Greetings and welcome to our first Wisconsin Conservation Leadership Corps (CLC) Newsletter!

Our CLC Executive Committee is very excited to share what we have accomplished this year, as well as our plans for the next few months. We have been quite busy as it is our second year with a committee and we are still building the foundations of what we hope will continue to be a strong program for our future conservation leaders. We are proud to announce that since our establishment in 2013, we have had approximately 40 Wisconsin high school and college students graduate from our conservation leadership program, totaling around 56 by the end of our Annual Meeting this year. Our students have developed and presented (to the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation) roughly 13 resolutions focused on various natural resources topics such as agricultural pollution, implementation of wildlife corridors, and creating “greener” UW campuses. We have had the honor to work with over 13 of the best natural resource professionals in Wisconsin, including our reoccurring speakers for sessions 1 and 2 (Randy Stark, Amber Meyer Smith, Todd Ambs). A special thanks to all of our past and present professionals who have assisted our students in developing their leadership, communication, and resolution development skills! We are truly grateful for the knowledge that you have shared and the time that you have spent with us.

Amongst the excitement of our fourth year as a leadership program, within this newsletter you will find: information on field trips and volunteer activities that CLC members have and will participate in, how our alumni are actively implementing the skills learned in our program to conserve natural resources, our new CLC logo, and so much more! Keep in mind that we are constantly searching for our next group (Year 5: 2017/2018) of young conservationists, and to encourage those that you know to apply to our program (Deadline: May 15th, 2017).

Lastly, thank you for reading, and we look forward to keeping you up to date with all of the important CLC information this upcoming year!

-Molly O’Grady, CLC President
**Meet this year’s newest group of young conservation leaders!** These 14 students will spend this year attending four training sessions and work with natural resource professionals to develop their skills in conservation leadership, policy advocacy/development, and communication. Take a look at their bio’s below!

**Katie Nolan:** Katie is a junior at Northland College and is double majoring in Humanity and Nature Studies and Religion. She is very passionate about the environment, and very interested in Buddhism.

**Lexi Allworden:** Lexi is 17 years old and a senior at Lincoln High School in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin. She joined CLC because she thinks it is very important that we protect and preserve Wisconsin's natural resources.

**Megan Loka:** Megan is a 2016 graduate from Tomahawk High School located in the northwoods of Lincoln County. She hopes to pursue a major in Wildlife Ecology and a minor in Forestry. She is active with the Future Trappers of Wisconsin (FTW), and is the first member of the Youth Delegate on the Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress.

**Michaela MacDonald:** Michaela is a college sophomore at Maranatha Baptist University and is majoring in Business Management and double minoring in Criminal Justice and Spanish. She particularly enjoys fishing and hunting.

**Brittany Lyons:** Brittany is 28 years old and currently a student in the Criminal Justice program at Chippewa Valley Technical College in Eau Claire. She and her husband have two beautiful children. Brittany loves spending as much time as she can in the outdoors.

**Jayden Schmitz:** Jayden is pursuing a degree in Fisheries and Aquatic Resources with a minor in Aquaculture at UW - Stevens Point. He is currently employed with Clean Boats Clean Waters and the Lake Pewaukee Sanitary District. He is passionate about fish, helping release 12 million baby walleye fry in the Pewaukee Lake watershed and river basin.

**Jeff Williams:** is a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and is majoring in Wildlife Ecology. He is the liaison for UWSP’s Wildlife Society, and is the ruffed grouse co-leader of the ruffed grouse research project of the UWSP Wildlife Society.

**Jennifer Pantelious:** Jennifer is a rising sophomore in Beloit College and is planning on declaring a major in Environmental Biology. She has collaborated with the Food & Water Watch organization for the Take Back the Tap campaign last semester to begin the process of banning bottled water from her campus eating facilities.

*Story Continued on Page 3...*
Nicole Loeffler: Nicole is currently a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, majoring in Natural Resource Planning, with a minor in Environmental Education/Interpretation. She wants to help protect and preserve wildlife and wild land before we condemn our future generations to a lifeless world.

