



MEDIA CONTACT:

Kristina Rozenbergs, Wisconsin Department of Tourism

Phone: 608-266-7839

Email: krozenbergs@travelwisconsin.com

Lisa Marshall, Wisconsin Department of Tourism

Phone: 608-267-3773

Email: lmarshall@travelwisconsin.com

Media Room: <http://media.travelwisconsin.com>

WISCONSIN'S EVENT LINE-UP WILL ADD THE FUN TO FALL

Wisconsin's list of fall events from September through mid-November 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MADISON, Wis. (Aug. 12, 2015) – Welcome fall to Wisconsin with football games, pumpkin picking, colorful foliage and an extensive line-up of events. Kick off the season with new fall-tastic events like the Can-Yak Fishing Tournament and Blues Fest, or step back in time at the Northwoods Medieval Faire. There are also seasonal favorites to tackle, like the many pumpkin, cranberry or apple harvest fests across the state. With so many spectacular fall events to choose from, Wisconsin is your premier fall travel destination.

Please note that event changes may occur. We encourage media to double-check dates and contact information before going to print or posting online.

And remember, travelers looking for year-round Wisconsin getaway ideas, travel planning, events and free guides can discover their own fun at TravelWisconsin.com. Be sure to plan your trip around the season's color using the [Travel Wisconsin Fall Color Report](#). 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 apps](#).

SEPTEMBER EVENTS (Pages 3-10)

20 th Annual Apostle Islands Lighthouse Celebration – Bayfield	Sept. 1-19, 2015
Can-Yak Fishing Tournament & Blues Fest – Mercer	Sept. 4-6, 2015
Autumn on the Farms at Old World Wisconsin – Eagle	Sept. 10-Oct. 31, 2015
Northwoods Medieval Faire – Hazelhurst	Sept. 10-13, 2015
Whooping Crane Festival – Green Lake County	Sept. 11-13, 2015
Abby Fall Fest – Abbotsford and Colby	Sept. 11-13, 2015
Dairy Days – Platteville	Sept. 11-13, 2015
Villa Louis Carriage Classic – Prairie du Chien	Sept. 11-13, 2015
Sputnikfest – Manitowoc	Sept. 12, 2015
Chilimania – Edgerton	Sept. 12, 2015
Festifall – Lakewood	Sept. 12, 2015

Pardeeville Watermelon Festival – Pardeeville	Sept. 12, 2015
Ruffed Grouse Fall Festival – Park Falls	Sept. 12, 2015
Running of the Llamas – Hammond	Sept. 12, 2015
Thirsty Troll Brewfest – Mount Horeb	Sept. 12, 2015
Tractor Show and Thresheree – Manitowoc	Sept. 12-13, 2015
Artrageous Weekend – Wausau	Sept. 12-13, 2015
Take Me to the River – St. Croix	Sept. 12-13, 19-20, 26-27, 2015
The Biggest Loser Run Walk – Racine	Sept. 13, 2015
Wisconsin Ironman Triathlon – Madison	Sept. 13, 2015
Elkhart Lake Vintage Festival – Elkhart Lake	Sept. 18-20, 2015
Chequamegon Fat Tire Festival – Cable and Hayward	Sept. 18-20, 2015
Wo-Zha-Wa Days Fall Festival – Wisconsin Dells	Sept. 18-20, 2015
Oktoberfest – Chippewa Falls	Sept. 18-20, 2015
Rockman Challenge – Watertown	Sept. 19, 2015
Grantoberfest – Grantsburg	Sept. 19, 2015
International Fall Festival – Eau Claire	Sept. 19, 2015
Dragonboat Race & Festival – Oshkosh	Sept. 19, 2015
Fat Tire Ride – Lake Geneva	Sept. 19, 2015
Bacon Bash – River Falls	Sept. 19-20, 2015
Maple Fall Fest – Marshfield	Sept. 19-20, 2015
Wind Power Windsurfing Championships – Fond du Lac	Sept. 19-20, 2015
Driftless Area Art Festival – Soldiers Grove	Sept. 19-20, 2015
Wine & Harvest Festival – Cedarburg	Sept. 19-20, 2015
Milwaukee Film Festival – Milwaukee	Sept. 24 - Oct. 8, 2015
Harvestfest & Taste of Siren – Siren	Sept. 24-26, 2015
Octoberfest – Appleton	Sept. 25-26, 2015
Beef-A-Rama – Minocqua	Sept. 25-26, 2015
Warrens Cranberry Festival – Warrens	Sept. 25-27, 2015
Fall Jefferson Car Show & Swap Meet – Jefferson	Sept. 25-27, 2015
Fall Color Biking Fest – Whitewater	Sept. 26, 2015
Apple Festival – Gays Mills	Sept. 26-27, 2015
Spirit of the St. Croix Art Festival – Hudson	Sept. 26-27, 2015
Geneva Lakes Boat Show – Fontana	Sept. 26-27, 2015
Wade House Civil War Weekend – Greenbush	Sept. 26-27, 2015
Green Lake Harvest Fest – Green Lake	Sept. 26-27, 2015
World Dairy Expo – Madison	Sept. 29 - Oct. 3, 2015

OCTOBER EVENTS (Pages 11-16)

Oktoberfest USA – La Crosse	Oct. 1-4, 2015
Chain O' Lakes Blues Festival – Waupaca	Oct. 2-3, 2015
Bayfield Apple Festival – Bayfield	Oct. 2-4, 2015
Audubon Days Festival – Mayville	Oct. 2-4, 2015
Fall Fresh Art Tour – Pepin and Pierce Counties	Oct. 2-4, 2015
Fermentation Fest – Reedsburg	Oct. 2-11, 2015
Apple Affair – Galesville	Oct. 3, 2015
Cowboy Reenactment – Laona	Oct. 3, 2015
Kickapoo Reserve Dam Challenge – La Farge	Oct. 3, 2015
Stone Lake Cranberry Festival – Stone Lake	Oct. 3, 2015
Cranberry Fest – Eagle River	Oct. 3-4, 2015
Nekoosa Giant Pumpkin Fest – Nekoosa	Oct. 3-4, 2015
Shawano Country Miles of Art Fall Festival – Shawano	Oct. 3-4, 2015
Wausau Snowmobile Grass Drags & Swap Meet – Wausau	Oct. 3-4, 2015
WhistleStop Marathon/Half-Marathon & Festival – Ashland	Oct. 9-10, 2015

