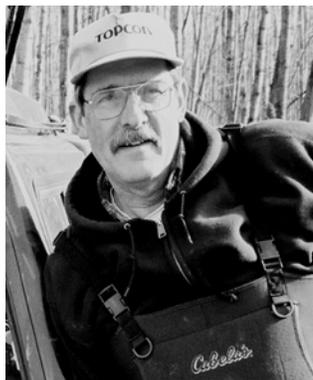




# Conservation Chronicle

## Chairman's Update



By Edgar Harvey, Jr.

I hope you all had a great fall. It's too bad it was so short, and ended so abruptly. My two sons and I traveled to Ontario where we each harvested a bear. I did not get a deer during the archery season. However, I was lucky enough to harvest a small buck during the gun season. Fellow Exec. Committee members Rob Bohmann, and Rich Kirchmeyer each harvested deer as well.

You have all heard that, for many, the 2008 deer hunt did not go as well. Statewide, the

kill was down nearly 20% from last year, and in some units, the decline was as much as 47%. I want to caution everyone that we have not heard the last of the public outcry that followed this season. The Department did not anticipate the crash. The prehunt population estimates were obviously high. The Department does not know why yet. Like the rest of us they can only speculate.

When the final numbers for the season are in, the Big Game Committee will meet again to review the estimates with Department staff. Hopefully, we will find an answer. If it can't be found in the numbers, perhaps the answer is someplace amidst the observations, speculation and anecdotal information which is coming in from the public. We need to pay particular attention to what the public is saying this year. The public will hold the Department and the Congress accountable. That was obvious when over 50 concerned hunters attended the Big Game Committee meeting

on December 19. I was encouraged that so many hunters took an interest in our meeting. The fact that we will be held accountable is okay. But, we need to be prepared to do the job when the time comes.

Besides collecting whatever comments you might be hearing, urge people to get to their herd status meetings in February and March, and of course, attend the Spring Hearings in April.

It's been a busy fall for the Congress. Most committees have met, and the Executive Council has met and has finalized the questionnaire.

I think that we have finally found an answer for the recurring resolutions for a longer, later bobcat season. The 2008 Congress advisory question (number 57), proposing a longer season, and geographically zoned harvest quotas, passed last spring.

*Continued on Page 4...*

## 2009 Executive Council Meeting Summary

LA CROSSE – The Executive Council of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress met in La Crosse, Jan. 9, to review resolutions submitted by Wisconsin sportsmen and women at the 2008 spring hearings. La Crosse was selected as the site for the meeting as it gave the Executive Council an opportunity to meet

with delegates and event staff that will be involved in the May Convention. On the agenda was a proposed Code of Procedure Change, updates from Congress study committees, approval of committee mission statements, approval of Congress Spring Hearing Advisory Questions, and DNR

staff updates. DNR bureau chiefs presented updates and provided a preview of their own proposals for the spring hearings.

The Code of Procedure Change, which stemmed from a number of citizen resolutions

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### Special points of interest:

- WCC District Meetings February 24 - March 9
- WCC Award Nominations Due March 2
- WCC Learn-to-Hunt Bear Applications Due April 22
- WCC Clothing Orders Due April 3
- Spring Hearings Monday, April 13, 7pm

# WCC Trout Committee - a glance back and a look ahead

By Michael Reiter, WCC Trout Study Committee Chairman

**WILD ROSE** - Organized officially in 1934, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress has strong roots going back 75 years. During that time period the "Congress" has taken a proactive role in advising the Wisconsin Conservation Commission and later, the Natural Resource Board, in all matters relating to the natural resources of Wisconsin.

The Congress Trout Committee was one of twelve advisory committees officially formed in 1948. Royce Hix from Antigo, was the first Trout Committee chairman. For more than 60 years the Trout Committee has served, as a viable overseer of the cold water resources of Wisconsin. It will continue to serve in that capacity well into the future.

During the past 60 years the Conservation Congress Trout Committee has been faced with a number of pressing issues and has always addressed every one placing the well being of the resource above all other considerations.

