



# Chairman's Update

By Rob Bohmann

I hope that all of you are having a great summer, and now that fall will soon be here, you will be able to find time to spend afield enjoying Wisconsin's beautiful outdoors.

As an inherited instinct, hunting, fishing or trapping is deeply rooted in human nature. Around the world in all cultures the urge to hunt, fish or trap awakens when we are younger. We used sticks and rocks to make weapons, fishing poles and box traps. We snuck out of the house and traveled down to local pond to catch fish, or tried to catch the pesky rabbits eating in our family's garden. In many cases this instinct appears spontaneously without previous experience or coaching.

The fundamental instinct to hunt, fish or trap may link up with the spiritual. These activities, being some of the most basic interactions we have with the natural world, are often how we fall in love with nature. The basic instinct links up with the spiritual, and the result is that we become one with nature. Among the outdoor pursuits it's what connects us most profoundly with animals and na-

ture. We are expanded sideways, "into the glory of oaks, ridges, lakes, streams, meadows and marshes." Whether it's hunting, fishing or trapping, all are the basic aspects of our initiation into adulthood. We are taught the intelligence, beauty and power of nature. We learn at a deep emotional level our inseparable relationship with nature as well as our responsibility to fiercely defend it. Essentially, all are a spiritual experience precisely because they submerge us in nature, and that experience teaches us that we are participants in something far greater than ourselves. We experience extreme alertness to the point of an altered state of consciousness. For the sportsman or woman everything is alive, and each is one with the animal or fish and its environment.

Though we may appear from the outside to be a staunch egoist dominating nature, on the inside we are exactly the opposite. We identify with the animal as its kin, and its ties to its environment. The conscious and deliberate humbling of the sportsman or woman to the level of the animal is virtually a religious rite.



While the time in the outdoors is exhilarating and unsurpassed in intrinsic rewards and emotional satisfactions, no sportsman or woman revels in the death of the animal. We know from first-hand experience that "life lives on lives." We participate directly in the most fundamental processes of life, which is why the food chain is for us a love chain. And, that is why we have been, and still are the fore-

*Continued on page 2*

## Fisheries Advisory Council Gathers Momentum

By Lee Fahrney

Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Services Section Chief Ron Bruch and WCC Vice-Chair Larry Bonde are spearheading an effort to establish a fisheries advisory council to advise the Fisheries Management Board on statewide fisheries management and regulation issues. According to a draft proposal, the membership would be comprised of major fisheries groups throughout Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin Fisheries Advisory Council (WIFAC) will be facilitated jointly by the Conservation Congress and DNR with Bruch and Bonde as co-facilitators. Bruch expressed his intent to begin contacting potential WIFAC membership organizations in early August. The first meeting will occur October 12 at the Mead Wildlife Area Visitor's Center at Milladore.

"The Council will be able to provide another level of important statewide review for

state fisheries management plans," Bruch said. "We're currently working on updating a number of (fish) species plans including trout, panfish, sturgeon, and soon walleye." Bruch noted that DNR Fisheries Bureau Director Mike Staggs is looking ahead to next year's review of the walleye plan to help implement the new Wisconsin Walleye Initiative.

Proposed operating protocols for the group include:

- Member-

*Continued on page 4*

# The Youth of Wisconsin

by Mikayla Kifer, Door County Youth Conservation Congress Delegate



Mikayla Kifer, submitted photo

When I learned of the opportunity provided by the Youth Wisconsin Conservation Congress, I could hardly

resist learning more. As my science teacher and ecology club advisor, David Tupa, told me, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) is an advisory organization devoted to working with the Natural Resources Board (NRB) and the Department of Natu-

ral Resources (DNR) to ensure the preservation of Wisconsin's natural beauty. For the first time ever, there would be a youth chapter of this association. Though only a sophomore at the time and fairly inexperienced with these types of ventures, I was eager to get involved.

As a student, the most important goal that I have is...well, conservation. I must make certain that there is an environment for me, my children, and my grandchildren. This need is selfish, but protecting our beautiful earth is a necessity for anyone who expects to have an earth at all.

While I do not personally hunt and rarely fish, I recognize the need (both ecological and recreational) for these sports. I also recognize the need for safety. It is crucial not only to ensure the safety of those participating in such activities, but also the safety of bystanders.

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress and the Youth Conservation Congress is vital

in assisting the DNR and NRB in making decisions about issues such as these. The Youth Conservation Congress is aimed at making sure that young people have a voice in debates and discussions involving vital resource management. Though I have not yet had the privilege of attending one of the meetings held by the WCC, I understand that these meetings allow the citizens of Wisconsin to speak out and to vote regarding key issues and changes in legislation. For my part, I feel that this system is essential in ensuring the involvement and awareness of Wisconsin residents.