NEW Zoo Boo – Green Bay	Oct. 9-10, 16-17, 23-24, 2015
Sheboygan Children's Book Festival – Sheboygan	Oct. 9-11, 2015
Rural Arts Road Trip – Calumet County	Oct. 9-11, 2015
20 th Annual Harvest Fest – Boulder Junction	Oct. 10, 2015
Pumpkin Patch Festival – Egg Harbor	Oct. 10-11, 2015
Gathering of Rogues and Ruffians Renaissance Faire – New Glarus	Oct. 10-11, 2015
Oktoberfest Celebration – Lake Geneva	Oct. 10-11, 2015
Abby Fall Fest – Abbotsford & Colby	Oct. 11, 2015
Chippewa Valley Book Festival – Eau Claire	Oct. 15-22, 2015
Fall Gallery Night and Day – Milwaukee	Oct. 16-17, 2015
Fall Art Tour – Baraboo, Dodgeville, Mineral Point, Spring Green	Oct. 16-18, 2015
Fall Festival Weekend – Wisconsin Dells	Oct. 16-18, 2015
Madeline Island Fall Festival – Madeline Island	Oct. 17, 2015
Flyway Film Festival – Pepin, Stockholm, Maiden Rock and Alma	Oct 21-25, 2015
Wisconsin Science Festival – Madison	Oct. 22-25, 2015
Wisconsin Book Festival – Madison	Oct. 22-25, 2015
15th Annual Kohler Food & Wine Experience – Kohler	Oct. 22-25, 2015
Medford Area Harvest Days – Medford Area	Oct. 22-25, 2015
Fall Flashlight Tours – Superior	Oct. 29-30, 2015
Jack O' Lantern Days – Fish Creek	Oct. 30 – Nov. 1, 2015
 NOVEMBER EVENTS (Page 16)	
Big Water Film Festival – Washburn	Nov. 6-8, 2015
Beer and Spirits – Lake Geneva	Nov. 7, 2015
Trainfest – West Allis	Nov. 14-15, 2015
Holiday Harvest Wine and Food Festival – Prescott, Stockholm, Pepin	Nov. 14-15, 2015

Top 2015 Fall Events and Activities Detailed Descriptions

SEPTEMBER:

20th Annual Apostle Islands Lighthouse Celebration – Bayfield **Sept. 1-19, 2015**

For 20 years, Bayfield has offered lighthouse cruises along Lake Superior and the Apostle Islands during the Lighthouse Celebration. Visitors can experience the beauty of lighthouses on each island or get a glimpse of mysterious sea caves during the Sea Cave Cruise.

715-779-5619; www.lighthousecelebration.com

Can-Yak Fishing Tournament and Blues Fest – Mercer **Sept. 4-6, 2015**

Combine fishing, kayaking, canoeing and blues music, and you've got the first annual Can-Yak Fishing Tournament and Blues Fest. Compete in the fishing tournament that's open to all anglers, or check out the free fishing and paddling trade show with demos and workshops taught by industry experts. Stick around Sunday for the awards ceremony as well as music from fishing legend Joe Bucher and his blues band the Top Raiders.

715-476-2389; www.can-yak.com

Autumn on the Farms at Old World Wisconsin – Eagle **Sept. 10 - Oct. 31, 2015**

Celebrate the 19th and early 20th century harvest season at Old World Wisconsin. Enjoy a number of hands-on activities like soap making, wool spinning and a how-to on making a classic sausage. Sample homegrown vegetables, or check out how farm families tended their crops

with a field plowing demonstration. Each weekend offers a new theme for visitors to step back in time for a fun adventure.

262-594-6301; www.oldworldwisconsin.org

Northwoods Medieval Faire – Hazelhurst

Sept. 10-13, 2015

Located on the wooded grounds of Tommy O's Northern Stars Playhouse, this first-annual faire will transport visitors to medieval times. Walk among fire-eaters, acrobats and madrigal singers or check out one of the five stages offering musical and Shakespearean performances. Don't miss the Medieval Torture Museum or the Queen's live chess match. Youngsters can enjoy medieval board games, storytelling and face painting.

715-350-2288; www.tommyosplayhouse.com

Whooping Crane Festival – Green Lake County

Sept. 11-13, 2015

Discover the beauty of the majestic whooping crane at this festival held throughout various locations in Green Lake County. The fest focuses on the once-endangered bird's migration patterns and lifestyle. On Friday, take a guided tour of the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge or more remote areas in search of these magnificent birds. Saturday offers wildlife experts speaking on a variety of topics throughout the day as well as the popular silent auction.

920-294-1050; www.operationmigration.org

Abby Fall Fest – Abbotsford and Colby

Sept. 11-13, 2015

Formerly the Lama and Craft A-Faire, this fall festival may have changed its name, but it has added three times as much fun. The signature llama trot and llama cart races are now accompanied by a three-on-three basketball tournament, an adult soccer game and a craft fair. Be sure to check out the live music all three nights, carnival games and a parade on Sunday.

715-223-8509; www.abbycolbyareachamber.org

Dairy Days – Platteville

Sept. 11-13, 2015

Platteville Dairy Days is full of food, family fun and, of course, all things dairy. Guests travel from far and wide for the utterly delicious cheese tastings, cattle show, tractor pull and the wild and crazy Dilly Bar eating contest. Dairy Days is also home to southwestern Wisconsin's largest parade, drawing more than 8,000 people every year. Make a "moo"-ve to Platteville this weekend for some serious cheese-tastic fun!

608-348-8888; www.plattevilledairydays.com

Villa Louis Carriage Classic – Prairie du Chien

Sept. 11-13, 2015

This is one of the largest carriage-driving competitions in the nation. Watch as finely trained horses trot around the arena in new and restored carriages. Divisions include novice driver, single horse and small equine. Guests and drivers are encouraged to dress in traditional 1800s attire, and tickets include a tour of the newly restored Villa Louis estate.