In the last 20 years, the Trout Committee has been instrumental in a number of important decisions. Nineteen-ninety was a year that produced a long period of below normal rainfall in the southwest portion of the state. Trout were being confined to small pools that provided easy access to fishermen. The fish were also under a large amount of stress in these low water conditions. Through discussions with the fish

managers, the Natural Resource Board and the general public, a closure in that portion of the state was recommended and approved. The closure was enforced until normal rainfall again brought back sufficient water levels in the affected areas the next year to allow for normal fishing conditions.

The early 1990's also brought about a new concept in trout fishing in the state. Fish managers had long realized that all streams were not created equal and each body of water had its own personality which needed to be managed on a one by one basis. A category system was devised that did just that. Through extensive deliberations, a system was devised that took the physical, biological and cultural aspects of each stream and placed it into a specific category. The Trout Committee served as the vehicle to get this formidable task accomplished. It also served in the forefront when the category system was streamlined and simplified a few years later. The Trout Committee continues to help fine tune the category system so that each stream can be all that it can be.

The present day Early Trout Season framework was hammered out through a special committee set up and co-chaired by members of the Trout Committee. Through a series of meetings, reviews and presentations, a consensus position was formulated and forwarded to the Natural Resource Board for their approval. The Early Trout Fishing Season proposal then proceeded through the rule making process and received the public's stamp of approval. This example of grass-root involvement demonstrates that the rule making process really works and can be a win-win situation for all involved.

In years past, a concerted effort was made to move the Trout Committee meeting locations around the state and select areas where new or innovative things were happening on the cold water related front. Novel management practices were highlighted with demonstrations



Wisconsin Conservation Trout committee in 2008 touring the completely renovated Wild Rose Fish Hatchery.

from beaver control to feral trout introductions were featured on the tours that followed the meetings. Committee members would then take the information they gleaned from these tours back to the groups they represented to perhaps implement them locally.

Presently, the Trout Committee is pulling together information and prioritizing a list of issues that they feel are important as they move forward. Current regulation complexity, the lack of youth involvement and social interaction are but a few being addressed. Once the list is complete and each member has given their input, a position will be taken and a course of action charted. This will be a very interesting endeavor.

Looking into the future, the Conservation Congress Trout Committee will continue to address the hard issues. As their Mission Statement reads, "The Trout Committee of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress is to provide input from the public through county delegates assembled from areas throughout the State of Wisconsin making up that committee and addressing issues where public input is deemed appropriate on matters of cold water resources including the flora and fauna that make up those resources."

The charge of the Trout Committee is to ensure that the cold water resources of the State of Wisconsin are not degraded or impaired in any manner, with the necessary steps taken to improve them whenever and wherever possible.



Wisconsin Conservation Trout committee in 1991 touring the Wild Rose Fish Hatchery.



## WCC Exec. Council...Continued from Page 1.

last fall, pertained to how citizen resolutions are handled by Congress Study Committees. The proposal which was advanced for the Executive Council for consideration by the Rules and Resolutions Committee recommended that if a citizen resolution passed in at least one county and it had 2/3<sup>rd</sup> support of attendees in that county, the resolution would automatically appear on the questionnaire the following year.

This proposal generated a great deal of discussion. There were concerns that the Study Committees role would be diminished and the opportunity for valuable dialogue on the suggestion would be lost. In the end the Council voted to not advance the proposal to the Floor of the Congress. However, the Council agreed that the message should be sent to Committee chairs to encourage discussion on each resolution, make sure all efforts are made for the resolution authors to be present, and that there is follow-up with the authors so they know the disposition of their idea.

"I think the fact that this discussion took place in front of the Council and most of the Committee Chairs, it accomplished a lot of what this proposal aimed to do," said Tony Blatler, Rules and Resolutions Committee Co-Chair. "Committees need to take their roles in the process seriously and assure that a thorough review and discussion of all proposals takes place."

Department of Natural Resources Secretary Matt Frank also presented his thoughts on a wide range of current issues. He specifically addressed the need for the state to pursue renewable energy. Other topics addressed in his report were his desire to see a statewide ban on deer baiting and feeding. The Stewardship program, access to National Forests, youth initiatives, and his continued commitment to seeing that wolves are delisted in Wisconsin were also specifically mentioned by the DNR Secretary.

