Grand Tetons," she says. Taking care of her dogs and running her team keeps Candy's mind off her painful treatments and gives her more than enough reason to continue fighting. Although she has broken ribs from radiation therapy, she still takes her team out regularly and participates in racing. "The way I see it, you're gonna feel like your gonna feel, so you might as well have fun."



*In his other life, Rich Trotto is a technical writer with the State of Wisconsin's new Department of Electronic Government.*



# Sacrificing Sweet Sixteen

Doing without is one of the most generous acts we do.

Dave Crehore

Story illustrations by Tom Lowes

**L**ike Scrooge on Christmas morning, a bird-hunting man lives in the past, the present and the future at the same time. On an October morning, he lives for the moment. But he remembers old days and old dogs, and looks forward to new puppies and seasons yet to come. And when he has a minute to dream, he dreams of shotguns, because he always needs a better one.

Back in the late 1940s, my dad dreamed of a Sweet Sixteen, the 16-gauge version of John Browning's venerable semi-automatic. In time he got one.

What Dad saw in the Sweet Sixteen was hard to understand. He was used to better. As a boy, he learned to shoot with a Baker 12-gauge side-by-side that my grandfather, a county sheriff at the time, had taken away from a man who had shot his wife with it. The Baker's 28-inch barrels had no choke whatever, and despite its checkered past, it was a grouse gun as lithe and pitiless as a leopard. By the late 'twenties, though, when Dad was in his teens, the Baker's old twist-steel barrels had shot loose. Grandpa gave Dad a D.M. Lefever to take its place.

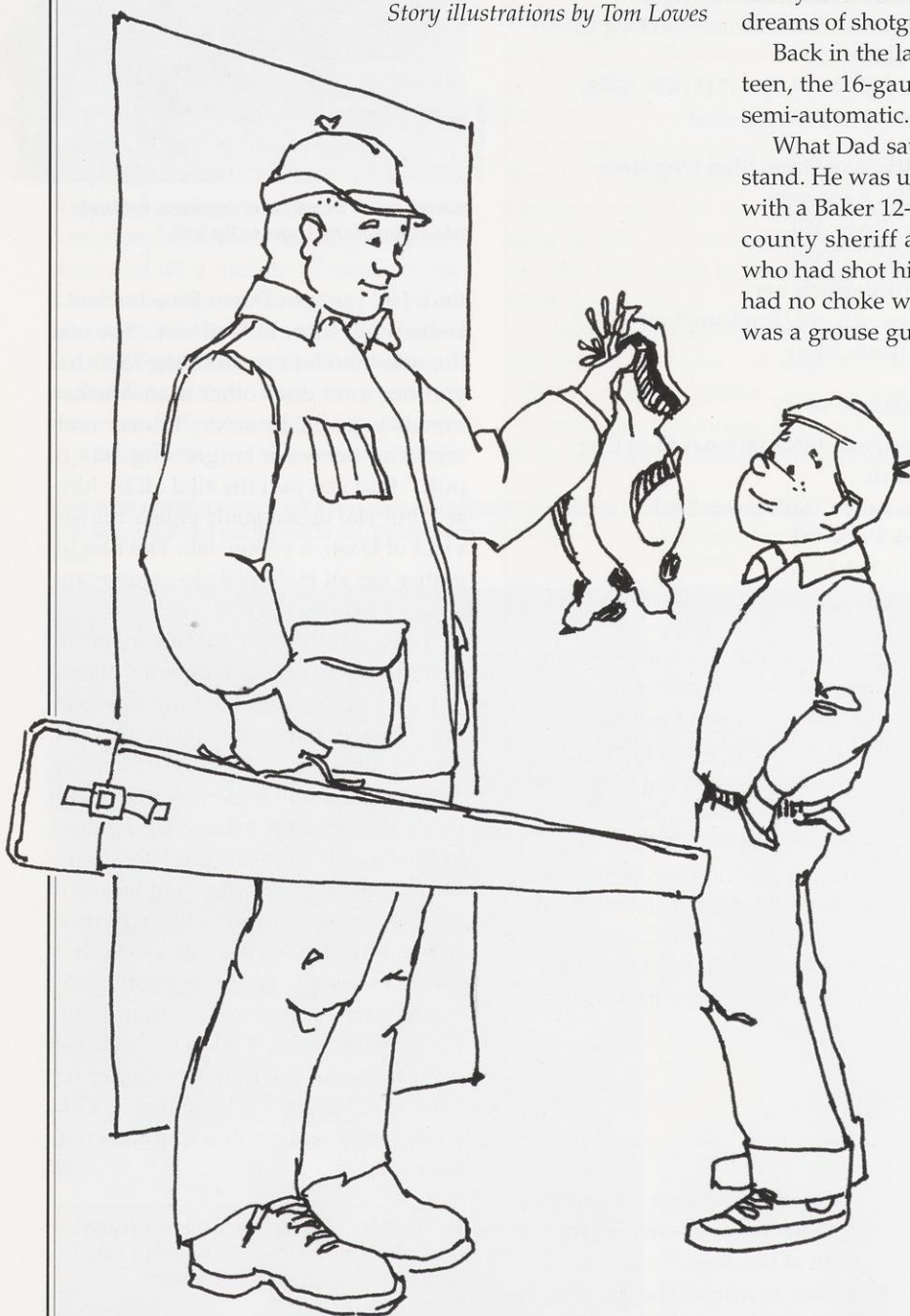
Then came 1942. I was born, and men Dad's age were sent around the world to play the sport of kings. When that was over and things had settled down, Dad scraped together enough money to buy the Sweet Sixteen, and the Lefever was moved to the back of the gun rack.

The Sixteen was the first shotgun Dad had ever bought with his own money, and it was the first new gun he had ever owned. I suppose that's why he treasured it so. At any rate, it didn't take long for Dad and the Sweet Sixteen to make progress among the grouse.

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*I would run to meet him in the back hall. He'd stand the cased Sweet Sixteen against the wall behind the door and show me the birds. There always seemed to be at least two.*

---





Sunday afternoons in October and November were grouse hunting time for Dad, and his post-hunt rituals are among my earliest and fondest memories of him. First, there would be a heavy clumping on the back porch as Dad kicked the clay out of the cleats on his boot soles. I would run to meet him in the back hall. He'd stand the cased Sweet Sixteen against the wall behind the door and show me the birds. There always seemed to be at least two.

Then he would put the birds in a grocery bag and tuck them in the icebox to cool, so they would be easier to skin and dress. We'd have supper, and then he would clean the birds on the back porch, carefully fanning out the tail feathers so I could add them to my collection.

And then he'd take the Sweet Sixteen down to the basement workshop, put a strip of old carpet on the workbench, carefully disassemble the gun and clean it.

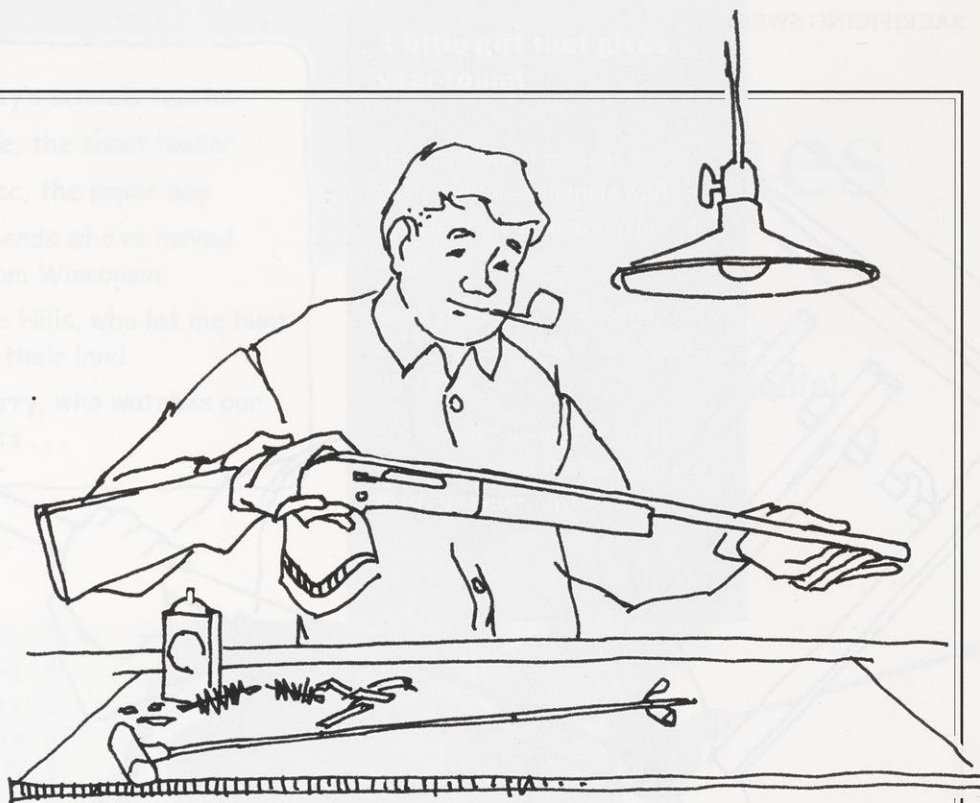
The smells of those grouse-hunting Sunday nights were as memorable as the sights. There would be the mingled scents of muck, sweetfern and juniper on Dad's boots, the aroma of his pipe tobacco — Skiff Mixture if he had some extra money, Edgeworth if he didn't — the supper smell of Swiss steak and stewed tomatoes, the clean, sulfury smell of the birds, and the bite of nitro solvent and gun oil down in the workshop.

Through all this, childhood was waning. Before long another milestone was reached: I turned twelve and was judged large and reliable enough to start hunting myself.

A "first" is always memorable: first kiss, first car, first punch in the nose, first shotgun. After supper on Christmas Eve, 1954, Dad headed down the basement stairs and motioned for me to follow. In the workshop was a cabinet where the Sweet Sixteen, the old Baker, the Lefever and my Savage single-shot .22 rifle were stored. Dad opened the cabinet and took out a slender wand of a shotgun. He pivoted its top lever, swung the barrels down, and handed it to me.

"There you go," he said. "Take care of it. It's a Fox."

I had heard enough shotgun talk to know that a D-




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*And then he'd take the Sweet Sixteen down to the basement workshop, put a strip of old carpet on the workbench, carefully disassemble the gun and clean it.*

---

grade Ansley H. Fox 20-bore ejector double like this one, with a sweeping flame in its oil-finished walnut and deep engraving on its frame and fences, wasn't just any old bird-banger; it was one of the finest shotguns ever made in the United States. And it lay there in my hands like a princess who had asked me to dance.

Dad smiled. I babbled. I looked down the Fox's gleaming bores, closed its action and tentatively raised the little gun to my shoulder. And then I looked into the cabinet and realized that the Sweet Sixteen was gone. Dad had traded it, and

God only knows how much cash, for the Fox.

"But..." I said, pointing to the cabinet.

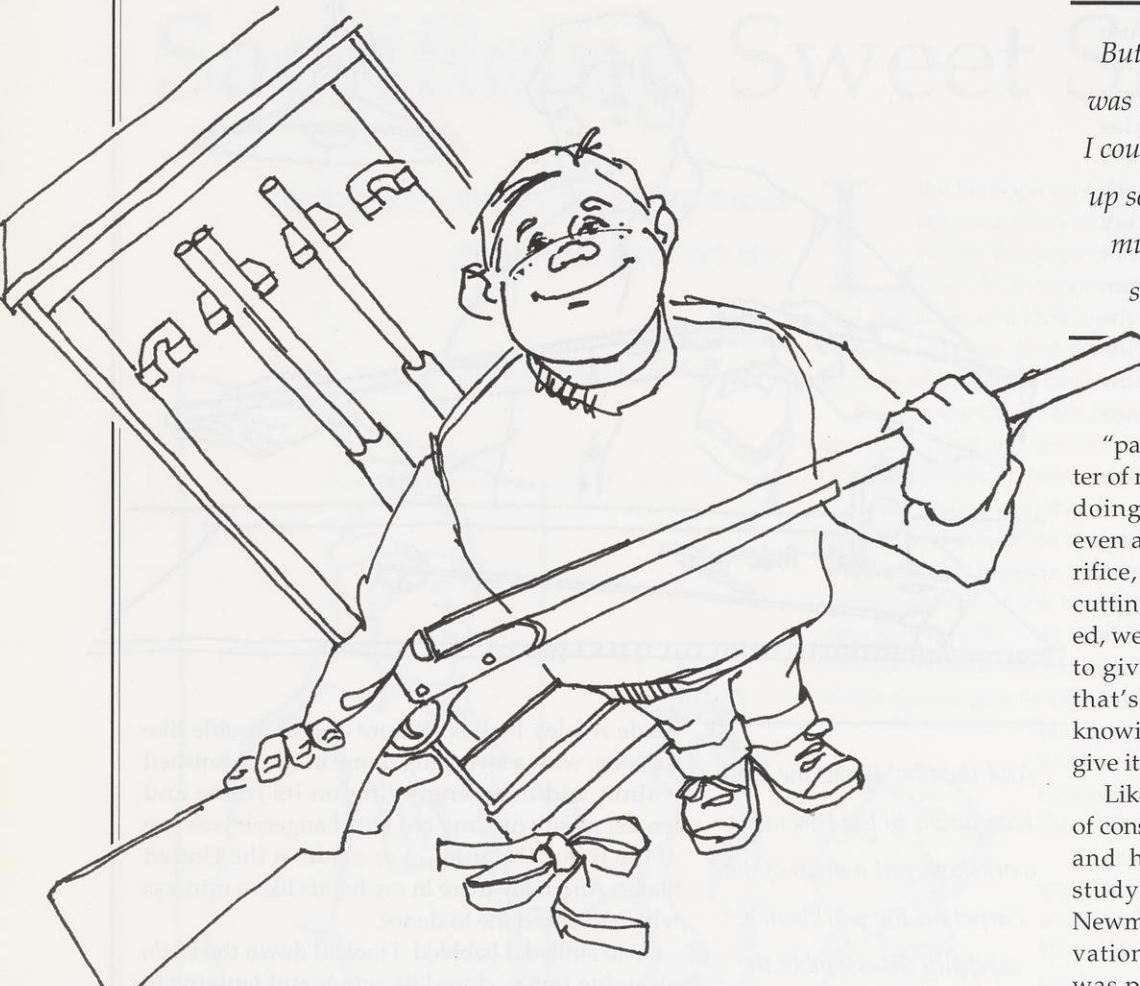
"Oh," Dad said, "the Browning was just a machine. This is a *gun*. And besides, I still have the Lefever, and there's about a hundred years of wear left in it."

