

Wisconsin Conservation



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Federation Applauds Governor's Initiative on CWD

May 5, 2016

Contact: Executive Director George Meyer – 608-516-5545
Wildlife Committee Chair Ralph Fritsch – 715-850-2456

Columbus: The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, the largest conservation organization in Wisconsin, applauds Governor Walker's recent call for undertaking additional items to contain the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Wisconsin. Recent DNR monitoring indicates a significant increase in the numbers of deer infected with CWD in the Southern Wisconsin CWD Zone and the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection has reported several outbreaks of CWD in recent years in captive cervid farms Central and Northern Wisconsin. These recent events support the Governor's initiative to review DNR and improve DATCP CWD management programs.

The Wisconsin deer herd is critically important to Wisconsin's 600,000 gun deer hunters and 225,000 archery and crossbow hunters in the state and is the basis for an estimated \$1 billion annual economic impact for Wisconsin. In addition through efforts of the DNR and sports groups there has been a major effort to import elk into the state of Wisconsin. Elk are also susceptible to being infected with CWD.

The Governor has called for public recommendations to update the DNR and DATCP CWD management efforts. The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation today has submitted a letter to Governor Walker with the following recommendations to limit the spread of Chronic Waste Disease in Wisconsin's wild deer and elk herds:

1. That the captive cervid farm fencing requirements be modified to require exterior double fencing for all captive cervid farms in the state.
2. That DNR or an independent inspection organization be required to conduct an annual inspection of all captive cervid farm exterior fences in the state.
3. That captive cervid farms be required to inspect their exterior fences at least monthly and immediately after any major wind storms in their locality
4. That all captive cervid farms be required to install warning devices to detect open captive cervid exterior fence gates.
5. That Wisconsin conduct and independent third party scientific review of the adequacy and effectiveness of the current Wisconsin chronic wasting disease regulations administered by the Department of Natural Resources and the Department

of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and recommend improvements to the current regulations.

6. That if a captive cervid farm in Wisconsin becomes infected by CWD that, unless double fenced, the entire cervid population on the property be depopulated within 30 days.

7. That if a captive cervid farm in Wisconsin becomes infected by CWD, that the exterior fences on that property be required to be maintained in a sound condition until such time as the property on the farm is scientifically found to be CWD prion free.

8. That captive cervid farms in the state be required to maintain liability insurance to cover any costs and damages to the state of Wisconsin including the wild deer herd resulting from any escape of cervids from the farm.

9. That the DNR be required to take whatever steps are necessary to substantially increase the CWD sampling in the state to increase the accuracy of the spread and intensity of occurrence of CWD throughout.

10. That the Legislature be requested to increase funding for the DNR and DATCP to adequately regulate chronic wasting disease in the state including increased inspection of captive cervid farms and the monitoring of CWD in the wild deer herd.

11. That the DNR and the DATCP substantially increase their transparency and distribution of information on chronic wasting disease including its spread in intensity in the wild deer herd, incidents of escapes from captive cervid farms, discovery of CWD in captive cervid farms and updated information on CWD research finding from across the country.

The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation is Wisconsin's largest conservation organization comprised of 195 hunting, fishing and trapping clubs. A member of the National Wildlife Federation, the WWF's Mission is supporting conservation education and the advancement of scientifically based professional management of natural resources.

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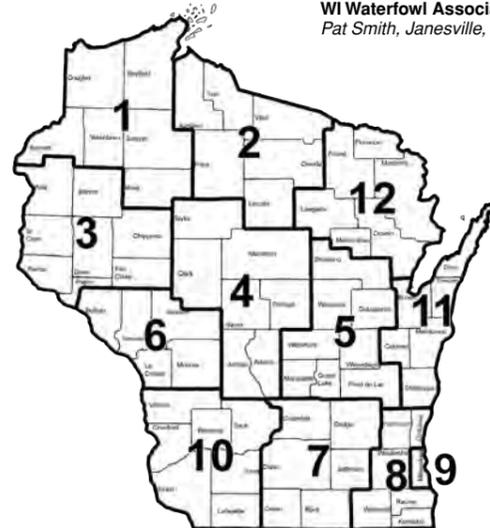
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WWF Testimony to the Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Board on CWD Regulation of Deer and Elk Farms

Chairwoman Leis, Members of the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Board, Secretary Brancel. My name is George Meyer and I am the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. The Federation rarely testifies before your Board, the last time was on the Dog Breeder regulations which had great interest to the many sporting dog groups that we represent.

The Wildlife Federation and our 195 hunting, fishin and trapping groups are very strong supporters of agriculture in the state. Many of our members are farmers and sportsmen and women have a natural connection and need for a thriving agriculture sector in Wisconsin. Personally I was born and raised on small dairy farm in New Holstein, Calumet County. Secretary Brancel has been a good friend for years going back even before the days we jointly served as Secretaries in Governor Thompson's Administration. We worked very positively together on many issues.

The Federation is back before you because of the impact of Chronic Wasting Disease in the state. Wisconsin's deer herd is the state's most important wildlife resource, is incredibly important to the state's hunting heritage and forms the basis for a billion dollar industry in the state. We work with the DNR Board because of their regulatory authority over the exterior fences of captive cervid farms in the state and we would like to partner with you on the regulation of CWD within the fences of captive cervid farms. Sportsmen and women are a major, critical stakeholder in the regulation of CWD on captive served farms.

You may have read that the Federation has applauded Governor Walker on his renewed interest in reviewing and upgrading the oversight of Chronic Wasting Disease in the wild deer herd and on captive cervid farms. For

Wisconsin sportsmen and women to be more effective and knowledgeable partners in your efforts to respond to Governor Walker's recent direction to you about reviewing captive cervid farm CWD management, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation is asking you the following:

1. As the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection develops best management practices and regulations governing CWD management of captive cervid farms, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and possibly one or two other sports hunting groups have a place at the table to bring forth our concerns and recommendations;

2. That the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation be provided the opportunity to review carefully, under close DATCP staff supervision, the DATCP file of those captive cervid farms that have contracted CWD so as we can be best informed how to assist in your development of best CWD management practices for captive cervid farms; and

3. That the DATCP work with DNR to significantly increase both agencies' timeliness and transparency to sportsmen and women and the general public in providing information about incidents involving captive cervid farms including escapes from such farms and the discovery and management of CWD in their herds. For whatever reason, there is a feeling among sportsmen and women that it is currently difficult to find out such information in a timely manner.

The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation sincerely thanks you for this opportunity to speak with you today and hopes that you look favorably on our requests.

