Message from the President

Greetings and welcome to the third issue of the Conservation Leadership Corps (CLC) Newsletter!

This year’s Executive Committee has been working hard to promote the Conservation Leadership Corporation and development of the organization. A couple major accomplishments were Five CLC Alumni Members attended the first Confluence of Young Conservation Leaders (CYCL). George Meyer was inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame and many more.

Molly O’Grady and George Meyer were influential in putting together the first Confluence of Young Conservation Leaders. It was an influential and appreciated learning event for everyone involved. There is a remarkable article in the newsletter detailing the experience from the CLC attendees. Last April, the CLC, Molly O’Grady, Monica Banaszak, and Janel Scharhag, along with the assistance of the WWF (Lil Pipping and Jerry Knuth), were able to nominate George Meyer for the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame. In November, we were notified George had been chosen to be inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame in April of 2018. As all of you know, George has been instrumental in fighting for sound conservation and environmental policies. I speak for all the CLC, George you truly deserve this honor and recognition. Thank you for everything you have done and continue to do for the CLC.

As we move into our sixth year as a leadership program, we will continue to grow into an influential Conservation organization.

Please Enjoy!

Justin Mueller
President, CLC
Session 1: A Strong Start to CLC Class 5

--Submitted by Marco Mascitti, Feb. 17th, 2017

It has been a pleasure to work with this year’s Conservation Leadership Corps. We have completed our first two sessions and are looking forward to the third meeting in February. Our first session was held at the end of September in Stevens Point and featured loyal CLC instructors Randy Stark and Pat Leavenworth.

Randy and Pat led the class through training in adaptive leadership, conflict resolution, and environmental history. These two accomplished conservationists have been dedicated to our program from its inception. They have done a fantastic job of updating their curriculum and tailoring each year’s lesson to fit with current issues and relevant conservation concerns.

I was impressed to see how attentive and engaged our students were. They practiced skills in public speaking, introductions, and discussing difficult topics, often exiting their comfort zone to accomplish these tasks. At the end of the session, each student was asked to write a report in coming weeks discussing how the program impacted their leadership tactics in class, extracurricular organizations, and in social settings.

Session 2: Policy and Communications

--Submitted by Monica Banaszak and Marco Mascitti

Our second session ever in the history of the CLC was held at the Central Wisconsin Environmental Station in Amherst Junction, Wisconsin on Saturday, December 2, 2017. This session was focused on getting the class exposed to Conservation Policy Communication. The day began with our Coordinator, Marco Mascitti, setting the expectations for the day and was followed by George Meyer with a presentation on Conservation Policy Presentations and Advocacy. His presentation topics included “Key Principles of Conservation Policy Persuasion”, “Meetings with Policy Makers”, and “Testifying at Hearings.”

Our founders Lil Pipping and George Meyer along with CLC Alumni Janel Scharhag and Emma Keese roleplayed as “senators” for this session. Using the proposed Penokee Hills mine as our issue of focus, the students were assigned various roles, all based off real people from the case, which took place only a few years ago. The hearing allowed students to assemble an argument, meet with the senators before the hearing, and then explain their stories in a formal setting. This experience is invaluable for CLC students as they encounter differing viewpoints and formal meetings in their education and careers.

At the end of the weekend, students selected their topics to address in the resolution-writing workshop which will take place at CWES February 2-3, 2018. The resolutions they produce will be presented at the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Annual Meeting in April. Stay tuned to the next issue to hear more about it!!
The First Confluence of Young Conservation Leaders

--Submitted by Marco Mascitti, December 2017

Kansas City, MO

On May 14, 1804 the Corps of Discovery convened and set out along the Missouri river, departing from the perhaps the greatest convergence of rivers in America, with hopes of encountering a new frontier and a new future for the country.

Over two hundred years later, another confluence took place along the Missouri. This November in Kansas City, Missouri marked the inaugural Confluence of Young Conservation Leaders (CYCL). CYCL has been many years in the making, inspired by the success of youth conservation programs in Wisconsin, Missouri, Texas, and Minnesota, among others. Students and mentors gathered in Kansas City to share ideas and techniques while building the next generation of youth conservation groups in our country. The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation was represented by several Wisconsin Conservation Leadership Corps students and mentors.

