

Wisconsin Conservation



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Wildlife

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Conservation

Deer Research Effort Volunteers Needed

DNR Deer Research Effort to Begin in Shawano and Rusk County Areas

MADISON – Citizens within roughly 30 miles of Clintonville in Shawano, Waupaca and Outagamie counties and parts of Menominee County and in the area of Park Falls, Exeland and Winter in Price, Rusk and Sawyer counties soon may witness something never seen before in Wisconsin; a low-flying helicopter ranging through the skies with a live deer slung underneath. The event is the first stage of a multi-year effort by wildlife researchers to follow and document the causes of death in bucks, does and fawns due to predators, hunters, vehicles and natural events.

Flights are expected to take place beginning Jan. 21 in the Shawano County area and Jan 28 in the Rusk County area. Operations in each area are expected to last 4 to 5 days and will take place on public and privately owned lands in cooperation with landowners who are assisting the researchers.

Researchers will capture 60–90 adult deer each in the Shawano and Rusk County areas with nets from a helicopter, transport each deer to a processing area where scientists, biologists and volunteers will weigh, sex, age, take blood samples, install radio transmitters and ear tags, assess body condition and perform ultrasounds, and release the deer. Radio transmitters will allow deer to be monitored until the deer dies. Bucks will be monitored mainly for cause of death. Does will be monitored for cause of death and whether or not they deliver fawns.

Flights will take place during late January/early February in 2011 through 2014. Deer will also be captured with box traps and netted cage traps set out on cooperating landowner properties and monitored by field staff and volunteers.

During mid-May through mid-June of 2011 and 2012, scientists, biologists and volunteers will capture and put radio collars on 40 fawns each in the Shawano and Rusk County areas and subsequently monitor each fawn for cause of death during their first year until the radio collar falls off as it is designed to do as the animal approaches its first birthday.

“Critical to the success of this effort are landowners in the study areas willing to allow us to capture deer on their properties and volunteers to help us process deer and monitor them through the seasons,” said Chris Jacques, DNR research scientist and lead researcher for this project.

Volunteers can sign up on a DNR website.

“This is a multi year effort and we will need volunteers throughout the project,” adds Jacques. “This is an opportunity to literally do hands-on research with deer. It’s a real boots on the ground effort. Volunteers are needed to accompany biologists and assist in processing captured deer and in monitoring survival and movements of marked deer. We’re telling folks that we’d like at least a full day of their time each time they participate on deer capture events. You’ll probably come home cold, tired and dirty but you’ll be making a real contribution to our knowledge of white-tails in Wisconsin and helping to support science-based wildlife management.”

Research partners include the Department of Natural Re-

sources, UW-Madison-Department of Forestry and Wildlife Ecology, UW’s Applied Population Laboratory, UW-Stevens Point, Wisconsin Conservation Congress and Whitetails Unlimited, AFL-CIO, Union Sportsmen’s Alliance, Safari Club International, Menn Law Firm, Ltd., and numerous Wisconsin citizens.

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Deer Research Effort Volunteers Needed!!!

Executive Director Activity

WWF Testimony on Brown County Wetland Deregulation Bill

Chairman Mursau, Members of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee. My name is Don Hammes from Middleton, Wisconsin. I am a member of the Board of Directors and Chairman of the Wetlands Committee of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. The Federation is comprised of 160 hunting, fishing, trapping and forestry groups located throughout Wisconsin including several conservation organizations in Brown County. Thank you for the opportunity to testify here today on Assembly Bill 10, which exempts certain wetlands from wetland protection regulations in Brown County. Our testimony is in opposition to the bill because of the adverse effect the proposal will have on fish and wildlife habitat in Brown County.

Assembly Bill 10 was drafted for the purposes of allowing the placement of fill in 1.65 acres of wetlands near the intersection of Highway 41 and Lombardi Avenue in Ashwaubenon, Wisconsin. However, AB 10 as drafted will have far greater impact on wetlands in the county because it would remove from DNR wetlands jurisdiction any wetland less than 3 acres in size if a municipality zones the property business and adopts a TIF District for the property. There are well over 1000 acres of such wetlands, three acres or less in size in Brown County that could be subject to development. The bill as drafted would apply to "isolated" non-federal wetlands and also to federally-regulated wetlands that includes wetlands adjacent to or in lakes and streams in the county. As drafted, the bill would also exempt such wetlands from Chap-

ter 30 jurisdiction which would allow a developer to fill in up to three acres of wetlands in navigable streams and lakes in the county. The bill as drafted would have a substantial adverse impact on fish and wildlife habitat including habitat used for migratory waterfowl.

The Federation is also concerned that the bill exempting many wetlands from wetland, lake and stream protection in Brown County would serve as a model and precedent for removing protection from wetlands, streams and lakes in other counties. This would obviously greatly expand the potential for wetland loss in the state.

The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation has been authorized to indicate that the following organizations all join in this testimony and oppose AB 10: **the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association, the La Crosse County Conservation Alliance, the Dane County Conservation League, the Green Bay Duck Hunters Association, the Brown County Conservation Alliance, the Green Bay Area Great Lakes Sports Fishermen, the Clean Water Action Council and the Wisconsin Trappers Association.**

On behalf of the Federation and the listed groups, thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Assembly Natural Resources Committee.

Submitted by:
Don Hammes
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

January 26, 2011



WWF Testimony to NRB Board on the Hall Deer Farm Fence Removal

Chairman Ela, Members of the Natural Resources Board, Secretary Stepp, my name is Ralph Fritsch and I am Chair of the Wildlife Committee of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. I am also specifically representing one of our 160 club affiliates here today, the Almond Rod and Gun Club which is very close to the Hall Deer Farm.

Before I talk about the Hall Deer Farm Fence, I would like to thank you for the seminar that you hosted yesterday on the use of lead in firearm ammunition and fishing tackle. We had four of our Board members present and we definitely will be taking that information back to our full Board of Directors. But now onto business.

The most important number facing deer hunters today in Portage County and throughout Central Wisconsin is 94. And the reason is, that is the number of days before the fence surrounding the Hall Deer Farm can legally be taken down by Stan Hall. This will allow free ranging white tail deer to wander through the former deer farm, which was the most highly contaminated CWD site in the world. The Federation knows that there was a cleanup effort on the farm but we have asked all the agency experts and no one will guarantee that there is not residual prion contamination on the property which can infest the Central

Wisconsin deer herd.