Secretary Frank also spoke of the new 10-Year Plan outlining the agency's approach to dealing with Chronic Wasting Disease. "We want to start taking the long view of how we deal with this problem," stated Frank.

In early December the Congress CWD Advisory Committee held a conference

call to review the 10-Year Plan. Tony Grabski, secretary of the CWD ad hoc committee, reported on the committee's actions at its most recent meeting.

The CWD committee moved to reject sharpshooting and the extended landowner hunt through March 31 as recommended by the plan, Grabski reported. In addition, the group voted to reject the entire 10-Year Plan as unworkable and unnecessary.

The Council took the CWD Committee's report and recommendations into consideration, but rather than act at this time, the Council voted to wait on taking a position, and request that the Department delay presentation of the 10-year plan until the June NRB meeting. This would give the WCC Big Game Committee time to review the results of the 2008 deer season and offer their recommendation on the plan to the Executive Council in May.

It took until after midnight for the Council to process more than 40 recommendations derived from citizen input. Those receiving statewide support will be presented to the Natural Resources Board in January for their information. A copy of the questions will be available for review in early February on the Congress Spring Hearing website. This year the Council advanced 34 questions. Of the two proposals advanced by the Executive Council the one that received the most discussion was a proposal to find an alternative to the unpopular Earn-a-Buck (EAB) regulations.

"I believe the Congress should proactively work in an effort to loosen this deadlock over EAB and give the public a ray of hope, a sympathetic showing that we understand their frustration and anger," stated Mark Noll, WCC Big Game Committee Co-Chair.

There are two other questions that address EAB and Herd Control that were advanced by the Council, the one asking whether or not EAB and October and December herd control seasons should be eliminated was modified by the Council to eliminate the reference to the December 4-day antlerless hunt.

"We have fought so hard to get the December antlerless season in place, it would be a mistake now to suggest to the public that the Congress on longer supports this hunting opportunity," stated Chairman Ed Harvey.

The public will again be able to weigh in on the use of magnifying scopes on muzzleloaders during the 10-day muzzle-loader season. This question has not been asked since the late 1980's. However, due to a recent surge in citizen resolutions requesting this change, including a recommendation from the CWD Stakeholders Advisory Group, it will be presented to the public for a vote this spring.

There was much dinnertime conversation surrounding the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Conservation Congress. DNR liaison Kurt Thiede announced that various commemorative clothing items will be available for purchase at the next district meetings.

Delegates voiced a sense of pride in the accomplishments of the organization over the years, including current efforts to safeguard access to public lands for hunting, fishing and trapping wherever appropriate.

As the WCC representative on the Stewardship Fund Citizen's Advisory Committee, Manitowoc County delegate Larry Bonde reported that all purchases must consider access for five nature-based activities to include hunting, fishing and trapping.

Bonde reiterated Secretary Frank's earlier remarks regarding the need to pay attention to accountability regarding stewardship funds. "The biggest stumbling block is getting the information needed for the public to understand," Bonde said. "The hook and bullet people are definitely in the minority on the committee," he added.

Delegates are urged to familiarize themselves regarding grant applications by referring to the list serve that sends notices of all Stewardship grants. They can sign up to receive such notices, Bonde said. "This is the only place you can find information on who is applying for Stewardship dollars." See page 5 for more information on signing up.

For complete minutes, including the proposed advisory questions, visit the WCC website.



# River Crossing School: Kickin' it in the outdoors

By Lee Fahrney, Vice-Chair, WCC Outdoor Heritage Committee

BARABOO – It was at the annual conference of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress that delegates first crossed paths with the kids from River Crossing Charter School in Portage. Their mentor, Executive Director Jeff Nania of the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association, had ushered them up to Wisconsin Dells to see first hand how the Congress goes about its business of protecting our state's rich natural resources.

Nania views the Congress as a strong partner in the effort to keep our youth involved in conservation and the outdoors. "If our youth are going to be involved in the decision-making process regarding the future of our natural resources and hunting and fish traditions, they have to see it when it's happening," he explains.

Says Nania, "The Conservation Congress is a body authorized by statute in this state. It's a unique system."

