



Chair's Update

By Larry Bonde

I am slowly settling into my new position as Chair for the WCC. While it was always apparent how busy things are with the WCC, until I stepped into this role it seemed easier. Maybe that is because watching Ed or Rob made leadership look so easy. All kidding aside, I am humbled that I was elected to Chair the WCC and am very much looking forward to what is ahead of us.

One of the key issues I would like to see changed when our advisory committees meet is to make sure everyone is at the table when we discuss issues and take positions. The Congress has been criticized in the past for taking position while only listening or hearing one side of an argument. From my experience, there is some truth to that. If the WCC wants to remain relevant and be heard, we need to be sure all sides of an issue are presented to us before we take a position. To that end, I am asking all the committee chairs to invite representatives from all sides to our meetings. As an example, when the deer fence issue was taken up at our District Leadership Council meeting, we invited people from WOW (Whitetails of Wisconsin), WDEFA (Wisconsin Deer and Elk Farmers Association, DNR, DATCP, Wisconsin Bow Hunters Association, and the Wildlife Federation. It was a long list of groups which made for a long meeting. But having heard from all of those groups, when we took our position, no one could argue that we didn't hear all the sides of that issue. I know that the Congress is not always invited to the table with other groups, but if we invite them it may very well open the door to better dialog in the future. I am also aware that we may have some huge differences with some groups but

hearing all sides is very important if our positions are to be taken seriously. Remember, reasonable people can disagree!

Another area I would like to stress with our committee is when you present a problem, also present a solution. I have had several conversations with NRB members who really appreciate that approach. Too often people or groups come to them and complain about a problem with the DNR but offer nothing as a solution. Again, if the WCC wants to remain relevant we need to be forward-thinking and offer solid solutions to problems we see. Forward-thinking also means that we should not be closed thinkers. Think outside the box! Too often in our world people tend to look at things in a small way. I am encouraging all delegates to come to our committee meetings with an open mind, a willingness to listen and the ability to think creatively to solve problems.

The strategic plan the WCC implemented suggested the District Leadership Council hold an additional meeting each year. For anyone who has attended our January meeting you will understand there is a need for this. The January meeting is a two day marathon session and because of that, items that are taken up towards the end are not always properly vetted. In response to this we are setting up a full day meeting for the District Leadership Council in early October. We can deal with whatever questions come from the advisory committees who have met before that date. Because of this, it will be extremely important for committee chairs and secretaries to have the approved minutes and questions to Kari as soon as possible.

As I stated at our convention in Manitowoc, I want to hear from



delegates on issues in your area. I want the Congress to testify on land purchases and sales every chance we can. The WCC structure is perfect for this since we have delegates in every county. Kari or Mike will be reaching out to delegates in those counties that have lands that are being purchased or sold and we ask that you reply to them with any local concern or support that may be out there. The Congress did testify on the purchases at the June NRB meeting and it was well received.

Well, that's what I have for you in this issue. I hope you all had a great summer and I am sure many of you may have your fall hunting, fishing or outdoor adventures already planned. Make sure to watch the WCC calendar and if you can't make a meeting make sure you contact the right people so you are excused. Enjoy the outdoors!

GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK!!

This is your newsletter! Let us know what you would like to see—topic updates, articles, discussions, or features—in upcoming issues of the *Conservation Chronicle*.

Send your ideas, comments, pictures and articles to:
Kari.LeeZimmermann@wisconsin.gov

Biosecurity a Must for Deer Farms

Conservation Congress Chair Larry Bonde took a bold step at the most recent District Leadership Council (DLC) meeting by inviting several diverse participants to bring councilors up to speed on biosecurity affecting privately-owned deer farming operations. At issue is the potential need to double fence any deer farm having a history of Chronic Wasting Disease or deer escapes. While some delegates appealed for double fencing at all privately-owned deer farm operations, a compromise position supported double fencing at those facilities having a CWD positive animal, thus sparing those with clean records the additional expense.

“We shouldn’t be punishing the farms that don’t have problems by requiring double fencing,” said Congress Chair Larry Bonde. “We need to protect the wild herd to the greatest extent possible, but we don’t want to run legitimate farm operators out of business when they have done nothing wrong. These farms are accredited CWD free farms that are complying with DACTCP regulations.”

