2014 Spring Hearings
April 14, 2014
Statewide - All 72 Counties

Topics

Restrictive Deer Baiting
Panfish Management
Statewide Trolling
Lead Management at Shooting Ranges
Adequate Free Access to Waterways

Everyone will be given an opportunity to comment on the questions, but you will be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes for each question that you wish to discuss. If comments become repetitive the hearing officer may limit comments to issues not previously presented. No argument or rebuttal will be allowed on DNR questions. Written comments on all DNR proposed rule changes will be accepted until April 14, 2014.
Chronic Wasting Disease Escalates in Deer Herd

Reprinted with permission of author Pat Durkin

This has been the coldest and snowiest winter that I can remember going all the way back to when I was a kid, a long time ago. Hopefully by the time you are reading this it will have warmed up to be like spring like it should be. Some reports right now are showing from northern Wisconsin, especially where the snow is 30” deep in some areas, that some of the deer and turkeys have been found dead. The winter severity index in southeastern Wisconsin counties has reached severe conditions. Let’s hope that the deer and the turkeys pull through to at least sustainable numbers.

In the first year that I was President for the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation has gone by faster than I could imagine. With all the newsworthy training sessions and the traveling there has been an extensive amount of accomplishments that have happened this past year. Some of the accomplishments include: the Conservation Leadership Corps, Monticello, Harvest Hunt through the Wisconsin moose and witn meeting in Ashland meeting with both sides of the mine, winning students will be notified by May 16, 2014, to be eligible. Contest entries will not be returned and will become the property of the contest sponsor. Teachers of the winning students will be notified by May 16, 2014, to be eligible. Contest entries will not be returned and will become the property of the contest sponsor. Teachers of the winning students will be notified by May 16, 2014, to be eligible.

Wisconsin Sea Grant today announced a $2 million conti- nuous grant to fund Great Lakes research, education, and outreach projects. The grant will support 19 projects of exploration of the freshwater seas on the Green Bay, Madison, Milwaukee, Oshkosh, Stevens Point and Superior campuses of the University of Wisconsin System, as well as at Northland College, St. Norbert College and Marquette University. Excellence in Great Lakes Fisheries through a long-term partnership between the Wisconsin Sea Grant, the Wisconsin Historical Society and the Wisconsin Historical Society is also part of this package. The balance of the omni- bus grant will be distributed to outreach projects that educate various audiences about the lakes and their roles in engaging with the states across the state, sharing the latest and most effective science to maximize Great Lakes resources.

The world’s largest freshwater sys- tem at our borders. Lakes Superior and Michigan define the state’s identity and provide recreational opportunities and fuel our economy. John Wagner, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Sea Grant, said “A study found that 1.5 million jobs are tied to the lakes, with an annual economic impact of $40 billion.” The grant’s research, education and outreach projects are designed to share the latest and most effective science to maximize Great Lakes resources.

Wisconsin Sea Grant projects in- clude Great Lakes Fish Accuracy, and four that are continuing from the previous funding cycle.

Sea Grant Awards $2 Million to Fund Great Lakes Research, Education, and Community Engagement

By Maiese Harrington

Local officials and those who manage coastal structures, such as ports and harbors, also benefit from upcoming work. The Wisconsin Sea Grant, in partnership with the Great Lakes and Ohio Sea Grant, is pleased to announce $2 million of new funding to Wisconsin Sea Grant’s research, education, and outreach projects. The grants are designed to share the latest and most effective science to maximize Great Lakes resources.

In addition to the $2 million of new funding announced April 1, 2014 the use of tackle containing lead will no longer be allowed on three reservoirs in the state of Wisconsin as the American Legion state forest in Vilas County. Three Wisconsin Reservoirs, Pellette and Nebish, will restrict the use of lead containing jig heads, split shot and sinkers that are larger than one inch in diameter. Additional non-lead alternatives will be available for free at the Eau Claire Lake Res- erve Station. The purpose of this new regulation is to protect loons and other water birds that have been shown to ingest small tackle and to increase public awareness of the dangers of lead exposure to other water birds. Also fishing for walleyes on the rivers and harbors is fine finally. So let’s get out there and partake in angling and sharing of a wealth of coastal data like bluff stability and potential wa- ter hazards.