In discussing the River Crossing School, Nania notes there are 17 new environmental charter schools coming on line in Wisconsin. "There are many opportunities for organizations like the Congress to

partner with these schools."

On this day, his charges would be doing some volunteer restoration work at the recently dedicated Aldo Leopold Legacy Center near Baraboo.

Wet and muddy from their work to establish a rain garden, the middle school students work hard and happy to complete their mission. Some plunk down rocks to ward off the effects of runoff that could erode the landscape. Others are completing work on a small water retention pond that forms part of the overall project.

The environmental masterpiece has taken three weeks to complete. The project includes a ditch-like structure lined with hundreds of stones and shored up by at least 38 species of prairie plants native to Wisconsin.

An eager youngster offers a copy of *Hands On, Feet Wet, The Story of River Crossing Environmental Charter School*. Victoria Rydberg, River Crossing teacher, authored the book, which chronicles the experiences of dozens of successful graduates of the school.



Tanner Alt of the River Crossing School in Portage has discovered a baby snapping turtle at the Aldo Leopold Legacy Center near Baraboo. River Crossing is a charter school with an emphasis on environmental education.

Rydberg "rides herd" on the young environmentalists as they move what is essentially mud from one place to another. With seven years of experience with the school, Rydberg understands that this is what makes the learning experience so unique.

She likes what is happening as the students make the connection between

*Continued on Page 10...*

## Chairman's Update...Continued from Page 1

Similar questions have passed before. However, all including this one met the same fate. As a matter of circumstance, the Department Fur Committee had already rejected the question before we presented it to the Natural Resources Board last May.

Despite the lack of support from the Department Fur Committee, I asked the Board to forward the question. Given the frequency that we see resolutions on the issue, we were obviously going to need to address the matter at some point.

Wildlife Director, Tom Hauge, was good enough to put the question on the agenda for the Department Wildlife Policy Team meeting in September. This annual meeting serves the same purpose concerning wildlife proposed rule changes, as our January Executive Council meeting does for Congress advisory questions. Question 57 received a fair amount of discussion there, but the result was the same, it was again rejected. However, Tom did commit

to hold a meeting of the interested groups, who have been involved with the issue over the years.

That meeting took place on November 14, 2008. The Wisconsin Trappers' Association, the Wisconsin Bear Hunters' Association, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, the Wisconsin Hunters' Rights Coalition, and the Congress were all in attendance. Meeting arrangements were made by Department Furbearer Specialist John Olson. Dr. Robert Rolley, the Department's Population Ecologist was in attendance, as was Warden John Welke. Wildlife Ecology Section Chief, Bill Vander Zouwen, did a great job of facilitating the meeting.

Four and a half hours later, we had a new and innovative proposal which better accomplishes the driving goals than any earlier proposal, and which is also agreeable to the Department. It will appear as a Department proposed rule change this April, on the questionnaire.

In a nutshell, we would have two statewide seasons. The first would end on Christmas Day, and the second would start on December 26. Each will have its own quota (half of the overall quota), and each will have its own success rate. 48 hour reporting will assure that either season can be quickly ended if its quota is exceeded. Research will be done to determine the presence and density of cats outside of the current harvest zone. To conduct this research the Congress Fur Harvest Committee has proposed an advisory question to raise the bobcat application fee by \$3. Pending the results of that research, an as of yet to be defined new harvest area would be opened up.

We need to thank the Natural Resources Board, and all of those in the Department who helped to bring this proposal this far. I think this serves as an example that we need to be more proactive on issues, like this one, that continue to receive broad support at the Spring Hearings. We need to be conscious

*Continued on next page...*

## Chairman's update...Continued from Page 4

about the level of service that we are providing to Wisconsin citizens. Continually putting the issue off does not reflect a very high level of service.

Michigan had a bobcat trapping season in the lower peninsula in 2008. This was the result of a series of trials in the courts beginning in 2005. A judge in Michigan thinks he did the right thing. Maybe he did. But, a lot of people representing organizations just like those who attended our Nov. 14 meeting don't think it should have been up to a judge in the first place. We should all appreciate the time that all of our Wisconsin organizations spent to get things done "the Wisconsin way."

