

2023 Hunters Guide



Thirteen-year-old Ty Foster brought down an eight-point buck, hunted in the township of Seif in Clark County on his grandpa Jerry Gross' hunting land during the statewide youth deer hunt, Oct. 7-8 this fall. Foster has hunted for about three years after his grandpa got Foster and his two older brothers into hunting.



Pictured is Andy Whaley with his 27.3-pound turkey that he successfully harvested out of Black River Falls.



The Youth Hunt weekend proved to be successful for both Tayte (l) and Preston Yeskie (r). Tayte started the lucky hunt success on Saturday, harvesting his very first buck, an eight-point with a 16-inch spread. Preston followed with a Sunday success with his second ever buck, an eight-point with a 14-inch spread. Both boys are pretty excited about providing food from their trophies and looking forward to eating Dad's "Best Ever Jerky" that will be made out of both deer.



Supplement to the Banner Journal, Clark County Press & The Shopper

Articles • Photos • Dining • Entertainment • Great Buys!

Take advantage of Wisconsin’s mentored hunting law this fall

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) encourages experienced hunters to share their skills and knowledge with beginner hunters by taking advantage of Wisconsin’s Mentored Hunting Law.

Since 2009, this one-on-one mentoring opportunity has given new hunters a chance to try hunting without first completing a hunter safety course. No special steps are required to purchase a mentored hunting license – log in to Go Wild to buy a hunting license and any necessary stamps. If the account does not have a valid hunter safety certificate on record, Go Wild will prompt you to check the mentored-

only license option, and the license will automatically print as “Mentored Only.” Mentees must purchase a Mentored hunting license through their own DNR customer account.

Anyone hunting with a mentored-only license:

- Must stay within arm’s reach of a licensed hunter (mentor) over age 18,
- Must have all required hunting approvals for the applicable season (license, permit, tag, etc.), and
- Must comply with all other hunting laws, including season, bag limit and weapon regulations.

Fall is a busy time of year for the hunter education program, and it can be

hard to find a class before the hunting seasons open.

“The mentored hunting law allows new hunters to participate and start gaining hunting experience safely, even if they haven’t yet gone through the formal hunter education course required by the state of Wisconsin to hunt independently,” said Emily Iehl, DNR hunting and shooting sports program specialist.

Individuals of any age, including under age 10, may purchase a mentored-only hunting license.

Under the mentored hunting law, mentors may have any valid, non-expired Wisconsin hunting approval, regardless of the

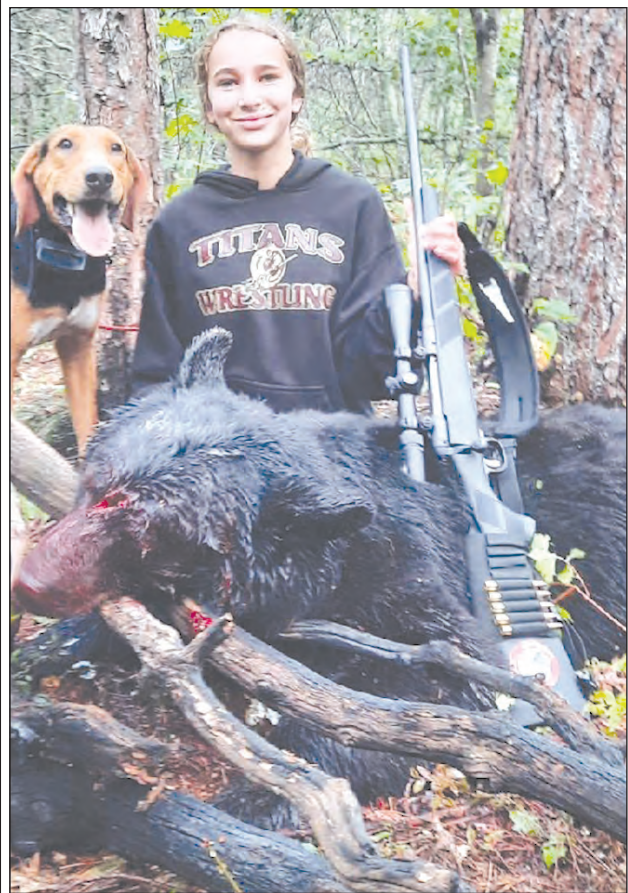
type of game pursued by the mentee. Hunters may only mentor one mentee without hunter education certification at a time. Mentors may hunt alongside their mentees as long as they have the necessary harvest authorizations and stamps.