George Meyer
Executive Director
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

Environmental Violation Penalties Plummet in Wisconsin

May 17, 2016

Contact: Executive Director George Meyer – 608-516-5545
Jim Swanson, WWF Environmental Committee Chair – 715-505-0102

Columbus: The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, the largest conservation organization in Wisconsin, was shocked at the dramatic reduction in the total amount of penalties for environmental violations obtained by the Wisconsin Department of Justice for calendar year 2015. The total of \$306,834 is down 86% from the ten year average of \$2,167,401, down 78% from \$1,389,139 in calendar year 2014, and the lowest total amount of environmental penalties in any one year since 1986, 30 years ago.

For specific major categories of violations are:

1. 2015 animal waste violation penalties are down 90% from the 10 year average.
2. 2015 air pollution violation penalties are down 79% from the 10 year average.
3. 2015 waterway alteration and wetland violation penalties are down 91 percent from the 10 year average.
4. 2015 hazardous waste violation penalties are down 100% from the 10 year average.
5. 2015 Wastewater violation penalties are down 97% from the 10 year average.
6. 2015 Public and private water supply violation penalties are down 90% from the 10 year average.
7. 2015 Environmental repair and remediation violation penalties are down 52% from the 10 year average.
8. 2015 Solid waste violation penalties are down 100% from the 10 year average.
9. 2015 Stormwater violation penalties are down 67% from the 10 year average.

"Effective investigation and prosecution of environmental violations is critically important to protect our land and water resources

that comprise the fish and wildlife habitat that is very important to the hunters, anglers and trappers that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation represents," stated Jim Swanson, Chair of the Federation's Environmental Committee. "The decline in the total environmental violation penalties is alarming and warrants a thorough investigation," continued Swanson.

"The Federation does not know whether the dramatic decrease in environmental penalty violations is the result of lack of inspections of regulated facilities by the Department of Natural Resources or follow through on discovered violations by that agency or lack of vigor in prosecution of the environmental violations by the Department of Justice but the general public deserves answers," indicated George Meyer, WWF Executive Director. "What the Federation is not buying as an answer is that environmental violations have dropped 86% in the last ten years or 78% since 2014," continued Meyer. Meyer served eight years as DNR Secretary and twelve years as DNR's Enforcement Division Administrator and in both positions had direct responsibility for the investigation of environmental violations and the referral of environmental violations to the Department of Justice for prosecution.

Founded in 1949, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation is Wisconsin's largest conservation organization comprised of 195 hunting, fishin and trapping clubs. A member of the National Wildlife Federation, the WWF's Mission is supporting conservation education and the advancement of scientifically based professional management of natural resources.

William Aberg Scholarship

This scholarship is dedicated to the memory of the late William J.P. Aberg, a founder of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and the National Wildlife Federation, who was instrumental in the writing and passage of such basic conservation acts as the establishment of a citizens policy body to determine natural resource management policy, forestry protection and development through a state mill tax and forest-crop law, acquisition of Horicon Marsh and acquisition of national forest areas in Wisconsin. He served with distinction for two terms on the former Wisconsin Conservation Commission, now the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board.

Gordon Bubolz Scholarship

The scholarship originated with seed money from Gordon Bubolz and was a continuation of his many efforts in conservation. Included among his conservation works is the Bubolz Conservation Center near his hometown of Appleton, Wis. The Center and its buildings are used by a wide variety of conservation groups.

James Wareing Scholarship

James "Jim" Wareing was an avid outdoors-man who enjoyed hunting, fishin and other outdoor activities. He was a strong advocate for Environmental Education and fought hard for all conservation issues to preserve and protect the environment to make it better for future conservationists and anyone wanting to enjoy the outdoors.

J.L. Schneider Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is dedicated to the memory of the late J.L. Schneider. J.L. believed that one is never too old to learn. Mr. Schneider was a dairy farmer who worked with the soil conservation department to help pioneer strip and terrace farming. When he wasn't farming he taught hunter safety courses for 35 years, and worked at Poynette Game Farm, Marsh Haven and Horicon Marsh on research projects and teaching about nature. J.L. was a man people looked up to and admired. He firmly believed education is never ending and the earth was ours to protect and care for.



W.W.F. Scholarships

WWF Scholarship Funding

The WWF College Scholarship Fund is very important to the Federation. It was set up to assure a highly stable and permanent funding mechanism to continue the issuance of conservation scholarships perpetually. The Fund has been invested in insured annuities which guarantee a fixed rate of return thereby generating the scholarship award amounts on a continual and stable basis.

Carol Kube Scholarship

Carol Kube was a dedicated steward of our Natural Resources with a love of the natural world and its critters. She was honored for her contribution to waterfowl and wetland conservation. She received the State Water Quality Leadership award. May this scholarship enhance our wetlands conservation in her honor.

Allen Kube Scholarship

Allen is a long time member of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. He received the Conservationist of the Year award. He is the founder and past chairman of the Wisconsin Waterfowl Hunter Conference. He received two WDNR special service awards. Allen continues to be an activist in the fight to preserve and enhance our Natural Resources.

Milwaukee Police Office s Conservation and Sportsman Club, Ltd. Scholarship

This scholarship is given to a student majoring in Conservation Law Enforcement in hopes it advances the proper enforcement of laws among all true sportsmen, landowners and lovers of nature.

William Peterburs Jr. Scholarship

William "Bill" Peterburs was the long-time Associate Director of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. Bill, who passed away in 1995, was an avid water fowler and outdoors-man and was known throughout the state and nation for his work to ban the use of lead shot in waterfowl hunting. He led the fight for steel shot at a considerable cost of time and money to himself and his family. He had a cause to fight for and won.

Les Woerpel Scholarship

Les Woerpel was involved in conservation nationally through his papers on pheasant management, pesticide use, water and water rights. He was an avid proponent of the Wilderness and Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Acts. In Wisconsin, his efforts helped establish the Chequamegon and Nicolet National Forests, the George W. Mead Wildlife Area, and the reintroduction of the prairie chicken in the Buena Vista Marsh. Les was commended by Governors Nelson and Knowles and by President Nixon for his leadership. Said Woerpel: "There is more to do than has already been done, and it needs to be done by cooperation, understanding and hard work..."

Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association Scholarship

The Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association (WWOA) was established in 1979 for and by Wisconsin's private woodland owners interested in becoming better woodland stewards. A non-profit educational organization, WWOA works to bridge the gap between natural resource professionals and woodland owners, through the publication of a magazine, local chapters, conferences and field days. In gratitude for the educational support provided by the College and its many alumni, WWOA provides this scholarship to a forestry student attending this summer's six-week Field Techniques in Natural Resources course at Treehaven or the European Environmental Studies Seminar trip.