This past year Minnesota was successful in a statewide referendum to establish alternative funding for their natural resources program last fall. The fact that our neighbor has apparently found a proposal for alternative funding that works, along with the reorganization following the November election in Wisconsin makes it necessary, and perhaps promising enough, to reintroduce legislators to the concept. The Department assures us that with the cuts that they have made in this budget, that they are going to be all right through the next two years. But remember, those cuts will affect our programs.

In September, the U.S. Forest Service released a "Finding of no significant impact" for their proposed Travel Management Plan. This plan will have great impacts on those of us who use the National Forest for recreation. It means that many of the roads that we have routinely been using to access areas to hunt, fish, trap, cut firewood, etc. are closed as of January 1, 2009. We submitted a letter objecting to the finding.

In October, I went to Eagle River with the Natural Resources Board. I rode the bus with them for a tour, and viewing of some of the closures. We asked the Board to appeal the plan. Since this is a Forest Service process, not a judicial one, they chose not to. However, the Wildlife Federation, the Bear Hunters', and the Hunters' Rights Coalition did.

Here is what has come out of our discussions with National Forest leaders, and the appeals to date: People found using closed roads, but who are not using them to damage forest resources, will be asked to leave as soon as they complete their business. They will not be cited. If they request that the road that they are using be opened, it is

very likely that the road will be reopened the following January. Such requests may be made using a preprinted card provided by the USFS, or they can be made by letter.

While less than we would have hoped for, if it works as promised, this is a workable situation. The key is that we need to spread the word about the process to reopen roads. The Chief at the USFS has assured me that it will work just that easily.

It is that time of year to submit nominations for Local Club, Statewide Organization and Educator of the Year. You will find a form for that purpose on page 7. So, give the Awards Committee a hand, and see if you can bring an award back to your County.

Also in this newsletter is an application form for a "Learn-to-Bear-Hunt" tag. Largely through the efforts of Rich Kirchmeyer, the Congress has a tag this year, which we will be awarding to one deserving novice hunter. Urge interested youngsters you know to apply.

I would also like to mention that by the time you read this newsletter our Congress Coordinator, Kari Lee-Zimmermann and her husband will have welcomed in their first child. Congratulations Kari and Zac. Kari is going to be absent on maternity leave until the end of March as they get settled. I'm assured that she will be back in time to see all of you at the convention in May. I will see you all there too.



## Stewardship

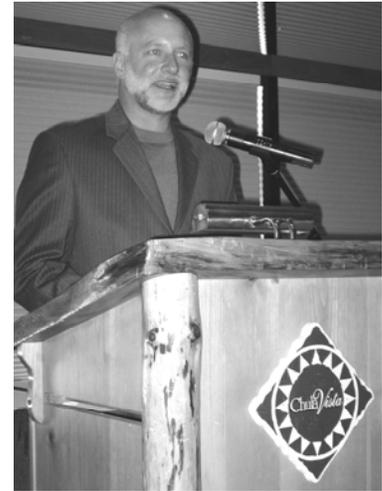
Periodically, the DNR will issue press releases concerning land acquisition projects around Wisconsin for which Stewardship Program grant funding is being requested. These press releases provide basic information about the proposed grant project, and indicate how interested parties may comment. These press releases also indicate the availability of nature-based outdoor activities in each project.

To subscribe go to:

[dnr.wi.gov/stewardship/  
newsletter/index.asp](http://dnr.wi.gov/stewardship/newsletter/index.asp)

## Delegate Profile...

### Ron Roettger



Roettger introduces the 2008 Conservation Educator of the Year award winner at the 2008 Congress Convention in Wisconsin Dells.

Ron Roettger is a 21 year veteran of the Congress, is the current Chairman of the St Croix County delegation, and is the Chair of the Congress' Awards Committee.

Elected in 1988, Ron served for five years on the Parks and Forestry Committee. He began his service on the Education and Award (now Awards) Committee in 1993, started as committee Secretary 1995, and Chair in 2001.

"I enjoy serving on the Congress," explains Ron. "The duties of reviewing, selecting, and presenting the conservation Awards has provided me with a chance to see how many truly outstanding conservation clubs and educators we have in Wisconsin."