In addition to the mentored hunting law, Wisconsin offers a variety of opportunities to help facilitate mentored hunting for people of all ages and backgrounds, including hunter education and the learn to hunt program.

Learn more about mentored hunting on the DNR’s outdoor skills education webpage.



Contributed photo
Jake Stuessel, 14, of Alma Center shot this dandy the opening morning of this year’s youth hunt while hunting between Sparta and Cataract.



Contributed photo
Emma Kampen had a pretty good bear hunt this year, tagging this 185-pounder while hunting with her dad Lance and hunting partner, Rocky (l), in the Chequamegon Forest. While this was the first year she was old enough to apply for a bear tag and actually carry a gun, it wasn’t her first bear hunt. The 12-year-old says she’s been going on bear hunts with her family since she was eight months old.



Contributed photo
Tim Tresemer harvested this eight-point buck on the first day of the gun deer season in 2022.



Submitted photo
River, 8, successfully hunted a turkey on family farmland in Neillsville. River, son of Adam and Ashley (not pictured), loves hunting rabbits and deer. River participated in the youth turkey hunt April 15 and 16.

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Contributed photos
The Bucholz family had a successful weekend during this year’s youth hunt Oct. 14-15 while hunting on the family farm in the Pine Hill area. Shane Bucholz (l), 12, shot his 10-pointer the first day and this was Shane’s first deer. Brock Bucholz (center), 12, shot his six-pointer and this was his second deer. Chase Bucholz (r), 10, decided he wanted a hat more than a deer.



Contributed photo
Ella Sedelbauer harvested her first deer during the 2023 Youth Hunt, accompanied by her dad, Ryan. It was a big 10-point buck. The rifle used was apparently a lucky family rifle when it comes to first buck hunting.

Wolves federally protected

Following a federal court ruling Feb. 10, 2022, gray wolves are listed as an endangered species in the lower 48 states (excluding the northern Rocky Mountains region). As such, wolves are federally protected. Harvest and lethal depredation control are prohibited.

Wisconsin’s population remains healthy and secure in the state. The department will continue its robust wolf population monitoring program and the development of an updated wolf management plan. The DNR will continue to partner with USDA-Wildlife Services

to address wolf conflicts in Wisconsin.

If you suspect wolves in the depredation of livestock, pets or hunting dogs, or if wolves are exhibiting threatening or dangerous behavior, contact USDA-Wildlife Services staff immediately. If in northern Wisconsin, call 1-800-228-1368 or 715-369-5221; in southern Wisconsin, call 1-800-433-0663 or 920-324-4514. While gray wolves are listed as a federally endangered species, it remains unlawful to shoot a wolf unless there is an immediate threat to human safety.



DNR photo
A 2022 federal court order prohibits the killing of gray wolves.



Contributed photo
It was a successful year for Conrad and Sandy Kozik and Jerry and Joe Cernick. They shot their memorable bucks about five miles south of Neillsville.



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Successful bear hunt a family affair

By JoDee Brooke

Eleven-year-old Liam True decided he wanted to go bear hunting so he did what he needed to do to make that happen.

“We applied for the Learn to Hunt Bear program through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and he was chosen,” shared Liam’s mom, Marcy.

The family, Liam, his mom and younger brother spent three weekends in Boulder Junction learning how to hunt bears with dogs. “The class was for the whole family, so Liam, along with myself and his nine-year-old brother, Owen, attended the class,” explained Marcy. “The first weekend was learning to bait and learning the area. During the second weekend, we spent the first day in the classroom learning about bear hunting; some activities included learning to track bear and ethical hunting practices and we ended with some time at the shooting range.

The family got up at 4:30 each morning and met their guide at 5 to start the hunt. “We usually hunted until 8 to 9 a.m.,” said Marcy. “During that time, they also filled the 12 bait stations. They used cookie dough for bait. Each bait station got about a five-gallon bucket of cookie dough shoved into a carved-out stump and then covered with a large chunk of a tree ring so that other critters didn’t get into the bait.”

They had 12 dogs but only six dogs are allowed to run on each hunt, so sometimes if it’s a longer chase, they have to catch the dogs and switch them out. “This group usually only runs a maximum of four dogs on a hunt,” said Marcy. “Our guide’s name was Sam Radalen, and he lives in the

Madison area. I believe he has been hunting with dogs for about 15 years. Another one of the guide’s name is Alaina Roth, and she is a biologist for the DNR and she lives near Boulder. They hunt with a group of about four or five others. Each of the hunters drive their trucks with their own dogs, but all the dogs have been trained to work together. The guides all work together to communicate where the dogs are running and to be sure they do not enter anyone’s private property and to direct the dogs in a certain direction.”