As the fall draws closer, I await future meetings with great eagerness. I look forward to making a difference to not only to my community, but also this to state and environment. This role matters a great deal to me and I can only hope to help in bettering our already great state of Wisconsin.

## Chairman's Update...continued from page 1

most conservationists of wildlife and wild places, to the benefit of everyone.

The power of the sportsman and woman's bond with the wild animal is measured by our unparalleled achievements in environmental conservation. The members of Ducks Unlimited have conserved millions of acres of wetlands to the benefit of the entire living community of North America. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has conserved over four million acres and successfully reestablished elk in the northeast and mid-western U.S. There are more wild turkeys and deer in the U.S. than at any time in history.

Today, proper initiation to hunting, fishing or trapping engenders respect for all life, responsibility to society, even social authority, and spiritual empowerment. Properly done, these traditions help develop authentic self-esteem, self-control, patience and personal knowledge of our place in the food chain. They are an ideal way to teach universal virtues, including humility, generosity, courage and fortitude. We are taught to think with our heart as well as our head. That is the secret of hunting, fishing or trapping.

Consequently, the many of the most successful programs ever conducted for troubled youth have focused on hunting,

fishing or trapping. The taking of a life that sustains us is a transformative experience. It's not a video game. It is something that is real.

Hunting, fishing and trapping are models for living. No matter which one you do, you discover that you are more than the ego. Our lives consist of our ego in a mutually interdependent and transcendent relationship with nature. We keep returning to the field because for us, it is a dynamic ritual that honors the animals and the earth on which we depend both physically and spiritually.

I often wonder what kind of country this would be, if the majority of us had never been properly initiated into the outdoors. It would be a totally different world. A world imperiled by egoism and disrespect for nature. Spending time in the field is morally good for men and women, boys and girls. It was once said, the earth is perfect, and you cannot improve it. If you try to change it, you will ruin it. If you try to hold it, you will lose it.

Some believe that God made us to be sportsmen or women, dependent on nature and close to the earth. But, we are men and women whose hearts hold the promise for recovery of proper relationship to the animals and earth. If we should lose our desire to be sportsmen or women, a far greater disaster will befall nature, society and the human

spirit.

Nearly 34 million Americans ages 16 and older head to the outdoors every year to hunt, fish or trap. We need to be mindful of the legacy that pioneers in the field of conservation and the Congress have left us, never mind whether they did in through example, leadership, the printed word, or in some other fashion. Those who paved the way gave us something precious. It is our duty as Congress delegates and all sportsmen and women to make something lasting.

In closing, I want to thank all of you for the tireless work you do on behalf of conservation for the citizens of this state. Let us continue in our mission to provide all Wisconsin citizens with a local avenue for input and exchange concerning conservation issues. It's a honor for me to be your chair, and I'm looking forward to seeing as many of you as I can at your committee meetings. Let's have another great year.

**Keep Up With the Congress:**  
Read Congress testimony ,  
statements, and press releases  
online at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) search  
"Conservation Congress"

# Delegate Profile: Dave Tupa, Door County

By Lee Fahrney

When asked about his favorite outdoor activity, Door County delegate Dave Tupa has to pause momentarily. A better question might be: What manner of hunting or fishing he doesn't engage in?

"I enjoy deer hunting," says Dave, "both gun hunting and with traditional archery equipment." Then he offers the following: spring and fall turkey hunting, upland game bird hunting, waterfowl hunting, fly fishing for trout and salmon fishing and warm water fishing.

Another question might be: Where does he find the time? As a veteran teacher of 23 years at Gibraltar High School, Dave includes courses in environmental science (both regular and advanced placement), earth science, biology and human. "I teach conservation of soil, water, forest, fisheries and wildlife resources," he reports. "I encourage my students to get involved in conservation issues and started the Gibraltar Ecology Cub in 2005.

Emphasizing hands-on learning, the group takes on local environmental projects including invasive species removal, restoration projects and recycling. The club built a greenhouse in the school courtyard to grow salad greens and vegetables for the school lunch program. Members take part in the Solar-Wise for Schools Solar Olympics and have "adopted" a trail in nearby Peninsula State Park.

Perhaps the most interesting project involves the construction of a bat house the likes of which would be hard to emulate. The two "condos" house 2400 bats each. Mosquitoes are not a problem if you're planning a trip to Door County.

With the hub bub of a fast-paced school year behind him, one would expect to see Dave seize the opportunity to kick back and relax a bit during the summer. Not quite! He and his wife chase their two teenage daughters, Talia and Acacia, around the country to softball and volleyball tournaments and camps. In addition to statewide events, the itinerary this summer includes Kansas, Tennessee, Michigan, Illinois and California.