608-326-4436; www.carriageclassic.com



*Villa Carriage Classic
Photo Courtesy of Bob Mischka Photography*

Sputnikfest – Manitowoc**Sept. 12, 2015**

Named one of the Top Five Funkiest Festivals in the country by *Reader's Digest*, this kooky festival is a community favorite with fun for the whole family. On Sept. 6, 1992, Manitowoc received an out of this world surprise when a 20-pound piece of Sputnik IV crashed in the middle of the street. To celebrate this odd twist of fate, Manitowoc goes all out. The fest includes a costume contest (prepare your space-chic beforehand or on-site with tin foil). Or dress your pet up for the "Alien Pet Contest." There's also the Miss Space Debris pageant where females – or males – exhibit their talent, grace and fashion sense above and beyond their earthly counterparts.

920-686-3090; www.rahrwestartmuseum.org



Sputnikfest
Photo Courtesy of Sputnikfest

Chilimania – Edgerton**Sept. 12, 2014**

Don't miss this all-day live music festival and chili cook-off aptly titled the "Midwest's Largest Chili Cook-Off." Spice things up with the Chili Chase 5K, a salsa contest and the main event, the Wisconsin State Championship CASI-Sanctioned Chili Cook-Off. Each contestant is required to make two or more gallons of chili to share with the hungry guests. Chill out, eat as much as you can and enjoy some fantastic music.

608-561-7566; www.chilimania.com

Festifall – Lakewood**Sept. 12, 2015**

Celebrate Lakewood's local artists, crafters and musicians at Festifall. Walk through the downtown streets and shops filled with artists sculpting, painting and crafting right before your eyes. Live vendor demos such as chainsaw carving and jewelry-making allow visitors to customize their purchase while watching the creative process. The fest also offers mouth-watering homemade pies, fresh roasted coffee beans and food favorites like shrimp on a stick and the "walking taco."

715-276-3473; www.ocontocounty.org

Pardeeville Watermelon Festival – Pardeeville**Sept. 12, 2015**

Now is your chance to put those watermelon-seed-spitting skills to the test at the U.S. Watermelon Speed-Eating and Seed-Spitting Championship. Competitors of all ages are encouraged to channel their inner kid and try their luck at breaking a world record for speed-eating and seed-spitting. Other offerings include a volleyball tournament, watermelon carving, a comedy show and more.

608-535-9139; www.pardeevillewatermelonfestival.com

Ruffed Grouse Fall Festival – Park Falls**Sept. 12, 2015**

This festival is a sportsman's dream! Take bow shooting lessons or an ATV ride around the festival grounds. Or, check out the "Home Grown" market, craft fair and city-wide storefront decorating contest. Don't worry foodies, there's plenty for you as well! The "Pie Auction," benefiting a local food pantry, is a must-see. Come learn about the heritage of Park Falls while experiencing the beauty of northern Wisconsin.

715-762-2703; www.parkfalls.com

Running of the Llamas – Hammond**Sept. 12, 2015**

Featured in *The New York Times* last year, this unique festival has received a lot of attention for its unusual beginning. Started in 1997, the Running of the Llamas has grown from one wacky race to a full day of llama-themed activities for all ages. The main event, a llama race down the

main street, draws thousands of curious fans and llama admirers to this small rural town. Twelve llamas race to make it to the final face-off where the champion is determined and given the coveted grand prize – a big ol' bucket of salad greens! The competition kicks off with a llama parade featuring unicyclists, hula hoopers and kids donning their best llama costumes. 715-796-2330; www.therunningofhellamas.com

Thirsty Troll Brewfest – Mount Horeb **Sept. 12, 2015**
An intimate beer sampling experience featuring 25 craft brewers serving more than 100 beers, this event is sure to be a “hoppy” one. New this year is the home brewers competition paired with live music and great food. Get there early to take your picture with Jorgen, the Thirsty Troll. 608-437-5914; www.trollway.com

Tractor Show and Thresheree – Manitowoc **Sept. 12-13, 2015**
Learn about early life in rural Wisconsin at the annual Tractor Show and Thresheree. This two-day educational event invites guests of all ages to learn about traditional farming practices during the community’s early years through field demonstrations with steam engines, farm tractors and hands-on activities spread throughout 25 historic buildings. 920-684-4445; www.manitowocountyhistory.org

Artrageous Weekend – Wausau **Sept. 12-13, 2015**
Two days, three events and 120+ juried artists - now that’s art-rageous! This event brings together three separate art festivals in historic downtown Wausau. Guests can travel free by bus to Art in the Park, Festival of Arts and Birds in Art, each offering a different artistic experience for the viewer. 715-842-1676; www.wausafoa.org

Take Me to the River – St. Croix **Sept. 12-13, 19-20, 26-27, 2015**
Combine art and nature, and you have this collaboration of 11 different art fairs over three weekends. Explore artists’ home studios and see the creative process firsthand or take a relaxing walk around the sparkling St. Croix River for outdoor art exhibits. Open galleries give visitors a chance to find artistic inspiration of their own. 651-439-1465; www.takemetotheriver.info

The Biggest Loser Run Walk – Racine **Sept. 13, 2015**
Inspired by the hit television-series, this run/walk invites runners of all levels to a day of fitness and teamwork. Events include an adult half-marathon and 5K. Children can participate in the 1-mile Fun Run hosted by the Kid’s Fit Foundation. More reasons to sign up include celebrity appearances and live music. www.biggestloserrunwalk.com

Wisconsin Ironman Triathlon – Madison **Sept. 13, 2015**
An epic all-day event, the Wisconsin Ironman Triathlon involves athletes from all over the Midwest. More than 75,000 spectators cheer on 2,000 athletes as they make their way through each event. Racers start with a 2.4-mile swim in Lake Monona followed by a 112-mile bike ride through rural farmlands. The triathlon ends with a grueling 26-mile run ending at the Wisconsin State Capitol at midnight. 608-226-4780; www.ironman.com

Elkhart Lake Vintage Festival – Elkhart Lake **Sept. 18-20, 2015**

Race on over to Elkhart Lake for a chance to see nearly 250 vintage and historic racecars. New this year: the Jaguar Clubs of North America (JCNA) Challenge Championship features a Jaguar concourse and rally. The weekend is also part of the North American Amateur Road Racing Championship so don't miss out on any of the turbo-charged fun.

