

THE BULLSEYE BULLETIN
WISCONSIN HUNTER EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

#123 May, 2012

Jon King ~ Hunter Education

Administrator:

Bureau of Law Enforcement
phone: (608)-575-2294
e-mail: jon.king@wisconsin.gov

For many of you this will be the first communication you have had with me since I have taken over as the Hunter Education Administrator. I am honored to have the opportunity to work with you. About 11 years ago I started as a Hunter Education Instructor and who would have thought it would have led me into this position.

I work out of 2 offices so a standard office phone will not work. I am available on my department cell phone 608-575-2294 during normal business hours. I have a smart phone so you can email, text, or call me. I will have it with me most of the time.

Email: jon.king@wisconsin.gov
US Postage Mail:
Warden Jon King
Bureau of Law Enforcement
PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

I am fortunate to have 2 very good assistants in the program Brenda Von Rueden 608-267-7509 which is the main point of contact for questions and Natasha Fye 608-264-8544 who is our data entry person.

Here is a short bio on myself:

I am a 7-year veteran of the warden service, working over 5 years as a Recreational Safety Warden in Central Office and 2 years as the RSW in Dodgeville. Prior to working for the DNR I worked 7 years full time as a Police officer and Police Chief for the Village of Belmont.

I have been a volunteer hunter education instructor for over 11 years. I have a passion for hunting, shooting sports and hunter education demonstrated by my involvement with Hunter Education Academies, Yellowstone Shooting Range and the Outdoor Youth Expo.

I have attended the IHEA Hunting Incident and New Administrator Academies and have taken that knowledge and used it to better educate the Wisconsin Conservation Wardens in investigating hunting incidents.

I have been married for 13 years and have a 2.5 year old son. While not working, I enjoy hunting, fishing, boating, camping, and spending time with my family.

Hiring Updates:

We have finally been able to announce the Hunter Education Administrator Assistant position (formerly held by Evelyn Wilson and covered part time by Brenda Von Rueden) Application will be due early April with interviews and hiring to follow within a couple weeks. So by the time the next newsletter comes out we hope to be able to announce the new person.

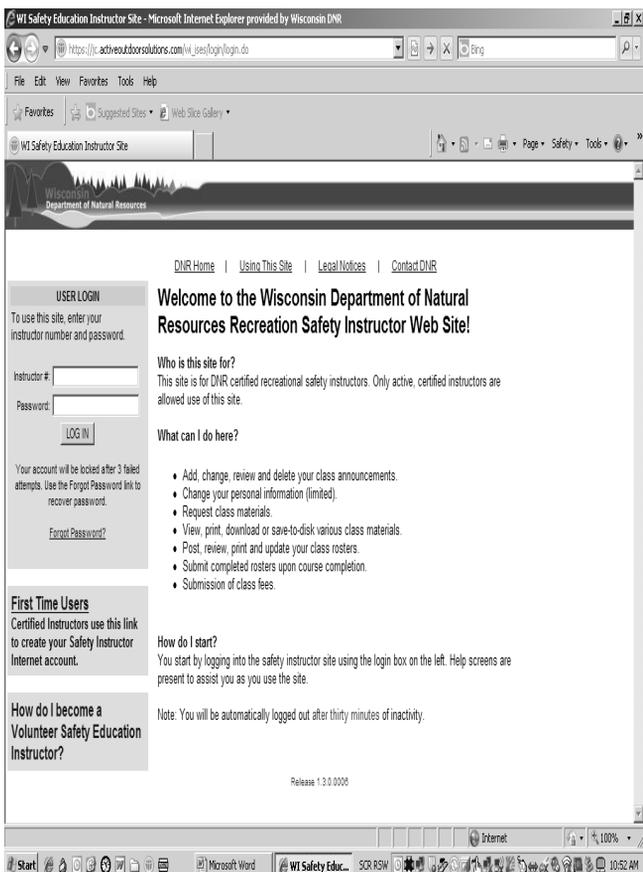
Online Instructor Database:

I taught my first couple groups on how to use the Online Instructor Database Website. One of the groups had a weekend course that ended by Sunday around 4pm. They used the online web site and sent in the course roster to the DNR and I got a call from the instructor that Wednesday afternoon stating his students were getting their cards in the mail already. Faster service to our customer is one of goals.

