

## OUTBOARD & TROLLING MOTORS FOR 2025



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January 17, 2025 THE MIDWEST'S LEADING OUTDOOR WEEKLY NEWSPAPER™ VOL. 58, NO. 3

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### Inside News

#### ▶ Trapping Changes to Include Otter Extension



As some liberalized trapping seasons wrap up in the north, new ones await in the south. Otter trapping now extends statewide into May.

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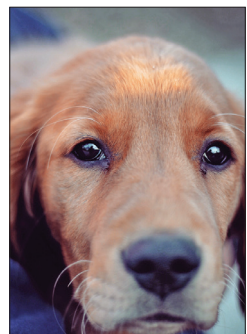
#### ▶ A Quick Chat with ... PF/QF's Ariel Wiegard

As the group's vice president of government affairs, most of Wiegard's time is spent in Washington, D.C., advocating for the top-priority policies of the national organization.



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#### ▶ Breed Loyalty: What Puppy Makes Sense?



Life situations change, and, perhaps also should your decision about the breed of pup you choose.

See Page 23

## DNR: Beware of ice heaves

Cold snaps causing pressure ridges on lakes across state

By Natalie Ryder  
Staff Writer

Wheaton, Minn. — While this season's lake ice already has delivered a better start to ice fishing season than the past two winters, reports of numerous pressure ridges have demanded some caution among anglers.

"Just because somebody is out there with a vehicle and a truck, doesn't mean you need to be out

(See Ice Heaves Page 32)

## Best Buck Grand Prize Winner



**BEST BUCK GRAND PRIZE WINNER.** Chad Collins, of Lake City, shot this 13-point buck while bowhunting in Goodhue County on Sept. 30. The antlers had a 23-inch inside spread and green-scored 175% gross. See the rest of this year's *Outdoor News* Best Buck Contest winners on pages 18-19.

## CREP 3 expanded to 75,000 acres, to 2039

Currently, about 35,000 acres are enrolled in the conservation program that began in 2017

By Tim Spielman  
Editor

St. Paul — State and federal officials a week ago signed a new agreement that extends Minnesota's current and ongo-

ing Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program into 2039 and adds an additional 15,000 acres to the 60,000-acre program. CREP 3, the third such effort in the state since about 2002, now will include 12 additional Minnesota counties, and requirements to qualify for the program — which includes state and federal payments for perpetual conservation easements — will change slightly, officials say.

"This CREP consists of a federal continuous CRP

(Conservation Reserve Program) signup component, cost-share payments, annual rental payments, and incentive payments, and state cost-share and easement program payments to enroll eligible lands," per the agreement that

(See CREP Page 25)

## Trauba named to lead DNR's Wildlife Section

By Tori J. McCormick  
Contributing Writer

St. Paul — Dave Trauba was reminiscing the other day about growing up in rural southeastern Wisconsin, where his love of the outdoors — including hunting and fishing — was nurtured by his immediate family.

"I grew up in a family with a strong hunting tradition," said Trauba, adding that he lived near two storied marshes — Horicon

and Theresa — where ducks and geese were abundant. "My fondest memories are with my grandpa, dad, and brothers hunting waterfowl. Those were magical times that left an impression on me. Truth is, I was lucky because I knew what I wanted to be when I was a sophomore in high school."

Indeed, those days afield,

(See Trauba Page 7)

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A YEAR



**LAKE MOSES WALLEYE.** Ryder Bitzan, of Brandon, caught this 29-inch walleye while fishing Lake Moses in Douglas County on Dec. 27.

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Jan. 19:** Bobcat and fisher (south zone) trapping and bobcat hunting seasons close statewide.



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