800-365-7223; www.roadamerica.com

Chequamegon Fat Tire Festival – Cable and Hayward **Sept. 18-20, 2015**

Prepare yourself for all things biking at the Chequamegon Fat Tire Festival. The Chequamegon 40 is a 40-mile fat tire race made up of 2,100 adventurous participants who enter a lottery for a chance to compete. There is also the Short & Fat, a 16-mile race perfect for younger riders or those new to off-road cycling. Not competing but still looking for fun? Then try your hand at the Klunker Bike Toss or Lumber Jack & Jill Log Pull.

715-798-3594; www.cheqfattire.com

Wo-Zha-Wa Days Fall Festival – Wisconsin Dells **Sept. 18-20, 2015**

This three-day festival includes an arts and crafts fair, antique flea market, Maxwell Street Days, live entertainment and a 100-unit parade. Visitors are also invited to participate in a street carnival to support Saturday's Wo-Zha-Wa Run.

1-800-22-DELLS; www.wisdells.com

Oktoberfest – Chippewa Falls **Sept. 18-20, 2015**

Don your finest lederhosen or dirndl for this fantastic Oktoberfest celebration! With four stages, featuring more than 30 entertainers and live polka music, there's no shortage of authentic German fun. If you're feeling competitive, try your hand at the sauerkraut eating contest. Or skip the 'kraut and sample other traditional cuisine. Kids can enjoy lots of authentic German games and dancing. On Friday, don't miss the crowning of the 2015 Festmeister and Festmeisterin during the Golden Keg Procession.

715-723-0331; www.visitchippewafallswi.com

Rockman Challenge – Watertown **Sept. 19, 2015**

Mix a triathlon with an obstacle course and you have Watertown's own Rockman Challenge. Your adventure begins with a paddle race down the Rock River followed by a 15-mile bike ride. Participants then run three miles towards the last stop: the military style obstacle course with real drill sergeants. New this year is the Rugged Rockman, an obstacle course through the woods, complete with lots of muddy fun. The overall competitor with the fastest time is crowned Rock Man or Rock Woman.

414-704-9969; www.watertownchallenge.org

Grantoberfest – Grantsburg **Sept. 19, 2015**

This annual event brings together the community and quirky autumn activities for all ages. From a cow milking contest and a hilarious wiener dog race, to the great pumpkin contest, extreme nine-acre corn maze and hay rides, guests should prepare for a day packed with lots of family-friendly fun.

715-463-2405; www.grantoberfest.com

International Fall Fest – Eau Claire **Sept. 19, 2015**

Stop by the International Fall Festival for a variety of eclectic performances and unique gifts. Walk down South Barstow Street for a taste of 100+ ethnic foods or head over to the Kid's Zone for a silly string war, petting zoo and pony rides.

715-839-4914; www.downtowneauclaire.org

Dragonboat Race & Festival – Oshkosh**Sept. 19, 2015**

Not many races in Wisconsin honor the 2,400-year-old Chinese tradition of dragonboat racing. Teams of 20 paddlers race down the gorgeous Fox River, testing their endurance, speed and synchronicity. In between races, enjoy music, food, arts and crafts. Stick around for the awards ceremony to see who wins the fest's Grand Champion award.

920-424-0344; www.uwosh.edu/dragonboat

Fat Tire Ride – Lake Geneva**Sept. 19, 2015**

With no official start time, begin this bike race at your leisure, and enjoy scenic views of beautiful Lake Geneva and breathtaking Lake Como. During the 21.5-mile race, make a pit stop at any one of the fabulous local taverns for a bite to eat or quick drink. Stick around for a pig roast and raffle. Registration for the event includes a free T-shirt, map and dinner ticket.

www.fattireride.com

Bacon Bash – River Falls**Sept. 19-20, 2015**

With two successful years under its belt, River Falls' Bacon Bash has been selected as a 2015 Super Qualifier Elite Event for the World Food Championships. Experienced foodies will have a chance to compete in one of the four culinary competitions with a sizzlin' prize of \$300,000. Visitors can also take part in kooky events like the "Gimme Some Bacon" sing-along and a pig-calling contest that would make even Porky the Pig jealous.

715-425-2533; www.riverfallsbaconbash.com



Bacon Bash

Photo Courtesy of River Falls Chamber of Commerce

Maple Fall Fest – Marshfield**Sept. 19-20, 2015**

Get ready for the ultimate feasting experience. Cheesecakes, cheese curds, pizza and BBQ are offered at Marshfield's Maple Fall Fest. Along with the traditional festival foods, visitors can enjoy potato pancakes and Wenzel Farm maple sausage topped with pure maple syrup. Fest-goers can even learn how to make their own maple syrup. Be sure to check out the maple syrup contest as well as the maple dessert contest. May the best maple win!

715-384-4314; www.visitmarshfield.com

Wind Power Windsurfing Championships – Fond du Lac**Sept. 19-20, 2015**

Hold on tight as this fast-paced windsurfing competition slides into Fond du Lac. This highly competitive event brings together top national athletes as they compete in long distance racing, course racing, and slalom and freestyle competitions. All races take place on 28-mile long Lake Winnebago, considered one of the best windsurfing destinations in the country.

920-922-2550; www.fdl.com

Driftless Area Art Festival – Soldiers Grove**Sept. 19-20, 2015**

Stop by Soldiers Grove as regional artists show off their talented works of art. The festival offers unique painting, photography, ceramics, glass, metal works, sculpture, woodworking and jewelry. Back by popular demand, the Artisan Edibles tent features fine cooking, baking, canning and pickling tips as well as samples, recipes and products for purchase. Fun for all ages, there is even a KidsArt gallery, showcasing student work from the KidsArt program as well as independent submissions.

