

Wisconsin Conservation



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President's Report

October 2017

Fall is in full force in northern Wisconsin. Everything outdoors seems to be happening all at once in the woods. The leaves are in the middle of changing colors. The elk in the Clam Lake area are starting to bugle. Both small game and big game seasons are open and fishing is going strong all over the state. Past President George Borchert and his wonderful bride Betty are plying the northern waters in pursuit of sturgeon with hook and line.

The executive committee met in the last half of September to work out the details on a number of issues. The WWF's new fundraising committee had its first meeting and they are off to a

great start. Committee members identified a number of ideas to raise more money for the WWF. Calendar sales, as you know is one of our main fundraisers, and it seems to be going very well. Thanks to Ruthann and Lil for all the time they spend working on the calendars. Remember our goal is to sell 9000 calendars so keep up the good work everyone.

It is time for our Affiliate clubs to renew their memberships. Affiliate clubs are what makes the WWF such an effective organization. So, put a bug in the ear of our affiliate clubs so they renew their memberships and think about recruiting a new club to join the WWF.

Finally, a big thanks to all the



members of the WWF for all the hard work you are doing on behalf of the WWF. Also, take time to get out and enjoy the great outdoors that Wisconsin has to offer. And when hunting make safety a first priority. Till next month.

Bill Tollard, President

New Urgency for Hunters to Test Deer for CWD, Lab Says

By Steven Verburg
sverburg@madison.com

As bow hunting season nears, the wildlife diagnostic lab is telling hunters there may be more urgency to test for CWD this year.

The UW-Madison lab that checks deer carcasses for a deadly brain disease said Monday there may be increased urgency for hunters to test for chronic wasting disease this year based on new scientific research.

Preliminary results of studies released earlier this year in Canada found for the first time CWD could be transmitted to primates.

There still have been no known instances of humans contracting CWD, but hunters should know the new study demonstrates the risk isn't nonexistent, said Keith Poulsen, diagnostic case and outreach coordinator at the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

"We're sure the risk is pretty low, but it's not zero," Poulsen said. "It would be a mistake to ignore it."

Wisconsin's archery season for deer opens Saturday. The firearms season starts Nov. 18.

Scientists and some leaders of hunting groups have expressed growing concern about the rapid spread of CWD through Wisconsin's deer herd, but most hunters don't take advantage of free state testing of the deer they kill.

CWD is related to incurable illnesses that cause dementia and death in humans. All of the diseases are caused by proteins called prions that can change their characteristics over time, Poulsen said.

CWD's tendency to change and its ability to incubate in some animals for years before symptoms appear are among factors that make eating CWD-tainted meat risky, Poulsen said.

Health officials recommend that hunters strongly consider testing and that they not eat infected venison.

The state Department of Health Services tracks cases of human prion diseases like Creutzfeldt-Jakob and compares them to a registry of people who eat venison, but the agency has said it hasn't found significant correlations.

New red flags

Scientists say they have been obtaining less new data than ever about CWD even as its prevalence reaches new heights in the core outbreak areas in southern Wisconsin and appears in more counties in other parts of the state.

About 40,000 deer tissue samples were tested in 2002, the year the disease was detected in Wisconsin, but the numbers dropped off in 2006 as testing became less convenient amid budget cuts and shifting policies.

Testing hit an all-time low in 2015 as the state switched to an electronic system for registering harvested deer and reduced in-person registration at sites where DNR personnel encouraged hunters to provide samples for testing. The numbers rebounded slightly last year to 6,600 out of more than 200,000 deer killed.

Hunters can bring a deer's head for testing to DNR registration stations — which are listed on the agency website at go.madison.com/deerreg — or directly to the diagnostic lab, Poulsen said.

Poulsen said he and his colleagues were shocked by how little response they heard from the public and how few questions they received from the state Legislature after news organizations in Wisconsin reported on the Canadian studies in June and July.

In April, the Canadian public health system's Health Products and Food Branch issued a five-page risk advisory based on a study begun in 2009 involving exposing macaque monkeys to CWD-infected venison. Three of five macaques tested positive for CWD after being fed meat from infected whitetail deer.

The research was funded by the Alberta Prion Research Institute at the University of Calgary. Peer review of the study hasn't concluded, but the discovery that a primate could be infected caused health officials to issue a statement April 26 emphasizing the potential for risk.

"While extensive disease surveillance in Canada and elsewhere has not provided any direct evidence that CWD has infected humans, the potential for CWD to be transmitted to humans cannot be excluded," Health Canada said. "In exercising precaution, HPFB continues to advocate that the most prudent approach is to consider that CWD has the potential to infect humans."

Staying the course

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the state Department of Health Services said Monday that they have not changed their advice to hunters.

"We continue to urge hunters to have their harvested deer tested for CWD, and if the results are positive they should follow the guidance from the CDC (U.S. Centers for Disease Control) and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and not consume the venison," said DNR spokesman Jim Dick.

"DHS will continue to encourage hunters to have deer tested that were harvested from areas of the state where CWD is known to exist," said Health Services spokeswoman Jennifer Miller, referring to DNR deer hunting guidelines.

"DHS will also continue to discourage the consumption of meat from deer harvested anywhere that showed signs of illness; for example, deer that appeared emaciated or that acted abnormally," Miller said.

David Clausen, a retired veterinarian and former Natural Resources Board chairman, has urged the DNR to do more to inform hunters about the new research.

"With thousands of CWD positive carcasses entering the food chain in Wisconsin each year, doesn't DNR and DHS have a responsibility to adequately provide consumers of those carcasses with up-to-date scientific information on potential risks?" Clausen wrote in a May 27 email to agency officials.

The veterinary diagnostic laboratory doesn't routinely issue public statements about CWD risk, but this year after discussions with its board of directors and the DNR, laboratory scientists decided to take a larger role in educating hunters.

In addition to the tests it does for DNR, the laboratory has 10 contracts with other states to test for CWD in wild deer, 15 for deer and other cervids from game farms, five for scrapie disease in sheep and five for mad cow disease in bovine farm animals, Poulsen said.

"DHS will also continue to discourage the consumption of meat from deer harvested anywhere that showed signs of illness; for example, deer that appeared emaciated or that acted abnormally," Jennifer Miller, Wisconsin Department of Health Services spokeswoman

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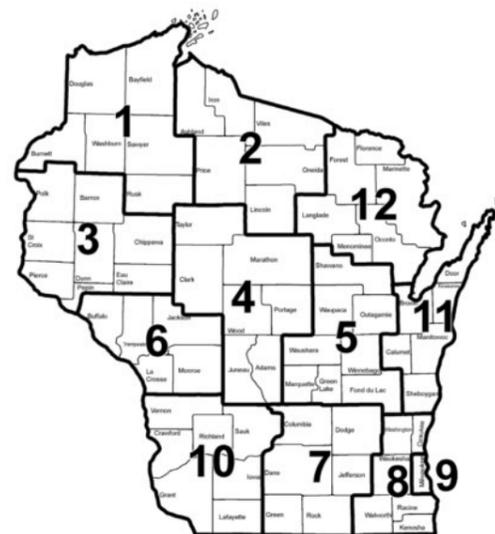
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Secretary Zinke signs Secretarial Order to Support Sportsmen & Enhance Wildlife Conservation

Order seeks to expand access on public and private lands and to promote hunting and fishing among youth, veterans, and minority communities

9/15/2017

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke signed Secretarial Order 3356, which will support and expand hunting and fishing, enhance conservation stewardship, improve wildlife management, and increase outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans. Secretarial Order 3356 is an extension of Secretarial Order 3347, issued on Zinke's first day, March 2, 2017. That order identified a slate of actions for the restoration of the American sportsmen conservation ethic, which was established by President Theodore Roosevelt.

