

Sports

THURSDAY, JULY 6, 2023

The lure of wood heat

By DENNIS SIEBERT

In ancient Greek mythology, a Siren was a hybrid creature with the body of a bird and the head of a woman. Sirens would lure sailors to destruction by having them crash their boats against the rock shore. With their seductive boomboxes sweet voices, the sailors would lose their concentration and wreck their vessel.

Today, like many others, I am drawn to the warmth, the romance and the charm of a wood stove. The warmth ebbs from a wood stove is like nothing else. I am able to achieve energy and independence from the expense of buying propane gas.

I have read that a wood stove increases the value of one's home by five percent. More importantly the tradition of burning wood is a tradition where real men and women would forge into the woods cutting down dead trees, cutting them up into foot-long lengths and hauling them back to one's cabin. Before I finally tossed that log into the fire, I would have touched that same piece about five times. That work alone kept me warm.

My romance with the woodstove was dashed to pieces with the smoke coming from the fires in Canada. Hopefully, we have all learned that with the smoke from Canada are small particles that affect our throat, our lungs, our very life. These tiny particles are small enough to enter our bloodstream even our brain. The young, the elderly and those with respiratory problems, like asthma, suffer the most from these small particles.

The air quality around me will not dissipate, when the fires in Canada are put out. The hundreds of woodstoves that surround me will continue polluting the air I breathe. I am one of those pollutants and I plan to take action.

Put this in your pipe and smoke it. About 17 percent of our air pollution is caused by woodstoves. It is estimated that causes for cancer are 12 times higher than from a similar amount of smoke from cigarettes. Even worse than the smoke from woodstoves is the number of people with outdoor pits where the smoke is sent directly into the air.

It is true, some of the newer models of woodstoves cut down the emission of these black particles. However where I live, most of the wood stoves are of the older models. If we are truly concerned with our air quality, we better leave the romance of the woodstove and fall in love with clean air.

Woodstoves are a very serious problem and I see no one stepping up to the plate to deal with it.

