

Covering the  
Towns of  
Boulder Junction  
Lac du Flambeau  
Manitowish Waters  
Mercer  
Presque Isle  
Winchester

What's Inside  
Guides' reports  
Map of the month  
Tip of the month  
On the Fur Side  
Monthly specials

August 1991

Volume 1, Issue 5

## "FISHERMEN" Are They an Endangered and Threatened Species?

As July winds to an end, I can't help looking back at the month's activities, while fishing during daylight hours.

Pontoons, Speed Boats, and water skiers are all out having a good time. I must say all seem to respect the fisherman and keep their distance, as there's plenty of room on the water for all to have a good time.

What about the new water vehicle that is entering the scene? "JET-SKIS". I have never seen such disregard for fishermen, as some of the people running these new water toys are showing. Is it time for more regulations? Snowmobiles and Four-wheelers are regulated. I think it's high time Jet-skis are, too, or maybe we can just stick our heads in the sand and do nothing until someone gets killed.

Maybe we should contact the Wisconsin Bureau of Endangered Resources and have fishermen added to the list. They define Wisconsin Threatened Species as **Any species which appears likely, within the foreseeable future, on the basis of scientific evidence, to become endangered.**

### CRITERIA FOR STATE LISTING

1. It must be a species native to Wisconsin.
2. There must be records of past and present status for species in Wisconsin, including numbers and geographic distribution.
3. There should be evidence of significant decline in species numbers.
4. There must be an identifiable existing threat to the remaining population in Wisconsin.

Granted, Jet-Skis are fun toys. In fact, if my boys had their way, we'd have three of them tied to our pier.

I feel the time has come for the DNR to place some regulations on their use; if for nothing else, **safety's sake.**

Good Luck and Take a kid fishing,

*Bale*

## 15th Annual Musky Classic

The 15th Annual World Championship Musky Classic will be held September 6, 7, and 8. Approximately 800 fishermen representing 12 states will be throwing lures in 29 different lakes hoping to break Dave Schnell's 37 and 1/2 pound Trout Lake "Classic" record.

This "trophies only" contest, which has released all but one fish in the last two years, is sponsored by the Chambers of Commerce of Manitowish Waters, Winchester, Boulder Junction, and Presque Isle in cooperation with the North Lakeland Community Education Department and the North Lakeland School district.

Contestants fish in two divisions; a Sportsman's Division for the amateur, non compensated participant, and the "Open" division for registered guides, "Classic" personnel, guests of "The Classic", and professional fishermen.

Fishing during the "Classic" is from noon on Friday, September 6th, until 7PM., on Saturday from 7 AM to 7 PM, and Sunday from 7 AM to 11AM. The awards follow at 1 o'clock. This year's host town is Manitowish Waters so the awards will be at the Manitowish Waters Community Center at the airport.

The tournament was established in 1977 to help promote the North Lakeland area and to boost the local economy. The "Classic" has grown from the 259 original entries in 1977 because of the reception given to the fishermen by the area businesses and residents. The "all volunteer" workforce of approximately 200 area residents represents the chambers, the Senior Citizens, the North Lakeland Elementary school staff and students, the Emergency Services organizations, resort owners, and other concerned and dedicated people. They man the "weigh stations", help at the orientation, man the radios, and work at the awards presentations.

Thanks to all the volunteer labor and the generosity of people and businesses contributing to the "Classic" raffle the Board of directors of "The Classic" has been able to contribute over \$40,000 to projects at the North Lakeland Elementary School alone. In addition, a boat landing and dock complex was financed using "Classic" funds as matching money for a Department of Natural Resources grant. The World Championship Musky Classic's Ben Bendrick Memorial Scholarship was initiated in 1987 and provides a worthy college student with a \$4,000 grant each year. Contributions to the scholarship have come from personal donations, individuals fishing in the "Classic", businesses, the "Classic" raffle, and the "Classic" supplement.