When we get a break," Dave says, "we spend time fishing, camping, hunting or just taking a quiet walk in the woods." Both daughters have participated in youth deer



*Dave Tupa and one of his catches, submitted photo*

hunts and youth turkey hunts.

Dave Tupa brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the Congress. Nowhere has this been more evident than in his contributions to the newly-minted Youth Conservation Congress, a group of 13 young people who will take part in all aspects of Congress activities. Dave put together a Facebook page for the youth delegates to provide a means of communicating with one another, and he serves as a mentor for the youth delegates.

Dave has served as a delegate to the Congress since 1995. He was initially assigned to the Great Lakes Committee, serving as secretary for 10 of those years. He is now chair of the Outdoor Heritage and Education Committee and serves as chair of the Door County delegation.

Dave expresses concern about the Congress' ability to keep up with technology in communications. "Another challenge is to recruit young delegates to the WCC," he says. "A third challenge we face is the constant pressure from special interest groups and political figures to bypass the democratic, open, public process of the Conservation Congress."

Tupa became involved and continues to be active with the Congress because he believes in the process of public input and evaluation of advisory recommendations to the

DNR for the sound management of our natural resources. "It is most satisfying to see a resolution drafted by a concerned citizen travel through the review process by the WCC and become a rule change for the betterment of our natural resources," he concludes.

Leadership, innovation, a resolute commitment to the protection of our natural resources and the education of our youth are all hallmarks of Dave Tupa's significant contributions to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress.



*Wild Geraniums; photo by Len Harris*

# Getting to Know You...Alan Suchla

Hello, my name is Alan Suchla and I am a WCC delegate from Trempealeau County, chair of the Legislative Committee, and the new Historian on the Executive Committee.

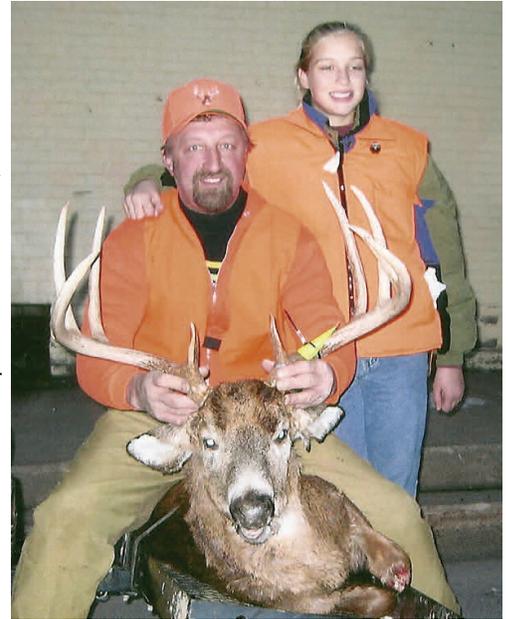
One of my passions is hunting. I have hunted everything from turkeys, duck, and geese to deer, caribou, antelope, and elk. I have cut down my hunting adventures over the years. Now, I am completely devoted to hunting elk, deer and waterfowl. I usually take approximately six months to plan my escapades to the mountains with my hunting group to hunt elk. I am proud to say that I have continued my hunting in Colorado, Wyoming and Montana for twenty-one straight years with my favorite hunting buddy Tracy Brown. When I return from the mountains I start planning for my second hunt for the year. I spend many hours planning for the Wisconsin deer hunting season. I like spending time with my family enjoying the beauty of the Wisconsin fall. I have taught each of my daughters to hunt, and last year I taught my son how to hunt. Now I have a lot of competition in the house, as my daughters are getting closer to shooting the big buck. I have five deer mounts, one elk mount and two caribou mounts that adorn the walls of my house.

I have a wife and four children. My oldest daughter Michelle, who is a RN, will

be getting married in August. So, we are welcoming Dr. Jonathan Beers to our family. Michelle and Jon reside in Licking MO. Apparently, the town got their name for all the deer that come to LICK the salt in the countryside. My daughter Erika is a senior at UW Milwaukee where she is studying for Kinesiology and just finished her college career in Division I track. My third daughter, Alayna, is attending college in Milwaukee as well and has not declared her major at this time. My youngest is my twelve-year-old son Benjamin.

Over the last 33 years I have owned and operated a transmission repair shop. During that time I have volunteered with the high school by teaching high school students that were going to school in auto mechanics. The last fifteen years I have been a volunteer assistant coach for the high school track team. I have coached all three of my daughters to the state track meet in long and triple jump. I also volunteer coaching my son in baseball and basketball.

