## Bears from page two

6-8 months of age. Females only reproduce every second year. Should the young die for some reason, the female may reproduce again after only one year.

According to Ojibwe tradition, the way the Ojibwe people organized themselves into grand families, called dodem or clans, which included the black bear. In the History of the Ojibwe Nation, William Warren explains the beginning of the Ojibwe clan system. According to Ojibwe tradition, there were originally six human beings that came out of the sea to live among Ojibwe. These six beings, which were Wawaazisii (Bullhead), Ajejauk (Crane), Makwa (Bear), Moosance (Little Moose), Waabizheshi (Marten), and Bineshii (Thunderbird), created the original clans. In addition, clan symbols appear in ancient birch bark scrolls and treaty documents of centuries ago.

The clan system operated as a form of government, a method of organizing work, and a way of defining the responsibilities of each community member. Working together, the clans attended to the physical, intellectual, psychological, and spiritual needs of the community. Each was known by its totem (animal emblem). While each clan differs, all are considered equal. The largest clan was the Bear (Makwa) clan. Bear clan members were war chiefs and warriors and were known for

their thick black hair that never whitened even in old age. The Bear Clan members were the strong and steady police and legal guardians. Bear Clan members spent a lot of time patrolling the land surrounding the village, and in so doing, they learned which roots, bark, and plants could be used for medicines to treat the ailments of their people. Long ago, warriors fought to defend their village or hunting territory with the tenacity of the black bear. They became known as master strategists in planning the defense of their people.

Today it is very common for black bears, which are always looking for food, to enter your backyard, your porch or maybe enter your garage or onto your deck or even climb up one of your trees. If you are experiencing any problems with bears, and are located, in Wisconsin, northern please contact USDA Wildlife Services at 800-228-1368 (in-state) or (715) 369-5221. In southern Wisconsin call 800-433-0663 (in-state) or (920) 324-4514.

If you would like to hunt black bear in Wisconsin, you must possess a Class A bear license. You may obtain a Class A bear license by: being selected in the bear drawing, participating in the Learn to Bear Hunt Program, or receiving a Class A bear license transfer. Bear hunters must apply for a bear license or earn preference points at least

once every three years to avoid losing any accumulated preference points. To find out about how many points you have accumulated: contact the DNR Call Center 1-888-936-7463; visit the online licensing center; or contact your local DNR Service Center. Other contact information on bear management, please contact: Maggie Stewart, Assistant Big Game Ecologist: 608-261-7588

## 2018 bear seasons

Application deadline for bear permits is always December 10. Zone C where dogs are not permitted

- Sept. 5 Oct. 9 with aid of bait
- with all other legal methods not using dogs All other zones where dogs are permitted
- Sept. 5 11
- with aid bait
  - with all other legal methods not using dogs
- Sept. 12 Oct. 2
- with aid of dogs
- with aid of bait
- with all other legal methods
- Oct. 3 9
- with aid of dogs only

bait may be used to locate bear to hunt with the aid of dogs Check the bear hunting regulations for a complete set of rules.