We have appeared before this Board several times asking that the Department take action to assure that the fence remains firmly closed. We have had DNR, and state and federal Department of Agriculture staff repeatedly to our Wildlife Committee meetings and there are no assurances that the wild deer herd will not be infested with CWD.

Now we know that the Department may not be able to publicly discuss this matter. But please remember that the sportsmen and women in Central Wisconsin are greatly concerned that there are only 94 days left. We know that litigation or purchase may not be cheap but we all know too well the high financial costs and the high frustration of hunters that will result if the deer herd in Portage County becomes contaminated with CWD.

The Federation just wants you to know that you have our expectations and support for taking definitive action in the next 94 days to resolve this issue.

Thank you for your attention and efforts in this matter.

Ralph Fritsch, Chair
Wildlife Committee
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

January 26, 2011

President's Report

Vol. II Part VIII

I hope this winter is treating you all well so far this year. Early ice has provided some great ice fishing opportunities all winter.

Mark your calendars for the WWF 2011 Annual Meeting. This year's meeting will be April 8th, 9th and 10th 2011 in Stevens Point, WI at the Ramada Inn. Plans again this year will include the very popular breakout sessions, committee reports, a fine dinner and of course our annual Awards Program. Each club that has membership with the WWF is entitled to send at least 2 delegates to represent them at the meeting as well as the voting on resolutions. All clubs and past delegates will soon receive Annual Meeting Registration Announcements and registration form in the mail. I encourage all clubs to send at least one representative to participate this year.

We welcome the new DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp. Cathy is a former Natural Resources Board Member serving on that board from 1998-2002. We also welcome Deputy Secretary Matt Maroney and the Executive Assistant Scott Gunderson. I look forward to working with the new team over at the DNR. Scott Gunderson has already contacted me to sit down and talk about the WWF's goals and agenda.

It's also banquet season. Check out the back page of this paper and plan to support the WWF and attend a banquet in your area.

Also a big thank you to all 2011 calendar sellers; it's your efforts that continue to make the calendar program successful!

WWF President,
Jack Nissen

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President Jack Nissen, 1811 Ottawa Ave., Dousman, WI 53118, (262) 965-3359. Email: countyhighway@yahoo.com

First Vice President Chuck Matyska, Route 1 5055 Cty V, Cecil, WI 54111, (715) 745-6382. Email: mmatyska@yahoo.com

Second Vice President John Wagner, 722A S Silver Lake St., Oconomowoc, WI 53066, (262) 560-1230. Email: ext2022@sbc.global.net

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Treasurer Larry Laehn, 9536 N. State Road 26, Milton, WI 53563, (920) 540-9927. Email: btiwi@netzero.net

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George Meyer, 201 Randolph Dr., Madison, WI 53717, (608) 516-5545. Email: georgemeyer@tds.net

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Jim Weishan, Wabeno, WI, (715) 473-6013.

WWF OFFICE PHONE:
800-897-4161 - Toll Free
FAX 608-635-2743

WEB PAGE ADDRESS:
www.wiwi.org

N.W.F. REGIONAL REP

Jason Dinsmore, 213 W Liberty, Suite 200, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. Office: (734) 887-7112. Phone: (517) 204-8962. Email: dinsmorej@nwf.org.

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WISCONSERVATION EDITOR
Daniel A. Gries
Phone: (920) 725-4092
Fax (920) 725-0013
wwfedt@att.net

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Ralph Fritsch
(715) 850-2456

2011 Calendar Sales Persons and Locations

The W.W.F. Board of Directors encourages support of the fine businesses identified within.

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Leftover Spring Turkey Permits go on Sale March 21

MADISON – Remaining permits for the 2011 spring turkey hunting season will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis starting March 21. Leftover permits will be first issued for sale by zone, one zone per day, with each zone having a designated sales date.

In total, 225,729 permits were available for the spring 2011 turkey season. More than 145,500 permits were issued to hunters who applied for permits by the Dec. 10, 2010 application deadline, leaving just more than 80,000 permits available after the drawing.

Hunters should check the turkey zone map (pdf) to verify where they want to hunt and then check the turkey permit availability page to see if permits are available for the period and zone in which they wish to hunt.

Leftover spring turkey permit sales will be held on a zone-per-day basis for five con-

secutive days, with customers able to purchase one permit per day. Sales will start at 10:00 a.m. on March 21 and will continue through midnight each day, or until permits are sold out. Any remaining leftover permits for all zones will go on sale Saturday, March 26, and will continue until sold out or the season ends.

The following zones have leftover permits, and the scheduled sales dates are as follows:

- Zone 1 – Monday, March 21
- Zone 2 – Tuesday, March 22
- Zone 3 – Wednesday, March 23
- Zone 4 – Thursday, March 24
- Zones 5 & 6 – Friday, March 25 (due to the low number of permits left in these units, the sale has been combined into one day)
- There are no leftover permits available for Zone 7 after the initial drawing. There are also no leftover permits for time

periods A or B in the other zones.

A limited number of disabled-only turkey permits for state park areas is available among the leftover permits. Disabled hunters who have been issued either a Class A or Class C Disabled Hunter Permit should visit a DNR Service Center or call the DNR Customer Call Center at 1-888-WDNRINFO (1-888-936-7463) beginning on March 21st after 10:00 a.m. to purchase one of these permits.

The fee for turkey permits is \$10 for residents and \$15 for non-residents. All hunters will also be required to purchase a spring turkey license and 2011 Wild Turkey Stamp, unless they have previously purchased the license and stamp or are a 2011 Conservation Patron License holder. Residents and non-residents will have equal opportunity to purchase over-the-counter permits. Purchasing these permits will not affect preference point status for

future spring or fall turkey permit drawings.

Leftover permits can be purchased through the Online Licensing Center on the DNR website, at all authorized license agents, at DNR Service Centers (Hours for service centers vary; check the DNR website for service center days and hours of operation; DNR Service Centers are not open on Saturdays), or by calling toll-free 1-877-LICENSE (1-877-945-4236). Hunters should have their DNR customer ID number ready. Hunters with any questions about when or how to buy permits may call the DNR Customer Call Center from 7 a.m. through 10 p.m., seven days a week, at 1-888-WDNRINFO (1-888-936-7463).

As a reminder, the spring 2011 turkey hunting season will run from April 13 through May 22. The season is divided into six, 5-day time periods, each of which runs from Wednesday through Sunday.

OFFICIAL CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS!

For presentation at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation.

