



2016 Spring Hearings Just Around the Corner

By Kari Lee-Zimmermann, WCC/DNR Liaison

This year's Spring Hearings will be here before you know it. The hearings will provide an opportunity for citizens to elect WCC delegates as well as vote on DNR questions from fisheries and wildlife, and the Congress' advisory questions. But in addition, this year DNR wildlife experts in each county will provide a brief overview of the results of a multi-year deer survival study from Northern and Eastern Wisconsin.

"This project involved nearly 1,000 Wisconsin citizens and landowners and WCC members. We anticipate that the results will help inform deer management decisions for years to come," said Scott Hull, Wildlife and Forestry Research Section Chief for the DNR.

The wildlife expert's presentation will follow the delegate elections. Once the DNR's wildlife expert has presented the brief video update, the County Deer Advisory Council chair will have an opportunity to advise attendees of the preliminary recommendations made by the CDAC and let them know how they can comment on that recommendation and when the next CDAC meeting will be. Then the hearing officer will continue with the DNR's questions.

There will be four proposed rule change questions pertaining to the placement of portable stands or blinds on department owned and managed lands north of Hwy 64 and clarifying terminology for legal hours for the taking of game this year. There are six additional advisory questions from the department for the public to react to.

Thirty-three questions, which were approved by the WCC Executive Council meeting in Wausau on January 8-9, will appear in the questionnaire. These range from an idea to gauge the public's interest in eliminating the "artificial-only" restriction from the 3% of trout stream miles that will have that regulation during the regular trout season, to asking attendees if they support requiring non-toxic shot on all department lands.

"I hope citizens will come out on April 11th and let us know how they feel about these issues," stated Larry Bonde, vice-chair of the Congress. "The whole purpose of the Congress is to represent the people and that's what we are doing by asking them what they want."

The Natural Resources Board is also asking two questions this year, pertaining to establishing consistent end dates for a number of species and eliminating the exceptions for antlerless harvest in buck-only units.

"There are a lot of good questions and ideas this year, being asked by the Department, the Board, and the Congress. I hope it will allow a healthy discussion to take place among the public," stated Rob Bohmann, WCC Chair.

Spread the Word



Did you know that there is a flyer you can use to help promote the DNR/WCC Spring Hearings? The one page flyer can be tailored to your county's specific hearing location. On the flyer, simply click on the dropdown arrow and find your county's location, then print the flyer off and post it around town to help spread the word. Go to dnr.wi.gov and search key words "Spring Hearings," then click on the 2016 Hearing flyer.

The Spring Hearings are a joint meeting of the DNR and WCC held annually in all 72 counties of Wisconsin on the second Monday of April. The hearings allow attendees to provide input and a non-binding vote on questions related to a wide variety of natural resource issues. The hearings also provide county residents an opportunity to elect two of their WCC county delegates.

The April 11, 2016 Spring Hearings begin at 7:00 pm in each county of the state. Hearing locations for each county and the complete questionnaire can be found online at the WCC website dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/springhearing.html.

Your Help Needed at the Wall of Fame: Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo is May 18-19

The Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo (MOHEE) will again be held at the MacKenzie Environmental Center in Poynette on May 18 and 19, and the WCC would once again like to have the Wall of Fame available for youth to learn about natural resources. The WCC's Wall of Fame display affords attendees the opportunity to touch and see up close a wide variety of Wisconsin fish and wildlife specimens. The Congress is looking for delegates to volunteer to staff the booth at the expo and engage with youth attendees. In the past it has been an excellent opportunity for the Congress to do outreach to young people who might otherwise not have the opportunity to learn about natural resources and outdoor pursuits. If you are available and interested in volunteering your time to assist with this effort, please contact Lee Fahrney at fiveoaks.mhtc.net or (608) 967-2208. In addition, if any WCC youth delegates or their parents are interested in participating, I encourage you to join in the fun. It is a wonderful chance for youth attendees to be inspired by their peers by hearing about your conservation story. *Below: Kids love the feel of authentic fur pelts at the WCC Wall of Fame. At right: WCC delegate Bob Haase instructs a young angler on how to tie a fly. Below right: WCC Secretary Dale Maas faces the camera at last year's Education Expo.*



Delegate Profile: Harold Drake, Dodge County

By Lee Fahrney, WCC Outreach & Public Relations Coordinator

For those who recognize that Harold Drake of Dodge County has been one of the most committed delegates to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress over the years, you ain't seen nothin' yet! Recently retired, Harold expects to devote even more time to Congress activities while renewing his pursuit of monster muskies in northern Wisconsin.