Rachel Terracina: Rachel is a junior at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, majoring in biology, with an emphasis in ecology, and minoring in environmental studies. She hopes to be a conservation ecologist, working towards a more sustainable future for our world. This past summer she was employed as a Teacher's Assistant for a Yellowstone travel study course where she watched wolves, bears, and bison.

Ryan Bell: Ryan is an Environmental Geography student at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire. Respect for conservation and preserving wildlife has been strongly emphasized in his family and is practiced through a tradition of visiting wilderness areas, camping, and spending time in nature. He is an Eagle Scout and an active member of the Universities’ Student Office of Sustainability board.

Samantha Wendt: Samantha is a senior at Edgewood College currently seeking a Business Management degree with minors in both Environmental Studies and Psychology. She is also interning at TDS Telecom, as a Revenue Assurance and Internal Controls Intern. She is involved with FairShare CSA Coalition as an Events and Promotions Committee member and the UW Slow Food program.

Sawyer Boldt: Sawyer is a junior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison majoring in wildlife ecology with a certificate in environmental studies. Originally from Sheboygan Falls, he has lived in Wisconsin all his life and has been heavily involved in hunting and fishing across the state. He hopes to work to conserve wildlife and give future generations the opportunity to have the same experiences that he’s had.

Logan Lowery: Logan is a junior at Northland College majoring in sustainable community development with an emphasis on physical development. This past summer he worked at an ethanol plant as an intern in the lab.
Leadership is an activity—not a position. This was one of the first things CLCers learned from Randy Stark and Pat Leavenworth at their first CLC session. Huddled in a conference room at Stevens Point in the early fall of 2016, these students began their journey to learn about leadership in order to exercise leadership in service of conservation and preservation of our natural resources.

Leadership can be exhibited at any time, regardless of the position you hold. Students learned the differences between adaptive and technical work, two methods used for solving problems. Technical work should be employed when the problem and path to the solution are clear. This work is efficient, and done by experts who need to get something done quickly. Adaptive work is used when the solution and problem require learning. Here stakeholders act experimentally to make progress towards complex problems. Being able then to classify a problem accordingly will help students be able to deal with the issue with one of these two works.

During their first session students also learned about the three functions of authority: direction, protection, and order. Authority is important, Stark and Leavenworth explained, but we tend to rely on authority for direction too often. Sometimes people who may not have as much authority can offer great leadership on issues to create effective solutions. They told the students to, “Never underestimate the ability of a small group to make a major change”.

Stark and Leavenworth didn’t shy away from potentially sensitive issues. They had students discuss Colin Kaepernick refusing to stand for the national anthem, because he felt that America was, “a country that oppresses black people and people of color”. Students discussed if the athlete exhibited leadership in this situation.

Additionally students got a chance to practice adaptive leadership. The three key factors in this form of leadership are observe, interpret, and intervene.

Understanding how to deploy adaptive leadership is critical, as the two instructors revealed that through the practice of adaptive leadership, we can solve adaptive challenges. Some of these include population growth, increasing urbanization, and climate change. Instructors challenged this year’s CLCers to think about how to get more inclusive with conservation.

Stark and Leavenworth finished the day by posing this question to the students: if we are to be successful in achieving our purpose, and create real change, what will be happening one year from now that is not happening today?

Special thanks to Randy Stark, Pat Leavenworth, Gary Dieck, and Julie Graziano.
Fall Field Trip Expands Students’ Conservation Knowledge

-Submitted by Marco Masciiti and Michaela Fischer, October 2016

Did you know that waterfowl are the most researched birds in the world? This is one of the many things we learned on the Conservation Leadership Corps fall field trip in November. Friday night we were treated to a presentation from Ron Gatti, a retired DNR biologist who spent his career immersed in waterfowl research and management. Students learned about the various laws, treaties, and regulations that protect waterfowl habitat and populations, including the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the 1986 Waterfowl Management Plan, and the 1989 Conservation Act.