What is a resolution?

- A formal, written motion which follows a specific format.

Why submit a resolution?

- To set a course of action for the WWF Board of Directors to follow.
- To set and express an opinion of the WWF.

Who can submit a resolution?

- Any affiliate organization of WWF, regardless of size.
- Any member of the WWF Board of Directors.
- Any individual associate or sustaining member – please contact an Associate Director or District Director to submit it on your behalf.

How should a resolution be submitted?

- Typed on official organization letterhead preferred.
- Signed by the author and/or officer of the submitting organization.
- Mailed to the WWF office.
- Postmarked no later than March 10, 2011.

What topics should resolutions deal with?

- Issues pertaining to natural resources and their management or the environment.
- Issues of importance to the entire state.

Mail your resolutions to:

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
W7303 Cty Hwy CS
Poynette, WI 53955

Contact the office for additional information or for specific writing format guidelines.
 (800) 897-4161

Conservation Achievement Awards Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

W7303 County Hwy. CS
 Poynette, WI 53955

OFFICIAL NOMINATION APPLICATION

The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation invites you to nominate a person or group who has shown outstanding conservation effort and achievement in any of the categories listed. To make a nomination, send one copy of this form and a copy of a résumé. Attach all supporting documents and send to the above address. Deadline for receiving nominations is March 7, 2011.

Name of Nominee _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Award Nominated For _____

(For each nomination you must use a separate form. Please specify one of the categories for which the nomination is made.)

Nomination Made By (Name) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Please Note Following Instructions:

1. Please read the general rules carefully.
2. Follow the outline covering the category for which the nomination is being made.
3. Attach typewritten copy of a résumé of achievements.
4. Include organizational memberships, affiliations, past achievements for which nomination is based on.

Associate Membership and Affiliate Clubs

The Federation's Awards Committee solicits/invites your participation to nominate person(s) and organizations for the 2011 W.W.F. Conservation Achievement Awards Program!



CONSERVATION LEGISLATOR

For outstanding legislative accomplishment during the past year which has made a significant contribution to the preservation and management of our state's natural resources.



YOUTH CONSERVATIONIST
For the outstanding conservation effort by a person who did not attain the age of 19 during the past year – Youth groups acting together in a conservation program are also eligible. The winner should have demonstrated ability, leadership, and accomplishment in any phase of conservation, either individually or as a group.

2114 Notice

WILDLIFE CONSERVATIONIST
For outstanding accomplishment in making a significant contribution to the management and/or restoration of wildlife resources in Wisconsin during the past year.

CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION
For the outstanding contribution to the conservation effort by an organization in the state during the past year. Statewide or local bona fide organizations including sportsmen's clubs, civic organizations, etc., are eligible. Recipient should have demonstrated keen interest in projects and programs within the state which deal with basic and serious natural resource problems and have evolved an action program stemming from that interest.

CONSERVATION EDUCATOR
For the outstanding effort in conservation education in the state during the past year. The recipient should have accomplished and demonstrated recognized education methods directed toward the use or conservation of natural resources.

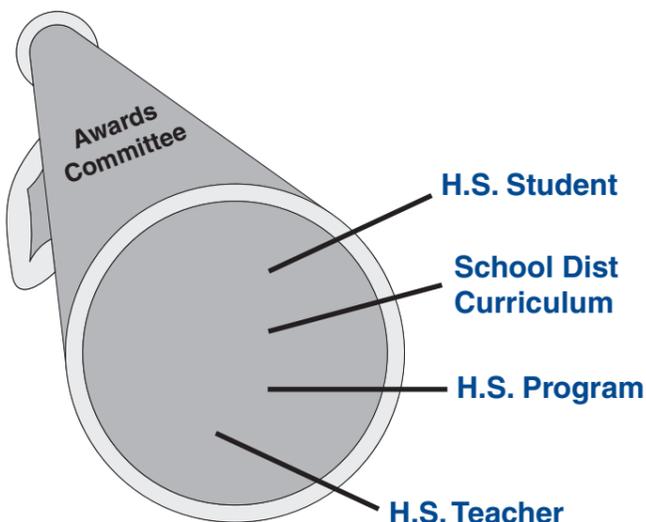


SOIL, AIR, AND WATER CONSERVATIONIST (3 categories)
For outstanding contribution to the conservation of our soil, air, or water during the past year. Recipient could be a landowner, administrator, or technician involved with such things as small watershed development, approved soil conservation measures, wetlands or estuarine conservation, wild river protection, establishment of air or water quality standards, control of specific air or water pollution problems, etc.

FOREST CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR
For outstanding effort in forest conservation during the past year. Eligible areas of effort include tree planting, timber stand improvement, and other forest management practices with emphasis on the development of multiple-use programs on forest lands.



**Deserving persons' unselfish achievements should be appropriately recognized



WARDEN OF THE YEAR
For outstanding efforts within the community on environmental and conservation issues, habitat restructuring and wise use of our natural resources.

CONSERVATION COMMUNICATOR
For the outstanding conservation effort by a person, newspaper, magazine, radio station, or television station in the state during the past year. Recipient of this award may be any recognized communication medium within the state. A person, organization, or group which has accomplished the most in creating a public awareness of the importance of natural resource conservation.

CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR
For the outstanding overall conservation effort and achievement in any field of natural resource management, for a significant contribution to the cause of conservation, or for meaningful progress or achievement toward a solution of a major conservation problem in the state during the past year. Nominees from all other categories can be considered for the Conservationist of the Year Award.

HUNTER SAFETY EDUCATION
This award may be given to an individual volunteer or a volunteer organization deeply involved in the hunter safety program. To an individual or team who, during the past year, accomplished an unusual degree of improvement, both in quality and numbers of youths completing hunter safety education courses.

10 Fishing Developments Tee Up Great 2011 Fishing

MADISON – Wisconsin anglers can look forward to more great fishing opportunities in 2011 as anglers turn the page on a record-setting 2010, state fisheries officials say.

“We realize how critically important fishing is in Wisconsin both as a cultural activity and as a part of our economy,” says Mike Staggs, Department of Natu-



ral Resources fisheries director. “We’ve worked hard to improve fishing in Wisconsin. Anglers enjoyed the results of that work in 2010, and should continue to see more of the same in 2011 and beyond.”

