**2WLI0105HD.mp3**

[00:00:25] **Speaker 1** Coming up next on Wisconsin Life.

[00:00:28] **Speaker 2** You know where else you want to be? I mean, just want to go keep grabbing another one. Another one. And that's the life.

[00:00:34] **Speaker 3** I said that I would never go back to farming. And I guess you should never say never.

[00:00:39] **Speaker 4** And it's really about coming into that place where you accept yourself for who you are.

[00:00:44] **Speaker 2** At some point my life I wanted to. To practice falconry.

[00:01:03] **Speaker 5** Funding for Wisconsin life is provided in part by Alliant Energy. The people of Alliant Energy bringing you safe, reliable energy to keep homes, neighborhoods and life in Wisconsin running smoothly. Alliant Energy with energy saving ideas online at Alliant Energy. Com. Additional funding is provided by Lowell and Mary Peterson. The L.E. Phillips Family Foundation. And Friends of Wisconsin Public Television.

[00:01:36] **Speaker 3** My name is Wil Allen, and this is my Wisconsin life. There's something I want to tell you guys. That's really important is that Norwalk is the greatest city in America.

[00:01:52] **Speaker 1** Will Allen made jokes, but he's making Milwaukee a mecca for urban agriculture.

[00:01:57] **Speaker 4** I'm from Wyoming. Los Angeles, California. Homer, Alaska.

[00:02:01] **Speaker 6** I'm coming from Europe. Eastern Europe. I'm living in Latvia.

[00:02:05] **Speaker 3** Okay. Come on in, you guys.

[00:02:07] **Speaker 1** These pilgrims have traveled many miles to learn from Will and tour the Milwaukee farm he started 20 years ago. Since then, Wolf's become a recognized leader in the local food movement and a recipient of the MacArthur Genius Award. But it's been a very surprising journey.

[00:02:26] **Speaker 3** My parents both were involved in sharecropping, and we grew up on a small farm.

[00:02:33] **Speaker 1** While Wil grew up on a farm, more and more African-Americans were leaving their agricultural roots in the rural South for jobs in northern cities.

[00:02:43] **Speaker 3** We didn't have a lot of spendable income, but the one powerful thing we always had was lots and lots of good food.

[00:02:51] **Speaker 1** Even so, Wil was eager to leave the farm behind.

[00:02:55] **Speaker 3** When I left the farm at 18, I said, Never again will I do this hard work.

[00:03:01] **Speaker 1** As a six foot six teenager. He thought basketball would be his ticket out of farm life.

[00:03:06] **Speaker 3** I don't know if you are can reach up here and grab something, but if you can, we'll let you take some home. So when I went away to college, I decided to go to University of Miami in Florida, where I was the first African-American athlete. I said that I would never go back to farming. And I guess you should never say never.

[00:03:29] **Speaker 1** After playing pro ball in Europe will move to his wife's hometown of Milwaukee. One of Will's Milwaukee jobs was managing several inner city KFC franchises. It put him in the heart of a community that didn't have access to the fresh food he grew up with.

[00:03:45] **Speaker 3** Coming into the city and seeing mostly fast food places and corner stores. Many of the grocery stores were pulling out of these neighborhoods, so it left a big void. We're in a food desert here. I think a lot of people from the outside don't live in those communities, but I get rid of all the fast food stores. If you did that, what would happen? There would be thousands of people without jobs. I don't spend a lot of my time degrading fast food places or industrial agriculture. What I want to do is give folks an opportunity for a choice. If anybody wants to try and stir something, just grab one and pop it in your mouth. They're delicious.

[00:04:28] **Speaker 1** Will was surprised when he made a reconnection with his farming past.

[00:04:32] **Speaker 3** As soon as I touched the store, I felt there was something missing in my life. And and it was. I must have had some hidden passion for farming that just came out. And I had this strong desire to grow food again.

[00:04:46] **Speaker 1** Wills KFC had served customers for Milwaukee's largest housing project. Now he thought to serve them something better and to reconnect the largely African-American residents with an agricultural heritage that had been all but lost.