Richard Hemp Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is given to a student of good academic standing who is not opposed to hunting as a management tool, and majoring in Forestry or Wildlife. In addition, the student should be interested in the field of outdoor journalism.

President's Report

June 2016

First, let me share my apologies for not having a *Wisconservation* President's report in the May Issue. Betty and I left right after the WWF Annual meeting and headed out West for an enjoyable touring of the desert, Death Valley, Grand Canyon, Hoover Dam. We thought we were smart to get away from Wisconsin weather and snow. Well it caught up with us in the Grand Canyon where we had three inches of the cold white stuff.

I would like to thank all who attended the Annual meeting, and all who worked on making it a success again this year. As you saw from the April *Wisconservation* the meeting was a tremendous success. If you did not make it this year, don't miss next years.

At the June Board meeting I will be presenting my annual priorities to the

Board. Among other important priorities will be our push to reach 200 sports club affiliate this year. This is important for sports clubs to pull together through numbers to make sure that their voice is heard to advance the future of hunting, fishin, trapping, the shooting sports and other outdoor recreational activities in the state and also very importantly the protection and enhancement overall of Wisconsin's wildlife and its critically important habitat.

The National Wildlife Federation Annual Conference is to be held on June 16 thru 18 in Estes Park, Colorado. Looking forward to the conference and how the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation can work with the other NWF affiliate to advance wildlife in this great land of ours.

George Borchert

2016 W.W.F. Scholarship Recipients

William Aberg Scholarship:
Rachel Konkle



Rachel is from Sauk City, currently maintains a 3.92 cumulative GPA. She is pursuing a bachelor's degree in wildlife ecology research and management, a bachelor's degree in communication with emphasis in media studies, and a minor in professional writing. After graduation, she plans to attend graduate school to enrich her knowledge. She will apply for internships with National Geographic and National Park Service. Her ultimate goal is to use her writing and filmmaking skills to help environmental agencies and scientists communicate effectively to the public. She is involved with the Wildlife Society, the Stevens Point TV, the Filmmakers Club, and the University Writers. Last summer she worked for a graduate student researching prairie chickens.

Gordon Bubolz Scholarship:
Andrew Kelly



Andrew is from Darlington, WI, a junior majoring in Forest Recreation and minoring in Environmental Law Enforcement. Current GPA is 3.59. His wish is to become a forester, ranger or game warden in the future. He wants to help protect our natural resources for future generations and wants to inform others about the importance of these resources. He is involved in the Society of American Foresters and the National Society of Leadership and Success at the UW-Stevens Point. In summer he works as a laborer at Yellowstone Lake State Park for the WI Dept. of Natural Resources. He was recently hired by the City of Darlington Police Department as a law enforcement officer, and will be working there as soon as he completes the law enforcement academy.

Richard Hemp Scholarship:
Joshua Stohr



Josh is from Viroqua, transferred to UWSP as a third year college student from UW-Richland where he received an Associates degree with a 3.97 cumulative GPA. At Richland he participated in Earth Club, and in a forestry internship where he worked with local foresters. From that internship he learned that Forestry was a field he wanted to pursue. He chose Forestry-Forest Ecosystem Restoration and Management as a major. The summer after his freshman year he went on a biology study abroad to Churchill, Manitoba studying the effects of global climate change on Arctic ecosystems and wildlife. He hopes to get a job through the National Parks Service or other federal agency that would allow him to work with the management and sustainable use of public forests.

Carol Kube Scholarship:
Cori Semler



Cori is from Hartford with a double major in Wildlife Ecology and Wildland Fire Science. Has a cumulative GPA of 3.34. Two summers worked at the Kettle Moraine State Forest - Pike Lake Unit, and last summer did field experience in Europe. Is involved with Fire Crew and Wildlife Society helping with the Karner Blue Butterfly and Waterfowl projects. After school is interested in work with a wildlife agency and work on habitat restoration. Also would love to start a consulting business for landowners looking to improve their property.

William Peterburs Scholarship:
Elizabeth Studinski



Elizabeth is from Marathon, WI. She transferred to UWSP from UWMC in Wausau where she earned her Associates in Science. Currently has a cumulative 3.95 GPA. She is involved in the Wildlife Society, Women in Natural Resources, Save the Frogs, the National Society of Leadership and Success, Falcon's Gate, and Pointers for Life. Last summer she completed the summer field experience at Treehaven and started working for UWSP Tutor Learning Center for an ecology class. She hopes to have a career working in a zoo or wildlife rehabilitation center.



Les Woerpel Scholarship:
Kara White



Kara is from Amherst, is a Wildlife Ecology major with a passion for the natural environment, maintaining an overall GPA of 4.0. Her ultimate goal is to gain employment in the field of wildlife biology. She participates in the Fire Crew and the Wildlife Society where she is co-leader for the Field Project. She has worked as a naturalist at a local state park, and a Land-Use Honors Intern. She also has contributed nearly 50 hours of volunteer service in the field of citizen science, education and interpretation, and ecological restoration.

James Wareing Scholarship:
Celia Hein



Celia is from Columbus and is a Wildlife Ecology and Biology major with an overall GPA of 4.0. She participated in cultural education programs in Switzerland and Costa Rica and inspired her to minor in Spanish. She has worked on many research projects, did one on one and group tutoring. Was a teaching Assistant at Treehaven and was a Wildlife Technician Intern for the DNR. Her long-term goal is to become a professor.

Milwaukee Police Dept. Sportsmen Club Scholarship:
Nicole Smith

Nicole is from Beloit, an environmental law enforcement major with a 3.59 GPA. Her plan is to get an entry level patrol officer position after graduation and become a conservation warden in Wisconsin. She is the fundraising coordinator for Women in Natural Resources. During school she works with Dining Services and in the summer a sheep farm.



President George Borchert and Scholarship Committee Chair Betty Borchert (left) awarded the 2016 W.W.F. scholarships during a ceremony at UWSP on April 8th, 2016. Congratulations to all!

WWF General Scholarship:
Jonathon Andreas



Jonathon is from Wausau whose passion for the outdoors led him to pursue a career in forestry. He is a member of the Society of American Foresters and is active in many outdoor activities. After graduation he hopes to stay in central Wisconsin pursuing a career where he is involved with recreation, parks and forestry.

J.L. Schneider Scholarship:
Samantha Theisen



Samantha is from Slinger, a junior in the Natural Resources Planning program with a minor in Sustainable Energy with a 3.59 GPA. Has had numerous experiences with volunteer opportunities and campus jobs. Her dream job would consist of sustainable zoning or planning out cities and eventually returning to her home town to improve the landscape and make a greater impact on her community.