A lifetime resident of St Croix County, Ron is married with two sons (Ron 26 and Andy 24) and has one grandson, Wesley (15 months).

Ron currently is employed as a maintenance technician at a local hospital. He worked nine years doing trout stream improvement and has been instructing Bow Hunter and Hunter Education courses for the past 20 plus years. He is an avid outdoorsman.

"I enjoy fishing year round with my wife Rita," said Ron. "Bowhunting and taking part in archery leagues and shoots with my longbow and self-crafted wood arrows is my main outdoor interest, but I also spend time hunting deer and small game with firearms. Each spring I hunt turkeys in Wisconsin and the Black Hills of South Dakota. And it wouldn't be fall without a longbow hunt for deer in the Black Hills."

# Wisconsin Conservation Congress 2009 Annual Recognition Awards

***It is time to nominate the Statewide Conservation Organization,  
Local Conservation Club and Conservation Educator of the Year!***

## **Conservation Educator of the Year Award**

Do you know a Wisconsin teacher, sports-person or youth group leader who is active in promoting and teaching conservation education, ethics, safety or outdoor skills?

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress would like to request your assistance or the assistance of your organization in nominating an outstanding educator for his/her efforts regarding conservation education.



2008 Conservation Educator of the Year Kathleen Tober of East Troy, WI with Congress Chairman Ed Harvey at the 2008 Convention in the Wisconsin Dells.

The "Conservation Educator of the Year Award" is intended to recognize Wisconsin conservationists who dedicate themselves to educating others about the wise use and conservation of Wisconsin's natural resources and environment. Through this award the Conservation Congress will recognize the many hours of service, the number of individuals who have been impacted and the numerous programs which have been developed by Wisconsin's conservation educators.

## **Statewide Conservation Organization of the Year Award**

Do you know a statewide conservation organization that has been active in promoting conservation and conservation education activities and projects throughout the state?

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress would like to request your assistance or the assistance of your organization in nominating a statewide conservation organization for their efforts regarding conservation and conservation education activities and projects throughout the state.

The "Statewide Conservation Organization of the Year Award" is intended to recognize Wisconsin organization who has dedicated themselves to conservation and conservation education activities and projects throughout the state to include habitat development, youth fishing clinics, scholarships, access points, hunter education, etc. Through this award the Conservation Congress will recognize the many hours of service, the number of individuals who have been impacted and the numerous opportunities that have been developed by this organization.

## **Local Conservation Club of the Year Award**

Do you know a local conservation club that has been active in promoting conservation education and training, habitat enhancement, recreation activities, outdoor recreation access and non-conservation community service projects?

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress would like to request your assistance or the assistance of your organization in nominating an outstanding local conservation club for their efforts regarding conservation education and training, habitat enhancement, recreation activities, and non-conservation community service projects.

The "Local Conservation Club of the Year Award" is intended to recognize Wisconsin conservation clubs who dedicate themselves to conservation education and training, habitat enhancement, recreation activities, outdoor recreation access and non-conservation community service projects to help maintain Wisconsin's natural resources and environment. Through this award the Conservation Congress will recognize the many hours of service, the number of individuals who have been impacted and the numerous opportunities that have been developed by Wisconsin's local conservation clubs.



Conservation clubs and sportsmen and women throughout the state are asked to help this effort by nominating a deserving local conservation club in their area, a statewide organization or deserving educator for an award.

The Awards committee of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress will review nominations on Saturday, March 14, 2009 and the award will be presented at the annual Conservation Congress convention held in La Crosse on the evening of Friday, May 8, 2009.

For further information about this award, contact Ron Roettger, Chair of the Awards committee at 715-248-3883 after 6:00 p.m..

Your nomination form must be postmarked no later than Friday, March 2, 2009, any nominations postmarked after March 2, 2009 will not be considered.