The Confluence was a driven three-day event, with long and thoughtful days of passing ideas around the table and developing new strategies for enhancing the efficacy of our programs. Representatives from Florida, Illinois, Louisiana and Michigan were in attendance, as were reps from national organizations including the National Wildlife Federation.

The conference was hosted by the Missouri Conservation Leadership Corps, the group from which Wisconsin’s CLC took its initial inspiration. Attendees were treated to daily visits to the Burr Oak Woods Nature Center, a scenic state-owned property near Kansas City where our meetings and discussions were held.

CYCL was a powerful occasion, where passionate conservationists from several walks of life met and established a new network of leadership. Discussion topics over the three days spanned a broad array of conservation issues including water resources, wildlife and fisheries diseases, public lands management, and diversity in conservation.

Experienced professionals paired with students and young leaders to discuss how each state approaches the above topics, and how we will progress conservation in our states by recruiting more young people to the cause.

Towards the end of the confluence, a meeting was held in which guidelines and specific future plans were established for how CYCL will continue. From this meeting, a new organization was born. The purpose of this new organization is to foster leadership among young conservationists and broaden the horizons of organizations which are also devoted to this purpose. In the next year, representatives from each existing youth organization will be working together to establish new groups and strengthen existing groups. Specific goals include developing a steering committee, securing funding for operations and hiring a coordinator.

So many ideas were born over the Confluence, and all the WWF representatives look forward to bringing back information and spreading the word about this exciting new group. The first CYCL came to an end quicker than anyone would have wanted, as there was so much more to discuss. However, like tributaries diligently flowing towards a connected purpose, the attendees of CYCL have traveled home with an abundance of progress to share with their communities as we forge ahead on a new Corps of Discovery, one which will ensure that our conservation legacy may continue into the future.

Group Photo of CYCL attendees: Wisconsin Reps were Molly O’Grady, Emma Keese, Janel Scharhag, Monica Banaszak, Elsa Litecky, Marco Mascitti, Lil Pipping and George Meyer.
On Friday, November 10th, 2017 CLC students and alumni arrived to the Menomonee Valley Urban Ecology Center located in Milwaukee, WI. The participants were given a presentation by Cherly Nenn, from the Water Keeper Alliance. She informed the students about the status of Milwaukee’s rivers, what her agency is going to do to help positively impact the rivers along with their hopes for the future.

The next morning, November 11th, 2017, the participants met at the Menomonee Valley Urban Ecology Center, located on Milwaukee’s south side. There they met with Eric Montenegro, the centers community programs director. He shared with us what the UEC mission is, and how he got to be a part of it. There are three separate branches located in the Milwaukee area. Eric went on to discuss how the UEC was not just a "nature center in the city" but also a community building place.

A place where kids could come in the summer to stay out of trouble, but also get involved in making a positive change in their neighborhoods. The students were then given a tour of the branch; which included a visit to the center’s main meeting room, the animal care room, and even the slide! After that, they were put to work! CLC participants volunteered to do some clean-up work in the park. We helped remove dead plants from the center’s small community garden, and helped get the plots ready for the winter for the next planting season. Before departing from a wonderful and fruitful experience at the Menomonee Valley Urban Ecology Center CLC students had the opportunity to explore the park on their own, as a group.
A Wild Welcome to Class 5!

**Jessycah Andersen**

I am a junior at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, originally from Waukesha, Wisconsin. With this program I hope to become an even better leader and team member as well as learn to communicate the importance of conservation. In school I have officer positions for 350 Stevens Point, Adventure Club, and Land Conservation Society and I am studying land use and conservation management. However, I am planning on changing my major to something like wilderness therapy. With this study, I would incorporate my passion for conservation and preservation when it comes to wild areas and their many values. When I am done with school, I hope to pursue a career in wilderness therapy, outdoor education, or conservation management.

