



KEEP IN TOUCH WITH WNR MAGAZINE

Wisconsin Natural Resources, a bimonthly magazine, stays in touch with its readers through a newsletter published online during the off-print months. The newsletter, "Previews and Reviews," features information on upcoming stories, events going on at state properties and suggestions for past stories worth revisiting. To sign up to receive this e-newsletter and other email updates through the WNR website, go to dnr.wi.gov, click the red envelope icon at the bottom of the home page, enter your email address, then under the "Publications" checkbox, select *Wisconsin Natural Resources* magazine. We'll see you in January!

THE LEOPOLD CONSERVATION AWARD – A NOBEL PRIZE FOR PRIVATE LAND CONSERVATION

We were thrilled to see Dick and Kim Cates and their Cates Family Farm included in your recent article (October 2015 "Talon a great story") on the issuance of the bald eagle license plate. As the 2013 recipients of Sand County Foundation's Leopold Conservation Award® they are an inspiration to landowners around the state and across the country. The Leopold Conservation Award has grown to be known as the nation's "Nobel Prize for private land conservation," and the Cateses are richly deserving of that tribute. My organization, Sand County Foundation, believes it is essential to share the stories of these recognized conservation heroes, now nearing 100 in

number, and continue to celebrate the thousands more who are equally deserving of recognition. That is a large part of why we initiated the award program 14 years ago. In Wisconsin, our conservation tradition is part of our identity. Hunters, fishermen, lake property owners, businesses and citizens of all sorts can join together and celebrate annually another family's contribution to our natural resource heritage. On behalf of our presenting partners, the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, Sand County Foundation is grateful for your showcasing the Cates' Family Farm.

*Kevin McAleese
President, Sand County Foundation*



JODY SCHNEIDER



EARNED A CERTIFICATE OF FIRST DEER

Attached you will find a picture of my son and his first deer. This was a very proud moment for Devin. This was Devin's first day bow hunting, not only the first day, but the first time ever bow hunting! He had completed his hunter safety program at the end of the last school year. He had been practicing for the last couple of months with his bow on some targets he had put together. He had also made a double-seated bench and bow holder, along with cup holders, for him and his dad to sit on in his blind. Early in the morning on that first day of hunting with his bow, Devin and his dad went to the hunting area. But within a matter of less than an hour, Devin began to chat about the squirrels, when were the deer going to come, etc. He didn't quite understand that even a whisper can be heard and spook any deer in the area. So after a couple hours they returned home. Later that afternoon, Devin said he was going to go and sit in his blind. Dan (his dad) and I assumed it wouldn't take long for him to return due to his restlessness within his little blind and his very active 12-year-old boy spirit. Roughly 40 minutes later, Devin came running down out of the woods to Dan who was working in the garage and said, "Dad, I got one!" Dan said, "Ya right," smiled and went back to working. Then Devin said, "Dad, I'm serious. We have to track it." Dan picked up that this wasn't Devin joking around and he came into the house to tell me. We all gathered our deer tracking gear and headed to the area where Devin said he shot at his deer. Not long after we arrived at the area, Dan spotted a couple droplets of blood on some leaves and from there Jenna, Devin's younger sister, was instrumental in helping find the little trail of blood droplets that took us roughly 120 yards from the blind to the doe that Devin had shot. It was a very proud moment for Devin, but also for Dan and I knowing that this was just the start of a life-long tradition that someday he will share with his children.

*Jody Schneider
Chippewa Falls*



BOB PFAFF

ALBINO FAWN A SPECIAL FIND

I was out last Saturday and came across an albino fawn in the field. I took some pictures with my phone. Here is one to share with your readers.

*Bob Pfaff
Dousman*

OWL WATCHING

We watched these babies grow up every day for a month. They were very curious to watch us also. We rarely saw the parent, but when we did she gave us the evil eye to say the least. I was prepared to "duck and cover." We watched her land a rabbit. Fascinating. Big bird.

*Steve and Dana Bremer
Brooklyn*



STEVE AND DANA BREMER

COMMENT ON A STORY?

Send your letters to: Readers Write, WNR magazine, P.O. Box 7191, Madison, WI 53707. Or email letters to dnrmagazine@wisconsin.gov. Limit letters to 250 words and include your name and the community from which you are writing.

NO ACCESS TO THE WEB?

Don't have access to a link we mention in a story? Let us know when you want to follow a link we list. We'll do what we can to get you a copy of the material if it is available free of charge and is relatively short in length.



RICK REMME

OWL IDENTIFICATION

This owl has been hanging around all summer. It has black eyes, yellow beak and is about 20 inches long. Can you tell me what kind it is?

Rick Remme
Fremont

Editor's note: It appears to be a barn owl. Here is a link to our owl page with a slide show that clearly shows one: dnr.wi.gov/news/features/feature.asp?id=16&article=1. Thanks for sharing your photo.