If you are looking for an easier way to do your paperwork please contact your Recreational Safety Warden and they will help you through the use of the Program. Most people that are use to using computers will not have much problem using the database.

By typing this link into your search engine it will take you to this website pictured below.

https://jc.activeoutdoorsolutions.com/wi_uses/login/login.do



Concealed/Open Carry:

Over the past few months several items have changed that impact the Hunter Education Program and our volunteer Hunter Education Instructors. The Hunter Education Program felt a statewide letter to all lead volunteer Hunter Education Instructors was appropriate.

Firearm Transportation (Act 51):

Act 51 and Act 35 were both signed into law during the fall of 2011. Both of these Acts impact how firearms can be transported in vehicles and also the possession of firearms in vehicles. For detailed information on firearms transportation please visit the DNR website at dnr.wi.gov and search on Act 51

Act 51 allows firearms to be uncased when in or on a vehicle while still requiring the firearm to be unloaded if inside a vehicle. (exception to this rule is Act 35)

Act 35 authorized a permit process for carrying a concealed weapon (CCW) and also allowed the transportation of a loaded uncase handgun in a vehicle.

Since the Hunter Education Course is focused on safety we'll continue to teach proper handling of firearms in and around vehicles which includes unloaded and enclosed in a carrying case.

What people do after they leave the Hunter Education course is a personal choice. Understanding that Hunter Ed graduates will see uncased firearms in a vehicle; this emphasizes the importance of teaching proper gun handling at all times, cased or uncase; by keeping the muzzle pointed in a safe direction and treat all firearms as if loaded.

We're in the process of changing the Hunter Education exam (written and field exam question). If you teach a course prior to the exam being changed please advise students of the exam error and take it into account when scoring the exams.

Carry Concealed Weapon (CCW) (Act 35)
In addition to impacting firearm transportation CCW has generated numerous questions from instructors. For additional information on CCW visit the DNR website at dnr.wi.gov and search on CCW

Course Curriculum:

The lesson plans and course focus and curriculum have not changed based on Act 35. The focus will remain on hunter education. Hunter education meets the DOJ training elements for citizens to apply for a CCW permit, which has increased the # of people interested in taking a HE course. Remember we cannot prohibit someone for taking the course for this purpose; however that does not prohibit instructors from clarifying that HE is focused on hunter education and has very little instruction on handguns.

CCW in Course:

I doubt it will occur often but it is possible that CCW permit holder will attend a course while carrying a concealed weapon. The Instructor Policy and Procedure Manual prohibit anyone from having live ammunition in a course, however in this case state law trumps our policy. Unless the location of the course prohibits CCW by law (i.e. school, legally posted room or building ...) we cannot prevent someone from carrying a weapon into a course.

Per Dept of Justice a certified Hunter Education Instructor are not authorized to teach courses specific to CCW.

CCW by Instructors:

I have also received questions about Instructors being able to carry a concealed carry firearm in class. Yes you can. I have to be very clear with this. A concealed carry permit allows you to carry the gun concealed (i.e. out of sight) If any instructor pulls their concealed carry firearm out during class to show anyone they now have a loaded firearm in the class. I will remove (terminate) any instructor that does this. The safety of our customers is utmost importance. For more information on the CCW law visit: <http://dnr.wi.gov/> and search on "CCW"

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have on any of the above topics.

A note from your Hunter Ed Program Assistant:

Brenda Von Rueden
Hunter Education Program Assistant
Brenda.vonrueden@wisconsin.gov
608-267-7509

New Website:

Have you checked out our new website?

Go to <http://dnr.wi.gov>

You can type or search keywords to view specific pages.

Here is a list of search words or keywords you might use:

- Hunt
- Instructor Corner
- ATV
- Boat
- Snowmobile
- Mentored Hunt

A complete list of keywords can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/keywordlist.asp>

Instructor Vest:

Julie has been shipping instructor vest out and instructors are already wearing them.

If you haven't placed your order you can e-mail Julie.fitzgerald@wisconsin.gov to place your order.

Group orders are accepted and encouraged. E-mail full name, instructor number, and current mailing address of where the vest should be shipped and size for each vest needed.

Julie sent out a size larger than ordered because they run a size small so please try your vest on to make sure it fits.