Harold claims the Rock River as his first attempt to land the big one when "I figured out how to attach a hook to a line." Later, Harold boasts, "I've fished about every Class A musky venue in Vilas County at one time or another." In addition, he looks back "with many fond memories" to deer hunting at the Wood County Park at Lake Dexter. He also enjoys turkey hunting and bird hunting with his English springer spaniel.

Harold has been at the forefront of change to improve our system of fish and wildlife management while seeking to open up more opportunities for Wisconsin citizens to enjoy the rich natural resources our state has to offer. Most recently he authored two resolutions to improve Learn-to-Hunt participation rules. Both passed in Dodge County by wide margins. Moreover he ushers his proposals through the system by attending committee and executive council meetings to ensure that the suggestions are understood and get a fair hearing.

Dodge County Chair Dale Maas has this to say about Harold: "Harold puts in the time and effort to educate himself by attending many committee and executive meetings and uses that information to support the sporting community in Dodge County. Besides all of his other many involvements he also finds time to be the secretary of our County Conservation Alliance and, for the most part, single handily ramrod's our annual Sportsman's Rummage Sale."



Harold has been a member of the Legislative Committee since joining the Congress, including as secretary for one year. He also serves as secretary of the Ad Hoc Shooting Range Committee. In addition, Harold has been active in numerous other area sportsmen's clubs. He has served twenty plus years on the Board of Directors of the Field and Stream Sportsmen's Club, in Mayville. He claims service at various times as President, Secretary and Treasurer and currently serves as the club's coordinator for the day-old chick program. A hands-on leader he is responsible for the care and feeding of the birds until they are ready for release into the wild. Harold is also a founding member of the Dodge County Conservation Alliance which includes 10 active sporting groups. "Now that I'm retired, I want to grow that number to 20," he vows.

Harold mentions involvement with the Wisconsin Outdoor Expo as one of his favorite activities, both at Beaver Dam and last year at Poynette. This is, without a doubt, the most worthwhile event that I participate in. The future of hunting and trapping is in our youth.

Harold laments that he was totally uninformed about the existence and function of the Conservation Congress until he became involved in the Dodge County Alliance which, according to him, was established by the county's WCC delegates. "After working with County Chair Dale Maas and the rest of the delegation for several years I became very interested in serving and ran for a seat on the delegation at the first opportunity." Along with educating the public about the Congress, he deems it important to recruit dedicated and like-minded individuals to fill vacant seats on the Congress.

One of nine kids, Harold learned early on that hard work is the stuff of success in life and in supporting the values of our outdoor heritage. "As a hunter I am committed to passing on the traditions to my grandchildren," he says. "I intend to foster any interest they may have."

“I think we all understand that youth ARE our hunting heritage,” says Harold. He stresses the benefits of hunting include good physical exercise, the harvest of a renewable resource, and maintaining an effective wildlife management tool.

“We as hunters, trappers, and sporting arms shooters are the last line of defense to counter the message that our children are getting that does not support the use of firearms or hunting. We need to do all we can because we are slowly but surely losing the battle. I will continue to actively work on changes that may be effective in hunter recruitment and retention.”

Who is the WCC and Why Should I Care?

By Nadia Bogue

As a WCC representative, we understand the value in participation and input into how to responsibly manage Wisconsin’s resources. Unfortunately, there are still many people that don’t know the WCC even exists or that they too can participate in making our resources better for current and future generations. The Outreach and Public Relations Committee wants to give WCC representatives the tools and resources to increase the profile of the WCC and participation!

Engaging residents about a specific issue or participation in meetings is a clear way for them to see how they can add value to the process.

1. County Deer Advisory Committee (CDAC): You can request flyers through your CDAC Chair that have upcoming meeting dates and locations. These flyers would best be utilized in early spring and early fall in conjunction with the meeting times. Keep a stack in your truck during these times to be ready when you talk to people!
2. Spring Hearings: These flyers are available through Kari and can be customized with your county’s meeting information. These flyers would be best in the couple of months leading up to the spring hearings (right now!). This year, leftover spring turkey permits go on sale March 21st. This is a GREAT opportunity to hand out spring hearing flyers at your local DNR offices! You can also ask to leave a stack of flyers for people to take with them and ask to hang some up on the doors. Outdoor shops that sell fishing licenses or other hunting and fishing gear also should be asked to post the spring hearing flyers. These are easy to hand out during outdoor activities like ice fishing...I keep some with me when I am on the ice so as I walk to my honey hole I can talk to people along the way.
3. General WCC Brochure: This brochure talks broadly about the WCC history and impact and can be requested through Kari. A new video has been developed and is posted on the WCC website to inform people about the WCC. The brochure should be updated again soon, but none the less is a great general piece of information to have.

