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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**WISCONSIN'S FALL FORECAST: EVENTS WITH A 100 PERCENT CHANCE OF FUN**

*Wisconsin's list of fall events from September through mid-November 2012*

**MADISON, Wis. (Aug. 1, 2012)** – The days might be getting shorter but our lineup of Wisconsin fall events is not! To help plan your adventures this season, here's our annual list of fall happenings. Make sure you check out some of the new events like the Chain O' Lakes Blues Festival or big ones like Cheese Days that only come around every other year. And don't miss old favorites like the U.S. Watermelon Speed-Eating Seed-Spitting Championship, Cranberry Fest or the Fresh Art Tour. With so many top-notch choices and something for everyone, no matter where your travels take you this season, you're sure to fall into Wisconsin fun.

Travelers looking for year-round Wisconsin getaway ideas, travel planning, events and free guides can discover their own fun at [TravelWisconsin.com](http://TravelWisconsin.com). You can also choose to "Like" us at [Facebook.com/TravelWisconsin](https://www.facebook.com/TravelWisconsin) or follow along on Twitter at [Twitter.com/TravelWI](https://twitter.com/TravelWI). And don't forget to bring all the fun Wisconsin has to offer right to your fingertips by downloading the free Travel Wisconsin™ iPhone or Android app.

**SEPTEMBER EVENTS (Pages 3-10)**

<b>"Ansel Adams Masterworks" Exhibit – Oshkosh</b>	<b>Through Oct. 21, 2012</b>
Campfire Film Festival – Minocqua	Sept. 5-9, 2012
<b>Kettle Moraine Jazz Festival – West Bend</b>	<b>Sept. 7-8, 2012</b>
65 <sup>th</sup> Annual Dairy Days – Platteville	Sept. 7-9, 2012
<b>VSCDA Elkhart Lake Vintage Festival – Elkhart</b>	<b>Sept. 7-9, 2012</b>
10 <sup>th</sup> Annual Thirsty Troll Brewfest – Mount Horeb	Sept. 8, 2012
<b>Sputnikfest – Manitowoc</b>	<b>Sept. 8, 2012</b>
Running of the Llamas – Hammond	Sept. 8, 2012
<b>U.S. Watermelon Speed-Eating Seed-Spitting Championship – Pardeeville</b>	<b>Sept. 8, 2012</b>
Villa Louis Carriage Classic – Prairie du Chien	Sept. 8-9, 2012
<b>Artrageous Weekend – Wausau</b>	<b>Sept. 8-9, 2012</b>

Wisconsin Ironman Triathlon – Madison	Sept. 9, 2012
<b>Tomahawk Fall Ride for MDA – Tomahawk</b>	<b>Sept. 13-16, 2012</b>
30 <sup>th</sup> Annual Chequamegon Fat Tire Festival – Cable and Hayward	Sept. 14-16, 2012
<b>Wo-Zha-Wa Days Fall Festival – Wisconsin Dells</b>	<b>Sept. 14-16, 2012</b>
Green County Cheese Days – Monroe	Sept. 14-16, 2012
<b>Kermis Dutch Festival – Little Chute</b>	<b>Sept. 15, 2012</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> Annual Kickapoo BRAVE Ride – Gays Mills	Sept. 15, 2012
<b>Fat Tire Memorial Tour – Lake Geneva</b>	<b>Sept. 15, 2012</b>
Rock the Green – Milwaukee	Sept. 15, 2012
<b>40<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine &amp; Harvest Festival – Cedarburg</b>	<b>Sept. 15-16, 2012</b>
20 <sup>th</sup> Annual Maple Fall Fest – Marshfield	Sept. 15-16, 2012
<b>Driftless Area Art Festival – Soldiers Grove</b>	<b>Sept. 15-16, 2012</b>
Fall Harvest Festival – St. Croix Falls	Sept. 15-16, 2012
<b>SCCA National Championship Runoffs – Elkhart Lake</b>	<b>Sept. 20-23, 2012</b>
Oktoberfest – Chippewa Falls	Sept. 21-23, 2012
<b>Rockman Challenge – Waterford</b>	<b>Sept. 22, 2012</b>
Fall Color Biking Fest – Whitewater	Sept. 22, 2012
<b>Spirit of St. Croix Art Festival – Hudson</b>	<b>Sept. 22-23, 2012</b>
“Leonardo: Machines in Motion” Exhibit – Appleton	Sept. 22, 2012-Jan. 6, 2013
<b>Land O’ Lakes Colorama Bike Tour – Land O’ Lakes</b>	<b>Sept. 23, 2012</b>
Wisconsin Science Festival – Madison	Sept. 27-30, 2012
<b>Milwaukee Film Festival – Milwaukee</b>	<b>Sept. 27-Oct. 11, 2012</b>
Beef-A-Rama – Minocqua	Sept. 28-29, 2012
<b>Octoberfest – Appleton</b>	<b>Sept. 28-29, 2012</b>
Warrens Cranberry Festival – Warrens	Sept. 28-30, 2012
<b>Geneva Lakes Antique and Classic Boat Show – Fontana</b>	<b>Sept. 28-30, 2012</b>
35 <sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Jefferson Car Show – Jefferson	Sept. 28-30, 2012
<b>Apple Festival – Gays Mills</b>	<b>Sept. 28-30, 2012</b>
Oktoberfest – La Crosse	Sept. 28-Oct. 6, 2012
<b>Chain O’ Lakes Blues Festival - Waupaca</b>	<b>Sept. 29, 2012</b>
Grantoberfest – Grantsburg	Sept. 29, 2012
<b>Wade House Civil War Weekend – Greenbush</b>	<b>Sept. 29-30, 2012</b>
<b><u>OCTOBER EVENTS (Pages 10-15)</u></b>	
Audubon Days Festival – Mayville	Oct. 5-7, 2012
<b>Bayfield Apple Festival – Bayfield</b>	<b>Oct. 5-7, 2012</b>
Fresh Art Tour – Pepin and Pierce Counties	Oct. 5-7, 2012
<b>Cowboy Reenactment – Laona</b>	<b>Oct. 6, 2012</b>
30 <sup>th</sup> Annual Apple Affair – Galesville	Oct. 6, 2012
<b>Stone Lake Cranberry Festival – Stone Lake</b>	<b>Oct. 6, 2012</b>
Dam Challenge Triathlon – La Farge	Oct. 6, 2012
<b>Wisconsin Colorfest – Turtle Lake</b>	<b>Oct. 6, 2012</b>
Shawano Country Miles of Art Fall Festival – Shawano	Oct. 6-7, 2012
<b>15<sup>th</sup> Annual Nekoosa Giant Pumpkin Fest – Nekoosa</b>	<b>Oct. 6-7, 2012</b>
Cranberry Fest – Eagle River	Oct. 6-7, 2012
<b>Oktoberfest Celebration – Lake Geneva</b>	<b>Oct. 6-7, 2012</b>
Pumpkin Patch Festival – Egg Harbor	Oct. 6-7, 2012
<b>Autumn on the Farms at Old World Wisconsin – Eagle</b>	<b>Oct. 6-7 and 13-14, 2012</b>
Wollersheim Winery Ice Wine Release Celebration – Prairie du Sac	Oct. 10, 2012