The new order comes days after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced a survey that found there are 2.2 million fewer hunters in America now than in 2011. The order seeks to improve wildlife management and conservation, increase access to public lands for hunting, shooting, and fishing, and puts a new and a greater emphasis on recruiting and retaining new sportsmen conservationists, with a focus on engaging youths, veterans, minorities, and other communities that traditionally have low participation in outdoor recreation activities.

"Hunting and fishing is a cornerstone of the American tradition and hunters and fishers of America are the backbone of land and wildlife conservation," said Secretary Zinke. "The more people we can get outdoors, the better things will be for our public lands. As someone who grew up hunting and fishing on our public lands - packing bologna sandwiches and heading out at 4AM with my dad - I know how important it is to expand access to public lands for future generations. Some of my best memories are hunting deer or reeling in rainbow trout back home in Montana, and I think every American should be able to have that experience.

"Today's Secretarial Order is the latest example of how the Trump Administration is actively moving to support hunting and other forms of outdoor recreation on public lands. This means finding ways to expand hunting and fishing on public lands, improving access, and taking necessary actions to facilitate the enjoyment of these time-honored activities by any member of our society."

Secretarial Order 3356 directs bureaus within the department to:

- Within 120 days produce a plan to expand access for hunting and fishing on BLM, USFWS and NPS land.
- Amend national monument management plans to ensure the public's right to hunt, fish and target shoot.
- Expand educational outreach programs for underrepresented communities such as veterans, minorities, and youth.
- In a manner that respects the

rights and privacy of the owners of non-public lands, identify lands within their purview where access to Department lands, particularly access for hunting, fishing, recreational shooting, and other forms of outdoor recreation, is currently limited (including areas of Department land that may be impractical or effectively impossible to access via public roads or trails under current conditions, but where there may be an opportunity to gain access through an easement, right-of-way, or acquisition), and provide a report detailing such lands to the Deputy Secretary.

- Within 365 days, cooperate, coordinate, create, make available, and continuously update online a single "one stop" Department site database of available opportunities for hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting on Department lands.

- Improve wildlife management through collaboration with state, Tribal, territorial, and conservation partners.

"On behalf of the 5 million hunters, recreational shooters and members of the NRA, we commend Secretary Zinke for continuing to follow Teddy Roosevelt's sportsman legacy by opening more land and water to hunting and target shooting," said Chris Cox, Executive Director of the National Rifle Association. "In the past, management plans for federal lands have been put in place to ban hunting and shooting. Sportsmen and women can now breathe a sigh of relief that those days are over. This administration values access to public lands for sportsmen and we commend them for it."

"For too long, sportsmen's access to our federal lands has been restricted, with lost opportunity replacing the ability to enjoy many of our best outdoor spaces. This extension to Secretarial Order 3356 will go a long way to reversing that trend and help grow the next generation of hunters, fishermen, and recreational shooters," said Senator Lisa Murkowski, Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. "I appreciate this new order and am committed to working with Secretary Zinke and my colleagues to do everything we can to expand and enhance access to our federal lands for all Alaskans, and all Americans, so that we can continue our rich sportsmen's heritage."

"Restoring wildlife habitat and expanding opportunities for hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation will help increase wildlife populations and connect millions of Americans with our nation's natural treasures," said **Collin O'Mara, President and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation**. "Secretary Zinke's order demonstrates his commitment to collaborate closely with conservation organizations and state agencies to achieve these critical conservation outcomes. We look forward to

working with the Secretary, the Department, and our conservation partners to recover America's wildlife and connect every American with nature."

"Secretary Zinke's action today follows in the great tradition of President Teddy Roosevelt and recognizes the central role that hunters play in conservation and successful wildlife management," said Lawrence G. Keane, Senior Vice President and General Counsel of the National Shooting Sports Foundation. "The National Shooting Sports Foundation is deeply grateful to Secretary Zinke for the historic Secretarial Order that he signed today. NSSF has worked closely with, and in support of, Interior Department officials on these priorities and other positive steps announced today. Today's action will serve to benefit current and future generations for years to come."

"Americans depend on reliable and affordable access to public lands to participate in outdoor sporting and recreational activities," said Chairman Rob Bishop. "Unfortunately, these lands are not being managed to facilitate consistent, open access. Today's Secretarial Order to increase these opportunities strengthens the foundation of our country's hunting and fishing heritage and helps ensure that sportsmen and women continue to enjoy access to our federal lands and waterways."

"For many Americans, hunting and fishing wouldn't be possible without public land and the access it provides for these pastimes. Secretarial Order 3356 represents a renewed commitment to working with our nation's sportsmen and women to ensure that our legacy of hunting and fishing-driven conservation continues to stand the test of time," said Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation President Jeff Crane. "We applaud Secretary Zinke for recognizing the critically important role that expanded federal land access plays in achieving this goal."

"We support Secretary Zinke's or-

der to expand opportunities for hunters and anglers on BLM, Fish and Wildlife Service and Park Service lands as well as on private lands," said David Allen, President and CEO of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. "Access to quality wildlife habitat remains one of the most significant factors impacting hunting and fishing participation throughout the country. This order will help ensure sportsmen and women continue to have opportunities for quality recreational experiences on public lands and potentially private lands."

"Generations of Idahoans, including me, have passed on their love of hunting, fishing, and shooting sports to their children and grandchildren," said Senator James Risch, Co-Chairman of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus. "I applaud Secretary Zinke's quick action to protect those fundamental rights and expand access for sportsmen and women across the country."

On his first day in office, Secretary Zinke reversed an order that would have banned lead ammo and tackle on National Wildlife Refuge lands, and he began the process of expanding hunting and fishing opportunities on public lands across the Department.

In August, the Secretary announced a proposal to expand hunting and fishing opportunities at 10 national wildlife refuges, and he announced the initial stages of a plan to acquire land to make the Bureau of Land Management Sabinoso Wilderness Area accessible for the first time ever to hunters, hikers, and wildlife watchers.

In addition, Secretary Zinke recently made recommendations to President Trump on 27 national monuments that call for changes to some that, while still protecting the land, would also protect and expand public access to that land for citizens who want to hunt, fish, and hike and experience the joy and beauty of these special places.

CLC 2017-18 Report

CLC class #5 held their first meeting on Sept. 29th and 30th at the Econo Lodge Inn.

Who WWF is and what we do was explained. A friendly ice breaker was done to make everyone feel comfortable and get to know each other.

This year we have 15 students of which 13 are young ladies and well, 2 young men.

Our students attend the following colleges: UWSP, UW-Madison, Stevens Point Area Senior High, UW-Superior, UW-Oshkosh, Cathage College in Kenosha, St. Norbert's in DePere, Prairie School in Racine, Northland College.

They come from Waukesha, Appleton, Stevens Point, Hawkins, Racine, Kaukauna, Sun Prairie, Woodstock, Ill, Menasha, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Rhineland area and originally from Pleasant Hill, Missouri, Apple Valley, Minnesota.

So you can see we cover a wide area of the state and colleges and more info about them will be coming in the next issue.

At this meeting they learned about Overarching Adaptive leadership Principles and Concepts, the difference between Leadership vs. Authority.

They also learned more about Hugh Bennett, Rachel Carson and Jean Bufalo of the Red Cliff Band of the Lake Superior Ojibewe.