We are noticing a few things:

The zipper isn't working the best. You can try and put a little lubricates on the zipper and see if that helps.

The vest are running smaller than expected so you may want to order a size larger than what you normally would were.

If you received a vest that is defective, please include a note with the vest and send it back to the warehouse to:

Julie Fitzgerald
DNR Warehouse
2421 Darwin Rd
Madison WI 53704

Policy and Procedure Instructor Manual:

Did you know?

Hunter Education Certification Requirements

The two options available are the traditional course or the internet course including the required internet field day.

Live Fire Exercises are:

- Required for all internet field day hunter education courses.
- Optional for the traditional HE courses both firearm and bow.

How many students are required to be in attendance to hold a course?

I often get the question, "*How many students are required to be in attendance to hold a course*".

The answer is no less than 5 students unless prior approval is given by your RSW (Recreational Safety Warden).

Page 40 of your P & P Instructor Manual explains in further detail:

Determine your class size before selecting a facility or submitting a Safety Course Registration Start Card.

- REES (recreational enforcement and education section) strongly recommends that the number of students be 10 or less per instructor. This allows for a better instructor student ration, more effective and efficient group training.
- REES recommends that no class exceeds 25 students per instructor.
- The RSW reserves the authority to limit future class sizes of instructors who show a pattern of exceeding REES recommendations.
- Additionally, a safety course may not be scheduled for less than 5 students unless prior approval is given by the local RSW.
- Instructors should limit the number of students according to the above instructor student ratio, classroom space available as well as other classroom considerations stated in this manual.
- On a case by case or complaint basis RSW will address student instructor ration

situations to ensure the quality of the program.

I have a felon in my course, what do I do?

Participation in HE Courses by individuals with firearm restrictions (felon, court ordered, domestic violence situations):

It is the individual's responsibility to inform instructors of any restrictions. However, hunter education certification is still a requirement for those who want to hunt legally using a bow or an air gun for a particular species unless born prior to January 1, 1973 or participating in a Mentored hunt. Traditional hunter education courses do not require students to hold or shoot a firearm in order to become a certified graduate of the hunter safety program.

People with court ordered firearm restrictions can attend and participate in a hunter safety course as long as they do not possess or handle a firearm. An instructor can request a student to verbally explain and describe specifics regarding a firearm but shall not allow a person with these restrictions to handle or possess a firearm. Instead an instructor should accommodate the student by supplying them with a laser ed gun, bb gun, cardboard cut out, or other items that do not fit the legal definition of a firearm.

Firearm: means a weapon that acts by force of gunpowder.

Who do I contact to get training aids, such as dummy ammunition, firearm action sets, treestands, Frisbees, softballs, instructor hats and more...?