Students learned from Gatti that, “Waterfowl research and management are deeply intertwined.” Students heard about his research on blue-winged teals in Wisconsin, learning that the decline of the waterfowl’s population may be due to raptor predation on female ducks during the mating season.

On Saturday students had the privilege of visiting the Aldo Leopold Foundation, which included a tour and visit to the famous Leopold family shack. Leopold tour guide, Don Nelson, taught students about the history of the property through an interpretive hike.

In 1935 Leopold purchased 80 acres of bare, dead farmed land with little value. Leopold sought to restore the land, and he and his family planted hundreds of red pines and other coniferous trees on the property. Taking the tour Saturday, it was hard to envision the land as a barren wasteland. Today, Leopold’s pines thrive and a restored prairie snakes through the forest.

While touring the shack students could hear the iconic calls of Canada geese and sandhill cranes, in addition to countless other bird species. Leopold possessed an innate ability to merge science and prose and his teachings are timeless for conservationists across the globe. CLC students were pleased and proud to visit the shack and draw inspiration for the future of conservation.

As the day swept into evening, CLCer’s took some time to explore Devil’s lake state park. Some students took to the rocky trails, while others reflected along the clear water, pleasantly reminded of the value of Wisconsin’s priceless public lands.
As a part of our CLC training program, students learn how to stand for conservation issues that they believe in. It is always our hope to teach our students the necessary skills to voice their opinions professionally, as well as how to implement these skills in the real (often times political) world. The following news article is an example of how our CLC Graduates (Alumni) have taken the lessons that they have learned from our program, and utilized them in a real-world situation to stand for conservation issues that they, and many others, feel are important to the future of our natural resources.

Since August 2017, people from around the country have been joining an opposition to the construction of a pipeline that runs a half-mile north of the Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation in North Dakota. The pipeline, Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL), owned by Energy Transfer Partners (ETP) is planned to run under the major drinking water source for the reservation and millions down the Missouri River, the Lake Oahe aquifer. The Army Corps of Civil Engineers, the government agency responsible for permitting, denied granting the easement to construct under the aquifer. However, there are major concerns that this may be dismantled by the new presidential administration and that ETP may disobey laws and construct anyway because of massive private interests in China. The urgency of the matter is fueled by pressure to meet contract deadlines. The major concerns are that this pipeline could leak, poisoning drinking water for millions. Students and community members in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, among others across the world, have stepped up to take action and solidarity with this opposition led by the Standing Rock Sioux Nation.

On Friday November 20th, 2016, Brewster Johnson, CLC Vice President, traveled with other students from Stevens Point and two others from Milwaukee to support the nonviolent indigenous opposition at Standing Rock Indian Reservation. Before leaving, Johnson and his peers contacted a Stevens Point local who had been at the reservation since early September and was advised to pick up about two giant duffle bags full of warm clothes (donations) from a mutual friend in Weston, on the way. About 11 hours later, they arrived at the original of the four camps, Sacred Stone camp. Here, they were greeted by some folks from Colorado who told them everything necessary to get settled adequately and to start helping immediately. They dropped off donations, set up camp, went to what is known as “legal tent,” where a team of lawyers do everything possible to prepare you for protecting your rights. They helped split some wood for the medic tent nearby, and then got some chili at one of the many community kitchens.