Nearly half of Wisconsin adults say they fish, and they catch 88 million fish annually, based on DNR’s 2006-7 statewide mail survey of anglers. Fishing generates \$2.75 billion in economic impact in the state, supports more than 30,000 jobs, and provides \$195 million in tax revenue for state and local governments. DNR’s fisheries program receives no state tax dollars but is wholly supported by fishing license sales and federal grants.

Here are the top 10 events/developments of 2010 that foreshadow even better fishing opportunities in 2011 and beyond.

10 Signs of Good Fishing in 2011

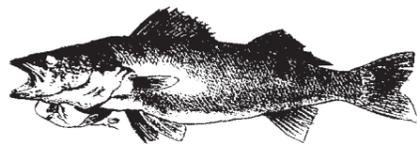
1. State record lake sturgeon speared. Ron Grishaber of Appleton landed a 212.2 pound, 84.2-inch behemoth out of Lake Winnebago on opening day of the 2010 Lake Winnebago seasons. That new record is possible as a result of DNR’s century-long efforts to work with citizens to manage sturgeon. Those efforts have nurtured the Lake Winnebago lake sturgeon population into the world’s largest. Its estimated 2010 population of 15,800 females and 31,700 males in the adult spawning stock are able to support a unique spearing season even as the federal government has proposed listing five Atlantic sturgeon populations in other states as endangered. A record 12,423 people have bought spearing licenses for the 2011 spearing seasons on the Lake Winnebago system.

2. World record brown trout pulled from Lake Michigan near Racine. The 41-pound, 8-ounce brown trout Roger Hellen of Franksville caught in Lake Michigan on July 16, 2010, set new state and world records (according to a Milwaukee Journal Sentinel article). The fish, which genetic testing suggests is likely a seeforellen strain trout raised at a DNR hatchery, testifies to the importance of the state’s stocking program to provide a fishery for trout and salmon in Lake Michigan, and to the cleaner water resulting from more protective state and federal standards for wastewater discharges and for runoff from farms, urban areas, construction sites and roads.

3. Trout fishing opportunities grow with addition of 58 new trout waters. Anglers have more trout water than ever to fish as Wisconsin revised

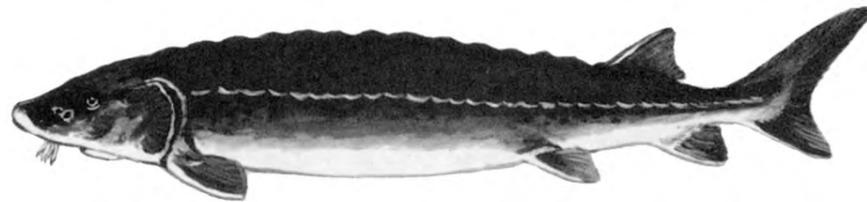
its official list of trout streams in 2010 based on monitoring results. Since 2002, the total number of trout streams has increased by 58 and the total number of trout miles has grown by 260 to 10,531 miles. The increased fishing opportunities arise from synergistic factors including DNR’s trout habitat improvement work with partners; its program to stock trout from wild fish, increasing survival and natural reproduction in recovering streams; land use changes and farmers’ improved conservation practices that have decreased erosion and runoff into streams; increased precipitation resulting in better base flow in some parts of the state; and more protective regulations and a strong catch and release ethic among trout anglers.

4. Wild Rose Fish Hatchery is renovated, producing more and healthier fish. A workhorse hatchery of Wisconsin’s stocking program has been fully renovated, with DNR staff raising their first northern pike and lake sturgeon for stocking in summer 2010 from the new cool-water facilities. New cold water facilities opened in 2008. Wild Rose produces the vast majority of trout and salmon for Lake Michigan; it produces lake sturgeon, northern pike and other cool-water species to help restore populations statewide, and the renovated hatchery has won a trio of national design awards, including for its visitor and education center.



5. Recovery of lake trout in Lake Superior. Lake trout, one of the four signal species in Lake Superior, are showing strong signs of recovery in this largest and deepest of the Great Lakes, with Wisconsin waters boasting some of the strongest populations. That’s good news for the overall health of the Lake Superior ecosystem and for anglers and commercial fishers. The recovery plan has been carried out in Wisconsin by the DNR, the Red Cliff tribe and the Bad River tribe, which collectively manage fisheries in state waters of Lake Superior, and by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which carries out lamprey control in U.S. waters as the agent for the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. Protecting remnant populations of lake trout, stocking wild trout, preventing overfishing through protective regulations and controlling populations of the predatory sea lampreys are all keys to the recovery.

6. Large-scale Mississippi River habitat projects improve fishing. Anglers can attest to the success of a federal/state effort to restore declining habitat along the Upper Mississippi River. The Environmental Management Program marks its 25th anniversary this



year, with more than 50 large-scale habitat projects undertaken along the 1,200 mile long stretch of the river. Twenty-eight projects – including five within the past decade and four specifically to benefit fisheries – have restored more than 30,000 acres along Wisconsin’s border. In 2010, work continued on the construction of island habitats in Pool 8, part of a five-phase Upper Mississippi River Environmental Management Program project that was named one of the Seven Wonders of Engineering for 2002 by the Society of Professional Engineers. Planning started for sloughs on the Wisconsin side in Pool 9.

7. Trophy musky haul among the top three. Anglers have been landing a growing number of big musky. In 2010, Muskies, Inc. members reported catching and releasing 72 muskies that were 48 inches or larger from Wisconsin waters. That ranks 2010 third for the number of 48-inch plus fish registered from Wisconsin waters. Top counties were Vilas, Oneida, Dane, Chippewa, Waukesha, Brown and Sawyer. The Muskies, Inc. registry is just one indicator – there are many musky anglers that are not members and members who may not register their fish because they do not want people to see what they are catching and where – but it’s been a good index of the changes in the number of big fish caught over time statewide, says Tim Simonson, co-leader of DNR’s musky committee. The Green Bay musky fishery, re-established through a generation of stocking on the bay, and more protective regulations, a growing catch and release ethic, and habitat protection, statewide, have also played into the growing numbers in recent years, as has increased angler interest in the fishery.

8. Wisconsin maintains a solid walleye fishery that accommodates sport and tribal harvest. More than a quarter century after a U.S. federal court reaffirmed the Ojibwe’s rights to spearfish off-reservation in northern Wisconsin, fish populations are intensively monitored, stable and able to accommodate a sport harvest and tribal harvest. Within the Ceded Territory, anglers have caught about 750,000 walleye and harvested 250,000 of them annually over the last five years, according to creel surveys.