Media is also a great way to let residents know that their opinions are valued! Remember to reach out to your local paper, radio show or newscast and ask them to announce meetings. Lastly, in the age of technology, Facebook is a really valuable way for the WCC to be relevant on a consistent basis. Post your county meetings on the WCC Facebook page, pictures of your hunts, fishing trips, or hikes and ‘share’ cool outdoors stories you find.

Together, we can continue to support the strong history and impact of the WCC.



Photo by Bob Traczyk, Iron County

**The 2016 WCC
Annual Conven-
tion will be held
May 12-14 at the
Holiday Inn in
Manitowoc.
See you there!**

Burrows is Pheasants Forever Conservationist of the year

Those of us who work with Doug Burrows within the Conservation Congress know him as a hard working delegate from Eau Claire County – he is the vice chair of his county delegation and serves as secretary on the Outreach and Public Affairs Advisory Committee. But that is only part of the reason Pheasants Forever recently honored Doug as the PF Conservationist of the Year, the organization’s highest honor.

Doug also serves as the president of the Chippewa Valley Chapter of Pheasants Forever, the Eau Claire County Stewardship Subcommittee and served as president of the Eau Claire Rod & Gun Club for 12 years. He is also active in his church and assists with the local Meals on Wheels program.

Congratulations, Doug, from all your friends on the Wisconsin Conservation Congress.



Time to put boots on the ground with CDAC

By Lee Fahrney, Outreach & Public Relations Chair

As we approach the next round of meetings involving the County Deer Advisory Councils it is time for each and every county delegate to add their voices to the effort because these deliberations will determine the direction of deer management in each county for years to come.

While many county delegates have stepped up as CDAC chairs and alternates, that may not be enough to make this initiative a success. Regardless of each delegate’s personal interests, it is our responsibility to support all matters relating to natural resource protection.

Moreover, this initiative is in the direct eye of the public. The failure of this program to gain traction not only affects the long-term impact on deer management, but reflects directly on the reputation and public impression of the Congress and its ability to get things done. The Conservation Congress cannot expect the average citizen take a stake in this process if Congress delegates themselves do not take it seriously.

In passing up the opportunity to get involved, we are also losing out on a chance to further our basic knowledge of deer habitat, population status and hunter demographics. Department of Natural Resources staff members attend all of these meetings to provide technical advice, background data and current information about the status of the deer herd in each county. This information can be passed on to local clubs, media outlets and the general public to help them understand the decision-making process within the Conservation Congress and the DNR.

District representatives can also assist by contacting county CDACs to offer their help with any public relations issues and organizational problems that might exist. Delegates can help by talking to their friends, neighbors and members of local sportsmen’s clubs to whip up support for this worthy cause. Most importantly they can show up to support their county leadership at the meetings.



Rick Knutson responds to a question from the audience at a Grant County CDAC meeting.

Rusk County has been especially successful at engaging with local media and inspiring local sportsmen and women to attend their meetings. County Chair Joel Taylor reports a media representative attends all of their meetings. He points to a strong presence by county delegates within local sportsmen’s groups as another reason for their success. They also work closely with an active youth group, Safe Hunters of Tomorrow. Contact Taylor or CDAC Chair Roger Roehl for more ideas.

Good luck to all with the next round of deliberations. And if any CDAC leaders need assistance with outreach in their respective counties, contact one of your district representatives on the Outreach & Public Relations Committee.

Res. 050315 Tying Up Fish: A case study How to get your resolution through the WCC committee process

By Lee Fahrney (Outreach & Public Relations Chair) and Joe Weiss (Warm Water Chair)

The title of this resolution must be some kind of joke. How does one tie up a fish? Well, the Aug. 22, 2015 minutes of the Warm Water Committee reflect much discussion of this resolution submitted by Troy Kraus of Brown County. The resolution was rejected on the first vote. But then something atypical occurred.