The next morning they attended orientation, which was meant to inform you of and clarify the mission purpose and intent, the cultural importance, culturally acceptable behaviors, and the wherewithal to be an effective native water protector or non-native water protector ally. From here, there was action training, an opportunity to become trained in how to be effective, non-violent, and smart during actions. For the next few days, they jumped in to help on miscellaneous tasks such as helping in the kitchen, splitting and sawing wood, building structures, teaching others, going to actions, and a lot more. Johnson and his peers reported that there was a lot of cultural tension and communication struggles throughout the camps, partially because the militarized police for using a machine that scatters cellphone signals, making communication difficult. They left on about the 22nd and were on the bridge where hundreds of water protectors were to get hypothermia from water cannons only about an hour later in a nonviolent action. Johnson said that he intended to learn a lot about the cultural, environmental, and economical information, but left with a deep new perspective and morality.
On December 19th, the City of Stevens Point common council adopted a resolution written by Brewster Johnson and his peers that had the city pledge to “actively oppose the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline through the sacred grounds of the Standing Rock Sioux Nation by directing its citizens to the resources necessary to be an empowered supporter of the indigenous opposition whenever possible.” This resolution passed with seven of the eleven alderpersons voting it into adoption. Some alderpersons and community members showed discontent with this decision because, as one alderperson said, “this is the wrong venue to do something like this, even though everybody’s getting a warm, fuzzy feeling that they did something good.” Some disliked the strong language, “actively oppose” because they thought this meant the city was required to spend resources opposing the pipeline construction. However, the resolution is not legally binding, the entire resolution and resource page was assembled by citizen volunteers, meaning the city has only spent about ten minutes discussing the matter and ten cents printing out and signing the resolution. Other folks agreed with the alderwoman who said “They’re desecrating sacred lands, places people have held sacred for thousands of years. As a community … with a lot of environmental awareness, with our College of Natural Resources, this is the least we can do.” This is one of many grassroots actions that have been taken in Wisconsin to stand in solidarity with the opposition.

CLC President, Molly O’Grady, visited the Standing Rock Reservation/ NoDAPL resistance throughout the week of Thanksgiving, Nov. 2016. She stated that, “First and foremost, I do not speak for any Native people or for anyone else that has attended Standing Rock. What is stated here is purely my perspective and observations from visiting the movement.

It is very important to note that what we are seeing in the mainstream media is only a very small portion of what is actually occurring here. Most of what is being relayed to the public has to do with the “actions” that are taking place between the water protectors and law enforcement, and they are often only relayed when violence ensues (i.e. women, elders, and children getting attacked by canines). It has been a struggle to get any other information out as the tribal leaders here have literally been told by major news outlets that they “do not have a story” and by this they explain that “there is not a story unless there is some type of drama, or violence that occurs”. I think that we saw this plain as day when the young, unarmed white woman’s (water protector’s) arm was basically blown off by law enforcement during the Nov. 20th action, and then we actually started to hear a lot more about Standing Rock and the NoDAPL issue in the mainstream media.

What you do not see, and what isn’t being publicized is that from the moment you enter these camps you are not only on sacred land, but you are entering in to Native spiritual ceremony that is occurring 24 hours a day. This movement is grounded in peaceful prayer and ceremony lead by a very level headed council of elders (men and women) who have an extremely strong interest in keeping this movement non-violent and rooted in ceremony. It seems to me that they want what most of us want, for their voices to be heard but also for their treaties to be honored. Most importantly, they want to make sure that their children are taken care of and that there is proper, adequate, clean natural resources available for their children and the next 7 generations to come. We all need water to survive, and so will all of our children that follow in our footsteps. They are not only promoting clean water, but also the movement from fossil fuels to more sustainable forms of energy such as solar power. We can start now, as other countries have, and start to conserve the future of our natural resources for our children.

In regards to the CLC, I reflect on the field trip that one of our Native students set up for us at the Lac du Flambeau reservation. I see so many similarities between what we learned there and what is occurring here, yet so many differences. On the field trip (Nov. 2015), we learned a lot about management of tribal resources, how that has been affected by treaties, and the spiritual connection that Native people have intertwined with their environment. Coming out of this (Standing Rock), I once again realize that I know very little about the true history of Native American people and their relationship with the government, especially in relation to treaties; how they have been broken and disregarded by the government and how this has affected these individuals abilities to utilize their natural resources. Our climate is in a dire state at the moment, and we need to learn to work together and respect one another so that we can work on these issues together. Mni Wiconi- Water is Life.”