Congress delegates heard from all sides of the issue in a marathon three-hour listening session before voting in support of greater biosecurity

measures at those farms with repeated escapes and prior problems with CWD. Those addressing the issue before the council included members of Whitetails of Wisconsin (WOW), the Wisconsin Deer and Elk Farmers Association, Wisconsin state veterinarian Paul McGraw, Veterinarian and former Natural Resources Board chairman Dave Clausen, Wisconsin Bow Hunters’ Association President Mike Brust and USGS deer biologist Bryan Richards (via e-mail).



Wisconsin state veterinarian Dr. Paul McGraw addressed the Conservation Congress District Leadership Council on fencing of privately-owned deer farms in Wisconsin. The Congress recommends double fencing for some deer farms. Photo by Lee Fahrney

hunters while others were recovered. He claimed the escapes wouldn’t have been prevented by a double fence and denied that CWD was brought to the state through game farm movements. “It came through the environment,” Vojtik said, a notion that several Congress delegates challenged.

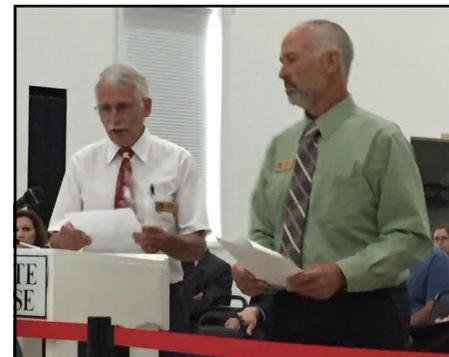
Congress delegate and veterinarian Mike Riggle of Taylor County said a

double fence would be especially important if CWD is involved. “From a biosecurity standpoint there is a significant risk when the current rules allow a shooting preserve to operate with a single fence after a deer has tested positive” he maintained. “Then the threat from nose to nose contact increases to where it is a significant risk.”

DNR documentation show reports of escapes from the Vojtik properties beginning in 2005. As many as 20 whitetails escaped in one incident in 2015. A DNR report dated June 6, 2015, also notes that a deer at a Vojtik property had tested positive for CWD.

WOW Vice Chair Laurie Seale cautioned against stronger sanctions, saying it would cause great financial hardship to deer farm operators. “Seventy-five percent of deer farms will be put out of business because of a mandate that won’t stop the disease,” she declared.

The need for at least some double fencing prevailed, however, by a consensus of district



councilors. Bonde and Riggle presented the Congress position to the NRB at its June meeting.

Burrows receives David A. Ladd Delegate of the Year Award at Convention

Doug Burroughs, Eau Claire County delegate, was presented with the David A. Ladd Delegate of the Year Award at the WCC state convention in Manitowoc. The recommendation noted a long list of accomplishments such as numerous contributions to the youth of his area, several local, regional, state and national organizations and, most importantly, to his fellow delegates on the Conservation Congress.

Doug has served in leadership positions at the county level as vice chair of his Eau Claire County delegation, and functions as secretary of the Public Relations and Outreach Advisory Committee.

He serves as vice chair of the Eau Claire County Stewardship Committee, Eau Claire

Rod and Gun Club (president for 12 years) and currently serves as a director with the Eau Claire Sports Commission.

Doug presented on the extensive opportunities for outdoor recreation in Eau Claire County at a media event at the Wisconsin Fishing Expo in Madison in front of more than a dozen outdoor communicators and other conservationists from around the state.

A life member of Pheasants Forever, he is the current president of the Chippewa Valley Chapter of Pheasants Forever and serves on the Pheasants Forever National Advisory Committee looking at chapter charter reorganization. He was selected Pheasants Forever Conservationist of the Year for Wisconsin.

As a youth mentor he has introduced innumerable young people to the joys of pheasant hunting while explaining the part conservation programs play in preserving the hunt. He is also an active trap and sporting clays shooter and holds membership in Ducks Unlimited and the Ruffed Grouse Society.

Doug has also been active with Meals on Wheels for the past 11 years, is active in his church and serves on various committees to raise funds for projects such as the Rich Seubert Celebrity Trap Shoot for Cardiac Research.

Doug Burroughs is a delegate who gets it done, professionally, promptly and with a love of the outdoors that comes from the heart.

Delegate Profile: Krawze continues to stir the pot

By Lee Fahrney

Richard “Dick” Krawze, 75, has spent his entire life around Laona in Forest County, living the dream as an avid outdoorsman, community servant, professional logger and confidant to legions of friends, business associates and conservationists from around Wisconsin and beyond.