People may get registration forms at the North Lakeland Elementary School, or by calling 686-2033 or 686-2558.

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NEWSLETTER



## ~ ~ MANITOWISH WATERS ~ ~

**Bob McClellan** - Guide - Newsletter Publisher  
Junction Tackle and Gift  
Manitowish Waters, WI 54545  
715-543-2776

If it wasn't for all the rain in July, I think the water level would have dropped 6" on the Manitowish Chain with all the musky that were caught. There were numerous 20 pound + fish and two over 30 # caught. Musky were being caught on Bucktails, Eddie Baits, Hi-Fin Scampers, Cisco Kids, Predators, Rizzo Divers, Grandma Baits and Suicks, to name a few. There wasn't any one hot bait.

**Clear Lake** is still very clear and daytime fishing for walleye has been slow, except for a few cloudy days. Night time or early evening is a different story. Fishing just out from the weeds in 15' of water with night crawlers on a jig or slip sinker rig has been very effective and a lot of 15" to 20" walleye were caught in July. This pattern will continue in August and if the lake greens in color like it always has the fishing should be super on the rocks at 15' to 20'. Musky action should be great in August. Work down the center of the lake just out from the rocks in 20' to 30' of water.

**Fawn and Stone Lakes** have been producing a lot of bluegill and perch action. Small jigs tipped with a wax worm and small Mr. Twisters have been dynamite. Largemouth bass were being caught in the weeds early on Twisters (white). Walleyes were slow, but try working the rocks in the evening in August. Musky action was good with several 20+ pounders being caught in **Stone** on Hi-Fin Scampers.

**Island Lake** was producing walleye by the weeds in the evening and on the rock bars in the daytime at 12' to 15' on both leeches and night crawlers. The cribs along the west shore have also been good. **Island** is always a good walleye lake in August. Fish the rocks at 15' to 25' with leeches and crawlers. Toward the end of the month use minnows, they always work well. This is a good lake for smallmouth, also. Fish the same area that the walleye are in.

**Manitowish Lake** was a fair producer of walleye in July. Weeds again were the key in 6' to 8' of water. The rocks and sand were slow except in the evening or early morning. If you're looking for smallmouth try fishing just out from the 51 bridge. Musky were very active on **Manitowish** in July and if you're looking for that wall hanger, fish the deep water out from the many rock and sand bars. Use deep running crank baits or bucktails.

**Little Star** was producing some nice walleye in the wood along the deep shoreline on night crawlers. In August keep an eye on the deep rocks at 20' to 25' for some good walleye action. Two and three-pound walleyes are common. This lake is also a trophy muskie lake. Smallmouth bass are usually active here in August, too. Work the wood on the rocky shorelines and the small rock bars by the channel as you enter from **Manitowish**.

**Alder Lake** was one of the hottest lakes in the chain for walleye in July. Dark water and good weed beds on the north end produced some nice fish using 1 16 oz jigs tipped with leeches and also white twisters. In the evening the rocks were producing nice fish. Some nice crappie were also taken in the weeds. Musky action was slow, but some nice fish were seen. In August try fishing the rocks at 15' to 20' for some good walleye action.

**Wild Rice Lake** has been producing a lot of bluegills on wax worms and occasionally a few nice crappies. Walleyes were taking leeches suspended on slip bobbers in the weeds, and some nice fish were being caught on the small rock bar on the south end in the evening.

**Rest** was slow on walleyes in July, but by mid-August this will be one of the hot walleye and smallmouth bass lakes on the chain. Fish the rock and sand bars at 15' to 20' and also the deep cribs adjacent to the rocks. July musky fishing was good with several over 20# being caught. An excellent August Musky Lake.

**Dead Pike** was producing a lot of walleye in July, but most fish are under the size limit. Back trolling the deep south shore for musky produced several 8#+ walleye. Musky were slow, but don't overlook this lake for big fish in August.