9. Successful containment of VHS fish virus so far and implementation of rules that will help protect against the next big (or microscopic) invader. Testing of fish in 2010 for VHS fish virus, which can be deadly to more than two dozen fish species, again found that the virus has not spread to new waters. VHS was first detected in the Great Lakes in 2005 and in Wisconsin’s Lake Michigan and Lake Win-

nebago system waters in 2007. Wisconsin passed protective rules aimed at preventing the spread of VHS in 2007 and the virus has not spread beyond those waters where it was first detected or assumed to be present. The rules, which restrict the movement of water and live fish from one waterbody to another, also prevent the spread of other fish diseases and invasive species such as zebra mussels and spiny water fleas.

10. Chinook harvests hit record levels. Chinook fishing in Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan was phenomenal starting in 2003 and peaking in 2007 when anglers reeled in the highest recorded harvest of chinook. That year, anglers caught an estimated total of 431,143 chinook, the most since angler, or “creel,” surveys started in 1969. The phenomenal fishing reflects a confluence of factors including the success of DNR’s stocking program for Lake Michigan, efforts by DNR fish management specialists to address fish health problems in earlier years, and clean up efforts that have improved water quality in the lake. The fishing has cooled off some since the heyday as Wisconsin and other states around the lake have reduced stocking to bring fish populations more in line with the forage base. Angler harvest levels are therefore likely to be somewhat lower than those earlier in the past decade but average fish size should be better.



Fish Hatchery & Visitor Center Hours

Visitor Hours: 8 AM to 3:30 PM
Public Tours at 10 AM and 1 PM

Summer hours: Education Center Open 5 days a week, Wed-Sundays, Memorial Day through Labor Day

Spring and Fall Hours: Sept-Oct and Apr-May Open Thursday-Sunday

Closed November - March

Carry-in, Carry-Out Policy

Wild Rose does not provide trash cans. We invite you to enjoy a picnic on hatchery grounds, but please take out what you bring in.

Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery
N5871 State Rd. 22
Wild Rose, WI 54984
(920) 622-3527
(Enter hatchery from Highway 22)



2011 Wisconsin Hunting & Trapping Seasons

<p>Ruffed Grouse</p> <p>Zone A: September 17 - January 31, 2012 Zone B: October 15 - December 8</p> 	<p>Cottontail Rabbit</p> <p>Northern Zone: September 17 - February 29, 2012 Southern Zone: October 15 (noon) - February 29, 2012</p>																														
<p>Bobwhite Quail</p> <p>Statewide: October 15 (noon) - December 7</p>	<p>Squirrels, Gray and Fox</p> <p>Statewide: September 17 - January 31, 2012</p> 																														
<p>Sharp-tailed Grouse</p> <p>October 15 - November 6</p>	<p>Raccoon</p> <p>Resident Hunting and Trapping: October 15 - February 15, 2012 Non-resident Hunting and Trapping: October 29 - February 15, 2012</p>																														
<p>Pheasant</p> <p>Statewide: October 15 (noon) - December 31</p> 	<p>Opossum, Skunk, Weasel, and Snowshoe Hare</p> <p>No season limits, bag limits, size limits or possession limits.</p>																														
<p>Woodcock</p> <p>September 24 - November 7</p> 	<p>Bear</p> <p>Zone C where dogs are not permitted: Sept. 7 - Oct. 11</p> <p>All other zones where dogs are permitted: Sept. 7 - Sept. 13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with aid of dogs only <p>Sept. 14 - Oct. 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with aid of dogs with aid of bait with all other legal methods <p>Oct. 5 - Oct. 11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with aid of bait with all other legal methods not utilizing dogs 																														
<p>Turkey</p> <p>Youth Turkey Hunt April 9-10</p> <p>Open Zones</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Spring</td> <td>Period A</td> <td>April 13-17</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Period B</td> <td>April 20-24</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Period C</td> <td>April 27-May 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Period D</td> <td>May 4-8</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Period E</td> <td>May 11-15</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Period F</td> <td>May 18-22</td> </tr> </table> <p>Fall September 17-November 17</p> <p>There is the possibility that the fall season will be extended for zones 1-5, from November 28 - December 31. See the 2011 Wisconsin Small Game Hunting Regulations for details.</p>	Spring	Period A	April 13-17		Period B	April 20-24		Period C	April 27-May 1		Period D	May 4-8		Period E	May 11-15		Period F	May 18-22	<p>Coyote</p> <p>Hunting Continuous open season except closed in the northern Wisconsin wolf management zone during an October antlerless only firearm deer hunt, the regular gun deer, December antlerless only, and muzzleloader seasons.</p> <p>Trapping Oct. 15 - Feb. 15, 2012</p> 												
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<p>Mourning Dove</p> <p>Statewide: September 1 - November 9</p>	<p>Fox, Red and Gray</p> <p>Hunting and Trapping Oct. 15 - Feb. 15, 2012</p> 																														
<p>Waterfowl</p> <p>Season dates for waterfowl vary annually. Duck and regular season goose regulations will not be available until August.</p> <p>Canada Goose</p> <p>Early Goose Season Sept. 1-15</p> 	<p>Beaver</p> <p>Trapping Only</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Zone A (Northwest)</td> <td>Nov. 5 - Apr. 30, 2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Zone B (Northeast)</td> <td>Nov. 5 - Apr. 30, 2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Zone C (South)</td> <td>Nov. 5 - March 31, 2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Zone D (Miss. River)</td> <td>Day after duck season closes to March 15, 2012</td> </tr> </table>	Zone A (Northwest)	Nov. 5 - Apr. 30, 2012	Zone B (Northeast)	Nov. 5 - Apr. 30, 2012	Zone C (South)	Nov. 5 - March 31, 2012	Zone D (Miss. River)	Day after duck season closes to March 15, 2012																						
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<p>Protected Species</p> <p>Hunting protected species such as badger, woodchuck, wolf, jackrabbit and flying squirrel is prohibited. See <i>2011 Small Game Regulations</i> for more details.</p>	<p>Mink Trapping Only</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>North Zone</td> <td>Oct. 15 - Feb. 29, 2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td>South Zone</td> <td>Oct. 29 - Feb. 29, 2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Winnebago Zone</td> <td>Oct. 29 - March 15, 2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mississippi River Zone</td> <td>Begins the day after duck season closes or the second Monday in November, whichever comes first, and ends on Feb. 29, 2012.</td> </tr> </table> 	North Zone	Oct. 15 - Feb. 29, 2012	South Zone	Oct. 29 - Feb. 29, 2012	Winnebago Zone	Oct. 29 - March 15, 2012	Mississippi River Zone	Begins the day after duck season closes or the second Monday in November, whichever comes first, and ends on Feb. 29, 2012.																						
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<p>Hungarian Partridge</p> <p>Statewide*: October 15 (noon) - December 31</p> <p>*Closed in Clark, Marathon and Taylor counties</p>	<p>Muskrat Trapping Only</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>North Zone</td> <td>Oct. 15 - Feb. 29, 2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td>South Zone</td> <td>Oct. 29 - Feb. 29, 2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Winnebago Zone</td> <td>Oct. 29 - March 15, 2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mississippi River Zone</td> <td>Begins the day after duck season closes or the second Monday in November, whichever comes first, and ends on Feb. 29, 2012.</td> </tr> </table> 	North Zone	Oct. 15 - Feb. 29, 2012	South Zone	Oct. 29 - Feb. 29, 2012	Winnebago Zone	Oct. 29 - March 15, 2012	Mississippi River Zone	Begins the day after duck season closes or the second Monday in November, whichever comes first, and ends on Feb. 29, 2012.																						
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<p>Crow</p> <p>January 18 - March 20 September 17 - November 17</p> 	<p>Bobcat, Otter and Fisher</p> <p>Permits required</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Bobcat</td> <td>Hunting/Trapping</td> <td>N. of Hwy. 64</td> <td>Period 1</td> <td>Oct. 15 - Dec. 25</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Period 2</td> <td>Dec. 26 - Jan. 31, 2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fisher</td> <td>Trapping only</td> <td>Various Zones</td> <td></td> <td>Oct. 15 - Dec. 31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Otter</td> <td>Trapping only</td> <td>North Zone</td> <td></td> <td>Nov. 5 - Apr. 30, 2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Central Zone</td> <td></td> <td>Nov. 5 - Mar. 31, 2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>South Zone</td> <td></td> <td>Nov. 5 - Mar. 31, 2012</td> </tr> </table>	Bobcat	Hunting/Trapping	N. of Hwy. 64	Period 1	Oct. 15 - Dec. 25				Period 2	Dec. 26 - Jan. 31, 2012	Fisher	Trapping only	Various Zones		Oct. 15 - Dec. 31	Otter	Trapping only	North Zone		Nov. 5 - Apr. 30, 2012			Central Zone		Nov. 5 - Mar. 31, 2012			South Zone		Nov. 5 - Mar. 31, 2012
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<p>Deer**</p> <p>Bow: Sept. 17 - Nov. 17 and Nov. 28 - Jan. 8, 2012 Gun: Nov. 19 - Nov. 27 Muzzleloader: Nov. 28 - Dec. 7 Youth Deer Hunt: Oct. 8-9 Statewide Antlerless Hunt: Dec. 8 - Dec. 11 October Antlerless Hunt for CWD and other authorized units: Oct. 13-16**</p> <p>**Check the 2011 Wisconsin Deer Hunting Regulations for a complete set of dates and units, including CWD units.</p>																															