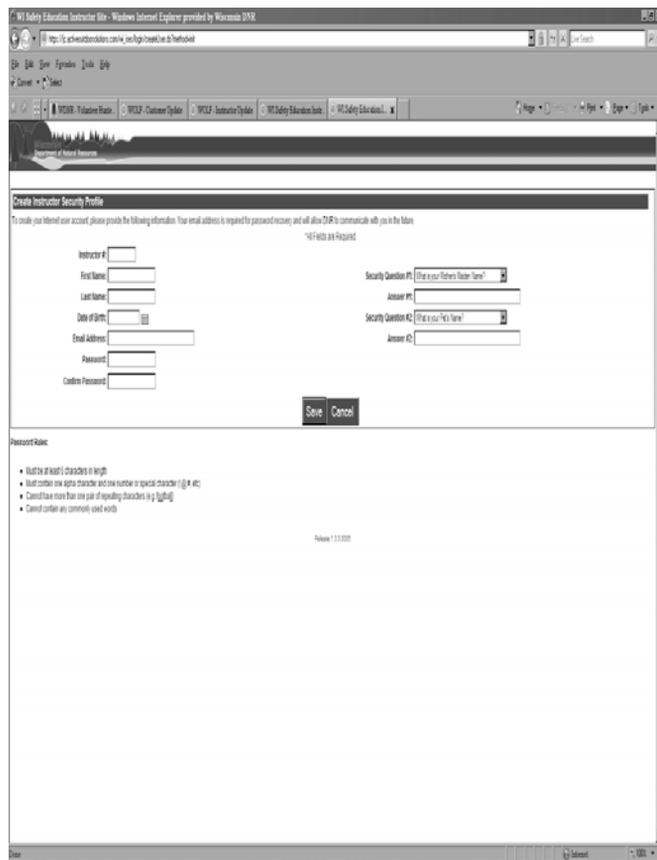
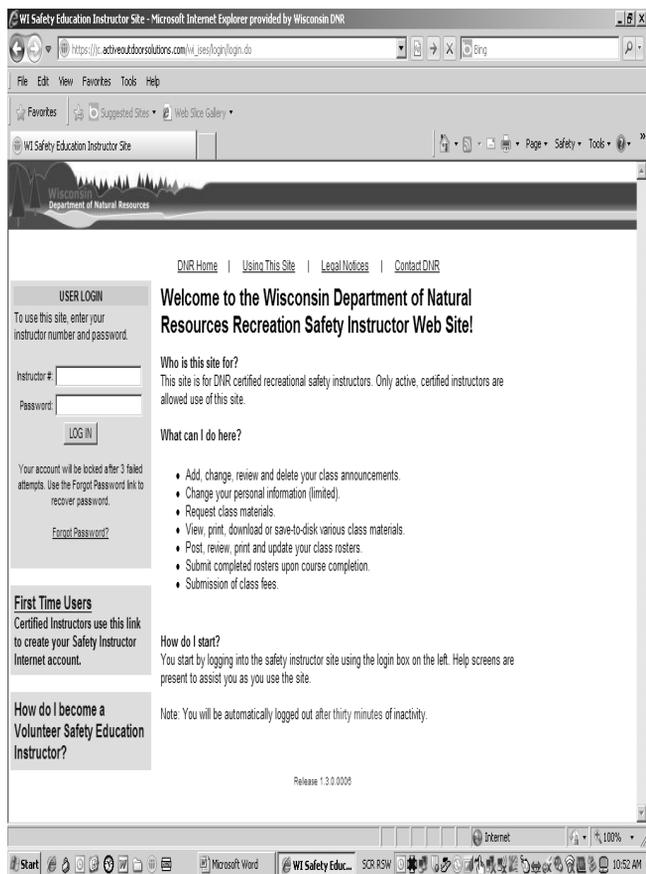
Your RSW (Recreational Safety Warden):

Remember if you need anything you should make your Recreational Safety Warden your first point of contact. If you are unsure of who your RSW is check out this website to find their contact information.

<http://dnr.wi.gov/volunteer/safetyEducation/rswmap.html>

Instructor Interface:

The instructor interface is now up and running as Jon motioned early in the newsletter.



If you haven't looked at this interface you should give it a try. It's simple to use and we are here to help with any questions you may have.

If you haven't set up a user id and password yet click on First Time Users. This will bring you to the Instructor Security Profile page. You will need to know your Instructor Number and then enter the required information listed.

Then you must create a password. Password Rules do apply.

- Must be at least 6 characters in length
- Must contain one alpha character and one number or special character (!, @, #, etc)
- Cannot have more than one pair of repeating characters (e.g. f00tba11)
- Cannot contain any commonly used words

Ask and answer your two security questions and save your profile.

Now you are ready to sign in on the main page <http://dnr.wi.gov/volunteer/safetyEducation/rswmap.html> using your Instructor Number and Password you just created.

As Jon again mentioned earlier in the newsletter, if you are looking for an easier way to do your paperwork please contact your Recreational Safety Warden and they will help you through the use of this online instructor database.

The database was designed to be user friendly. People who are willing to give it a try will enjoy using it and it really truly dose make your class paperwork process simple and quick.

Give it a try. You might like it. 😊

I'm working on the annual incident report right now and updating the instructor discounts for 2012. By the time you get this in the mail those items will be done and posted on the web for your use.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me.

~ Brenda

Brenda Von Rueden
Hunter Education Program Assistant
Brenda.vonrueden@wisconsin.gov
608-267-7509

A message from our hunting and shooting sport coordinator:

Keith Warnke
Hunting & Shooting Sport Coordinator
Keith.warnke@wisconsin.gov
608-576-5243

How to hold a Learn to Hunt event?

QUESTION: I am interested in organizing a Learn to Hunt event. How do I get started?