Summit Players Theatre

July 7

Copper Falls State Park

Workshop 5:30 | Show 7:00

July 8

Amnicon Falls State Park*

Workshop 5:30 | Show 7:00

July 14

Rib Mountain State Park

Workshop 5:30 | Show 7:00

July 15

Kohler-Andrae State Park

Workshop 5:30 | Show 7:00

July 16

Peninsula State Park

Workshop 1:00 | Show 2:30

July 21

Lake Kegonsa State Park

Workshop 5:30 | Show 7:00

July 22

Mirror Lake State Park

Workshop 5:30 | Show 7:00

August 4

Wildcat Mountain St. Park

Workshop 5:30 | Show 7:00

August 5

Merrick State Park

Workshop 5:30 | Show 7:00

August 6

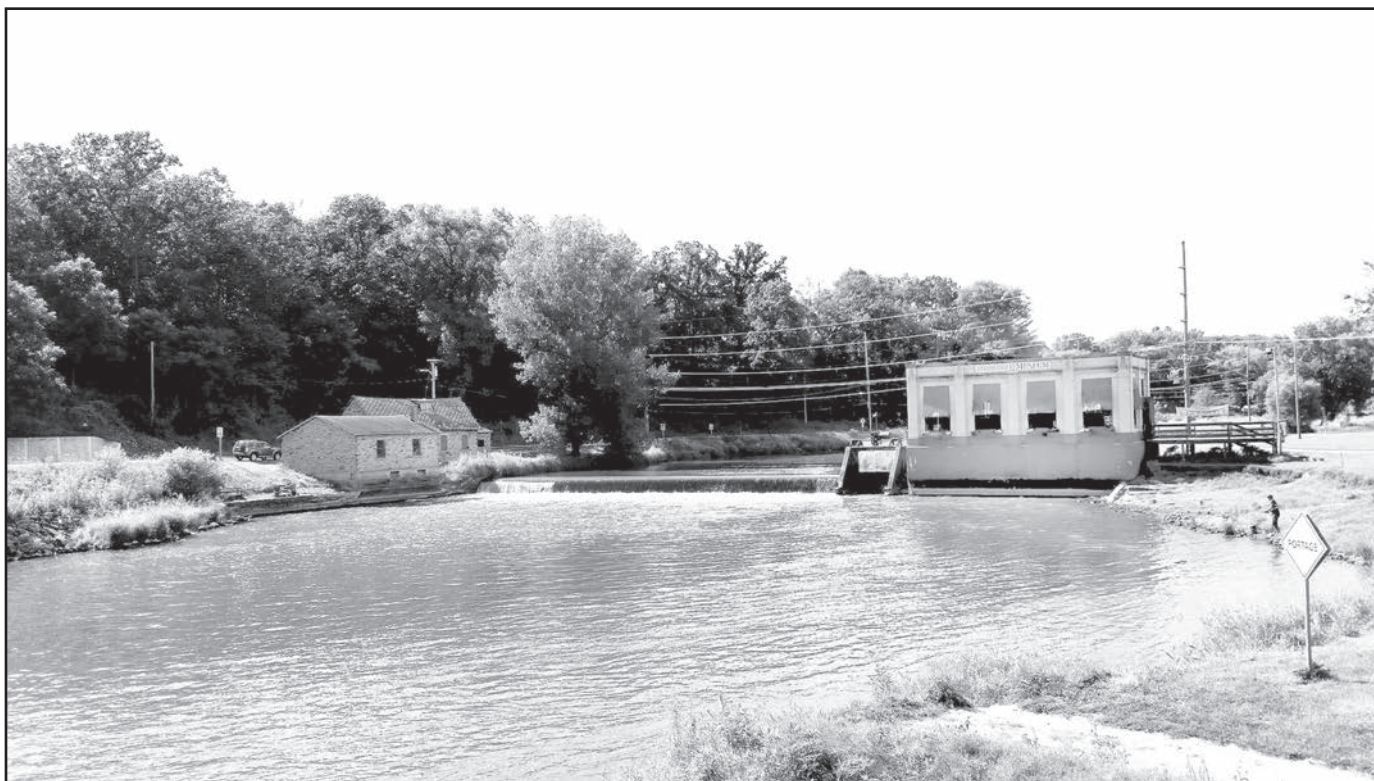
Perrot State Park

Workshop 1:00 | Show 2:30

August 11

Lake Wissota State Park

Workshop 5:30 | Show 7:00



THE TRADITIONS of fishing have deep roots along the banks of the Kickapoo River, particularly near the dam in Gays Mills. Len Harris has been fishing there for over 50 years and is no stranger to the nuances and etiquette of fishing in the Driftless Area. The historic dam was the perfect site for Len's knowledge to be passed down to a new generation, thus carrying on the rich legacy of fishing.

At the dam in Gays Mills

Passing fishing heritage between generations

By LEN HARRIS

I was fishing in my hometown yesterday. Had just gotten there and a vehicle pulled up and an older gentleman stepped out and asked me how the fishing was. As I answered him, I caught a small mouth bass. I told him that I had just gotten there and it was my first cast.

They drove upstream and were fishing about fifty yards above me for a while. I liked it that they did not come down on top of me and fish where I had just started.

After a while, I saw them park back near my vehicle and just sit in there and waited for me to finish. I saw a father and son and grandfather get out of the vehicle.

The only one with a fishing rod was the young man about 13 I guess.

They were going to go downstream of me and fish in the rocks. I saw the young man carrying two rods that looked brand new. I invited the young man to come and fish where I was fishing. I was impressed that the grandfather did not walk the trio down to my area. He taught the grandson fishing etiquette.

Watching young angler

I just sat there and watched as he fished for a little while. He had a bait caster and a spinning rig. His father and grandfather sat on the bench and watched him fish. Grandfather was local, but dad and son were from Milwaukee.

I could tell from his casting that he was new to fishing. The young man promptly blew a backlash in his bait casting reel. He sat down and worked on it for quite some time.

I recommended the young man should use the spinning reel because it was better for new anglers. The young man listened and started casting. I took a couple lures out of my tackle box and told him that these were better suited for the water.

I told him where to cast. The young man promptly caught a small mouth bass. The new angler was a little bashful about how to handle the smallie. His dad took a picture of the first fish ever and both grandpa and father

were proud of the kid's first fish. I gave the young man another lure and told him that the area was his and good luck.

I vividly remember the first fish I ever caught. The young man's smile was just as big as mine from 61 years ago. He tried to give back the two lures that I gave him and I told him that they were his and catch a monster. The young man thanked me for the lures and the tips.

I was smiling as I drove away. Long ago, I had done classes in schools trying to teach young anglers to fish, but had never done any hands on instruction. Another angler will be spending all of his extra money on fishing lures for rest of his life.

Thanks to Summit Players Theatre

Shakespeare comes alive at Wyalusing State Park

BY AMBROSIA WOJAHN

The Summit Players Theatre gave a production of Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' at Wyalusing State Park on Saturday, June 17. The production is part of a travelling series the group is bringing to state parks across Wisconsin this summer.