[00:04:59] **Speaker 3** Thus keep growing.

[00:05:01] **Speaker 1** He bought a group of dilapidated greenhouses to create growing power. The small farm grows and sells fresh food in a densely populated urban center.

[00:05:10] **Speaker 3** We have to be able to grow more food and less space. So what we're doing here is demonstrating how you do it. That to me is the future. Because as we stand here, we're losing prime farmland all over the world. So we're going to have to grow more food, more people figure that out. And this is one of the ways of doing it.

[00:05:31] **Speaker 1** And the first step is the soil.

[00:05:34] **Speaker 3** Any farmer, I'll tell you, any sustainable farmer. It's all about the soil. All the soil you see everywhere. We grow. From waste.

[00:05:46] **Speaker 1** Will set up a network of food waste hauling from groceries and restaurants with businesses happy to have it take it. Even a corporate campus offers up its used coffee grounds to feed this enormous composting operation.

[00:06:00] **Speaker 3** As long as I have this stuff right here, that's the key. This is the key to scaling up urban agriculture in America. Without compost, without high quality compost. It's not going to happen.

[00:06:13] **Speaker 1** We all may be passionate about his compost, but saves his admiration for his worms.

[00:06:19] **Speaker 3** I always say I like these worms because they give you an idea of what they do. This is a perfect example inside this banana. This is what they do. Food. Their get inside their banana and eat up. All of this and their waste will become the fertilizer.

[00:06:39] **Speaker 1** Fertilizer sold at growing power as Milwaukee Black gold.

[00:06:44] **Speaker 3** And they live very harmoniously together. You're not fighting over food. You're going to enjoy the food. So. And they don't talk to you, you know? Well, they don't talk to you. They talk to me. They won't talk to you.

[00:06:58] **Speaker 1** Will. Will talk to anyone about his passion for growing or his latest project?

[00:07:03] **Speaker 3** Find this tag right here. We're going to be putting eels, so I'd be a comeback. Oh, they got me. No. There's no eels in there right now.

[00:07:15] **Speaker 1** His next step is this planned five story vertical farm, retail and Education Center.

[00:07:21] **Speaker 3** So this is a very important building as a model that we're going to study to figure out how this city is going to build 50 and 100 story vertical farms.

[00:07:32] **Speaker 1** That may sound ambitious until you look around at all that Will Allen has built so far, and there's still a chance to join him and get in on the ground floor.

[00:07:41] **Speaker 3** So if any of you want to make a contribution of $1,000,000, I'll come and give me a check and I'll put your name on every window and door or whatever you want. I don't want a penny from you. I know you'll give me a penny.

[00:08:12] **Speaker 4** I'm Maureen Keeble and this is my Wisconsin life. I teach yoga at the studio in Madison, Wisconsin. What I tried to bring to my classroom is more of that meditative stillness to slow down our minds and to relax our thoughts. But it was actually a terrible accident that brought me to yoga. The shoes that I'm wearing today are the same shoes I had when I was in the accident. So they've been with me a long time. I knew I was going to get hit there right this moment before I got hit. I remember my body being hit on the top of the roof of the car. And I remember waking up and looking at the traffic that was coming for me. So I knew I was alive and I knew that my life would change. I decided misery for a long time. I owe my recovery to yoga. So I'm just observing that bike accident changed my life for the better. He comes forward, asks how they set foot, how I was able to further my practice when I moved to Thailand to teach English. I would walk into a classroom that was a temple every day. One of the most amazing places to visit in Madison is during Oprah Gardens. And the one place that I'm always drawn into is the Thai pavilion. And I became a teacher in Thailand. I knew that Thailand was the place I would fall in love with. There I didn't have a lot of distractions, and I had a lot of time because I didn't have a choice. I didn't know the language. I was forced, in a way, to just have to sit in silence. A lot of the time, even through a practice, it really changed over time. At the end of the class, I realized I was in a state of bliss, of calmness and of compassion. Life became easier then, and it's really about coming into that place where you accept yourself for who you are. Then I was ready to come home and exhale. But I never envisioned as a as a child that I would be back in my hometown teaching at a community center. And if you feel here, I feel like I've grown up left side. That means you probably want to. What a wonderful thing to take your practice from the indoors outdoors. 30 summers ago, I learned how to paddle board. There was a instructor who knew I taught yoga and she said, Wow, Marie, wouldn't it be great if you could teach yoga on the board? And I thought, No, that's not possible. How could you do yoga on a paddleboard? And it kind of excited me to a sense of wonder, could that be done? Such a playful, fun thing to do. It was a lot easier than I thought. Practicing stand up paddle board is a great teacher. It becomes a part of you. You're connecting with nature. So you see the the clouds lying down on your back. You feel the wind being an element of a challenge when you're on the paddle board. I'm continuing to grow and to learn as a teacher. I find what is the best part about being a yoga teacher is really sharing the wisdom of what you have learned not only in your own life, but to also share it with the rest of the world. Now I'm a stay.