Brave talk, intended to make me feel better. But I realized, a little bit then and a lot more later, what Dad had given up. For better or for worse, the Sweet Sixteen had been his dream, and Dad had moved his dream aside for me.

Well, you're probably thinking, big deal. Parents inconvenience themselves for their kids all the time, and usually the kids aren't even aware of it. But on that evening when I was 12, I tried to understand; I could see that Dad had given up something he wanted very much so that I could have something even better.

There are a lot of ways to show love: a smile, a touch, an apology, a good meal. But giving by giving up is the truest way.





*But on that evening when I was 12, I tried to understand; I could see that Dad had given up something he wanted very much so that I could have something even better.*

believe it when they tell you that conservation "pays." It doesn't; it's not a matter of money at all. It's doing good, doing good across generations, even across centuries. It takes sacrifice, it takes guts. We're always cutting trees someone else planted, we're always taking. We've got to give back more than we take; that's obvious. The hard part is knowing what to give and how to give it."

Like most people, I had thought of conservation as something good and honest. That's why I was studying it in college. But Jim Newman made me see that conservation was love in action, that it was painful and expensive, and not an option but a command-

Years later, I sat in a dusty, overheated classroom at UW-Stevens Point. The professor was Dr. Jim Newman, a good and profound teacher who died young. He was a forester, but he was already getting a reputation as a forester who disapproved of cutting trees.

To keep us awake that October afternoon, Dr. Newman asked us to define conservation. Several of us tried. "Wise use." "Scientific management." "The greatest good for the greatest number in the long run."

"Trite," Newman said. "How about something original?"

Original? I tried something I had read somewhere: "Protecting the future from the present."

"Good, but not original," Newman said. "Now boil it down to one word."

I looked out the window. One word? Earlier I had been thinking about how I would rather be out chasing grouse than sitting in class. The Sweet Sixteen popped into my head. "Giving up something," I thought. "Trading...substituting..."

"Sacrifice," Newman said.

"Sacrifice," he said. "That's what conservation is. Don't

ment. Dr. Newman had done some real doctoring. He injected me with an idea: that we must conserve to survive, and that we must survive because someday our species might amount to something.

Well, that was years ago. Jim Newman is dead, and I am getting old myself, and the world is run by stupid, hollow men who have never given up anything, who chase the quick fix and the easy money and are never satisfied until they have it all.

Even so, a better future is right there in front of us; it's uphill, but it's wide open. Love and courage will get us there. Is there enough love to go around? Have we got the guts to face down the hollow men? Who knows?

Oh, and by the way, if you need to know what's in it for you — there is an immediate reward for sacrifice: You get to feel like Dad did when he traded off the Sweet Sixteen.

That is if you're lucky.

*Author and musician Dave Crehore writes from Green Bay. He recently retired from a career as a DNR journalist and information officer.*





- ✓ Katy's science teacher
- ✓ Sue, the scout leader
- ✓ Alec, the paper boy
- ✓ friends who've moved from Wisconsin
- ✓ the Hills, who let me hunt on their land
- ✓ Jerry, who watches our pets . . .

## **A little gift that gives year-round**

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UND19



# When the world comes to the Northwoods

Forest management helps keep the Birkebeiner ski trail on track and beautiful.

Natasha Kassulke

**I**t's the largest cross-country ski marathon in North America and has been nicknamed the "Greatest Show on Snow."

In fact, once a year, skiers from more than 20 foreign countries and almost every state join the colorful pageantry of the American Birkebeiner and arrive in Wisconsin's Northwoods excited to tackle the rolling hills that rise and fall within the Bayfield and Sawyer county forests.

The American Birkebeiner takes off from Cable and skiers follow the Birkebeiner trail 51 kilometers (about 34 miles) until it wraps up at the finish line on Hayward's main street. The 2001 American Birkebeiner and its sister race, the 23-kilometer Korteloppet, attracted 6,545 skiers and about 20,000 spectators. The inaugural American Birkie started by Tony Wise in 1973 attracted 35 skiers — 34 men and one woman.

Opening ceremonies last year included a procession of Hayward Elementary students who carried the flags of Norway, Switzerland, Sweden, France, Estonia, Germany, Austria, Finland, Italy, Japan, Canada, Australia, Czech Republic and the United States — the 14 countries that are part of a Worldloppet series of international ski marathons.

Norwegian Consulate General Ole Overaas said he was pleased to be at the American Birkebeiner and honored that the race was named after a historic event that took place in his country more than 800 years ago.

He described the 57-kilometer trek of two soldiers, nicknamed "birkebeiners" for the birch bark leggings they wore, as they skied over the mountains to bring the Norwegian infant prince and future

THE LEGENDARY BIRKEBEINERS. COURTESY OF THE AMERICAN BIRKEBEINER SKI FOUNDATION



king, Hakon Hakonsson, to safety. Several races including the American Birkebeiner, call on skiers to challenge themselves against a Wisconsin Northwoods race course patterned after the historical event.

"I am so glad that you also have the Barnebirkie for children because they are the future of the sport," Overaas said. "They will see that skiing is not just exercise, but a way to get closer to nature, a way to feel and hear the sounds of the forest."

In fact, people who use the Birkebeiner trail that is marked by rolling hills see a side of the forest that other visitors rarely experience. Even the elite athletes regularly comment on the quality of the trail, which features some of the most scenic and challenging terrain in the Worldloppet ski circuit.

Making skiers happy is important to businesses in Hayward, Cable and the

surrounding area as well. A Wisconsin Department of Tourism survey during the 2000 Birkie found that the skiers spend an average of \$145.62 per person, per day. They stay an average of 2.9 nights and the average age of participants is 43, which certainly helps local restaurants and regional attractions.

Maintaining the trail is important for the race, the local economy and its future. The 10-year Sawyer County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan (1996 through 2005) sets a goal to maintain a 150-foot aesthetic forested buffer on each side of the Birkie trail through Sawyer County.

Pete Wisdom, DNR's liaison forester to Sawyer County, explains that appointed citizen groups worked with conservation groups, the county and the Department of Natural Resources to form and follow the plan. Partners in the plan included the American Birke-



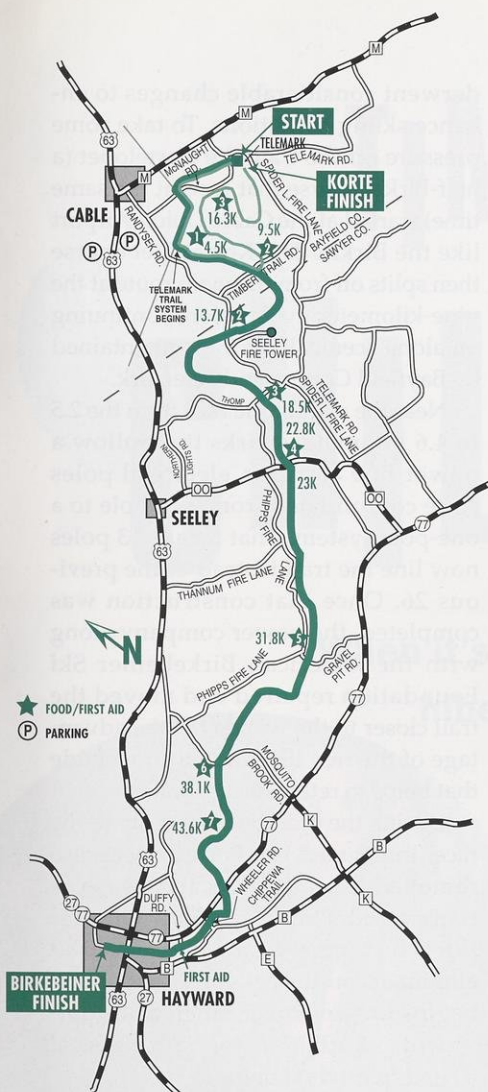
## Birkie by numbers

Race day logistics for the Birkie include:

- 11 food and medical stops
- 2,000 volunteers
- 10,000 oranges
- 5,000 bananas
- 4,000 cups of hot chocolate
- 600 gallons of soup
- 5,000 gallons of water
- 98,000 cups
- 1,500 gallons of sport drink
- 16,000 cookies
- 15,000 bread rolls
- 165 portable toilets
- 51 kilometers of trail
- 83 percent of Birkie skiers are between the ages of 25 and 54.
- Age 18 to 24 (6 percent)
- Age 25 to 39 (42 percent)
- Age 40 to 59 (50 percent)
- Age 60 plus (2 percent)
- 76 percent of the skiers are male.







## For race details

The 2002 Birkebeiner will be held Feb. 23. For more information visit the Birkie website at [www.birkie.org](http://www.birkie.org), call (715) 634-5025, or e-mail [birkie@cheqnet.net](mailto:birkie@cheqnet.net).

beiner Foundation (ABF) along with the County Conservation Committee, the DNR liaison forester, loggers and timber buyers, the county forester and more. Others such as the Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association (CAMBA), the Sierra Club, and some industrial foresters commented on the plan.

Department of Natural Resources and county foresters have been successful maintaining the buffer. Two years ago, one small parcel along the trail was clear-cut and sold. That five-acre patch

had an understory of aspen that is quickly regenerating and replanting itself.

"The main goal is to protect the trail surface so there's enough snow to keep it skiable," Wisdom notes. "To accomplish that, we keep trees along the trail to provide shade."

Over the years tree harvesting near the trail has been controversial, Wisdom says. "Everyone has a different idea of

what looks pretty and some didn't want to see any clearing. Others felt there should be some harvesting."

Maintaining the aesthetic buffer along the Birkie trail is the most important part of the timber management plan in that zone, Wisdom explains.

"This calls for using selective harvests to promote long-lived trees to grow there," he says. Guidelines only allow logging during off-snow times so skiers do not have to encounter logging equipment along the trail.

Private landowners also own small portions of the forest along the Birkie trail and in those cases, the ABF has negotiated permission to cross and groom the trail on this private property.

"It's both a science and an art to manage the area," Wisdom notes. "It's an art because it's hard to keep everyone happy. We've had very few problems along the trail," Wisdom says. "It's a beautiful trail and we want to keep it looking that way."



Public foresters and the foundation trail managers follow a plan that maintains an aesthetic buffer along the entire Birkebeiner route. Selective tree harvests and brushing work is done in the off-season to keep the forest productive and the race routes scenic.



(MAP AND PHOTOS THIS PAGE) AMERICAN BIRKEBEINER SKI FOUNDATION



Pete Sievert, the assistant Sawyer County forester, knows first-hand about the trail conditions as a three-time Birkebeiner racer.

Sawyer County is managed in seven forestry blocks. The Birkie trail is located in the Seeley Hills block and is home to diverse soil types, ten habitat types and a variety of vegetation, Sievert explains. Seeley Hills is noted for red pines, northern hardwoods like oak, aspen and white pine. Its glacial topography is marked by rolling hills.

One of Sievert's greatest challenges is public education to show people how selective timber harvest can benefit the trail.

"Some people think the designation

Class A Aesthetics Zone means the trail should be surrounded by an untouchable buffer," Sievert notes. "What it means is that aesthetics is the primary concern there."

To keep the trail at its best for skiing, Sievert says four things are needed: mowing, brushing, grooming and some selective harvesting.

One issue has been that falling snow gathers in dense pine trees. Too little of this snow reaches the trail complicating the grooming.

"The greatest impediments to skiing [here] — especially for the classical skiers — are the pine needles and cones on the trail," Sievert suggests. Classic (striding) skiers who hit pine needles with their skis get caught.

Sievert contends that the worst of-fending trees could be taken out without any detriment to the trail. He says there is plenty of vegetation to prevent erosion while still maintaining longer-lived trees.

