



# Conservation chronicle

## Chair's Update

By Rob Bohmann

I hope all of you had a great and successful fall, and have enjoyed this winter. I'd like to say I've enjoyed the winter, but I cannot. I am ready for spring.

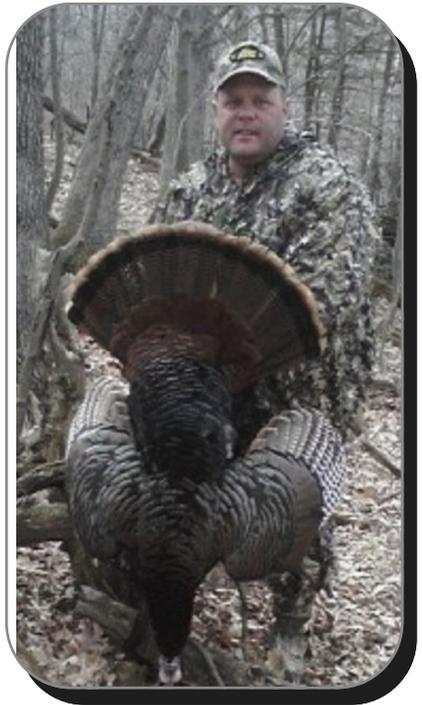
2013 was an inaugural year for the Congress. We welcomed our first delegation of the Youth Conservation Congress at our annual convention last May. The YCC consisted of fourteen delegates representing eight counties from six districts. It's a great start to a wonderful future. I appreciate the participation efforts made by our first class of delegates, and I also appreciate their mentors, but we are not done. We need to continue seeking youth delegates that want to get involved in conservation. Our goal is that every county has at least one delegate on the YCC. Please continue to work with your county delegation to make this happen. If you know of a youth that is interested, please contact Dave Tupa (Door Co) or Kevin Smaby (La Crosse Co).

2013 was also the first year of implementing the Congress' Strategic Plan that was created in 2012. Our advisory committees have been restructured and the responsibility of making committee assignments has shifted to Executive Councilors. Councilors should have a better

understanding of their district's concerns and their delegates. Whether they stayed the same, were combined or were new, all of the committees have functioned well this past year and I'm very proud of the work that you did.

Our communication with delegates on Congress issues or positions has improved, and we need to continue those efforts. We have more delegates representing the Congress on DNR committees than we've ever had in the past. All delegates that represented the Congress on department committees were required to submit a summary of the discussion that took place when they attended those meetings. We are hoping to have those posted on our website this upcoming year.

Kari has put together a new brochure for the Congress. A copy of this brochure has been added to all DNR safety class materials that are being handed out to students. The new brochure is posted on our website, and copies are available upon request. Kari also worked with the Department to get the WCC logo and a small blurb about us in the 2014 regulations pamphlets being put out by the DNR. She also put together a power point presentation that's available on our website that may be used by



delegates to educate people about the Congress. Next time you see Kari, thank her for helping us with all of these efforts.

We will also be focusing additional efforts to train Congress delegates this upcoming year. Kari is working with department staff and delegates in an attempt to eliminate some of the concerns we've seen in some counties at the Spring Hearings the last couple of years. She provided a presentation that was shown at our spring district meetings so that we understand our role at the hearings and what is ex-

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## Spring Hearings with a Twist...

By Kari Lee-Zimmermann, WCC Liaison

The Spring Hearings will still have the delegate elections, DNR questions from fisheries and wildlife, as well as the Congress' advisory questions, but this year we've added a bit of a twist. DNR wildlife experts in each county will pro-

vide a brief summary of the status of the local deer herd and present some changes that hunters can expect as a result of the implementation of the Deer Trustee Report.

The Natural Resources Board, at their January meeting, adopted an emergency rule order that will put these changes into effect for the 2014 deer season.

"While the department has been working with citizens for months gathering input and putting together a plan to implement the DTR, we felt that the Spring Hearings was an excellent opportunity to allow wildlife staff to interact directly with local deer hunters and really educate them about the changes that are coming," said

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# Vigilance is a Conservationists' Responsibility

By Lee Fahrney, Iowa County

As members of the Conservation Congress, we need to be vigilant in our local communities regarding the protection of our outdoor heritage. Otherwise, forces that either oppose the outdoor pursuits we cherish or that are ignorant of the consequences of their actions may result in the loss of important chunks of that birthright.