The dogs each have collars that have a GPS tracking capability. They also had trail cams to see which baits were hit and if there were wolves in the area.

Liam said he really liked the hunt. “I would love to do it again,” he said. “The dogs we hunted with were named Ellie and Nelly and Boomer and Becky.”

“Driving in the trucks on the trails was really fun because it is a bumpy ride and sometimes you see the bears cross right in front or behind the truck,” shared Marcy. “They also look at the trail to see if they can see bear tracks to determine how big the bear is and which direction they are going and how long since they passed through. The dogs absolutely love hunting and whine and howl when it is not their turn to hunt.”

They hunted the second and third days of their second weekend, but there were wolves in the area and the weather was not favorable for the dogs, with 70-plus degrees. They traveled back to Boulder Junction for a third time and Liam shot his first bear Aug. 25.

“I had no idea what the heck I was getting myself

into,” said Marcy. “It was an amazing learning experience for the whole family.”

“As far as processing the bear, a friend of mine did some research, and we processed the bear in my kitchen,” said Marcy. “All the meat is frozen in my deep freezer, but we plan to grind some up and make bear brats. We did smoke and eat the ribs right away because they were so big. I didn’t have room to freeze them. They were giant and delicious.”

They took the hide to Twisted Tines taxidermy in Galesville to get a rug made. “A bear rug is costly, but it takes over a year to make, so I have time to save up for it,” Marcy said. “We are also going to get the skull back and my niece wants to make a European mount with it.”

“This was truly an incredible experience for our family, and I am not sure we will ever get this opportunity again,” Marcy said. “Running dogs to hunt is an extremely costly hobby.”

They’re estimating the bear was two to three years old and probably weighed around 250 pounds or more.

“I shot it one time through the neck,” said Liam.

This wasn’t Liam’s first hunt, though. He shot his first deer last year during the youth hunt. He also participated in the youth hunt this year but didn’t get anything. “I was glad, because now he understands that you just don’t go out and get an animal every time, that and I still have this bear to process.

Marcy grew up in Black River Falls but moved to Alaska in 2005. “My kids grew up subsistence salmon fishing, so we are just learning how to hunt but both my boys love it, and I am thankful to be able to fill the freezer. We have a lot to learn but the two hunting experiences have been fantastic.”



Contributed photo
After completing the Department of Natural Resources’ Learn to Hunt Bear program, Liam True, 11, and his mom and brother headed out on their first bear hunt. On their third day out, Liam shot his first bear and was able to share the experience with his family.

How do you prepare wild meat before cooking?

- Clean away any traces remaining from the hunt.
- Defrost slowly and bring to room temperature before cooking.
- Open vacuum-packed meat to the air to get rid of any smell.
- Always salt before cooking – and curing in salt works well too.
- Cut semi-frozen meat into small pieces for sautéing.

Good Luck Hunters

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A N LARKIN
BUCK SHOT NEAR DRAPER WISCONSIN
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Contributed photo

This picture of Albert Larkin and his buck that was shot near Draper, WI, in the 1930s was shared by Albert's family. The buck weighed in at 243 pounds.

Lemon-Pepper Catfish

4 eggs
1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 cup cornmeal
1 tablespoon lemon-pepper seasoning
6 (6 ounce) catfish fillets
1/4 cup margarine

Directions: Whisk eggs in a shallow bowl. Combine flour, cornmeal and lemon-pepper seasoning in another shallow bowl. Working one at a time, dip fillets in egg, then dredge in flour until well coated.

In a large frying pan, melt margarine over medium-high heat. Pan-fry breaded catfish in batches until golden brown, about 3 minutes per side. Drain briefly on paper towels and serve.



Contributed photo

Sam Rogstad of Alma Center had a successful opening day during this fall's bow season, bringing home this 10-pointer, where his fiancée, Olivia, and daughter, Lainey, were waiting with smiles.



Contributed photo

Jonah Sahr shot his first buck this fall during the youth hunt in October while hunting with his grandpa, Jim Biksdski. His first buck was this nice six-pointer.

Highly visible clothing requirements for small game hunting

When and where a firearm deer season is in progress, it is illegal to hunt any game, except waterfowl, unless at least 50% of the hunter's outer clothing above the waist is colored blaze orange or fluorescent pink. A hat or other head covering, if worn, must be at least 50% blaze orange or fluorescent pink. Faded or stained blaze orange or fluorescent pink clothing is unsafe and may not meet law requirements.

Although not as visible, camo-blaze is legal if 50% of the material is blaze orange or fluorescent pink. The DNR recommends 100% solid blaze orange or fluorescent pink.