608-624-3600; www.driftlessareaartfestival.com

Wine & Harvest Festival – Cedarburg **Sept. 19-20, 2015**

Wine & Harvest Festival draws tens of thousands to downtown Cedarburg for a chance to view as well as purchase amazing works of art, photography and crafts. Listen to music and sample delicious seasonal foods and wines. Stick around for the Giant Pumpkin Charity Regatta and giant pumpkin and giant vegetable weigh-off, a must-see for anyone new to the festival.

262-377-3891; www.cedarburgfestivals.org

Milwaukee Film Festival – Milwaukee **Sept. 24-Oct. 8, 2015**

The smell of popcorn, the excited chatter while waiting in line and the unique screening venues can only mean one thing – you're at the Milwaukee Film Festival! Film critics, movie lovers, city-dwellers and more gather for this highly acclaimed cinematic fest. The 2015 Milwaukee Film Festival features more than 250 films over a 15 day period at theatres around Milwaukee, including the Oriental Theatre, Downer Theatre, the Fox-Bay Cinema Grill, the Avalon Theatre and the Times Cinema. Channel your inner film critic and head over to one of your local theaters for a chance to see the latest and greatest films.

414-755-1965; www.mkefilm.org

Harvestfest & Taste of Siren – Siren **Sept. 24-26, 2015**

Visit the picturesque Crooked Lake Park and kick off fall with a Taste of Siren on Thursday. Harvestfest starts on Saturday with a hand-made artisan & craft show, carriage rides, farmer's market, pumpkin bowling and motorcycle show.

715-349-8399; www.visitsiren.com

Octoberfest – Appleton **Sept. 25-26, 2015**

Known as "Appleton's largest block party," Octoberfest fills the streets of downtown Appleton with more than 20 bands and 180 arts and crafts vendors. Be sure to taste "Spaten Oktoberfest," a new beer this year that was served at the 1872 Munich Oktoberfest. Other fest offerings range from tasty traditional food to funnel cake and, as always, a wide variety of beers. Willkommen to lots of German fun.

920-734-7101; www.octoberfestonline.org

Beef-A-Rama – Minocqua **Sept. 25-26, 2015**

Whether you like ribs, a nice, thick sirloin or some delicious brisket, you'll find it all at Beef-A-Rama. Join in on the fun during the Rump Roast Run on Saturday or try one of the many street-side roasters, cooking beef to perfection. This fest is also veggie-friendly with a Veg-E-Rama at Friday's farmer's market. Bring the whole family and save room for a finger-lickin' good time.

800-44-NORTH; www.minocqua.org

Warrens Cranberry Festival – Warrens **Sept. 25-27, 2015**

Looking for a berry fun event to attend this fall? Look no further than Warrens Cranberry Festival, your one-stop-shop for everything cranberry. The world's largest cranberry festival is known for the 850 arts and crafts booths, 350 flea market and antique booths, 100 farm market booths and 100 food vendors that span a three-mile shopping extravaganza. Try festival favorites like deep-fried cranberries on a stick and cranberry cream puffs.

608-378-4200; www.cranfest.com

Fall Jefferson Car Show and Swap Meet – Jefferson **Sept. 25-27, 2015**

Rev your engines for the Fall Jefferson Car Show and Swap Meet, this year featuring Ford. With more than 3,100 vendors and hundreds of cars for sale, this is sure to be a car lover's dream. Appreciate the beauty of these vintage cars that are spread across the Jefferson County Fairgrounds.

608-244-8416; www.madisonclassics.com

Fall Color Biking Fest – Whitewater **Sept. 26, 2015**

Held at the John Muir trails, this mountain bike event is heart-pounding, gear-grinding excitement. Families can take part in the parent/child tag-team event and individuals can test their stamina in one of the many biking categories. The top three male and female finishers get a handmade basswood plaque. All money raised from the event goes to trail maintenance and development.

262-495-8600; www.fallcolorfestival.org

Apple Festival – Gays Mills **Sept. 26-27, 2015**

In the heart of the Driftless Region, Gays Mills is home to the largest orchards in the tri-state area. For an apple-pickin' good time head to this festival and enjoy all kinds of apple products, a flea market, 2K and 5K run and the hometown parade on Sunday afternoon. Relax, listen to the sound of local music and observe the beauty of autumn with the smell of fresh apples in the air.

608-735-4341; www.gaysmills.org

Spirit of the St. Croix Art Festival – Hudson **Sept. 26-27, 2015**

Come for the art, stay for the music and food! Drawing more than 8,000 visitors to Hudson's Lakefront Park, the annual Spirit of the St. Croix Art Festival is a can't miss event. Enjoy the sounds of bluegrass music while nibbling on local treats like tomato basil bratwursts, apple strudel, walleye and more. Sit back, relax and enjoy the sounds of St. Croix.

715-386-8411; www.takemetotheriver.info

Geneva Lakes Boat Show – Fontana **Sept. 26-27, 2015**

Presented by the Blackhawk Chapter of the Antique and Classic Boat Society, the Geneva Lakes Boat Show is making quite the splash. Numerous vessels will sail away with awards in categories like Skippers Choice, Most Historic and the People's Choice Award, just to name a few. The event features class and vintage boats from all over the country including during Saturday's big boat parade.

630-802-2698; www.genevalakesboatshow.com

Wade House Civil War Weekend – Greenbush **Sept. 26-27 2015**

Watch history brought to life at the Wade House's Civil War Weekend. Held the last weekend in September, the Wade House provides the perfect backdrop for two action-filled days of battle reenactments, military drills, medical care situations, period music and food. Re-live scenes that were crucial to the outcome of the war with these seasoned veterans.

920-526-3271; www.wadehouse.org

Green Lake Harvest Fest – Green Lake **Sept. 26-27, 2015**

Located in downtown Green Lake, Harvest Fest is a crafter's paradise with hundreds of Midwestern crafters showcasing their hand-made jewelry, glass art and sculptures. There's fun for the kids, too, with a petting zoo, pony rides and carnival games. On Sunday, the fest offers "Taste of Green Lake" where visitors can sample signature gourmet dishes from area restaurants. Bring a friend or the family for lots of fall fun.