Allen Kube Scholarship:
Tyler Hein

Tyler is from Shawano and is fascinated by terrestrial and aquatic habitat interactions and the organisms living in these systems. He plans on attending a graduate school after he receives his degree from UWSP and will be searching for a project in riparian and wetland ecology. The aforementioned are his passion and he plans to someday work in wetland habitat restoration and preservation. He has spent time in the field working with radio telemetry, using surveying equipment. Did habitat evaluations in aquatic and riparian environments. This past summer was a teaching assistant for UWSP summer field techniques class in Fisheries and Water Resources.

Affiliate Activities

Friends of Sherwood Lake

On April 8, 2016, Friends of Sherwood Lake held their final meeting at a packed Sherwood Town Hall in Clark County. F.O.S.L.'s fund with the Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin of Stevens Point was closed December 31, 2015. The first week of January, 2016, we presented a check to Clark County for \$64,870.03, the total amount of funds collected to go toward the dredging bill along with funds from other key contributors. After several weeks of dredging, and just as the weather was turning warm, habitat work was also finished with several large trees put in place. The entire project was completed the last week of February, by Opelt Sand & Gravel of Neillsville. With heavy rainfall, the dredged area filled up with water in a short time from the rising Hay Creek channel that flows through the lake bed. The dredged area remains full today, offering a nice resting place for geese, ducks, and trumpeter swans who've been frequenting the lake this spring.

Clark County has a grant in place to do repairs on the boat landing this summer and this was discussed at our meeting. We also talked about fish stocking and have some great ideas for 2017. We'll be applying for a grant from Minnesota this fall for funds to aid with fish stocking. The grant was brought to our attention by a F.O.S.L. member with good promise for possible funding.

Friends of Sherwood Lake will be hosting a potluck picnic at the Sherwood Park on June 11th, 2016, at noon. The shelter house has been reserved for the day. That afternoon we plan to dedicate

a boulder with a bronze plaque at the park to honor our top donors of the restoration project including the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation! We'll also be placing a poster in the shelter house listing all donor names. All supporters are welcome to our informal picnic. Please bring a dish to pass, your own utensils and seating too, as we are not sure how many will be attending. This will be a day to reflect on our past efforts and celebrate the return of Sherwood Lake soon! Our meeting concluded with many questions answered.

In more recent news, Clark County Forestry & Parks accepted bids for the dam repair project at Sherwood Lake and revealed the contractor that will complete this project at an April 29th, Clark County Forestry & Parks Committee meeting at Neillsville, choosing Terra Construction, of Madison, to do the work. The dam project is to be completed by October 31st, 2016. In addition to repairs to the right and left head walls of the dam, a hydraulic lift system will also be added to it. A berm will be built up along Dyer Road 350' long, that leads into the park on the lake side, as the roadway is currently too low. The dike itself will be built up in its entirety, in some places up to 1 1/2'. Dirt for the dike build-up will be removed from the lake bed if it is suitable. If so, this will remove more material - a positive! The auxiliary spillway wings will remain in place, with a berm placed over top of the old spillway. Tiry Engineering of Chippewa Falls will oversee the project.

Kay Scholtz, F.O.S.L. Co-chair

North Bristol Sportsman's Club

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has finalized an agreement with the North Bristol Sportsmen's Club (NBSC) to open their Rifle and Pistol Ranges to the public on Saturdays and Sundays.

The North Bristol ranges offer a welcoming and safe environment for new and experienced shooters. Both ranges are overseen by certified Range Safety Officer (RSOs) who provide information and guidance.

The open times are April through October Saturdays & Sundays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, with the exception of the second Saturday of each of the month. The fee is \$10 per hour per shooter.

NBSC is a Shooting Sports Club located 17 miles north of Madison just off Hwy 151. (More information go to, www.shootatnbsc.com)

American Legion #364 Giles Luce Post "Winneconne"

BullsEye for Youth Events - "Planting Seeds for the Future by Supporting our Community Youth"



The 2016 WWF Club of the Year award was presented to the Post #364 volunteers at their regular monthly meeting May 2, 2016 which included a fish fry - the "Auxiliary" was in attendance. Presenting the award was Giles Luce Commander Jim Wolf (left) and WWF First Vice President Bill Tollard (right - front row). A salute to the many community volunteers beyond local #364 veterans...WWF Photo/DAG

DNR External Partners Award Kids Urban Fishing Clinics

On April 14th the Kids Urban Fishing Clinics Awards were held at the Wildcat Creek Farm in New Berlin, hosted by Brenda and Paul Schaff. Brenda is the President of Kids Urban Fishing Southwestern Wisconsin.

The Kids Urban fishing Clinics Southwestern Wisconsin Chapter is made up of five area counties, (Waukesha, Milwaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, and Ozaukee counties). In February 2016 Annual Event #25 took place in 6 different parks, 8 WWF affiliate taught ice safety, knot tying, fishing regulations, ethics, fish identification equipment, cooking and cleaning stations. On April 9th, KUFCA hosted their 32nd annual Spring Kids Fishing Clinics at 16 different locations which in addition to the Ice activities, included casting and boating safety. Over 300 volunteers and 18 WWF affiliate participated.

WWF congratulations to the KUFCA for their unselfish volunteer efforts and receiving this award.



Brenda Schaff, President of KUFCA, Justine Hasz, Deputy Director Fisheries Bureau, presenting the award and Ron Gray, Secretary KUFCA, receiving the External Partners Award.



John Wagner, WWF Past President, awarding Theresa Stabo the Federation's 2016 Educator of the Year Award.



Honoring Matt Coffaro, retired DNR Fish Biologist, for his 30 years of assistance to the KUFCA.



February 9, 2016, Opelt Sand & Gravel, just beginning to dredge at Sherwood Lake. Andy Cegielski Photo



Dredged area at Sherwood Lake taken May 4, 2016. Erin Martin Photo

Anglers, Boaters Play Key Role in Preventing the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species

Anglers and boaters play an important role in preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species and proper handling and disposal of live bait is more important than ever following the discovery of the fish egg-eating, invasive round goby in Little Lake Butte des Morts last year.

Bob Wakeman, aquatic invasive species coordinator for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, said anglers should never use aquatic invasive species as bait or dump unused live bait into the water. Wisconsin's bait laws are designed to prevent the spread of both obvious hitchhikers and other, less visible invaders capable of harming waterways and healthy aquatic communities.

"You may take leftover minnows purchased from a Wisconsin bait dealer away from any state water and use them again on that same water," he said. "You may use leftover minnows on other waters only if no lake or river water, or other fish were added to the container."