**Halley Feil**

Growing up in Appleton WI, with busy roads and sidewalks inspired my family to seek peace and serenity in the north woods. I was always a curious kid, hunting for worms, turtles, and other critters wherever I was. My explorative passion for wildlife always made me feel as though this is what I was meant to do. Since beginning my studies, I have found unique ways to incorporate my artistic and creative skills with my study of nature and how things work, participating in garden exhibit projects and research related to biomimicry. I strongly feel as though creativity can be the key to sparking the public’s interest in issues they may not read about or see happening outside their windows. Through this special training program, I look forward to learning more about the environmental policies in place and ways in which our generation can sustain and improve them as the climate changes. On a personal level I hope to gain leadership skills and communication skills I can use to inspire more art related public outreach about these issues at hand. This year I will be continuing my study in conservation biology and environmental science as a senior at UW-Madison.

**Katrina Hauer**

My name is Katrina Hauer, and I am a senior in high school, attending Stevens Point Area Senior High. I live on a farm a few miles outside of Stevens Point with my parents and sister. I’ve grown up loving nature, and this has translated into a passion for environmental protection. I’m particularly interested in alternative energy sources. I’m a member of my school’s environmental club, called Students for Peace and Environmental Action Collation, or SPEAC. I’m interested in possibly pursuing some sort of major related to environmental work. Through the Conservation Corps training, I’m hoping to learn how to become a better advocate for our environment, and get a look at how policies are developed.
Monae Taylor

Hello, my name is Monae Taylor! I am currently a junior at UW-Stevens Point, presently majoring in one of the most thrilling studies within natural resources, Wildlife Ecology and Management! Even though my hometown is the busy city of Racine, ever since I traveled to Yellowstone National Park, my heart has remained out west. Ever since then, it has been my dream to work in natural resources and research animals while traveling! Learning all that I possibly can about the conservation of wildlife and their natural habitats, thus being able to utilize management practices to better help maximize conservation is an extremely important goal of mine. Although I have two years’ worth of college experience dealing with this subject, I haven’t even grazed the surface of all there is to know, which is why I am elated to be a part of the CLC. I feel that the CLC will supply me with valuable experience and information about conservation laws, management practices, and the like! I can’t wait to begin!

Hannah R. Holzschuh

I am a current junior/senior at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh where I will be finishing my undergrad in three years. I am the current chair for a student organization/university committee called Green fund where we fund student proposed sustainability plans for campus. I am from Kaukauna Wisconsin and grew up romping in the outdoors. I spent many years as a volunteer for the local nature preserve called Thousand Islands Nature Center, here I participated as an environmental education leader. I also spent a large amount of my time in the northwoods of Wisconsin fishing with family for northern pike and small pan fish but also spending every night listening for the loons calling over the lake. I recently spent six weeks in the Swan Valley of Montana where I undertook nine upper level credits towards my degree focused on conservation science, wildlife management, and human-wildlife dimensions. I could not be more excited to take on this new challenge through the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, and hope to gain practical experience towards my future in the conservation/wildlife management world!

Samantha Johnson

Originally from Sun Prairie, Wisconsin my name is Samantha Johnson. I attend Carthage College in Kenosha, WI, and will be a graduating senior this year. My main focus is environmental policy, so I am excited to learn more about local conservation efforts and the Wisconsin government’s role in such. I have had a couple different internships throughout my college career, namely in environmental education at the Pringle Nature Center and research on small mammal community richness in the Upper Peninsula. I am hoping to dig deeper into the political aspect this year, as that is where I think most big changes come from. I am looking forward to CLC, as I feel it will be a great opportunity to learn from experts in the field, and explore how classroom teachings have real world applications in both conservation and the policies surrounding it.
Madeline Konopinski

Most of my conservation experience and love for nature stems from my home life. Since I was a small child I have lived and worked on a 20 acres farm in the small town of Woodstock, Illinois. Currently, I am a junior attending St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wisconsin. At SNC I am pursuing an education in geology and political science. After graduation, I plan to use my knowledge in both the environment and politics to create and implement policies in efforts to preserve the environment. Recently, I applied for a park ranger position with the DNR. I am hoping to start my conservation journey not only with the DNR but also with the CLC. Having the opportunity to be part of the CLC gives me the chance to become educated in conservation leadership and conservation policy, both of which I will need to achieve my future goals.