Their instructors for this session were: Randy Stark, who is currently providing conservation leadership training for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Pat Leavenworth completed her career with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in 2012 after 33 years with the agency. Pat holds a BA in Biological Sciences from Mr. Holyoke College and an MA in Forest Science from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. We were honored to have two very qualified instructors to lead our class.

Lil Pipping,
WWF Committee Chair

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Attention WWF Affiliate Clubs/Organizations!

2018 membership renewals have been mailed.
They are due January 1st. Please make sure your club submits renewals on time.

If you have questions or need another form,
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Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Legislative Summary 2017-2019 State Legislative Session September 2017

Assembly Bills

- AB28/SB7—Clarifies expiration date of concealed carry permit
Status: Enacted into law **Wisconsin Act 5**
WWF Position: Support, simple clarification of expiration date
- AB50/SB22—Strengthens high capacity well pumping law
Status: In Assembly Environment and Forestry Committee
In Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee
WWF Position: Support, protects lakes, streams and wetlands
- AB61/SB68—Weakens protection against Chronic Wasting Disease
Status: Governor signed into Law, **Wisconsin Act 41**
WWF Position: Strongly opposes, a substantial weakening of deer herd protection from CWD
- AB63—Exempts utility filling and dredging wetland permits in highway right of ways
Status: In Assembly Energy and Utilities Committee
WWF Position: WWF opposes due to likelihood of damage to fish and wildlife habitat
- AB74—Reinstates 48 hour waiting period for handgun purchase
Status: In Assembly Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee
WWF Position: Oppose, weakens Second Amendment Rights
- AB105/SB76—Removes high capacity well permit renewal requirement
Status: Signed into law, **Wisconsin Act 10**
WWF Position: Oppose, major weakening of stream, lake and wetland protection laws
- AB157/SB171—Restores Natural Resources Board Appointment of DNR Secretary
Status: In Assembly Natural Resources Committee
In Senate Natural Resources Committee
WWF Position: Strongly support to reduce political natural resource decision-making
- AB160/SB95—Changes wetland and stream alteration laws governing fish farms
Status: Signed into law as **Wisconsin Act 21**
WWF Position: Neutral, the aquaculture industry worked with WWF and other groups to minimize adverse impact on streams and wetlands
- AB203/SB150—Authorizes special free events for disabled vets to learn to hunt turkeys
Status: Hearing held in Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Awaiting hearing in Senate Sporting Heritage Committee
WWF Position: Support, special recognition for disabled vets
- AB214/SB152—Prohibits filling or destroying lake beds through iron mining activities
Status: In Assembly Rural Development and Mining Committee
In Senate Sporting Heritage, Mining and Forestry Committee
WWF Position: Support, bill is important to protect fish and wildlife habitat
- AB230/SB178—Grandfathers fences on MFL lands owned by three beagle training clubs
Status: Signed by Governor, **Wisconsin Act 43**
WWF Position: Strongly supports bill—saves three WWF Beagle Clubs
- AB246/SB177—Exempts Drainage Ditches from laws protecting streams and wetlands
Status: In Assembly Agriculture Committee
In Senate Agriculture Committee
WWF Position: Neutral, bill contains sufficient protection of fish and wildlife habitat
- AB247/SB169—Bill substantially reduces regulations regarding possession of weapons
Status: In Assembly State Affairs Committee
Hearing held in Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee
WWF Position: WWF is a strong supporter of Second Amendment Rights but objects to provisions allowing rifles and crossbows while shining wild animals and objects to firearms in wildlife refuges close to hunting
- AB281/SB180—Bill relates to municipal sewer service area under the Great Lakes Compact
Status: Signed by the Governor, **Wisconsin Act 38**
WWF Position: Support, this bill is consistent with WWF position in the City of Waukesha Great Lakes Compact diversion proceeding
- AB314/SB247—Bill authorizes hunting from a lift attached to a motor vehicle
Status: Passed the Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Passed the Senate Sporting Heritage Committee
WWF Position: Support, provides another safe hunting method
- AB323/SB249—Bill transfers the woodchuck from the protected to game species list
Status: Passed the Assembly, Awaiting a Senate vote
WWF Position: Support, no biological reason not to harvest, often a nuisance
- AB325/SB257—Removes minimum age limit to apply for bear harvest preference points
Status: Signed into law, **Wisconsin Act 44**
WWF Position: Supports bill, allows youth to hunt bear when reaching hunting age
- AB328/SB225—Establishes uniform season closing for certain hunting and trapping seasons
Status: Passed Senate, Passed Assembly Committee
WWF Position: Support bill as amended
- AB338/SB270—Requires DNR to use \$10 million a year for eight years to buy public land owned by the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands
Status: In Assembly Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage Committee
In Senate Universities and Technical Colleges Committee
WWF Position: Strongly oppose, uses limited Stewardship funds to buy already public land open to hunting, fishing and trapping
- AB346—Requires DNR to continue to publish Natural Resources Magazine
Status: Passed as a motion to the State Budget in Joint Finance Committee
WWF Position: Support, the magazine is valuable to subscribers and is totally paid for by subscribers
- AB347—Restores Funding for 16 Research Scientists to the DNR
Status: Motion defeated in Joint Finance Committee
WWF Position: Support, the past elimination of these positions significantly weakened the necessary science information development for natural resources program

- AB374—Strengthens the fencing requirements for deer farms that have CWD
Status: In the Assembly Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage Committee
WWF Position: Support, this bill is important to protect the wild deer herd
- AB388/SB320—Bill allows filling of artificial wetlands that do not have fishery values
Status: In the Assembly Environment and Senate Natural Resource Committees
WWF Position: Neutral; Review shows that bill adequately protects fish and wildlife values
- AB411/SB321—Bill substantially weakens warden authority to protect fish and wildlife on private property
Status: Hearing held in the Assembly Natural Resources Committee;
In the Senate Natural Resources Committee
WWF Position: Strongly oppose; seriously weakens protection of fish and wildlife
- AB416/SB326—Places surcharge on penalties for the poaching of trophy deer
Status: In Assembly Environment and Senate Sporting Heritage Committees
WWF Position: Support, increases penalties for poaching deer
- AB427/SB340—Directs DNR and Superintendent of Education to develop curriculum for firearm safety courses (not hunter education) for high schools
Status: Hearing held in Assembly Education Committee;
In Senate Education Committee
WWF Position: Support; increases firearm safety and shooting sports
- AB428—Provides penalties for failure to report stolen or lost firearms
Status: In Assembly Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee
WWF Position: Oppose
- AB429—Requires someone selling or transferring a firearm to furnish a trigger lock or secure storage container
Status: In Assembly Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee
WWF Position: Oppose
- AB430—Requires a trigger lock or secure storage container for all firearms in residences where someone prohibited from possessing firearm resides
Status: In Assembly Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee
WWF Position: Oppose
- AB431—Requires a trigger lock or secure storage container for all firearms in residences where children may be present
Status: In Assembly Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee
WWF Position: Oppose
- AB441/SB373—Directs DNR to issue 5 sturgeon spearing tags to Sturgeon for Tomorrow for raffle to support sturgeon research and management
Status: In Assembly Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage Committee
WWF Position: Support, important funding for sturgeon management
- AB455/SB362—Removes age limit for hunting mentorship and one firearm requirement
Status: Hearings held in Assembly Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage Committee and Senate Sporting Heritage, Mining and Forestry Committee
WWF Position: Oppose unless one firearm requirement remains to provide a true mentorship of young hunters
- AB464/SB376—Height of pole traps for bird depredation permits at game preserves
Status: In Assembly Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage and Senate Sporting Heritage, Mining and Forestry
WWF Position: Neutral, bill drafted to protect raptors
- AB461/SB371—Provides that nonresidents with terminal disease pay resident sporting fees
Status: In Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage
In Senate Sporting Heritage, Mining and Forestry
WWF Position: Support, support for terminal sportsmen and women
- AB474—Appropriates \$200,000 GPR for increased CWD testing
Status: In Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage
WWF Position: Support, important to track spread of CWD
- AJR69/SJR68—Opposes Back Forty Mine on the Menominee River
Status: In the Committee on Rural Development and Mining
WWF Position: Oppose, potential damage to excellent fishery

