



Media Contact:

Andrea Novotny
Novotny Communications
(608) 575-7739
anovotny@charter.net

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**Classic Wisconsin Ducks Mark Milestone,
Nostalgic Tours a Mainstay Attraction for 75th Seasons**

WISCONSIN DELLS, Wis. (May 22, 2020) – An experience shared through the generations, a nostalgic ride aboard an authentic amphibious Duck is a truly classic Wisconsin adventure. The rugged World War II-era Ducks are revered by many as one of the most unique tourist offerings in the state. This year the operation that started it all – Original Wisconsin Ducks – marks its 75th season traversing the wooded trails and scenic waterways of Wisconsin Dells.

“People celebrate the Ducks as a must-do Wisconsin experience and we are proud to live up to that honor by simply continuing to be an exemplary tourism attraction not only for Wisconsin Dells but for the entire state,” said Dan Gavinski, general manager of Original Wisconsin Ducks.

The unique amphibious vehicles first rolled off the General Motors assembly line in 1942. Built for war, the land-and-water military craft, code named DUKWs, were simply nicknamed “Ducks” by soldiers. Ducks were lauded by military leaders for their brawn and versatility to move troops and supplies along the rugged terrain of Europe and the South Pacific. More than 2,000 Ducks were used in the historic D-Day invasion on June 6, 1944, at Normandy, France, which is touted as the greatest amphibious operation in history. In all, General Motors manufactured 21,200 Ducks for the war effort from 1942 to 1945.

For most of modern history, Ducks have been a part of the civilian landscape in Wisconsin Dells, shuttling generations of travelers through the Lower Dells Scenic Park, a 600-acre picturesque backdrop perfect for Ducks to perform land-to-water maneuvers. Because of the area’s varied topography, Ducks were introduced here in 1946 as a way to show off the beautiful land while still preserving the environment.

The one-hour tour travels exclusive wilderness Duck Trails that wind through evergreen forests and traverse the tops of the Dells' famous bluffs. The trails were derived from old lumber roads, an ancient stagecoach run and the primitive streets of the city of Newport, which was once located here. This exceptional stretch of the river running through Wisconsin Dells is a spectacular geological site with beautiful rock formations carved out by glaciers and shaped by wind and rain over time. The 8½-mile journey splashes down into the Wisconsin River where visitors get an up-close view of the towering rocks and the stories that go with them. The 21-passenger Duck maneuvers through narrow gorges lush with vegetation and makes a second water entry into beautiful Lake Delton.

"We really do have the best of both worlds here with our Ducks traveling on land and then splashing down into the water, passengers experience the awesome abilities of these amphibious vehicles," added Gavinski.

As the largest tour duck operator in the country, Original Wisconsin Ducks takes great pride in preserving the novel fleet. The operation has a crew of highly skilled mechanics and metal experts who maintain the Ducks. Their focus is on preserving the integrity of the fleet and keeping safety at the forefront. Combined, the staff has more than 220 years of experience working on the Ducks.

All of the Original Wisconsin Ducks are authentic, built for the World War II effort. However, most in the fleet of 90 never saw wartime action. They were surplus, purchased stateside. Some have been procured from collectors or other tour operators.

"It's a top priority to care for our fleet so that generations to come can enjoy the Wisconsin Dells beauty and learn about the historical amphibious Ducks," said Gavinski.

With 92 vehicles, Original Wisconsin Ducks is the largest WWII amphibious tour Duck operation in the United States and is the longest running tour. Original Wisconsin Ducks' season traditionally runs mid-March through mid-November, weather permitting. Tours depart every few minutes during the peak summer season. For more information about Original Wisconsin Ducks, please call (608) 254-8751 or visit wisconsinducktours.com.

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Editor's Note: High-res and historical photos available by contacting Andrea Novotny at (608) 575-7739 anovotny@charter.net.

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