

# Rusk County Wisconsin— Unwind Your Mind

For immediate release:

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## Ten Rusk County Story Ideas

*On the rivers and trails, Rusk County shines as an outdoor destination*

**(June 22, 2010) Rusk County, WI**—Looking for wilderness adventure, abundant wildlife and lots of room to roam? Rusk County offers those three things in droves. Paddlers, hunters, anglers, birdwatchers and wildlife enthusiasts will love Rusk County. Here are ten ideas for conveying what this gem of an outdoor destination has to offer.

### 1. Take a float trip down the Flambeau River

The Flambeau River is one of Wisconsin's most storied and famous waterways. A float down the Flambeau River is a journey through history. Native Americans lived along its banks and used the river for transport. In the 1800s, loggers used the Flambeau River to float logs to downstream mills. Today, anglers, boaters and paddlers can experience a river that remains, in many stretches, unchanged for centuries. Wildlife abounds along its shores, with opportunities to see bald eagles, osprey and white-tailed deer. Some of the most breathtaking stretches are protected by the Flambeau River State Forest. For a float trip, there's no river quite like it.

### 2. Go on a Rusk County bear, deer or ruffed grouse hunt

Sparsely populated and home to large tracts of undeveloped land, Rusk County is an outstanding hunting destination. Rusk County's wilderness areas offer excellent opportunities for white-tailed deer, black bear and ruffed grouse. Extensive public lands are maintained specifically to maximize high-quality wildlife habitat. This abundance of excellent hunting land, both public and private, allows hunters many choices for their hunt.

### 3. Spend time exploring the Reclaimed Flambeau Mine Site

Totaling nearly 150 acres, the Reclaimed Flambeau Mine Site Nature Trails traverse prairie, forest and wetland areas. Built in partnership with the City of Ladysmith, the Reclaimed Flambeau Mine Nature Trails offer 4 miles of beautiful walking trails open from dawn to dusk. Trail maps can be found at any intersection of the trails. On land adjacent to the reclaimed Flambeau Mine Site, you'll find a 10-mile system of trails for horseback riding and other non-motorized activities.

### 4. Hit the trails: Choose from a variety of hiking, biking, and nature trails

Rusk County is home to some of northern Wisconsin's top trail systems for hiking, mountain biking and wildlife viewing. Sisters' Farm, on the banks of the Flambeau River, offers mountain biking and cross-country skiing. The trail is also an outstanding destination for hiking and birdwatching, taking visitors through a variety of bird habitats and along the Flambeau River. The Blue Hills Trail System provides 23 miles of excellent hiking and wildlife opportunities. The west side of this huge trail system is densely wooded, while the eastern half is more open and provides excellent views of the surrounding landscape.

### 5. Fish the Dairyland Flowage (Lake Flambeau) and learn about the extraordinary efforts a local conservation group has taken to improve the fishery

Rusk County offers excellent fishing opportunities, particularly on the Flambeau River and its flowages. The Dairyland Flowage is a destination fishery for smallmouth bass, as well as walleye and musky. The high-quality fishing is due, in large part, to the commitment and hard work of a local conservation group. The proof of their efforts is easily seen each time an angler hooks a football-size smallmouth.

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## 6. Try your hand at geocaching at the Leaf it to Rusk Fall Festival Geocaching Contest (September)

Rusk County is the perfect geocaching destination, offering great scenery and plenty of caches. For those who have never done this before, the area is the perfect place to learn how. All you need is a GPS unit and cache coordinates. Geocaching is a great way for people of all ages to have fun together in the outdoors. For those new to geocaching, a great way to get started is the Leaf it to Rusk Fall Festival Geocaching Contest in September. The contest includes as many as 25 hidden caches, taking treasure hunters to different areas of the county. It's an excellent way to enjoy the changing fall colors and visit some of the most unique parts of the county.

## 7. Meet one of America's top wardens

Jeremy Peery has been chosen to receive the prestigious *2009 Haskell Noyes Efficiency Award*, an award essentially recognizing him as the state's top conservation warden. Well publicized for his involvement in a bank robbery chase and shootout, as well as capturing a hunter who opened fire on another hunting party, Perry's greatest accomplishments are likely those connected with his efforts to promote youth hunting and starting a hunting program for terminally ill children.

## 8. Paddle the Flambeau, Chippewa, Jump, and Thornapple rivers

Rusk County has four of the finest waterways in the Northwoods. The famous Flambeau River is a mix of whitewater and easy paddling with a deep woodland feel. The Jump River is free-flowing, pristine and dam-free for its entire length, from its source to its confluence with the Chippewa. The Chippewa River is relatively wide and curving, with lots of deep holes. And the Thornapple River is the archetypal Northwoods River, with very little development along the shores. Few counties in the Midwest offer such a diversity of canoeing and kayaking opportunities.

## 9. Hike the Ice Age Trail

The Ice Age Trail follows the southern boundary of the most recent glacier to invade Wisconsin about 12,000 years ago. Portions of the trail run through the Blue Hills, which was once a mountain range that was older than the Appalachian Mountains before the peaks wore down over time. The trail also features a number of truly unique rock formations, including felsenmeers, which are expansive fields of jagged rocks. The Rusk County Segment of the Ice Age Trail will be part of a feature on television's *Discover Wisconsin* in 2011.

## 10. Meet Craig Farbert, Wildlife Artist

Craig Fairbert was born and raised in Wisconsin and works for Artisans in the Rusk County community of Glen Flora. Artisans is a family-owned screen print company that produces apparel for men, women, and children for stores such as Cabela's, Gander Mountain, Ducks Unlimited, and several resort areas throughout the country. Farbert designs wildlife renderings for the clothing, specializing in elk, deer, bear, eagles, and fish. In 2004, Farbert started entering his paintings in state conservation stamp contests, submitting winning entries for the 2005 Wisconsin Great Lakes Trout Stamp, 2007 Wisconsin Inland Trout Stamp, 2008 Wisconsin Great Lakes Trout Stamp, 2008 Wisconsin Pheasant Stamp, 2009 Wisconsin Turkey Stamp and the Duck Stamp. Craig's most recent titles include the 2010 Wisconsin Inland Trout Stamp—the second time he's won that award—and the 2010 Wisconsin Water Fowl Stamp, which earned him the prestigious "Grand Slam Award," winning all five Wisconsin conservation stamp contests, a feat equaled by only two other artists since the induction of the contests in 1972.

For more information on any of these Rusk County story ideas, contact Susanne Thiede-Barnet at 608-242-8895 or email [Susanne@pilchbarnet.com](mailto:Susanne@pilchbarnet.com).

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