<b>WhistleStop Marathon/Half-Marathon &amp; Festival – Ashland</b>	<b>Oct. 12-13, 2012</b>
NEW Zoo Boo – Green Bay	Oct. 12-13, 19-20 and 26-27, 2012
<b>Sheboygan Shindig – Sheboygan</b>	<b>Oct. 12-14, 2012</b>
Fermentation Fest – Reedsburg	Oct. 12-21, 2012
<b>Autumn Harvest Fest – Wisconsin Dells</b>	<b>Oct. 13-14, 2012</b>
Chippewa Valley Book Festival – Eau Claire	Oct. 15-21, 2012
<b>Kohler Food &amp; Wine Experience – Kohler</b>	<b>Oct. 18-21, 2012</b>
Flyaway Film Festival – Pepin	Oct. 18-21, 2012
<b>Gallery Night and Day – Milwaukee</b>	<b>Oct. 19-20, 2012</b>
Fall Art Tour – Baraboo, Dodgeville, Mineral Point, Spring Green	Oct. 19-21, 2012
<b>Madeline Island Fall Festival – Madeline Island</b>	<b>Oct. 20, 2012</b>
Fall Flashlight Tours – Superior	Oct. 26-29, 2012
<b>Beer and Spirits – Lake Geneva</b>	<b>Oct. 27, 2012</b>

**NOVEMBER EVENTS (Page 15)**

Wisconsin Book Festival – Madison	Nov. 7-11, 2012
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Annual Big Water Film Festival – Washburn</b>	<b>Nov. 9-11, 2012</b>
Wisconsin Original Cheese Festival – Madison	Nov. 9-10, 2012
<b>Trainfest – West Allis</b>	<b>Nov. 10-11, 2012</b>

**Top 2012 Fall Events and Activities  
Detailed Descriptions**

**SEPTEMBER:**

**“Ansel Adams: Masterworks” Exhibit – Oshkosh Through Oct. 21, 2012**

The Paine Art Center and Gardens presents “Ansel Adams: Masterworks,” a major exhibition featuring 48 of the artist’s most iconic photographs. The Paine is the only venue in Wisconsin to host the pieces of Ansel’s collection, known for its grand views of the American West. Don’t miss this rare opportunity to see the renowned photographer’s finest works in person.

920-235-6903; [www.thepaine.org](http://www.thepaine.org)

**Campfire Film Festival – Woodruff Sept. 5-9, 2012**

The Campfire Film Festival celebrates film, the arts and nature’s grandeur by providing an engaging, high-quality film event that sparks creativity and growth from Wisconsin’s Northwoods region. The festival features Wisconsin’s talented film industry by showcasing great films and filmmakers, including emerging and young filmmakers. Activities include daily workshops, film screenings and dinners.

715-892-5232; [www.campfirefilmfestival.com](http://www.campfirefilmfestival.com)

**Kettle Moraine Jazz Festival – West Bend Sept. 7-8, 2012**

This festival features internationally recognized jazz musicians and vocalists, international cuisine, a marketplace and sponsor exhibits. Relax under a spacious tent among the rolling Kettle Moraine hills in Riverside Park and enjoy the soothing sounds of world-class acts like Summer Storm featuring Norman Brown and Gerald Albright or Mindi Abair and Friends.

877-271-6903; <http://www.kmjazz.com>

**65<sup>th</sup> Annual Dairy Days – Platteville Sept. 7-9, 2012**

This three-day festival honors its 65<sup>th</sup> year of celebrating Wisconsin’s dairy heritage. Featured events include a truck/tractor pull, Midway rides, concessions, 4-H exhibits, dairy show, car show and parade.

608-732-2609; [www.platteville.com](http://www.platteville.com)

**VSCDA Elkhart Lake Vintage Festival – Elkhart**

**Sept. 7-9, 2012**

Head to the “National Park of Speed” to watch gorgeous cars showcase racing history amidst the beautiful fall colors in Elkhart. VSCDA Elkhart Lake Vintage Festival celebrates beauty and speed of classic racecars like the Austin Healy, Ferrari, Maserati, Bugatti and Aston-Martin. 800-365-7223; [www.roadamerica.com](http://www.roadamerica.com)

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual Thirsty Troll Brewfest – Mount Horeb**

**Sept. 8, 2012**

This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Thirsty Troll Brewfest, where dozens of brewers from across Wisconsin annually showcase up to 100 different beers. In celebration, Grumpy Troll Brew Pub has created a commemorative beer. Relax with a cold beer and have a photo taken with Jorgen the Troll as you celebrate Wisconsin's rich brewing history. 608-437-5914; [www.trollway.com](http://www.trollway.com)