Senate Bills

- SB4—Overturns a DNR rule lowering the Lake Michigan Chub Quota
Status: In Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee
WWF Position: Oppose bill because of low chub populations
- SB346—Requires specific training requirements for concealed carry permit
Status: In Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee
WWF Position: Neutral, additional information necessary
- SB347—Requires general liability insurance for concealed firearms
Status: In Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee
WWF Position: Oppose, costly and burdensome for average gun owner
- SB 348—Requires microstamping of semiautomatic handguns
Status: In Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee
WWF Position: Oppose
- SB349—Requires Attorney General to check "Do Not Fly" list for concealed carry permit issuance
Status: In Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee
WWF Position: Neutral, additional information necessary
- SB350—Bans possession, transfer, transportation and possession of semiautomatic "assault weapons"
Status: In Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee
WWF Position: Oppose

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Testimony Opposing AB 384

Chairman Horlacher and Members of the Assembly Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform, thank you for this opportunity to testify on Assembly Bill 384.

As many of you know the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation is the state's largest conservation organization comprised of 204 hunting, fishing and trapping organizations in Wisconsin. Our clubs are very interested in and impacted by the hunting, fishing and trapping regulations that are adopted through a process involving the Conservation Congress, the Department of Natural Resources, the Natural Resources Board and the Legislature. Virtually all the hunting, fishing and trapping regulations involving game

fish and wildlife throughout the state are adopted through the Conservation Congress process.

It is because of the impact of AB 384 on the Conservation Congress rulemaking process that the Federation opposes the bill. As you all know the Congress process is by far, the most democratic, public participatory process for rule adoption in the state. It is unrivaled in terms of sportsmen and women's input of any state in the country. Virtually all of the hunting, fishing and trapping regulations are voted on by citizens attending the Congress Spring Hearings on the first Monday of April each year in every county of the state. No other rules receive as much public input as these rules.

AB 384 provides that each chapter of the Wisconsin Administrative Code expires after seven years, unless the chapter is readopted by the agency through the re-adoption process established under the bill. The bill requires that the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules establish a schedule for the expiration of all existing code chapters that are in effect on the effective date of the bill. Under the bill, in the year before a code chapter is set to expire, an agency may send a re-adoption notice to JCRAR and the appropriate standing committees proposing to readopt the chapter. If no member of JCRAR or the standing committees objects to the re-adoption notice, the chapter is considered readopted without further action. If any member of JCRAR or either standing committee objects to re-adoption of the chapter, the chapter expires on its expiration date unless the agency promulgates a rule to readopt the chapter using the standard rule-making process.

Here are our specific concerns on the application of the bill to hunting, fishing and trapping regulations:

1. First, despite the fact that each hunting, fishing and trapping rule has been voted on by thousands of sportsmen and women at Conservation Congress hearings in every county of the state, **it would take only one legislator** of the 30 total legislators on the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, the Senate Sporting Heritage Committee and the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules to suspend a rule, as an example setting the minimum size limit of bass on a lake. This would require the DNR to start a re-adoption process involving the DNR, the Conservation Congress, the Natural Resources Board and the Legislature.

2. Secondly the bill provides that if a legislator would object to any one rule, say the minimum bass size limit on Lake Koshkonong in Jefferson County, the whole chapter of rules that the size limit is in would have to be readopted by the DNR. To show the ramifications of this proposed bill requirement, I have attached the first page of Chapter NR 20, WAC, for your review. That is the title page and table of contents for the chapter which is 137 pages long. The chapter not only contains the minimum bass size limit for Lake Koshkonong, it contains all the types of fishing regulations for every inland lake and stream in the state and the outlying waters including the Mississippi River and the Great Lakes. The



tens of thousands of hours invested in establishing those regulations by sportsmen and women in the state, DNR staff and the Natural Resources Board would be undone and would have to be started over if this bill is adopted.

3. Thirdly, under the timelines set out in AB 384 an agency would appear to have a **maximum of a 1.75 years** (this assumes they are given the one year extension by JCRAR) to re-promulgate the rules that are objected to. Given the 2011 Act 21 changes to Chap 227 and the passage of Act 57 this year, it now takes significantly longer than this to promulgate a rule in the state and even longer for hunting, fishing and trapping regulations which have to go through the Conservation Congress Spring Hearings. This means there will be lengthy gaps in time when a rule would not be in effect. So not only would there be a fishing season or two when there would be no minimum size limit on bass on Lake Koshkonong, there would be no fishing regulations on every other inland stream and lake and on the outlying waters such as the Mississippi River and the Great Lakes.

The Federation is confident that the authors and this Committee would not want to see these unintended consequences affecting the millions of hunters, anglers and trappers in the state. We respectfully request that the bill be revised so as to recognize the unique and highly participative process by which fish and game regulations are adopted in Wisconsin.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this bill.

*George Meyer
Executive Director
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
September 19, 2017*

\$21.9 million approved for wetland conservation projects; \$5.4 million to conserve 2,259 acres on national wildlife refuges and open thousands of additional acres to public hunting Through Conservation Grants, Federal Duck Stamp Funds

WASHINGTON – The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, chaired by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, approved \$21.9 million in grants for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its partners to conserve, enhance or restore more than 92,000 acres of lands for waterfowl, shorebirds and other birds in 16 states.

The grants, made through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), will be matched by more than \$45 million in partner funds. NAWCA grants ensure waterfowl and other birds are protected throughout their lifecycles.

"I grew up hunting and fishing and know first-hand how important the outdoors is for our own health, the health of our communities and the health of our economy," said Secretary Zinke. "The projects approved by the commission will benefit hundreds of wetland and coastal bird species, other wildlife, and their habitats, ensuring we have the ability to pass our shared heritage down to our kids and grandkids."

Wetlands provide vital habitat for fish, wildlife and a variety of plants. They buffer communities from the effects of storms and floods, and contribute to the \$156 billion hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation industry.

NAWCA grants conserve bird populations and wetland habitat, while supporting American traditions such as hunting, fishing, birdwatching, family farming and cattle ranching. This year's projects include:

- Prairie Lakes IX Wetland Initiative: \$1 million. More than 25 partners will help conserve over 2,000 acres of habitat in the Prairie Pothole Region of Iowa through protection, restoration and enhancement activities. All acres will be open to hunting and other recreation.
- Russell Sage WMA Kennedy Tract Enhancement: \$999,939 to conserve and enhance 2,672 acres of forested wetlands and marsh in Mississippi and Louisiana, part of a region which hosts 60% of bird species in the continental U.S. Activities include an enhancement project on an active rice farm.
- Wetlands of the Sacramento Valley II: \$1 million to restore and enhance 2,314 acres of critical wintering waterfowl habitat in California. Partners include several ranches, sporting clubs, conservation organizations and a state agency.

The commission also heard a report on 32 NAWCA small grants, which were approved by the North American Wetlands Conservation Council in February. Small grants are awarded for smaller projects up to \$100,000, to encourage new grantees and partners to carry out smaller-scale conservation work. This year, \$3.6 million in grants were matched by \$10.9 million in partner funds.