Take the example of officials in the Brown County village of Suamico who were considering a year-round ban on the use of rifles. Discussion arose there as a result of a bill that was signed into law authorizing the use of rifles during the gun deer season unless restricted by local authorities.

According to retired Department of Natural Resources Conservation Warden Larry Kriese the ordinance would have banned the discharge of all centerfire rifles, .22 and larger, within the village year-round. "It failed to pass after all village board members each stated on the record that they would not support it after hearing testimony from citizens in attendance," he said.

"Some board members who had supported the year-round ban only did so because they thought that had always been the case," said Kriese. "That's what happens when you have folks who may not be close to the issue. They started out thinking it was always illegal."

"We have a lot of well-meaning people who sometimes don't understand the situation," Kriese said. "That's why it's important for people to get organized and make their wishes known. You need to have your ear to the ground."

In the Suamico example, a large contingent of local conservationists brought pressure on the village board resulting in a decision not to pursue the matter, thus leaving intact the recently-enacted law allowing statewide use of rifles. Kriese believes the involvement of local sportsmen and women is critical to keeping hunting opportunities available.

When heard about the proposed ordinance churning among Suamico village officials, he went into action, contacting friends, neighbors and local sportsman's groups who might share his concerns about limits on the use of rifles.

DNR Chief Legal Counsel Tim Andryk noted that a municipality may enact an ordinance or adopt a regulation or other restriction that has an incidental effect on hunting, fishing or trapping if the primary purpose is to further public health or safety.

"We have had municipalities propose a number of ordinances that regulate or restrict the type of weapon hunters may use for specific hunting seasons and also modify hunting season dates and areas where people can hunt," Andryk said. "We have responded that those would be hunting regulations that they do not have authority for."

Chief Conservation Warden Todd Schaller said the agency is keeping an eye open for those municipalities wanting to promulgate restrictions. "As we become aware of these ordinances we'll meet with the municipalities and try to work with them," Schaller said.

Those that are not safety related will have to be evaluated, he said. "(Sometimes) it's just a matter of them not knowing the law. It has to be connected to public safety."

Some local officials don't realize that the

use of rifles is nothing new, Schaller says. "Hunting with rifles has been authorized statewide for the 25 years I've been around," he concluded.

Local units of government also need to realize that they will be responsible for enforcing any ordinances that restrict the use of rifles during the deer hunting seasons. Hunters need to check with local officials regarding any possible restrictions.

As the state's most resourceful and dedicated conservationists, we need to be ever vigilant against inadvertent or intentional attempts to undermine our outdoor heritage.

## 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](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search key words "Spring Hearings," then click on the 2014 Hearing flyer.

## Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP)

By Bob Nack, DNR

The Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) is beginning to take shape in WI. DNR staff have been busy putting together the pieces of what DMAP will offer to WI landowners and hunters. The framework for DMAP was laid out by a public action team in the deer trustee report implementation process. Basically, DMAP is a landowner assistance program that promotes sound habitat management practices

for deer and other wildlife species. DNR staff will meet with landowners and develop mutually agreed upon goals for the property based on habitat conditions and local deer abundance. If goals include reducing deer densities, then landowners or cooperatives with a minimum of 160 contiguous acres will be eligible for antlerless tags. DMAP cooperators will enter a 3 year service agreement and receive annual reports, land management information, DNR updates, and invitations to meetings and workshops. Both pub-

lic and private land will be eligible to enroll in DMAP. Another benefit of DMAP is to improve communication between the DNR, landowners, and hunters using effective outreach and social media. The DNR is planning to open DMAP enrollment this spring and will be accepting a limited number of applications in the first year of the program. For more information contact DMAP coordinator, Bob Nack at (608) 264-6137.

# Delegate Profile: Terri Roehrig, Calumet County

By Bob Wilberscheid

It is no secret that over the past 20 years there has been a decline in almost all types of hunting. Reams have been written as to the reasons for the fall off and what might be done to stop the bleeding.