Note: Highly visible clothing requirements do not apply to those hunters participating in legal night hunting (e.g., raccoon) from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes



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Grant, of Clark County, brought down a doe with his mentor, Andrew.



Isabella Stenulson (left), 14, of Clark County bagged herself a doe during the hunt, watched over by Jeanette.



Hunter Hulce (right) from Minnesota bagged a jake during the 2023 Youth Turkey Hunt with his mentor, Larry.



Isabella Kroening (middle), 15, shot a doe in the 2023 deer hunt, mentored by Desiree.

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Contributed photo
Rob Hawley of Merrilan is pictured with a 10-point buck last year. The buck was six-and-a-half years old and weighed 220 pounds.



Contributed photo
Elizabeth Culton, 12, is pictured with her first-ever buck, shot opening day of the 2022 rifle season. She bagged her first buck hunting with her mentor, Joe Cernik, on the family farm. This dandy was a 14-pointer with a 19-inch spread.



Henry Anderson, 11, son of Al and Lorna Anderson, Ettrick, shot this nice 10-point buck with a crossbow outside of Ettrick on a family friend's property Oct. 22 during the youth hunt. The buck had a 19.25-inch spread and a dressed weight of 212 pounds.

Fried Venison Backstrap

Ingredients:
1 (2 pound) venison backstrap, cut into 1/4 inch-thick slices
2 1/2 cups milk, divided
2 tablespoons hot pepper sauce
3 cups vegetable oil for frying
3 cups all-purpose flour
2 tablespoons salt
1 tablespoon ground black pepper
2 eggs
Directions: Place venison slices into a shallow bowl and pour in 2 cups milk and hot sauce. Stir to coat, then cover and marinate for 1 hour.

Heat vegetable oil in an electric fryer or skillet to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C).
Set up a dredging station: Stir together flour, salt and pepper in a shallow bowl. Whisk eggs and remaining 1/2 cup milk together in a separate shallow bowl.
Dip venison slices into the flour mixture, then into the egg mixture, then back into the flour mixture. Shake off excess flour. Fry in the hot oil until lightly browned on each side, about 3 minutes. Remove with tongs and drain briefly on paper towels before serving.



How do you get the gamey taste out of wild meat?

You can remove the gamey taste of game in several ways.
First is to brine it in a solution of 1/4 cup kosher salt to 1 quart water overnight; that's the ratio, since you will often need more than a quart. A second method is to soak meat in milk in the fridge overnight.

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Don't spread invasive plants this hunting season

Heading out to your tree stand or hunting blind this fall? Avoid adding invasive species to your hunting party by taking a few simple steps to help protect your woods.

Non-native invasive plants often outcompete native plants in forest environments, degrading diversity and destroying wildlife habitat. Invasive plants can replace local forest species and may interfere with or

decrease tree regeneration. They may take over woodlands, prairies and wetlands, and many provide ideal habitats for pests that harm wildlife and people alike.

Invasive plants are often not palatable to local wildlife, reducing natural forage because animals like deer prefer native plants. This can create a domino effect and cause deer to migrate away from their usual habitats in

search of more food.

Although invasive plants are easily spread by seeds on vehicles, boots and other gear, there are a few precautions you can take to avoid spreading invasive plants this hunting season:

Inspect your clothes, vehicle, gear and dogs, both before and after each hunt.

Pack a boot brush in your vehicle so you can easily remove plants, seeds and mud

from your boots and gear before leaving the site.

If possible, park in non-vegetated areas to avoid carrying seeds on your vehicle.

Learn to identify the invasive species common to your area so you know what to look for on your next hunting trip and can better aid in slowing the spread of invasive plants.

Learn more about best management practices for

hunters and trappers by checking out all the best management practices for outdoor recreationists on the Wisconsin Council on Forestry's page.

Invasive species threaten the future of hunting and

fishing. Defend your favorite places by taking these precautions and helping to slow the spread of invasive plants on your next hunt.



Hank Stranberg, a 10-year-old from Alma Center, harvested two bucks this year. The one on the left is a 10-point buck that he nicknamed "Taco" that he harvested during the bow season. On the right is the buck he harvested during the youth gun hunt after sitting all day waiting for one. His patience was rewarded at about 3:30 p.m.



Mark Nordahl has been keeping an eye on and getting pictures of this buck while bow hunting. When it came time for rifle season, the opportunity came and he harvested this nine-pointer on Sunday, Nov. 20, opening weekend, putting the 2022 rifle season in the books.