The author of the resolution just happened to be in the audience and that played a significant role in getting the resolution advanced. In the vast majority of cases the resolution author doesn't show at the committee meeting. While our DNR liaison routinely notifies the author where and when the resolution will be considered, they often times don't show up. The reasons may vary. They may have work or family obligations to consider. Or they might assume that the matter will get a full and unbiased examination without their input. But the authors' presence can sometimes carry the day when they are available to provide clarifying or additional information.

The "tying up of fish" refers to concerns that fishing guides may be catching fish, then attaching them to stringers for long periods of time until a large number of fish are available for promotional photos or other objectives that may be harmful to the resource. Committee members also noted that anglers engaged in fishing tournaments might also retain fish for too long with the hope that larger ones would replace smaller ones.

The committee decided that the proposal would not pass muster as written and correct wording would be "elusive." But here's the rub: How do you prepare a better resolution if it may significantly alter the author's intent? The Congress has long maintained that if editing is necessary it should not detract from the original intent.

That's where having the author in house can be the lynchpin to success. In this case, the proposal was rewritten to the acceptance of the author. The committee then moved to reconsider and it was advanced to the Executive Council. The Executive Council voted to place the proposal on the Spring Hearing questionnaire for consideration, April 8 at 7:00 p.m. in all 72 Wisconsin counties.

The take away is this:

1. If at all possible the author of a citizen resolution should be encouraged to attend the committee hearing. The responsibility for this lies first and foremost within the county. The county delegation should make every effort to apprise the author of how decisions are made and by whom.
2. The advisory committee should make every effort to give every possible consideration to the resolution, including contacting authors to get their input. Strong committee work has been a hallmark of our deliberations over time and must continue if we are to support the mission of the Conservation Congress.

As a result, the citizens of Wisconsin will have the opportunity to vote on whether "tying up fish" is a bad thing.

Finally, a word about our advisory committees in general. As Congress Chair Rob Bohmann has repeated many times over, it is the committees that do the most important work of the Congress. Delegates have an opportunity to represent their constituencies not just as a voting block member at the convention, but as a vital part of the examination of the citizen resolutions which form the core of our advisory mission. And if you can track down the maker of the resolution and facilitate his or her attendance at the committee meeting, so much the better.



Environmental Advisory Committee chair Marc Schultz (right) confers with committee member Ronn Krueger at their 2015 meeting. WCC advisory committees form the heart and soul of our Congress activities. Photo by Lee Fahrney

A Closer Look at Leadership Candidates:

Larry Bonde: candidate for WCC chair

A lifelong resident of Manitowoc Co. the outdoors has always been a huge part of my life. My father was a big trapper and one of my greatest joys as a child was to ride along with him checking his traps. There was always time to suspend the trap checking to pursue a pheasant or a flock of partridges along the way. Our family also spent many hours a field fishing and hunting small game and deer. My father always told us as young kids the importance of conservation and being involved with our local sportsmen's club. While my mother was not a hunter she was always willing to cook up whatever fish or game we brought home. What she did teach us is the spiritual aspect of hunting, fishing and trapping and made sure we were always thankful for the gifts we harvested off the land and water.

As I grew up I stayed connected to the outdoors. Ice fishing in winter and spring/ summer fishing the soft water is always a priority when I am not at work. In fall I am an obsessive bow hunter and also enjoy a few days of the gun season hunting with my son and nephews. If it's not fish and game I search the forest for mushrooms in spring. I also spend plenty time in the outdoors snowshoeing cutting wood and sometimes just getting lost in the spender Mother Nature has to offer.

Serving my 24th year on the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, my current position is Vice Chair. I also serve as Chair of the Manitowoc Co delegation and the Executive Council member for District 8. As a past Executive Council member I have also served as Secretary for one year. During my time on the Congress I have chaired the Outdoor Heritage, Rules and Resolution, Special Outreach Committees and served as Sec. of the Strategic Plan Committee. Other committees I have served on for the Congress are Environmental Practices and currently serve on the Big Game Committee. Outside the Congress I am an active member of the Viking Bow and Gun Club, life member on the board of directors for the Manitowoc Co. Fish and Game Protective Association and serve on the Manitowoc County Boards Land Conservation Committee. I look forward to running for Chair of the Congress in May and I hope to have your support.



AWARDS:

2006- Inducted into the Manitowoc Co. Conservation Hall of Fame; 2008- Exceptional Commitment and Dedication award from the Wisconsin Conservation Congress; 2012- Life Membership Award to the Board of Directors for the Manitowoc Co Fish and Game Protective Association.