When deciding to use minnows, anglers must remember minnow harvest is prohibited on all viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) known and suspect waters. VHS is a deadly fish virus threatening Wisconsin fish such as muskies, walleye, lake whitefish, yellow perch and more. The prohibited area includes Lake Michigan, Lake Superior, the Winnebago system, the Mississippi River, the Wisconsin River up to the Prairie de Sac Dam and all waters connected to these waters up to the fish barrier impassable to fish.

This year, anglers fishing the lower Fox River and Lake Winnebago system are being asked for special help to guard against further spread of the round goby. Round gobies can survive even in poor quality water, spawn multiple times per season and displace native fish by eating their eggs and young, taking over optimal habitat.

Gobies have become common in some areas of the state such as Lake Michigan and Green Bay. Gobies are on the Chapter NR 40 list as a restricted invasive species and it is illegal to possess, transport, transfer or introduce live gobies, including using them as bait.

While there is no evidence that gobies have reached Lake Winnebago,



Round goby – WDNR photo

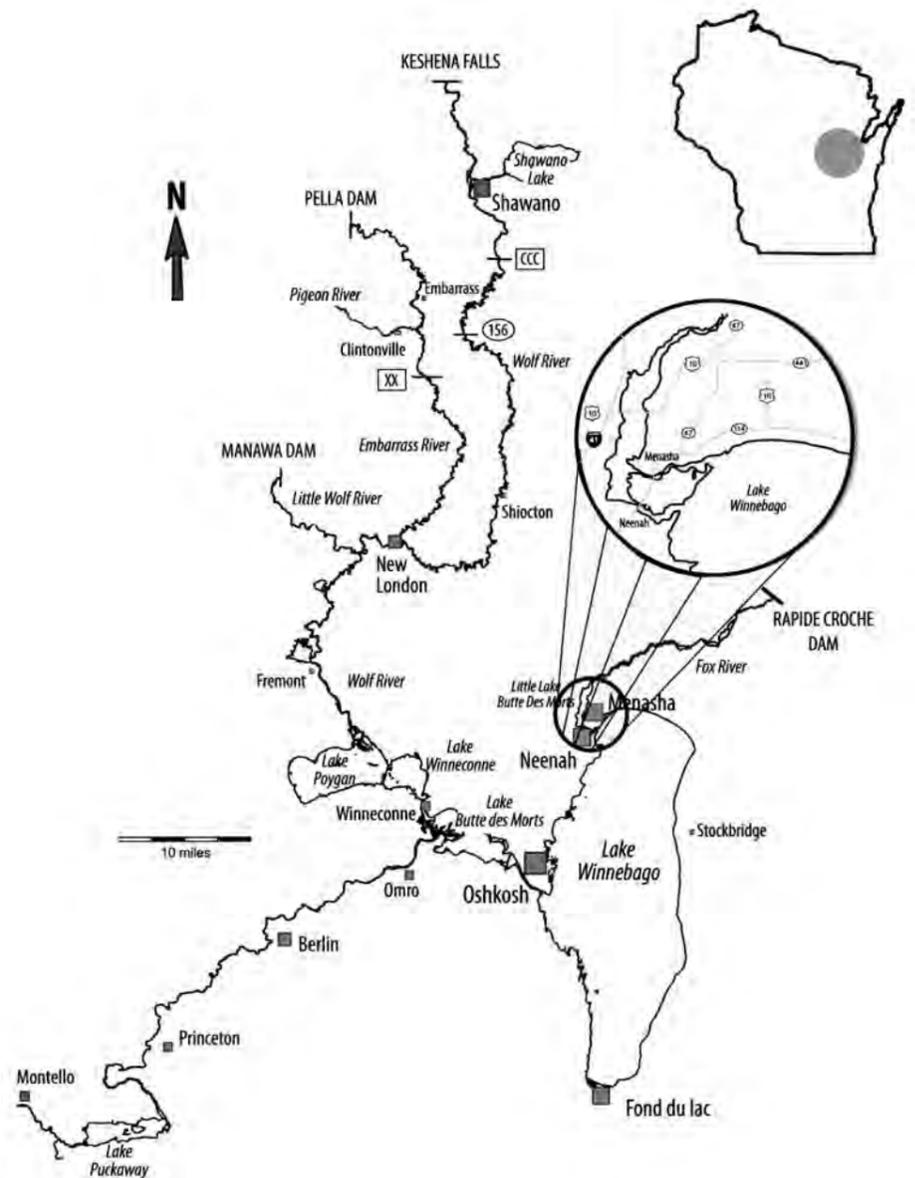
DNR continues to encourage Winnebago area anglers to report any goby catches through an online survey tool to help determine the extent of gobies in the region and develop a management strategy. The online tool also allows anglers to upload photos of suspected gobies for positive identification.

Anglers who catch gobies on Lake Winnebago, other parts of the Winnebago System or the lower Fox River below the Neenah and Menasha dams during the 2016 fishing season are encouraged to kill the fish by putting them on ice and bring them to the DNR Oshkosh office, 625 E. County Road Y, Suite 700, Oshkosh, Wis., 54901-9731. The office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Anglers also may call 920-424-7880 to report gobies.

Other tips to prevent the spread of AIS include bringing your day's catch home on ice rather than transporting live fish in water. And, it's important to check trailers and live wells to avoid giving other types of unwanted aquatic hitchhikers a lift.

"Boaters and other water users are making a difference by not transporting plant material, water and debris between lakes and rivers," Wakeman said. "We are grateful for these efforts and want to encourage the continued vigilance. Boaters and anglers only need to 'Inspect, Remove, Drain and Never Move live fish' to help stop aquatic hitchhikers. If every boater and angler took a few minutes to perform these actions before leaving a lake or river, new discoveries of AIS could be even lower."

Lake Winnebago System Goby Reporting Map



Department of Natural Resources Map 5/16

Lake Michigan Stocking Efforts Contribute to Diverse Angling Opportunities

MILWAUKEE – After stocking more than 2.6 million fish into the Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan in 2015, the Department of Natural Resources is relying on recent harvest data and survey research to implement its Lake Michigan stocking plans for the coming year.

At the same time, the department is employing a variety of techniques and monitoring efforts to ensure that stocked fish have the greatest chance for survival given the challenging predator to prey ratio in Lake Michigan. Brad Eggold, DNR southern Lake Michigan fisheries supervisor, said the department's stocking efforts are part of a strategy that complements natural reproduction in the lake and its tributaries to provide

diverse angling opportunities.