Stay Updated about Standing Rock: http://standwithstandingrock.net/
Learning the Art of Persuasion


The students met for their second CLC session, ready to learn the art of persuasion. They learned how to effectively communicate with policy makers, learning tips from experts Amber Meyer Smith and Todd Ambs. Amber and Todd taught students that effective policy persuasion should involve stories to help emotionally connect people with your cause.

Throughout the day students learned the importance of doing their homework. Todd and Amber recommended knowing as much as possible about your issue, that way you can anticipate questions they may ask and come off as more credible. Students were also advised to be patient and flexible. People working in the government are very busy, from local to national level. Don’t be surprised if they can only listen to you for 20 minutes.

One idea that was hammered home was to tell the truth. You can spend your career earning someone’s trust, and one lie can destroy all of your credibility. If you don’t know an answer, the two speakers advised admitting to it, and offering to look up the answer for the government official.

Students were also encouraged to keep it simple. That is—don’t make your request too complicated. As mentioned before, you want to be very educated on the issue you are talking about. However, the level of knowledge your government official will have may vary. Don’t assume they are experts. Legislators and their staff are busy people and will appreciate a concise summary of your request.

CLCers also were advised to take your friends where you find them. In politics, a friend is someone who will help you when you need help—whether they are a Democrat or Republican, liberal or conservative. Never “burn your bridges”, as your opponent today may be your ally tomorrow.

Students also learned to know their opponents and figure out why they believe what they do. Additionally Amber and Todd told students to think big but be realistic. Always ask for more than you think you can get, understanding that the legislative process is one of compromise. Students also discovered the importance of building coalitions, and working at the local level.

After a long day of learning these helpful tips, students got a chance to role play some real life scenarios! They all were assigned specific stakeholder roles, and got to model a senate hearing, which will be very helpful when students are ready to present their resolutions later in the year.

Speaking of resolutions, students selected their topics for session three. Among the topics selected include recycling, solar technology on agricultural lands, and green technology in households, and focus on hunter/angler education for urban youth. A more thorough report of these resolutions will be detailed in our next newsletter, so stay tuned!
We’re Officially Branded!

Our New CLC Logo

-Submitted by Molly O’Grady and Kayla Smith, Jan. 2017

The CLC is extremely excited to unveil our new CLC logo! We would like to give a special ‘Shout Out’ to our logo designer, Kayla Smith, sister of CLC Year 1’s Amanda Smith. She has done a fantastic job creating the CLC logo, and providing the CLC with an array of graphics for business cards, merchandise, letterheads, and so much more. Thank you so much Kayla!

CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP CORPS

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“We are currently pursuing a degree in Graphic Design and Interactive Media with Business Administration minor at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. I plan to graduate in the Spring of 2018 and after that I am open to any opportunity that comes my way. I am passionate about creating identities and giving people, and causes, a voice.

My sister and member of CLC, Amanda Smith, mentioned that the organization was in need of a new logo. I was currently working on an identity project for school and I thought this would be a great opportunity to help promote conservation. It is truly an honor to work with an organization such as CLC, and I hope to be designing for other causes I am passionate about in the future!”—Kayla Smith, kaymae4344@gmail.com

Where are They (Alumni) Now?

CLC Alumni Highlight: Amanda Smith

--Submitted by Brewster Johnson, Michaela Fisher, Amanda Smith, Jan. 2017

Amanda is from North Hudson, Wisconsin, and enjoyed growing up along the St. Croix River. She is an avid fisherman, cook, and Green Bay Packer lover. Amanda graduated with a B.S. in Environmental Science at the University of Wisconsin-Stout in 2015, and is now a Water Resources Management M.S. student through the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The Water Resources Management (WRM) Master's degree program is a collaborative and interdisciplinary graduate program in the Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The program prepares students for lifelong careers as water resources management professionals.

The capstone of the WRM program is the summer practicum. Since the 1970's, this practicum, or workshop, has served as an interactive and immersive experience for the program's students. It focuses on current issues in Wisconsin water resources management.