**Sputnikfest – Manitowoc**

**Sept. 8, 2012**

Named one of the Top Five Funkiest Festivals in the country by *Reader's Digest*, Sputnikfest commemorates the Russian satellite falling out of the sky and landing in Manitowoc on Sept. 6, 1962. This year commemorates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the satellite's landing. Dress up in aluminum foil for the Miss Space Debris pageant, build a robot, compete in the Cosmic Cake Contest or one of many raffles and join in alien-themed activities all day long. There's also live music and entertainment. 920-686-3090; [www.sputnikfest.com](http://www.sputnikfest.com)



*Sputnikfest  
Photo Courtesy of Sputnikfest*

**Running of the Llamas – Hammond**

**Sept. 8, 2012**

Taking your dog for a walk pales in comparison to racing your llama through the streets of Hammond at the annual Running of the Llamas. For onlookers, the event is equally entertaining. A not-so-typical parade precedes the run, with llamas and a live crocodile. This year, the event has added a race heat featuring alpacas and more children's activities. Don't miss the expanded rib fest after the race, always a fan favorite. 715-796-2330; <http://www.therunningofthellamas.com>

**U.S. Watermelon Speed-Eating Seed-Spitting Championship – Pardeeville**

**Sept. 8, 2012**

Test your watermelon speed-eating and seed-spitting abilities at Pardeeville's 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Watermelon Festival. Challenge world records that haven't been broken in more than a decade, enjoy all the free watermelon you can eat, carve a watermelon and stop by the open-air market. DJ music and a comedy and magic show complete the experience at this family festival. 608-697-6744; [www.pardeevillewatermelonfestival.com](http://www.pardeevillewatermelonfestival.com)

**Villa Louis Carriage Classic – Prairie du Chien**

**Sept. 8-9, 2012**

As the largest carriage driving competition in the central U.S. the Villa Louis Carriage Classic features more than 100 elegantly clothed drivers and horse drawn carriages. This event will bring you back in time to the 1800s while you watch immaculately groomed horses in polished harnesses gracefully move around the grounds. The event features a variety of classes including the popular Picnic Class on Saturday and the Carriage Dog Class on Sunday. 608-326-2721; [www.villalouis.org](http://www.villalouis.org)

**Artrageous Weekend – Wausau**

**Sept. 8-9, 2012**

This festival hosts a trilogy of fine art by celebrating three separate events throughout the city. The Festival of Arts, held in downtown Wausau, features work by more than 100 juried fine artists, on-stage and strolling performers, a children's art area and food stands. Check out Art in the Park in Marathon Park for an additional 120 exhibitors showcasing painting, pottery, photography, stained glass and more. The third festival of the weekend, "Birds in Art," offers more than 120 works of artistic interpretations of birds and a "Meet the Artists" program at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum. Free shuttle buses run every 15 minutes between the locations. 715-842-1676; [www.wausaufoa.org](http://www.wausaufoa.org)

**Wisconsin Ironman Triathlon – Madison**

**Sept. 9, 2012**

Join more than 45,000 spectators to cheer on 2,000 athletes as they swim 2.4 miles, bike 112 miles and run 26.2 miles. The course winds through scenic rural roads, farmland, and eventually concludes at midnight right in front of the Wisconsin State Capitol. 608-226-4780; [www.ironmanwisconsin.com](http://www.ironmanwisconsin.com)

**Tomahawk Fall Ride for MDA – Tomahawk**

**Sept. 13-16, 2012**

As the largest local fundraiser for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA), the Tomahawk Fall Ride annually draws more than 40,000 motorcycle enthusiasts to enjoy entertainment and the newest motorcycles and accessories from Harley-Davidson Motor Company while raising funds for MDA. Apart from the ride, the event kicks off with a brat fry and bonfire on Thursday followed by live music and plenty of entertainment throughout the weekend. 800-569-2160; [www.tomahawkfallride.com](http://www.tomahawkfallride.com)

**30<sup>th</sup> Annual Chequamegon Fat Tire Festival – Cable and Hayward**

**Sept. 14-16, 2012**

Celebrate 30 years of fat tire racing and fun at the Chequamegon Fat Tire Festival. The annual festival hosts the largest and most esteemed mass start off-road bicycle event in the nation. Each year, approximately 1,850 participants compete in the 40-mile Chequamegon 40 race and another 900 ride the forested trails of the 16-mile Short and Fat. Saturday is the race day and Sunday is Funday, featuring free fun for adults and children, live entertainment, hundred of miles of riding trails, the Rough Stuff Poker Ride bicycle orienteering and Cable CritCross obstacle lap race. Entry is by pre-registration only. 715-798-3594; <http://www.cheqfattire.com>

**Wo-Zha-Wa Days Fall Festival – Wisconsin Dells**

**Sept. 14-16, 2012**

Help the Wisconsin Dells mark the end of summer with the Wo-Zha-Wa Days Fall Festival, named for the Ho-Chunk phrase "to have fun." From carnival rides and food stands to sidewalk sales and an antique craft fair to a 100-unit parade, this festival offers something for the whole family. 1-800-22-DELLS; <http://www.wisdells.com>

**Green County Cheese Days – Monroe**

**Sept. 14-16, 2012**

Home to the largest concentration of cheese makers in the country, Green County annually hosts Cheese Days in Monroe's Historic Courthouse Square. Dating back to 1914, Cheese Days is the oldest food fest in the Midwest and features foods like cheesecake on a stick, cheese curds, cream puffs and more. Endless fun includes polka in the street, cow milking, Zumba and yodeling lessons, a kid's arts and imagination station and the Swiss Colony Cheese Days Parade. The whole event is a really "gouda" time for the whole family! 1-800-307-7208; [www.cheesedays.com](http://www.cheesedays.com)

**Kermis Dutch Festival – Little Chute**

**Sept. 15, 2012**

You don't need to hail from the Netherlands to enjoy the abundance of family fun that Kermis Dutch Festival offers. Kids will enjoy inflatables, face painting, balloons, a family bike ride and the Dash for the Cash Coin Drop, where children race to collect coins and find specially marked coins for prizes. Adults can join in on the fun with a bar hop scavenger hunt. The festival also features performances by Klompen Dansers, a basketball free throw shooting contest, cookie eating contest and plenty of authentic Dutch food.

