

Write

MONSTER MUSHROOM

Attached is a photo of a 38.88-pound hen of the woods mushroom that I found in the fall of 2015. I have been looking for these mushrooms since I was a kid with my father, Emanuel, and my grandfather. We found many of these and some very big ones but the largest one we ever found weighed 34 pounds.

Chuck Rizzo
Kenosha



SUBMITTED BY CHUCK RIZZO

PERPLEXING BURROW

We spotted these sandy burrows on a sunny hillside along the Ice Age Trail north of Mauthe Lake in the Northern Kettle Moraine in early summer. What critter made these and lives here?

Christel Maass
Fox Point

Thanks for the photo. This appears to be a badger den. You've probably never seen one since they are solitary most of the year and stay hidden inside their shallow dens during the day. They hunt mostly during the night and live in large open fields and grasslands extending between 400 and 600 acres. You can look for signs of the badger by looking for piles of dirt outside of large burrows which they dig with their incredibly long thick claws. If you see a short, stocky animal with a small face staggering around in the grasslands, it could be a badger.



CHRISTEL MAASS

SEASON'S END

I am asked often what is the draw to small stream trout fishing? The fog embraces the stream on the final day of season. The thrill of the unknown on every cast stokes my fire. A picture is painted by Mother Nature that is second to none.



LEN HARRIS

Len Harris
Richland Center
Visit Len Harris' blog at <http://lenharris.blogspot.com/>

Thankfully, early inland trout season runs through May 6 with the promise of season beginning photos, too.



FORREST L. FULLER

SERENITY

I captured this photo in the sweet serenity of Owen Park, located in Madison, on an early October afternoon.

Forrest L. Fuller
Middleton

OWL ID CORRECTION

The owl pictured on page 28 of the December issue appears to be a leucistic barred owl, not a barn owl — though both can be mostly white. The rounded face and chunky body alerted reader Alan Bennett of Pardeeville. Thanks Alan!

COMMENT ON A STORY?

Send your letters to: Readers Write, WNR magazine, P.O. Box 7191, Madison, WI 53707. Or email letters to dnrmagazine@wisconsin.gov. Limit letters to 250 words and include your name and the community from which you are writing.

NO ACCESS TO THE WEB?

Don't have access to a link we mention in a story? Let us know when you want to follow a link we list. We'll do what we can to get you a copy of the material if it is available free of charge and is relatively short in length.

BEE HIVES

I live in the Town of LaFayette, Walworth County and the first photograph depicts what I observed on Aug. 20 while I was mowing the trail back to my woods. The second photo was taken on Sept. 1. It has always been my understanding the bees would seek out a tree cavity to build their hives. Perhaps they do not know that our winters are not conducive to their survival in this exposed type of hive.

Bruno E. Schiffler
Elkhorn

This article is an interesting read and speaks to the importance of having shelter from the wind for the hive to survive including during the winter: beesource.com/resources/usda/overwintering-of-honey-bee-colonies/.



BRUNO E. SCHIFFLEGER