[00:12:40] **Speaker 1** Still to come on Wisconsin life.

[00:12:43] **Speaker 6** There's 9000 Menominee. There's probably 7000 speakers. Culture. Language can't be separate.

[00:12:51] **Speaker 1** Meet David Tierney and discover how he's trying to preserve Menominee culture through its language. Later on, Wisconsin Life.

[00:13:08] **Speaker 2** I'm Dan or and this is my Wisconsin life. I've hunted all my life and bird hunting has always been my favorite pheasant inclining. You know, at some point in my life, I wanted to practice falconry. I love to hunt and I love birds of prey. And it's the ultimate combination of the two. We could trap birds out of the wild. This particular bird is not a wild. This is a captive produced bird. This is a goshawk. This is Daisy. She's six, six years old now. She's a seasoned hunter now. And I mostly, mostly fly pheasants with her, but due to hunt ducks and some squirrels with her also. But pheasants are are what we spend most our time hunting. We don't train them to hunt. I mean, nature has done that. So we are training them to return to us. That's the training portion of it, so that you can get your get your bird back at the end of the hunt. This is a field here that I've hunted a couple of times here for pheasants. I did spot a rooster hunkered down, maybe more than one to run down into that cover, into that drawer. So so once they get over the hill, see if we can't get a flight on them, the best word to describe it is a partnership. I mean, we are hunting partners and and the dog there is the third partner in the partnership. Ideally, my dog will locate a pheasant. In the perfect world, he'll point that the pheasant will hold real tight and allow us then to approach very closely. So for her to have a chance of catching a pheasant on the rise, it's got to be very, very close and it's extremely difficult. Wow. You flew in nice. We do a lot more chasing than we do catching. It's a real challenge to to put anything in the bag. So if you want to fill your game bag, you know, a shotgun is a far, far better method than than a hawk. It's just a thing of beauty. Watching a rooster pheasant rise up out of the cover and watch a goshawk, try to climb up into the sky and and tackle it and pull it down. More than likely, the pheasant probably beat her to cover. She has a transmitter on her. Now we're going to go track her down. I transferred her off on a. We have the possibility in falconry to do catch and release. The cover didn't allow him to get up in a way. So I'm going to let him go. HANK Whoa, whoa. A lot of people will say to me, it's a that's a real interesting hobby. I could ask my wife. I mean, it is definitely, you know, for most falconers, it is a lifestyle. I don't know of many other things like it in the world today. We're getting so far removed, it seems society in general from the natural world and falconry is a very, very intimate relationship with nature.

[00:17:08] **Speaker 6** The fourth attack in Wisconsin. Democracy and I am the post. This is my Wisconsin life. Okay. Get us blood flowing. Cut, cut! Cut his knees.

[00:17:23] **Speaker 1** David Tierney was not raised to do this.

[00:17:26] **Speaker 6** So 6 to 7 sa cows.

[00:17:29] **Speaker 2** But you?

[00:17:30] **Speaker 6** Yep. That's me.