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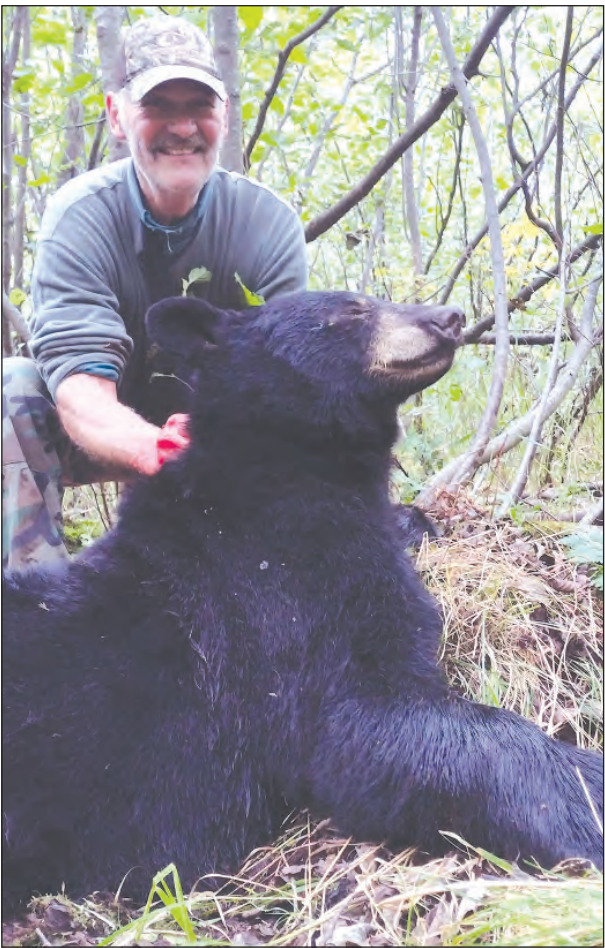
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Wisconsin's hunting seasons

Nationally recognized as one of the country's premier states for hunting white-tailed deer, Wisconsin has both an abundant herd and a reputation for producing some of the largest bucks in the world. Hunters have a number of opportunities this fall.

2023 SEASON DATES
Archery and Crossbow*
- Sept. 16 -Jan. 7, 2024
Youth Deer Hunt - Oct. 7-8
Gun Deer Hunt for Hunters with Disabilities**
- Oct. 7-15
Gun - Nov. 18-26
Muzzleloader - Nov. 27 -Dec. 6
Statewide Antlerless-only - Dec. 7-10
Antlerless-only Holiday Hunt*** - Dec. 24 -Jan. 1, 2024
* Season continues until Jan. 31, 2024 in metro sub-units and select farmland counties.
** This is not a state-wide season. More information is available at the DNR's Deer Hunting for Hunters With Disabilities webpage.
*** Open only in select farmland (zone 2) counties;

Contributed photo
On the second day of the baiting season Dan Schreiner of Granton harvested this 196-pound field-dressed bear on his property in Price County. The joy of the hunt for this 72-year-old is being able to set up his stand, do all his own baiting, solo hunt and anchor his bear with one shot from his .54-caliber muzzleloader - all the same as his last 325-plus pound bear in 2012.



Contributed photo
Pictured is Larry Whaley (middle) and his grandsons (left) Edwin and Emerett with Larry's 26.32 pound turkey he harvested.

An avid duck hunter was in the market for a new bird dog. His search ended when he found a dog that could actually - incredibly - walk on water to retrieve a duck. Shocked by his find, he was sure none of his friends would ever believe him.

He decided to try to break the news to a friend of his, the eternal pessimist who refused to be impressed with anything. This, surely, would impress him. He invited him to hunt with him and his new dog. As they waited by the shore, a flock of ducks flew by. They fired and a duck fell. The dog responded and jumped into the water.

The dog did not swim, however, but instead walked across the water to retrieve the bird, never getting more than his paws wet.

This continued all day long; each time a duck fell, the dog walked across the surface of the water to retrieve it.

The pessimist watched carefully, saw everything, but did not say a single word.

On the drive home, the hunter asked his friend, "Did you notice anything unusual about my new dog?"

"I sure did," responded the pessimist. "He can't swim."

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Contributed photos
Adam Massman of Alma Center is pictured with two bucks he shot last year. On the left is the buck he harvested during the 2022 bow season. On the right is the buck he harvested in the 2022 gun season.



Contributed photos
The Youth Hunt was successful for nine-year-old Landon Seekamp of Black River Falls. Landon went hunting with his dad and harvested his first buck, an eight-pointer, and his doe during the hunt.