I have dedicated over thirty years to Ducks Unlimited, and I've been District Chairman for Wisconsin DU. I am an active member of several area sportsman's clubs. I was elected to be a delegate of the Conservation Congress for Trempealeau Co. twelve years ago.



Alan Suchla, submitted photo

I was nominated to be the Historian for the Conservation Congress and the Executive Council elected me to this position in May. I believe in what the Congress stands for and wants to achieve, and in any way I can improve or make a difference in our conservation efforts. I will give all my energy and time to the improvement of conservation in the state of Wisconsin.

## Fisheries Advisory Council...continued from page 1

ship includes representatives of organizations with a specific interest in Wisconsin recreational fishing and the recreational fishing economy.

- WIFAC would serve in an advisory capacity to the Wisconsin Fisheries Management Program; specifically the Fisheries Management Board (includes Bureau Director Staggs, fisheries section chiefs, district fisheries supervisors and the fisheries research section chief).
- WDNR fisheries and the WCC would jointly lead and facilitate the WIFAC, develop meeting agendas, conduct WIFAC meetings and prepare and distribute meeting summaries and other WIFAC products.
- WIFAC would discuss and provide advisory recommendations to the Fisheries Management Board on Wisconsin

fisheries management issues, e.g., statewide fishery management plan, fisheries program strategic plans, fisheries public outreach and communication.

- WIFAC would meet annually.

Potential connections include the Sporting Heritage Council, the DNR secretary's round table discussions, and the Conservation Congress Rules Simplification Committee.

"This is a golden opportunity to get the word out on the Conservation Congress," said Bonde. "This is an opportunity to elevate the role of our delegates."



# Wolf Committee Update:

By Mike Riggle, Wolf Committee Chair

The WCC Wolf Study Committee met on June 1. The Department presented its 2013 season recommendations of a harvest quota of 275 animals with a 10/1 license/permit ratio. The committee approved the recommendations with the addition that any tribal declaration and subsequent non-harvest would not apply to the 275 figure.

The Congress position was presented to the Natural Resources Board at its June meeting. The NRB approved the department recommendation. However, what the department's response will be if the tribes decide to claim half the quota in the ceded territories (as allowed by law) is anyone's guess.

At the time of this report, there has been no tribal declaration. The tribal declaration, if any, is expected sometime in July.

There were five individuals speaking in favor of the department recommendation, including four from the Conservation Congress (Mike Riggle, Laurie Groskopf, Al Lobner and Ralph Fritsch) and nine in opposition. WCC delegate Melissa Smith representing herself, spoke in opposition.

Regarding the wolf management plan, the Department's Wolf Advisory Committee has embarked on the task of drafting a wolf management plan to be ready for NRB approval at its June, 2014 meeting. The WCC Wolf Study Committee will meet to discuss the plan as it takes shape.



# Outdoor Expo Seeks Expansion, Stable Funding

By Lee Fahrney

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress has been a strong supporter of the Wisconsin Outdoor Education Expo since its inception in 2006. The event attracts large numbers of 4<sup>th</sup>- and 5<sup>th</sup>-grade students and their teachers to the Dodge County Fairgrounds held each May.

The Conservation Congress has supported the event both financially and with in-kind contributions. The Dodge County dele-

Claire area," Gunderson said.

"We are currently reaching many southern Wisconsin school districts, or put another way, schools within 90 minutes of Dodge County," Gunderson said. "With an improved funding base, the addition of another venue would allow us to reach out to many more school districts." Ultimately, the Outdoor Expo could extend to all Wisconsin students at various locations throughout the state.



Students from Pardeeville Elementary School enjoy an educational outing at the Wisconsin Outdoor Education Expo at Beaver Dam. The event, held each May, attracts upwards of 3,000 students and teachers each year. Photo by Lee Fahrney

Paul "Jumper" Mayer is a member of the National Rifle Association and serves on the WOAF Board of Directors. His group brings a large contingent of volunteers to the Expo each year. Along with more than 75 other cash and in-kind contributors, the Friends group is a major financial backer of the event. "We look forward to the event each year," Mayer said. "It's great to interact with the kids."

gation, led by County Chair Dale Maas, and numerous other volunteers provide organizational assistance and staff the Congress Wall of Fame at the two-day event. The Expo has been a huge success with upwards of 3,000 students, teachers and parent chaperones attending every year. Schools are also eligible for WCC grants to help defray transportation costs.

Dreams of expanding to other parts of the state, however, have failed to materialize, primarily due to the costs involved. A plan to establish a second venue in Wausau in 2009 was thwarted by a poor economic outlook statewide.

