

### HAPPY YOUNG HUNTER

Here are pictures of Adeline's nine-point buck that she bagged on Oct. 7 while hunting with her dad, Derek Frank. The deer was taken in the town of Sampson (youth hunt in northern Chippewa County).

Addie has been a lucky hunter so far. Besides this very nice buck, she bagged a 350-pound black bear last year and a very nice tom turkey.

Wayne Frank  
Chippewa County



### CRANE SPOTTING

I took some pictures of a pair of whooping cranes with a new addition over the summer. Not sure where you can use them in the magazine but I thought they were pretty neat.

Nick Checolinski  
Appleton

### SANDHILL'S PLEIN AIR APPEAL

Just finished reading the terrific article about the origins of the Sandhill Wildlife Area by Julie Hess and Anna Hess (October 2017). It seems to me SWA is one of the unsung successes of marshland preservation in Wisconsin. I "discovered" it two years ago when looking for plein air painting locations. As one of the artists of record for the Tribune Building redevelopment project in Wisconsin Rapids, I was looking for places that celebrate the strengths of Wood County. I found that in spades at SWA.



Kudos to the Granges for their insight and hard work. It is great to know the back story of this area. Thanks for another wonderful issue of *Wisconsin Natural Resources*. I pray Wisconsinites will continue to value our natural resources for generations to come.

P.S.: Attached is a copy of one of the plein air paintings I did at SWA.

Jan Norsetter  
Verona



### TABLE FOR TWO?

I captured these two bull elk fighting over the picnic table!

Jim Wallace  
Winter

### OH, SNAP!

I did my preseason scouting — lots of deer signs, no other hunters around. Wrong!

There are three deer in this photo. That something you see on the ground by the back legs of the deer in the center is another deer that has been knocked over onto its back with the white belly exposed. I can only imagine the young deer was knocked over in a panic escape by the other deer.



The bobcat is in full stride and moments away from its prey. I did not go looking around for blood to see if the cat was successful because I did not view the camera card until later when I was home. I was then able to zoom in on the photo and observe what was captured.

Tom Long  
Marengo



### ABCS OF BUMBLE BEES

Reader Mike Fetting shared an email letter and photo, which were forwarded to the DNR's Natural Heritage Conservation Program for response. Follow the correspondence below.

Hi. Last August my friends and I camped on the Willow Flowage (Oneida County). The picture is one of hundreds of endangered rusty patched bumble bees that were bouncing between the flowers at our campsite. They appeared to be thriving and couldn't care less that we were there.

From the NHC: This is not a rusty patched bumble bee (*Bombus affinis*) but a tricolored bumble bee (*Bombus ternarius*). Tricolored bumble bees are a common bumble bee across the northern half of Wisconsin. The rusty patched bumble bee is a federally endangered species and hasn't been seen in Oneida County since 1975. Thanks for your observation. To help researchers better understand the current bumble bee distribution across the state, please submit your observations to [Bumble Bee Watch, bumblebeewatch.org](http://Bumble Bee Watch, bumblebeewatch.org).

I've since looked online — the similarities are so unfair! I was aware rusty patched bumble bees are very uncommon so was pretty excited. I was not aware of the tricolored before so didn't realize there was something so similar. Thanks for the quick and informative response!

Mike Fetting  
Whitefish Bay

### OUR SENTIMENTS EXACTLY

I enjoyed Ron Weber's article in the December *Wisconsin Natural Resources* magazine ("Driven by memories"). I know many readers will enjoy the piece, be able to relate to it and agree with his sentiments.

David Nelson, Editor  
New York State Conservationist

I enjoyed reading Ron Weber's reflections on past deer hunts with brothers and friends, all of whom have now passed away. Weber describes so well the special memories of hunting with special people without regard to whether deer were taken.

I share similar special memories of many years of memorable and enjoyable Wisconsin deer hunts with my brother-in-law, who also passed away a few years ago. I am fortunate in that I am still able to hunt with my brother in Minnesota. However, I do miss my brother-in-law and those many, many special times in the field.

Norm Hanson  
Roseville, Minnesota



#### PATRON'S PRAISE

I am a Conservation Patron and now my son is as well. I have enjoyed your magazine for many years now and am very happy to hear this publication will continue. My wife and I came across this scene in October in Cottage Grove, as we were coming home from church on a Sunday morning. What a beautiful classic fall Wisconsin scene! Feel free to use it in your publication if you feel it is of interest.