"People who use the trail for recreation see it today," Sievert says. "But as a forester I'm looking at it long-term, 10 to 15 years or more down the road."

Before last year's race, the course un-

derwent considerable changes to enhance skiing conditions. To take some pressure off the trail, the Kortelopet (a half-Birkie course that runs at the same time) started at the Cable Union Airport like the Birkie. The Kortelopet course then splits off from the main route at the nine-kilometer mark before continuing on along scenic, hilly trails maintained by Bayfield County and Telemark.

Near the start of the race from the 2.5 to 4.6 kilometer marks that follow a power line corridor, electrical poles were consolidated from two-pole to a one-pole system. That means 13 poles now line the trail instead of the previous 26. Once that construction was completed, the power company along with the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation repaired and moved the trail closer to the woods to take advantage of the tree line and natural shade that helps to retain deeper snow.

During the months leading up to the race, Trail Supervisor Bob Murdock also removed trees, stumps and brush to create a wider track with more room for skiers that improves the race flow and eliminates bottlenecks. Trail grooming begins in November when a 30-foot-wide swath is set for both classical and freestyle skiing.

"The trail supervisor plays a crucial role for the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation," explains Cherie Morgan, the Birkebeiner executive director. "We count on that person to remove trees and brush in summer and fall, and to prepare and groom the trail once the snow falls."

The Birkie trail is groomed and maintained year-round by the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation. It remains open and free of charge to the public, except during Birkie race weekend. Through the Foundation's efforts and the public partnership, this bit of northwestern Wisconsin preserves and maintains one of the most challenging and beautiful trails in the world.

*Natasha Kassulke, associate editor of Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine, skied her first Kortelopet last year and plans to tackle the Birkebeiner this February.*



STEVE APPS

Racers of all ages are enthusiastically cheered whether they complete the 1, 2.5 or 5K Barnebirkie, the 23K Kortelopet, or the grueling 51K full racecourse.



STEVE APPS



# TIME TO CHILL OUT

**When it's winter in Wisconsin, leave hibernation to the bears.**

With more than 45 inches of annual snowfall statewide, Wisconsin offers plenty of winter recreation, from skiing and snowboarding to snowmobiling, ice fishing or mushing a dog team. State parks and other public lands are quieter without the summer crowds; the views are unblocked and spectacular.

Winter 2002 is also the ideal season to explore museums, indoor water parks, breweries and wineries, and bed and breakfasts. The Wisconsin Department of Tourism lists events and ideas for kicking cabin fever. See [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com) or call (800) 432-8747.

The ice won't last forever, of course — except at the largest ice arena in the nation, the Pettit National Ice Center in Milwaukee, where ice-skating is offered year-round (414) 266-0100 or [www.thepettit.com](http://www.thepettit.com). The Pettit is large enough to hold two football fields and has been a practice ground for Olympians like Bonnie Blair and Dan Jansen.

Meteorologists with college degrees may tell you different, but the real predictor of spring's arrival is Jimmy the Groundhog, Sun Prairie's celebrity weather rodent. Jimmy makes his prediction on Feb. 2, Groundhog Day: If he sees his shadow, there will be another six weeks of winter. If he doesn't see his shadow, spring is just around the corner. For 10 years, young James has had about an 80 percent success rating.





# Head for the hills

Wisconsin rules when it comes to skiing, snowboarding, ski jumping and sledding.

Wisconsin is king of the hill in many ways. With 36 downhill ski areas and moguls like those found at Tyrol Basin in Mt. Horeb and Cascade Mountain in Portage, the state boasts some of the Midwest's best half-pipes for snowboarders, challenging runs for skiers

of all levels and even snowtubing chutes.

What makes Wisconsin's ski areas special? Some, such as Whitecap Mountain on the shore of Lake Superior, receive more than 200 inches of annual snowfall. Others host unusual events like Devil's Head's "South of the Border Wild West Weekend" (Jan. 19) featuring country bands, western cook-out and tube race rodeo. (800) 472-6670.



For a real downhill thrill, the town of Westby and the Snowflake Ski Club host the 80th annual international ski jumping tournament the last weekend in January. More than 150 top skiers will soar 300 feet on the Timber Coulee, a 114-meter hill. (608) 634-3211.

The Silvermine Invitational Ski Jumping Tournament in Eau Claire celebrates its 111th year Jan. 26-27 with more than 60 top jumpers testing their skills on a 90-meter hill. (715) 832-2128.

Wausau's Granite Peak (formerly the Rib Mountain Ski Area) boasts the state's greatest vertical drop at 624 feet. It's surrounded by Rib Mountain State Park. (715) 845-2846.

Potawatomi State Park offers a 75-foot observation tower with a view of the snow-covered canopy and a downhill ski area that's opened occasionally. (920) 746-2890.

Winter also transforms Peninsula State Park's golf course into a sledder's dream. One of the best sled hills in the park is found at hole No. 17.

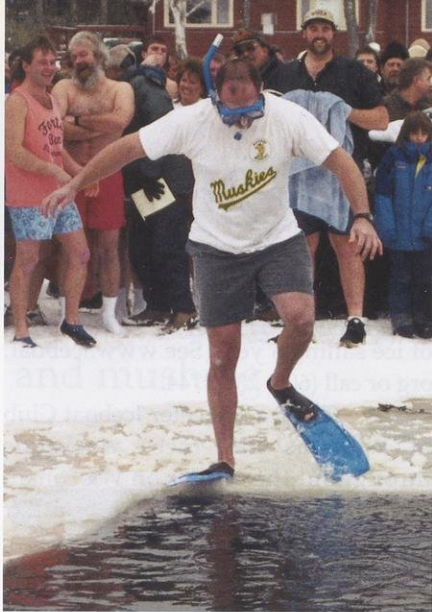
A good overview of Wisconsin ski and snowboard areas may be found at [www.usskiing.com](http://www.usskiing.com). For a list of ski clubs that can steer you toward ski jumping and cross-country skiing, visit [www.skiwisconsin.com](http://www.skiwisconsin.com).



CHRISTIAN SCHNEIDER (INSET AND TOP) ROBERT QUEEN

(cover) Get a jump on winter with outdoor activities ranging from skiing, to skating and ice golfing. (top to bottom) Getting around in the winter is easy when you take a ski lift, sled or ski. Wisconsin ranks third in the nation for the number of ski areas it houses.





CREATIVE BRILLIANCE

Snorkeling gear adds to the effect, but won't keep human polar bears warm when they take the plunge in the icy waters of Big St. Germain Lake.

# White waters

When ice forms, it's time to winter on — even under water.

On New Year's Day about 500 human "polar bears" are expected to take the 32nd annual Polar Bear Plunge at Northside Beach in Sheboygan on Lake Michigan.

"The warmer it is, the more swimmers we'll have," explains Dan Bogenschuetz, chairperson of the event. "The colder it is, the more spectators we have because they come out to see who is crazy enough to do this." Bogenschuetz's advice? Have someone waiting with a towel or blanket, steer clear of drinking "antifreeze" (alcohol) before taking the 1 p.m. plunge and wear footgear. For more information, visit [www.bogiespromotions.com](http://www.bogiespromotions.com). Register Jan. 1 at the armory in Sheboygan.

Other New Year's Day polar bear swims are held in Milwaukee, Jacksonport and Phillips' Long Lake. On Jan. 5, polar bears brave the icy waters of Big St. Germain Lake to benefit the Angel on My Shoulder charity. (715) 542-3433 or (800) 727-7203.

## Ice bowling

Dan Bogenschuetz switches to another unusual winter event in March: Ice bowling.

"It's just like regular bowling, except the bowlers are standing on ice and the ball rolls on ice," Bogenschuetz says. The 2001 ice-bowling event in Sheboygan attracted more than 3,600 bowlers. The 2002 bowl will be held March 15-17 on an indoor hockey rink with 18 alleys.

## Broomball

Ice also offers the potential for curling (a 500-year-old ice sport that involves "sweeping" a rock toward a target), hockey (the most popular sport of the Badger State Winter Games), and a sport that has yet to reach Badger State

dipped in water and frozen stiff. Some players wear hockey helmets and padding.

The beauty of broomball is that you don't have to know how to ice skate to play. Broomball tournaments are held all winter at carnivals and other events.

## Ice fishing

Crouching over a hole in the ice waiting for a fish to bite might not be glamorous. But many shanties popping up on lakes are more luxurious than they let on. Some come with swank accouterments such as carpeting, heat and televisions.

While there are no specific ice fishing regulations in Wisconsin, the regular hook-and-line regulations, seasons and licensing do apply and there are regula-



STEVE APPS (INSET) RJ AND LINDA MILLER

Ice bowling (above) strikes a chord with many winter festivals, while ice fishing (right) can provide a more solitary get-away.



Winter Game status — broomball.

Broomball is played on an ice rink, but participants wear tennis shoes instead of skates. Six players per team strive to score goals while propelling the five-inch broomball with a paddle-shaped stick made from a straw broom

tions for the date

to remove ice shelters.

Visit the DNR website at [www.dnr.state.wi.us](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us) for information on ice fishing safety, techniques and ice fishing equipment.





STEVE APPS

to stop, a skipper steers directly into the wind.

December 15 is the average freeze date in Southern Wisconsin. Sailors typically get in four to six good weekends of ice sailing a year. See [www.iceboat.org](http://www.iceboat.org) or call (608) 233-9744.

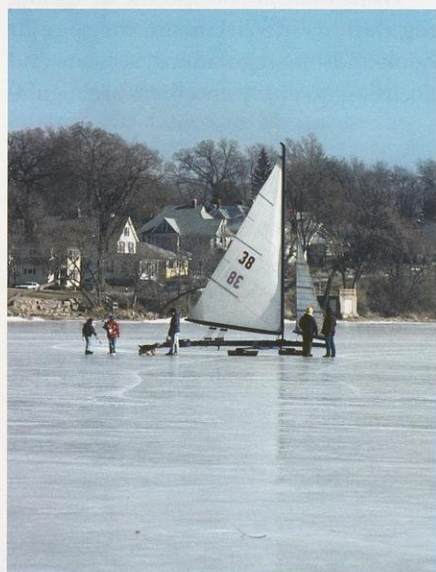
Lake Geneva's Skeeter Iceboat Club in Williams Bay races weekends throughout the winter on Wisconsin lakes. (262) 245-5146. Other popular lakes for ice boating include Big Green, Winnebago and Pewaukee.

## Ice diving

Another world awaits scuba divers in winter. The University of Wisconsin-Madison Hoofers Scuba Club will join the Four Lakes Scuba Club of Dane County to chop a hole and take a plunge in the ice on Lake Mendota outside the UW-Memorial Union. Treasures found in Lake Mendota include Memorial Union Terrace chairs, bicycles and more.

"When ice diving you wear a harness and rope attached to the surface to help you find your way back to the hole," says Renato Lyra, vice-president of education for the Hoofers Scuba Club. "The ice looks beautiful from below and the water is cleaner because there are fewer weeds and suspended particles. The hardest part is keeping your face warm because that's the only part of your body not totally covered."

For safety reasons, Hoofers limit winter dives to 20 minutes. (608) 262-1630 or visit [www.hoofers.org/scuba](http://www.hoofers.org/scuba).



ROBERT QUEEN (BELOW) UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON HOOFERS

You can have fun on, gliding over and even under the ice during Kites on Ice (above), ice boating (left) and ice diving (below).

prompted by increased participation and spearing success due to water clarity, has been used to control sturgeon harvests since 1999. Sturgeon spearing licenses and tags cost \$10 and the minimum size limit is 36 inches. Spearing licenses are available at DNR service centers and license agents, or call (877) 945-4236. Pick up a copy of the regulations: This year, the use of artificial lights during spearing is prohibited, and the spearing hole size is limited to no more than 48 square feet per shanty.

## Kites on ice

Kites on Ice is one of the most colorful festivals of the season. Held Feb. 2-3 at the Monona Terrace Convention Center on Lake Monona in Madison, the festival includes workshops, exhibits, stunt shows, kite skiing and more. It's held on the ice, so you don't have to worry about getting your kite tangled in trees. (608) 278-9666 or visit [www.madfest.org](http://www.madfest.org).

## Ice sailing/boating

It's also possible to boat year-round in Wisconsin. Iceboats can reach speeds of up to five times the wind speed. Who needs an engine? There are no brakes while the boats are under sail;

## Sturgeon spearing

Sturgeon fishing is a unique kind of ice fishing. The technique — spearing — and the fish themselves are special. Sturgeon can live up to 100 years and grow to a length of seven feet or more and weigh up to 200 pounds.

Lake sturgeon season on Lake Winnebago opens Feb. 9 and runs until the harvest cap is reached.

"Last year we reached the harvest cap for adult females the first day (Saturday), which forced us to close the season at the end of the fishing day on Sunday," says Ron Bruch, a DNR sturgeon biologist based in Oshkosh.

The harvest cap for the 2002 season is 400 adult females, 400 juvenile females or 1,368 males. The cap system,





# Making trails

From snowmobiling to candlelight skiing and mushing.

a snowmobile in Wisconsin is \$30, up from \$20 last season — the first fee increase in 16 years.