Dan Gunderson, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Outdoors Alliance Foundation, which is responsible for conducting the Expo, hasn't given up hope, however. He says another location in the western part of the state would also be a good option. "A solid choice would be somewhere in the Eau

Mayer recently submitted a proposal to include the Expo as a program listed on hunting, fishing and trapping license applications for a voluntary contribution. Sportsmen and women can already contribute for such purposes as the venison donation program and invasive species control.

WCC Chair Rob Bohmann asked that the matter be addressed at the recent meeting of the Congress' Outreach/Public Relations Committee. The committee passed a motion to create a question for the 2014 spring hearings to seek input from Wisconsin citizens.

"The Outdoor Expo is recognized by educators and conservation groups nationally," Gunderson said. "It is a gem hidden from most citizens in our state. We can do so much more and reach so many more students and educators if we can find a solution to our funding issues."

# 2013 Eau Claire Convention Recap

*Chair Bohmann's report to the Natural Resources Board on the 2013 convention.*

I would like to take this opportunity to review the business that was conducted by the Congress at our annual meeting. The Wisconsin Conservation Congress convened for its 79th annual convention on May 9, 10, and 11, 2013 in Eau Claire. Our statewide delegation voted on the proposed DNR rule changes, DNR advisory questions, Board advisory questions, and each of the proposed congress advisory questions from the 2013 spring hearing questionnaire.

## WCC Advisory Questions

There were 31 Congress advisory proposals presented for public comment at this year's Spring Hearings. Twenty-eight of these proposals were recommended for advancement to the Department, Natural Resources Board, and Legislature for consideration as possible future rule changes or legislation. The three proposals that were not supported by the delegation for advancement were also not supported by the public vote. These included the removal of the backtag requirement, the registration of non-motorized boats, and allowing 14 and 15 year olds to participate in youth hunts unaccompanied by a mentor. Included in those recommendations to the Department, Board, and Legislature for further consideration are the splitting of panfish bag limits by species, the expansion of the bobcat season to statewide, the change of the hunting season opening time, and a number of local changes to fish size and bag limits. And finally, in line with both the statewide and county vote, the WCC approved and would like to formally request that the Board revisit the options for hunting and trapping in state parks, and look for additional opportunities to expand these activities. Specifically, the Congress would request that the Board revisit the recommendations given to the NRB by the Department at your December meeting. We are pleased that you are taking action to reopen those areas that were inadvertently closed by your

December decision, but it is our opinion that there are additional opportunities, in both acreage and time, to allow for the expansion of hunting and trapping in the compatible areas of our state parks. For example, I would ask that the NRB amend your previous decision and allow archery hunting during the entire archery season, as it is not necessary to close parks to archery hunting to protect public safety.



*Governor Scott Walker addresses the 2013 WCC delegation at the annual convention in Eau Claire. Photo by Lee Fahrney*

## Congress Business

This convention was groundbreaking in more ways than one. First, this year marks the inaugural year of the Youth Conservation Congress, an initiative undertaken following a request by this board. We have 14 students in this initial class of youth delegates, and seven of them were able to attend the Convention and participate in the discussion. This marked a significant milestone for the Conservation Congress and we look forward to increased youth participation in our organization in the future.

Another historic event was the approval by the full delegation of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress of its first ever strategic plan, which was developed over the last year by delegates representing each district and led by Art Lersch of the UW Extension. The strategic plan provided a full review of the WCC's organiza-

tional structure and operation and led to numerous recommendations that the Congress has already begun to implement. The approval of this plan reaffirms the Congress' commitment to effectively representing the citizens of Wisconsin on natural resources issues by creating an efficient, effective, and engaged organization.

## Awards

Again this year the Congress recognized a number of DNR employees for their outstanding service. Randy Stark was recognized for his exemplary leadership and innovative thinking over his extensive career as Chief Warden. Eric Lobner, Wildlife Management, received an award for his dedication and commitment to citizen input and leading the Department's efforts to implement the Deer Trustee Report recommendations. Fisheries biologist Marty Engel received our fisheries award for his dedication and excellent work improving the habitat and fisheries in his work area of Dunn, Pierce, and St. Croix Counties and his collaborative efforts with the local outdoor groups. Our warden of the year, Mike Dieckhoff, Rock County, was recognized for his outstanding law enforcement efforts, his well-rounded program, and his work to involve the community in protecting Wisconsin's resources. Dale Hochhausen (Vernon County) was awarded the waterfowl officer of the year by the WCC Migratory Committee. We also honored Jim Burmeister from Columbia County, with our "heavy lifter" award for his tireless efforts and quiet willingness to help.

We handed our years of service certificate and pins to those delegates who have served the congress for 20, 25, 30 and over 35 years. Impressively, we have 10 delegates that individually have 35 or more years of service to the Congress.