ANSWER: It's fairly easy. If you want to do one in March or April for a Learn to Hunt Turkey event, now is the time start planning. You'll find a lot of information on the DNR's Learn to Hunt web page, <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/lt/h/>. While it may sound like a lot to do -
- gather your mentors, find novice hunters and get landowner permission – it is manageable if you take it one step at a time.

Start with the application process: Look for the revised application (form 2300-260). This form can be opened, filled out electronically and saved on your computer. Alternatively, the applicant can print a blank form and fill it out with a pen. Applicants must complete this form, print, sign and submit it to the local wildlife biologist for approval.

New this year: Applicants **do not** have to get the signature of private landowners on the application. However, local biologists still have to sign off on events held on

department-owned lands. Applicants will, however, have to sign the application, as always.

By signing the new form, applicants will be assuming responsibility for ensuring they have permission for hunting as a part of the LTH event from the landowner of each of the listed of properties. The applicant must list the property landowners and addresses of where the hunt will be taking place. Removing the need for landowner signatures will remove a significant barrier for many LTH sponsors.

Completed applications (form 2300-260) go to the local wildlife biologist for his or her signature. Biologists please make a copy for the local warden. A copy of the application is *not* needed in central office prior to the event.

Please focus on recruiting participants who would not otherwise have the chance to experience hunting. Places to approach include: friends, neighbors, schools, churches and Girl and Boy Scouts. Also, note there is a (www.huntersnetwork.org) where Learn to Hunt events can be posted. Look here for participants for your event.

Mentors: The event applicant will submit the list of mentors to the local biologist who will copy for the warden. The mentor list (LTH Mentor form 8500-167) can be completed electronically, saved, emailed to the biologist and warden, or printed and mailed to the biologist. We do not need a copy of this form in central office.

All mentors must complete the mentor background check form (4100-217) and send that to central office where the check will be performed. Mentors only need to complete this form once. Once they are in the database, we will re-run the background checks every five years.

All LTH participants must have a DNR Customer ID Number. To obtain a DNR Customer ID Number: Call 1-888-936-7463 between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. daily to get a Customer Identification Number or to check if you already have one.

Learn to Hunt Insurance: The DNR has partnered with the Hunters Network of Wisconsin, <http://huntersnetwork.org/>, to find an insurance provider to write policies to cover LTH events. The details are:

Master General Liability Policy

- - Limits of \$1,000,000 per occurrence / \$3,000,000 aggregate
- - \$1,000, medical payments
- - Additional liability coverage limit of \$50,000 per occurrence / \$50,000 aggregate limit

Annual premium: \$252

With this, a liability certificate will be provided to the club, group or chapter organization that belongs to the sponsoring group. This coverage will be extended to the group, club or chapter organization for \$100.

Waivers will be provided to the participants who meet Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources criteria.

Contact the Hunters Network for more information.

After the event, sponsors/applicants must send a copy of the application (Form 2300-260) and the list of participants (Form 8500-166) to the LTH coordinator, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, 53704. If sponsors want to request reimbursement for their LTH event, a completed copy of the reimbursement request (Form 2300-319) and a W-9 form must be sent to the same address.

Keith Warnke
Hunting & Shooting Sport Coordinator
Keith.warnke@wisconsin.gov
608-576-5243

A message from one of our Recreational Safety Wardens:

Mark Little

Northern Region – West Recreational Safety
Warden
Mark.little@wisconsin.gov
(715)-635-4112

As instructors we should be mindful of our mission that students be taught the safest of all techniques and methods in our courses – no matter what program we instruct. We lead by example in our programs ever mindful that we are modeling our behavior in front of highly influential students. Often there is some disparity in firearms handling where the lesson plan leaves off and instructor habit or interpretation take over. Such are the cases with “unloaded” firearms and the use of Laser-Ed guns

Current state statute (Section 167.31(1)(g)1) defines “unloaded” as *“having no shell or cartridge in the chamber of a firearm or in the magazine attached to a firearm.”* The law only mentions “no shell in the magazine” and not its removal. However, if a magazine can be removed, it should be as we are teaching safe and responsible firearms handling and not only a degree of safety. In this case, the thought that “actions open and safeties on” may not be enough and an area we should strive to provide a visual and physical clearing of the firearm chamber. Removing a detachable magazine certainly creates a high degree of safety and leaves nothing to interpretation. We also allow the ethical component of our programs to take over when we go a step beyond the law in this case. This is enforced at law enforcement and civilian ranges for many reasons albeit one – it just makes sense.

