

## Take a breath and enjoy Forest County

### The Colors of Cancer Run/Walk

May 5 from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. The Colors of Cancer is an untimed event with no winners or prizes, but participants will be showered with colored powder at six stations



along the run. Race starts and ends at the Crandon International Off-Road Raceway. Entry Fees are \$35 for adults, \$15 for ages 18 and under. Family registration is \$75. Cancer survivors participate for free. The Colors of Cancer Run/Walk is an opportunity to work together to build awareness, offer encouragement and raise funds to beat cancer in Forest County. Wear your "Colors of Cancer" T-shirt on race day to show your support and show off your own colors of cancer while crossing the finish line. For additional information, call Forest County Ties That Bind Us at 715-478-6342.

### 6th Annual Bear 100

May 12 beginning at 7 a.m. What is The Bear 100? A minimal support gravel road cycling event through the Nicolet National Forest focusing on self-sufficiency and per-

sonal responsibility. You are responsible for yourself. Registration opened on February 2. There will be a limit of 250 riders. There will be three routes through the Nicolet National Forest starting in Laona: approximately 108-mile, 68-mile, and 31-mile routes. Fees: \$20 donation, 100% of which will go to the Laona Rescue Squad.



### Forest County Potawatomi Brush Run Off-Road Races

June 23 - June 24 at the Crandon International Raceway, 10104 US Hwy 8 Crandon. See page 10 of the Wild Rivers Guide for details.

### 2nd Annual Forest County Festival

June 29 - July 1 at the Crandon International Raceway, 10104 US Hwy 8 Crandon.



### 3rd Annual Big House Legionnaire Mud Challenge

June 30 at Crandon International Raceway, 10104 US Hwy 8 Crandon.



There are 19 species of furbearers in Wisconsin. Most fall into the carnivore group (Order Carnivora), but two species are rodents and one is a marsupial. Here is an introduction to a few of our furbearers.

A furbearer is a mammal whose fur has commercial value. Traditionally, these are the mammals trapped for their fur, though not all of Wisconsin's furbearers may be harvested in the present day.

**Coyote (Canis latrans):** The coyote is a medium-sized member of the canine family. Average coyote weight is between 20-30 lbs., though they can weigh up to 50 lbs. Coyote fur can be a variety of colors including gray, tawny, red, blond and black. They are opportunistic omnivores (meaning they will eat anything), but primarily consume deer (especially fawns and roadkills), rabbits, small mammals and fruit. They give birth in late spring to two to eight young. Coyotes will form packs; generally, these packs are family groups, including a breeding male and female, young from the current year and young from the previous year. Learn how to tell a coyote from a wolf. Coyotes may be hunted year-round with the appropriate license, though the trapping season is restricted.

**Red fox (Vulpes vulpes):** Red foxes, a member of the canine family, have reddish fur and a bushy tail that most of the time has a white tip. There are different color

## Furbearers of Wisconsin

phases of red fox, including black, silver and a cross between red and silver. They are opportunistic, but generally eat small mammals, rabbits, squirrels and birds. They tend to be solitary. They only use dens to raise young, but will find cover during the day to rest. Red foxes are adaptable and can be found in rural, suburban and urban areas. There is a restricted trapping season on red foxes and a license is required.

**Badger (Taxidea taxus):** The badger, Wisconsin's state mammal, is a wide-bodied, short-legged mustelid (member of the weasel family) with long, powerful claws used for digging. The badger has a grizzled gray appearance and distinctive black patches on its face and a white stripe from its nose to partway down its back. Average adult size is 12-16 lbs. Badgers dig burrows, sometimes with multiple tunnels and chambers. Often, they will dig new burrows instead of using old burrows. Badgers are solitary except during breeding season. They forage by digging up ground squirrels, moles and other small mammals. The badger is a non-game species and may not be harvested in Wisconsin. Recently, a graduate student at UW-Madison studied badgers in the southwestern portion of Wisconsin and a graduate student at UW-Milwaukee is concluding a badger genetics study.

**Striped skunk (Mephitis mephitis):** The striped skunk is a very distinctive mammal. Once



Sarah Giddings  
A trio of juvenile striped skunks visit a yard in Florence County.

thought to be in the weasel family, they are now in their own family with the five other species of skunks [exit DNR] found in North America. They average four to six lbs. in weight, and have long, bushy tails. They are well-known for their black fur with white stripes and their strong musk they spray as a defense. This musk is actually used as a base in many high-quality perfumes. Averaging six young, striped skunks give birth in May. They are nocturnal, meaning active at night, like most of the furbearers of Wisconsin. Their preferred food is mice, insects, fruits, carrion, eggs, reptiles and amphibians. Skunks may be harvested year-round in Wisconsin with a valid license.

**American (pine) marten (Martes americana):** The marten is Wisconsin's endangered furbearer. A member of the weasel family, this 1-3.5 lb mammal is adept at climbing trees. American marten give birth between March and May to three to four young, usually in tree dens, though they will also den in fallen logs, rocks, squirrel nests and woodpecker holes. Once extirpated from Wisconsin, they were reintroduced and are now found primarily in and around the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. In 2008-2010, a second wave of reintroductions were made to supplement Wisconsin's existing population. woody debris.

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