NAWCA is the only federal grant program dedicated to the conservation of wetland habitats for migratory birds. Since 1989, funding has advanced the conservation of wetland habitats and their wildlife in all 50 U.S. states, Canada and Mexico while engaging more than 5,700 partners in over 2,700 projects. More information about the grant projects is available here.

The commission also approved more than \$5.4 million from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund to conserve 2,259 acres

for six national wildlife refuges. The approvals will improve refuge management capability and enable the Service to open thousands of acres to public waterfowl hunting for the first time. These funds were raised largely through the sale of Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, commonly known as "Duck Stamps."

"Hunting and fishing underpin the North American model of conservation, founded on principles of sustainable use and access for all," said Secretary Zinke. "Sportsmen and women continue to be the engine behind the nation's wildlife conservation efforts, as demonstrated by these Duck Stamp funds. The Duck Stamp puts hunting revenues back into public lands to improve access and enhance outdoor opportunities not just for millions of sportsmen and women, but for all Americans who spend time outdoors."

For every dollar spent on Duck Stamps, 98 cents goes toward the acquisition or lease of habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Duck Stamps – while required by waterfowl hunters as an annual license – are also voluntarily purchased by birders, outdoor enthusiasts and fans of national wildlife refuges who understand the value of preserving some of the most diverse and important wildlife habitats in our nation.

The following national wildlife refuge proposals were approved for funding:

- Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Maryland: \$663,000
- Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, New Jersey: \$867,600
- Great River National Wildlife Refuge, Missouri: \$677,500
- San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge, Texas: \$1,211,500
- Supawna Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, New Jersey: \$440,300
- Swan River National Wildlife Refuge, Montana: \$1,568,000

Since 1934, the Federal Duck Stamp Program has provided more than \$800 million for habitat conservation in the Refuge System.

The FWS is responsible for managing an unparalleled network of lands and waters in the National Wildlife Refuge System, including 566 national wildlife refuges and 38 wetland management districts. Refuges offer world-class public recreation, from fishing, hunting and wildlife observation to photography and environmental education. Every state and U.S. territory has at least one national wildlife refuge.

The amounts approved at the meeting are dependent on the passage of the fiscal year 2018 budget.

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission is chaired by the Secretary of the Interior. Its members include U.S. Senators Thad Cochran of Mississippi and Martin Heinrich of New Mexico; Representatives Robert J. Wittman of Virginia and Mike Thompson of California; Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture; and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. The commission has helped in conserving much of this Nation's most important waterfowl habitat and in establishing or enhancing many of our Nation's most popular destinations for waterfowl hunting.

WWF Works for Sportsmen and Women in DC

While the WWF spends most of its time advocating for strong conservation policies for Wisconsin's sportsmen and women before the Wisconsin Legislature, the DNR and the Natural Resources Board, there are many federal conservation issues that impact our hunting, fishing and trapping. Recently WWF Vice-President Gary Dieck and Executive Director George Meyer went to Washington DC and met the offices of Wisconsin's two U.S. Senators and eight Representatives to bring home your interests on a number of issues affecting fish and wildlife.

The WWF indicated its strong opposition to the downsizing or elimination of the several National Monuments that are under study by the Department of Interior and the President. The study involves millions of acres of quality fish and wildlife habitat, the great majority of which is open to hunting and fishing. Oil, gas and mining interests are pushing to have this land taken out of National Monument status so that it would be eligible to be opened for their development. Obviously, that would have major impacts on hunting, fishing and trapping on those lands.

The Federation also urged the Congressional delegation to permanently reauthorize the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund that is very critical to maintain open hunting and fishing lands in Wisconsin. The DNR has been able to obtain millions of dollars from this fund to purchase conservation and access easements under the Federal Forest Legacy program. These easements

have purchased tens of thousands of acres of forest land in Northern Wisconsin when former paper company lands are put on the market. The easements keep the land in timber production and accessible to hunters and anglers.

WWF also urged that the Congressional delegation support legislation establishing a separate budget funding source for the U.S. Forest Service for firefighting. Currently those costs are coming out of the Forest Service forest management budget. Because of the greatly increasing size and number of forest fires, especially in the West and South, the amount of the Forest Service forest management budget being eaten by firefighting costs has increased to 56% in 2016. That means far less sound forestry management is being done on Wisconsin forests which then adversely affects habitat management and providing timber for the local and state economies.

Lastly, but most importantly the Federation continued to push hard on the delegation to complete legislation to delist the wolf from the Federal Endangered Species List for Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan. There is wide spread support for this delisting among the great majority of the Wisconsin delegation. The Federation continually keeps this issue in the forefront of our Senators and Representatives on your behalf. We can report back that there is good progress on this and while it is not guaranteed that a wolf delisting bill will get past Congress this legislative session, the outlook is far better than in the past.

Groundwater Coordinating Council Report Highlights Need for Additional Private Well Testing

By Central Office August 31, 2017

MADISON – Since Wisconsin's groundwater resources play a critical role in human health and the economy, it's important that more private well owners test their wells on a regular basis. That's one of the findings in the 2017 annual Groundwater Coordinating Council report.

Nearly three-quarters of Wisconsin residents rely on groundwater as the primary source for their drinking water. "Unlike public water systems, protection and maintenance of private wells is largely the responsibility of homeowners," said Pat Stevens, Environmental Management Division administrator for the Department of Natural Resources and council chairman. "We recommend that private well owners test their water at least once a year for coliform and E. coli bacteria, important indicators of health risk."

In some counties, such as Dane, Portage and Kewaunee, more than 10 percent of private wells, on average, are tested for coliform bacteria each year. However, the state average of private wells tested annually for total coliform bacteria is only about 6 percent.

The Groundwater Council's report also shows some positive movement in nitrate contamination across the state.

"Nitrate is Wisconsin's most widespread groundwater contaminant, and it correlates with the presence of other contaminants," said Bruce Rheineck, DNR Groundwater Section chief. "The report

includes a finding that 11 counties - including Polk, La Crosse and Wood - show decreasing nitrate concentrations. The decrease in these counties represents a positive trend."

Rheineck added that ongoing monitoring will be needed to help show how pervasive the trend is and whether beneficial agriculture practices in these counties may be applied in other areas. A home well also should be tested for nitrate at least once a year, and on a regular basis if there is agricultural activity in the area.

The 2017 report notes the steps taken to protect groundwater from contamination and helps the public better understand the sources and distribution of naturally occurring contaminants in groundwater. It also highlights the need for ongoing research into the factors that affect groundwater supplies and helps identify next steps to protect and preserve our valuable groundwater resources.

The Groundwater Coordinating Council was formed in 1984 to help state agencies coordinate activities and exchange information on groundwater. Today, the council and its subcommittees regularly bring together staff from more than 10 different agencies, institutions and organizations to communicate and work together on a variety of research, monitoring, data management, education and planning issues. These activities increase coordination across agency lines to avoid duplication, create efficiencies and benefit Wisconsin's taxpayers.

Comments Sought on DNR Strategic Analysis of Fish Passage at Dams

GREEN BAY – The Department of Natural Resources invites the public to comment on its Strategic Analysis of Fish Passage at Dams.

Fish passage describes the ability of fish to move upstream and downstream to find suitable habitat and breeding grounds. While unimpeded fish movement in rivers was recognized as important well over 150 years ago, technology development to effectively pass fish around or through dams has been slow, with much trial-and-error. The topic of fish passage at dams involves many DNR programs and has become increasingly complex.