The 2012 Statewide Conservation Organization of the Year Award went to Headwaters Muskies Inc, Chapter 12



*Jim Burmeister, Columbia County, received the WCC's "heavy lifter" award. Photo by Lee Fahrney*

from Vilas County. The Outstanding Local Conservation Club was the Sheboygan County Conservation Association. The 2012 Educator of the Year is Terri Roehrig, a Congress delegate from Calumet County who is active and engaged as a learn-to-hunt mentor, a hunter safety instructor, and is dedicated to recruiting more women into the sport of hunting.

### **Officer Elections**

On Friday, May 10 our twelve districts elected their 2013-14 Executive Councilors. I would like to thank each of the councilors from 2012-13 that will not be returning this year and also congratulate those that have been re-elected. I have included a list of our new Executive Council in this memo for your information.

Notably, as recommended by the strategic plan, our Executive Committee now includes five members. The two new positions include a person focused on public relations and outreach, which is held by Lee Fahrney (Iowa County) and a Congress historian position which Alan Suchla (Trempealeau County) was elected to fill. Joe Weiss (Washburn County), was elected as the new secretary, Larry Bonde (Manitowoc County) was re-elected to vice-chair, and I was re-elected to serve another year.

### **DNR Rule Change Proposals**

The full delegation reviewed and registered their support or opposition to each of the questions that appeared as Department rule change proposals.

This year Fisheries Management presented 32 rule change proposals for public consideration and is advancing all of their proposals for Board adoption. On May 10, 2012 the Congress voted to support the Department's recommendation to advance 31 proposals that received support at the April 2013 Spring Hearings. After much discussion, the Congress moved to support an amended version of question 6 regarding allowing motor trolling statewide. The amended version would allow all the counties that voted in favor of allowing trolling with three lines per angler would be allowed to do so. All water bodies that already allow trolling would continue to have trolling, and those counties that wished

to "opt in" to 3-line trolling could do so, but the counties that voted against statewide trolling on question 6 at the spring hearings and do not currently allow any trolling would only be required to allow trolling with one line per angler.

The Bureau of Wildlife Management presented 15 rule change proposals at this year's Spring Hearings and 18 advisory questions. At our convention the Wildlife Program recommended advancing all but one of those proposals for NRB consideration with one amendment and the WCC delegation supported all of these recommendations. Question 45 relating to increasing the daily hunting fees for pheasants at Bong State Recreation Area was amended to reflect a reduced youth fee that was consistent with other youth fee structures. Question 41 proposed the unintended, overnight placement of stands or blinds on DNR managed lands failed by statewide and county vote. The Department is not recommending this be advanced as a rule change and the Congress supports that position. The Congress delegation also voted to support the DNR's 18 advisory questions, but we recognize that those are not proposed rule changes at this time and rules relating to those questions will be brought before the Board at a future date.

In addition, the Congress supported the NRB's advisory question number 66 relating to the full inclusion of crossbows in the archery season, and rejected question 67 and 68.



*2013-2014 WCC Executive Council: (Standing from left to right) Lee Fahrney, Larry Bonde, Dave Puhl, Rob Bohmann, Marcell Wieloch, Kevin Smaby, Bob Ellingson, Alan Suchla, Ken Risley, Josh Hennlich, Al Shook, Joe Weiss, Rick Olson, Al Brown, Ben Loma, Stan Brownell, and Dale Maas. Kneeling from left to right are Al Phelan, Arlyn Splitt, Mike Rogers, Dave Larson, Dave Miller, and John Aschenbrenner.*

In closing I would like to thank Greg Kazmierski for his presentation at our convention, and Board members Jane Wiley and Gary Zimmer for attending our meeting. Your involvement and attendance is a testament to your commitment to the role of the Congress as an advisory body to the Natural Resources Board.

# Check Your Trout for Gill Lice

By Len Harris, former Richland County Delegate

I fish the southwestern corner of Wisconsin including Vernon, Crawford, Richland and Grant counties. Eleven years ago I caught a beautiful brook trout only to find several unusual lesions on its gills. I took a photo of the gill section and forwarded it to several Department of Natural Resources staff that identified the parasite as gill lice.

Here is what I discovered: Gill lice, *salmincola edwardsii* can cause significant physical trauma to the gill filaments, causing deformities which affect respiration and the efficient uptake of oxygen and the release of carbon dioxide, ammonia and other metabolites. Fish that are heavily infected cannot obtain sufficient oxygen when they are exercised, such as when they are caught by angling. Gill lice only attack Brook Trout.

I also contacted Susan Marcquenski, WDNR fish disease specialist. I asked her if those streams with trout infected with gill lice should be closed. She answered with an emphatic "NO." She said rather than not fish the streams where gill lice are present, she would encourage people to fish and take fish home as long as the fishing regulations allow this. According to her, Gill Lice are not dangerous to humans.