In all, nearly 100 researchers, staff and students will be engaged in this work, said Hurley. The National Sea Grant College Program, which is admin- istered through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, is the source of the grant. Hurley’s program is one of the nation’s oldest and robust. In our 46th year, we are grateful to play a role in the sustainable use of the Great Lakes through science-based, unbiased infor- mation.

Wisconsin is home to one of 33 Sea Grant programs, located in all coastal states, including Alaska and Hawaii. At last year, a website that is collecting, catego- rizing and sharing of a wealth of coastal data like bluff stability and potential wa- ter hazards. In all, nearly 100 researchers, staff and students will be engaged in this work, said Hurley. The National Sea Grant College Program, which is admin- istered through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, is the source of the grant. Hurley’s program is one of the nation’s oldest and robust. In our 46th year, we are grateful to play a role in the sustainable use of the Great Lakes through science-based, unbiased infor-
QUESTION 34. Restrict deer baiting and feeding ten days before and during the traditional 9-day firearm season

We have heard hunters say that feeding and baiting affects deer distribution and natural daytime movement. When deer need to move less to find food, and are concentrated in areas where access and/or hunting are restricted, the quality of the hunt is reduced. For the department, this can make managing the herd more difficult and contribute to the debate about the accuracy of deer numbers.

In 2006 and 2008, Conservation Congress spring meeting attendees voted in favor of banning baiting for deer hunting by 56% and 54%. Another question in 2006, which proposed banning both baiting and feeding just 10 days prior to and during the traditional 9-day firearm season, had a greater level of support with 62% voting in favor. This same question was asked in 2011, and had roughly the same level of support, 63%. These votes have not led to changes, other than banning baiting and feeding of deer in counties or adjacent counties where deer have tested positive for chronic wasting disease (CWD). Currently, baiting and feeding of deer is prohibited in 35 counties because of their close proximity to CWD positive deer. Banning baiting and feeding of deer in counties where it is currently allowed may encourage deer movement during shooting hours and result in a more even distribution of deer available to hunters on both public and private lands.

Baiting and feeding would still be allowed at other times of the year. This compromise would still allow those who believe they need to hunt with bait to do so during most of the archery and some firearm seasons. This compromise is not ideal for reducing disease transmission risks associated with baiting and feeding; however, it would result in less deer feed being placed on the landscape at a time of the year when much food is currently placed. The DNR is not able to modify deer baiting and feeding regulations by administrative rule, except for adding counties where it is banned because of CWD positive deer. Otherwise, changes to deer baiting and feeding regulations must be made in state statute by the legislature.

34. Would you support legislation to authorize banning deer baiting and feeding statewide 10 days before and during the 9-day gun deer season?

YES ___ NO ___

QUESTION 42. Education on managing lead at shooting ranges

Lead at shooting ranges is a concern for shooting range users, operators and the public. Removing and recycling lead from shooting ranges had been addressed by the Environmental Protection Agency, National Rifle Association and National Shooting Sports Foundation.

42. Should the WCC work with the DNR to create a voluntary seminar for shooting range operators to be offered throughout the state that instructs them on establishing an environmental stewardship program for recycling lead and how to safely and efficiently remove it from shooting ranges?

YES ___ NO ___

QUESTION 47. Establish a Senior Resident Conservation Patron License (200113) (Requires legislation)

Currently when a person reaches the age of 65 they may purchase a reduced rate fishing license, small game license and state park sticker. If they purchase a Resident Conservation Patron License, none of these discounts apply. This forces them to purchase individual licenses in order to receive their senior discounts. Many people would prefer to continue to purchase a Conservation Patron License, even though they may no longer use all the benefits (licenses) of the patron license. There is currently a Junior Conservation Patron License available, but not a Senior Conservation Patron License.

47. Would you support establishing a Senior Resident Conservation Patron License?

YES ___ NO ___

From the Editor...