MEMORIES AND RENEWAL

I really enjoyed reading the article about becoming a ruffed grouse hunter by Eric Verbeten ("The start of the hunt, the start of a tradition") as well as the article about six decades of deer hunting by Frank Wywialowski ("Six decades of deer hunting") in the August 2015 issue of *Wisconsin Natural Resources*. I shot my first ruffed grouse on our family farm when I was about 14 and like Verbeten, that experience transformed me from a novice shotgunner to an avid grouse hunter. Similarly, like Wywialowski, I have also hunted deer for six decades and after a couple of years of drought in that regard, I took a deer in 2013 on our family farm. Ironically, it was about 200 yards from where I took that first grouse. It was a particularly long shot with my beloved .32 Winchester Special 94 carbine that confirmed that I had not lost my touch after six decades of deer hunting. Both of those two fine articles invoked several memories of many wonderful days in the woods with many special hunting partners pursuing the always challenging ruffed grouse as well as the wily whitetail.

Norm Hanson
Roseville, Minnesota

A GROUSE HUNTING TRADITION IS BORN

I enjoyed the story of grouse hunting by Eric Verbeten in the August 2015 issue ("The start of the hunt, the start of a tradition"). My best friend, Dan, and I have been hunting grouse in the Eagle River area since 1985. Sometimes we even get a few. We both had dogs — he a golden retriever and I, a Brittany. He would bring his golden one year and then I would bring my Brittany the next and so on. After my last passed I too got a golden. Five years ago, Dan passed away. But I still loved to grouse hunt. So my wife came the next year for companionship. The next year she and our son came. Then Dan's son came up with us the next year. So, I think we started a new tradition. Last year, each of us got one [grouse]. October is such a beautiful time of year you just never know what you'll have for weather.

George Petersen
Oshkosh

HISTORIC PHOTO CLARIFICATION

I enjoyed the article "Chock-full of grainy goodness" (August 2015). The warden pictured with the confiscated Packard was my father Stanley V. Swenson and the event did not take place in Poynette. It took place near Boulder Junction. If you want or need further information there was an article on the front page of the *Wisconsin State Journal* on Tues., Nov. 1, 1938 and also *Harding's Magazine* "Fur Fish and Game" wrote an article by Jack Newman around the same time. As you can see, my mother kept a good scrapbook. Thank you for the good work.

Galen S. Swenson
Whitefish Bay

Editors' note: When we are captioning the DNR's historic images we are relying on the details provided by the photographer at the time. Mistakes do happen, though, and we want to encourage readers to let us know if you spot an error so that we can correct the collection. Email any comments or corrections to natasha.kassulke@wisconsin.gov.



EUGENE SANBORN

WHAT WOULD ALDO LEOPOLD SAY?

The article, "Providing a helping hand to private woodland owners, in the August 2015 *Wisconsin Natural Resources*, leaned on the wisdom and philosophy of Aldo Leopold. It was a bit of a stretch for pundits and educators with roots in the timber industry. The typical "degraded" forest is most often "too old," or too mixed to be of value. As the article taught, "Many smaller private woodlands... were slowly degrading..." their land. Forestland, it argued, needed "management and development" to become part of a "well-rounded community." Bigger forest owners already "benefited" from such development. This is not Aldo Leopold. Leopold would ask, what about the pileated woodpecker, flying squirrels, dramatically lower bird diversity, owl holes in big trees, fishers and eagle nest locations? His list is almost endless. An older forest can boast 100 bird species in spring — a managed forest 30 species. Which forest is more "healthy?" Leopold often scolded modern man, becoming famous in the process. Let's read Leopold in his own words: "The last word in ignorance is the man who says of an animal or plant: 'What good is it?' Examine each question in terms of what is ethically and aesthetically right, as well as what is economically expedient. A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise." He adds, "A conservationist is one who is humbly aware that with each stroke [of the axe] he is writing his signature on the face of the land." And, "In our attempt to make conservation easy, we have made it trivial."

Jim and Sue Davidson
Minong

OUTRAGE OVER HISTORIC WHITE PINE LOSS

We received many letters from readers who were outraged over the decision to fell an old white pine to make way for an ATV trail (August 2015 "A white pine eulogy"). Here is a sample of the responses.

I just received my August issue of the magazine, which I always look forward to. This issue, however, had the story of the 150-year-old pine that was removed for what? An ATV trail project? ATVs can easily maneuver around trees and it seems a sad reason to end the life of such a tree (the story offered no more detailed reason for its demise). I see the photos of the counters made from it — in no way does that justify the means. That story sickened me, but the next story (August 2015 "Providing a helping hand to private woodland owners") motivates me to join the Wisconsin Private Woodland Owners program to learn how best to preserve the old-growth forest on our property during our tenure.