Kyle Lichtenberg

I grew up in Menasha, WI and attended UW-Fox Valley for two years. I have since transferred as a junior to UW Oshkosh where I study biology and environmental science. My interest in conservation began in high school after learning about some of the impacts of invasive plants. When I started learning how to identify native and non-native plant species, I quickly became interested in both their ecological and cultural importances. I developed a love for backpacking and realized then that in order for myself and others to enjoy such outdoor activities in the years to come, we must intervene to protect sensitive habitats from significant changes that would negatively affect both plants and animals. After college, I hope to focus my efforts on habitat preservation by re-establishing native plant populations significant to wildlife. I am looking forward to participating in this year's CLC because I want to improve my ability to convey the importance of both conservation and preservation efforts to those who struggle to see their inherent value.

Annli Nakayama

Hello! My name is Annli Nakayama and I am a high school senior at the Prairie School in my hometown of Racine. In my sophomore year, I attended Conserve School, a semester school focused on environmental stewardship. Currently, I work on several private native prairie restoration sites, mainly focusing on invasive species removal and seed collection. After high school, I hope to major in environmental science in college and in the future conduct field research on ecosystems and specific species of organisms for habitat restoration. I also want to make a difference through volunteer work with conservation organizations as well as educating others on the importance of conservation and individual action. I am very excited about the CLC because I want to learn more about ways in which I can make an impact, and hope to come away with this experience with the knowledge and experience to make a difference in the future!
Hunter Nikolai

I am currently a junior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison studying wildlife ecology with an emphasis on natural resources. Originally from Kenosha, I have always enjoyed fishing and hunting in a sustainable manner throughout our beautiful state of Wisconsin. Upon graduation I aspire to become a conservation warden where I can enforce regulations and laws pertaining to conserving many aspects of our environment. My personal conservation goals include creating more thorough review processes and considerations on the impacts of businesses on the environment, switching to renewable energy sources, and educating, as well as supporting, the hunting and trapping of wildlife in the state as suggested by the research of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. I am an educated and licensed hunter and trapper, and I also enjoy fishing in my free time. My leadership experience consists of being a captain on my high school football team and helping lead food drives and other volunteer opportunities. I am looking forward to broadening my leadership horizons through the Wisconsin Conservation Leadership Corps. In addition, I am excited to engage in conversation and debate with others that share similar interests as me, network with professionals in my field, and let my voice be heard about conservation in Wisconsin and beyond!

Lauren Soergel

Lauren Soergel is a junior at UW-Stevens Point, studying Biology with a minor in Conservation Biology. She is the fourth member of her family to attend UWSP. She is the secretary for Women in Natural Resources and the Coalition of Organizational Leadership. She has been involved in bat research through school and through the DNR of Dunn County to collect and analyze population data in a fight against white-nose syndrome. This last summer, Lauren served as Dunn County Solid Waste & Recycling Division’s Recycling Specialist LTE. When she is not working at the Disability Assistance and Technology Counseling program or studying during the school year, Lauren enjoys being outdoors turkey hunting, fishing, kayaking, hiking, or camping. She hopes to become an environmental consultant then pursue a master’s degree in order to move up to an environmental engineer.