20-788-7380; [www.littlechutewindmill.org](http://www.littlechutewindmill.org)

**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Kickapoo BRAVE Ride – Gays Mills**

**Sept. 15, 2012**

Grab your bicycle and brave the 5<sup>th</sup> annual BRAVE (Bluffs, Rivers and Valley Event) Ride. BRAVE riders choose between the 20-, 40-, 60- or 100-mile bicycle routes that all wind their way through the breathtaking Kickapoo countryside. Enjoy panoramic views of ridge tops, deep valley roads and scenic rest stops along the way. The event concludes with a social hour and Harvest Dinner in Riverside Park. New this year, the "Family Fun Ride!" is a shorter (less than 10 miles) and flatter ride geared towards family and novice riders.

866-452-7967; <http://www.crawfordcountywi.com/brave.htm>

**Fat Tire Memorial Tour – Lake Geneva**

**Sept. 15, 2012**

The Fat Tire Memorial Tour is a fun bicycle ride on paved roads offering beautiful views of Geneva Lake and Lake Como. Beginning with a mass group start at Champ's Sports Bar & Grill, the 21.5-mile route consists of nine evenly spaced stops at sponsoring taverns like Harpoon Willies, Chuck's Lake Shore Inn and Shifters Bar and Food.

[www.fattirememorialtour.com](http://www.fattirememorialtour.com)

**Rock the Green – Milwaukee**

**Sept. 15, 2012**

After a successful inaugural year, Milwaukee's first large-scale near-zero waste music festival is back. With live music, local organic food, sustainability tips and more, Rock the Green brings together world-class national entertainment and environmentally sustainable practices. Some of the event's eco-friendly highlights include free fresh water stations, compostable serve ware, locally sourced food and beverages, complimentary valet bike parking service and power from a combination of 100 percent B20 biodiesel generators, solar and bicycle power. This year's headliner is Third Eye Blind with performances by Metric, Switchfoot, Imagine Dragons and more. Another stage will feature local Milwaukee artists like Evan Christian and Ikarus Down.

<http://www.rockthegreen.com/>



*Rock the Green  
Photo Courtesy of Rock the Green*

**40<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine & Harvest Festival – Cedarburg**

**Sept. 15-16, 2012**

Head to historic Cedarburg for the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine & Harvest Festival. The festival features an abundance of homegrown Wisconsin produce, artisan food products and the award-winning wines of Cedar Creek Winery. Mouthwatering food booths, live music, the Scarecrow Contest, hayrides and Giant Pumpkin Charity Regatta are just some of the festival's fun offerings. Be sure to check out Arts on the Avenue which showcases more than 200 juried art booths and stop by The Shops of Cedar Creek Settlement for Cedar Creek Winery's hilarious Grape Stomp.

262-377-3891; <http://www.cedarburgfestivals.org>

**20<sup>th</sup> Annual Maple Fall Fest – Marshfield**

**Sept. 15-16, 2012**

Celebrate the true meaning of “nature’s candy” as you indulge in countless maple treats, watch maple syrup demonstrations, maple dessert and syrup judging contests and more. This festival also hosts 150+ arts and crafts vendors, Amish specialties, a pancake breakfast and live entertainment.

800-422-4541; [www.visitmarshfield.com](http://www.visitmarshfield.com)

**Driftless Area Art Festival – Soldiers Grove**

**Sept. 15-16, 2012**

The Driftless Area Art Festival showcases the works of 80 local visual artists including painting, printmaking, photography, ceramics, jewelry, sculpture, mixed media and woodworking. The festival also features local performing artists who provide live music and culinary artists who provide a full range of treats that highlight local and organic ingredients. Families can stop by the KidsArt tent for children’s activities and more than 650 works of art by area elementary and middle school students.

608-624-3600; <http://www.driftlessareaartfestival.com>

**Fall Harvest Festival – St. Croix Falls**

**Sept. 15-16, 2012**

Chateau St. Croix Winery and Vineyard will host the Fall Harvest Festival, featuring artists and crafters, food vendors, live music and fine wine. Don’t miss the grape stomp, grape spitting contest or the barrel roll up the hill to the winery! Tours of the winery and tastings are available at the event.

715-483-2553; [www.chateaustcroix.com](http://www.chateaustcroix.com)

**SCCA National Championship Runoffs – Elkhart Lake**

**Sept. 20-23, 2012**

Drawing an average of more than 650 participants each year, the SCCA National Championship Runoffs is often referred to as the “Olympics of Motorsports.” Enjoy camping on the grounds, great promotions and fan activities.

800-365-7223; [www.roadamerica.com](http://www.roadamerica.com)

**Oktoberfest – Chippewa Falls**

**Sept. 21-23, 2012**

Don your lederhosen and prepare for a weekend of German Heritage at the Chippewa Falls Oktoberfest. From sauerbraten to spanferkel, this festival has all the authentic German fare and beer you could ask for. The event kicks off with the Golden Keg Procession and continues all weekend with live entertainment lineups on four stages. Other event highlights include a sauerkraut eating contest, German Auto and Motorcycle show and a kite making workshop.

715-723-0331; <http://www.chippewachamber.org/oktoberfest.asp>

**Rockman Challenge – Waterford**

**Sept. 22, 2012**

Adventure sports enthusiasts are sure to get a thrill from the Rockman Challenge. The race starts with a four-mile paddle on the Rock River during which competitors must exit the water and carry their gear 75 yards to the final mile of the paddle. After the paddling leg, competitors bike a 13.5-mile route through the rolling glacial terrain of Jefferson County, followed by a three-mile wooded trail run. The race ends after a quarter mile military style obstacle course complete with drill sergeants and a swing over a water trap. After the race, the solo racers, tandem and relay teams can relax with a well-earned chicken dinner and live entertainment. Register by Sept. 1.

<http://www.rockmanchallenge.org/Welcome.html>



**Fall Color Biking Fest – Whitewater**

**Sept. 22, 2012**

Head to the Fall Color Festival in Whitewater for a full day of heart-pounding, side-aching, gear-grinding, mountain bike excitement for the whole family. Choose from the 5-, 14-, 25- and 30-mile rides or the new parent/child tag team event. During the festival, stop by the beer garden and be sure to participate in the many raffles offered.