Cory Nelson  
Cottage Grove

#### HANDLE TROUT WITH CARE

I fish alone many days and have struggled on a proper photo technique for that nice trout I just caught. Slime coat removal (from too much handling) and the trout basically holding its breath while you get that perfect shot are serious problems. If you are going to let that trout go, please let it be healthy after you have finished your photo.

This is the way I do it. First off, I have an adequate net. Many nets out there are woefully inadequate. It must have a deep, non-tapered bag. The net must be easy to unfasten from your back with your weak hand. When I land my trout I immediately unhook the trout. A fish thrashing in the net with a hook still in its mouth can cause serious damage. Here comes the reason for the deep, wide net. That trout can revive after the battle submerged in the water and not be rubbing the sides of a small, non-tapered net and injuring itself.

You can do two different methods of preparation. First method is to stick the handle of the net into the soft bank with the trout in the net and totally submerged in the water. Ready your camera, take off the lens cap and focus. Reach into the net, wetting your hand, and take out the trout. Hand placement is crucial here. Don't place your hand near the front of the trout and grip hard. You want to avoid crushing the organs. Take ONE photo, then revive the trout and let it go. This should take about five seconds of the trout being out of the water.

The other method involves placing the net handle between your knees instead of sticking it into the bank. All the other steps are the same. That net can get quite crusty after a few trout are landed in it, so rinse it thoroughly after each netting.

A short, sweet synopsis: Proper net, wet hand, minimal time out of water, hold trout gently, ONE photo and revive it before you release.

Len Harris  
Richland Center



#### ATOP THE BIRD FEEDER

This little boy with the chickadee on his head is one of our grandsons, Max Spiegel. He was 6 years old at the time we took him to Peninsula State Park to feed the chickadees at the nature center. Max loved every minute of it.

Tim Sweet  
Appleton



#### OMAHA TRAIL THROUGH THE SEASONS

These photos were taken at the entrance of the tunnel on the Omaha Trail.

Barb Harris  
Richland Center

Editor's note: The Omaha Trail is a paved bike trail maintained by Juneau County that runs south for 13 miles from Camp Douglas to Elroy. The 300-foot tunnel is located at the halfway point. Visit [www.co.juneau.wi.gov/trails.html](http://www.co.juneau.wi.gov/trails.html) for more information.



#### WISHIN' FOR FISHER'

As a longtime subscriber I enjoy seeing the magazine's pictures of people who love Wisconsin outdoors. In this photo from summer 2017, Claire Schnoor Loftus, age 4 with tackle in hand, contemplates a few of her family's big catches on Minocqua Lake.

Her grandfather, Dr. Jerald L. Schnoor, is an environmental engineer on faculty at the University of Iowa. I married his sister 36 years ago. We've all been enjoying



Minocqua Lake for decades now, as did the generation before us. We feel blessed to have the opportunity to enjoy such beauty and appreciate the role your magazine plays in promoting awareness of our unique and precious natural resources.

Fred Oaks  
Nashotah

#### COMPARING APPLES AND FISHERS

I got these images from my trail cam on my property on Big Trade Lake (Burnett County), and am curious as to what animal this is. It looks like a wolverine to me, but I know they're very rare, and I'm not sure. What is it?

Paul Lammert  
Grantsburg

Thanks for sharing this great photo of a fisher. Fishers are in the same family as wolverines, which are much bigger and now only found in parts of Canada. Catherine Dennison, a research assistant at DNR's Rhinelander office, confirmed that based on the animal's size (in comparison to the apples in the background) and the pelage (or fur), this is indeed a fisher.



#### ALL SMILES IN THE FIELD

I thought I would pass along this picture of my daughter Madison Skalecki (left) and her cousin Jessica Chittendon during last year's November firearm deer hunt. It is good to see women in the field these days, especially how much they are enjoying the activity.

Mike Skalecki  
Savage, Minnesota



#### COMMENT ON A STORY?

Send your letters to: Readers Write, WNR magazine, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707. Or email letters to [dnrmagazine@wisconsin.gov](mailto: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.