The program is non-traditional because she works with 9 other students on an applied research project. They were tasked by the City of Middleton (a city just West of Madison), to conduct a comprehensive watershed assessment of Stricker's Pond, a natural kettle pond about 20 acres in size. This year Amanda is serving as a WWF Board Member. Currently, she is wrapping up her last semester at UW-Madison working as a Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Biology. She is also applying to jobs and is particularly interested in working in tribal natural resources.
Developing CLC Programs Across the Nation: Minnesota CLC

-Submitted by Monica Banaszak and Elsa Litecky, Dec 2016

Wisconsin Conservation Leadership Corps Class 1 graduate, Elsa Litecky, has been working hard on getting the ball rolling as Coordinator of the Minnesota CLC. Class 1 of the Minnesota CLC ended 2016 with their first couple of sessions completed. Session 1, held October 2016, had the theme of “Leadership.” The session was led by Erika Rivers, Director of the Parks and Trails Division of the MN Department of Natural Resources, along with Nell Holden, the Program Director for Wilderness Inquiry. Students participated in leadership and team-building activities. Activities included getting to know each other, such as discussing their strengths and what ignites their drive in the conservation field.

Session 2, held November 2016, had the theme of “Policy and Communication.” This session was led by Ted Suss, Executive Director of the Friends of the Minnesota Valley, Rylee Main, Executive of the Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance, and Gary Botzek, Executive Director of the MN Conservation Federation. The class role-played as various stakeholders such as farmers and government employees from the Twin Cities. The focal points were buffer width and the sedimentation occurring in Lake Pepin.

The students met in small groups with legislators. Following this they presented testimonies at a hearing on the issue of enforcing buffer laws in Minnesota. After all their hard work the students gained valuable insight and a fresh understanding about different stakeholders they will encounter in their future careers. At the end of the session, students picked important topics relative to Minnesota to write their resolutions on. The topics that were chosen are: Climate Change Effects on Northern Forests, Renewable Energy in MN, and Protecting Bees in MN.

In February, students will meet with an expert on their topic and begin writing a resolution as a team. Until then the class will be researching their topic. The resolutions will be presented at their final meeting at the Minnesota CLC quarterly meeting in March, which is when graduation from the program will occur. Congratulations to the Minnesota CLC on their first successful year!

Apply to the MN Conservation Leadership Corps:
http://mncf.org/blog/conservation-leadership-corps/
Interested in being a leader in conservation?

Interested in having your voice heard on conservation issues by Wisconsin and National policymakers?

The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation has created a Conservation Leadership Training Program just for you!

The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF) is in the process of completing its fourth year as an exciting program to assist in the development of future conservation leaders in Wisconsin, known as the Wisconsin Conservation Leadership Corps. (CLC). WWF has based the CLC on a highly successful and similar project developed by the Conservation Federation of Missouri, our counterpart organization.

The CLC is designed to provide expert training for seniors in high school along with college freshmen, sophomores and juniors to develop leadership skills and techniques to allow students the ability to analyze as well as develop conservation policies in his or her subject of interest. Students involved will also gain experience advocating their conservation resolutions at the Annual Meeting for WWF. Successfully written and presented conservation resolutions may be adopted by WWF to serve as official policies.

Training will be provided by current and former natural resource professionals in both public, non-profit as well as private sectors. Students will be presented with real-world experience and will receive feedback from professionals with the conservation policy process. Such interactions will be valuable to participants in relation to school success, future career aspirations, and involvement in organizations.

It is anticipated that the program will take place during the 2017-2018 academic year. Events will be scheduled for four weekends throughout the year. Conservation resolution presentations conducted by those involved would be made at the Annual Meeting of the Wildlife Federation in April 2018. Selected CLC candidates are encouraged to attend three of the four events. All expenses encountered while participating in the CLC program will be covered by WWF. At the successful completion of the year, each participant will receive a Certificate of Accomplishment for the training program, a letter of commendation for their resume portfolio and a $250 scholarship to advance their continuing education.