Environmental Issues

Wisconsin Department of Justice

Van Hollen Issues Formal Opinion Addressing Conservation Easements on County Forest Lands

MADISON — Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen issued a formal opinion addressing whether the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has the authority to approve county forest plans that allow for conservation easements and restrictive covenants in county forests acquired and managed under the county forest law.

The Attorney General concluded that “conservation easements and restrictive covenants are permissible in county forests as long as they are consistent with and do not interfere with the purposes of county forests and the management plans properly developed for them under the county forest law.”

A conservation easement or restrictive covenant is a transfer of property rights short of ownership that creates a legally enforceable land preservation agreement between a landowner and an easement holder for the purpose of conservation. Typically, such easements restrict real estate development, commercial and industrial uses, and certain other activities on a property. Quoting from the DNR Forest Legacy Program website, “Landowners place conservation easements on their property because they want to protect it beyond their lifetimes. Easements help them fulfill their vision for the future of their lands and waters.”

Because such easements often are permanent and “run with the land” after it is sold, a county should take this into account when acquiring land for county forest purposes that may have a perpetual conservation easement impressed on it, Van Hollen said.

Van Hollen found that conservation easements can be consistent with the legislatively established purposes of the county forest system and DNR-approved plans for the forests which often include land use designations, forest protection, recreational developments, fish and wildlife management activities. “These land uses can be served by and consistent with conservation easements,” Van Hollen observed.

Van Hollen also found that a section of the county forest law that provides for county “special-use lands” within a county forest that are “suitable for scenic, outdoor recreation, public hunting and fishing, water conservation and other multiple-use purposes” are “fully compatible with conservation easements.”

Van Hollen cautioned that an easement must be consistent with and not interfere or conflict with county forest law provisions, including with the county forest management plan developed by a county and approved by DNR.

The opinion was requested by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Winneconne Contractor Ordered to Pay \$20,000 For Placement of Waste Material in the Kickapoo River

WINNECONNE — Winneconne contractor Radtke Contractors, Inc., has been ordered to pay \$20,000 in forfeitures, assessments and costs for placing and failing to remove material in the Kickapoo River in Richland County during a bridge construction project in 2008.

According to the complaint, the Department of Transportation contracted with Radtke Contractors to replace the State Highway 56 bridge over the Kickapoo River in Richland County in the summer and fall of 2008. The contract required that any construction material that may fall into the river so as to impede navigation be promptly removed. State law also prohibits the placement of material on the bed of a navigable water without a permit.

In September 2008, Radtke Contractors let wooden beams called false work and related bridge construction material fall into the Kickapoo River. Fishermen complained about the material being in the River, and DOT staff repeatedly asked Radtke Contractors to remove the material. Some of the wooden false work floated downstream 250-300 feet from the bridge and became hung up on

a snag, completely blocking the width of the River with used lumber with nails in it. The Department of Natural Resources sent a Notice of Violation to Radtke Contractors on November 3, 2008, and Radtke Contractors removed the wooden false work from the River on November 6, 2008.

According to the complaint, the Kickapoo River at and below the Highway 56 bridge is a free-flowing navigable river system and a popular canoe route, and the wooden false work in the River eliminated the navigability of this section of the River and caused an undue hazard to public users of the River.

“Wisconsin law requires that contractors manage construction projects so as to protect public use of the state’s navigable waters,” Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen said. “The Wisconsin Department of Justice will continue to work with the DNR to ensure that navigation of Wisconsin’s waters is safeguarded through compliance with the law.”