Anything that can be done to keep water moving (faster velocity) may also help reduce the probability of larvae to successful-



Photo by Len Harris

ly attach to fish. Beaver dams are breeding grounds for the parasite and all beaver dams need to be reported to your local fish manager.

WDNR fish biologist Matt Mitro would like to get the word out on Gill Lice. He asks that the attached photo get widespread distribution and that the public report any occurrences. Trout Unlimited has put the Gill Lice reporting area on its website: <http://wisconsintu.org/Survey/tabid/468/Default.aspx>.

Gill Lice can be transferred by anglers on

their gear from one stream to the next. WDNR recommends that anglers clean their gear with a bleach solution: one tablespoon of bleach to every gallon of water. This is to be sprayed on your gear prior to going to another stream. The WDNR says felt-bottom wading boots are major culprits.

*Len Harris is a free-lance writer and photographer whose work has been published in Field & Stream, Outdoor Life, American Angler and Midwest Fly Fishing. Follow Len Harris on his blog 'The Stream of Time.'*

## Outreach/ Public Relations Committee Seeks Support

By Lee Fahrney, Committee Chair

A newly-reorganized and -expanded Outreach/Public Relations Committee met Saturday, July 13 at Milladore with an ambitious agenda that includes specific goals for the committee and for the Congress as a whole.

As we have discussed many times over the past several years we need to continue the task of stimulating awareness of our organization and its role in the protection of Wisconsin's great natural resources. But if we are to reach our constituency, the task requires the involvement of each of the Congress' county delegations. While the committee has set measureable and objective goals for the next year, only the cooperation and support of all outdoor

enthusiasts will make it happen.

Here are some specifics of the committee's goal-setting agenda:

- Increase spring hearing turnout by 10 percent in each county. This effort will be achieved by a direct appeal to the public through enhanced familiarity and connections to local organizations.
- Conduct media training: The committee will construct a short power point presentation in time for the March district meetings. Learn how to contact and work with media outlets.
- Connect with Hunter Education: We currently have a power point presentation to use as part of each hunter education class throughout the state. While

some districts/counties are doing a good job with this, we need comprehensive coverage.

- Connect with Face Book: Generate 500 likes for the WCC face book page by the 2014 convention. Join face book by going to the WCC page on the DNR website at [www.dnr.wi.gov](http://www.dnr.wi.gov). Follow the prompts to sign up.

Let's stamp out Nature Deficit Disorder (Last Child in the Woods, Richard Louv, 2005) and imprint the Wisconsin Conservation Congress on the consciousness of all Wisconsin citizens.

Please work with the citizens in your county and fill out the log on the opposite page so we can build our network of people devoted to conservation.



**The Wisconsin Conservation Congress Outreach and Public Relations Committee is looking for your help!** The committee is seeking to expand our reach to local conservation clubs around Wisconsin to not only inform them about our mission and day to day activities, but also build attendance at spring hearing meetings. Please list up to 10 local conservation groups, sportsmens clubs or other environmental organizations that you think would be interested in receiving communication from WCC. **Please have this information completed by November 1st!**

	<b>Club Name</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Mailing Address</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Website</b>
	Green Bay Trout Unlimited	Randal Rake	2883 St. Anthony Drive, Unit #4 Green Bay, WI 54311	920.455.0656	info@greenbaytu.com	greenbaytu.com
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						

Please send completed forms to Staush Gruszynski at [staush@conservationvoters.org](mailto:staush@conservationvoters.org) or 1181 Hansen Rd 3b, Green Bay, WI 54304. Call 920.216.3793 with any questions you might have.

# The Parliamentarian's Perspective



By Larry Bonde, Vice Chair

The question often comes up when recruiting new delegates. What is expected of me and how many meetings will I have to attend? Well, the simple answer would be to look at our Code of Procedure. It pretty much spells out in great detail what you are expected to do as a delegate. However several things have come up the past few years that I think need further explanation.

Several years ago a delegate from District 8, which is my district, didn't receive the committee assignment he wanted. He called me and was very upset and ended up resigning because I didn't reverse my decision and assign him to the committee he wanted. This delegate wanted on the Migratory committee and had served that committee rather well from what I was told by leaders of the committee. The problem was that the Spring Hearing was the only other meeting he ever attended. His interest was waterfowl, and he told me he didn't attend the other meetings because he didn't care about them. I don't think I ever even met this delegate since he never attended an annual meeting or a district meeting, even though as a delegate he was required to attend these meetings. So it raised the question, why should I reward him with his first and only committee choice if he is not willing to put any effort in working for his constituents to understand the many issues the WCC deals with. I do understand that a delegate doesn't need to have a great desire to hunt, fish and trap all species, but to best serve your constituents you should take the time to listen and understand what is going

on with those who do, and also listen and understand those who don't agree with us. So the bottom line is if you don't want to attend all the required meeting and keep informed you certainly can still serve, however, don't expect to get the committee selection that you may want. The best spots go to those who are the most active and want to participate to the fullest.