The city of Hayward hosts its 16th annual world class snowmobile race on Lake Hayward the first week of February. Darrell Salzman, race manager, says snowmobile drag racers reach speeds of over



DNR FILE PHOTO (INSET) DON BRAGG

More than 230,000 snowmobilers will hit Wisconsin trails this winter. Trail groomers (right) also pave the way for cross-country skiers and dog sled racing (below).



**S**now. It's silent music to thousands of winter outdoor enthusiasts. And this winter there is a special reason to celebrate as Wisconsin enters 2002, the "Year of the Trails." Trail use runs the gamut from hiking to cross-country skiing and snowmobiling.

This season, more than 230,000 snowmobilers are expected to hit Wisconsin's more than 22,000 miles of interconnected snowmobiling trails, including 350 miles of former railroad beds that convert to snowmobile highways in the winter.

Although the state-implemented 50 mph nighttime speed limit has ended, counties do have speed limits. Check with local sheriffs' offices, snowmobile clubs and DNR forestry staff to learn the local limits.

Biennial snowmobile registration fees have increased. The cost to register

150 mph. The race attracts about 500 racers. See [www.winterfest.net](http://www.winterfest.net) or call (715) 634-2102.

Minocqua (800) 446-6784 and Hurley (715) 561-4334 are other popular "sledder" home bases. But Eagle River is the site of the World Championship Snowmobile Derby, to be held Jan. 13–20. Eagle River is the self-proclaimed Snowmobile Capital of the World — thanks to more than 600 miles of snowmobile trails that traverse the Nicolet National Forest and Northern Highland State Forest and cross many of 1,300 lakes in Vilas County. (715) 479-4424 or (800) 359-6315.

For free copies of the "Wisconsin Snowmobile Guide" and "Wisconsin Snowmobile Trail Map" call (800) 432-8747 or visit [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com).

## Daylight and candlelight skiing

Mirror Lake State Park in Baraboo was the first state park to host candlelight skiing in 1988. Today, more than 40 candlelight skis are held at state parks around Wisconsin.

When the weather cooperates, these events attract up to 1,000 skiers and hikers. In addition to candle-lighted trails (it sometimes takes 500 candles to light a one-mile path), some parks provide bonfires, grills, food and beverages. Most trails are geared toward beginners. If there is too little snow, parks may host a candlelight hike instead.

Wisconsin offers more than 250 cross-country ski trails, from easy jaunts on golf courses to challenging routes such as the Rock Lake Trails near Cable in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. See the DNR website for a list of trails in Wisconsin State Parks and Forests: [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/ski/xc.htm](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/ski/xc.htm).

## Mushing

The annual Nicolet Sled Dog Sprints — one of the biggest dog sled events in the Midwest and a qualifying competition for the World Cup — will be held Jan. 26 and 27 at Camp Nicolet, located east of Eagle River on Hwy 70. Four-



DNR FILE PHOTO





RJ AND LINDA MILLER (INSET) WIS. DEPT. OF TOURISM

country skiing, there is room in the woods for everyone. Hundreds of hiking trails and forested areas can be explored by those willing to break their own trails on snowshoes. A list of snowshoeing trails on state properties may be found on the DNR website at [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/trails/snowshoe.html](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/trails/snowshoe.html).

The 10th annual Perkinstown Tramp Snowshoe Races on Jan. 19 include races and tours on trails in the Chequamegon National Forest. The event also includes mountaineer races requiring participants to wear a 15-pound knapsack. Call (888) 682-9567 or visit [www.medfordwis.com](http://www.medfordwis.com).

Bayfield's annual 5- and 10-kilometer snowshoe races honor a local hero, Asaph Whittlesey. In the 1870s, Whittlesey — the area's representative to the State Legislature — protested the fact that railroads did not reach the Apostle Islands region by snowshoeing 250 miles to Sparta, the closest railroad connection at the time. (800) 447-4094.

### Let the games begin

In 1989, the inaugural Badger State Winter Games were held in Wausau and the five-sport festival attracted 1,633 athletes. By 2000, the Winter Games featured ten sports and more than 6,000 athletes, making it the largest winter sports festival of its type in the United States.

Mark Martinez, vice-president of marketing and communications, says hockey was the most popular sport during the 2001 event. Cross-country skiing had the most individual participants, at 1,388.

The 2002 Badger State Winter Games take place Feb. 1-3. For information, visit [www.sportsinwisconsin.com](http://www.sportsinwisconsin.com). Volunteers may contact Jaci Hausman at (608) 226-4780, ext. 231 or e-mail: [jhausman@sportsinwisconsin.com](mailto:jhausman@sportsinwisconsin.com).



Snowshoeing (above) and cross-country skiing (right) are two popular Badger State Winter Games sports.

dog, 6-dog and 10-dog teams race against time over different lengths.

The races attract about 130 teams plus more than a thousand spectators. Add to that a skijoring contest: cross-country skiing while being pulled by a dog. (800) 359-6315.

Several Wisconsin companies offer dog sled day outings and overnight trips. Glacier Valley Wilderness Adventures (608) 493-2075 trains mushers in the Baraboo area, and then takes sledgers to run the trails at Devil's Lake State Park. Trek and Trail in Bayfield organizes mushing trips for visitors in the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore (800) 354-8735.

### Waddling off the beaten path

While snowshoeing generally is not allowed on more than 1,000 miles of state park and forest trails groomed for cross-

[dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/trails/snowshoe.html](http://dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/trails/snowshoe.html).

In 1999, the Outdoor Recreation Coalition of America reported that four million people hit the snowshoe trails, up from 1.7 million in 1998. The reasons for snowshoeing's increasing popularity? At \$45 to \$300 for a pair of snowshoes, it's cheaper than skiing. It's good exercise; snowshoers burn 450 to 1,000 calories per hour. It's easy. If you can walk, you can snowshoe.

Snowshoeing takes you places you can't get to on skis; you can stomp through your own back yard and even race in them.



# Wintering out of the way

There's a weird and wild side to winter recreation.

**T**hey chip to the "white" because in ice golf, there is no green. Ice golfers will brave the cold to swing during the 7th annual Ice Tee Classic, Feb. 9 on Lake Wausau in Wausau.

Teams of two to six golfers — some in costume — whack yellow tennis balls with all kinds of clubs, even the occasional 9-iron. Sponsors design each hole in a wacky mini-golf style, drilling the cup with an ice auger. Golfers play around ice anglers and shanties. Organizers hope to have a 18-hole course this year. Participants can register on site, but pre-registration is encouraged. The \$15 "white" fee includes lunch. (715) 845-1966.

## Ice Palace

For more than 50 years, members of the Eagle River Fire Department and others have gathered in Riverview Park to build an Ice Palace. In keeping with tradition, this year they'll cut and haul 2,750 nine-inch 50-pound blocks of ice from Silver Lake and spend more than 700 hours constructing the icy edifice. Colored floodlights illuminate the palace; its life span is weather dependent. (800) 359-6315.

## Ice caves

During summer many sea caves along the Great Lakes and Apostle Islands shoreline are accessible only by boat. In winter, though, it's sometimes possible to reach the caves on foot.

The caves' breathtaking frozen waterfalls and chambers filled with icicles are shaped by wave action, freezing and thawing. Try the north shore of Devils Island, Swallow Point on Sand Island, the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore and the mainland near the lakeshore's western boundary.

Inner islands such as Basswood, Hermit and Oak are excellent winter destinations. The Squaw Bay caves near Cornucopia in Bayfield

County are worth the trip and most easily reached from Meyers Beach (at the end of Meyers Road) off Route 13. It's a rigorous one-mile hike from the beach stairs to the cave.

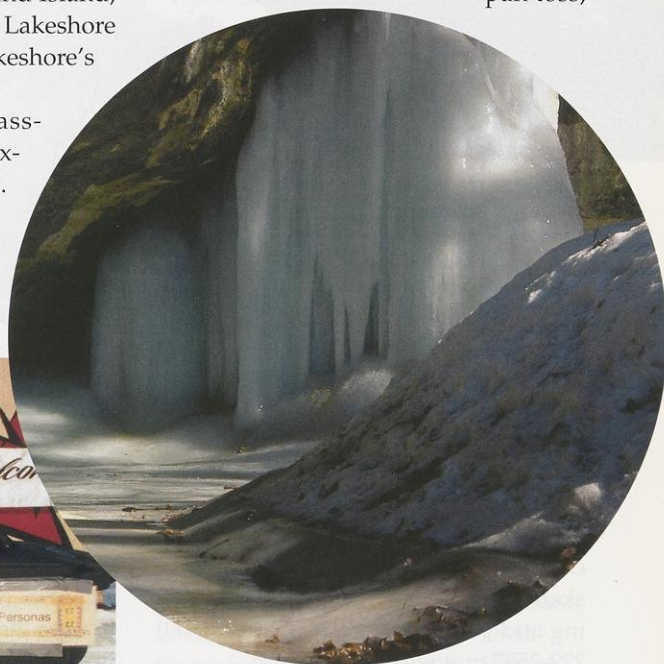
A word of caution: Ice on Lake Superior can change overnight. Call the National Park Service at (715) 779-3398, ext. 499 for a 24-hour Ice Line.

The beach at Whitefish Dunes State Park in Door County showcases ice formations with frigid Lake Michigan as a backdrop. The day-use park has skiing and hiking trails, and a nature center. (920) 823-2400.

## Freezing festivals

It's open for debate, but the town of Gilman in Taylor County claims to host the state's most varied one-day winter festival. Who are we to argue? Consider this list of events that will be held on Feb. 2 during the Snieg (pronounced "snick") Fest: snow volleyball, frying pan toss,

You'll pay a 'white' fee when ice golfing (below). Winter cave exploration (right) affords amazing views of icicles and frozen waterfalls.



ice bowling, broom hockey, polar bike race, blind snowmobile race, snow sculpting, snowshoe demos, sled decoration, beard-growing contest and more. The festival culminates with a torchlight parade led by the Snieg (Snow) Man. (888) 682-9567 or [www.medfordwis.com](http://www.medfordwis.com).

About 30,000 people are expected to attend the 2002 Flake-Out Festival in

JERI BRUNNER (INSET) RJ AND LINDA MILLER





Bald eagles (above) congregate around open water in the winter while sculptors seek snow blocks (right) to chip and shave.



SCOTT NIELSEN (BOTH INSETS) DNR FILE PHOTO



TAYLOR COUNTY TOURISM

Ready, set and spike. Snow cushions volleyball players (above) at winter festivals. Sleigh rides (right) offer a nostalgic view of the cool countryside.

## Sleigh rides

Sleigh rides provide a nostalgic view of Wisconsin's scenery. Dozens of farms and stables across the state offer horse-drawn sleigh and wagon rides; check [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com), for a list. The City of Fitchburg and the Lion's Club hold sleigh rides the weekend after the Super Bowl at the city's McKee Park. (608)277-8900.

## Eagle watching

Wisconsin is home to one of North America's largest populations of wintering eagles, with the greatest concentration found along the Mississippi and Wisconsin rivers where open waters offer a plentiful supply of fresh fish.

Several Wisconsin communities offer prime eagle watching in January. Prairie du Sac on the Wisconsin River (800/68-EAGLE or [www.saukprairie.com](http://www.saukprairie.com)) and Cassville on the Mississippi River (608) 725-5855 or [www.cassville.org](http://www.cassville.org) are two to note. For information on bald eagle watching and for other Wisconsin winter bird watching hotspots, call the birding hotline at (414) 352-3857.

## Winter ecology

Trees for Tomorrow, a natural resources education center along the Eagle River Chain of Lakes, offers ecology courses from late December through mid-March. For 56 years the center has given

students — many on skis and snowshoes — a chance to immerse themselves in the heart of Wisconsin's northern forest. (800) 838-9472 or visit [www.treesfortomorrow.com](http://www.treesfortomorrow.com).

## Hot air balloons

The roar of burners echoes across the sky, and sometimes you'll hear the balloons before you see them. The 13th annual Hudson Hot Air Affair, the largest winter ballooning event in the Midwest with more than 50 balloons and 20,000 spectators, drifts into the St. Croix Valley on Feb. 1-3. "It gives you something to do to cure cabin fever," explains Carla Timmerman, one of the event's organizers. The affair features a torchlight parade, fireworks, craft fair and a chili cook-off. (800) 657-6775 or visit [www.hudsonhotairaffair.com](http://www.hudsonhotairaffair.com).

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Written by Natasha Kassulke

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# Winter calendar

Some like and hot...and some do not. These winter activities will help you kick cabin fever.

• **Through Jan. 6, 2002:** House on the Rock Christmas, Spring Green, (608) 935-3639, [www.thehouseontherock.com](http://www.thehouseontherock.com).

• **Dec. 14-16:** "The Spirit of Christmas Past," Heritage Hill State Park in Green Bay, (920) 448-5150 or (800) 721-5150.

• **Dec. 15-16:** Silent Sports Demo, Winter Park, Minocqua, (715) 356-3309 or [www.skimp.org](http://www.skimp.org).

• **Dec. 21:** Winter solstice, the shortest day of the year.