[www.fallcolorfestival.org](http://www.fallcolorfestival.org)

**Spirit of St. Croix Art Festival – Hudson**

**Sept. 22-23, 2012**

The Spirit of St. Croix Art Festival celebrates the beauty of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway by bringing more than 70 juried artists to Hudson's Lakefront Park for this two-day event. The artist village will host top artists and musicians as well as refreshments from local restaurants, breweries and wineries. Don't miss the Scarecrows on Parade, where downtown retail businesses display scarecrows in their windows, welcoming you to stop in and win prizes.

800-657-6775; <http://www.hudsonwi.org>

**"Leonardo da Vinci: Machines in Motion" Exhibit – Appleton**     **Sept. 22, 2012-Jan. 6, 2013**

The History Museum at the Castle in downtown Appleton will feature a unique exhibition for three months this year. "Leonardo da Vinci: Machines in Motion" will display 40 operational, actual-size working machine replicas of da Vinci's amazing machines, all built by modern day scientists and artisans according to da Vinci's famous codices. Visit the exhibit to see four flying machines, a full-size armored tank, a working robot and a revolving crane, among other innovative machines.

920-735-9370; [www.myhistorymuseum.org](http://www.myhistorymuseum.org)

**Land O' Lakes Colorama Bike Tour – Land O' Lakes**

**Sept. 23, 2012**

This year the annual Colorama Bike Tour will take advantage of the recently completed 3.5 mile extension to the Land O' Lakes trails. Riders will enjoy spectacular views of the Northwoods' countryside and forests blanketed in beautiful fall color during the 10-, 30- and 50- mile courses.

715-536-7313; [www.wildlakes.org](http://www.wildlakes.org)

**Wisconsin Science Festival – Madison**

**Sept. 27-30, 2012**

The Wisconsin Science Festival invites people of all ages to discover the wonders of science, arts and more through interactive exhibits, hands-on workshops, lectures, demonstrations and conversations with leading researchers and creative thinkers. Check out some of the special programs like "Are You Smarter than a Monkey?," "Alternative Fuel Vehicles," and "Reptiles and Amphibians." There's something for everyone at this unique and interactive free festival.

608-316-4382; [www.wisconsin-science-fest.org](http://www.wisconsin-science-fest.org)

**Milwaukee Film Festival – Milwaukee**

**Sept. 27-Oct. 11, 2012**

2012 brings exciting changes to the popular Milwaukee Film Festival, including an additional four days of screenings, the return of weekday screenings at the Oriental and the addition of a third historic Milwaukee theatre. This year the 61-year-old art deco Fox-Bay Cinema Grill will join Landmark's Oriental and Downer Theatres as an official screening venue for the duration of the festival. Enjoy some of the world's top films as well as after parties and special events throughout the 15-day festival.

414-755-1965; [www.mkefilm.org](http://www.mkefilm.org)



**Beef-A-Rama – Minocqua**

**Sept. 28-29, 2012**

Where's the beef? At Beef-A-Rama, of course! This annual event celebrates all beef has to offer with the "Parade of Roasts" down Oneida Street, the Rump Roast Run in Bearskin Park, and storefront beef roast cook-offs. Other activities include a craft show, kid's activities, live music and tasty treats. Don't forget to stop at the famous beef sandwich sale.

800-44-NORTH; <http://www.minocqua.org>

**Oktoberfest – La Crosse**

**Sept. 28–Oct. 6, 2012**

The La Crosse Oktoberfest welcomes more than 100,000 attendees each year. Guests enjoy parades, pageantry, royalty, beer, brats and world famous entertainment. Don't miss the Maple Leaf and Torchlight Parades, the Festmaster Ball and the Lederhosen Luncheon, along with other great programming throughout the event. This year the event's Northside Festgrounds will be family friendly and alcohol-free and will host a dance competition, strong man competition, theatre performance and more.

608-784-FEST; <http://www.oktoberfestusa.com>



*Oktoberfest  
Photo Courtesy of Oktoberfest*

**Warrens Cranberry Festival – Warrens**

**Sept. 28-30, 2012**

Celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Warren's Cranberry Festival with more than 110,000 other cranberry-enthusiasts. The world's largest cranberry festival features more than three miles of shopping, arts and crafts, flea market antiques, a farmers' market, a cranberry parade and the biggest cranberry contest. Don't forget to sample the array of food like cranberry brats, cranberry cream puffs and cranberry whoopie pies.

608-378-4200; <http://www.cranfest.com>

**Geneva Lakes Antique & Classic Boat Show – Fontana**

**Sept. 28-30, 2012**

The Geneva Lakes Antique & Classic Boat Show offers a weekend full of beautiful antique boats along the pristine waters of Geneva Lake. The event will showcase major boat manufacturers like Streblo, Hacker and Gar Wood, the popular "Start Your Engines" boat parade, vendors and more.

315-686-2628; [www.genevalakesboatshow.com](http://www.genevalakesboatshow.com)

**35<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Jefferson Car Show – Jefferson**

**Sept. 28-30, 2012**

Celebrating 35 years, the Fall Jefferson Car show and Auto Swap Meet features 3,100 swap spaces and hundreds of cars for sale and on display across 99 acres. This year the featured cars will be street rods and rat rods but with something for everyone, its no wonder the event annually draws more than 20,000 spectators. The car show takes place on Saturday and Sunday and showcases special interest and pre-1989 cars. Save time to drive an hour northeast to the Wisconsin Automotive Museum in Hartford.

608-244-8416; [www.jeffersonswapmeet.com](http://www.jeffersonswapmeet.com)

**Apple Festival – Gays Mills**

**Sept. 28-30, 2012**

Fall is peak apple season in Wisconsin and the quaint town of Gays Mills hosts an annual festival to celebrate the delicious fruit. Visitors enjoy all kinds of apple products, arts and crafts displays, a 2K and 5K run, flea market, apple race, parade and horseshoe tournament.