This strategic analysis is an informational document for the public, the department and natural resource pol-

icy makers to better understand the topic and to aid in the crafting of future fish passage initiatives. It summarizes our best current information on fish passage, the known and possible environmental impacts, applicable regulations and potential policy approaches.

The strategic analysis and links to more information about fish passage at dams can be found by searching the department website, dnr.wi.gov, for key words "fish passage."

Comments on this Strategic Analysis may be submitted through Oct. 16, 2017, by email to DNRFISHPASSAGE@wisconsin.gov, or sent via US Mail to Jim Doperalski Jr., environmental analysis and review specialist, 2984 Shawano Avenue, Green Bay, WI 54313.

New 5-Year Report Shows 101.6 Million Americans Participated in Hunting, Fishing & Wildlife Activities

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Survey Preliminary Findings Show Importance of Increasing Access to Public Lands

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of the Interior announced a new report by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that shows that 101.6 million Americans—40 percent of the U.S. population 16 years old and older—participated in wildlife-related activities in 2016, such as hunting, fishing and wildlife-watching.

The survey illustrates gains in wildlife watching—particularly around the home—and fishing, with moderate declines in the number of hunters nationally. The findings reflect a continued interest in engaging in the outdoors. These activities are drivers behind an economic powerhouse, where participants spent \$156 billion—the most in the last 25 years, adjusted for inflation.

"This report absolutely underscores the need to increase public access to public lands across the United States," said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke. "Hunting and fishing are a part of the American heritage. As a kid who grew up hunting and fishing on public lands who later took my own kids out on the same land, I know how important it is to expand access for future generations. Many folks east of the Mississippi River rely on friends with large acreages or pay high rates for hunting and fishing clubs. This makes access to wildlife refuges and other public lands more important."

On his first day in office, Secretary Zinke reversed an order that would have banned lead ammo and fishing tackle on National Wildlife Refuge lands, and he began the process of expanding hunting and fishing opportunities on public lands across the Department.

In August, the Secretary announced a proposal to expand hunting and fishing opportunities at 10 national wildlife refuges, and he announced the initial stages of a plan to acquire land to make the Bureau of Land Management Sabinoso Wilderness Area accessible for the first time ever to hunters, hikers and wildlife watchers.

In addition, Secretary Zinke recently made recommendations to President Trump on 27 national monuments that call for changes to some that, while still protecting the land, would also protect and expand public access to that land for citizens who want to hunt, fish and hike and experience the joy and beauty of these special places.

The survey, the 13th in a series conducted nearly every five years since 1955, shows that the most substantial increases in participation involve wildlife-watching—observing, feeding and photographing wildlife. The report indicates these activities surged 20 percent from 2011 to 2016, from 71.8 million to 86 million participants during that time. Expenditures by wildlife watchers also rose sharply—28 percent—between 2011 and 2016, from \$59.1 billion to \$75.9 billion. Around-the-home wildlife-watching increased 18 percent from 2011, from 68.6 million in 2011 to 81.1 million participants in 2016. More modest gains were made for away-from-home wildlife watchers: 5 percent increase from 2011 to 2016, from 22.5 million to 23 million participants.

More Americans also went fishing. The report indicates an 8 percent increase in angling participation since 2011, from 33.1 million anglers to 35.8 million in 2016. The greatest increases in participation—10 percent—were seen in the Great Lakes area. Total expenditures by anglers nationwide rose 2 percent from 2011 to 2016, from \$45 billion to \$46.1 billion.

Hunting participation dropped by about 2 million participants but still remained strong at 11.5 million hunters. Total expenditures

by hunters declined 29 percent from 2011 to 2016, from \$36.3 billion to \$25.6 billion. However, expenditures for related items such as taxidermy and camping equipment experienced a 27-percent uptick, and hunting trip-related expenses increased 15 percent.?

Regarding the decrease in participation in hunting, Zinke said: "Hunters and anglers are at the backbone of American conservation, so the more sportsmen and women we have, the better off our wildlife will be. Some of our wildlife refuges have great mentored hunting programs. I'd like to see these programs replicated and expanded across the country and reach into areas where kids don't traditionally get the opportunity to hunt, fish and connect with wildlife. Some of my best family time growing up and raising my own kids was hunting an elk, enjoying a pheasant, or reeling in a rainbow. These are the memories and traditions I want to share with future generations."

"No one does more for our wildlife and wild places than hunters. Any decline in hunting numbers, real or perceived, is of great concern since hunting provides the lion's share of funding for nationwide conservation work thanks to excise taxes on firearms, ammunition and archery equipment that garner more than \$1.6 billion annually," said David Allen, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation president and CEO. "The RMEF remains committed to growing and ensuring the future of our hunting heritage as well as elk, other wildlife and their habitat."

This year's survey also gathered two new categories of data: archery and target shooting. Findings show there are more than 32 million target shooters using firearms and 12.4 million people engaged in archery, not including hunting.

"Hunters and anglers form the foundation of wildlife conservation in the United States, consistently generating more funding for habitat and wildlife management than any other source," said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Principal Deputy Director Greg Sheehan. "Industry, federal and state fish and wildlife agency initiatives that focus on hunter and angler recruitment, retention and reactivation are crucial to sustaining these conservation dollars and ensuring the next generation of wildlife enthusiasts have the opportunity, access and awareness to pursue these time-honored American traditions."

"I praise Secretary Zinke for his support of hunting and land access. The hunting and shooting sports community is grateful for an administration that recognizes the economic, recreational and traditional values of hunting and target shooting," said John Frampton, President and CEO of the Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports. "Although the numbers of hunters have declined, we are optimistic they will rebound as a result of Secretary Zinke's leadership, state wildlife agencies, non-government organizations and industries working together. Hunting in this country is not only part of our national heritage, it is an important to our country's economy, as indicated by the expenditures in the survey."

As a partnership effort with states and national conservation organizations, the survey has become one of the most important sources of information on fish and wildlife recreation in the United States. Federal, state and private organizations use this detailed information to manage wildlife, market products, and look for trends. Conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the survey is based on a 22,416-household sample surveyed through computer-assisted telephone and in-person interviews.

Watch for Oak Wilt Signs to Help Stop the Spread of this Tree-Killing Disease

Published by Central Office
August 22, 2017

MADISON – Each year, a tree-killing fungal disease strikes and kills thousands of oak trees in Wisconsin's forests, woodlots and urban areas. Oak wilt is common in southern and central Wisconsin and is becoming increasingly abundant in northern counties. It is difficult to control once the disease takes hold and prevention steps need to be taken to slow the spread.

"We are observing oak wilt in more places this year, probably due to the storms we had in the spring," said Todd Lanigan, a forest health specialist with the Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry. "The first symptoms of oak wilt are branches with wilted leaves dropping in summer. These are not the brown, dry leaves you see in autumn. These are partially green to bronze-green and are not completely dry."

Oak wilt is confirmed in all Wisconsin counties except Ashland, Bayfield, Calumet, Door, Douglas, Forest, Iron, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Sheboygan and Taylor counties.

Oaks in the red oak group, including northern red, northern pin, and black oaks, are particularly vulnerable to oak wilt.

"Oak wilt is fatal for the infected tree. Landowners need to know what to watch for to take immediate steps to protect nearby oaks," said Don Kissinger, DNR urban forester. "Trees that die of oak wilt can still spread the disease for approximately a year after they die. It is important to know the signs and have a certified arborist or local forest health specialist help manage and contain the spread of oak wilt."

Wisconsin communities may be eligible to participate in a cost-sharing program to help combat oak wilt. The Urban Forestry Grant Program is not available to individual property owners; however, they can work with their municipalities to take steps to protect their oaks. Grant applications are due October 1. If a community is interested in applying for a grant, contact the local DNR urban forestry coordinator for more information.