Assistant Attorney General JoAnne F. Kloppenburg prosecuted the case for the State. Richland County Judge Leineweber signed the order imposing the forfeitures.

U.S. Department of Justice

Miami Wildlife Smugglers Plead Guilty

Wifredo A. Ferrer, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, Samuel Santiago, Caribbean Area Manager, United States Department of Agriculture, and Eddie McKissick, Resident Agent in Charge, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement, Miami Office, announced that **Rufino Blanco, 47, and Claribel Blanco Cuellar, 21, both of Miami, pled guilty** in federal District Court in Miami today to charges related to the attempted importation into the United States of seventy-two (72) undeclared pigeon eggs from Cuba in violation of the Lacey Act, Title 16, United States Code, Sections 3372(a)(1) and 3373(d)(1)(A).

According to the allegations in the Indictment and statements in Court, in June 2010, Claribel Blanco Cuellar returned to Miami from Cuba with the eggs secreted in her luggage. When inspectors from Customs & Border Protection (CBP) located the contraband, Cuellar claimed they were for her father Rufino Blanco, to be used in Santeria ceremonies. In fact, Rufino Blanco’s intention was to hatch the viable eggs and market them through his pet store, El Morrillero and through on-line chat rooms, to devotees of the homing/racing pigeon community.

United States District Court Judge Jose E. Martinez, who accepted the guilty pleas in this matter, set sentencing for March 3, 2011 at 1:30 pm. The defendants each face a possible term of imprisonment of up to five years, criminal fines of up to \$250,000, as well as a period of supervised release of up to three years.

Federal law prohibits the importation of fish or wildlife into the United States without proper declaration to both CBP and the Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS). Additionally, in many instances, an importer must hold a valid Import/Export License from FWS to engage in commercial activities involving importing and exporting fish and wildlife. The Lacey Act

specifically defines the term “wildlife” to include any wild animal, alive or dead, including without limitation any wild mammal, whether or not bred, hatched, or born in captivity, and includes any part, product, egg, or offspring thereof.

According to court documents, the shipment at issue was color-coded, with the eggs divided into six sets, each secure inside a cotton-padded plastic Easter-egg shell. Information regarding the eggs was written on the plastic shells, documenting the source and parentage of the eggs. According to a written factual statement signed by the defendants, Rufino Blanco offered Cuban-origin pigeons for sale through an on-line chat room, referring potential buyers to his pet store. Agents who visited the store found it devoted exclusively to the sale of racing and homing pigeons.

According to USDA’s Animal Plant Health Inspection Services-Veterinary Services, USDA regulations prohibit the importation of viable pigeon eggs unless accompanied by a certificate from a veterinary officer of the country of origin, certifying the eggs derive from a flock or flocks found free of communicable diseases. Several such diseases, notably Newcastle disease and European fowl pest (fowl plague), are of particular concern and carry mandatory quarantine requirements preceding any importation to avoid the risk of disease propagation to domestic poultry stocks and wild avians. USDA considers Cuba as a source country for potential Newcastle disease, as well as the H5N1 avian influenza. As a result, it was necessary for all the merchandise in this case to be destroyed by USDA authorities.

Mr. Ferrer commended the investigative efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Fish & Wildlife Service, and Customs & Border Protection, which brought the investigation to a successful conclusion. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Thomas Watts-FitzGerald.

N.O.A.A. (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

NOAA Will Work With Six Identified Nations to Address Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing

NOAA today submitted a report to Congress identifying six nations – Colombia, Ecuador, Italy, Panama, Portugal, and Venezuela – whose fishing vessels engaged in illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in 2009 and/or 2010.

This opens the way for continued consultations between the U.S. government and each of the nations to encourage them to take action to stop IUU fishing by their vessels.

In this report, NOAA also announces that the six previously identified nations (China, France, Italy, Libya, Panama, and Tunisia) have addressed the instances of illegal fishing described by the United States in the 2009 report to Congress. These nations applied penalties to the vessels in question or adopted laws to strengthen control of their fishing fleets or both. Each has received a positive certification as a result of their actions.

The nations identified in today’s report had fishing vessels that did not comply with measures agreed to under various international fishery management organizations, such as closed fishing seasons, vessel registry lists, and a ban on the use of driftnets. Other violations included illegal gear modifications, fishing without authorization, and possession of undersized bluefin tuna.

While Italy and Panama took corrective actions for illegal fishing identified in the 2009 report, other vessels from these countries still engaged in IUU fishing, which included illegal use of driftnets and fishing in an area when it was closed to purse seine nets.

If a nation fails to take appropriate action to address the instances of illegal fishing described in the report, that nation’s vessels may be denied entry into U.S. ports and the President may prohibit imports of certain fish products from that nation or take other measures.

“We are encouraged that the nations identified in 2009 have taken significant actions to address illegal fishing by their vessels, and we are now reaching out to the six countries identified in today’s report,” said Russell Smith, NOAA deputy assistant secretary for international fisheries. “Illegal fishing must be stopped as it subjects our fishermen to unfair competition and undermines efforts to sustainably manage the valuable fish stocks around the world that so many communities depend on for food and jobs.”

Annual global economic losses due to IUU fishing are estimated to be as high as \$23 billion.

Today’s decisions follow two years in which NOAA’s Fisheries Service, working with the U.S. Department of State, conducted extensive outreach at bilateral and multilateral meetings to inform fishing nations of potential U.S. actions to combat IUU fishing. NOAA is addressing the problem of IUU fishing through the international provisions of the U.S. Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act.

The act amends the High Seas Driftnet Moratorium Protection Act, which requires the United States to strengthen international fishery management organizations and address IUU fishing activities and the unintended catch, or bycatch, of protected living marine resources. Specifically, the Moratorium Protection Act requires the Secretary of Commerce to identify those foreign nations whose fishing vessels are engaged in IUU fishing, and what actions those nations have taken to end the practice.

The identifications of countries will be followed by consultations to urge these nations to adopt effective measures to combat IUU fishing. Following consultations, NOAA will formally certify whether each of the six nations have addressed the IUU fishing activities of their vessels.

Take Note!