800-253-7354; www.visitgreenlake.com

World Dairy Expo – Madison **Sept. 29 - Oct. 3, 2015**

Check out the World Dairy Expo, a meeting place for the global dairy industry. International dairy producers and industry members come to see the world-class cattle show and award-winning trade show. Aspiring dairy exhibitors can compete in the Youth Showmanship Contest, a great way to get a hoof in the door for a bright future in cattle showmanship.

608-224-6455; www.worlddairyexpo.com

OCTOBER:**Oktoberfest USA – La Crosse****Oct. 1-4, 2015**

Oktoberfest USA brings more than 150,000 visitors together each year to celebrate German heritage. The celebration begins with the torchlight parade followed by the choosing of the Festmaster during the Festmaster Ball. The Festmaster belongs to the royal family, which also includes Mrs. Oktoberfest, chosen in August. Along with the gold sash and distinctive ostrich feather, the Festmaster is presented with the Statue of King Gambrinus (the “patron saint of beer”) as a symbol of leadership. Prost!

608-784-FEST; www.oktoberfestusa.com**Chain O’ Lakes Blues Festival – Waupaca****Oct. 2-3, 2015**

With blue skies and blues music, this fest features bands such as Altered Five Blues Band, Big N’ Tasty Blues and The Jimmy’s. Listen to the toe-tapping music while chowing down on scrumptious sandwiches and pizza from area restaurants.

715-258-7343; www.waupacaareachamber.com**Bayfield Apple Festival – Bayfield****Oct. 2-4, 2015**

Celebrate the autumn harvest and Bayfield’s agricultural heritage while touring area orchards and wineries. Peruse fine arts and crafts all while sampling local foods at more than 60 food booths. Don’t miss the crowning of the Apple Queen or the Peel Out 5K trail run at Mount Ashwabay. The festival culminates with a grand parade down historic Rittenhouse Avenue.

715-779-3335; www.bayfield.org**Audubon Days Festival – Mayville****Oct. 2-4, 2015**

This event has a lot to offer visitors as they take in the beautiful fall colors. Choose from a variety of outdoor activities like the Audubon run/walk, the bike tour and the car show. Kiddos can compete in the rubber ducky race or mosey on over to the petting zoo. Before you leave, dance the night away at the Polka Dance on Sunday from 6-10 p.m.

800-256-7670; www.audubondays.com**Fall Fresh Art Tour – Pepin and Pierce Counties****Oct. 2-4, 2015**

With more art than ever, the Fall Fresh Art Tour is featuring art from 19 studios and galleries throughout Pepin and Pierce Counties. Try your own luck during hands-on workshops, or simply observe artists during live demonstrations at each location. A self-guided tour allows you to go at your own pace and enjoy the art as much as the beautiful fall scenes between each location.

715-672-8188; www.freshart.org

*Fall Fresh Art Tour
Photo Courtesy of Fall Fresh Art Tour*

Fermentation Fest – Reedsburg**Oct. 2-11, 2015**

From sourdough bread to home-crafted beer, pickles to soy sauce, chocolate to cheese – Fermentation Fest is the place to be. Authors, chefs, bakers, chocolatiers and cheese makers will provide plenty of (fermented) food for thought during the 40 classes, hands-on demos and tastings available to visitors. A new 50-mile self-guided drive through scenic Sauk County is filled with temporary art installations, roadside food and craft stands and farmer’s markets.

608-524-8672; www.fermentationfest.com

Apple Affair – Galesville

Oct. 3, 2015

Take a bite out of Galesville by attending the annual Apple Affair this fall. Kicking off the event is a big apple breakfast served in downtown Galesville with a massive 1,250-egg omelet as the main course. Save room for the famous 10-foot apple pie made in a 12-foot oven. With art, music and all things apple, this family fest is sure to make your mouth water.

608-582-2868; www.galesvillewi.com

Cowboy Reenactment – Laona

Oct. 3, 2015

Train robberies, cowboys on horseback, authentic period costumes... It all adds to the fast-paced, exciting energy of this reenactment in Laona. Travel back in time with the Green Bush-Wackers dressed up as characters such as cowboys, bandits, a preacher, mountain men and card sharks. Watch the cowboys bring the bandits to justice during a day of wild excitement. Yee-haw!

715-674-3414; www.lumberjacksteamtrain.com

Kickapoo Reserve Dam Challenge – La Farge

Oct. 3, 2015

The Kickapoo Reserve Dam Challenge Triathlon invites 500 participants to compete among the rugged hills of southwestern Wisconsin's rural countryside. The challenge begins with a 7-mile paddle through the winding Kickapoo River followed by a 15-mile bike through the hilly Driftless Area and finishes with a 3-mile trail run through the Kickapoo Valley Reserve. Proceeds from this event benefit the Kickapoo Valley Reserve Education Program.

608-625-2967; <http://kvr.state.wi.us>

Stone Lake Cranberry Festival – Stone Lake

Oct. 3, 2015

Known as one of Wisconsin's largest cranberry festivals, more than 30,000 visitors enjoy a plethora of cranberry-themed festivities. Be sure to try one of the many unique treats such as cranberry popcorn and cranberry chocolate candy. Ever wonder how cranberries are grown? Take a tour of the marsh to see how these little guys are grown and harvested.

715-865-3378; www.stonelakecranberryfestival.com

Cranberry Fest – Eagle River

Oct. 3-4, 2015

We are crazy for cranberries! With approximately 10,000 pounds of premium select cranberries sold at the fest, guests can attend cranberry marsh and winery tours, participate in the cranberry cook-off, grab a slice of the "World's Largest Cranberry Cheesecake" and taste every kind of cranberry food imaginable. In addition to cranberry creations, the event welcomes statewide arts and crafts vendors.

800-359-6315; www.eagleriver.org

Nekoosa Giant Pumpkin Fest – Nekoosa

Oct. 3-4 2015

Last year a 1,200-pound pumpkin was dropped from 100-feet in the air. This year, the Giant Pumpkin Fest is hoping to beat this incredible feat with an even bigger pumpkin. Fall fun has gotten even better with the giant pumpkin weigh-off, great pumpkin bake-off, pumpkin rolling contest and pumpkin pie eating contest. So much pumpkin, so little time!