Hunters – Anglers – Trappers – Shooters – Outdoor Enthusiasts

Attending a Spring Hearing meeting co-sponsored by the Department of Natural Resources and the Wisconsin Conservation Congress provides a unique opportunity to speak to and inquire of, current proposals affecting your outdoor recreational activity.

Consider an evening out with alike individuals – April 14, 2014

WWF Editor D.A. Gries
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DNR State Nursery Program Gets New Name, Continues Advocacy for Tree Planting

In an ongoing effort to protect and sustainably manage Wisconsin’s forests, the Department of Natural Resources is planning changes to improve the State Nursery Program and better reflect its broad spectrum of statewide reforestation duties.

The State Nursery Program, established in 1911, is being renamed the Re-forestation and Conservation Bureau, according to Chief State Forester Paul DeLong.

“We have a strong reforestation monitoring program that assesses factors influencing plantation survival rates. Our staff provide a wealth of technical information to landowners interested in improving their lands through tree planting. We have a number of research projects underway and maintain an important education and outreach focus,” DeLong said.

The Reforestation Program will merge seedling production into one nursery within the coming year, though the specific locations are yet to be determined. There are currently nursery facilities located at Boscobel, Wisconsin Rapids, and Hayward, Wisconsin. The program produces seedlings.

DeLong said that consolidating the production at either the Boscobel or Wisconsin Rapids facility will allow for more consistent production of high quality native trees and shrubs to meet the needs of landowners from all Wisconsin counties.

The state produces stock to ensure that an adequate supply of native trees are available to reforest Wisconsin, home to the nation’s largest forest products industry and a vibrant forest-based recreation economy.

For more information, contact Arden Day, a nursery supervisor for all four grade students in the state will be maintained,” DeLong says.

As part of the consolidation effort, the DNR will release a Request for Proposal (RFP) this summer for companies interested in leasing portions of one or more of the state’s nursery properties for reforestation and conservation purposes. DNR expects to maintain offices, storage buildings, and other critical functions at these properties under any potential leasing agreement.

“Our responsibilities are to complement the private sector’s production and to work together to ensure the state’s forests are healthy, strong and sustained for generations to come. Changing landowner objectives and product preferences, economic influences and lack of strong federal cost-share programs have resulted in fewer trees being distributed from the state nursery facilities in recent years,” DeLong said. “Given the important economic, environmental and social benefits all Wisconsinites derive from our forests, it is important that we continue to promote reforestation in the Badger State,” DeLong added.

Lease proposals will be evaluated by a team of DNR and external partners based on whether they meet department needs. The evaluation will develop recommendations on whether to pursue proposals, if any. This step is expected to be completed by July.

“Pruning deciduous trees in general should be avoided in the spring, as this is the time when tree buds and leaves are growing and food reserves are low,” according to Don Kissingier, a DNR urban forester.

Builders and developers also need to be careful, as many home improvements start potentially as early as this fall. However, DNR recommends that you ensure to use the seed mixtures as prescribed on the label.

“Pruning deciduous trees in general should be avoided in the spring, as this is the time when tree buds and leaves are growing and food reserves are low,” according to Don Kissingier, a DNR urban forester.

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DNR is Measuring Winter’s Impact on Deer and Turkey

MADISON – As one of the harsh- est winters on record continues in Wisconsin and other parts of the country, deer and turkey wildlife officials are monitoring its effects on deer and turkey throughout the state.

“We have received some reports of dead deer and turkey, especially in northern Wisconsin where snow is more than 30 inches deep in some areas,” said Tom Hauge, director of the Department of Natural Resources.

Lack of snow in some areas and the warmer-than-normal temperatures have already reached “severe” on the index where snow is more than 30 inches deep in some areas, said Tom Hauge, director of the Department of Natural Resources.

“If we have already reached ‘severe’ on the index where snow is more than 30 inches deep in some areas, we will have a severe winter,” said Hauge.

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**Take Note!**

2014 Spring Hearings, Pages 1, 4 & 5

Warden Wire, Page 6

Annual Meeting, Page 6

Weather Forecasts, Page 7

**Editor D. A. Gries**

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**Individual Membership Application**

Want your voice to be heard on environmental issues? A membership in Wisconsin Wildlife Federation will accomplish just that. Founded in 1940, the W.W.F. is Wisconsin’s oldest citizen-led non-profit conservation organization.