Quintien Tyra

I am Quintien Tyra. I am from Milwaukee. I attend UW-Stevens Point and I am a sophomore. I aspire to inspire urban minorities to learn about and excel in conservation practices to enrich the quality of their environment and their own lives. I have been working in conservation since I was fifteen years old. I have worked with the Student Conservation Association as a crew member and apprentice crew leader in Milwaukee. Last year, I completed a term with AmeriCorps and just last week I finished working with River Revitalization Foundation as an apprentice crew leader. During the CLC, I am looking forward to learning from other students and professional in conservation. I also look forward to being inspired as a young conservationist while exchanging ideas to inspire others.
Kailey Kraus

I'm a senior at Carthage College, currently majoring in Environmental Science with a concentration in policy analysis, and Japanese. The environment from my hometown of Apple Valley, Minnesota and the amazing local and state parks in that area, to the lakeside of Carthage College and beyond constantly serve as a place of inspiration and relaxation for me. Just stepping out into the fresh air, or taking a hike through a forest spurs me to want to help conservation efforts both in the state of Wisconsin and beyond. I'm particularly keen on conservation policy at a time where it is critical for both policy makers and businesses alike to protect our natural resources in the face of lessening restrictions, and so forth. Through the CLC I hope to gain more skills in articulating conservation policy from the position of a policy maker with the goal of creating stronger environmental protections, and also from the position of a potential businessperson looking to balance the need to be environmentally conscious (through conservation) and economic interests. I also look forward to networking with like-minded peers and hope to build relationships in the conservation field that will last well into the future.

Tess Stephens

I am currently a junior at Northland College in Ashland studying biology and natural resources. I transferred there in January after graduating from Nicolet Technical College in Rhinelander. I have been living in Rhinelander for about three years now but moved to the Northwoods from Pleasant Hill, Missouri in 2010 to attend violin making school and have been in the area ever since.

I am looking forward to meeting people, networking, developing leadership skills, and learning from others during the CLC. I am interested to learn the impact I and others can have when it comes to conservation. A few years ago, I had the opportunity to do an internship in Germany at the state agency for nature, the environment, and consumer protect (LANUV). I learned there is a very important federal policy put into place that each state is responsible to follow called Natura 2000. Its purpose is to conserve areas of great importance for threatened species and preserve biodiversity. The department I worked with was tasked to decide protection statuses for certain habitats. I think there is potentially a lot to learn from what Europe is currently doing about conservation. And it is simply interesting to compare their situation to ours when it comes to conservation. I think the past semester at school has really jump started my conservation career with learning about all the different conservation policies that have been implemented throughout history to actually creating a management plan to encourage the presence of woodpeckers. My goal during the CLC is to get passionate about a topic or at least find a topic that interests me that I can create a resolution or conservation policy about.
Brianna Witek, December 2017

Hello, I am Brenna Witek. I was part of the CLC third class. I graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point in May of 2017 with a degree in Wildlife Ecology and Management. After college I worked for a PhD candidate doing telemetry and nesting surveys with Blanding’s turtles in Babcock Wisconsin. Currently, I live in Las Vegas, Nevada working as a biologist. I work for a consulting firm focusing on the endangered Desert Tortoise. We monitor construction to ensure the construction companies follow federal and state policies. I plan on staying with the consulting firm for a year or so and then I have plans to go onto grad school.
One Man to Congregate Them All

---Submitted by Monica Banaszak

This has been a long time coming, a moment of conservation history in the making: George Meyer has been nominated into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame! His name will now sit alongside many of the other revolutionary conservation heroes such as John Muir, Gaylord Nelson (Did you know George knew Gaylord himself!?) and Aldo Leopald.

George Meyer was nominated by the CLC. It wasn’t easy to keep it a secret from him, but we managed. Not only is the CLC comprised of young conservation professionals, but we also have ninja skills as well, because you need them to keep something like this from George. There was no time being wasted when it came to getting George nominated. CLC Alumni Janel Scharhag, Molly O’Grady and Monica Banaszak combined forces to compose a nomination proposal for George. At the WWF Annual Meeting in April 2017, Molly O’Grady and Monica Banaszak read George’s nomination to all attending the banquet. George of course, presenting himself ever so modestly and humbly as he always does had no idea that was going to happen.

None of this would not have been possible without the efforts of Jerry Knuth and the rest of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, the Conservation Leadership Corps and everyone else who knows George and has supported him for this induction.
New WWF Website!

The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation’s website has a new look!

One of our very own CLC members, Molly O’Grady, has served as an intern for the WWF for the past 7 months working on this new website design.