Around 20 audience members gathered on a hillside to view the performance by the last golden breath of daylight. Using minimal props and even incorporating the audience for sound effects, the production was exquisitely captivating.

The six thespians brought the drama vividly to life, ig-

niting the complex dynamics and powerful themes with which Shakespeare's script is steeped.

Some of the players juggled as many as seven roles in the condensed production. Even so, they effectively captured the raw emotion raging within each character without sacrificing the play's comedic value.

Macbeth, played by Cole Conrad, can be seen wrestling with his own mind, as paranoia and fear overtake him. Maya Danks embodies the resolve, composure, and eventual shattering of Lady Macbeth throughout the course of the play.

Banquo, played by Matthew Torkilsen, provides a contrast to Macbeth's character and later a haunting symbol of torment.

Three witches appear

The three witches are depicted with strong cohesion and eerie choreography performed by Kaylene Howard, Caroline Norton, and Maya Danks.

George Lorimer acts out the intensity of Macduff's devastation and anger with strong emphasis.

The play received a warm reaction from audience members and the cast answered questions afterward about the overall production.

In total, the play was rehearsed for four weeks following the memorization of lines. The production was directed and adapted by Maureen Kilmurray. Costume design was done by Amelia Strahan, with scenic design by Cal Eiche. Music composition and direction was done by Michael Nicholas.

Summit Players is a non-profit organization. This season's sponsors include Marquette University, Marquette Theatre, Wisconsin Humanities, Wisconsin Arts Board, the National Endowment for the Arts, Wisconsin DNR, and the United Performing Arts Fund.



IT WAS A PLEASANT summer night when an audience gathered at Wyalusing State Park to watch the Summit Players Theatre perform Macbeth. Cole Conrad (left) is seen here soliloquizing, as Macbeth, shortly after the character has been crowned King of Scotland. Lady Macbeth, played by Maya Danks, stands off to the right.

Warming waters increase fish kills

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) alerts the public that because water temperatures are heating up, anglers may notice more dead fish than usual on their favorite waterbodies.

Many underlying causes can explain this uptick in fish die-offs during warmer periods, from pathogens such as bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites, to environmental issues like low dissolved oxygen levels and thermal stress. The DNR reminds anglers and boaters to report fish kill events to their local fish biologist.

It is important to note any fish kill needs to be thoroughly investigated through coordinated efforts between biologists and fish health staff to confirm the underlying cause. Because dead fish decay quickly in warm temperatures and water conditions can change rapidly, it won't always be possible to definitively determine the reason for a fish kill.

Though anglers and boaters may see high numbers of dead or diseased fish as waters warm, know that these events usually do not have a lasting impact on the larger fish population.

The DNR urges anglers and their pets to never consume dead or visibly sick fish. Thoroughly cook any harvested fish and follow the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's food safety guidelines.

If you catch a diseased or dying fish or observe a fish kill, please take the following steps:

- always wear gloves or wash your hands after handling dead or dying fish.
 - anglers should not actively collect fish samples from a fish kill event. If you accidentally catch a diseased or dying fish, retain the fish as a part of your daily bag limit and place the fish in a plastic bag on ice in a cooler. Do not transport the fish to a DNR office or hatchery.
 - note the waterbody, date, fish species and number of dead or dying fish and report it immediately to your local fisheries biologist or the DNR tip line (1-800-TIP-WDNR or 1-800-847-9367).
 - if possible, and it's safe to do so, take clear images of the affected area (e.g., waterbody showing dead/dying fish) and close-up images of the affected fish.
- Your local biologist will contact you as soon as they are able and determine whether the carcass can be collected or how it should be properly disposed of. Please note that due to resources, DNR staff will not be able to visit every potentially diseased caught fish or occurrence of dead fish.

Protecting Pollinators Proposed by Agard

Recently, Senate Democratic Leader Melissa Agard (D-Madison), and her Democratic colleagues introduced the Pollinator Protection Package to promote a healthy and robust pollinator population in Wisconsin. The package creates...

Senator Agard released the following statement:

"Protecting our state's natural pollinators is vital in protecting Wisconsin's well-being. Pollinators play a quiet, yet incredibly important role in our communities – bolstering our agricultural economy, preserving our environmental health, and developing a positive coexistence between ecosystems.

"I am proud to join my Democratic colleagues in introducing the Pollinator Protection Package to ensure our pollinator communities will be healthier and promote a strong population for years to come. Ensuring our pollinators can thrive is key to promoting a bright and healthy future for Wisconsin. These bills are un-bee-lievably important."

Just go fishing, hey!