**Join Today! We speak to all outdoors issues.** A membership fee of $25.00 per year also entitles you to a 12 month subscription of Wisconservation, the official publication of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation.

Forward your application & fee to: W.W.F., W7203 County Road CS & Q, Poyntette, WI 53955-6960

Name: ____________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________

City: ____________________________________________

State: __________________ Zip Code: ________________

$25 fee enclosed _________ Master Card/Visa available – 1-800-897-4161

Membership strength increases our voice strength!

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**Wisconsin 2014 Hunter Education Conference May 3rd, 2014**

This conference is open to all active, retired, apprentice, and junior instructors; supports of Hunter Education and their families; Learn to Hunt Mentors; and Department of Natural Resources staff. The conference will be held at a central location in the state at the Holiday Inn & Suites in Rothschild, WI. Address and reservation information follows below.

The conference agenda is posted on the WHEIA website at www.wheia.com

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**Build Your Own Rain Barrel Workshops Presented by Wild Ones**

**Thursday, April 17, 2014 at 5:30PM and Saturday, April 19 & 26, 2014 at 9AM & 10:30AM**

**WILD Center**
2285 W Butte des Morts Beach Rd
Neenah, WI

Facilitator: Rod Sternhagen assisted by Wild Ones
Fox Valley Area volunteers

Cost: $45 Wild Ones member, $50 non-member
(Includes screen-type rain barrel and parts for assembly)

Neenah residents are eligible for a $20 rebate from City of Neenah through their Sustainable Neenah program.

Call 820-730-3986 to pay with credit card or make checks payable to Wild Ones

Mail with pre-registration info by April 15, 2014 to:
Wild Ones – Rain Barrel Workshop
2285 W Butte des Morts Beach Rd
Neenah, WI 54956

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**2014 WWF BANQUET CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dist. 3 North</td>
<td>Black River Falls</td>
<td>Sat. Feb. 22, 2014</td>
<td>Christine Schulte, 715-299-4414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dist. 4 East</td>
<td>La Crosse</td>
<td>Sat. Mar. 1, 2014</td>
<td>Michelle Graff, 608-787-7637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dist. 5 West (Necedah)</td>
<td>Necedah</td>
<td>Sun. Apr. 13, 2014</td>
<td>Doug Grosz, 920-323-7270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dist. 6</td>
<td>La Crosse</td>
<td>Sun. Nov. 2, 2014</td>
<td>Michelle Graff, 608-787-7637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dist. 7</td>
<td>Moreau/Crandon</td>
<td>Sun. Nov. 2, 2014</td>
<td>Dave Moreau, 715-293-5251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dist. 8</td>
<td>Wausau</td>
<td>Fri. March 28, 2014</td>
<td>Jack Nissen, 715-217-1045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dist. 9</td>
<td>Necedah</td>
<td>Fri. March 28, 2014</td>
<td>Janet McLoughlin, 715-217-1045</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Denotes a second session on the same date.

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**March 2014 Calendar Winners**

1. **$100 Cash**
   - Parker Dunnagan, Nekoosa, WI
   - 3849

2. **CZ Redhead 12 ga o/u**
   - Jenny Webber, Elkhorn, WI
   - 2392

3. **$100 Cash**
   - Brian Arsenault, Menomonie, WI
   - 2399

4. **Gander Mountain $100 Card**
   - Sean Nooyen, DePere, WI
   - 1219

5. **$100 Cash**
   - Kevin Smith, Green Bay, WI
   - 8287

6. **2 Adult Weekend Road American tickets**
   - Kevin Smith, Green Bay, WI
   - 8287

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**Wisconsin 2014 Hunter Education Conference May 3rd, 2014**

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**Conference location**: Holiday Inn & Suites, 1000 Imperial Ave, Rothschild, WI 54474

For Reservations: Telephone numbers, 715-355-1111 or 888-272-2792

Ask for Wisconsin Hunter Education code = WWF

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