"We are committed to sustaining and improving the world-class fishery in Lake Michigan while recognizing that the makeup of the fishery may change over time," Eggold said. "Based on the best available science and our own management experience, we stock strategically to optimize returns while taking advantage of natural reproduction to maximize efficiency. We also work closely with partners in our neighboring states and the federal government to manage the resource in a coordinated way."

Overall, 2016 Wisconsin stocking numbers are expected to total 2.3 million chinook and coho salmon as well as brown and rainbow trout. Chinook salmon will again represent the greatest

number of fish stocked into the Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan as plans call for the release of approximately 808,254 chinook, down from 823,496 for 2015.

In 2013, chinook salmon stocking was reduced by 30 percent because of concerns over declining alewife populations. This year's stocking plan continues to reflect those concerns as recent survey data indicates record low levels of alewives and other forage fish due to predation and invasive quagga mussels removing nutrients from the water.

Estimates by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service indicate that natural reproduction currently accounts for more than 60 percent of all chinook in Lake Michigan and the stocking plans by Wisconsin and other states attempt to factor in the impact of these wild fish.

Eggold said the above-average survival rate of chinook stocked by Wisconsin means anglers here benefit both from stocked and naturally produced fish that spend a significant amount of time feeding along the lake's western shore during the summer and from the stocked fish that return to spawn in the fall. DNR continues to review its chinook stocking distribution and is working with stakeholder groups using net pens in five locations and a subset of those to study whether this rearing and release technique improves fish growth and returns.

While chinook account for the single

largest number of fish introduced each year, DNR's efforts to stock hundreds of thousands of coho salmon, brown trout and rainbow trout at more than 40 locations along the Lake Michigan coast support diverse angling opportunities, said Dave Giebtrock, DNR fisheries culture section chief.

"Rearing and stocking salmon and trout are among our most important management activities," Giebtrock said. "We appreciate stakeholder interest in our propagation efforts as well as the public and private support we've received to improve our hatchery facilities."

For 2016, the department intends to stock 676,637 brown trout (820,954 in 2015), 460,094 coho (539,129 in 2015) and 390,004 rainbow trout (432,665 in 2015). Additionally, some 12,500 Great Lakes spotted musky are being produced and 3,500 lake sturgeon are being reared as part of a reintroduction project in the Milwaukee and Kewaunee Rivers.

In 2016, the Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan should also receive about 800,000 lake trout produced by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

From the Calendar Committee

Well the 2017 calendar is off to the printers and now the next step is to ask everyone who would like a direct drop shipment to please let Ruth Ann (office manager) know so she can make the necessary arrangements.

The calendar should be ready in early July. Again this drop shipment saves us money for shipping and also delivering sooner than our August meeting.

So please start to think about where you want to sell the 2017 calendar and also who might want them dropped shipped.

This calendar again is worth over \$100,000 in prizes and a good product for your money. Remember you have a chance to win 365 days of the year.

Thanks and we look forward to another great year.

Sincerely yours in conservation,
The Calendar Committee

Kids and the Outdoors



USFWS Release

Why Take Your Kids Outside?

1. It makes kids happier.

Nature turns frowns upside down. Studies indicate that children who play and explore outdoors are less stressed and may further benefit by learning confidence and social skills. In nature, kids and families get a chance to move at life's natural pace, where time disappears, no one is bored, and exploration turns into fun adventure. Key to nature play is the chance for kids to explore on their own terms and with their own choices, so they can discover themselves what is interesting and fun (this builds confidence too!). Choosing to climb a tree, hanging onto a rope swing, jumping over a log, skipping stones – all of these are examples of experiences in which children learn more about themselves, their decisions, and what to do in new settings.

2. It makes kids healthier

Get out with the bugs to prevent getting a bug. Keeping kids active helps keep kids healthy. And nothing keeps kids active more than giving them fun and interesting things to explore and do. Studies indicate that even as little as 30 minutes of activity a day will keep you healthy. It can be as simple as a bike ride around the neighborhood or a hike in a local park. There are so many options when you're in nature – running, jumping, climbing, building and more. Research suggests that the most important thing for kids to make a habit of an active life is being introduced to their activities by a parent. And of course it's good for the parents too! Try it, you and your kids will like it.

3. It makes kids smarter.

Better focus without any hokus pokus! Nature has all sorts of patterns and parts. And all the parts somehow fit together. When children get to play in the outdoors from the earliest age, they learn – what is what, how things fit together, what they do. Opportunities for regular play in the outdoors – especially in gardens, woods, and creeks – are especially beneficial.

In nature, kids see, hear, smell and touch things all at the same time, getting them to observe, ask questions and figure out things that have a lot of parts to them. The richness in the outdoors is far more stimulating – and gets the mind working more – than only watching television or playing electronic games. There is a place for that stuff but they are no substitute for what experience in nature brings to kids' development. In fact, children who play and learn on a regular basis in the outdoors take these enhanced skills with them to school – and tend to have higher school achievement and test scores too!

4. It's free!

Free is always a great price. Most activities you can do outside don't cost a single penny. The outdoors can offer you your very own economic stimulus package. You want to make your dollar go the extra mile. What could be better than having a great time for free? There are more things you can do in and around your home and nearby that will fill your family's days with great adventures. Families are event planning their summer "trips" with backyard campouts or hikes in local parks. And another great thing is that you can get all your favorite friends and families together too. It's not far away, you don't need a plane ticket or big entrance ticket. All you have to do is go explore!

5. It's fun for the entire family.

Unplug, relax and explore, together. Want to do something for the family that is easy and fun for you too? Activities in nature are something the whole family can enjoy. Whether the whole family, a grandparent and a grandchild, a dad or mother and a son or daughter, or others spend time outdoors, they may be changed in positive ways for ever.

With nature games, family activities, or camping, everyone can participate – letting go of the stresses of the day – relaxing and having some creative time to just be. And that time offers the kids a real chance to really benefit from a parent's advice, knowledge and support in a way many other activities don't offer. This is that special time to share, explore, build memories – and through that build real family togetherness. Research indicates that children feel respected and cared for when adults they respect spend time with them outdoors. Kids, in turn, learn how to behave with the family and adults. They also tend to talk and communicate more, engage in conversation. Beyond family, a sense of connection to community and place is nourished. Everyone benefits – from individuals, to families, to whole communities.

Where to Take Your Family

Did you know there are over 70 National Fish Hatcheries and more than 550 National Wildlife Refuges, many within a 1-hour drive from your house? No matter where you live, there is a natural area close by to visit, whether it is a community park, state park or your national wildlife refuge or hatchery. These areas often have trails, waterways, campgrounds, gardens and events to enjoy. Pack up the family and get to know each place together. Go back often so you really can enjoy and learn about what they have to offer. Check to see if they give tours, learn about their history, and make your own adventure. Make sure to bring a nature journal to record all the different types of wildlife you see. Wildlife is EVERYWHERE. For ideas, use the web sites below to explore online; then explore them in person – with your friends and family.