[00:17:31] **Speaker 1** He was born in Casino on the Menominee Indian Reservation. But as a child, he was not taught how to count to ten in his own language. He wasn't taught any words in Menominee. Everything he learned was from listening to the elders that still knew the language.

[00:17:46] **Speaker 6** I knew some words, you know. I knew some little phrases. And sometimes I would. I would, you know, I would I would try to speak in some of my friends who don't talk like that. We don't need that.

[00:17:57] **Speaker 1** A generation earlier, the U.S. government had forced Indian children into boarding schools where their native language was forbidden.

[00:18:05] **Speaker 6** So you had the boarding school people that were scared to speak the language.

[00:18:10] **Speaker 1** Even today, during important public events like the opening of a menominee Cultural Museum, the old language is barely used.

[00:18:18] **Speaker 3** Okay, we'd like to get started. Oh, what's our nature, madam? An elk. Very historic day for the Menominee people.

[00:18:28] **Speaker 6** There's 9000 Menominee. There's probably 7000 speakers. First language speakers. And they're in their late seventies. Oh, no harm. Out to Arctic Mall when it comes to national mon indica.

[00:18:42] **Speaker 1** That history makes this summer school class on the Menominee language all the more remarkable. David Tourney is known to these middle school students as naps.

[00:18:51] **Speaker 6** His native name, this grass is red grass. A long time ago was used a lot by the Menominee people.

[00:18:58] **Speaker 1** On this day, they've made a field trip to the side of a highway to pick reeds for a class project.

[00:19:05] **Speaker 6** But we use this for many things. One of them is for tying making ropes and.

[00:19:10] **Speaker 1** Nipost was approached by the Green Bay Public School District a few years ago to work as part of the cultural support staff. The district wanted to do a better job of engaging their large population of native students.

[00:19:21] **Speaker 6** And one of the first things they came across was a misunderstanding, an ethics of native culture. One of the teachers told the little kid, you know, look at me when I'm scolding you. And in our culture, that's normal. You don't you don't look at someone older when they're talking to you. You put your ear to them and you look away. And so they think that they're not paying attention. But that's our culture.

[00:19:41] **Speaker 1** Soon, Nipost was teaching a small language class, the Mac Cammack.

[00:19:46] **Speaker 6** The case.

[00:19:47] **Speaker 4** Is.

[00:19:47] **Speaker 1** That expanded into this summer school class. Napo says every student of his has some native blood but feels little connection with their Menominee heritage.

[00:19:56] **Speaker 6** No, Romeo was language. I want to read my language.

[00:19:59] **Speaker 1** But language by itself is not enough.

[00:20:02] **Speaker 6** Culture or language can't be separate.

[00:20:10] **Speaker 1** Which is why this class spent their time with the police building a wiki known in English as a wigwam. Now. Who knows what it's like to grow up without a connection to his heritage? He went to high school off reservation and then joined the Navy.

[00:20:28] **Speaker 6** There was all that. That. Thing that about being Indian is back in the old days. It wasn't good.

[00:20:35] **Speaker 1** By age 40, he was back in Casino. That's when his mother's cousin came into his life.

[00:20:40] **Speaker 6** He came to me and he was. He was looking for someone to so-called learn our ways. He took me under his wing and and started teaching me formally adopted me as his nephew.

[00:20:49] **Speaker 1** It was this uncle that gave him the name, the puss, which means first rabbit.

[00:20:54] **Speaker 6** You know, he told me all the time, I'm going to teach you how to teach. So literally, his first lesson was about listening here.

[00:21:01] **Speaker 4** At.

[00:21:02] **Speaker 6** Home.

[00:21:04] **Speaker 1** Over the years, Nipost have learned bits and pieces of the language. But his uncle was expanding his mission.

[00:21:09] **Speaker 6** And I sat there for a long time that day and. And just listen to them talk about the culture, the ways, the language, how important it is to to take what you learn to share it. He said, It's not for you. It's for everybody. It's Shakespeare. At the corner. None.

[00:21:26] **Speaker 1** Nobody knows. The Menominee language will never be as widely used as it once was.

[00:21:30] **Speaker 6** On more than one blog appeared on. It appeared on.