Contributed photo
When Tom Davidson’s daughter, Charlotte, woke up last Tuesday morning, she told her dad she’d had a dream that they had shot a big buck while hunting together. So, Dad asked Charlotte if she wanted to go hunting with him that afternoon. “Yes,” Charlotte told her dad. Once they got to their stand, it wasn’t long before a few deer meandered by. Forty-five minutes of being at their spot, this 10-pointer came into view. “Charlotte started jumping up and down with excitement,” shared Tom. “After calming her down, we waited for him to get a little closer.” At 40 yards, Tom took the perfect shot. “We got him,” a very excited Charlotte said to her dad. “It was the best experience ever; out of all the deer I’ve ever shot, this tops the memory bank,” shared Tom.

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Badger Mining-DNR partnership continues to make dreams come true

The BMC Taylor Property hosted seven of the hunters

This gun deer hunt season for hunters with disabilities marked the 23rd year Badger Mining Corporation (BMC) has been a company sponsor of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) annual

nine-day deer gun hunt for people with disabilities.

The WDNR began the hunt in 1990 in order to provide hunting opportunities for individuals with certain disabilities at a time of year when temperatures are generally milder and mobility in the woods and fields is easier.

BMC began participating in the program in 2001 for one of their associates, Bob Bartol, who was injured in a swimming accident decades before. Bob hunted each year right up until his death in November 2018.

The hunt originally took place at BMC's St. Marie property in Green Lake County, but was expanded to include BMC's Fairwater property in Green Lake and Fond du Lac counties in 2006 and its Taylor property in Jackson and Trempealeau counties in 2008.

Throughout the three properties, BMC accommodated 10 hunters this year, five of which were new and five returning. This year's hunters ranged in age from 25 to 90 years old and came from every corner of Wisconsin to participate. Six of the hunters are confined to wheelchairs.

For the hunters, the hunt represents more than just a chance to get a deer. Aside from sitting in the woods and fields, hunters at BMC's properties also share meals and strike up friendships with many of the BMC associates and friends who volunteer to help each year.



Contributed photo

Loren Parker from Merrillan, WI, is no stranger to the BMC hunt having participated a few times in the past. Loren's patience and determination prevailed as he and his dad, Rohland Parker, toughed out the nasty weather that began soaking the area with rain to connect on a monster buck. This 10-point beast tipped the scales at 308 pounds live weight...yes that is not a typo! This ties the record for the largest buck weight harvested at the BMC Taylor Plant. The other 308-pound buck was also taken during the October hunt in 2011 by Bob Bartol.

"Regardless of whether they get a deer or not, all the hunters come out of this special program with smiles,

new friendships and memories that last a lifetime," says Tiffany Thoma, BMC associate. "And, when the hunt

is over each year, you cannot help but get excited for

See BMC, page 13

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NORTH AMERICAN FLY

BMC, continued from page 12

the following year’s season after hearing the stories and memories made by each and every participant. This is why BMC continues to be a company sponsor of such a wonderful program.”



Contributed photo
Brad Ewert from Ettrick, WI, enjoyed a couple evening hunts, but did not harvest a deer. Despite not harvesting, Brad was simply able to enjoy the outdoors.



Contributed photo
Veteran hunter Bernie Beck from Hixton, WI, broke the ice harvesting a good 8-point buck opening Saturday evening of Badger Mining’s (BMC) disabled hunt. Bernie is 90 years old and brought some vivid color to the deer camp stories...a lot of experience in those eyes. Bernie followed up with a doe harvest on Monday morning. Pictured (l-r) are Steve Beck, Bernie Beck and Dave Shramek.



Contributed photo
Lindsay Muench from Campbellsport, WI, returned to Taylor with her mom and dad after a 12-year hiatus for another hunt with BMC. On her second evening, Lindsay had a shot at a good 10-pointer, but was heartbroken when the hit resulted in no blood. With nothing to follow, her team backed out and later brought in a dog to attempt a recovery, but no avail. A day later, a trail camera photo confirmed the deer was simply nicked and will live to tell his version of the story. The next evening, Lindsay was able connect on a good 9-pointer to fill her tag.

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Zones 6-7 –
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Camp V hunt, continued from page 14



Submitted photo
Kurt Carlson shot this doe during the annual Vietnam Veterans’ Hunt at Camp Victory near Willard last October.



Submitted photo
Vietnam veteran Allen “Rody” Trodenberg won this quilt while attending the Vietnam Veterans’ Hunt at Camp Victory near Willard Oct. 19-22 last year. All the hunters’ names were put in a drawing to win the quilt.