"It is important to know the signs and have a certified arborist or local forest



Leaves infected with oak wilt drop rapidly and appear bronze-green.

Photo Credit: DNR

health specialist help outline management options, such as applying a fungicide," said Don Kissinger, DNR urban forester.

What to watch for:

- Wilted leaves that drop from the top of the tree first.
- Dull green or bronze leaves that look water-soaked.
- Partially green leaves on the ground which have dropped from the tree.

Helpful tips:

- Do not prune oak trees from April through July and seal any wounds with water-based paint to prevent insect-caused infection. Check with your municipality to see if there are local oak wilt ordinances.
- Control below-ground spread by severing the root system between an infected tree and healthy trees.
- Do not move diseased wood for firewood.
- If storing diseased wood for personal firewood use nearby, seal the entire pile with 4 mil plastic.

The University of Wisconsin's Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic can help verify the presence of oak wilt. Instructions for collecting and mailing samples to the clinic are available at www.plantpath.wisc.edu/pddc/ (exit DNR), or by calling 608-262-2863.

Other diseases and insect infestations can mimic oak wilt. Additional information about oak wilt and other forest health issues can be found at dnr.wi.gov, keyword "forest health."

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation



Calendar Raffle

365 Daily Winners

Over \$100,000 Prize Retail Value

****** 120 Firearms ******

Available From:

Adell Sportsman's Club Adell	Dan Gries.....920-725-4092.....Menasha	Dan Biermeier.....608-547-3435.....Reedsburg
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Paul Chandler.....715-824-2161.....Amherst	Janet McLaughlin.....414-573-3634.....Menomonee Falls	Turbo's Bar Richland Center
Pat Quaintance.....715-779-5104.....Bayfield	Jim Swanson.....715-232-8266.....Menomonie	The Barber Shawano
Shirley Schroeder.....920-382-7948.....Beaver Dam	Dieter Golla.....715-457-2139.....Milladore	Kevin Marquette.....715-851-4175.....Shawano
Doug Kurth.....414-350-0940.....Big Bend	Carolyn Brown.....608-247-2514.....Milton	Larry Freitag.....920-458-4117.....Sheboygan
Jerry Lingnofski.....920-841-8427.....Black Creek	Larry Spinkle.....414-418-4494.....Milwaukee	Farmers & Sportsmen Conservation Club Sheboygan
Chris Leighty.....608-206-3770.....Cottage Grove	Thomas Balistreri.....414-303-0178.....Milwaukee	Between the Lakes Muskies, Inc. Sheboygan
Oscar Stueck.....920-323-9230.....Crivitz	Gina Hrubes.....Montfort	Suscha Fale Sportsmen Club Sheboygan
Kevyn Quamme.....608-209-3842.....Dalton	Andy Lewandowski.....262-679-1057.....Muskego	Koenig's Conservation Club Sheboygan Falls
Elmer Schill.....920-336-8117.....De Pere	Buck Hollow Ranch Neillsville	Smerke's Sportsmen Club Sheboygan Falls
Geurts Bar De Pere	Deer Trail Park Campground Nekoosa	Sawyer Boldt.....920-917-0546.....Sheboygan Falls
Jeff Williams.....608-846-5906.....DeForest	Jeff Johnson.....608-522-4390.....North Freedom	J & H Game Farm Shiocton
Greg Kronschnabel.....262-965-3057.....Dousman	Don Campin.....262-392-4183.....North Prairie	Carl Gierke.....920-986-3272.....Shiocton
Jack Nissen.....262-370-8154.....Dousman	Wingers Tap Oconomowoc	Snarley's South Milwaukee
Steve Brasch.....262-392-4196.....Dousman	John Wagner.....262-490-7213.....Oconomowoc	Debbie Sippel.....920-999-4572.....St. Cloud
Lil Pipping.....920-876-4312.....Elkhart Lake	Mark Kakatsch.....262-567-1300.....Oconomowoc	Walt Camp.....715-891-2156.....St. Germain
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Tommy Dahlen.....715-819-2271.....Granton	Bill Tollard.....920-379-3429.....Omro	Sullivan Saloon Sullivan
The Settlement Bar & Grill Green Bay	Craig Challoner.....920-379-3255.....Omro	Andy Chikowski.....715-538-3392.....Taylor
The DePere Sportsman's Club Green Bay	Dan Billman.....920-564-6121.....Oostburg	Susan Murphy.....608-372-3890.....Tomah
Keith Pamperin.....920-494-3990.....Green Bay	Phil Mersberger.....Oostburg	Laurie Groskopf.....715-453-6301.....Tomahawk
Norb Moes.....920-434-1999.....Green Bay	Brian Hobbs.....715-417-0940.....Osceola	Maegan Loka.....715-612-0019.....Tomahawk
The Brown County Sportsman's Club Green Bay	Dave Pettis.....715-268-9444.....Osceola	Matt Lallemond.....715-218-5628.....Tomahawk
Jim Kaddatz.....262-488-2988.....Greendale	Betty & George Borchert.....920-539-7790.....Oshkosh	Nick Schertz.....715-966-6116.....Tomahawk
Mike Weishan.....Greenfield	Parnell Tavern (Andy & Amy) Parnell	Ralph Fritsch.....715-850-2456.....Townsend
Rocky Top Bar Greenleaf	Gordon Merz.....262-695-0060.....Pewaukee	Al Schwerin.....Union Center
Good Ol' Boys Bar & Grill Hancock	Tracey Czechan.....262-442-2583.....Pewaukee	Viking Bow & Gun Club Valders
Kal's Korner Hixton	Old Mill Tavern Phlox	Backhaus Retreat Wabeno
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Janet Fischer.....Jackson	Larry Vanderhoef.....715-366-2453.....Plainfield	Dave Chingway.....920-261-0379.....Watertown
Wayne Thayer.....608-754-4965.....Janesville	Dave Verhage.....715-344-3497.....Plover	Jim Huhn.....920-918-2378.....Watertown
Justin Mueller.....920-255-4221.....Kewaunee	Jerry Knuth.....715-340-5414.....Plover	Mike Meyer.....920-342-9439.....Watertown
Kiel Bait Shop Kiel	Roxanne Taylor.....920-565-2664.....Plymouth	Robert Zimmermann.....920-261-0416.....Watertown
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George Meyer.....608-516-5545.....Madison	Terry's Bait Bucket, Hwy J & 57 Plymouth	LaValle Sportsman's Club Wonewoc
Greg Bezdicek.....Manning	Nicky Boy Charters Port Washington	Club Chapparral Wonewoc
Karl Bonde.....920-973-4151.....Maribel	WWF Office Poynette	Gary Dieck.....608-464-3290.....Wonewoc
Alex Mertig.....715-413-0213.....Mason	Sauk County Sportsmans Alliance Prairie du Sac	
Debra Schotten.....608-381-0654.....Mauston	Tom Hauge.....608-477-0537.....Prairie du Sac	
Randal's Updown Mauston	Bev's Saddle Mound Tap Pray	

or call the WWF Office at 800-897-4161 to order with \$5.00 shipping fee

Take Note!