Check out the new WWF website: http://www.wiwf.org/

The CLC page has a new look as well! Check it out here: http://www.wiwf.org/clc/

On the CLC page you can find our promotional video, newsletters, student written resolutions, and more!!

Treasurer’s Report

As of December 27th, 2017, the Conservation Leadership Corps bank account balance is $3,792.38. These funds can be used for field trips, awards, fundraising events, travel expenses, and all other CLC needs not already covered by the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation.

The largest fundraiser this year was the gun raffle at the 2017 Wisconsin Wildlife Federation annual meeting. The gun, donated by George Meyer, brought in a total of $1,125. We would like to thank everyone who purchased tickets and donated towards this raffle. We have many more fundraising events planned for 2018, so keep checking out the newsletter and our website for more ways to support the CLC!

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

Fund the CLC

Donate your unused Scholarship Funds to the CLC Program

Are you part of an organization that has unused scholarship funds? Do you know of an organization that has unused scholarship funds?

We understand that many organizations have scholarship funds that never receive applicants, therefore they have funds but no one to award these funds to. If you or an organization that you know would be interested in donating these funds to help sustain the Conservation Leadership Corps program, please contact the CLC Chair, Lil Pipping.

CLC Executive Committee 2017-2018

Treasurer: Sawyer Boldt

Sawyer is from Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin. He recently graduate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a degree in Wildlife Ecology and a certificate in Environmental Studies. In addition to being a graduate of CLC Class 4, Sawyer is an Associate Director for the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, serving on the Wildlife, Conservation Leadership Corps, and Forestry, Parks, and Recreation committees. He has had a variety of experiences working in the wildlife field, including a research project involving CWD in White-Tailed deer, working as a research assistant for the National Wildlife Health Center, and his current involvement with the Wisconsin DNR’s “Snapshot Wisconsin” project. Sawyer joined us later in the term and we are so happy to have him!
Meet our CLC Executive Committee, selected by CLC alumni and students to serve the 2017-2018 year

President: Justin Mueller

Justin grew up on a small hobby farm in Kewaunee, WI and learned about the conservation ethic from his parents and grandparents. Justin is a graduate from the Conservation Leadership Corps Class 2 (2014-2015). He graduated from University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 2015 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Resource Management-Law Enforcement. Justin currently works for Elkhart Lake Police Department and the Algoma Police Department. During his free time, Justin enjoys spending time at his family’s cottage in Door County, recreating on the water during all seasons. Justin is looking forward to this new opportunity and working with everyone that shares the same passion of protecting our environment.

Vice President: Jeff Williams

Jeff Williams is a junior at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point from DeForest, Wisconsin. He is majoring in Wildlife Ecology. He is actively engaged in UWSP’s Wildlife Society where he is the ruffed grouse co-leader of the ruffed grouse research project of the UWSP Wildlife Society. He is an active member of the UWSP Fire Crew and Society of American Foresters. He actively conducts wildlife management projects on their family farm in southwestern Wisconsin, where he learned the Conservation Ethic from his father and his grandfather. He plans on pursuing a master’s degree in Wildlife Ecology. Career goal is becoming a wildlife biologist for the Wisconsin DNR.

Secretary: Rachel Terracina

Rachel is a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. She is studying Biology and Environmental Studies and is excited to serve as CLC’s new Secretary. As a recent graduate of the 4th session, she is ready to continue the legacy of this amazing program.
CLC Executive Committee 2017-2018

CLC Coordinator: Marco Mascitti

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

Publicist: Monica Banaszak

Monica Banaszak is from Chicago, IL. Monica is the current CLC Publicist. She is a graduate from CLC Class 2 and in addition to being the former CLC Secretary she is also a former Associate Director for the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and served on their Wildlife and Education Committees. She is finishing her degree in Fisheries and Wildlife as a student of Oregon State University and is a Vet Assistant at a local animal clinic currently. On her down time she enjoys reading, writing, talking superheroes, hiking through the vast Forest Preserves of Cook County and spending time with her cat, Taio.