Submitted photo
Veteran Rick Cherone shows the eight-point buck he harvested during the Camp Victory’s Purple Heart Hunt Oct. 26-29. Camp Victory is on Sterling Avenue west of Greenwood and north of Willard.

Bacon-Wrapped Venison Tenderloin with Garlic Cream Sauce

Ingredients:
6 thick slices bacon
2 (3/4 pound) venison tenderloin roasts
2 teaspoons olive oil, divided
1/4 teaspoon onion powder, divided
kosher salt and ground black pepper to taste
2 tablespoons butter
1 (8 ounce) package sliced cremini mushrooms
2 cloves garlic, chopped
1 tablespoon chopped green onion, or more to taste
1/2 cup heavy whipping cream, or more to taste

Directions: Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Arrange bacon slices on a slotted baking

pan. Bake bacon in the preheated oven until partially cooked but still flexible, 6 to 8 minutes.
Brush venison tenderloins with olive oil and season with onion powder, salt and black pepper. Place tenderloin roasts side by side and wrap them together in strips of partially cooked bacon. Place into a roasting pan.
Roast in the preheated oven until bacon is browned and an instant-read meat thermometer inserted into the thickest part of a tenderloin reads at least 145 degrees F (65 degrees C), about 1 hour.
Heat butter in a saucepan over medium heat. Add

mushrooms and garlic; cook and stir until mushrooms are soft, 8 to 10 minutes. Stir in green onion. Stir in cream and cook, stirring often, until heated through. Serve sauce with tenderloins.
Tips: Every deer will produce different sizes of tenderloin and every butcher is different in cuts of venison. Some butchers will cut tenderloins into steaks like filet mignon; others will leave the tenderloins like small roasts (which I believe keeps the meat tender and it won’t dry out). For best results, use an instant-read meat thermometer and adjust cooking times accordingly.



Submitted photo
Selena Schneider (left), 14, of Wood County, took down a buck under the eye of her mentor, Desiree.

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BRF’s Andy Ellingson plants acorns, a deer favorite

Some people plant food plots. Andy Ellingson of Black River Falls plants acorns.

Food plots are great, but acorn planting is often overlooked. Andy got into acorn planting last year after being encouraged by a Wisconsin DNR (Department of Natural Resources) forester.

Ellingson’s acorn planting took off after connecting with Michigan’s Lowell Larson, the owner of the company that makes the acorn planting tool.

Last year, Andy planted 1,250 and this year 1,750 acorns. He focuses on white oak. Next year Ellingson plans to plant bur oak. The white oak family of trees is less susceptible to oak wilt. Diversity is key.

Planting acorns is a great way to create deer browse and cover. It’s a sound forestry practice and helps a variety of wildlife, while also resulting in a more aesthetically appealing native woods. It’s less expensive and easier than planting tree seedlings.

There is nothing wrong with planting seedlings, though. Andy gathers his own acorns. There’s a process to it. You don’t just grab an acorn and bury it. You could, but proper techniques greatly improve success and efficiency. There is a lot of good information about this topic online.

It is rewarding and relaxing to get out in the woods and plant acorns. It’s good exercise and gives a person a chance to learn more about



Contributed photo
Andy Ellingson of Black River Falls got into planting acorns last year after being encouraged by a Wisconsin DNR forester. He planted 1,250 last year and 1,750 more this year. Ellingson is pictured with his acorns and planting tool that is called ‘the squirrel.’

their property.

Some people buy their acorns from Wisconsin DNR. Some start them in pots in their house. Thus far, Ellingson has relied solely on planting acorns directly in the ground. Relying on nature to naturally regenerate a forest suits some landowner’s needs, but by planting acorns you can steer your property in a faster

growing and more strategic direction. “Consider giving it a try on your land next year,” said Ellingson.

Seeds can be purchased from the DNR at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/treplanting/buyseed> and the planter can be found at <https://www.nutplanter.com/contact.html>.



Submitted photo
Tovinn Grannis (right), 15, of Wood County hunted a doe during the 2023 Fall Youth Deer Hunt, accompanied by his mentor, Eddie.



Submitted photo
Kina Grannis (left), 13, of Wood County, hunted a doe under the mentorship of Rich.