Lee Fahrney: candidate for WCC vice-chair

After giving it much thought, I have decided to run for Vice Chair of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress. This is not an easy decision considering the scope of responsibility of the position. In meeting the challenge, however, I believe I have touched every aspect of preparation for the position, including during last year's state convention, when I stood in for the current vice chair that was not able to attend. In addition to several years of service on the Executive Council and Executive Committee, I have also chaired four advisory committees during my tenure on the Congress: Outdoor Heritage, Wolf, Public Relations and Legislative.

Perhaps it is my experience with legislative issues that could be blended into the position of vice chair most effectively. We do not currently have a legislative liaison per se and it is one area where the Congress needs greater exposure. Living in proximity of the Capitol, I am familiar with the legislative arena, having been called upon to represent the Congress at various hearings, including the recent hearing on railroad right-of-way issues that have reduced access to public



hunting, fishing and trapping, as well as other non-consumptive activities, especially in the western part of the state.

While there are seemingly immense leadership challenges with an organization as large and as geographically diverse as the Congress, I know it can be done. Having once served as President of the 1,400-member Wisconsin School Counselor Association, I understand what it takes to bring together the disparate interests and concerns of members from all across the state.

At its core, it is about networking with people. In preparing for the publication of articles about the people and organizations that make this state a great place to recreate, I have always found our delegates

willing to share their expertise and experience with other sportsmen and women. As in the past, I will continue to tell your stories and support your causes in any way possible.

Moreover, I believe our advisory committee structure forms the backbone of our efforts at resource protection, none more important than another and all worthy of the support of our Executive Council and Executive Committee. I have always believed that leaders must be generalists, and I have strived to make that a hallmark of my leadership style with this simple mantra: Come when called; help when asked.

I was awarded the “Heavy Lifter” award for the delegate contributing the most to the Congress for 2009 for which I feel much gratification and humility. With great respect for all my colleagues on the Congress, I feel blessed to have been a part of this noble organization, and I hope to continue serving all of you as Vice Chair.

Al Shook: candidate for WCC vice-chair

My name is Al Shook, a delegate from Waukesha County since 1994. I’m also a member of the Executive / District Council since 2008.

If I’m re-elected as a County delegate and re-elected to the Council, I am considering a run for the Vice Chair of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress.

In the recent past I have served as Co-Chair of the former Alternative Funding Committee. Chairman of the former Environmental /Law Enforcement Committee. Chair of the Legislative Committee and currently serve as the Chair of the Migratory Committee.

This year(2016) brings a change in my life as I will retire in June. This will allow me the time to perform the duties of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress Vice Chair.

Two very important duties of the Vice Chair are attending Legislative meetings if assigned and being the Convention Parliamentarian enforcing Roberts Rules when needed. I believe I’m well suited for these duties.

It would be an honor to serve you and the new Wisconsin Conservation Congress Chairman as Vice Chair. I ask for your support and vote.



Dale Maas: Candidate for Secretary

Greetings fellow delegates of the Conservation Congress, my name is Dale Maas and I have the privilege of serving as the current Congress Secretary. I have been a Congress member for over 38 years serving the citizens of Dodge County and am current chair. I also serve as co councilor for District 7 and a veteran of the Executive Council and CDAC Chair for my county. In 2012 I was honored to receive the Congress “Heavy Lifter” award. Some of my other duties are Chair of the Great Lakes Committee and a member of the Outreach and pub-

lic Relations and Strategic Planning Committees. I have also served as Secretary and Chair of the Rules and Resolutions Committee and the old Awards Committee.

I am a life member of the Beaver Dam Conservationists Inc. serving as Vice President and Chair and founding member of Dodge County Sporting and Conservation Alliance.

Some of my other past affiliations: President and Vice President of Beaver Dam Wings Over Wisconsin (20+years), Moraine Park Technical Collage Board, Beaver Dam United Way President, Beaver Dam Lake Advisory Committee Chair to mention a few.

I reside South of Fox Lake on a 23 acre retired farm with my wife Mary where we raised two sons. I enjoy deer and turkey hunting, fishing (especially Lake Michigan and the Bay of Green Bay from our cottage in Door County) and just being outdoors. I retired from Kirsh Foundry in Beaver Dam as Plant Engineer in March of 2015.

If I am re-elected to represent (District 7) I am asking for your support for secretary, thanks!