A major initiative has been undertaken to recruit more youth and more women into the hunting ranks. These efforts have met with degrees of success, with women being the fastest growing segment of the hunting population.

Calumet County Delegate Terri Roehrig is one who has been participating in the activity from early on and stands at the forefront of hunter recruitment.

For area folks involved in hunting and conservation Terri is no stranger to their ranks. She has been an active member and often an office holder in the Oxbow Club (Hilbert) and the St. Anna Sportsman Club. She is also a life time member of the Alma Rod & Gun Club in Buffalo County where she frequently enjoys a cabin getaway.

Terri has volunteered as a mentor in Learn-to-Hunt programs for turkeys and pheasants. In addition to individual mentoring, Terri has been instrumental in developing and coordinating those programs for clubs countrywide.

Teaching Hunter safety has usually been the purview for males in most counties, but once again Terri has stepped up. She has been co-instructing potential hunters for close to a decade, reaching roughly 400 students.

A dog lover, Terri is an active member of the German Shorthair Pointer Rescue (GSP) program in Wisconsin and currently serves as the vice-president of that organization. She has fostered numerous canines that are no longer wanted by their owners and prepared them for adoption into welcoming homes.

Years ago, I had Terri as a student in one of my English classes, but I really didn't get to know her well until we both served as directors of our respective outdoor clubs on the Calumet County Sportsman's Alliance. One of the things I noticed



as a delegate when I broached the possibility.

Two years ago her employment situation changed, and she was no longer spending countless hours on the road. I and a fellow delegate lobbied Terri to run for a delegate position and she was elected to the congress. Not only did the county get an outstanding individual, it also gained a person who has been and continues to be a wonderful role model for women of all ages who are interested in getting involved in the outdoors, including hunting and fishing.

Not exactly a shrinking violet, Terri caught the eye of the Congress leadership, leading to her appointment to the prestigious Big Game Study Committee. Having a

first-year delegate appointed to that committee was almost unprecedented.

Recently, Terri was nominated by her father, Gary, to receive the congress' Educator of the Year award. It was with great pride and pleasure for her parents and fellow county delegates to be present in Eau Claire at the Congress' annual convention to see Terri receive the award for which her dad had so proudly nominated her.

There are many outstanding individuals in Calumet County and the surrounding area that do a wonderful job promoting and working in the outdoors. Terri Roehrig is certainly one of them!

immediately was the way she was accepted by her fellow club members and eventually by the various alliance directors.

It was fairly evident that her participating in various types of hunting and fishing, including sturgeon spearing, and her command of conservation issues encouraged that acceptance.

As chair of the Calumet County delegation to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, I was always looking for outstanding individuals to serve on the Congress. I approached Terri a couple of times, but her employment kept her on the road, and her other commitments satisfied me that she didn't have the time to serve

*Did you know... The rules approved by the Natural Resources Board at their January meeting relating to the implementation of the Deer Trustee Report will have a profound impact on the Wisconsin Conservation Congress. The approved plan makes each county its own Deer Management Unit and it also creates Deer Management Advisory Committees (DMAC) for each county. The purpose of these committees is to meet periodically, gather input from citizens with various perspectives, and provide recommendations to the Department regarding the local deer herd objective. The DMAC's will be chaired by WCC delegates in each county. This is an extremely important and visible role for the Congress. We will be providing special training to the selected delegates to ensure we are ready for this challenge in every county. The make-up of the additional committee members and how they will be selected has not yet been finalized, but that will be determined over the next few months. Committees will be in place by the 2014 deer hunting season, so stay tuned for future developments...*

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pected of us. Hopefully, these efforts will ensure our hearings will run more smoothly.

Committee assignments should be finalized at the convention. In past years, the Executive Committee met in June to finalize committee assignments. This year, we'll be using that date in June to meet with all the leadership of our advisory committees (chairs, vice-chairs, and secretaries). The purpose of this meeting will be to help you understand Wisconsin's Open Meetings Law, Roberts Rules of Order, your role in a leadership position, and proper meeting minutes.