715-498-1193; www.nekoosagiantpumpkinfest.com

Shawano Country Miles of Art – Shawano

Oct. 3-4, 2015

With 38 artists and seven venues throughout Shawano County, this event provides guests with two days of arts among the fall colors. Music by various artists including Mike Magee, Joel Kroenke, Ellie Rourke and more fill the air. The festival welcomes new artists eager to show their talents in the barn quilt capital of the U.S. Come join us for an art-lovers dream weekend in Shawano County.

1-800-235-8528; www.smartwisconsin.com

Wausau Snowmobile Grass Drags & Swap Meet – Wausau **Oct. 3-4, 2015**

Thousands of snowmobilers and power sports enthusiasts alike meet up for Wisconsin's largest snowmobile and ATV/UTV drag race and swap meet. Events like the ATV & Mini Rod Pull, NSRA-sanctioned snowmobile grass drag races are great ways to experience this fast-paced, family-friendly event.

715-571-9768; www.trailmatesclub.com

WhistleStop Marathon/Half-Marathon and Festival – Ashland **Oct. 9-10, 2015**

More than just a marathon, this event kicks off with a Lake Superior Fish Boil and Pasta Feed on Friday before the big race. The marathon/half-marathon on Saturday includes a 10K, 5K and even a toddler run for the kiddos. Celebrate your victory after the race at the WhistleStop Blues and Brews Festival featuring more than 50 varieties of regional microbrews to sample.

715-682-2500; www.whistlestopmarathon.com

NEW Zoo Boo – Green Bay **Oct. 9-10, 16-17, 23-24, 2015**

NEW Zoo Boo is taking over October with three weekends of Halloween-themed fun. Kids of all ages can come dressed in costumes and follow hundreds of lit jack-o'-lanterns around the zoo for spooky excitement around every corner. Go trick-or-treating or take a haunted wagon ride through the woods. Don't miss the spook-tacular family fun!

920-434-7841; www.newzoo.org

Sheboygan Children's Book Festival – Sheboygan **Oct. 9-11, 2015**

Children of all ages are invited to explore and imagine at the Sheboygan Children's Book Festival. The festival will take place at Mead Public Library, John Michael Kohler Arts Center and Bookworm Gardens. This fun event hosts prominent children's authors who conduct illustrator workshops, author panel discussions and readings.

920-459-3400; www.sheboygranchildrensbookfestival.org

Rural Arts Road Trip – Calumet County **Oct. 9-11, 2015**

Get a taste of some eclectic art this weekend with over 80 artists showcasing their work in a wide variety of mediums. Check out the hand blown glass, beaded jewelry and hand-spun apparel during this three-day, self guided road trip through Calumet County. Complete your experience by tasting organic, local foods like grass-fed beef, pure maple syrup, honey and artisan cheeses.

920-286-0971; www.ruralartsroadtrip.com

20th Annual Harvest Fest – Boulder Junction **Oct. 10, 2015**

For a day of family fun and seasonal celebration, head to Boulder Junction's Harvest Fest. Kids are encouraged to dress in costume and join "Granny Autumn" as she makes her way through town on an old fashioned hayride. Purchase home-made baked goods, take a bite out of a fresh hand-dipped caramel apple and maybe even enjoy a bowl of chili.

1-800-GO-MUSKY; www.boulderjct.org

Pumpkin Patch Festival – Egg Harbor **Oct. 10-11, 2015**

Egg Harbor becomes Pumpkin Harbor for this two-day festival, full of fall color and loads of fun. Check out the silent auction, arts and crafts vendors, face painting and more. Don't miss this small town come to life with carnival rides and a roaming magician, live music and children's storytelling.

920-868-3717; www.eggharbordoorcounty.org



*Gathering of Rogues and Ruffians
Renaissance Faire
Photo Courtesy of Emily Audra Edge*

**Gathering of Rogues and Ruffians Renaissance
Faire – New Glarus Oct. 10-11, 2015**

Huzzah! New Glarus' annual Renaissance Faire starts this weekend and is sure to be a good time. Many a fine lords and ladies can enjoy the sights and sounds of the enlightened Renaissance period with belly dancers, gypsies and jugglers throughout the faire grounds. In the "Kid's Kingdom," youngsters can try their hand at sieging the castle, attacking a ship with a catapult or enjoying a tea party with a pirate. All proceeds from this event go to the non-profit Shakespeare on the Edge youth program. 608-558-6582; www.agatheringofroguesandruffians.com

Oktoberfest Celebration – Lake Geneva Oct. 10-11, 2015

Lake Geneva's Oktoberfest focuses on family-friendly fun. Don't miss the Pumpkin Giveaway. Last year, 400 pumpkins were given away to visitors. Wisconsin farmers square off in a giant pumpkin weigh-off. Kids can enjoy pony rides, bouncy houses, magicians and face painting. Grab a deliciously tart caramel apple and take in the crisp fall air and changing leaves. 262-729-9872; www.lakegenevawi.com

Chippewa Valley Book Festival – Eau Claire Oct. 15-22, 2015

A celebration of authors, the Chippewa Valley Book Festival aims to please the bookworm in your life. Book talks, readings and writing workshops are peppered throughout the week-long festival. Author and internationally recognized Palestinian-American poet Naomi Shihab Nye will open the event with the story of her journey to literary history. 715-839-5004; www.cvbookfest.org

Fall Gallery Night and Day – Milwaukee Oct. 16-17, 2015

This premier fall event takes art gallery viewing to another level by displaying locally made artwork in stores, businesses and restaurants throughout downtown Milwaukee. Free and open to the public, visitors can explore a variety of pieces while getting a chance to speak directly with the artists themselves. 414-273-1173; www.historicthirdward.org

Fall Art Tour – Baraboo, Dodgeville, Mineral Point, Spring Green Oct. 16-18, 2015

During the third weekend in October, Wisconsin's best-known artists open their studios, giving visitors a behind-the-scenes look of how their work comes to life. Spanning across four towns, this self-guided tour captures artistic expression throughout southwest Wisconsin. Mineral Point, Spring Green, Dodgeville and Baraboo showcase their most experienced painters, sculptors, potters, jewelers and mixed-media artists. Many of these studios are open only for this event so be sure to carve out time to see what this tour has to offer. 608-588-7509; www.fallarttour.com

Fall Festival Weekend – Wisconsin Dells Oct. 16-18, 2015

Back by popular demand, this fall festival has changed its name and added twice as much fun. Beginning with a craft beer walk and ending with the Dells Monster Dash 5K, there is no shortage of entertainment. Sample delicious beer from more than 50 different craft brewers or take part in scarecrow stuffing, pumpkin decorating, pony rides and more. 1-800-22-DELLS; www.wisdells.com

Madeline Island Fall Festival – Madeline Island **Oct. 17, 2015**

Nothing beats a beautiful day at the Madeline Island Fall Festival. Located on the largest of the Apostle Islands, this event offers a farmer's market, costume parade, wine tastings and pumpkin carving contests. Be sure to stop by the La Pointe Center Art Gallery for a community art show featuring appearances from local artists.

