

Write

MENTORED HUNT

Thanks to the readers who inquired about the 12-year-old hunter shown with his first deer in the December 2015 issue. We double-checked with the DNR conservation wardens for you, and, yes, the young hunter had completed his hunter safety certificate and was accompanied on his successful hunt by an adult as required by Wisconsin law. Thank you, readers, for thinking about the safety of all who enjoy Wisconsin's natural resources. Congratulations to Devin on his first deer. To apply for a first deer certificate, go to dnr.wi.gov and search "First Deer."

Natasha Kassulke, editor Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine

NAME THAT TUNE

We also asked readers in our December 2015 issue to help Bruce Birr of Manistique, Michigan, identify a song and artist that was played on some Wisconsin radio stations in 1969 and referenced the foghorns along the Lake Michigan shoreline of Wisconsin. You came through and we heard from many of you that the song was the "TR Special" (with the TR standing for Two Rivers) recorded by Wayne Brunner. Jim Martens and Kari Kahl even found a version on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjtPkCpMFA>.

Another reader, Lee Erickson of Algoma, writes: I was in the Army stationed in Germany (1968-69) and my family sent me a 45 RPM record of this song. It was on the PAL Records label. The reverse side song is called "Out of Sight." I still have two copies of the record.

Natasha Kassulke, editor Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine

WINTER SURPRISE

While attempting to squirrel hunt on the last day of the year 2015, I stopped to rest after tramping through the woods for quite some time. I had only seen three squirrels, but they were too far away. Standing there, I looked at the beautiful, snow-coated ground. Turning my head, I noticed a small bird fluttering toward me. This small bird was a ruby-crowned kinglet. I was stunned because this little bird isn't even supposed to be in Wisconsin during the winter. As the bird flew from branch to branch, I was full of emotion. I was able to become part of nature in less than a minute; the bird accepted me as part of the woods. This experience assured something I already knew; I am not only a part of nature, nature is a part of me.

Brilyn Brecka
Alma



BRILYN BRECKA

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.



SUBMITTED BY LAMONT BONHAM

LAST DAY GUN HUNT SUCCESS

As a subscriber to the Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine I just wanted to submit a photo from the last day of the Wisconsin gun season, Nov. 29, 2015. I harvested this buck in Marathon County. It weighed in at 188 pounds dressed and was an 18 pointer, although officially it's a 17 pointer since one point is just under an inch in length. The inside spread was 21 3/8 inches.

LaMont Bonham
Wausau

PHEASANT HATCHING MEMORIES

Your article in the Dec. 2015 issue about the State Game Farm reminded me of my experiences hatching and raising pheasants in my hometown, East Troy, in the late 1940s when I was about 7 or 8 years old. We had a two story, two-plus car garage with an abandoned dog pen built under the stairs leading to the second floor. My dad and I decided the dog cage would be a good place to hatch and raise the pheasants. We replaced the hinged door to the outside pen with a burlap bag, spread straw on the floor and put chicken wire over the outside pen to keep the pheasants in and the varmints out. The last preparation step was to buy a Guinea hen to hatch the eggs. It seemed like a long ride from East Troy to the game farm in Poynette. We purchased 12 eggs for \$6. My job was to occasionally change the straw and feed and water the chicks and hen daily. It was with great expectation to get up every morning to see if the chicks had hatched and they finally did in about two weeks. It rained one day and some of the chicks were outside and I thought they were in peril. My dad worked next door to our house at a stainless steel, pipe and tube mill. I had never been inside the factory but on the day the rain came I went looking for my dad. People were eager to find my dad for me and as we returned home he assured me the chicks would be okay in the rain. About two weeks before the start of pheasant hunting season we put the birds in burlap bags and transported them to the Troy Marsh for release. All 12 birds survived their experience with me. I don't know how many survived the pheasant hunting season!

Don Wiedenheft
Waukesha

KUDOS FROM A PHEASANT DIAPERER

I recently received the December 2015 issue with your well-written article about pheasant diapers. My association with the Poynette Game Farm was a great experience in my younger years. Their employees were my friends and neighbors. I was fortunate to have Harley MacKenzie as my friend and mentor. It is rare to have a personalized article when you're 88 years old except for an obituary. I wanted you to know of my appreciation for the nice job you did.

Bob Vosen
Fond du Lac



BONNIE AND JIM HALPER

EARLY MORNING MARSH SURPRISE

A red eyed heron (black-crowned night) spotted on Horicon Marsh on Hwy. 49. We saw many of them in the early morning (August 2015).

Bonnie and Jim Halper
Kewaskum