Joe Weiss: Candidate for Historian

I have served on the WCC for over 20 years, representing Washburn County. My duties have included serving as Chair of my county delegation, Executive Council member for the past 10 years, member of the Strategic Planning Committee, Chair of the Washburn County CDAC, a two year term as Secretary for the WCC, and currently serving as the WCC Historian in addition to Chairing the WCC Warm Water Committee. During this past year I have attempted to catalog and keep track of the numerous citizen resolutions that have come through the WCC process. I feel it is important to document the disposition of these resolutions, not only for the public's benefit, but also to highlight the importance of the WCC and the related public input into the many natural resource decisions made in the past that affect us all. I welcome the possibility of a new "Ad Hoc WCC History Committee" to assist with this task.

There is much to be done to record the past "history" of the WCC. If any of you have old convention books, photos, or any other related WCC items in your possession and would like to find a good home for it, please bring it with you to the convention in May. I'll see to it that it is maintained for posterity. I also welcome your support when the election for WCC Historian takes place.



Reflections From the 2015 LTH Bear Tag Recipient Caleb Olson

I got a phone call saying that the Conservation Congress has selected me to be a student of the Learn to Hunt Bear Program. I went nuts and was so excited. My dad and I really didn't know what to expect so we were just going to go with the flow and learn a lot. We got talking on the phone with our bear guides Dave Mabie and Gray Mabie. They sounded like awesome guys and that made us so much more excited. They wanted us to come up during the summer so we could bait and get a taste of what was going to happen. We got up there on a July evening and met Gary for the first time and then headed to Dave's house and met his wife and kids. We immediately started baiting and I got to see my first bear, ten minutes into it, 30 yards away. We continued on with baiting and went to bed to wake up early to learn about the dogs. We started putting the dogs in the woods for them to get on a bear and hopefully tree a bear.

That did not happen but we got a feel of what everything was like and learned how to use the GPS's that connected with the dogs.

At this point I only had to wait under two months. It seemed like it was taking forever but it came and we were suddenly headed north with the truck all packed up on a Friday morning. We arrived in Prentice, Wisconsin at the sportsman's club that a class would take place at. We arrived and met Gary and Dave there. I got to meet a couple other bear hunting groups, their kids, two game wardens and a biologist. We sat down and each person got to teach us something a little different. I learned about the two methods of bear hunting, facts about bears, about game wardens and how everything worked. A USDA guy also brought a live bear in a trap that we got to get a foot away from and learn a lot of things. I was enjoying every single second of this day because I never wanted to forget it. We then got to shoot our rifles and then went baiting again.

When we all met up on the day of our hunt, 11 trucks rolled up and about 20 people gathered around to talk about things. Seeing this much people just for me really made me think how I was living the dream at that moment and that I was extremely blessed. There was everyone from new guys and kids to old timers who knew everything about bear hunting. The first few hours went kind of slow because we kept having to pull the dogs off.

Eventually, we all gathered up again to talk about a plan and some guys were saying it's been a rough morning so far. I didn't really get disappointed because we still had a day and half of hunting left and I was thinking no matter what the outcome was that I would remember it forever. We decided to spread out on all of the gravel roads and wait for a bear to cross since they did so quite frequently. We stayed with Gary and not 20 minutes in, a bear stepped out less than 200 yards away from us in the ditch. The bear crossed and we raced to throw some dogs in on it. Within about 30 minutes the bear was treed.

We got to the site and I grabbed my rifle and we started hiking in, every single person walked in just for me. We finally got insight of my bear and one of the guys said, "look up." My jaw dropped and then I started thinking about making a good shot. We still had to get closer so we kept walking. We reached our spot and everyone surrounded the tree and Dave, my dad, and this other guy was by my side. Dave gave me the okay and got ready with his pistol in case something went wrong. Then every single thought left my brain and I put the crosshairs on the vitals, said a quick prayer and then squeezed the trigger. I hit him but they told me to shoot until he dropped, I did so and had to put three more into him before he expired. That bear then fell down in what seemed like slow motion. Another moment of silence in case Dave had to shoot but he didn't have to. He said, "he's done." Everyone started cheering and clapping and one guy took my rifle and I started balling. I gave my dad a huge hug and said thank you and then shook everyone's hand.