Night hike, Kettle Moraine State Forest — Northern Unit in Campbell sport, (920) 533-8322, 7 to 8:30 p.m. "Forever Green" storytime for 3-6-year-olds at Ice Age Visitor Center, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

• **Jan. 1:** Polar bear plunge, noon on Lake Michigan in Jacksonport, (920) 823-2231, 1 p.m. in Sheboygan, (715) 339-3927 or visit [www.bogiespromotions.com](http://www.bogiespromotions.com), and 1 p.m. in Phillips' Long Lake, (715) 339-3927.

• **Jan. 5:** Candlelight ski, Mirror Lake State Park in Baraboo, (608) 254-2333, 6 to 9 p.m.

Polar Bear Jump, St. Germain, (800) 727-7203.

• **Jan. 12:** Timber wolf winter tracking clinic, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sandhill Outdoor Skills Center in Babcock, (715) 884-2437, \$25 fee, register by Jan. 3.

• **Jan. 13-20:** World Championship Snowmobile Derby, Eagle River, (715) 479-4424 or (800) 359-6315, [www.derby-track.com](http://www.derby-track.com).

• **Jan. 18-20:** Snowshoe weaving course, Treehaven in Tomahawk, (715) 453-4106.

• **Jan. 19:** 10th annual Perkinstown Tramp Snowshoe Races, Perkinstown, (888) 682-9567.

Winter mammal tracking clinic, Sandhill Outdoor Skills Center, Babcock, (715) 884-2437, \$10 fee, register by Jan. 9.

• **Jan. 19-21:** Flake-Out Festival, Noah's Ark Waterpark, Wisconsin Dells, (800) 223-3557, [www.wisdells.com](http://www.wisdells.com).

Bald Eagle Watching Days, Sauk Prairie, (800) 68-EAGLE, [www.saukprairie.com](http://www.saukprairie.com).

• **Jan. 20:** Fisharee, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mirror Lake State Park, Lake Delton, (608) 254-2333.

• **Jan. 23-27:** United States International Snow-Sculpting Competition, Wisconsin State Fair Park, West Allis, (414) 476-5573.

• **Jan. 25:** Snowshoe hike, Chippewa Moraine Ice Age State Recreation Area, New Auburn, (715) 967-2800 — Call ahead to reserve snowshoes. Lesson at 6:30 p.m., hike at 7 p.m.

• **Jan. 25-27:** Wolf study, Treehaven, Tomahawk, (715) 453-4106.

• **Jan. 26:** Candlelight ski and walk, Lake Wissota State Park, Chippewa Falls, (715) 382-4574, 6 to 9 p.m.

Snowshoeing clinic at the Sandhill Outdoor Skills Center in Babcock, (715) 884-2437, \$10 — Register by Jan. 16., 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• **Jan. 26-27:** Nicolet Sled Dog Sprints, Camp Nicolet, 12 miles east of Eagle River on Hwy. 70, (800) 359-6315.

Snowflake International Ski Jumping Tournament, Westby, (608) 634-3211.

Silvermine Invitational Ski Jumping Tournament, Eau Claire, (715) 832-2128.

• **Jan. 30 to Feb. 3:** Winterfest, Lake Geneva, (800) 345-1020, [www.lakegenewawi.com](http://www.lakegenewawi.com).

• **First week of Feb.:** Winterfest, Hayward, (715) 634-2102 or [www.winterfest.net](http://www.winterfest.net).

• **Feb. 2:** Timber wolf tracking clinic, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sandhill Outdoor Skills Center, Babcock, (715) 884-2437, \$25 — Register by Jan. 23.

Christmas Mountain Village Winter Carnival, Wisconsin Dells, (608) 253-1000.

• **Feb. 1-3:** Badger State Winter Games, Wausau and other cities, (888) 948-4748 or (608) 226-4780, [www.sportsinwisconsin.org](http://www.sportsinwisconsin.org).

Hot Air Affair, Hudson, (888) 657-6775 or [www.hudsonhotairaffair.com](http://www.hudsonhotairaffair.com).

• **Feb. 2:** Candlelight ski, Mirror Lake State Park, 6-9 p.m., Baraboo, (608) 254-2333.

Groundhog Day, Sun Prairie, 7:10

a.m. reading, (608) 837-4547 or (800) 400-6162.

Snieg Fest and Ethnic Celebration, Gilman, (888) 682-9567.

• **Feb. 2-3:** Kites on Ice, Monona Terrace Convention Center, Madison, (608) 278-9666 or [www.madfest.org](http://www.madfest.org).

• **Feb. 9:** Ice Tee Classic outdoor mini-golf tournament, Lake Wausau, Wausau, (715) 845-1966.

Ice fishing contest, Spirit Lake and North Spirit Lake, Taylor County, (888) 682-9567.

Sturgeon spearing season opens on Lake Winnebago, (877) 945-4236.

Lion's Winter Fun Day Stump Dump Pageant and Dance, St. Germain, (800) 727-7203 or [www.st-germain.com](http://www.st-germain.com).

Wolf ecology class on snowshoes, Treehaven, Tomahawk, (715) 453-4106.

• **Feb. 9-10:** Winter camping, Sandhill Outdoor Skills Center, Babcock (715) 884-2437, must be 16 or older, \$55 fee includes four meals — Register by Jan. 30.

• **Feb. 16:** Porcupine ecology on snowshoes, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sandhill Outdoor Skills Center, Babcock (715) 884-2437, snowshoes provided, \$10 fee — Register by Feb. 6.

• **Feb. 16-17:** Klondike Days, Eagle River, (800) 359-6315 or [www.eagleriver.org](http://www.eagleriver.org).

• **Feb. 19:** Hinder Binder Cross-Country Ski Race, Rib Lake Ice Age Trails, Taylor County, (888) 682-9567.

• **Feb. 22-24:** Snowshoe weaving, Treehaven, Tomahawk, (715) 453-4106. Wolf study, Treehaven, Tomahawk, (715) 453-4106.

• **Feb. 23:** Night snowshoe hike, Chippewa Moraine Ice Age State Recreation Area, New Auburn, (715) 967-2800. Snowshoe lesson at 6:30 p.m., hike at 7 p.m.

Birkebeiner cross-country ski 51-kilometer marathon, Cable to Hayward, (715) 634-5025, [www.birkie.org](http://www.birkie.org).

• **Feb. 24:** Ice fishing contest, Chelsea Lake, Taylor County, (888) 682-9567.

• **March 1-3:** Winter Weenie Weekend, Lakewoods Resort, Lake Namakagon near Cable, (800) 255-5937 or (715) 794-2561 or [www.lakewoodsresort.com](http://www.lakewoodsresort.com).





BARBARA MULVANEY

You'd think they'd know better. It's winter. The camping gear is supposed to be packed away. Instead of travel plans that include the surf, a flight and a tropical night, this group dreams of hard turf, long nights and perpetual white.

David Benish, a DNR parks and recreation specialist, says these "hardcores in the outdoors" make a compelling argument for winter camping in Wisconsin.

"It's quieter to camp in the winter," Benish says. "Plus there is a better chance that you will get the spot that you want. There also are lots of activities like cross-country skiing, or visiting a park with frozen waterfalls or ice-sculpted beaches that you can only do in winter."

I've got all kinds of reasons to camp now, says Jim Bishop, DNR public affairs manager in Spooner. "For starters, you don't need raingear. There are no bugs. No need to refrigerate your food. I have the woods to myself. And I usually lose weight."

### Plenty of places to go

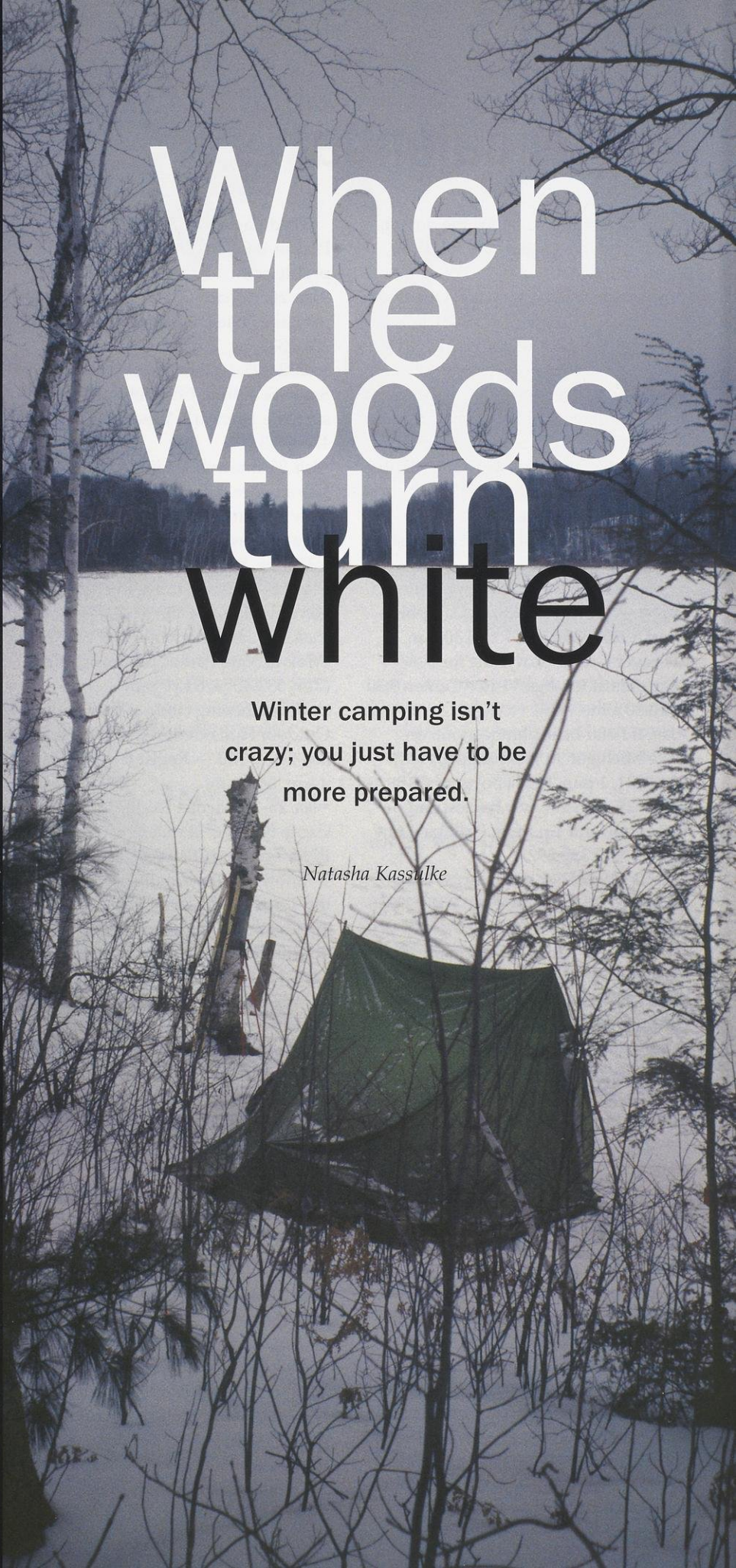
Whenever you decide you're ready, the welcome mat is freshly shoveled. Bonnie Gruber, a DNR parks program and planning analyst, explains that state parks and forests are open year-round, but not all offer winter camping. Each property is different, and not all the buildings are clustered so they could be heated economically to support winter use. "Most flush toilets and shower buildings have to be drained and closed to keep pipes from freezing," Gruber says. Some parks still maintain a water supply for campers in the headquarters building, and are open to the public all winter. Of course, outdoor recreation is spectacular this time of year.

Among the most popular state properties for winter camping are the Kettle Moraine State Forest-Northern Unit, which attracted 835 campers last winter, and the Kohler-Andrae State Park, which drew about 820 campers. Devil's

# When the woods turn white

Winter camping isn't crazy; you just have to be more prepared.

Natasha Kassulke





Lake State Park followed with 752 campers and Mirror Lake State Park with 748.

What's their winter appeal?

The Kettle Moraine State Forest-Northern Unit features 23 miles of cross-country ski trails and 60 miles of snowmobile trails. Kettle Moraine-Southern Unit offers 30 miles of cross-country ski trails, 56 miles of snowmobile trails and wildlife viewing areas. Devil's Lake State Park provides 16 miles of cross-country ski trails plus ice fishing. The Kohler-Andrae State Park offers cross-country skiing, sledding, tobogganing, snowshoeing, hiking and beach combing. Many people visit Kohler-Andrae in the winter to explore the ice-encrusted shoreline sculpted by wind and wave into frozen creations. Winter also is an ideal time to observe wildlife such as deer and birds that call the park home.

Mirror Lake State Park provides 19 miles of cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice fishing and wildlife watching. Governor Dodge State Park is home

unique challenges of winter camping. The coldest conditions he has camped in?

"Minus 40," he beams. "That was in northern Minnesota. It was quite a treat, but I wouldn't recommend it for most people."

Bishop especially appreciates that in winter it is easier to see and track wildlife, one can walk to spots (like lakeshore caves) that are inaccessible in summer, and you can extend the camping season.