And he has a rich sense of humor to boot. “We go around a few days before the event (Lions Club Community Soup Feed) and pick up road kill,” he says with a mischievous smirk.

He spins the yarn each year while serving up food to various patrons at the annual fundraiser. “We get at least a couple of people each year that believe it for a while,” he chuckles. Krawze is one of the main organizers for the event that draws hundreds of diners from the surrounding area.

“I enjoy it,” he said. “I’ve been doing it for years. I enjoy talking to old friends and relatives while we serve up the food.”

Both work and play come naturally to Krawze who, as a teenager, made a few bucks stripping bark from popple trees for five cents per stick (cut log). “I could do 100 in a day,” he boasts.

When not working or going to school (part time, he admits), Krawze would stalk game on the wide-open landscape of Forest County. He began hunting at the ripe old age of seven, using his father’s single shot .22 and later a single shot .20 gauge. “It was mostly cottontails, grouse and a few prairie chickens,” he recalls.

Krawze feels fortunate to have had a wealth of opportunities to hunt in Wisconsin, out West and in Canada. “I’ve had the good fortune of hunting elk in Montana and Idaho and moose in Canada,” he said.

Forest County, which includes much of the Nicolet National Forest, is now comprised of more than 80 percent public land. The unique combination of public vs. private land gives Krawze a perspective that is important to his colleagues on the Congress from a conservation standpoint. Both as a professional woodsman and a hunter, Krawze has a vested interest in the preservation of the land and its wild critters for future generations.

Krawze’s impact goes far beyond the borders of Forest County and Wisconsin, however. Here is one example of the far-flung influence of this still-strong but aging luminary. Krawze was traveling south on Interstate Highway 75 toward Detroit when he came upon a stalled vehicle on the side of the road.

He stopped to assist, and the chance meeting with the internationally known archer Fred Bear changed his life. “I didn’t know who this guy was,” said Krawze, who is co-owner of Pine River Lumber Company, Ltd. at Long Lake, Wis.

After the pair torqued firm the lug nuts on the spare tire, Bear offered to buy dinner at a nearby restaurant. The year was 1967 when Krawze gave him his business card. Another year went by before he got a long-distance call from Grayling, Mich., and site of Bear’s extensive archery equipment manufacturing facility.

“He was very short of hard maple, and he couldn’t find the quality of stock that he required,” said Krawze. Long story short: Krawze provided the needed product to Bear Archery for more than 16 years.

“He needed a special 9/4 lumber, FAS #1 white straight grain,” Krawze said. “The white is near the outside outer sides of the logs and is the most desirable for the manu-

facture of bow limbs and handles.” Krawze enlisted his boyhood schoolmate, John Novak, to transport the material to Grayling. “He would haul the product to Grayling, a six hour drive, and then help unload by hand,” Krawze said.

Currently, Krawze serves on several regional and national organizations such as the National Hardwood Lumber Association, Hardwood Federation and the Lake States Lumber Association Legislative Committee.

He says the biggest challenge for the Conservation Congress is keeping young people involved. Getting them to understand the issues facing proper management of our resources: texting their friends is not the way to do that.”

Meanwhile Dick Krawze is promoting the Community Soup feed in Laona, Saturday, August 6. “The road kill is delicious,” he maintains.



Richard “Dick” Krawze has spread his influence beyond the borders of Wisconsin, including his association with internationally-known archer Fred Bear. Here, Dick poses with one of Bear’s signature bows.

Get Involved with DNR Opportunities Near You

By Al Shook (delegate from Waukesha County, the Migratory Committee Chair and Conservation Congress Vice-Chair)

June is a wonderful month with many things happening outdoors. This time of the year Canadian geese are in the molting stage. This means that adult geese cannot

fly and are easily rounded up with the young of the year for banding. Banding these local or giant geese allows the WDNR to monitor this population around the state of Wisconsin.

Wildlife personal and volunteers make this process possible. Local biologists schedule

a day that starts at 6am. An early start for most people.

When the crew arrives at a location, temporary pens are set up and small boats are deployed to herd the geese towards shore. Once on shore, the volunteers form lines or barriers to guide the geese into the tempo-

rary pen. The gates are closed and the fun begins. Three people inside the pen look for geese that already have a band on. The banded birds are captured and handed to volunteers and DNR personal. These geese are called re-caps and are checked and released. Next to be banded and sexed are the young of the year. The young are easily identified by the fuzzy feathers on the body and head. Next to be handled are the non-banded adults. Some of these birds can weigh 12 pounds. Catching the adults is like a grade school fire drill with three people chasing three different birds. Most of the adults do not like this pro-



cess one bit, often hissing and sometimes biting the hand that grabs it. Throughout this whole process everyone also deals with large amounts of goose droppings.