The Rules and Resolutions committee met in December to iron out additional COP changes that were not made with the initial implementation of the Strategic Plan. We will be discussing those changes at our convention in May. The Rules and Resolutions Committee needs to continue monitoring our progress and provide insight where needed to ensure the plan is instituted. We've made some significant improvements, but we are not done. We will continue to implement our strategic plan in an effort to improve the Congress as an organization.

We will see significant changes in our state's management of white-tailed deer this year. One of the changes is that each county will be its own deer management unit this

year. Another change is the formation of County Deer Management Advisory Committees. There will be one of these committees for each county, and will be chaired by a local Congress delegate. Please stay tuned for more information on this issue, because we'll be scheduling a meeting with all seventy-two DMAC chairs and department staff to discuss their roles and responsibilities to these committees.

2014 is an exciting year for the Congress. Our convention in May marks our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. For eighty years, Wisconsin has offered this direct conduit where citizens can introduce their ideas and forward proposals to enhance outdoor recreation policy and enjoyment. No other state in the nation provides such a direct line or such a unique opportunity. It's been eighty years filled with great accomplishments and we have a tremendous future filled with promise. The Conservation Congress has not only been a great idea, but we are a great institution. We should be proud of the rich traditional role we have played in shaping fish and wildlife policies for the past eighty years.

Darwin got it right when he said, "the ability to adapt is the key to survival in a world of relentless change." While he was writing about evolutionary biology, his no-

tion is nonetheless also relevant to all kinds of organizations.

History is replete with examples of groups that failed to adapt to change. Perhaps they tried to reorganize but didn't do it effectively, or didn't reorganize at all. Many organizations in society today suffer from ills owed to an inability to change with the times. As Darwin vividly showed, adaptation is never easy.

But for most organizations (as well as organisms) there is no alternative. We too must continue to re-view how we do business and see how we can better serve the citizens of our state. Standing still is not an option.

A 1941 report of the Wisconsin Conservation Commission noted, "In the final analysis, no matter what the commission or department believes to be in the best interests of the state, if the citizenry are not in accord, any program set up would eventually be doomed to failure. The birds, animals and fish belong to the people of the state." This early realization of the importance of citizen involvement continues to be the premise of the Conservation Congress.

*"It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one most adaptable to change." ~ Charles Darwin*

## DNR and WCC to form Wisconsin Fisheries Advisory Council

By Larry Bonde

Make the Wisconsin Conservation Congress more visible and expand our circle of influence were two themes that came from the 2012 WCC strategic plan. With this in mind, I have been working with DNR Section Chief Ron Brunch on an exciting new effort to form and co-facilitate a group call the Wisconsin Fisheries Advisory Council with the goal to increase and broaden public input on statewide fisheries issues and facilitate dialogue between various fisheries interests. The new fisheries advisory group will meet for the first time on March 29,



2014.

The new group, called the Wisconsin Fisheries Advisory Council, will bring together representatives from diverse statewide fishing groups as well as representatives from the fishing business community and tourism. In addition to groups such as Walleyes for Tomorrow and Trout Unlimited, angling groups aimed at bringing new people to fishing will be represented as well, including Becoming an Outdoorswoman, Wisconsin Women Fish, and the Hmong American Sportsmen Club.

The group will advise DNR's fisheries

management board and the Wisconsin Conservation Congress on statewide issues including DNR's long-term fisheries plan, biennial budgeting, and balancing angling groups' sometimes competing desires and priorities for their favorite fish species, says Mike Staggs, DNR's fisheries director

"We are excited about the opportunity to expand public involvement in our fisheries program from a statewide perspective," he says.

He notes that DNR fish biologists and hatchery staff work often with local fishing clubs on issues concerning fisheries in a specific lake or river, and with statewide groups like Trout Unlimited and the Musky Clubs Alliance of Wisconsin on

issues specific to the group's favored fish species.

"The idea is to get people who represent a cross-section of our users to help us try to balance all of the different and competing priorities of these groups and make the wisest use of our staff and resources," he says.

The advisory group will be led and facilitated jointly by DNR and the Wisconsin Conservation Congress. The WCC is statutorily defined as an advisory body on fish and wildlife management and conservation issues to the Natural Resources Board, and has worked closely for more than 80 years with DNR's fisheries and wildlife management programs on statewide and local issues.