On a similar line, let’s examine Laser-Ed or other replica firearms commonly used in our courses. We place these “facsimile” firearms in the hands of students when other firearms are not available or may be unsuited in the teaching environment (i.e. school). Merely explaining that these “guns” are not firearms does not satisfy the law. State statute (Section 941.2965) defines facsimile firearms as *“any replica, toy, starter pistol or other object that bears a reasonable resemblance to or that reasonably can be perceived to be an actual firearm.”* The law goes on to state: *“No person may carry or display a facsimile firearm in a manner that could reasonably be expected to alarm, intimidate, threaten or terrify another person.”* Laser Ed guns fall well within this. If one knew nothing about this type of replica, would that person think it was

a firearm and be reasonably alarmed, intimidated, threatened or terrified as the law suggests? I believe so. Again, we should be reminded that if we are demonstrating the use of a firearm, we ARE using a firearm in the face of our students and all principles apply. This holds true when we use a firearm, an inoperable firearm (action sets), a facsimile, or even cardboard or plywood cut-outs.

Let me apply a very personal example to this scenario. Once long ago and as patrol deputy in southern Wisconsin, I responded to one of those messed up calls that was dispatched with little and even mistaken information. In cop life, these events come much too frequently. This particular call on a dark evening in the winter of 1994 was no different and involved a domestic disturbance, but with two addresses. While one deputy responded to one, I responded to the other. I took all the necessary precautions when I pulled into the farm driveway quietly and walked up to the house intently listening and looking for something out the ordinary. As I rounded a corner to knock on the entry door, I looked up to a second story window. In my mind's eye, I can still see the silvery muzzle that was pointed down at me. As I drew my sidearm and retreated to the concealment of shrubbery along the house, my situation had become one of threat and alarm. The family was quickly evacuated with the help of several other officers who rushed to the scene and standoff ensued that lasted hours into the sub-zero night. The man with the gun eventually surrendered. Or should I say the man with the BB gun eventually surrendered. We respond to what we see and often act on instinct or training. We don't distinguish one firearm from its counterpart and neither does our mind. We shouldn't put students in this position either. It may cost them dearly some day.

Mark Little
Northern Region – West Recreational Safety
Warden
Mark.little@wisconsin.gov
(715)-635-4112

A message from WHEIA:

Wisconsin Hunter Education Instructor Association
WHEIA has been busy. Since our last *Bullseye* we have participated in youth events in Rothschild,

Green Bay and Madison. We continue to give tomorrow's hunters the opportunity for a hands-on experience with our portable pellet ranges. It is our aim to generate as much interest as possible in the sport and pass on the hunting heritage. Please visit us at our **NEW** website at wheia.com to find out more about WHEIA and how you can become one of the team. If any of you instructors are planning an area-wide youth event, we can post it on the website to get the word out for you.

Also, if you have any thoughts, concerns or policy questions you would like us to bring before the DNR, please let us know by visiting the website. We have been discussing the possibility of mini academies for training and recertification of instructors. We each have room for growth in our teaching techniques, and there's always something new we can learn at the academies and each other.

A note regarding training aids reimbursement grants: They have to follow DNR policy. For instance, dummy ammo must come from DNR by contacting your RSW. Dummy ammo and many other training aids are available at no cost to instructors through the DNR. And speaking of the DNR, Jon King is our new Hunter Education Administrator. We all need to welcome him as he moves into this new position. Welcome, Warden King!

WHEIA is supporting another youth day event in August in Marathon County. This gives you time to plan to take a trip out to visit us and see WHEIA in action. You can visit the website for more information on this and other upcoming events. If you enjoy working with youth, we could use your help.

We hope to hear from you or see you at one of our meetings or events this summer. Perhaps you haven't met our president, Joe Lacenski, our board of directors, myself, or other members of the organization. Attending one of our events would be great opportunity to do so. We look forward to meeting you.

More in the next newsletter on the 2012 Hunter Education Conference held April 21.

Best regards,
Pearl Holmstadt
Secretary WHEIA