Judy Ogren
Maiden Rock

Your "A white pine eulogy" was a sad story about putting a trail for ATVs over a 150-year-old treasured historical tree. It is an example of our pathetic 2015 macho machine driven priorities. Thank you to our DNR staff for at least using the tree for the public rather than selling it for use at some wealthy private enclave. The article was well written. I continue to enjoy our *Wisconsin Natural Resources* magazine. You're doing a nice job.

Cheri Briscoe
Milwaukee

Having been a snowmobiler and ATV enthusiast for the past 40-plus years, I am always interested in trail development. I can't believe the ATV trail in the Oxbo area of the Flambeau River could not go around this champion of the past. Trails go around things all the time, and to destroy a 150-year-old white pine is indeed a crime. For what it has endured and to end up like this is a shame.

Robert Jasch
Crivitz

Your story about cutting down a nearly 150-year-old, healthy white pine because it stood in the path of a proposed ATV trail broke my heart. This magnificent tree had survived high winds, droughts and disease since the Civil War. It even had a name: "the Oxbo Pine." But it had to go so that so-called nature lovers could speed through the forest on motorized vehicles. "Though no one wanted to see the

tree cut, it was deemed necessary for project completion." Really? Planners could have routed the trail away from the tree, or abandoned the project. Instead, they decided that yet another ATV trail was more important than this glorious tree, which true nature lovers can no longer see in the vanishing woodlands. And your magazine, which by its very title is supposed to celebrate natural resources, ran a story sappier than this pine about how this huge, irreplaceable tree was turned into a countertop, of all things. The article ended by saying that maybe the countertop would remind people that "throughout history, when humans work thoughtfully with nature, they can accomplish beautiful things." Did I say the story broke my heart? Perhaps it was only indigestion, because line after line like that just reminded me how ignorant human beings can be and made me sick. Everyone associated with the decision to sacrifice this tree

for something so inferior should be ashamed.

Sheryl Pethers
Bear Lake

I read your article, "A white pine eulogy," with great interest and appreciated the photo of the finished countertop that was masterfully crafted by Jennifer Peterson, a forestry technician. But your article did not include some important information. The opening paragraphs of the article detailed how impressive and majestic this 150-year-old pine tree was. And then ..."the end for the big pine came in August 2014 when an ATV trail project was being planned....Though no one wanted to see the tree cut, it was deemed necessary for the project completion." What criteria could possibly have been used to reach such a judgment? How do our forest service people make such decisions about cutting princely

trees to make room for an ATV trail? Why couldn't the trail have been redesigned? Shouldn't a natural resource magazine, in its integrity, fill in the blanks about how a precious natural resource should be eliminated to make way for ATVs?

JoAnne Katzmarek
Washburn

Let me get this right. You cut down a magnificent white pine for an ATV trail?? I thought ATVs were made to go around just about anything. I go north to see those magnificent pines, not ATV trails. You guys are starting to look like DOT.

G.A. Birch
Stoughton

STUMPED BY SONG LYRICS

I am trying to locate a recording, or at least the title and performers of a song that was played on some Wisconsin radio stations in (I believe) 1969. I know 98 percent of the words, but cannot find any reference to them on the Web and am reaching out to try to locate some information on the song. There are three verses, and the first one starts "From the coastline of Wisconsin where Lake Michigan meets the land, comes an eerie sounding warning as the fog rolls toward the sand." It is about fog horns along Lake Michigan and is a catchy tune. It has been 45 years since I have heard the recording! Thank you for any help you can give. I am hoping that you (or the readers of your magazine) might be able to help me obtain further information (as stated above).

Bruce Birr
Manistique, Michigan, but grew up in
Oconto Falls

Editor's note: If you know the answer to Bruce Birr's question please email your answer to natasha.kassulke@wisconsin.gov. We'll share the answer with readers in an upcoming issue.



TOM LONG

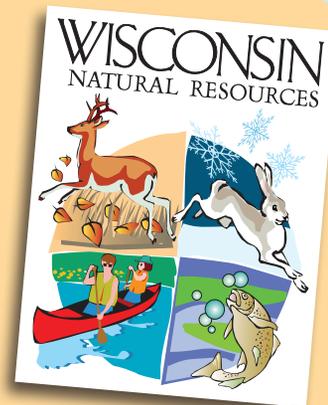
AN ELK SURPRISE

I placed my deer camera out on a field edge to see what deer are feeding in this bean field. What a surprise to see a bull elk appear.

Tom Long
Marengo

Choose a gift that delivers in all seasons

Set your sights on a bargain and consider gifts of *Wisconsin Natural Resources* magazine. Whether you are thankful for a favor or just want to do something special for a friend or family member who enjoys the outdoors, a subscription to *Wisconsin Natural Resources* magazine makes a thoughtful, affordable, tasteful gift we deliver six times throughout the year. **Just call 1-800-678-9472 or subscribe online at wnrmag.com** and download a gift card of your choice. Just \$8.97 for one year, \$15.97 for two years or \$21.97 for three years.



Call now or scan the code at right for more information.