Congress Chairman Rob Bohmann says the Congress has worked with DNR fisheries staff over the last six months to develop the council proposal, and will continue to work through the summer to identify and contact potential memberships.

"We see the Wisconsin Fisheries Advisory Council as an excellent opportunity to engage organized fisheries interests around the state in addressing statewide fisheries issues and helping the Congress fulfill its statutory mission."

I think this is a great way for groups to get a better feel of what each group is currently working on and hope will create a more unified angler/sportsmen to promote our rich sporting and conservation heritage.

The panfish is the most sought after species by anglers and since they don't have an organized advocacy group, the WCC will have a seat on the council to be the voice of the panfish anglers.

The first council meeting will be held March 29, 2014. Agenda items for the first meeting include a review and discussion of current statewide fisheries issues and statewide planning efforts for panfish, trout, sturgeon, walleye, and public outreach.

Other exciting new efforts to expand the WCC circle of influence will be unveiled to the WCC membership at its annual meeting in May. Many exciting things await the WCC and its membership.



## Cherish Wisconsin Outdoors Fund

Think of the places that mean Wisconsin to you. The lake where your grandfather taught you to fish. The forests you hiked with your family. The wetlands where you and your daughter saw nesting birds. The fields or woods where you harvested your first deer or turkey.

How much do these places mean to you? How much do these memories matter? And how much do you want them to thrive for the next generation, and the one after that?

When you invest and give to the Cherish Wisconsin Outdoors Fund, you help make sure the 1.5 million acres of publicly owned forests, barrens, grasslands, wetlands, brush land, rivers, streams and lakes in Wisconsin will be cared for today and for generations to come.

"The Department is a proud supporter of the Cherish Wisconsin Outdoors Fund" says DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp. "As of January 2014, more than 5,000 people had contributed more than \$13,000 to the Fund. If your family is like mine, you have fished, hunted, camped and hiked our gorgeous state and cherished every moment. The Fund is a chance for all of us to enhance our public lands and waters and sustain and expand their recreational, biological, aesthetic and economic value."

Conserving and managing our public lands is not an expense, but an investment that pays dividends — economic and social. State lands are acquired and managed for the benefit of all citizens, regardless of recreational pursuits or where they live.

In 2011, resident and non-resident hunters contributed \$2.5 billion to Wisconsin's econ-

omy. Tourism in Wisconsin is a \$16 billion dollar industry; forestry is a \$22 billion industry — all are tied to having access and the opportunity to enjoy our public lands.

From improving forest health to restoring wetlands and fighting invasive species, this Fund was created to last lifetimes because our precious lands, waters and wildlife must last lifetimes.

Eligible areas include, but are not limited to, State Wildlife Areas, State Fishery Areas, State Parks and State Natural Areas. Every \$1 million in the Cherish Wisconsin Outdoors Fund will distribute approximately \$50,000 per year for habitat management in the state.

The Cherish Wisconsin Outdoors Fund will be held and managed by the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin. The

Natural Resources Foundation is an independent 501 (c)(3) organization established in 1986, which currently manages more than 60 endowment funds with a value of over \$3.6 million.

The Cherish Wisconsin Outdoors Fund was created through unanimous and bipartisan legislation signed into law by Governor Scott Walker in March 2012. The law enables the

Department of Natural Resources to request over-the-counter voluntary contributions from the four million citizens who currently purchase annual "services," such as licenses. The Foundation, in partnership with the Department, will promote the Fund to all citizens, as well as corporations, conservation partners and other donors.

Donations to the Cherish Wisconsin Outdoors Fund are tax-deductible, and can be made when purchasing a hunting or fishing license or online at [CherishWisconsin.org](http://CherishWisconsin.org).



# Heavy Lifter Award Gets a Lift

The name David A Ladd resonates among conservationists going back to the 1970s when he was first elected to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress. Since then, Dave has contributed much to the Congress, serving on numerous committees, boards and stakeholder groups at both the state and local levels. As a result of his lifetime of commitment to the preservation of our state's rich outdoor heritage, the WCC Executive Committee voted to lend his name to the Congress' annual Heavy Lifter Award, presented to the delegate contributing the most to the organization in the past year.