715-747-2801; www.madelineisland.com

Flyway Film Festival – Pepin, Stockholm, Maiden Rock and Alma **Oct. 21-25, 2015**

Having expanded to Maiden Rock and Alma this year, this film festival has an extensive list of films, showcasing 50+ features and show films over the course of four days. More than 30 visiting filmmakers take part in panel discussions and workshops. Revel in some diverse cinema while learning about how film is made.

855-800-8008; www.flywayfilmfestival.org

Wisconsin Science Festival – Madison **Oct. 22-25, 2015**

Giving Einstein a run for his money, the Wisconsin Science Festival is one of October's quirky events you won't want to miss. Taking place in over two dozen cities across the state, the festival strives to engage people in the power of science and technology through programs and activities. New this year is "Made in Wisconsin," featuring products made statewide including everything from beer to computer games and 3D printing to cheese.

608-316-4382; www.wisconsinsciencefest.org

Wisconsin Book Festival – Madison **Oct. 22-25, 2015**

For four days, the Madison Public Library hosts the Wisconsin Book Festival. Celebrate the joy of reading with more than 50 different events covering a wide variety of genres and subjects. Enjoy live readings and spoken word performances. The festival features local literary talent alongside nationally recognized voices such as Pulitzer Prize winner Adam Johnson and Iranian author Azar Nafisi.

608-229-2081; www.wisconsinbookfestival.org

15th Annual Kohler Food & Wine Experience – Kohler **Oct. 22-25, 2015**

This interactive culinary event features celebrity chefs, libation specialists, wine experts and epicurean enthusiasts from around the world. Attend hands-on cooking demonstrations, learn about delicious recipes and sample renowned wine, spirits and beer at the AAA five-diamond-rated American Club Resort. Don't miss this opportunity to improve your cooking skills while satisfying your taste buds.

855-444-2838; www.americanclubresort.com

Medford Area Harvest Days – Medford Area **Oct. 22-25, 2015**

Medford Area Harvest Days is made up of four fun-filled fall days with activities for the whole family. The event starts on Thursday with a 5K run/walk down Main Street followed by live music. Participate in a window display competition or scavenger hunt throughout the town. Saturday is jam-packed with hay wagon rides, pumpkin decorating, face painting, crafts and much more. Be sure to stay for trick-or-treating on Sunday.

715-748-4729; www.medfordchamber.org

Fall Flashlight Tours – Superior **Oct. 29-30, 2015**

Let there be light! Flashlights, that is! This Halloween weekend all the lights at the Fairlawn Mansion will be turned off as you light your own path using flashlights. This eerie tour delves into the history of the Victorian era, including spooky anecdotes about celebrating Halloween. Learn about the superstitions of this historic house and discover what spooky surprises await you. You might want to take two flashlights, just in case.

715-394-5712; www.superiorpublicmuseums.org

Jack O' Lantern Days – Fish Creek

Oct. 30 – Nov. 1, 2015

This hometown Halloween celebration is family-oriented with fun events like The Great Pumpkin Carving, Door County Trolley Ghost Tours and costume parties. Bring your four-legged friends and dress them up for the spook-tacular pet-friendly events. Don't miss the Halloween parade and mask making events on Saturday. It's scary how much fun you'll have!

920-868-2316; www.visitfishcreek.com

NOVEMBER

Big Water Film Festival – Ashland

Nov. 6-8, 2015

Calling all film-fanatics, the 2015 Big Water Film Festival is full of Wisconsin's finest films. The festival takes place in the heart of Ashland's business district, full of restaurants, shops, bars and more. A Friday night gala reception kicks off the weekend by showcasing the Ashland area's greatest cuisine. The Vaughn Public Library will host "Cinema and Cinnamon Rolls" on Saturday morning as a way to your senses. The weekend entertains guests through thought-provoking films and presentations by selected filmmakers.

715-682-6442; www.bigwaterfilmfestival.org

Beer and Spirits – Lake Geneva

Nov. 7, 2015

The Grand Geneva Resort and Spa will treat your taste buds to 100 different types of beer from 35+ Midwest craft breweries and distilleries. Don't miss the food sampling, live music and unbeatable scenery in this beautiful location. A silent auction will also take place, benefitting the Friends of Big Foot State Park.

262-245-1000; www.lakegenevabeerandspirits.com

Trainfest – West Allis

Nov. 14-15, 2015

Full steam ahead! America's largest operating model railroad show takes place this fall in West Allis with nearly five football fields of exhibits featuring 70 unique and intricate railroads. Family is the name of the game at this event with more than 25,000 families and model hobbyists in attendance. Whether you're looking to trade tips with fellow train-lovers or just interested in picking up a new hobby, Trainfest has that and so much more. Kids get in free.

262-782-4637; www.trainfest.com



*Trainfest
Photo Courtesy of Trainfest*

Holiday Harvest Wine and Food Festival – Prescott, Stockholm, Pepin Nov. 14-15, 2015

Kick off the holiday season with great food, wine and cider. Visit six wineries along the Great River Road during this self-guided weekend. Sample seasonal food paired with delicious locally made wine and cider as you enjoy breathtaking views of the bluffs. Reduced price tickets for designated drivers are available.

715-448-3502; www.greatriverroadwinetrail.org