In southeast Wisconsin the goal is to band 500 geese in two days of work. The day I helped we banded over 260 geese by going to only three different spots. Our work was complete by 11 am.

If you are interested in helping with this program next year, contact your local WDNR wildlife biologist to volunteer and have a great outdoor adventure.

In Case You Missed It:

District Leadership Council:

What was formerly known as the Executive Council, will now be referred to as the District Leadership Council. This change was advanced by the Rules & Resolutions Committee and adopted by the full body of the Congress at the May 2016 convention in Manitowoc.

The change comes after many outside the Congress (and some inside the organization) repeatedly confused the Executive Committee and the then Executive Council. The District Leadership Council is the governing body of the Congress and is comprised of two councilors from each of the 11 districts.

The Executive Committee will retain its name and is comprised of the Congress

Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Outreach & Public Relations Coordinator, and Historian.

Additional Council Meeting:

The District Leadership Council, at the recommendation of the Strategic Plan Implementation Committee, approved holding a fourth meeting in the fall. Currently, the Council meets twice in May, and once in January. The District Leadership Council has determined that they will hold a meeting on October 8, 2016. Those committees that have met prior to that date and advanced resolutions to the Council for consideration as questions on next April's Spring Hearing questionnaire, should have their questions ready to be presented to the Council at their October meeting.

Delegate Communications Plan

In May, the District Leadership Council approved a delegate communication plan.

The purpose of the plan is to establish a structure for timely and clear communication in order to ensure Wisconsin citizens have a local avenue for input and exchange of information. The plan recommends a "script" or template be provided to delegates to help facilitate clear and consistent communications with constituents regarding the wide array of natural resource issues we deal with. The Outreach & Public Relations Committee will be continuing to work on this and more information will come when it is rolled out to the delegation. Look for more on this down the road.

Michael Schmit: New Conservation Congress Coordinator

I graduated from Augsburg College in Minneapolis, MN in May of 2009, with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Biology and minors in Chemistry and German. While in school I focused my studies primarily on the health care field, but began to realize my real passion was for ecology. Following my graduation I got married and proceeded to follow my wife, who was in grad school, around the country. In the following 4 years, I lived in 5 different states. During this time I held a variety of different jobs including work as a research assistant at the University of Minnesota Medical Center, a Certified Nurse's Aide, an administrative assistant at DePaul University, construction, retail at Dick's Sporting Goods and even being a nanny.

In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my wife and family. We are avid hikers and

paddlers, and enjoy exploring new places wherever we may be. I have been an avid outdoors person since I have been young and have logged over 300 miles of backcountry paddling and 250 miles of backcountry hiking (some of which was done in a few different countries). I enjoy hunting and fishing of all types and find myself outside much more than in.

I began working for the Wisconsin DNR in April 2016. My appointment is two LTE positions split between working with the Wisconsin Conservation Congress as the new congress coordinator and Fisheries Management as the new Angler Education Support Assistant. I look forward to continuing work with both the Wisconsin DNR and the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, and the opportunities



that will be presented by both in the future. I can be reached at (608) 261-6431 or Michael.Schmit@wisconsin.gov.

Congress delegates add to youth expo success

Photos and story by Lee Fahrney

Once again, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress made a difference with a strong show of support at the Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo (MOHEE), May 18-19. More than 2,340 elementary school students from around southern Wisconsin reaped the benefits at the event held at the Department of Natural Resources Mackenzie Center in Poynette, Columbia County.

Harold Drake of Dodge County was the first WCC delegate to greet visitors as he directed the heavy traffic of busses, volunteers and DNR staff pouring onsite to assist. Other delegates involved included Kathleen Tober (Walworth), Dale Maas (Dodge), Jim Burmeister (Columbia), Rick Swenson (Columbia), Scott McAuley (Wood), Paul Gettleman (Green Lake), Dan Carroll (Juneau), Scott Gunderson (Racine), Bob Haase (Fond du Lac) and Scott Zimmermann (Dodge).