For some added excitement in August when it's hot, muggy and calm, take a try at night musky fishing with a surface lure. Try a black Hi-Fin Hawg Buster, Gooch's Tally-Wacker, Mud puppy, etc..

Good luck and take a kid fishing!

Bob

Now, that makes for a hefty shore lunch!





# Let's Go Fishing

with area guides  
**AUGUST FISHING**

## PRESQUE ISLE - WINCHESTER AREA

**Ken Reinicke**  
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Presque Isle, WI 54557 715-686-2033

### MAKE 'EM STRIKE, NOT BITE!

Any fishermen watching the water during the summer will tell you that there is an abundance of food swimming around down there for any predator fish that wants a meal. The minnows especially move around like "clouds" in the water, the crayfish moult and get "soft skinned", and small Perch are all over the place. How, then, do you get a fish to pick out your bait from all the rest?

The trick is to make 'em STRIKE!! Not feed, STRIKE!

We usually try to catch Walleyes by offering them a tempting meal of chubs, crawlers, or leeches because we know that sooner or later during the day they will feed. That means they will aggressively be looking for food. Most anything cast to their area when they're feeding will certainly be investigated. Sometimes, however, these feeding periods are a long time apart and last for only a short time. To increase your odds at getting that fish to hit when they're not feeding you have to entice them to STRIKE your lure.

Walleyes, like bass, muskies, and northerns are predators. They attack and catch their prey. Even when they're not feeding a prey species swimming by their nose is going to get "whacked". They will attack an artificial lure if it is the right color, right size and is presented properly. So you have to answer some questions to determine which lure you're going to use.

First, what is the prey you are trying to imitate? How big is it? And how do I "work" it? You have to match the lure to the species is the answer to the first two questions. And the season determines the answer to the third question.

Walleyes are feeding on leeches in most of the lakes so you use a leech. BIG DEAL! We've been using them all summer, you say. Right, but now you add a little more action to your presentation to make that Walleye think that the leech is going to get away from it. Instead of sliding it along the bottom you make it jump along the bottom. Snap that leech off the bottom, and then let it float back down, and then do it again. Most of your

strikes will occur when that leech is "snapped" off the bottom. Those Walleyes just can't stand to see that tempting morsel get away from them, and they will catch it. It's just their nature. And it's the same thing with spinner baits or imitation plastic baits. Speed is the attractant. But you may have to experiment to find that right speed. It's called, "Paying your dues".

Crankbaits, although used by some knowledgeable fishermen, are not given the credit they would get if more people used them. Match the depth that one of these lures goes to with the top of a weedbed, or top of a bar, and you will pick up bigger fish than by using live bait. Backtrolling these baits is going to become more and more popular as people discover their effectiveness.

Bass will be hitting on crayfish-imitating baits. How does a crayfish move? In short spurts of speed, so do the same with your lure. And keep it on or near the bottom. I guarantee you that you'll feel the hit.

BUT REMEMBER- you have to use the right weight jig or lure to make this presentation most effective. You don't go as light as you do with a natural bait that the fish "feed" on because you're setting the hook as soon as you feel the strike.

We picked up some nice Bass on **Minonk** last week with crankbaits and even had a 20+ pound Musky on until it cut the line. **Van Vliet** "popped" a "41" inch Northern to a fishermen from Alpine Lodge. Biggest Northern I can ever remember coming from there. The Muskies were movin' after dark on **Van Vliet** also, with Forby Taylor bringing in a 42 and 38-incher.

Crab has been "poppin" the Smallmouth. Few Walleyes

but who will argue when the Smallmouth are hitting. 12 to 20 feet is the best depth, and Mud minnows are the best bait.

And the **Turtles** seem to be coming around. Action on **Rock Lake** also, so give them a try. Muskies by the weeds on **South Turtle**, Walleyes at dusk on **North Turtle**, and a mixed bag on **Rock**.