He recommends winter camping with groups of friends in case trouble arises. He recalls one harrowing trip on his own when he plunged through the ice up to his knees. He was wearing snowshoes and had to pull himself out of a muck-bottomed lake and roll out of the water. Luckily, he still had a fire glowing at camp and quickly stoked the coals to get a hot fire that dried his clothes. Keep a fire going and cut plenty of wood if campfires are allowed where you camp, Bishop says, and keep a stove handy.

"Winter camping requires four things," he says. "The right mental attitude, good physical condition, gear to match the elements, and the ability to plan and adapt to rapidly changing conditions."

Winter camping requires more gear than other seasonal camping, but Bishop says it is easy to carry. He also travels to campsites on cross-country skis and snowshoes pulling a toboggan or sled.

"You can even set up a tent on a lake," Bishop says. His scout troop enjoys combining ice fishing, hockey (bring a shovel, puck and sticks), wildlife watching, and hiking (bring a lantern and candles — night comes early) with camping experiences.

"It's a great time for storytelling," he says. "And if you play football in the snow you'll have a softer landing."

## Gear up for winter warmth

Here are Bishop's tips for food, clothing, shelter and the few extras that can make winter camping special.

**Cold weather dining** — While appetites generally decrease during winter activity, the body's need for food increases.

"You can just about double your usual caloric intake," Bishop suggests. "For instance, winter camping is the only time I eat bacon because I need the added fat content. I've lost three to five pounds winter camping."

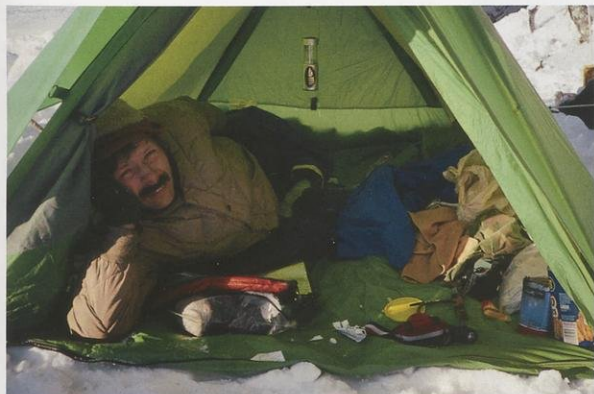
The reason for the weight loss? Your body is working hard to keep warm and you are constantly burning calories in gathering wood, hiking through snowdrifts, skiing, building a shelter and more.

Bishop's winter camping breakfasts include hearty grain cereals like oatmeal and bran cereals, hot beverages, cheese, meats and other foods higher in fats to provide added fuel. When you are engaged in outdoor activities in the winter, take along dry foods (pasta, rice, noodles in broth) baked goods (brownies, cookies), or freeze-dried foods that will help you stay warm. During an active day, he munches on trail mix, jerky, candy bars and dried fruits. For dinners, plan a good mix of proteins, vegetables and carbohydrates to hold you overnight. Jim likes stews, rice casseroles, pasta or tin foil wrap-ups of meat and vegetables that can be cooked over an open fire.

You've heard the advice — don't eat the yellow snow? Well, it's best to avoid eating any snow. As in the summer, your water supply in the winter should be purified. Snow can be melted on a fire or camp stove to make drinking water. By volume, it takes about 10 quarts of snow to make a quart of water. You'll need water close at hand at all times, Bishop says. Winter air is so dry, you need to realize you are in a desert-like climate, he says.

Carry a water bottle next to your body. Your body heat will keep it from freezing. Jim enjoys steeping a tea bag in a hot cup of Tang for a sweet tea.

He offers tips on extras to pack-in. Carry extra batteries for cameras and



COURTESY OF JIM BISHOP

Jim Bishop prepares for winter camping by packing in plenty of clothing layers, energy-packed foods, and gear that's up to the challenge of keeping him warm on frigid nights.

to 18 miles of cross-country ski trails and maintains flush toilets, water, tables and grills all winter. It also has a 15-mile snowmobile trail, two lakes for ice fishing, an ice skating rink on Cox Hollow Lake, sledding and tobogganing.

## You've got to prepare to stay comfortable

As an avid outdoorsman and an assistant scoutmaster, Jim Bishop loves the





JIM BISHOP

flashlights and keep them close to your body so that they stay warm. Keep your pocketknife on a string. If you drop it, it won't get lost in the snow. Pack a small foldable saw for cutting firewood. Remember that it is easy to get windburn and sunburned in the winter, so wear protection on your face and lips.

**Dress for success** — Staying warm in the winter means effectively layering clothes. Air trapped between layers slows heat loss and gives you the flexibility to add or shed clothing as the temperature and your activity level change.

Clothes also should fit properly but not too snug; too tight, and your clothes reduce dead air space restricting body movement.

Clothing material is important too. Wool absorbs moisture, yet still insulates and is fairly wind resistant. The disadvantage is that wool can absorb so much water that it becomes heavy. Pile or fleece fabrics often insulate as well as wool, they hold less water and dry quicker. The downside to pile? Wind can cut right through it, so you'll need a light outside layer on top that acts as a wind shell.

Polypropylene is a synthetic fabric that does not absorb water. In fact, this fiber moves the water vapor away from the body to reduce evaporative heat loss. Feathers also efficiently insulate for very little weight, but down can mat down as it absorbs water and some people are allergic to it.

Cotton clothes are poorer choices when you are exercising outdoors in winter. Cotton wicks water, but unlike polypropylene, cotton absorbs this moisture and is tough to dry.

You can lose a lot of heat (up to 70 percent) from your head. So hats that both warm you and wick moisture away from your head are essential. In windy conditions, a facemask can prevent frostbite, so pack one where you

(top) The hardy campers hoisted backpacks and pulled sleds to bring along needed gear on this cross-country ski/camping outing on the Lake Superior shore.

(left) Destination: Oak Island. A good fire, foil-wrapped meals, baking spuds, and hot tea keep the campers warm; a space blanket reflects heat and light adding to the ambiance.



JIM BISHOP





a gift for you



Warm wishes and a gift subscription to  
*Wisconsin Natural Resources* magazine!

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Winter camping gear from layers of lightweight, comfortable clothing to tents, sleep pads, and sleeping bags can keep you dry and warm. Outdoor experiences are beautiful and quiet in wintertime.

## Winter shelters — make them tough enough

If you are winter camping in a park, tents can provide quick winter shelter, but not just any tent will do. Your summer tent is designed to shed water, provide a bug barrier and stay breathable. Winter tents need to be strong enough to withstand wind and snow. The tent should have a roofline to allow snow to fall off and it also must have a rain fly. Condensation inside tents is a concern year-round, even more so in winter. As you breathe, you release humid air into the tent and the moisture condenses as ice. A frost liner inside the tent allows moisture to pass through. A ground sheet is recommended to protect the tent

floor. Brush all the snow off your clothes and boots before getting into the tent to reduce condensation.

When choosing a campsite, avoid open areas where wind creates drifts. Also avoid really low areas where cold air settles. South-facing sites will direct more sunlight on top of your tent and keep you warmer longer. Before you pitch your tent, use snowshoes or skis to compact the snow under your tent site. Consider building a snow wall four-feet-high or so off the windward side of your tent to provide some shelter.

Building an igloo is also fun if the snow has the right consistency to pack into blocks and you have some time to kill. To build an igloo, cut snow blocks and let them sit at least a few hours. Stack rectangular blocks (24" by 18" by 6") in an ascending spiral. Once the first row is laid in a circle, start shaving off the tops of the blocks at a gentle angle as you form the second layer. As you add blocks, you are creating a ramp that adds blocks in an upward spiral. Once the structure is complete, you can pack loose snow into the open joints.

Bishop contends other winter shelters offer even better protection from the elements than a tent or igloo, but they involve much more effort than merely hollowing out a snow pile. They

can get to it quickly.

Mittens are warmer than gloves because your fingers tend to keep each other warm. Wear a softer inner mitten with a wind-resistant, waterproof outer shell. Consider packing gloves for those activities that require more finger dexterity.

Bishop also packs in chemical heat packs (12 per day per person) that can be slipped into gloves and boots to stay warm. He also sleeps with a hot water bottle in his sleeping bag.

## Protect your feet

Boots also should be comfortable and broken-in. Boots that are too tight restrict circulation and your toes and feet will get cold. Boots that are too loose slip on your skin and may cause blisters. For cross-country skiing, pick a boot that offers ankle support. Gaiters are essential for keeping snow out of your boots and pants. For snowshoeing or hiking, consider insulated boots. Army surplus stores offer boots rated to -20°F and lower. Beware of boots with exposed wool felt liners. Breaking through a frozen stream can soak the liner and expose your feet to dangerous windchills. Carry an extra set of liners.

Most mountaineering boots have a plastic shell and the inner boots are

made with wool felt or a closed cell foam insulation. These can be warm and easily used with ski bindings, crampons and snowshoes. Depending on the inner boot, you may need insulated overboots to keep your feet warm.

Mukluks are one-piece moccasins that reach to the knee. They are used with felt liners and wool socks. The mukluks serve as high gaiters. They are flexible and breathable. They work with snowshoe bindings and can be used on cross-country skis with special bindings. They are comfortable, but are not waterproof.

Your sock system is critical. Layering works best. Start with a thin polypropylene liner sock next to your skin to wick moisture away, followed by one or two pairs of wool or wool/nylon blend socks. Make sure the socks aren't too tight or they will constrict circulation and increase the chances of frostbite. Keeping your feet dry is essential to keeping them warm.

Sleeping bags for winter camping should be rated to temperatures below those you will likely experience. The bag should be a mummy style bag with a hood. If the bag is too big, you will have large gaps where cold air can seep in and you will be cold. Use a camp pad or mattress to insulate against underlying snow.

ROBERT QUEEN, THANKS TO REI, INC.



COURTESY OF JIM BISHOP



Snow cave shelters provide a unique way to weather out a winter night. Build them with experienced campers and *never* build them as a team.

are engineering projects aimed at fending off the Arctic weather. Only build a snow shelter with experienced campers and *never* build one alone.

"Every time I've built one, I've done it with a friend. If it collapses, there is someone there to quickly dig out," he says. Building snow shelters can take four to five hours — two hours to dig and form, then another three hours or more for the snow to set.

To build a snow mound shelter, use upright markers such as flexible nine-foot poles marked in one-foot intervals to indicate the center. Tie a cord to the marker and scribe a circle in the snow with a diameter of at least 9–11 feet. You'll need a few good flat-bladed shovels to pile loose snow within the marked circle but don't compact the snow. When the mound is the right size and shape, do not disturb it; allow it to compact naturally. Chances of collapse are reduced if you let it settle for at least three hours.

After the snow hardens a bit, you are ready for digging. The entrance should be away from the prevailing incoming weather and the entrance should slant upward so the door is below the sitting level. Otherwise cold air from outside will keep seeping and settling into the shelter. From the entrance point start digging a tunnel about 36 inches in diameter toward the marker. Measure the wall and roof thickness by poking a stick through. You will need walls that are at least 12 inches thick at the bottom tapering to 5–8 inches at the top. When the dimensions are right, remove the

marker, trim the interior and create a roof vent.

### Traveling to camp on snowy lakes

Crossing ice and snow on a lake raises safety questions whether you are traveling on foot, snowshoe or ski.

Remember this rule: Thick and blue, tried and true. Thin and crispy, way too risky.

To determine where and if to cross ice, watch out for areas where rivers or streams join lakes or ponds. These areas are likely to be thin. You can test ice by using ski poles and tapping in front of you. If you suspect that the ice is thin, take a path around the area. When you think you have reached a safer spot, chip a small hole to determine ice thickness and condition. Spring-fed waterbodies tend to form less stable ice. Logs, rocks or anything else sticking out of the ice picks up heat from the sun that can melt ice surrounding the object.

Ice that appears gray to white with a pebbly surface may contain air bubbles that weaken the ice. Water on top of ice

is dangerous since water is heavier than ice. Water that leaks through ice can create fractures known as honeycombs, and no matter how thick the ice may be, honeycombed ice can give way.

Beware of dark patches and discolored snow over ice, which may signal that there is water or slush underneath and that the ice is thin. Avoid areas where snow looks dark and slushy.

Ice jams often are found downstream of rapids, which may indicate that the area upstream may not be safe to cross because it is underlain with fast-moving water that keeps the ice thinner.

Ice will support your weight better if you're on snowshoes or skis that spread your weight over a greater surface area. If traveling in a group, have people spread out over the ice to displace the total weight over a larger area. As a guideline, one inch of black or white ice will probably hold you. Two inches is safer, and six inches will hold a moose.



Natasha Kassulke is associate editor of Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine.

COURTESY OF JIM BISHOP



## Winter camping in Wisconsin State Parks and Forests

None of the sites have water hookups. "Water" means a faucet or pump is available in or near the campground. "Reservations" means sites can be reserved through the Wisconsin State Parks reservation line, 1-888-WI-PARKS (1-888-947-2757). Parks and forests that offer winter camping but don't accept reservations fill campsites on a first-come, first-served basis. Call ahead to find out if sites are still available when you intend to camp. "Walk-in" sites are less than 350 yards from a plowed parking lot; "backpack" sites are farther from plowed parking. For more information, call Wisconsin State Parks, (608) 266-2181.