In addition to volunteer support, the Congress donates monetarily with the proceeds from the bucket raffle at the annual WCC convention. Other major contributors to the Expo include Safari Club International and the National Rifle Association.

The event drew a larger crowd than in years past. "We're up more than 20 percent from last year," said event organizer Mark LaBarbera. "We're hoping for even more next year."



Mark LaBarbera has joined with a long list of partners to bring the Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo to more than 2,300 elementary school children. From left: unnamed Cabela's rep., Congress delegate Scott Gunderson, DNR chief law enforcement officer Todd Schaller, MOHEE founder Mark LaBarbera.



Bob Haase of Fond du Lac teaches kids how to tie flies at the Education Expo at the MacKenzie Center in Poynette. Haase and other Trout Unlimited members teamed up to train the next generation of anglers.

Bob Haase was one of several delegates to offer his talents to the benefit of the youngsters. He painstakingly demonstrated the fine art of fly tying to one after another, young, prospective angler. The kids sat spellbound by the process, eventually forging their own creations under the watchful eye of their mentor. "We'll probably do 750-800 for the two days," said Haase of his efforts and those of other volunteers at the fly tying station.

The 500-acre Mackenzie Center serves as a prime location for the event with ample opportunity for kids to explore and experience myriad outdoor activities, including for kids with disabilities. Support for disabled hunters has been a strong element of Congress involvement in the outdoors.

Monica Kamal and Ray Anderson of Access Ability Wisconsin demonstrated their tracked all-terrain vehicle, designed to help those with limited mobility get into the outdoors. Herself disabled, Kamal is a hunter education instructor and enjoys a variety of outdoor activities such as deer, turkey and pheasant hunting. Note to all: Let's look for folks like these as potential recruits to the Congress.

Teachers Luanne Schambow and Robin Lange brought several youngsters from Southwestern Elementary in Hazel Green. "The kids really like the interactive activities and the hands on events," said Schambow. "They're free to do things at their leisure. They can go back to the things that they like."

Support for youth activities has become a trademark of WCC outreach over the years with the Outdoor Expo just one example. And senior DNR officials invariably make the trip to the Mackenzie Center for the Expo to show their support.

"What a showcase of Wisconsin's outdoor heritage," said DNR Deputy Secretary and former WCC Liaison Kurt Thiede. "We hope to pass that on to the next generation."



Sun Prairie student Kaden Stuart (seated right) shares a moment with Monica Kamal and Ray Anderson of Access Ability Wisconsin at the Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo. Kamal and Anderson are co-founders of Access Ability.

2016 Manitowoc Convention Recap

Chair Bonde's report to the Natural Resources Board on the 2016 convention.

It is my great pleasure to come before this Board today as the newly elected Chair of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress and to have this opportunity to review the business conducted by the Congress at our annual meeting. I would like to thank Chair Hilgenberg for his presentation at our convention, and the attendance of Board members Preston Cole, Greg Kazmierski, and Gary Zimmer at our meeting. It was a privilege to have you at our convention engaging with our delegates. Your involvement and attendance in Congress events speaks volumes to your commitment to the role of this organization as an advisory body to the Natural Resources Board.

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress convened for its 82nd annual convention on May 12, 13, and 14, 2016, in Manitowoc. Our statewide delegation voted on the proposed DNR rule changes, DNR and NRB advisory questions, and each of the proposed Congress advisory questions from the 2016 spring hearing questionnaire.



Outgoing WCC chair Rob Bohmann receives a plaque for his years of leadership from newly elected chair Larry Bonde.

WCC Advisory Questions

There were 33 Congress advisory proposals presented for public comment at this year's Spring Hearings. Twenty-five of these proposals were recommended for advancement to the Department, Natural Resources Board, and Legislature for consideration as possible future rule changes or legislation and one was returned to the Fur Harvest Committee for further review. Of the seven proposals that were not supported by the delegation for advancement, four were also not supported

by either the public vote or the county vote. However, the Congress also rejected three questions that passed by both the popular vote and the county vote. Those included question 14 regarding eliminating the "artificial-only" restriction from the regular season trout regulation, question 16 pertaining to allowing individuals to apply for bear preference points up to six years at a time, and question 39 regarding allowing unfilled spring turkey permits to be used in the 5th and 6th time periods.