608-735-4341; <http://www.gaysmills.org>

**Octoberfest – Appleton**

**Sept. 28-29, 2012**

More than 100 non-profit food vendors, five stages of continuous live music, 180 arts and crafts vendors and entertainment all day long mean fun for the whole family. Octoberfest kicks off Friday night with the License to Cruise car show, featuring British Imports and live music in the Houdini Plaza. Saturday offers all the authentic German food, music and fun you could ask for. Be sure to check out the family fun area for kid-friendly entertainment like clowns, demonstrations, bouncy houses and more.

920-734-7101; <http://www.octoberfestonline.org>

**Chain O' Lakes Blues Festival – Waupaca**

**Sept. 29, 2012**

Gather on Waupaca's beautiful Chain O' Lakes with other blues enthusiasts for the first ever Chain O' Lakes Blues Festival, featuring Dave Steffen Band, Alex Wilson Band, Otis and the Alligators and more. Take a tour of the Chain O' Lakes aboard the famous Chief Waupaca Sternwheeler or stop by the Wheel House Restaurant's annual Pig Roast on Saturday. Head to Clear Water Harbor Restaurant and Bar on Sunday for the Closing Party with entertainment by Swing Crew.

715-258-7343; <http://www.waupacaareachamber.com/event/chain-o-lakes-blues-festival>

**Grantoberfest – Grantsburg**

**Sept. 29, 2012**

Grantoberfest showcases everything the Grantsburg area has to offer with a kickball tournament, mini golf, wiener dog race, scarecrow decorating, the great pumpkin contest and so much more. Kids will love the face painting, petting zoo and adults will enjoy the Taste of Grantsburg and live music.

[www.grantoberfest.com](http://www.grantoberfest.com)

**Wade House Civil War Weekend – Greenbush**

**Sept. 29-30, 2012**

Don't miss the largest Civil War re-enactment and encampment in Wisconsin. This year will bring a re-enactment of the Confederate attack against the "Iron Brigade of the West." During the memorable battle, four Union regiments were caught off guard by Confederate soldiers but held their lines into the night. In between the action, visitors can access the battlefield for an up-close look at the men, horses and equipment that bring the Civil War to life. Guests can also enjoy food and beverage, shopping, a concert by a 19<sup>th</sup> century military brass band, a tour of the Wade House stagecoach inn, sawmill, carriage museum and more.

920-526-3271; <http://www.wadehouse.org>

**OCTOBER:**

**Audubon Days Festival – Mayville**

**Oct. 5-7, 2012**

For a weekend packed with family fun, check out Audubon Days Festival. Friday night brings Bed Races, a youth dance and adult beer and wine tasting. On Saturday, guests can enjoy performances by Shaker and the Egg and Pat McCurdy while the kids are entertained by magicians and clowns, a petting zoo, a bean bag toss contest, craft tent, climbing wall and more. The fun continues on Sunday with a parade, rubber duck race, games, live music and plenty of food.

800-256-7670; <http://www.audubondays.com>

**Bayfield Apple Festival – Bayfield**

**Oct. 5-7, 2012**

At the annual Bayfield Apple Festival, more than 60 orchard and food booths sell treats from caramel apples to apple dumplings, tarts, cider and everything in between. The festival will again feature performing arts by Big Top Chautauqua and THE Pipes and Drums of Thunder Bay. Enjoy more than 150 artists and crafters, a traditional fish boil, orchard visits and an evening boat parade.

800-447-4094; <http://www.bayfield.org>



*Bayfield Apple Festival*

*Photo Courtesy of Bayfield Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Bureau*

**Fresh Art Tour – Pepin and Pierce Counties**

**Oct. 5-7, 2012**

The Fresh Art Tour is a weekend-long, self-guided tour of 17 studios and galleries in the stunning Chippewa Valley. Enjoy scenic fall color while traveling to different sites, like Cultural Cloth, which sells personal and home accessories made by women's groups from around the world. Every studio features art demonstrations and some may even invite you to create something of your own.

715-672-8188; [www.freshart.org](http://www.freshart.org)

**Cowboy Reenactment – Laona**

**Oct. 6, 2012**

Head to Laona for a classic Cowboy Reenactment. Step back in time and ride the Lumberjack Steam Train to experience the old West up-close as you become part of a Wild West robbery. The group of re-enactors will be dressed in authentic costumes and the exciting, interactive performance is sure to thrill the entire family.

715-674-3414; [www.lumberjacksteamtrain.com](http://www.lumberjacksteamtrain.com)

**30<sup>th</sup> Annual Apple Affair – Galesville**

**Oct. 6, 2012**

This year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this family event. Area artisans and crafters display and sell their creations as visitors enjoy food and music throughout the day. Don't miss the famous 10-foot apple pie that bakes on the square! Stop by Old Main for an all school art show or the Arnold House for a tour.

608-582-2868; [www.galesvillewi.com](http://www.galesvillewi.com)

**Stone Lake Cranberry Festival – Stone Lake**

**Oct. 6, 2012**

As one of Wisconsin's largest cranberry festivals, Stone Lake Cranberry Festival features an abundance of activities for the whole family. Visitors can board a bus from the festival and take a tour of one of the local cranberry marshes or enjoy hundreds of crafters and food booths, a farmers' market, parade, crate derby and other fun family activities.

715-865-3378; [www.stonelakecranberryfestival.com](http://www.stonelakecranberryfestival.com)

**Dam Challenge Triathlon – La Farge**

**Oct. 6, 2012**

Paddle seven miles on the winding Kickapoo River, bike 14-miles through the rural countryside of the Kickapoo Valley and run three miles cross-country on the trails of the Kickapoo Valley Reserve to complete the Dam Challenge Triathlon. During the peak fall color season, this triathlon offers stunning views and race categories for individuals and two- or four-person relay teams. Participants may camp and take part in the Spaghetti Feed Friday night at the Reserve Visitor Center.