Here are just a few highlights of his prestigious career in conservation:

- ◆ Served on the Conservation Congress for 40 years.
- ◆ Chaired Big Game Committee and Long Range Deer Management Committee.
- ◆ Served as chair of the Farmland Deer Committee.
- ◆ Served on the Legislative Council Study Group on Conservation Law Enforcement.
- ◆ Presented 2000 Hall of Fame Conservation Award by the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel.
- ◆ Chaired the Deer 2000 committee reviewing deer management issues.
- ◆ Met the needs of more than 1,000 youth as a Hunter Safety instructor.
- ◆ Presented an award from Conservation Warden staff for leadership efforts in creating 18 new warden positions.



The Conservation Congress Executive Committee recently voted to add the name of David A. Ladd to the Heavy Lifter Award presented to the delegate contributing the most to the Congress during the past year. Here, Dave poses at the Iowa County Prairie, for which he was acknowledged for his "time, commitment and vision (note annotation at lower left). Photo by Lee Fahrney

- ◆ Founder and Chair of the City of Dodgeville Tree Board.
- ◆ Worked with state and national leaders in creating the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.
- ◆ Pheasants Forever habitat cooperator.
- ◆ Recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council.
- ◆ Served as Vice Chair of Wisconsin Governor Stewardship Program – a 10-year task force on conservation stewardship and land acquisition for the state.
- ◆ Served on the original Board of Directors for the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association.
- ◆ Chaired the board of the National Walnut Council.
- ◆ Presented the John Brogan Award for Clean Manufacturing.
- ◆ Wisconsin Small Business Person of the Year – presented by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Dave Ladd's singular contributions to the conservation community in Wisconsin reflect greatly upon the Wisconsin Conservation Congress and will serve always as an inspiration to all current and future Congress delegates.

The Executive Committee would like your help in nominating a fellow WCC delegate for the Dave A. Ladd Heavy Lifter Award. Each year the Congress recognizes one of its own for their extraordinary efforts, both within the Congress and in other areas that enhance our communities. Please provide a brief summary of your nominee and their civic accomplishments to one of the Executive Committee members or the DNR Liaison by April 18, 2014.

## Wisconsin Outdoor Education Expo Cancelled for 2014

The Wisconsin Outdoor Alliance Foundation (WOAF) has had the privilege of developing and managing the Wisconsin Outdoor Education Expo since its inception in 2006. Over this period, over 30,000 students and teachers have participated in the free event.

However, the Expo requires substantial funding for the materials and services to make it happen each year. The WOAF lacks the resources and personnel to guarantee an Expo 2014. The WOAF has decided to postpone the Expo until 2015, so that they can establish more reliable funding sources and retain staff to manage the event.

# Money Available for Hunter Recruitment and Retention

By Lee Fahrney

Does your local sportsmen's organization come up short of cash each year for Learn-to-Hunt and other projects relating to hunter recruitment and retention? If so, check out the latest DNR decision to make \$200,000 available for cost-sharing grants to local clubs, organizations, communities, governments, Wisconsin tribes and college and universities.

Grants of up to \$10,000 will be awarded for a broad range of ideas and pilot projects according to a Jan. 14, 2014 DNR press release. The money comes from Wisconsin's share of Pittman-Robertson funding derived from the sale of guns, ammunition and hunting equipment.

Applications will be reviewed by the 12-member Sporting Heritage Council. The Council is made up of members of the Senate and Assembly and representatives of various sportsmen's groups, including the Wisconsin Conservation Congress. Our representative on that body is Joe Caputo from Iowa County.

This is our chance to make a difference in the lives of Wisconsin's future outdoor enthusiasts. It may be the kid who lives next door in an urban environment who has no one to introduce him or her to the outdoors. Or, it could be that young guy or gal who just came back from an overseas stint in the military but who may not have ever stalked a deer, dropped a fleeing pheasant rooster into a boggy marsh or watched a fox squirrel flop heavily from a giant oak.

The opportunities to get involved are endless, and now we have the financial wherewithal to expand our outreach efforts. For more information, contact Keith Warnke at 608 576-5243 or at [keith.warnke@wisconsin.gov](mailto:keith.warnke@wisconsin.gov) or Joe Caputo at 608 583-3026 or at [joseph.caputo@xerox.com](mailto:joseph.caputo@xerox.com).