Included in the recommendations advanced to the Department, Board, and Legislature for further consideration are the requests to exempt fish and wildlife rules from Act 21, allow CDACs to extend the archery season to January 31 in the Southern Farmland Zone, allow hunting and fishing on DNR lands at Strawberry Creek, create an alternate bag limits for Wisconsin's trout fisheries, and make it illegal for those who receive compensation for fishing activities to store live gamefish beyond the day of catch.

Congress Business

This is the fourth year we have had the Youth Conservation Congress and we now have 26 students involved as youth delegates and 10 of them were able to attend the convention and participate in the discussion and breakout sessions arranged specifically for them.

We handed our years of service certificates and pins to those delegates who have served the congress for 15, 20, 25, 30 and over 35 years. Impressively, we have 17 delegates that individually have



Conservation Warden Jesse Ashton receives the WCC's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award.

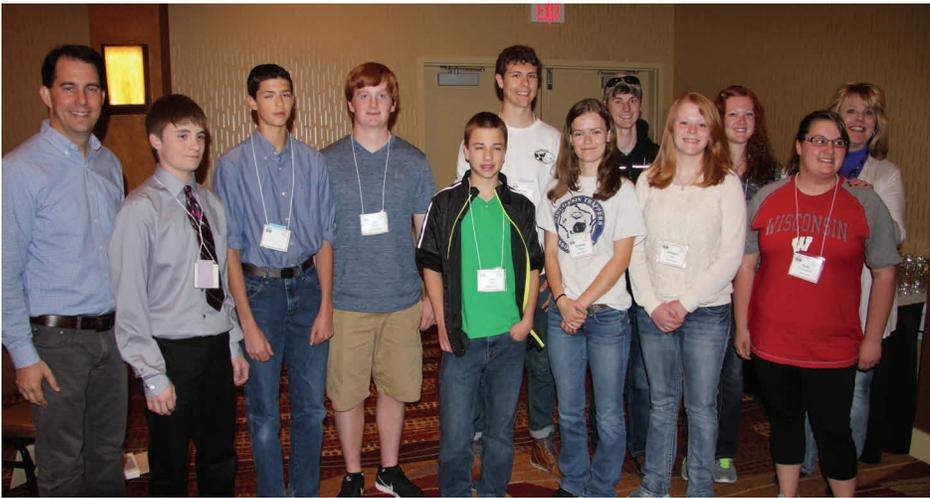
35 or more years of service to the Congress. Additionally, we acknowledged the work of those active or former delegates who have passed away during the last year. This year we recognized nine individuals through memorial resolutions.

Awards

Again this year the Congress recognized a number of DNR employees and citizens for their outstanding service. Mike Zeckmeister, wildlife supervisor, received the wildlife award for his commitment to working cooperatively with citizens and achievements in expanding recreational opportunities. Fisheries biologist Max Wolter received our fisheries award for his excellent work with the panfish program and dedication to quality fisheries management. Jesse Ashton (Polk County)



Dick Koerner was recognized by being inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame. Dick (second from left) is pictured with three former WCC Chairs (from left: Ed Harvey, Rob Bohmann, and Steve Oestreicher).



Governor Scott Walker and DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp visited with delegates to the Youth Conservation Congress at the state convention held in Manitowoc, May, 2016.

was recognized for his outstanding law enforcement efforts, his work to partner with the community in protecting Wisconsin's resources, and his dedication to involving kids in outdoor activities. Mike Neal (Door County) was awarded the Waterfowl Officer of the Year by the WCC Migratory Committee for his leadership within his community and commitment to waterfowl education. Doug Burrows from Eau Claire County received the WCC's David A. Ladd Delegate of the Year Award and the WCC also inducted the Congress' iconic member from Winnebago County, Dick Koerner into the Wisconsin Conservation Congress Hall of Fame. Dick has served the Congress for 50 years.

Rounding out our awards, the 2015 Statewide Conservation Organization of the Year Award went to the Wisconsin Trappers Association. There were two Outstanding Local Organizations awarded—the Apostle Islands Sportfisherman's Association and the Outagamie Conservation Club, and the 2015 Educator of the Year was awarded to Jim Heffner from Oneida County.

DNR Rule Change Proposals

The full delegation reviewed and registered their support for questions 5, 7, and 8 of the wildlife advisory questions and 9 and 10 from fisheries; however, questions 1-4 relating to the overnight placement of stands/blinds on DNR lands north of Hwy 64 and "hunting hours" verses "shooting hours," which were proposed rule changes, were **not** supported by the WCC. I understand that the Department is not presenting or advancing the results of their Spring Hearing questions at this meeting, but will be sharing those results in June. The DNR is aware of our

position and should either of the two proposed rule changes be advanced, the WCC will present the Board with a more robust summary of the discussion and rationale for our opposition at that time.