608-625-2960; <http://kvr.state.wi.us>

**Wisconsin Colorfest – Turtle Lake**

**Oct. 6, 2012**

The annual Wisconsin Colorfest features Wisconsin food sampling, a steak dinner, a farmers' market and giant pumpkin contest. Don't miss several opportunities to experience Wisconsin's beautiful fall color during the festival's horse drawn Happy Trail's Color Tour or the ATV Color Tour.

800-811-0338; [www.wisconsincolorfest.org](http://www.wisconsincolorfest.org)

**Shawano Country Miles of Art Fall Festival – Shawano**

**Oct. 6-7, 2012**

Now in its second year, the Miles of Art Fall Festival celebrates the arts and nature throughout Shawano and Menominee Counties. The event will include self-guided tours of area artists' studios, Walls of Wittenberg murals, Shawano Country Barn Quilts and colorful fall drives. Additional visual arts will be featured at the WOWSPACE Gallery exhibit.

715-524-2139; [www.shawanocountry.com](http://www.shawanocountry.com)

**15<sup>th</sup> Annual Nekoosa Giant Pumpkin Fest – Nekoosa**

**Oct. 6-7, 2012**

This year's Giant Pumpkin Fest will showcase some of the largest pumpkins you'll ever see. Once each year, growers from across the state travel to Nekoosa to weigh their giant pumpkins, squash, watermelons and fall produce for international competition. Don't miss the giant pumpkin weigh-off or the pumpkin drop. Other activities include the great pumpkin bake-off, pumpkin rolling contest, pumpkin pie eating contest, craft show and farmers' market.

715-323-4533; [www.nekoosagiantpumpkinfest.com](http://www.nekoosagiantpumpkinfest.com)

**Cranberry Fest – Eagle River**

**Oct. 6-7, 2012**

Celebrate Wisconsin's state fruit and all things cranberry at Eagle River's Cranberry Fest. After sampling cranberry beer, cranberry meatballs, cranberry chili and a cranberry-mustard covered cranberry bratwurst, be sure to save room for the "World's Largest Cranberry Cheesecake." Approximately 10,000 pounds of cranberries will be sold throughout the festival. Once you've had your fill of the delicious berry, check out the antique and farmers' market or take a cranberry marsh tour.

800-359-6315; <http://www.cranberryfest.org>

**Oktoberfest Celebration – Lake Geneva**

**Oct. 6-7, 2012**

Lake Geneva's annual Oktoberfest Celebration features a bushel of family activities including music, magic and the Great Pumpkin Giveaway. You'll also find food and craft booths, a farmers' market, restaurant and shopping specials, wagon rides and a street dance at this memorable event.

800-345-1020; [www.lakegenevawi.com](http://www.lakegenevawi.com)

**Pumpkin Patch Festival – Egg Harbor**

**Oct. 6-7, 2012**

Head to the Pumpkin Patch Festival to get in the Halloween spirit with carnival rides, face painting, a storyteller, live music and arts and crafts. There's plenty for the whole family at this two-day festival and admission is free.

920-868-3717; [www.egg Harbor-wi.com](http://www.egg Harbor-wi.com)

**Autumn on the Farms at Old World Wisconsin – Eagle**

**Oct. 6-7 and 13-14, 2012**

Take part in the historic rituals of autumn just as our rural ancestors did long ago at Autumn on the Farms. You'll get to experience the way people prepared their homes and farms for the coming winter by participating in activities in the Old World Wisconsin farm and kitchens. Help with plenty of hands-on activities and stop by the new corn maze during your visit.

262-594-6301; <http://www.oldworldwisconsin.org>

**Wollersheim Winery Ice Wine Release Celebration – Prairie du Sac** **Oct. 10, 2012**

Celebrate the release of Wollersheim's Ice Wine 2011. Enjoy this "Nectar of the Vines" along with other sweet Wollersheim wines, live harp music and special Ice Wine tours of the vineyard where the Ice Wine grapes hang until they freeze. A cheesecake plate and Wollersheim wines by the glass are available for purchase.

800-VIP-WINE; <http://www.wollersheim.com>

**WhistleStop Marathon/Half-Marathon & Festival – Ashland** **Oct. 12-13, 2012**

Join in a weekend of music and running at the WhistleStop Marathon/Half-Marathon & Festival in Ashland. Friday kicks off the event with the Lake Superior fish boil and pasta feed. Saturday brings the marathon, half-marathon, 10K, 5K and Toddler's Race. The courses pass through beautiful wetlands, trout streams, woodlands and dairy farms in the area. After a hard run, relax with the Blues and Brew Fest Saturday evening where you can sample local wine and more than 50 varieties of micro-brews from across the Midwest.

800-284-9484; [www.whistlestopmarathon.com](http://www.whistlestopmarathon.com)

**NEW Zoo Boo – Green Bay** **Oct. 12-13, 19-20 and 26-27, 2012**

For three weekends each year, Green Bay's NEW Zoo features spooky fun for all ages. Costume-clad children and parents alike can follow the light of hundreds of jack o' lanterns on their way to treat stations located throughout the zoo. Trick-or-treating is available each night and haunted hayrides are available for the first two weekends. Be sure to visit the giant inflatables on the third weekend.

920-434-7841; <http://www.newzoo.org>

**Sheboygan Shindig – Sheboygan** **Oct. 12-14, 2012**

Authors, illustrators and artists from across the country converge on Sheboygan to speak, perform and sign books at the Sheboygan Shindig, a weekend of art and fun for all ages. The event will host Wisconsin's Second Children's Book Festival with the opening of Kids are Alright.

920-458-6144; [www.jmkac.org](http://www.jmkac.org)

**Fermentation Fest – Reedsburg**

**Oct. 12-21, 2012**

There's something brewing in Reedsburg this fall and if you stop by the Fermentation Fest, you just might get to sample it. A 10-day food and farming festival, with a focus on fermentation, this annual event features 33 classes about fermented foods, tasting events, performances and a 50-mile self-guided Farm/Art DTour through scenic working land punctuated by temporary art installations and roadside culture stands.