## Spring Hearings...continued from page 1

Bob Nack, DNR Big Game Section Chief. "The hearings provide us with another opportunity to educate those citizens who may not have been following these changes."

In 2014, these deer herd status updates will replace the "herd status meetings" or "deer forums" previously held each spring around the state.

The wildlife expert's presentation will follow the delegate elections, and any discussion that ensues from the DNR's proposed rule change to allow motor trolling statewide. Once the DNR's wildlife expert has presented the relevant information to attendees and answered any questions, the hearing will continue with the DNR's advisory questions.

Questions 2-27 ask for input on various fisheries management issues including panfish management, trout regulations and seasons, and catch and release options. Questions 28-31 ask attendees to weigh in on possible modifications to the permit preference system for limited draw permits, transferring limited draw permits, and the use of cable restraints for harvesting furbearers.

Twenty-three questions will appear on the Congress side of the spring hearing questionnaire this year.

Those questions, which were approved by the WCC Executive Council meeting in Wausau on January 10-11, range from asking the legislature to give the DNR the authority to create a tundra swan season to creating a mentored trapping program, and increasing the inland waters trout stamp fee to creating rules to help prevent the spread of terrestrial invasive species.

"There is something for everyone at this year's hearings. We encourage citizens to come out on April 14th 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."

While there is a WCC question related to protecting white deer in the CWD zone, the Natural Resources Board, at their January meeting took action to reinstate the protection of white deer in the CWD zone and that change will be in effect for the 2014 deer hunting season. That was done under an emergency rule, so the input gleaned from

the Spring Hearings could help form the permanent rule regarding the protection of white deer.

The Natural Resources Board is also asking four questions this year, pertaining to simplifying the hunting and fishing stamp requirements, restricting baiting and feeding, and the removal of white deer protection statewide.

"I'm pleased to see the breadth of questions being asked this year, 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.

All of the questions this year are advisory except one. The DNR has one proposed rule change on the ballot regarding allowing motor trolling statewide with 1-3 lines in a compromise proposal.

"The questions this year that appear to be of particular interest to citizens are the DNR's proposed rule change to allow motor trolling, as well as the Congress question on the creation of a tundra swan season and the two questions related to white deer," said Bohmann. "I think we are likely to see higher than normal attendance in the northern counties where the trolling question is of particular interest, and those areas with populations of white deer. But there are many other issues for the public to weigh in on."

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 14, 2014 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](http://dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/springhearing.html)





# Application for the Wisconsin Conservation Congress 2014 Learn to Hunt Bear Tag

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress will be allocated a bear tag for the 2014 Learn to Hunt Bear Program which will be presented to one deserving applicant. This application is for the single tag awarded by the WCC. Other tags are available through the LTH program.

Applicant's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

First Middle Last

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ DNR Cust. No. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

County of residence: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

First Middle Last

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

- Do you have less than 2 years hunting experience of any kind? YES NO
- Have you ever applied for a bear preference point YES NO
- Have you participated in a LTH bear hunt before? YES NO
- Have you received a transferred bear tag before? YES NO
- Which method would you prefer to hunt by? Bait Hounds Both Don't Know

Please describe in 400 words or less why you would like to receive this tag and why you would like the opportunity to hunt bear. Attach the essay to this application.

*By signing below, I certify that the information provided on this application and the corresponding essay are true, and that the falsification of any information may make me ineligible to receive the WCC tag.*

Applicant's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

***Successful applicants will be contacted via phone by May 10th, 2014!***

Please send completed applications (including essay) to:

Wisconsin Conservation Congress Liaison  
LTBH Application  
PO Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707

**Applications must be postmarked  
by Wednesday, April 23, 2014.**

# 2014 Wisconsin Conservation Congress Recognition Award Nomination

I would like to make a nomination for the following award(s):

- 2014 Educator of the Year
- 2014 Statewide Conservation Organization of the year
- 2014 Local Conservation Organization of the Year

Your name and phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

## 2014 NOMINATION INFORMATION --- EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

If you are nominating an **Educator of the Year**, please attach an additional sheet of paper and in 200 words or less, describe the activities and accomplishments of your nominee in teaching or promoting conservation education, ethics, safety or outdoor skills. Include information regarding the number and types of different educational activities conducted by the nominee, their years of service, the number of youth or adults who have been impacted by the nominee and any innovations or programs developed by the nominee.