Plan Some Outdoor Fun

Getting your family outdoors can be as simple as opening the door to the backyard or as exciting as going camping. And as your children grow bigger and more capable, adventures outdoors can grow in complexity with them. The important thing is to begin when they are young – as soon as they can crawl – to let them experience the wonders of nature. The web sites below will give you ideas about outdoor family fun.

Conservation at Home

Take a look at your yard and see if there is anything you can do to make it a better habitat for animals. Animals require food, water, shelter and space. To provide water, consider adding a bird bath – you and the birds that use it will enjoy it! To help provide food for birds during the winter months, set up a bird feeder or two. You can even make a worm compost bin or a sponge garden. The National Wildlife Federation sponsors a Backyard Wildlife Habitat Certification program. And after doing all that work, you might be just hungry enough to make a snack-o-lantern. Find out other things YOU can do to help the environment. For those artists out there, we have the Junior Duck Stamp Competition which is an art contest. You can learn about what a wetland habitat is and about waterfowl conservation.

Learn About Fish & Wildlife

Get into nature by figuring out what animals live in your backyard. Then once you have done that, go to a local park or wildlife refuge with your family or friends and explore some more. Once you figure out which animals are local to your area, learn more about them. Your children may have a school project that requires photos of animals. We have a digital image library that may be useful to you. Search the web site for the photos you need. Remember to never stop exploring and never stop learning.

WARDEN WIRE

Special FAQ Edition – Carcass Tags!

Source: WDNR Bureaus of Law Enforcement, Wildlife Management and DNR Call Center

OVERVIEW: For information regarding furbearer tagging (bobcat, fisher, otter), consult the 2016 Small Game and 2016 Trapping regulation pamphlets. For information regarding sturgeon tagging, consult the 2016 General Fishing or the 2016 Sturgeon Spearing regulation pamphlets. For Canada geese, there is no tagging requirement, but the date of harvest must be validated on the harvest permit.

With the 2016 transition to the department's new licensing system (Go WILD), the requirement to immediately attach a carcass tag has been modified to better accommodate the use of plain paper tags in the field.

The purpose of these changes is to prevent accidental in-field tag destruction or loss; the legal requirements to **validate your tag immediately upon harvesting an animal and to register game with the department by 5 p.m. on the day after kill remain unchanged from prior years.**

Under prior law, the validated carcass tag was required to be immediately attached to the carcass after harvest. Under the new law, a validated carcass tag must be attached **only if you leave the carcass.** There is no longer an automatic requirement to immediately attach the carcass tag. Instead, what determines when a tag needs to be attached to a carcass is whether **you are leaving the carcass**, and not keeping it with you.

Question 1: Why the change to the attachment requirements?

Answer: The department recognized maintaining the requirement to immediately attach what is now a plain paper carcass tag likely would result in many tags becoming illegible, torn, destroyed or lost during field handling activities like dragging a deer carcass out of the woods. The law change gives many hunters the flexibility to keep the validated tag protected in their pocket while removing the carcass from the field.

Question 2: How will carcass tags be validated with the new plain paper tags?

Answer: Since the new plain paper carcass tags are less durable, hunters will validate their tag by writing the date and time of harvest in the space provided on the tag. This is a change from prior years when carcass tags were slit or punched to validate. The department encourages hunters to make sure they have a writing utensil immediately available while hunting.

Question 3: What is considered leaving the carcass?

Answer: The department utilizes a common sense approach to interpretation of this phrase. **If the carcass isn't with you, then you have left it and a tag needs to be attached to it. If you leave it, tag it.** Common examples where a hunter may leave a carcass include:

- Leaving the carcass afield while traveling back to a vehicle to retrieve supplies
- Leaving the carcass in/on a vehicle while entering a business establishment
- Leaving the carcass outside or in a garage when entering a cabin or home
- Leaving the carcass with a meat processor or taxidermist

Question 4: I'm not sure if I'm leaving the carcass. Am I allowed to attach the validated carcass tag before I leave it?

Answer: Yes. There is no restriction on attaching the validated carcass tag *too early*. **When in doubt, simply attach the carcass tag.**

Question 5: Do I need to attach the tag before field dressing the animal or moving it?

Answer: No, the carcass tag only needs to be attached if you leave the carcass. However, you still are required to validate your carcass tag immediately upon harvesting the animal and before field dressing it or moving it.

Question 6: Am I required to attach the tag prior to or immediately after registration?

Answer: No, the validated carcass tag only needs to be attached if you leave the carcass.

Question 7: Can I just attach the tag immediately after harvest, like I did last year?

Answer: Yes.

Question 8: What if I leave the carcass with a friend; can I just give them the carcass tag?

Answer: No. The validated carcass tag needs to be attached. The legal requirement is based on whether you, as the person providing the validated tag, have left the animal. Leaving the carcass with other people does not change the requirement to attach a validated tag to your animal when you leave it. Remember that while afield no person may possess or transport another hunter's deer, even after it has been registered, unless accompanied by the person whose carcass tag was used to harvest the deer. Anyone may transport another person's registered deer on a public road or possess it at a residence, camp or business.

Question 9: What if I can still see the carcass but I'm a long distance away from it?

Answer: The validated carcass tag needs to be attached. In this example, it would not be reasonable to say that you have brought the carcass along with you, meaning you have left it, and a validated tag needs to be attached. **When in doubt, attach a carcass tag.**

Question 10: Where do I need to attach the tag on the animal?

Answer: There is no specific carcass location where the tag needs to be attached, so long as the tag is attached to a spot that is reasonably accessible for DNR staff to see and inspect.

Question 11: Do I need to protect the tag?

Answer: You are required to keep the validated carcass tag intact and in good, legible condition for DNR staff to inspect.

Question 12: How am I supposed to protect and attach the tag?

Answer: There is no specific protection required so long as the methods you have chosen actually keep the validated tag protected and attached. The department suggests placing the validated tag in a clear plastic sandwich bag and securing the tag to the carcass using string, plastic ties or wire.

Question 13: When can I remove the tag?

Answer: A validated carcass tag that has been attached can only be removed from the carcass at the time of butchering or when prepared by a taxidermist. **The person who killed or obtained the animal shall retain the tag until the meat is consumed.**

Question 14: If a tag is not attached to the animal, how will a conservation warden know if it was legally harvested?

Answer: As in the past, you still are required to show the validated carcass tag to DNR staff upon their request.

Take Note!