To experience what I did was nothing short of amazing. Words will never explain it. This is something that I will never forget and I hope that someday if I have kids that they can experience this. The way it's impacted my life has been a lot. It has taught me about patience and that I can't take everything for granted. Life will be full of great opportunities and for me they are happening at a very young age. One last huge thank you to the [Wisconsin Conservation Congress](#) for selecting me, the Mabie family, everyone who came along on the hunt, everyone at the sportsman club, my dad, my family and most importantly the Man upstairs for blessing me with this amazing opportunity.



Whoooo is out and about...?



Taylor Britten-Marvin, Forest County Delegate Dick Krawze, her dog Scruff and their bobcat.



Clarence Koch, Winnebago County, assists with a Learn To Hunt Pheasants event.



Youth delegate Amanda Lettman (Green County) doing some late season muskrat trapping.



Brian Melichar, Barron County



Joe Weiss, Washburn County

Ralph Fritsch, Oconto County



Chuck Boley, Pierce County



Nadia Bogue, Milwaukee County

Dave Tupa, Door County



Scott Bestul, Waupaca County



Ted Engliem, Trempealeau County



Frank Pratt, Sawyer County





Application for the Wisconsin Conservation Congress 2016 Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo Travel Grant

Transportation Grant Request

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress provides transportation grants to school districts or other youth groups who wish to attend the Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo held this year at the MacKenzie Center in Poynette, WI.

This otherwise free educational event features archery, firearm safety, fishing, trapping, live wildlife specimens, sporting dogs, trail recreation, and the award winning Wisconsin Conservation Congress Wall of Fame comprised of beautiful photos and hands-on educational materials representing the state's outdoor heritage.

The Conservation Congress has travel grants available to help get kids outdoors! These grants (up to \$200.00 per individual grant request) are designed to help school districts, or other youth groups, cover the cost of transportation to and from the expo. Other criteria include distance from the expo site and expected cost to the school district or youth group.

Expo dates are May 18 & 19, 2016, from 9am to 3pm. Schools/groups may attend either one of these dates.

Email mark@outdoorheritageeducationcenter.com or call (608) 854-2196 to learn more and to register for the event.

Note: Applying for this grant does not register you for the event.

Name of School/ Organization: _____ County: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Contact Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Email Address: _____ Date Attending (circle): May 18 May 19

Number of youth attending: _____ Expected Cost to School District/Group: _____

Other assistance being offered (e.g. your county's Conservation Congress delegation or local conservation club): YES NO

If YES, please describe: _____

Submit grant application by **April 27, 2016**. Applications received after that date will be considered if funds are still available. Any questions should be directed to Rob Bohmann, WCC Chair at (608) 235-5825 or at rob.bohmann@att.net

Submit the completed application by **April 27, 2016** to:

Rob Bohmann
1105 Melvin Avenue
Racine, WI 53402



Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage Paid
Madison, WI
Permit No. 906

WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS

82 YEARS OF CONSERVATION!

2015-2016 WCC Executive Committee

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

PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

WCC Liaison

Kari Lee-Zimmermann
Phone: 608-266-0580
Fax: 608-266-6983

E-mail: Kari.LeeZimmermann@Wisconsin.gov

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

- Prologue of the Congress Creed

Social Media: A Powerful Tool

By Larry Bonde, Vice-Chair

The WCC has had a Facebook account for several years. Unfortunately its power has not been fully utilized and our organization has not used or attended to it in a manner that we need in our current social media driven world. A

simple example of the power of this social media tool is in recent posts the WCC has put on our Facebook account. We have had several post that in just a few days had over 400 views. In one instance we had a post about re-thinking the North American model of wildlife conservation, and we had over 1,000 views and over 50 shares of that article. That means with a single article, we contacted well over 1,200 people (if not more) and everyone was exposed to the Conservation Congress.

What we as the Congress need to do is stay connected with our Facebook page and "like" and "share" articles that are posted on our page. This is an extraordinarily easy and exceptionally useful tool to reach thousands of people and inform citizens about WCC efforts. To help promote the Congress, if you don't already have a Facebook account, create one. If you already have a Facebook accounts go to our page and "like" it. When the WCC post an article "share" it. Every time you choose to do one of the "likes" or

"shares" you expose countless people to the WCC, many of whom may not have known anything about the WCC before. So please go to the WCC Facebook page and "like" and "share" to help promote the WCC to the public who may know nothing about the important role we play in conservation in Wisconsin.



Iowa County delegate Mike Dreischmeier's 10-year-old daughter Grace and her buck taken with a crossbow on opening day.