**Rainbow** and **Tamarack** are not talked about much, by the locals, but there's a reason. Take the time to fish for Muskies on **Rainbow**, and Bass on **Tamarack** and you may get a pleasant surprise.

Keep your line tight.



*Ken*

**Coming Soon!**  
**Don't miss the 15th Annual**  
**World Championship**  
**Musky Classic**  
**September 6, 7, & 8**





"Smallmouth bass fishing is at its best."

~ ~ ~ **BOULDER JUNCTION AREA** ~ ~ ~

**TOM SWANSON'S GUIDE SERVICE**

P O Box 144

Boulder Junction, WI 54512 715-385-2168

July and August walleye patterns are very similar. In other words, if it worked for catching fish in July it will continue to work for you during the month of August. You still want to fish for walleye during the low light periods of the day. The very early morning feeding period seems to last longer than the evening period each day; however, both are productive.

Slip-bobbers or jigs, with leeches or night crawlers attached, are still the best baits for walleye. If you are fishing a clear-water lake, most walleye are being caught at about 15" to 18", in the weeds. Dark-water lakes can throw you a curve because, while fish in clear-water lakes are going deeper, fish in very dark waters are going shallow. Lakes like **Tenderfoot**, **Big** (Cisco Chain) and **Boulder** are good examples of dark-water fishing. If the water clarity is two feet or less you will find walleye moving in and along the heavy weedlines in depths of about 6' (sometimes less). These fish are usually very aggressive and can even be caught, with good success, on plastic twister tails attached to a 1/8" ball jig. My favorite jig head colors are orange or white with yellow, white or brown pepper bodies.

Right now, smallmouth bass fishing is at its best. Smallies are, without a doubt, the most under-fished species in Northern Wisconsin. Most of our lakes hold good populations of these bronze battlers.

Smallmouths can be found feeding around rock bars and rocky points of about 10' to 14' depths, in clear-water lakes, and 6' to 8' in darker waters. If you can find

a little scattered wood or light weed cover on the rocky dropoff, all the better. Night crawlers and leeches, fished the same as with walleye, will work fine on smallmouths.

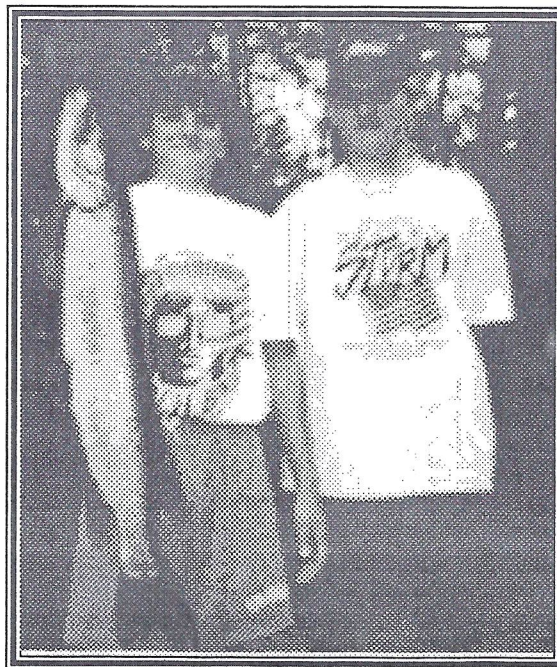
Musky fishing in the Boulder Junction area has been exceptional for those who are not fishing the traditional hours. Night musky fishing is at its very best in August. Spend some time during the day and carefully check out the structures you want to fish. Remember, once night falls all your landmarks disappear. Now, combine your daytime knowledge of how a piece of structure is shaped and, with the help of your depth finder, you should be able to find your way around in the dark and keep yourself in good water, at all times.

There are two major benefits to night fishing. One is very active feeding muskys in shallow water; the other is low or no boat traffic on the lake. On most lakes, once it gets dark, you will have the entire lake to yourself. Once you start feeling comfortable in the dark and find out just how successful you can be, you'll give up daytime fishing in August, forever.