[00:21:34] **Speaker 1** But that won't stop him from teaching those who want to learn.

[00:21:38] **Speaker 6** Close to being too late. Maybe. But, you know, let's not focus on that. Some focus what we can do. We all learn something a day. We see what ways to do it.

[00:22:00] **Speaker 2** I'm Alex, and this is my Wisconsin life.

[00:22:07] **Speaker 1** If good things come to those who wait.

[00:22:11] **Speaker 2** It's just got to be really flexible.

[00:22:14] **Speaker 1** Then Alex Marks and his buddies team are in for quite a day.

[00:22:19] **Speaker 2** You get that extra sense of satisfaction because you waited and put in your time.

[00:22:25] **Speaker 1** You learn those lessons when living your dream means waiting on the weather.

[00:22:30] **Speaker 2** I think we're under the watch right now, but it's just the fog. It's really suppressed.

[00:22:34] **Speaker 1** The surf and waiting on the waves.

[00:22:43] **Speaker 2** I mean, if you're going to surf here, you just kind of have to learn how to read. You know, what the weather's going to do.

[00:22:51] **Speaker 1** He should know. Alex has been surfing around Sheboygan since he was a freshman in high school.

[00:22:59] **Speaker 2** Eight nine years.

[00:23:00] **Speaker 1** He still remembers that first time.

[00:23:02] **Speaker 2** Was right over there. At first Jedi little self day in summer and this crappy nine foot Ford that you know we acquired and she I think my brother pushed me into my first wave and just it was that it was like, I want that again.

[00:23:24] **Speaker 1** On this day, the weather eventually clears and the 41 degree water. Calls to Alex and Steve. Of course, when you surf in Lake Michigan, even the best days come with challenges.

[00:23:59] **Speaker 2** Freshwater reacts to, for instance, salt. It's less buoyant because it doesn't have salt, and then it's just a weaker wave. You know, it's generated from less energy. So you got to be kind of geared up with the right equipment to have a good experience here.

[00:24:16] **Speaker 1** In these waters, you need thick skin, sometimes two layers.

[00:24:20] **Speaker 2** I really hate wet, wet suits. There is a point where it just gets too cold. You know, I still for one year person you know, to fast but on the ice you know if if that shelf isn't too tall you know. You know, it's a big hazard, but it's pretty much dependent on the ice. There's no ice will still do it.

[00:24:38] **Speaker 1** But even when they have the right temperatures, surfers don't always have free time.

[00:24:43] **Speaker 2** I go with the flow. College just sort of happened. I'm going for an environmental geography degree.

[00:24:48] **Speaker 1** Still, the surf keeps pulling them back.

[00:24:51] **Speaker 2** People just tend to learn that you're not that reliable. Like, at least in my family circle. If I show up late to Thanksgiving cause I was surfing, no one's going to care. Skip school, skip work, skip people. They know the drill.

[00:25:06] **Speaker 1** It may sound extreme for a hobby, which is why Alex says his time on the lake is much more than that.

[00:25:13] **Speaker 2** You know, once you're in, you're not getting out because, you know, it's becomes part of you. It's part of your life, something you can't just undo or stop doing. There's, you know, people that are 15 all the way up to 65. You know, some of that, like the original guys are still getting out here and then, you know, kind of the newest generations. I mean, there's nowhere else you want to be. There's nothing else you're thinking of. You're you're in that moment. I want to go to grabbing another one. Another one. And that's the life.

[00:25:47] **Speaker 1** We want to know what's your Wisconsin life? This week, Maureen from Lacrosse sent us springtime on the Mississippi.

[00:26:32] **Speaker 5** Funding for Wisconsin life is provided in part by Alliant Energy. The people of Alliant Energy bringing you safe, reliable energy to keep homes, neighborhoods and life in Wisconsin running smoothly. Alliant Energy with energy saving ideas online at Alliant Energy dot com. Additional funding is provided by Lowell and Mary Peterson. The L.E. Phillips Family Foundation. And Friends of Wisconsin Public Television.