Name of Educator: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Educator: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address of Educator (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

In which county is the nominee teaching or promoting conservation education?: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2014 NOMINATION INFORMATION --- LOCAL & STATEWIDE ORGANIZATIONS

The following information will provide the Executive Committee with the accomplishments of the club or organization in 2013. Please organize the accomplishments using the subject headings provided on the reverse of this page. Accomplishments and activities should only be listed once using the most applicable category. If extra space is needed, you may attach one additional sheet per category.

**Circle One:**                      **Statewide Organization**                      **Local Organization**

Name of Organization or Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Organization or Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_ Email Address for Organization (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

President of Organization or Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Members: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Dues: \$\_\_\_\_\_ per Month / Year (circle one)

Frequency of Meetings:  Weekly  Monthly  Quarterly  Annually  Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

If nominating a local club, in which county are they located?: \_\_\_\_\_

- Funds raised in 2013: \_\_\_\_\_
- Funds were utilized for:  Habitat  Education  Recreation  Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Funds provided opportunities for:  Members  Non-Members  Both

Please describe efforts in the area of **Conservation Education** (such as hunter education courses, outdoor skills courses, ecological or environmental education, or learn-to-hunt programs):

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Please describe efforts in the area of **Habitat Enhancement / Conservation** (such as stream improvements, invasive species removal, prairie restoration):

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Please describe efforts in the area of **Recreational Activities / Projects / Fundraisers** (such as fisheries, contests, auctions, disabled hunts, access piers, or scholarships):

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For **Local Organizations or Clubs**, please provide details of local community service projects (such as venison donation programs), and for **Statewide Organizations or Clubs**, please provide details of activities that were statewide or regional in scope (such as cooperative efforts with other organizations or government agencies):

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**Deadline April 18, 2014**

All nominations should be sent to:  
Kari Lee-Zimmermann  
PO Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707-7921





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**WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS**

*80 YEARS OF CONSERVATION*

**2013 WCC Executive Committee**

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

PO Box 7921  
 Madison, WI 53707

**WCC Liaison**

Kari Lee-Zimmermann  
 Phone: 608-266-0580  
 E-mail: Kari.LeeZimmermann@Wisconsin.gov

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

*- Prologue of the Congress Creed*

## Wisconsin Conservation Congress – 2014 Spring Calendar

Please visit the WCC website for up-to-date listings of all WCC meetings and events – go to [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search "Conservation Congress."

**FEBRUARY**

- 24 District 1 Spring Mtg—Hayward
- 25-26 NRB Meeting—Madison

**MARCH**

- 3 District 3 Spring Mtg—Tomahawk
- 3 District 8 Spring Mtg—Cleveland
- 3 District 9 Spring Mtg—Spring Green
- 4 District 6 Spring Mtg—Babcock
- 4 District 7 Spring Mtg—Winneconne
- 4 District 10 Spring Mtg—Janesville
- 4 Districts 11 & 12 Spring Mtg—Sturtevant
- 5 District 5 Spring Mtg—Alma
- 6 District 2 Spring Mtg—Barron

- 6 District 4 Spring Mtg—Mountain
- 11 Rule Simplification Ad Hoc Committee Mtg
- 22 Deer & Elk Committee Mtg—Wausau

**APRIL**

- 8-9 NRB Meeting—Madison
- 14 WCC Annual Spring Hearings—Statewide
- 22 Earth Day!
- 28 Rules & Resolutions Committee Mtg—Mead Wildlife Area

**MAY**

- 8 Executive Council Mtg—Wausau
- 9-10 WCC Annual Convention—Wausau
- 27 NRB/WCC Executive Council Joint Meeting—Green Bay
- 28-29 NRB Meeting—Green Bay



Register today for the annual convention at the Stony Creek Inn, Wausau.

**May 8-10, 2014**

See you there for the WCC's 80th anniversary.