Park or forest	Sites	Electrical hookups	Water	Reservations
Amnicon Falls (715) 399-3111	36 backpack	no	no	no
Big Bay (715) 747-6425	5 plowed	no	hand pump	no
Black River (715) 284-4103	50–60 total, 6–10 plowed	5 (Castle Mound)	yes	no
Blue Mound (608) 437-5711	4 plowed, 78 backpack	yes (2)	yes	no
Bong (262) 878-5600	11 plowed	yes	hand pump	yes
Brule River (715) 372-5678	40 walk-in	no	hand pump	no
Buckhorn (608) 565-2789	3 walk-in	no	hand pump	no
Copper Falls (715) 274-5123	3 plowed	yes	yes	yes
Devil's Lake (608) 356-8301	14 plowed, 15 walk-in	yes (11)	yes	yes
Flambeau River (715) 332-5271	2 plowed, 16 walk-in at Lake of the Pines	no	hand pump	no
Glacial Drumlin-Sandhill Station (920) 648-8774	15 walk-in	no	yes	yes
Governor Dodge (608) 935-2315	33 plowed, 6 walk-in	yes (6–8)	yes	no
Hartman Creek (715) 258-2372	10 plowed	no	hand pump	no
Kettle Moraine North (262) 533-8322	20 plowed, 2 walk-in	yes	yes (Mauthe Lake)	yes
Kettle Moraine South (262) 594-6200	100 at Ottawa Lake, only 10–15 plowed	yes (40)	hand pump	no
Lake Wissota (715) 382-4574	81 walk-in or backpack	yes (17)	yes (at office)	no
Lapham Peak (262) 646-3025	1 backpack	no	no	yes, call park
Kohler-Andrae (920) 451-4080	48 total, 12 plowed	yes	hand pump	no
Mirror Lake (608) 254-2333	13 plowed	yes (11)	yes (at office)	no
Nelson Dewey (608) 725-5374	4 plowed	yes	yes (at office)	no
New Glarus Woods (608) 527-2335	4 plowed, 3 group camps	no	no	yes
Newport (920) 854-2500	16 backpack, 1 group backpack	no	yes (at office)	no
Northern Highland-American Legion (715) 385-2727	6 plowed at Clear Lake	no	yes	no
Pattison (715) 399-3111	1 plowed, 17 backpack	plowed site only	no	no
Peninsula (920) 868-3258	10 plowed	yes	yes	no
Perrot (608) 534-6409	7 plowed, walk-in to others	yes	yes (at office)	no
Point Beach (920) 794-7480	5 plowed	yes	no	no
Potawatomi (920) 746-2890	7 plowed	yes	yes (requires hose)	no
Willow River (715) 386-5931	6 plowed, 72 backpack	yes	yes (at office)	no
Wyalusing (608) 996-2261	55 total, 6 plowed	yes	yes	no
Yellowstone Lake (608) 523-4427	4 plowed, 18 walk-in, 14 backpack	yes (4 plowed, 11 walk-in)	yes (at office)	no



# Shack time

We asked, and you delivered. Ice anglers share some hardwater hospitality and invite other readers to see the unique features of their ice shanties.



TEX KEENLANCE

## Shanty tip-up

I wanted a dual-purpose ice shack made to transport my four-wheeler ATV. In case we got to a lake that would not support a car or truck, I could unload the ATV, hook up the shack and head out to our favorite spots.

The shanty is made from an old trailer axle. I widened the frame so it would track behind a vehicle. The aluminum panels were left over from a sheet metal job about 10 years ago. It took that long for me to come up with a [design] idea that suited my needs. The shack is seven by eight feet. Two-thirds of the floor is jointed with heavy hinges that can be lowered as a ramp for the ATV. My actual cost was only about \$100 with a lot of thinking.

My work paid off last February during the sturgeon season. We speared two fish in two days. Mine was 55 inches long and weighed 55 pounds.

Vern (Tex) Keenlance  
Wild Rose

*Editor's note: You may recall that last February we gently knocked on the door to ask if we could spend some time with you on ice. We just wanted to chat a bit, (You know it can get lonely if the perch aren't biting!) wipe our feet on the doormat, and see some of the little touches that make your ice shanty homey and practical. As in the past, you didn't disappoint us. Many readers took the time to write us and forward some pictures of their frozen home away from home. Thanks to all for making us feel welcome.*

## Convertible shack

A few years ago, I wanted to build a sturgeon-spearing shanty that was easy to hook up and move. After seeing how expensive it could be to build one and given that the season often lasts only a day or two, I came up with a different idea. Our roofing company had a 12-foot enclosed trailer. We cut a 3½ x 4½-foot hole in the bottom and reinforced the rest of the hole with metal. We made pins and latches for the piece we cut out so it pops right back into place. A wood box covers the gap between the trailer floor and the ice.

When the spearing season ends, our shanty doesn't get parked alongside some old barn for the season, like many shacks. We fasten the floor, throw the tools back in and we're ready to use it for work. Everyone tells us they've never seen another shanty like ours.

Adam Scheafbauer  
Hartford



ADAM SCHEAFBAUER



## The comforts of home

My home away from home is decked out with recliners, a flip-up table, wood stove and an entertainment center complete with TV, CB and stereo with surround sound. All the 12-volt wiring feeds household receptacles and plugs to prevent any cross circuits. Each side of the shanty has a strip of red and white reflective tape on the outside making it easy to spot at night. We have heavy snowmobile traffic here and want to be seen at night.

We designed solar-heated tip-up boxes marked with tape, lights and a bump board. The snow-camo colored truck is for sneaking up on those spooky walleyes.

*Kevin Hoppmann  
Mauston*



KEVIN HOPPMANN

## Piecing it together

The shanty is made of salvaged materials — built on an old pop-up camper frame, the skeletal frame from old metal bed frames, the siding and roof from an old metal shed — all welded and pop-riveted together. The camper also provided a three-burner stove and a propane furnace that we attached to a 12-volt blower that circulates warm air from ceiling to floor. We can seat six comfortably inside and the table drops down to form bunks for night fishing. We put on an awning for sunny afternoons just because we had one.

*Kevin Hermanson  
Oregon*



KEVIN HERMANSON



BOB HANSEN

## There's no place like igloo

My dad, Andy Hansen, was the chief engineer behind this igloo-shaped sturgeon-fishing shanty he built with my brothers and me. Like many shanties, it was built mostly of recycled materials. The main beams and ski supports were recaptured oak from pallets. The covering was made of metal printing plates that were used to print cereal boxes.

Despite its appearance, the entrance is full-sized and is located on the back side of the igloo between the skis. The faux entrance on the front is actually a removable box for our gear. We set up each year on Lake Winnebago just north of Oshkosh.

*Bob Hansen  
Wauwatosa*





### Battery-powered retreat

In the three years since my neighbor and I started ice fishing, we've each purchased loads of equipment, including two shanties. Ours are battery-powered. The concept is simple. First, wire the shack as you would any AC building, except start with a three-pronged plug outside the shack and substitute DC light bulbs for their AC counterparts. Then connect a household outlet to a marine battery, plug in the cord, and there is light.

The benefits are obvious — light without noisy lanterns or expensive generators, and if you add an inverter, you can power anything from a TV to a laptop. The only downside may be that the shacks are so comfortable that we spend too much time in them.

Randy Berndt  
Wittenberg

### Room for one

I like to ice fish, but it was kind of hard to go alone since I am only twelve. I guess I bugged my dad too much because one Saturday he decided we would build an ice shack I could take out onto our lake by myself. We took his otter sled and added plywood sides. We even cut out wall-eye-shaped windows out of Plexiglas. The sled rides flat behind a four-wheeler or a snowmobile. When I get to my fishing spot, I just unhook it and stand it up. The hinged door in the back of the sled becomes my ice-fishing hole once the shack is upright. We made a small seat for me that is used to hold a five-gallon plastic bucket of supplies such as tip-ups and my jig poles when I am traveling. My auger rides in the front part.

The shack looks pretty small, but it's really big enough for any adult. My dad took my shack to Canada and we built one for my uncle to take too. His has crappie-shaped windows.

It's fun to have a shack of my own!

Jeff Gregory  
Lake Tomahawk

RANDY BERNDT





## A fishin' mission to Mars

Our shanty is insulated, paneled and equipped with wall-to-wall carpeting, venetian blinds and a radiant heater with a safety oxygen depletion valve.

During the remodeling stage, I saw an article that ice had been discovered on the planet Mars, so I wrote NASA headquarters and got a response. Here's what I told them:

"Using the old adage 'Where there's smoke, there is fire,' then 'If there is ice, there must be water. And where there is water there must be fish!'

"I'm from Wisconsin and an avid fisherman, but during the summer months it's too warm for ice fishing. So I am willing to volunteer my professional ice fishing experience to you. I have been rebuilding my ice shack to withstand the bitter cold on frozen lakes, so it stands to reason that with a few modifications that it should hold up on Mars...I would be willing to make the trip to try my luck. My ice shack and I are ready for some serious ice fishing.

"The purpose of this ice fishing expedition would be two-fold: 1. To see if any fish are living under the ice. (I have been known to catch fish where none are supposed to exist.) 2. To leave my shack as a warming house for future expeditions."

Two months later I got a response from the Deputy Associate Administrator for Space Flight. Mr. William F. Readdy said "NASA is looking at a variety of mission scenarios, including goals that involve Mars, asteroids, the Moon, and other destinations. We are also working to identify and evaluate the feasibility of supporting technologies that can provide significant improvements in areas such as cost reduction, supportability and operations. It is our intent to continue to pursue advanced technology investments in the future as International Space Station schedule milestones are achieved."

*Peter Nicholas  
Berlin*



PETER NICHOLAS



CANDIS SPINDLER

## A little village on Lake Altoona

Three families — the Spindlers, Books and Stadlers — live in Fall Creek and fish on Lake Altoona in Eau Claire. Our ages range from 7 to 47 and among the 14 of us, we have five shacks now and will have six for this winter. We pull our shacks into a circular shape so we can go from shack to shack.

We like to spend the night in our shacks about every weekend. Each has a wood stove. There's a couch in one shack, a homemade bunk bed in another and we also sleep on cots.

For fun we grill out, pull sleds behind four-wheelers, ice skate, play cards for hours and have fishing contests. Everyone puts a dollar in. Whoever catches the biggest northern splits the pot with the person catching the biggest panfish. We fish with rattle-wheels and jig poles inside our shacks and tip-ups outside.

We all love fishing so much that this year we held a "shack off the lake" party. We set up four of the shacks at one of our houses and everyone came over.

*Candis Spindler  
Fall Creek*





RICK MIYAGAWA

### A time for games and friends

Winter in Wisconsin can be some of the best times with good friends and a sense of adventure. For instance, somehow a bowling ball just showed up at our shanty one sunny day and stayed. We developed a game of ice bowling whose only rules are "no rules." We just set up empty cans of fermented malt and barley beverages around the area as pins and try to knock them down. We also developed a form of ice golf where we auger 18 holes around the shanty area and roll the ball in. We decided that the rules to that game are that it is to be played only on the winter solstice in years ending in 00.

The shanty is an integral part of ice bowling because that's where the Weber grill is stored for between frames and tee box burgers and brats.

Actually, we *are* fishing. We have tip-ups set up for pike near shore. Later in the day we put away the games and bring the tip-ups out to deeper water to fish walleyes. We also jig-fish in the shanty.

Rick Miyagawa  
Verona

continued from page 2

Wintergreen is a shy, late bloomer flowering from late July into August. Individual frost-white, bell-like flowers about a quarter-inch long form from the fusion of five petals. They hang on tiny recurved pedicels, nodding from the points where the leaves grow out of the stem. Once pollinated, the flowers form bright red fruits about one-third-inch long. They will ripen and hang on the plants from September into the following spring if ruffed grouse, mice, deer or bear have not discovered the aromatic morsels. Fruits that survive until spring either rot or drop to the ground releasing their seeds.

Wintergreen is well adapted for survival in cold climates and nutrient-poor acidic soils. Growing close to the ground, the plant is blanketed by snow, avoiding the stress of prolonged exposure to sub-freezing temperatures, predators and desiccating winds. Its tough waxy leaves and rolled leaf edges reduce water loss. Wintergreen further adapts to its short growing season by retaining its leaves year-round. The plant only needs to find enough scarce nutrients to produce new stems, some new



*Gaultheria procumbens*

leaves, flowers and fruits each year.

Crush a wintergreen leaf. The fragrant aroma tickles your nostrils. Originally, wintergreen oil was extracted by crushing and steam distilling the leaves. One ton of leaves produced just one pound of pure oil. Fortunately the wintergreen oil we use today as a flavoring in gum, candy, breath mints and toothpaste is formed synthetically from chemicals, sparing widespread harvest-

ing of wild wintergreen. A few drops of the potent oil go a long way. The active component in wintergreen oil, methyl salicylate, is a chemical compound that is similar to aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid). When applied to skin, methyl salicylate is a local irritant, but its analgesic qualities make it a main ingredient in popular liniments that warm the skin and smell strongly of wintergreen.