My choice of lures for night musky fishing is any type of noisy top-water bait. The noisier the better and use a slow retrieve. Bucktails work well, but use the one with larger blades as they will give off more vibrations. Crank baits also work well; however, I like the ones that only go down 6' or less. Night muskys are swimming shallow and we don't want to retrieve the bait under the fish, where they can't see it. Color is not as important as noise and vibrations, which attract more night muskys.

For August night musky fishing, I like the deep, clear-water lakes like **High**, **Trout**, **Papoose** and **White Sand**. And for quality fishing, whatever the season, practice CATCH AND RELEASE all year 'round.

*Tom*



Am  
I  
proud  
of  
My  
first  
legal  
musky?



~ ~ ~ **Mercer Area** ~ ~ ~

**Phill Graser - Guide**

PO Box 99

Mercer, WI 54547 715-476-3570

July was a good fishing month in the Mercer area. The Flambeau Flowage was producing northerns, nice 16" to 19" largemouth bass and fair musky action. Walleyes were slow to spotty with a lot of small fish.

Musky action was great on **Mercer, Tank, Moose and Fisher Lakes**.

Smallmouth were good in **Pike Lake** with bass up to 5#.

August - the last half of summer for most folks, but in the northwoods this is the beginning of the fall season and that means the beginning of "BIG FISH TIME!"

The nights are cool (temperatures in the 40's) and the days are pleasant (temperatures in the low 70's).

The waters begin to cool down and this is Mother Nature's way of signaling to "Big Fish" of all species to begin their heavy feeding period, not only to put extra weight on for themselves, but also for the already growing eggs inside of them, for the winter.

August is the time for the fisherman to begin his or her quest for that elusive trophy.

On the **Turtle-Flambeau Flowage**, key areas to look for are the green coontail beds in water depths of four to eight feet. The cabbage beds are dying off and most species of fish will follow the bait fish to this type of area. Look for the coontail beds on the flats or in any of the bays, just off of the river channels. Work the larger-size artificials, such as jerk baits, bucktails, surface lures and Boonie Baits, just over the tops of the weeds and you'll have action for musky, northern, walleye and bass. This pattern on the **Flowage** will not only last all through the month of August, but for most of the month of September, too!

The natural lakes in the Mercer area will run about two weeks behind the Flowage as far as the "coontail pattern" is concerned. When fishing lakes such as **Mercer, Tank, Fischer, Catherine, Pine or Echo**, the first half of August, work the still green cabbage beds. Then, as these beds start to die off, concentrate your efforts over the coontail beds.

The month of August can be an exciting month for "Big Fish." The whole key is to work the right areas and just "Keep throwin' and Keep Movin'".

*Phill*

**GOLDEN RULE FOR CONSERVATION**

**"Keep your trash. Don't discard old fishing line or other debris into the water or on the grounds around it."**

**Brothers vie for Family record.**



**July 12, 1991 - 19# 42"**



**July 13, 1991 - 21 1/2# 43 3/4"**



~ ~ ~ **LAC DU FLAMBEAU AREA** ~ ~ ~

**John Beda-Guide**

3425 Hwy 47

Lac Du Flambeau, WI 54548 715-588-9150

Walleye fishing in the lac du Flambeau area was very spotty in July. A lot of walleye were being caught, but very few measured up to the 15" size limit. Some of the best catches were made by fishermen fishing suspended walleye over deep water in **Flambeau Lake**. A good locator is a must for this type of fishing. Night crawlers and leeches suspended on a slip bobber were working the best. Other lakes producing walleye were **Ike Walton, White Sand, Little Sand, Pokegama, Pike and Squaw**.