608-524-8672; <http://wormfarminstitute.org/events/>



*Fermentation Fest  
Photo Courtesy of Fermentation Fest*

**Autumn Harvest Fest – Wisconsin Dells**

**Oct. 13-14, 2012**

Autumn Harvest Fest features fun for the whole family with scarecrow stuffing, pumpkin decorating, an arts & crafts marketplace, hay and pony rides, live entertainment and, for the adults, Dells on Tap microbrew tasting.

800-223-3557; <http://www.wisdells.com/ahf>

**Chippewa Valley Book Festival – Eau Claire**

**Oct. 15-21, 2012**

Celebrate the written word with a variety of authors during this seven-day festival. Events take place throughout the week for all age groups with book talks, signings, readings and writing workshops. Featured authors include Erika Janik, Rebecca Makkai, William Stobb and Michelle Wildgen.

715-832-ARTS; <http://www.cvbookfest.org/>

**Kohler Food & Wine Experience – Kohler**

**Oct. 18-21, 2012**

Join the Village of Kohler for a weekend of delicious tastings, educational seminars and demonstrations by award-winning local and international chefs. Don't miss the opportunity to delight your taste buds while learning from the nation's top wine and culinary experts at Kohler Food & Wine Experience.

800-344-2838; <http://www.destinationkohler.com>

**Flyaway Film Festival – Pepin**

**Oct. 18-21, 2012**

Offering more than 30 visiting filmmakers, panel discussions and workshops, the Flyaway Film Festival showcases more than 50 features and short films during four days. This year marks five years of art and entertainment on the beautiful shores of Lake Pepin. Early Bird Passes are available for purchase online.

[www.flyawayfilmfestival.org](http://www.flyawayfilmfestival.org)

**Gallery Night and Day – Milwaukee**

**Oct. 19-20, 2012**

Gallery Night and Day is the premier art event in Milwaukee for gallery hopping and art viewing. The world-class event features more than 50 venues throughout downtown that will delight both the experienced art connoisseur and the beginning admirer. Admission is free to all participating venues during event hours.

414-273-1173; <http://www.historicthirdward.org>

**Fall Art Tour – Baraboo, Dodgeville, Mineral Point, Spring Green**

**Oct. 19-21, 2012**

Each year in October, some of Wisconsin's best-known artisans open their studios for one weekend, allowing visitors a rare, behind-the-scenes look into how their work is created. During the three-day self-guided tour, guests will visit studios tucked away into the scenic hills of Baraboo, Spring Green, Dodgeville and Mineral Point. Artists will demonstrate and sell work including paintings, sculptures, pottery, weavings, jewelry, woodwork and more. This year features 14 "visiting artists" along with the 55 main tour artists featured during the tour.

608-356-7805; <http://www.fallarttour.com>

**Madeline Island Fall Festival – Madeline Island**

**Oct. 20, 2012**

Head to Madeline Island to celebrate local art, fall color and community at the Madeline Island Fall Festival. The festival offers pumpkin activities, art displays and demonstrations, special sales at island businesses and other events on the scenic island.

[www.madelineisland.com](http://www.madelineisland.com)

**Fall Flashlight Tours – Superior**

**Oct. 26-29, 2012**

Tour the darkened Fairlawn Mansion with flashlights and learn about the superstitious life of the Victorians. Tours leave every half hour from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. BYOF: Bring your own flashlights!

715-394-5172; [www.superiormuseums.org](http://www.superiormuseums.org)



**Beer and Spirits – Lake Geneva**

**Oct. 27, 2012**

Don't miss the Lake Geneva area's only beer and distillery tasting event. Beer and Spirits, held at the beautiful Grand Geneva Resort and Spa, features unlimited sampling from more than 25 Midwest micro-craft breweries. Visitors will also enjoy food sampling and concessions, live music and a photo booth.

262-245-1000; [www.lakegenevabeerandspirits.com](http://www.lakegenevabeerandspirits.com)

**NOVEMBER**

**Wisconsin Book Festival – Madison**

**Nov. 7-11, 2012**

Designed to delight booklovers of all walks, tastes and ages, the Wisconsin Book Festival features readings, lectures, book discussions, writing workshops, live interviews, children's events and more. This year's theme is "Lost & Found" and featured presenters include Pulitzer Prize winners Richard Russo and David Maraniss, award-winning young adult author Patricia McCormick and award-winning playwright Ayad Akhtar. The Wisconsin Book Festival is a special program of the Wisconsin Humanities Council. All events are free.

608-262-0706; <http://www.wisconsinbookfestival.org>

**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Big Water Film Festival – Washburn**

**Nov. 9-11, 2012**

Enjoy top independent films on the stunning south shore of Lake Superior's Chequamegon Bay at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Big Water Film Festival. With a tradition of bringing fine films to the big screen, the Big Water Film Festival features new and independent short and feature length films. Select filmmakers will also give presentations at the festival.

715-373-1194; [www.bigwaterfilmfestival.org](http://www.bigwaterfilmfestival.org)

**Wisconsin Original Cheese Festival – Madison**

**Nov. 9-10, 2012**

Celebrate the state's growing number of dairy artisans and original cheeses through a variety of events, including creamery and farm tours, cheese maker dinners, educational and tasting seminars and the popular "meet the cheese maker" gala. New this year, attendees may purchase an all-inclusive Saturday pass providing VIP access to a morning keynote with the founder of Zingerman's Deli, Ari Weinzwieg, an elegant lunch in the Grand Terrace and two afternoon seminars. Advance tickets are required for all events.

608-358-7837; <http://www.wicheesefest.com/events.php>



*Wisconsin Original Cheese Festival  
Photo Courtesy of Wisconsin Cheese Originals*

**Trainfest – West Allis**

**Nov. 10-11, 2012**

Join more than 22,000 families and model train hobbyists for endless fun at Trainfest, America's largest operating model train show. In 200,000 square feet of display area, Trainfest has something for everyone. Spend hours entertained by 60 intricately-detailed running railroads, visit model train manufacturers and retailers from coast-to-coast and enjoy kids' highlights like face painting, crafts, racing trains and more.

262-820-3566; [www.trainfest.com](http://www.trainfest.com)