The Congress did take a position in support of both of the NRB's advisory questions relating to establishing consistent season end dates for fall turkey, pheasant, partridge, fisher trapping and archery deer and eliminating the exceptions that allow the harvest of antlerless deer in buck-only units with a zero quota.

Officer Elections

As part of the changes made to our Code of Procedures, our delegation voted to merge districts 11 and 12, so the WCC will now

have just 11 districts and 22 councilors. To help clarify some confusion between the Executive Committee and the Executive Council, the full delegation also voted to change the name from the Executive Council to the District Leadership Council. So on Friday, May 13, the delegates from our now eleven districts elected their 2016-17 District Leadership Councilors. I would like to thank each of the councilors from 2015-16 that will not be returning this year as councilors and also congratulate those that have been elected or reelected.

As recommended by the strategic plan and implemented for the first year in 2013, our Executive Committee now includes five members. The Public Relations and Outreach Coordinator position will continue to be held by Lee Fahrney (Iowa County), Joe Weiss (Washburn County) will continue as historian, and Dale Maas (Dodge County) was re-elected as the secretary. Al Shook (Waukesha County) was elected to the vice-chair seat and I was honored to be elected to serve as Chair for the Conservation Congress. I would like to personally thank former Chair Rob Bohmann for his leadership and his friendship over the past five years. He was recognized by this Board last month for his work as Chair, and I will continue to call on him for advice and guidance as I get settled in my new role.

In closing, I want to reiterate our appreciation for the support of this Board and we look forward to working closely with you this year on important natural resource management issues.



2016-2017 WCC Executive Council: (Standing from left to right) Mike Riggle, Dale Maas, Al Brown, Stan Brownell, Ken Risley, Bob Ellingson, Jayne Meyer, Al Suchla, Dave Larson, Joe Weiss, Rick Olson, Al Shook, Lee Fahrney, and Staush Grusynski. Kneeling from left to right are Ronn Krueger, Mike Roggers, Al Lobner, Larry Bonde, Arlyn Splitt, Ken Anderson, and Scott Gunderson. Not pictured is Kevin Smaby.



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2016 WCC Executive Committee

- Larry Bonde, Chair
- Al Shook, Vice-Chair
- Dale Maas, Secretary
- Lee Fahrney, PR & Outreach
- Joe Weiss, Historian

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WCC Liaison

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*"Let us work together to
 properly manage and wisely use
 our natural resources..."*

- Prologue of the Congress Creed

Wisconsin Conservation Congress Calendar

Please visit the WCC website for up-to-date listings of all WCC meetings and events — go to dnr.wi.gov and search for "Conservation Congress."

JULY

30 Fur Harvest Committee—
 Milladore

AUGUST

- 2/3 Natural Resources Board meeting—Ashland
- 1-12 WCC District Meetings—Statewide
- 13 Outdoor Heritage & Education Committee—Wausau
- 13 Outreach & Public Relations Committee—Wausau
- 13 Deer & Elk Committee—Wausau
- 16 Ag Damage Ad Hoc Committee—Stevens Point
- 20 Warm Water Committee—Wausau
- 20 Land Use Committee—Wausau

- 20 Turkey & Upland Game Committee—Wausau
- 20 Mississippi River Committee—Stoddard
- 27 Trout Committee—Viroqua

SEPTEMBER

- 10 Rules & Resolutions Committee—Stevens Point
- 19 Executive Committee monthly conference call
- 27/28 Natural Resources Board meeting—Black River Falls

OCTOBER

- 8 District Leadership Council Meeting
- 17 Executive Committee monthly conference call
- 25/26 Natural Resources Board meeting—Madison

DECEMBER

- 5 Executive Committee monthly conference call
- 13/14 Natural Resources Board meeting—Madison

JANUARY 2017

- 6/7 District Leadership Council—Location TBD
- 16 Executive Committee monthly conference call
- 24/25 NRB Meeting—Madison

MARCH 2017

- 1-15 Spring District Meetings

APRIL 2017

- 10 Annual DNR/WCC Spring Hearings

MAY 2017

- 11 District Leadership Council meeting—Oshkosh
- 12/13 WCC Annual Convention—Oshkosh