## 2009 Conservation Congress Recognition Award Nomination Form

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

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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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Funds Raised in 2008: \_\_\_\_\_ Funds provided opportunities for:  Members Only  Non-Members  Both

Funds were utilized for :  Habitat  Education  Recreation  Other (Please Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

For Local Clubs, please provide details of local community service projects (*such as venison donation programs*) , & for Statewide Organizations, 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 March 2, 2009**

# Wisconsin Conservation Congress 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Clothing Order Form

Clothing Item	Item Description	Cost/Size	Color	Size(s)	Quantity	Total
<b>Baseball Hat</b>	Adjustable 6 panel baseball hat with 75 <sup>th</sup> anniversary logo embroidered in color. Specify <b>khaki hat with green bill</b> or <b>hardwoods camo hat</b> .	<b>\$15.00</b>				
<b>Long Sleeve Mossy Oak Shirt</b>	75 <sup>th</sup> anniversary logo silk screened in yellow on left breast of long sleeve 100% cotton Mossy Oak shirt with left breast pocket.	<b>\$22.00/ M-3X</b>	Mossy Oak Camo			
<b>Long sleeve button down shirt</b>	Long sleeve cotton button down shirt, left chest pocket with button, button down collar and yoke back. Embroidered 75 <sup>th</sup> anniversary logo in full color above left breast pocket. Specify <b>khaki</b> or <b>blue denim</b> .	<b>\$30.00/ XS-XL</b> <b>\$34.00/ 2X-6X, &amp; LT-6LT</b>				
<b>Short sleeve polo shirt</b>	75 <sup>th</sup> anniversary logo embroidered in full color on left breast of short sleeve polo (no pocket). Poly cotton blend material treated to resist stains. Specify <b>navy</b> or <b>forest green</b> .	<b>\$26.00/ XS-XL</b> <b>\$30.00/ 2X-6X, &amp; LT-6LT</b>				
<b>Polar fleece lined nylon jacket</b>	75 <sup>th</sup> anniversary logo embroidered in full color on the back of jacket with "Wisconsin Conservation Congress" written on the left breast. Windproof/ water resistant shell lined with anti-pilling fleece. Two zipper pockets with one inner zipped pocket and stretch cuffs. Specify <b>khaki/forest green</b> or <b>sage/midnight charcoal</b> .	<b>\$68.00/ XS-XL</b> <b>\$72.00/ 2X-6X, &amp; LT-6LT</b>				
<b>Total (Please Make Check's Payable to <i>Wisconsin Conservation Congress</i>) :</b>						

Send completed order form, along with payments via check or money order to:

**WCC Clothing Order**  
**Attn. Kari Lee- Zimmermann – LS/8**  
**101 S. Webster Street**  
**PO Box 7921**  
**Madison, WI 53707-7921**

- ⇒ Sample products will be available for viewing at the 2009 Spring District meetings in March.
- ⇒ Deadline for submitting orders is **Tuesday, April 3, 2009.**
- ⇒ Merchandise may be picked up at the Registration table at the annual convention in La Crosse, May 7 - 9, 2009.



**Commemorative 75th Anniversary Apparel**

# WCC's Wall of Fame: A "fresh coat of paint"

By Larry Bonde

If you were one of the people who helped set up the Wall of Fame display in the past, you will understand the need to upgrade the project. Storage was less than ideal. The mounts were packed in plastic bags, and we used rugs, blankets and old rags to pack around them in hopes of avoiding the inevitable damage that occurred.

The need to replace some of the damaged goods and upgrade the display was clear. For starters, I talked with Chief Warden Randy Stark at a meeting in 2007 and asked if he could find us some taxidermy mounts for the Wall.

Randy was kind enough to put out an e-mail to all his wardens. The response was great! We now have a nine-point buck in velvet and a nice 10-point specimen.

Randy's request also netted us a set of mallards, a set of pintails in flight and several geese. In addition, Scott Sager of Washington County donated a full body whitetail mount.

Conservation Congress delegate Mike Reiter of St. Croix County came through once again with a skull collection that gave us a nearly complete Wisconsin mammal collection starting with a mole and chipmunk and going all the way up the food chain to a black bear and wolf. He also provided an assortment of bird feet and skulls and a snapping turtle skull and shell.

For storage, we got great help from neighbor and friend Lambert Steffen, a woodworking genius who quickly joined the effort to build display cases and crates for safe and easy transportation.



Updated WCC Wall of Fame.