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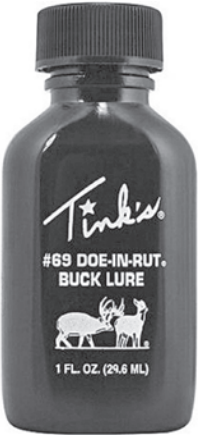
Blaze Orange
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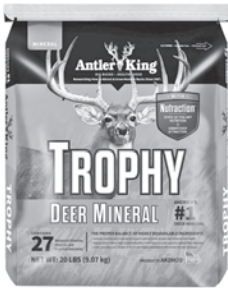
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Scent
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SUPER CHARGED
SCENT
KILLER
ODORLESS FORMULA
99%
12 FL. OZ. (354 ML) WILDLIFE
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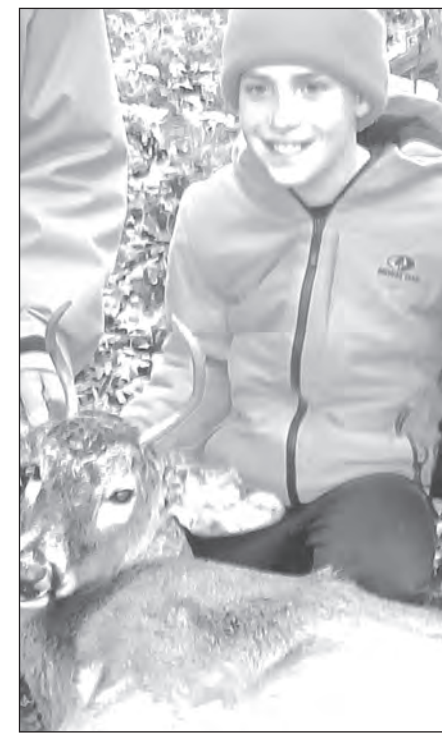
Trophy Rock
TROPHY
ROCK
ALL NUTRITIONAL MINERAL LURE
27



Vanish Allen Foam
Seat Cushion



Contributed photo
Hannah Miller harvested this 377-pound black bear on Jackson County public land while hunting with her husband, Garrett, Sept. 10, five days after the bear season opener. Avid outdoor enthusiasts, the Millers spend a good amount of time hunting and fishing together.



Caleb Ellingson of Black River Falls was successful his first year ever hunting. He harvested this buck the final weekend of the 2022 gun deer season in Jackson County.

Contributed photo



Submitted photo
Charlie (left), of Wood County, hunted a turkey with his mentor, Tiffany, during the 2023 Youth Turkey Hunt.



Submitted photo
Chloe Hulce (right), 14, from Minnesota, got herself a doe, accompanied by her mentor, Lily in the Fall Youth Deer Hunt.



Dominic Ledesma harvested his 10-point buck during the 2022 gun season. Ledesma lives in Madison and was hunting on his property in City Point when he shot his buck.

Contributed photo

Baked Catfish Parmesan

- 1 lb. skinless catfish fillets
- 1/2 cup dry bread crumbs
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 T. chopped parsley
- 1/2 tsp. paprika
- 1/4 tsp. dried oregano
- 1/4 tsp. dried basil
- 2 tsp. pepper
- 1/3 cup milk
- 2 tsp. vegetable oil

Combine bread crumbs, Parmesan cheese and seasonings. Dip fillets in milk and then roll in crumb mixture. Spray baking pan with nonstick coating. Arrange fish in pan. Drizzle oil over fish. Bake at 450 degrees about 8-10 minutes or just until fish flakes easily. Yields 4 servings

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Contributed photo
Kenzie Peterson was really excited that her dad, Joe, harvested this nice 11-point buck while hunting in Hixton during the 2022 season.



Contributed photo
Broc Thompson of Black River Falls is pictured with an eight-point buck in the 2021 bow season. The buck had a 17-inch inside spread and was 189 pounds dressed.



Contributed photo
Sadie Schmidt of Merillan shot her nine-pointer with a 20-inch spread during last year's gun deer season.

Slow Cooker Squirrel and Veggies

This slow-cooked squirrel is a no-brainer for a first-time cooker of squirrel. The meat will fall off the bone.

Ingredients:

- 1 onion, cut into chunks
- 2 cups baby carrots
- 4 large potatoes, cut into small chunks
- 1 large green bell pepper, cut into chunks
- 2 cloves garlic
- 4 cubes chicken bouillon
- salt and pepper to taste
- 3 squirrels - skinned, gutted, and cut into pieces
- water to cover
- 2 tablespoons flour

Directions: Place the onion, carrots, potatoes, bell pepper, garlic, chicken bouillon, salt and pepper in a slow-cooker. Lay the squirrel meat on top of the vegetable mixture. Pour enough water over the mixture to cover completely. Cover and cook on high for 6 hours. Stir the flour into the mixture and cook another 2 hours.

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