After you've taken a good look at wintergreen on a snowy day, maybe pick one leaf before you cover up the plant under a protective blan-

ket of snow. Rub the leaf between your hands and inhale deeply. The refreshing essence is a special gift of the Northwoods on a cold, crisp winter day. ❧

*Anita Carpenter pokes around the woods, fields and trails near her Oshkosh home. Her favorite season is winter.*



# WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES

We annually publish a subject index of our stories each December. A cumulative index of our stories since 1977 is also available as a file you can download from our website: [www.wnrmag.com](http://www.wnrmag.com). Please note this is a large file (more than 350,000 bytes and in excess of 100 pages), so browse before you print!

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## COMMENT ON A STORY?

Send your letters to Readers Write, WNR magazine, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707 or e-mail letters to [sperld@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:sperld@dnr.state.wi.us).

### GREEN BAY STURGEON?

The June article about lake sturgeon ("Honoring the ancient ones") was most interesting. I used to live in Wisconsin and in the mid-1940s had the pleasure of talking to two old-time commercial fishermen in Oconto. They related family stories recalling that in the late 1800s there was still a large population of lake sturgeon in Green Bay. The fishes' great strength plus the hackles on their backs and sides created great damage to the commercial fishing nets. These fishermen told me that the sturgeon used to be clubbed, brought to shore, stacked like cordwood and left to rot because they were of no commercial value at the time.

Did sturgeon swim up the Fox River into Lake Winnebago to spawn? Are there any sturgeon left in Green Bay?

Clyde Christiansen  
Hemet, California

*Lake sturgeon were found in all the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River. They flourished in both the big waters and major tributaries. Until these waters were dammed, sturgeon traveled miles upstream on their spawning runs.*

*It's doubtful there was a time in the 1800s when sturgeon were not considered of commercial value. As we mentioned in our story, Native Americans and immigrants were accustomed to eating sturgeon and making full use of the fish for commerce. Even those who did not eat caviar or recognize how delicious sturgeon tastes (both fresh and smoked) used other parts of these great fish. Gelatinous sub-*

*stances were extracted from their swim bladders to clarify wines and set jams and jellies. Their tough hides were tanned and oils extracted from the fish.*

*Yes, there are still sturgeon in the Great Lakes and the Bay.*

### YOUNG DRAGONFLIES

I enjoyed the August article "Emerald-eyed dragons," but I was a bit confused by some of the information. Repeatedly throughout the story the intermediate life stages of dragonflies and damselflies were referred to as *larval* stages. Every entomology and aquatic biology reference with which I am familiar considers that stage to be the *nymph* stage and the insects are called nymphs rather than larvae, as would be appropriate for the third stage of insects such as beetles that demonstrate complete metamorphosis.

I also enjoyed the "Out of place" stories of how aquatic exotic species alter Wisconsin's waterways in June. It not only uncovered many of the myths associated with alien species, but also provided an excellent history of their entrance into our waters and a fine discussion of efforts to respond to them.

Richard W. Presnell  
DePere

*We asked a renowned odonatologist, Everett D. (Tim) Cashatt, Curator of Zoology at Illinois State University, to answer your taxonomy question. Most entomology texts in the U.S. use the term "nymph" for the immature stages of Odonata. However, the term "larva" is the preferred term in international odonatological literature. "Larva/larvae" is now applied to the Odonata more universally, and the international journals insist on using "larva" instead of "nymph" in papers submitted for publication. The terms "nymph" or "naid," according to current definitions, may also be correctly defined as the stage between the egg and the*

*adult, depending on the preference of the author or journal.*

### RETHINKING "PERFECT" TREES

I have a 20-acre Christmas tree farm, a choose-and-cut operation that offers mostly scotch and white pine with spruces and firs. We have not used chemicals or herbicides much. Overgrown and diseased scotch pines depress me, but your article ("That perfect tree," December 1997) helped me realize I can look beyond the mess, eke out as much income as possible on decent trees and know that we are helping the environment.

Cornelia Ahrens  
Rockport, Ind.

### NEST BOXES NO MATCH FOR FERAL CATS

Regarding all the letters about bluebirds that responded to your April story ("Thinking outside of the box") I'd offer the following comments:

When we moved to our three-acre property five years ago, my husband carefully built and installed bluebird houses based on DNR specifications. We were immediately graced by pairs of nesting bluebirds and tree swallows in each of our four birdhouses. We've had nesting pairs every year since. We are careful to prevent European sparrows from reproducing in these boxes or trying to oust other birds.

Unfortunately, less than half the hatched chicks survived to fully fledge each year due to the activities of feral and wandering cats. We've spoken to neighbors, and we've set live traps and taken feral cats to our area humane shelter. Many of these cats

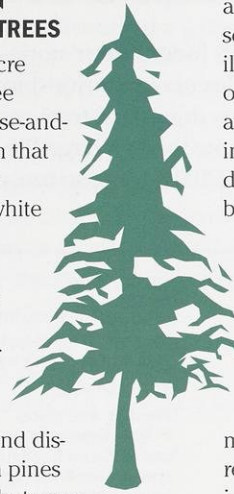
suffer from diseases. We've contacted our town constable to request that a nearby farm spray and neuter or contain their cats so litter after litter of unwanted, ill cats stop appearing each year on our property — all to no avail. We still see the cats hunting in our yard, and witness the damaged nests and death to baby birds. This year not one of the nests of bluebirds survived.

The moral of my tale is that it is quite easy to encourage bluebirds to nest in suburban areas, but getting them to grow up without mishap is another story. Until regulations and leash laws are incorporated in suburban and rural areas, songbird populations will continue to be affected. Here in Richfield, we are not allowed to keep chickens, goats or sheep on our three acres, yet the neighboring farm doesn't have to comply with any regulations considering cats as "pets" instead of livestock — no population controls, registration, or health certificates.

We will continue to trap strays and protect our boxes, but that won't protect the birds as they leave the nests.

Mrs. Jeffrey Wussow  
Colgate (Richfield)

*We wonder if you saw our piece "On the prowl" (December 1996) that described how unmanaged cats could really decimate local songbird populations. Research by UW wildlife ecologists estimated that 1.4–2 million free-roaming cats in rural Wisconsin might be killing 39–219 million songbirds a year. The piece is worth a look as it provided advice for community responsibility and action to curb these losses.*





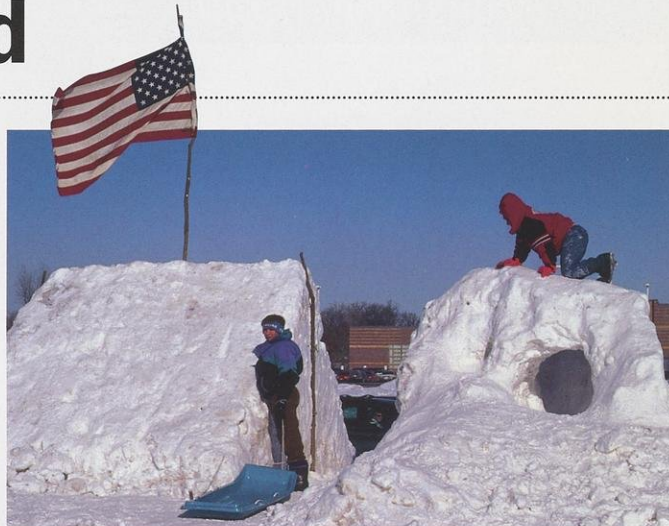
# Some like it cold

**I**n the bleak mid-winter...Wisconsinites shrug off the chill and get on with the good things in life. We *savor* those nose-nipping days when the thermometer heads south. We *thrive* on wind chill factors and frozen gas lines. We *flourish* in soggy socks and damp mittens, darn it!

Some *like* it cold, and that would be us, hey.

Folks up North just can't get enough of the hard chilly stuff, it seems. Here's one example: The day after Christmas, the volunteer firemen of Eagle River put their hoses and pick axes to a different use and begin building an **Ice Palace** in the center of town. Construction of the crystalline edifice takes about a week.

everyone to join in their **New Year's Day Parade**. The festive people's procession starts at 1 p.m. sharp and will go on rain, shine, sleet or snow. Organizers say you never know who or what you'll see marching down Egg Harbor's streets. Don't let this parade pass you by! The only parading prerequisite is a warm pair of walking boots. (920) 868-2120.



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(920) 452-6443. The icy dip in Phillips' Long Lake starts at 1 p.m. (715) 339-3927.

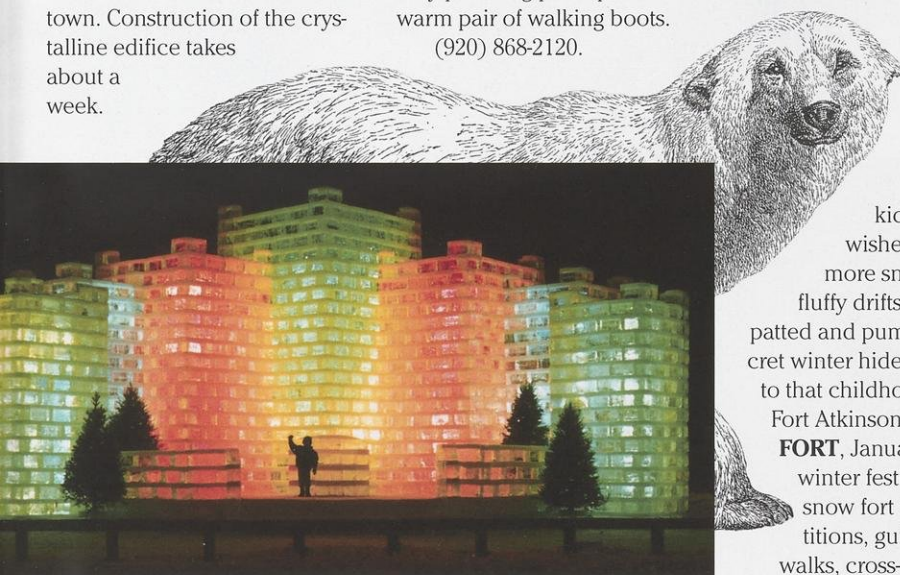
Food, music and general fun and foolery accompany all three swims.

Were you a kid who fervently wished for snow and more snow, great huge fluffy drifts that could be patted and pummeled into secret winter hideaways? Return to that childhood pleasure in Fort Atkinson during **SnowFORT**, January 18–20. The winter festival features snow fort building competitions, guided snowshoe walks, cross-country skiing, a chili cook-off, and entertainment for the young and young at heart. (888) SEE-FORT.

Let us move from the utilitarian to the sublime, from snow

forts to snow fantasies. Two major snow sculpting events will delight travelers this winter. During the **U.S. International Snow Sculpting Competition**, three-person teams from 15 nations carve 5-ton blocks of snow in hope of recognition from spectators and a team of judges led by the president of the International Sculpting Association, Juhani Lillberg of Finland (where they know snow). The event runs from January 22–26 in West Allis. (414) 476-5573. A little later in the month, **Winterfest** and the **U.S. National Snow Sculpting Competition** open in Lake Geneva. From January 30–February 3, sculptors will shape 10-foot snow blocks while visitors can enjoy an overhead view of the snowy creations from hot air balloons and air boats. (800) 345-1020.

Finally, what could be more satisfying than a winter day in Burlington — better known as Chocolate City, USA? The city hosts **Chilly Chocolate Day** on January 26 to remind us chocolate is good to eat at any time of the year. (But you already knew that.) Take in an ice carving demonstration, join in a snow goose egg hunt, and sample the entries in a chili-cooking contest. (262) 763-6044. ☞



They celebrate winter fun in bright colors at the Eagle River Ice Palace, (top right) in playful sculpture at the Fort Atkinson SnowFORT and (below right) in tasty treats at a Burlington chili cook-off.

The 20-foot-tall palace, festooned with lights and landscaped with pines, even has a grand ice throne for visiting royalty such as yourself. Enjoy a palace tour — but don't lick any of the walls or furniture or your tongue may have to stay behind. The Ice Palace will stand, weather permitting, through March 31. (800) 359-6315.

2002 will get off to a lively start in Door County when the residents of Egg Harbor invite

Some Wisconsin residents won't even bother wearing boots on the first of the year. These intrepid souls find the state's winter waters especially congenial for a quick inaugural dip. "Polar bear" swimmers brave the chill depths to raise funds for charity (and be featured on the evening TV news). View a **polar bear plunge** in Lake Michigan on January 1st at noon in Jacksonport (920) 823-2231 and at 1 p.m. in Sheboygan



BURLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



## Wisconsin, naturally

### PINE CLIFF STATE NATURAL AREA

**Notable:** A southern Wisconsin pine relict community occupying the summit and flanks of St. Peter sandstone cliffs in the unglaciated Driftless Area. This relict is unusual in that all three species of pine native to the state — jack, white and red — are found here, disjunct from their main range to the north. The cool, moist, north-facing cliffs harbor numerous ferns and mosses.

**How to get there:** Within Governor Dodge State Park in Iowa County. From Dodgeville, go north on State Highway 23 for 4 miles to the park entrance. Follow Cox Hollow Rd. to the Enee Point picnic area and the trailhead for the Pine Cliff nature trail. The two-mile trail loops through the natural area. *Wisconsin Atlas*: page 34, grid D3.



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