Executive Director Activity. Pages 1 & 3

W.W.F. Scholarships. Pages 3 & 4

Affiliat Activities. Page 5

Lake Winnebago System Map. Page 6

Editor D. A. Gries

WWF "Kitchen News"

Wilted Dandelion Greens – serves 3-4

Ingredients:

- 1 quart coarsely shredded dandelion greens
- 4 strips bacon, diced
- 2 tsp. sugar
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- Dash freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 tsp dry mustard
- 3 T. mild vinegar

Tough roots or stems should be removed from the greens before shredding them. Place the greens in a large bowl. Cook the bacon until crisp. Add the remaining ingredients to the bacon and fat and heat, stirring, until the sugar has dissolved. Pour the mixture over the dandelion greens and toss well.

Deep Fried Walleye Fillet – serves 6

Ingredients:

- 2 lbs. of walleye fillet
- 4 oz. saltine crackers
- 3 eggs
- 1/4 c. milk
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 fresh lemons (cut into wedges)

Combine eggs and milk and beat until thoroughly mixed. Crush crackers in blender and place in separate dish. Dip fillet in egg mixture then cracker crumbs and deep fry in peanut oil for approximately 3 minutes on each side or until golden brown. Drain on paper towel and place in warming dish. Serve hot with lemon wedges and potato pancakes with applesauce. Yummy!

Butter Pecan Turtle Bars another one of my favorites

Ingredients:

- Crust:**
- 2 c. flour
 - 1/2 c. soft butter or oleo (I use butter)
 - 1 c. brown sugar

Mix together and pat into a 9 x 13 pan, sprinkle 1 c. whole pecans halves over the crust, then prepare caramel layer.

- Caramel layer:**
- 2/3 c. butter or oleo
 - 1/2 c. brown sugar

Put in sauce pan and cook over medium heat until mixture starts to bubble. Pour over crust and bake 18-22 min. Take out and sprinkle 1 c. chocolate chips over and bake 2-3 min. longer at 350 degrees.

Individual Membership Application



Want your voice to be heard on environmental issues? A membership in Wisconsin Wildlife Federation will accomplish just that. Founded in 1949, the W.W.F. is Wisconsin's oldest citizen-led non profit conservation organization.

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

Forward your application & fee to: **W.W.F., 1540 W. James Street, Suite 500, Columbus, WI 53925**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

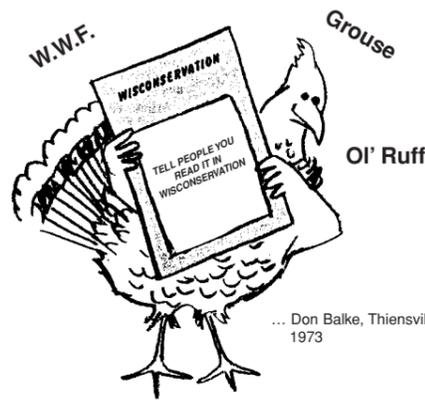
\$25 fee enclosed _____ Master Card/Visa available – 1-800-897-4161

Membership strength increases our voice strength!

May 2016 Calendar Winners



1	1436 Jon Boat/Shorelander Trailer/15 Mercury motor	Michael Schuessler, Sheboygan, WI	10849
2	Thompson Center Icon Rifl	Pam Voelker, Marshfield WI	7731
3	Gander Mountain Card \$100	Bertilla Bueckers, Freeport, MN	6739
4	\$100 Cash	Deb Stockwell, Walworth, WI	3430
5	CZ 104 12 Gauge o/u	Gary Heuvelmans, Green Bay, WI	4758
6	Gander Mountain Card \$100	Kevin Fast, LaCrosse, WI	2441
7	1/2 day guided walleye fishin trip for 2	Phil Mersberger, Oostburg, WI	4981
8	Browning A Bolt Rifl	John Bahls, Juneau, WI	7963
9	Gander Mountain Card \$100	Mark Bourdo, Big Bend, WI	3329
10	\$100 Cash	Mark Hasenberg, Kenosha, WI	7624
11	Gander Mountain Card \$100	George Borchert, Oshkosh, WI	669
12	10 Rounds of 3D Archery at Critters - Winneconne	Patti Jo Walcott, Plymouth, WI	5011
13	Remington 770 SS 7mm mag w/Bushnell scope	Michelle Herrman, Sparta, WI	9555
14	Gander Mountain Card \$100	Kim Gamroth, Germantown, WI	3821
15	\$100 Cash	Tom Rizzo, Kenosha, WI	8815
16	Savage 93-17 Package	Bill Ehnerd, Greenleaf, WI	4719
17	Gander Mountain Card \$100	Jon Spomer, Bismarck, ND	10150
18	\$100 Cash	Alyn Knudtson, Whitehall, WI	8602
19	Mossberg 100 Rifl	Shane Kaczrowski, Two Rivers, WI	8735
20	Gander Mountain Card \$100	Brent Narlock, South Milwaukee, WI	8105
21	\$100 Cash	Lars Larsen, Rudolph, WI	1824
22	Weatherby Upland Pump Shotgun	Kurt Briesemeister, South Milwaukee, WI	2171
23	Gander Mountain Card \$100	Michael Lane, Mosinee, WI	3250
24	\$100 Cash	Bruce Mayer, Caledonia, WI	2900
25	Remington 770 Rifl Package	Josh Bratsch, Burnett, WI	269
26	Gander Mountain Card \$100	Don Drews, Larson, WI	8398
27	\$100 Cash	Bill Kamer, Kaukauna, WI	10922
28	Ruger American 22 Mag. Rifl	Steve Sobieski, Muskego, WI	3629
29	Gander Mountain Card \$100	Otto Clason, Readstown, WI	2513
30	\$100 Cash	Jerry Michels, Kenosha, WI	7669
31	Stoeger 12 gauge Pump 350	Jim Brushwood, Muskego, WI	9486



... Don Balke, Thiensville 1973



Great Lakes Sport Fishermen - Ozaukee Chapter

Salmon Fishing Derby

3 BIG DAYS - JULY 1, 2 & 3, 2016
Port Washington, Wisconsin
Over \$10,000 in Prizes
Info: www.glsf.oz.org

2016 WWF BANQUET CALENDAR

DISTRICT	CONTACT	DATE	LOCATION
District 4 East (Plover)	Gary Fitzgerald 608-566-4828	Thurs. Sept. 8, 2016	Shooter's Plover, WI
District 7 (Watertown)	Dave/Mary Chingway 920-253-5251	TBD	
District 7 (MacKenzie Banquet)	Ruth Ann Lee 608-635-8105	TBD	