The public response to the new and improved Wall of Fame has been terrific. We set up the display in our local neighborhood and got to see first hand the wide-eyed excitement of the kids as they swarmed over the setup. Adults, too, showed a keen interest in the display.

The newly renovated exhibit went on display this past fall in several locations around the state. The Lafayette County delegation brought the Wall to the Cheese Fest in Shullsburg where it was a highly visible and well-attended site.

WCC delegate Steve Staver reported the display drew great public interest at the community event. "It's a great tool for educating the public," he said.

With the support of WCC members to staff the exhibit at such venues as Pheasant Fest 2009 (Pheasants Forever National Convention in Madison) we should be able to achieve our goal of greater visibility with the public. The Wall will also continue to be on display at the annual Wisconsin Outdoor Youth Expo held in Dodge County each year.

Thanks to all who have helped out with this noteworthy project. Plan now to bring this great public awareness opportunity to your community.

*Larry Bonde is a delegate to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress from Manitowoc County. He serves on the Special Outreach Committee commissioned by WCC Chairman Ed Harvey in 2007, and is the Co-chair of the Rules and Resolutions Study Committee.*



## River Crossing School...Continued from Page 4

the natural world and the academic environment. "It's watching the kids come to school willingly, eager to learn," she asserts.

While on site, she keeps a watchful eye from a distance as some students lead, some follow and still others ask questions of each other and their mentors. She and/or Nania step in whenever the situation calls for more intense involvement.

In addition to publishing the book about the school, Rydberg has won numerous awards, including the Wisconsin Conservation Congress' Educator of the Year two years ago.

She and Nania look on with a smile as eighth-grader Stormey Hefko offers an explanation of the project. She likens the rain garden to a wetland. "It's a type of ecosystem," Hefko says with authority. "The wetland acts as a filter," she adds.

As she concludes her discourse, another student scoops a tiny turtle from the muck. Eighth-grader Tanner Alt soon claims center stage with his prize while Nania recognizes yet another teachable

moment.

The turtle is a newborn snapper. How do the students know? "Cause it's got pointed edges around its shell," someone quickly suggests.

Nania and Rydberg could do no better than their choice of the Leopold Legacy Center as an outdoor learning experience. The new facility was built "green," including timber produced on the property.

Energy-saving features blended into the Center's construction earned the Platinum Leadership Energy & Environmental Design Award from the U.S. Green Building Council. With a score of 61 out of a possible 69 points, the facility has the highest score world wide of any evaluated to date.

Now, with help from the students of River Crossing Charter School, the Leopold legacy of environmental protection lives on.







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**75 Years of Conservation!**

**WE are on the Web!**  
[dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/)

# Wisconsin Conservation Congress Calendar

Dates as of January 20, 2009.

Please go to: [dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/calendar/](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/calendar/) for an up to date listing of Congress meetings and events.

**January**

- 9 WCC Executive Council Mtg.
- 27/28 NRB Mtg. - Madison

**February**

- 6 - 8 2009 National Pheasant Fest - Madison (*WCC Wall of Fame*)
- 24 WCC District 9 Spring Meeting
- 24/25 NRB Meeting - Madison
- 25 Conservation Lobby Day - State Capitol

**March**

- 2 WCC District 8 Spring Meeting

- 3 WCC District 2 Spring Meeting
- WCC District 7 Spring Meeting
- WCC District 10 Spring Meeting
- WCC Districts 11/12 Spring Meeting
- 4 WCC District 6 Spring Meeting
- 5 WCC District 4 Spring Meeting
- WCC District 5 Spring Meeting
- 9 WCC District 1 Spring Meeting
- WCC District 3 Spring Meeting
- 14 WCC Awards Committee Mtg.
- 24/25 NRB Mtg. - Madison
- 28 WCC Big Game Committee Mtg. - Mead Visitor Center

**April**

- 13 2009 WCC/DNR Spring Hearings
- 21/22 NRB Mtg.

- 27 WCC Rules & Resolutions Committee - Stevens Point

**May**

- 7 - 9 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Conservation Congress Convention - LaCrosse
- 14-15 Wisconsin Outdoor Education Expo (*WCC Wall of Fame*) - Beaver Dam
- 26 Executive Council Meeting
- 27 NRB Mtg.

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