Interested CLC candidates should fill out the application on this page and send it to the CLC Coordinator, at CLC.WWF.Coordinator@gmail.com by May 15th, 2017. Candidates will be selected by June 15th, 2017. All applicants will be notified of the results. More detailed information on the program will be provided to those selected over the 2017 summer.
The deadline date for applications is May 15th, 2017.

Please answer the following questions and limit your response to TWO pages in length.

1. What is your personal and professional interest in conservation?

2. What would you say are the high points in your life related to conservation, either from an educational, personal, or organizational standpoint?

3. Why do you want to be a member of the Conservation Leadership Corps with the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation? What would you like to get out of the experience?

4. Why is the concept of a Wisconsin Conservation Leadership Corps important?

5. What role do you see conservation organizations have in the future of conservation in Wisconsin?

6. Will you be willing and able to attend a majority of the training sessions?

**Background and Contact Information - Please include this information as part of your application:**

Name: ____________________________

Street Address: ____________________________

City, State and Zip Code: ____________________________

Email Address: ____________________________

Telephone Number: ____________________________

Present School: ____________________________

Year in School (please specify whether high school or college): ____________________________

Please include a name and contact information for a reference related to your conservation interest.

The reference can be a parent, teacher or other adult that you have had contact with related to conservation. The reference is a very important part of the application.

Applications, preferably electronically, should be submitted to WWF Leadership Corps Coordinator, at CLC.WWF.Coordinator@gmail.com or sent through mail to the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, 213 N Main Street, Suite 100, PO Box 460, Poynette, WI 53955-0460. The Deadline is MAY 15th, 2017.
President: Molly O’Grady is from Chicago, IL. She is the current President of Conservation Leadership Corps (CLC), has served as the CLC Coordinator for the second year of the program, as well as one of the first students to graduate the program in its founding year (2013-2014). She graduated with a Bachelors of Science Degree majoring in Wildlife Ecology (Research and Management) from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 2015. Since graduating, she has served as a Biological Technician for the Hawaii VINE Project (Oahu, HI) studying seed dispersal for native and non-native species, and currently serves as an intern for the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. Molly is working toward a career that focuses on threatened and endangered species (animals and plants), and is interested in learning how native and indigenous peoples/cultures are affected by their natural resources.

Vice President: Brewster Johnson- I’m a scientist and a problem solver, an early adopter and an ambitious role model of leadership for my peers. I graduated from the CLC session 3 and wrote my final resolution for the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation on non non-point source pollution. I’m graduating with my B.S. in Natural Resource Planning with an emphasis in Social and Policy Sciences with a minor in Soil Science and Sustainable Energy. On campus, I’m president of a student organization, Land Conservation Society, that is dedicated to the protection of wild and working lands through the power of land trusts. I am an avid user of GIS software to solve natural resource issues with social science dimensions. Using my variety of experience in natural resources and organization development, I hope to contribute to setting a strong foundation for Conservation Leadership Corps and continue my involvement as an alumni and as a professional in my field.

CLC Coordinator: Danielle Browne- Hello friends of nature! I graduated the CLC program in 2014. I was a part of the first CLC class and have been an active member ever since. I graduated from Northland College in 2015 with a Bachelor’s degree in Natural Resources and Biology. I spent last year as a National Park intern through a Student Conservation Association program. I highly recommend taking on an internship through this organization because I learned A LOT! I have also worked several jobs, internships and volunteered during my high school and college years. Therefore, my background is very extensive. Currently, I am employed with an environmental consulting firm in WI as an Environmental Specialist in addition to my coordinator position with CLC.