Program Coordinator: Nicole Loeffler

I was born and raised in inner city Milwaukee, WI. I graduated from Audubon High school, and I am continuing my education at University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point. Currently I am majoring in Environmental Education with a minor in Biology. I have a passion for the earth and also working with youth. In the future my dream job would be to work in an urban focused environmental center.
Past President: Molly O’Grady

Molly O’Grady is from Chicago, IL. She is the current Past President of Conservation Leadership Corps (CLC). Amongst her role as President, she has also served as the CLC Coordinator for the second year of the program, as well as one of the first students to graduate the program in its founding year (2013-2014). She graduated with a Bachelor’s of Science Degree majoring in Wildlife Ecology (Research and Management) from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 2015. Since graduating, she has served as a Biological Technician for the Hawaii VINE Project (Oahu, HI) studying seed dispersal for native and non-native species, and currently serves as an intern for the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. Molly is currently working for the Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project on the island of Maui preparing habitat to reintroduced the endangered, endemic Kiwikiu (Maui Parrotbill). She is working toward a career that focuses on threatened and endangered species (animals and plants), and is interested in learning how native and indigenous peoples/cultures are affected by their natural resources.

George Meyer (WWF Executive Director)

Lillian Pipping
Interested in being a leader in conservation?

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

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

The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF) accepts applications throughout the year, and we are currently accepting applications for the 2018-2019 academic year, for our exciting program to assist in the development of future conservation leaders in Wisconsin, known as the Wisconsin Conservation Leadership Corps. (CLC). WWF has based the CLC on a highly successful and similar project developed by the Conservation Federation of Missouri, our counterpart organization.

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

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

It is anticipated that the program will take place during the 2018-2019 academic year. Events will be scheduled for four weekends throughout the year. Conservation resolution presentations conducted by those involved would be made at the Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Federation in April 2019. Selected CLC candidates are encouraged to attend three of the four events. All expenses while participating in the CLC program will be covered by WWF. At the successful completion of the year, each participant will receive a Certificate of Accomplishment for the training program, a letter of commendation for their resume portfolio and a $250 scholarship to advance their continuing education.

Interested CLC candidates should fill out the application on this page and send it to the CLC Coordinator, at CLC.WWF.Coordinator@gmail.com by May 30th, 2018. Candidates will be selected by June 15th, 2018. All applicants will be notified of the results.
CLC Application

---The deadline date for applications is May 30th, 2018.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Name: ________________________________________________________________

Street Address: _______________________________________________________

City, State and Zip Code: _____________________________________________

Email Address: _______________________________________________________

Telephone Number: _________________________________________________

Present School: ______________________________________________________

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

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

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

Applications, preferably electronically, should be submitted to WWF Leadership Corps Coordinator, at CLC.WWF.Coordinator@gmail.com or sent through mail to the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, 213 N Main Street, Suite 100, PO Box 460, Poynette, WI 53955-0460. The Deadline is MAY 30th, 2018.
CLC Coordinator:
Marco Mascitti
(MascittiMarco@yahoo.com)

President/ Newsletter Editor:
Justin Mueller
(jmuel2393@gmail.com)

Vice President:
Jeff Williams
(Jeffrey.G.Williams@uwsp.edu)

Secretary:
Rachel Terracina
(terracinrm25@uw.edu)

Program Director:
Nicole Loefller
(Nicole.R.Loeffler@uwsp.edu)

Publicist/ Newsletter Editor:
Monica Banaszak
(monib8914@gmail.com)

Past President/Newsletter Editor:
Molly O’Grady
(MollyOGradaigh@gmail.com)

Calendar of Events

Principles of Leadership: Session 1
Sept. 29th & 30th, 2017

Fall Field Trip:
Milwaukee Urban Ecology Center

Confluence of Young Conservation Leaders (CYCL):
Kansas City, Missouri.

Policy and Advocacy: Session 2
Dec. 1st & 2nd, 2017

Resolution Development: Session 3
Feb. 16th & 17th, 2018

Policy Resolution Presentation/Awards (WWF Annual Meeting): Session 4
Apr. 20th & 21st, 2018