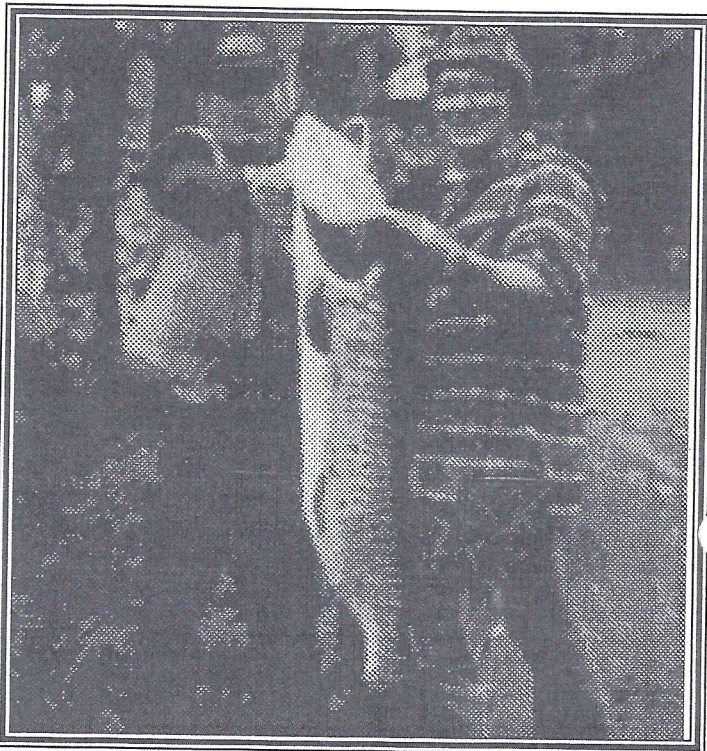
In August the walleye should be in the 20' to 25' range on the rock bars in **Pokegama, White Sand, Flambeau and Big Crawling Stone**; also try some of the deep wood in **Ike Walton**. Use jigs tipped with leeches or crawlers and toward the end of the month try fishing with medium-size chubs.

Panfishing has been very good on the smaller bog-type lakes. **Black, Birch, Tank, Gene, and Reservation Line Lakes** are the ones to fish. Try these same lakes for largemouth bass using mud minnows or night crawlers.

**Fence Lake** has been producing a lot of nice smallmouth bass on the 17' to 22' rock bars using night crawlers and leeches. Early morning has been the best time to catch these acrobatic fighters. **Crooked Lake and Little Trout Lake** are also producing nice smallmouth on beetle spins and also on night crawlers.



The hot, muggy weather in July, made for some excellent musky fishing in the Lac du Flambeau area. **Flambeau Lake** produced some 30+ pounders. There have been a lot of 20+ pounders caught on **Pokegama, White Sand and Ike Walton**. Deep-running crank baits and bucktails like Buchers, Smitty's and Rizzo's all get down there to where the big ones are suspended at this time of the year. Some people have been backtrolling and are having good success on musky and occasionally catching some trophy-size walleye on their musky baits for a pleasant surprise.



**TIP OF THE MONTH**

When cleaning fish this time of the year with the temperatures in the 80's and 90's, take the fish guts, skins, & heads and wrap in newspaper, then put in a plastic bag and freeze. When you go to the dump you won't have flies following you and the coons and bears will be happy to have fresh - not rotten fish.

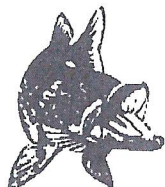




**Specials of the Month**

(for Newsletter subscribers only)

PRICES GOOD TIL 8/31/91

**St. Croix Musky Rods**

5503 H 1-5oz.	6'	\$58.50
5503 MH 3/4-3oz.	6'6"	\$58.50
5503 H -5oz.	6'9"	\$58.50
5503 MH 1/2-2oz.	7'	\$58.50

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**MUSKY  
RODS**

MUSK-A-DO BUCKTAILS	\$4.75
MUSK-A-DO MAGNUMS	\$6.50

LARGE EDDIE BAIT	\$9.00
SMALL EDDIE BAIT	\$8.00

ALL HI-FIN BAIT	20% OFF
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LARGE GRANDMAS	\$9.50
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The Junction