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WWF Members in DC. Page 5

Hunting, Fishing Participation Rates. Page 6

WWF Calendar Raffle. Page 7

Editor Jim Swanson

2018 WWF BANQUET DATES

DISTRICT	CONTACT	DATE	LOCATION
District 3 North (Osceola)	Brian Hobbs 715-417-0940 brianhobbs903@gmail.com	March 10, 2018	Crickets Bar & Grill Amery, WI
District 4 East (Plover)	Gary Fitzgerald 715-824-6310 garyterri@wi-net.com	Sept. 7, 2017	Shooter's Plover, WI
District 4 West (Neillsville)	Randy Teresinski 715-897-8832	April 7, 2018	American Legion Loyal, WI
District 5 (Fox Valley)	Jerry Lingnofski 920-841-8427 ling5thson@aol.com	March 22, 2018	Darboy Club Darboy, WI
District 6 (LaCrosse)	Michelle Graff 608-797-1292 graffmm68@gmail.com	Feb. 3, 2018	Fox Hollow Banquet Facility
District 6 (Black River Falls)	Christine Schultz 715-299-4414 rcmschultz@centurytel.net	March 3, 2018	Castle Hill Supper Club Merrillan, WI
District 8 (Oconomowoc)	Greg Kronschnabel 262-719-4530 gkronschnabel@yahoo.com	March 30, 2018	Olympia Resort Oconomowoc, WI
District 9 (Milwaukee)	Janet McLaughlin 262-252-4810 jandjmac@wi.rr.com	Spring 2018	Hilton Garden Inn - Park Place Milwaukee, WI
District 10 (Wonevoc)	Gary Dieck 608-464-3290 gdieck@centurytel.net	Feb. 24, 2018	Club Chapparal Wonevoc, WI
Statewide (WI Dells)	Wayne Thayer 608-754-4965 wat68@t6b.com	Jan. 27, 2018	Ho Chunk Casino Wisconsin Dells, WI

September 2017 Calendar Winners



1	\$1000 Cash	Pat Fenel, Mishicot, WI	8829
2	Benelli Montefeltro Shotgun	Curt Fredrick, Ashippun, WI	5997
3	Gander Mountain Card \$100/\$100 Cash	Dan Galindo, Muskego, WI	3803
4	Remington 700 SPS Rifle	Lauren Puetz, Cascade, WI	661
5	Gander Mountain Card \$100/\$100 Cash	Peter Schwartz, Sheboygan, WI	4899
6	\$100 Cash	Jacob Cole, Foxfire, NC	9330
7	Gander Mountain Card \$100/\$100 Cash	Mark Abbot, Wisconsin Rapids, WI	6276
8	CZ 104 12 Gauge o/u	Alyn Jones, Whitewater, WI	8222
9	Gander Mountain Card \$100/\$100 Cash	Ron Vicen, Sparta, WI	6831
10	\$100 Cash	Shawn McCullick, Stanley, WI	2930
11	Stevens 512 o/u Shotgun	Mike/Terrie Servais, Bailey's Harbor, WI	6811
12	Gander Mountain Card \$100/\$100 Cash	Kevin Rudolph, Marion, IL	2890
13	\$100 Cash	Brandon Muth, Oconomowoc, WI	3273
14	Browning A Bolt Rifle	Steven Suminski, Ashland, WI	2742
15	Gander Mountain Card \$100/\$100 Cash	John Koester, Menasha, WI	8373
16	\$100 Cash	Nick Koziczkowski, Stevens Point, WI	3165
17	Remington 770 SS 7mm mag w/Bushnell scope	William Michaelis, Madison, WI	7178
18	Gander Mountain Card \$100/\$100 Cash	Brenda Thiel, Hudson, WI	4167
19	\$100 Cash	Tillie Bueckers, Freeport, MN	6786
20	Savage 93-17 Package	Jackson Mellum, Sauk City, WI	7253
21	Gander Mountain Card \$100/\$100 Cash	Redgie Nielsen, Lake Elmo, MN	4849
22	\$100 Cash	Robert Mindemann, Watertown, WI	1524
23	Weatherby Upland Pump Shotgun	Mike Affeldt, Mount Horeb, WI	9880
24	Gander Mountain Card \$100/\$100 Cash	Chad Schoerner, Sheboygan, WI	559
25	\$100 Cash	Dale Peterson, Arpin, WI	6191
26	Remington 770 Rifle Package	Mike Reis, Grantsburg, WI	10080
27	Gander Mountain Card \$100/\$100 Cash	Lynn Schubert, Lomira, WI	1564
28	\$100 Cash	Ray Rogler, Fond du Lac, WI	1293
29	Stoeger 12 ga Pump 350	Greg Dalsbo, Plover, WI	3215
30	Gander Mountain Card \$100/\$100 Cash	Roger Wellman, Colby, WI	10723

WWF "Kitchen News"

Curried Rabbit

Rabbit

Quarter rabbit and soak in salt water over night. Put rabbit in pot and cover with water. Add 1 small onion and two cloves garlic. Bring to boil and then simmer until meat pulls easily away from bone. Remove rabbit from water and chill save 1/4 cup of broth.

Sauce

1/2 cup honey	1 clove garlic minced
1/4 cup prepared mustard	3 teaspoons curry powder
1/4 cup butter	1 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons finely chopped onion	1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper
1/4 cup rabbit broth	1/2 teaspoon ground ginger

Place all ingredients in pan and slowly bring to boil stirring constantly. Debone rabbit and break meat into bite sized pieces. Place rabbit in casserole pan and add sauce. Stir until mixed thoroughly. Bake in 275° oven for 1/2 hour. Serve with mashed potatoes or wild rice.

Venison Wild Rice Hot Dish

Ingredients

1 lb. venison cubed	1 clove garlic diced
5 dried ramps. Cut the bulbs off and use whole and crush the leaves.	1 tablespoon poultry seasoning
1 cup sliced celery	1 cup wild rice water
4 carrots sliced	1 cup sour cream
1 large onion chopped	

Directions

Brown venison in fry pan. Place venison and all ingredients (except sour cream) in Dutch oven. Cover with water. Bake in oven at 300 for 2 hours. Check periodically to make sure mixture has enough water. Water level will decrease as the rice absorb the water, but in must not dry out and scald on pan. Half an hour before hot dish is done, stir in the sour cream.

Ina Pumpkin Stew

Ingredients

2 lbs. beef stew meat or venison, cut into 1-inch cubes	4 garlic cloves, minced
3 tablespoons canola oil, divided	1 medium onion, chopped
1 cup water	2 teaspoons salt
3 large potatoes, peeled and cut into 1-inch cubes	1/2 teaspoon pepper
4 medium carrots, sliced	2 T. beef bouillon granules
1 large green pepper, cut into 1/2-inch pieces	1 can (14-1/2 ounces) diced tomatoes, undrained
	1 pumpkin (10 to 12 lbs.)

Directions

In a Dutch oven, brown meat in 2 tablespoons oil. Add water, potatoes, carrots, green pepper, garlic, onion, salt and pepper. Cover and simmer for 2 hours. Stir in bouillon and tomatoes. Wash pumpkin; cut a 6 to 8 in. circle around top stem. Remove top and set aside; discard seeds and loosen fibers from inside.

Pour stew out of Dutch oven into large bowl. Place pumpkin in Dutch oven. Spoon stew into pumpkin and replace top. Brush outside of pumpkin with remaining oil. Bake at 325° for 2 hours or just until the pumpkin is tender (do not overbake). Serve stew from pumpkin, scooping out a little pumpkin with each serving.

W.W.F.
Business Membership

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Paul R. Sommers, DDS, SC, Watertown
Advanced Building Corporation, Verona

Bronze
Best Sound Service, Watertown
Keck Furniture, Watertown
Dave's Turf and Marine, Watertown
Theder Home Services and Construction, Watertown
Castle Rock Marine Inc., New Lisbon

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