For example, an issue that came up this year was a presentation that was given to the delegation on Saturday by DNR's Ron Bruch. He explained how the WCC will get seats on some internal DNR committees. During his presentation Ron and I asked interested delegates to contact us if they had an interest in serving on these internal committees. If you attended the annual meeting on Saturday you noticed half the chairs where empty. It came to be that several delegates who left the annual meeting early or didn't attend at all were upset that they didn't get chosen or were removed from a position that they previously held and replaced by a delegate that was present and wanted to be engaged. The importance of attending meetings when possible (I understand that there are times when scheduling conflicts can't be avoided) is something that needs to be taken serious by all delegates.

Don't assume assignments will always stay the same, or that new opportunities to serve won't come up at our meetings. Further, our meetings have a lot of information to help you become a more effective delegate and it is also a responsibility to disseminate that information with your constituents.

Delegate conduct is another issue that needs to be addressed. As a delegate you can expect at some time for people to con-

tact you with a question or concern that may be before the WCC or the NRB. Some of the people that contact you may be supportive, and others may not. Some may be very opposed to a position the WCC is moving forward. Whatever the situation, you are required to conduct yourself in a very professional manor. If the person contacting you is rude or disrespectful you may forward them to leadership or Kari. But you may not argue or be rude and disrespectful back at them. Regardless if it is in an e-mail, phone call, or letter, do not debate or start an argument just because you may not agree with what they may be communicating to you.

I am not sure who it was at our annual meeting who made the statement about the importance of understanding those who are opposed to us, but they were spot on. You don't have to agree, but by listening and getting an understanding of why they may be opposed it can be helpful to work out the areas where you may not agree. By listening it also can be helpful for you to understand and learn ways to communicate better to avoid conflict.

As with anything, the knowledge and understanding you may have, the more powerful you can make your position on the many issues the WCC deals with. No one can be, or is expected to be, an expert on everything before the WCC. But attending more meetings and listening to others with an open mind, can be very helpful in making you a more effective and engaged delegate. Keep in mind the saying "knowledge is power." Once you have that, no one can take that away from you.

## Looking for a few good Conservationists...



The Wisconsin Conservation Congress currently has vacancies in the following counties. If you are interested in becoming a WCC delegate and representing your county, please contact the chair of your county. Contact information can be found by searching "Conservation Congress" at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and using the link "local county delegates."

**Forest, Grant, Green Lake, Iron, Jackson, Jefferson, Richland**

# Delegates and their Families Get Outdoors!





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

**WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS**

79 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 – 2013 Fall 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 for "Conservation Congress."

**JULY**

- 13 Outreach & Public Relations Committee Mtg—Milladore
- 27 Environmental Committee Mtg—Milladore

**AUGUST**

- 1-15 Fall District Meetings
- 3 Fur Harvest Committee Mtg—Milladore
- 3 Migratory Committee Mtg—Stevens Point
- 10 Legislative Committee Mtg—Wausau
- 10 Upland Game Committee Mtg—Wausau
- 10 Deer & Elk Committee—Wausau
- 13/14 NRB Meeting—Baraboo

- 16 Mississippi River Committee Mtg—Onalaska
- 24 10 Year Fish & Wildlife Plan Ad Hoc Committee Mtg—Stevens Point

**SEPTEMBER**

- 7 Outdoor Heritage & Education Committee Mtg—Location TBD
- 21 Great Lakes Committee Mtg—Milladore
- 24/25 NRB Meeting—Pembine

**OCTOBER**

- 5 Land Use Committee Mtg—Location TBD
- 19 Trout Committee Mtg—Location TBD
- 22/23 NRB Meeting—Madison
- 26 Warm Water Committee Mtg—Milladore

**DECEMBER**

- 7 Rules & Resolutions Committee Mtg—Location TBD
- 7 Bear Committee Mtg—Location TBD
- 10/11 NRB Meeting—Madison

**JANUARY 2014**

- 3 Executive Council—Location TBD
- 21/22 NRB Meeting—Madison

**March 2014**

- 1-15 Spring District Meetings

**APRIL 2014**

- 14 Annual DNR/WCC Spring Hearings

**MAY 2014**

- 8 Executive Council Mtg—Wausau
- 9/10 WCC Annual Convention—Wausau