HC2 Box 228A

Manitowish Waters, WI. 54545





**THE JUNCTION  
NEWSLETTER**

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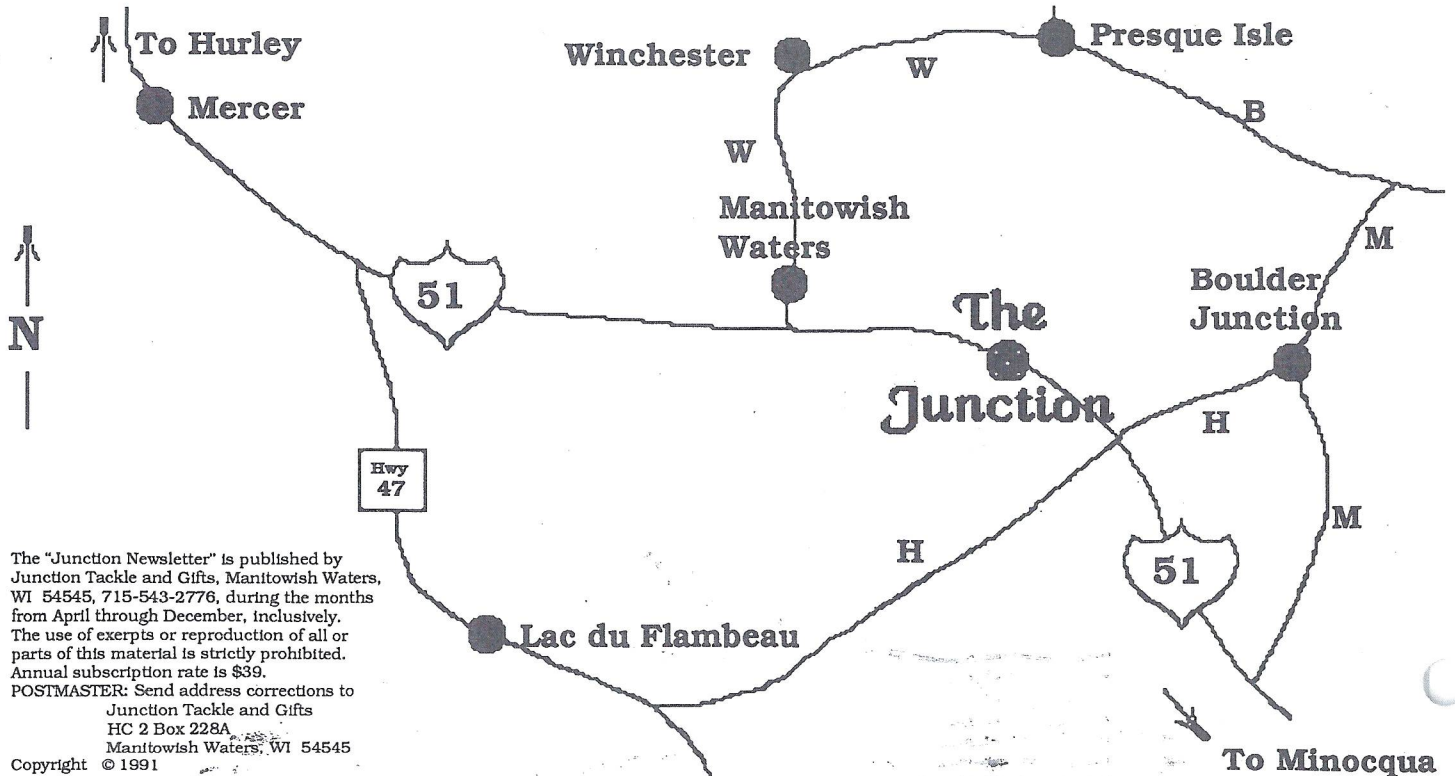


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