Program Director: Marco Mascitti- I am a graduate of UW-Stevens Point with a degree in Wildlife Ecology and Management, and a minor in Biology. My wildlife experience ranges from capturing deer and squirrels in UWSP’s Schmeeckle Reserve to studying and managing black bears in northeast New Mexico. Currently I am employed by the Humane Society of Portage County as a Humane Officer, working with animals daily and educating the public about responsible pet ownership. I am a CLC 3 graduate and helped write a resolution about turtle conservation pertaining to road mortality. I am a strong supporter of science-based management and am passionate about habitat conservation for wildlife and public engagement such as environmental education and fundraising.

*Story Continued on Page 3…*
Meet the CLC Executive Committee

Secretary: Monica Banaszak is from Chicago, IL. Monica is currently the Conservation Leadership Corps Secretary. She is a graduate from CLC Class 2 and in addition to being the CLC Secretary she is also an Associate Director for the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and serves on their Wildlife and Education Committees. Her Bachelor’s degree is in progress. She is pursuing a career in captive wildlife and looks to educate people about the environment and wildlife conservation.

Publicist: Michaela Fisher is originally from Albany, NY and currently attends Northland College in Ashland, WI. She is getting her degree in natural resources with a wildlife and fisheries emphasis. She graduated with the CLC 3rd generation and wrote her resolution on the need of getting children in urban environments exposed to the natural world. Michaela is currently working on publishing her 3 year study on gray foxes.

Treasurer: Janel Scharhag is the current treasurer of the Conservation Leadership Corps. She is a recent graduate of the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point’s Wildlife program. A member of CLC 3 class, Janel strongly believes in the mission of the Conservation Leadership Corps and became the treasurer to continue furthering its important mission. Professionally, Janel worked for the United States Forest Service and the National Park service as a wildlife technician for 5 seasons.

In Fall of 2017, she will be continuing her education by pursuing a Master’s degree in Wildlife Human Dimensions at UWSP. Her project will be analyzing metrics involved in non-fatal bear attacks with the goal of creating a risk management model to be used by wildlife professionals. Janel is most passionate about protecting the nations access to clean renewable resources, managing human and wildlife shared needs, environmental ethics, and nuisance animal management. In her free time, she loves to go on long-distance backpacking trips, fish Wisconsin’s lakes and streams, and take hikes with her dog.

Treasurer’s Report

As of Dec, 31st, 2016, the Conservation Leadership Corps bank account balance is $3,109.74. Money in this account can be used for additional CLC field trips, Mentor Awards, fundraising events, additional travel, and any other needs that meet the necessary requirements. It is not used for current CLC class expenses as the WWF covers all costs of the CLC sessions and one field trip per year.

Our largest fundraiser this year was the 2016 Wisconsin Wildlife Federations annual meeting raffle. We raffled a hand-made fishing pole, donated by former treasurer Andre Virden, and an engraved rifle donated by George Meyer. We would like to thank everyone who donated and purchased tickets in this raffle. We raised $2,245 during this event! We have more fundraising events planned for this year, stay tuned for more great ways to support the Conservation Leadership corps.

Would you like to become a member of the CLC Executive Committee?

If you are a current CLC Student or Alumni, you can apply for a 2017 Executive Committee position at our Annual Meeting, April 21st, 2017. If you cannot make the meeting, please send your material to CLC President, Molly O’Grady, by April 19th, 2017.
Contact Us

CLC Coordinator:
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Calendar of Events

CLC Session 3: Resolution Development
February 17th and 18th, 2017
Central Wisconsin Environmental Station,
Amherst Junction, WI

CLC Volunteer and Education Outing
April 1st, 2017 (10am-5pm)
Stevens Point, WI
(Contact Marco ASAP to attend, 10 person limit)

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet & CLC Resolution Presentation/Graduation
April 21st-23rd, 2017
Hotel Mead, Wisconsin Rapids, WI
(Contact Molly by March 17th to attend)

The CLC is made possible by generous funding from the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, the National Wildlife Federation, the Izaak Walton League, and those that donate to our annual auction. We are always looking for ways to Fund the Conservation Leadership Program. If you have any ideas or are interesting in donating, please email our Treasurer, Janel Scharhag, at jscharhag@hotmail.com.