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- Conservation Awards. Page 4
- Fishing in Wisconsin. Page 5
- 2011 WI Hunting & Trapping Seasons. Page 6
- Environmental Issues. Page 7

Editor D. A. Gries

Wisconservation Conversation

A message from the Editor

Volunteers Needed: The solicitation for volunteers to assist the WDNR catch – tag – radio collar etc. and return whitetail deer to the “wild” is underway. Having participated in numerous hearings-meetings representing Wisconservation and my personal inquisitiveness, rarely did I encounter another attendee expressing confidence – support of whitetail deer management data prepared by the Department of Natural Resources.

So here is an opportunity for individual hunters – Club membership to GET INVOLVED! Obtain first hand knowledge of the complexities of deer management while interacting with natural resource professionals. And, the personal satisfaction/experience of what is actually happening on this subject rather than watering hole dialogue or word of mouth scuttle but. ...Dag

January 2011 Calendar Winners



1	\$1000 Cash	Thomas Bauman, Menomonee Falls, WI	3102
2	Benelli Montefeltro 12 ga 26"	Cheryl Hurckman, Columbus, WI	842
3	Gander Mountain Gift Card \$100 value	Matt Zimmer, Hartford, WI	4871
4	Browning X Bolt 30.06	Chuck Griffith, Pleasant Prairie, WI	1527
5	\$100 Cash	Nick Sheskey, Janesville, WI	37
6	Gander Mountain Gift Card \$100 value	Vern Klokov, North Prairie, WI	4519
7	\$100 Cash	Kendra Klement, West Bend, WI	8724
8	Remington 1187 Sportsman 12 ga.	David Wuethrich, Monroe, WI	107
9	Gander Mountain Gift Card \$100 value	Bryan Thiel, Somerset, WI	5830
10	\$100 Cash	Harry Boone/Judy Kujawa, Berlin, WI	2431
11	Ruger Hawkeye Bolt Action	Sue Weinreich, Fredonia, WI	4967
12	Gander Mountain Gift Card \$100 value	Mark Hardwig, Neenah, WI	6246
13	\$100 Cash	Phil Bratland, Marshall, WI	8035
14	TC Venture Bolt 30.06	Michael Jaeck, North Prairie, WI	2751
15	Gander Mountain Gift Card \$100 value	Diane Loback, Colfax, WI	1793
16	\$100 Cash	Dennis Kostuch, Rosholt, WI	723
17	CZ Mallard 104 20 ga.	Bob Millard, Mountain, WI	5460
18	Gander Mountain Gift Card \$100 value	Pam Hartwig, Dousman, WI	2899
19	Stevens Point Ramada Weekend / 2 couples	Paul Gloede, Plymouth, WI	3421
20	\$100 Cash	Terry Risse, Elkhart Lake, WI	7445
21	Ruger 10/22	Kenneth Houska, Oconto Falls, WI	9363
22	Gander Mountain Gift Card \$100 value	Russell Heiser, Dickinson, ND	5345
23	\$100 Cash	Mike Wilmas, Elkhart Lake, WI	351
24	Stevens 200 7mm-08	Peter Zuba, Dousman, WI	8123
25	Gander Mountain Gift Card \$100 value	John Jaskolski, Tomah, WI	91
26	\$100 Cash	Pete Schwabach, Neenah, WI	6018
27	NEF Pardner Pump 12 ga.	Chad Frentzel, Watertown, WI	9163
28	Gander Mountain Gift Card \$100 value	Clement Ash, Milton, WI	4775
29	\$100 Cash	Lee Stuart, Waukesha, WI	3459
30	CVA Buckhorn 50 Cal.	Donna Geiger, Dorchester, WI	2958
31	Gander Mountain Gift Card \$100 value	Anton Johnson, Whitehall, WI	7313

2011 Wisconsin Waterfowl Hunters' Conference

March 4 & 5 2011
Stevens Point Ramada Inn
1-800-998-2311

*** Ask for special waterfowl rate ***

FEE: \$20 includes Friday Night
Waterfowl Hunters Party !!!

Info: www.wisducks.org/wwhc/htm
Jon – 715-268-5584 or jonberquist@hotmail.com
Don – 715-595-6045 or jadag@centurytel.net
Gary – 608-883-2141 or gary.Gagnon@hotmail.com

**Preserving and Enhancing our
Waterfowl Hunting Heritage**

2011 Permit Application Deadlines

Horicon Zone Goose Season	August 1
Fall Turkey (paper application)	August 1
Sharp-tailed Grouse	August 1
Bobcat	August 1
Otter	August 1
Fisher	August 1
Spring Turkey (paper application)	December 10
Bear	December 10

Drawing Dates

Horicon Zone Goose Season	Late August
Fall Turkey	Late August
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Mid-September
Bobcat	Mid-September
Otter	Mid-September
Fisher	Mid-September
Spring Turkey	Late January
Bear	Early February

To check your drawing status go to:
dnr.wi.gov

WWF BANQUET CALENDAR

DISTRICT	CONTACT	DATE	LOCATION
Dist. 3 Rice Lake	Jack Nissen 262-370-8154 David Lorentz 715-931-8707		
Dist. 3 North	Brian Hobbs 715-294-3854	Feb. 19, 2011	Crickets Bar & Grill Amery, WI
Dist. 4 Central WI	Jerry Knuth 715-344-0017	TBA	Shooters Plover, WI
Dist. 4 West	Tom Dahlen	April 2, 2011	Fannie's Supper Club
Dist. 5 Fox Valley	Doug Gries 920-722-5484 Jerry Lingnofski	April 14, 2011	Darboy Club Darboy, WI
Dist. 6 North Black River Falls	Christine Schultz 715-299-4414	March 5, 2011	Club 95 Hixton, WI
Dist. 6 La Crosse	Greg Kloss 608-788-0070 Michelle Graff 608-787-7637 or 608-797-1292 WWF PO Box 296 La Crosse, WI 54601	Feb. 5, 2011	Baus Haus 1920 Ward Ave. La Crosse, WI
Dist. 8 West Waukesha	Tom Nissen 262-719-5295	March 18, 2011	Olympia Resort Oconomowoc, WI
Dist. 9 Milwaukee	Jeff Chojnacki 414-764-6638 call after 5:30pm	March 25, 2011	Klemmer's Williamsburg Inn Milwaukee, WI
MacKenzie Banquet	WWF Office 800-897-4161	Oct. 8, 2011	MacKenzie Lodge Poynette, WI
Statewide Conservation Banquet	Wayne Thayer 608-754-4965 Marge Spencer 608-752-9946	Jan. 29, 2011	HoChunk Casino Wisconsin Dells, WI