



Chair's Update

By Rob Bohmann

I hope that everyone is having a great summer. I can't believe that fall is almost here, and the start of the Early Canada Goose, Early Teal and Mourning Dove seasons are just weeks away. I was fortunate to find some time to turkey hunt with good friends Mike Rogers and Brad Hasheider from Sauk County this past spring. We didn't see as many turkeys as we've seen in the past, but I was able to hunt three periods and fill two of the tags that I had. I haven't been able to get much fishing in this summer, but was able to get out and fish Salmon-A-Rama a few times in July. My wife drew a bear harvest tag this year, and transferred it to our son Alec. So, we'll be heading up to Saxon to hunt with Mike Rog-

ers and his gang again. My son is really looking forward to his first opportunity to bear hunt.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for another successful convention this past May. District 4 did a great job hosting our hospitality room. We collected \$460 to help Dave and Gary Mabie with the cost of bear bait. Dave and Gary graciously volunteer to host the WCC's learn to hunt bear tag recipient every year. This takes a lot of time and effort every year, but when you talk to Dave or Gary, they really enjoy every bit of it. Again, our bucket raffle continues to get bigger and better because of the wonderful donations you continue to contribute. The proceeds from this year bucket raffle were \$4,545.



This year's gun board cleared almost \$1490 which will be our donation to next year's Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo. None of this would be possible without your hard work and generosity, and for that I am truly grateful.

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Wisconsin Conservation Congress Helps Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo Treat Students to Touch of the wild

By Mark LaBarbara

With support from the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, a record 2,380 students, chaperones and teachers enjoyed a touch of the wild at the Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo (MOHEE) recently.

The 1,967 mostly fourth-through-sixth graders tried their hand at outdoor skills with help from volunteer mentors and DNR educators and staff. Last year's inaugural event had 1,435 students. Some of the 413 chaperones and teachers

accompanying them also participated at various activity stations.

WCC Officer Dale Maas and a number of WCC delegates worked the event. WCC's trailer was like a giant billboard alongside the WCC exhibit that was next to the Wisconsin Trappers Association display and SCI Badgerland Chapter's Sensory Safari walk-through, hands-on exhibit.

More than 30 conservation groups as diverse as Madison Audubon, Safari Club International, Friends of NRA and Dane County Conservation

League. They teamed up with WCC and the Outdoor Heritage Education Center (OHEC) charitable non-profit group, according to OHEC and MOHEE Founder Mark LaBarbara. He said the goal of the youth event is to introduce youth, families and educators to a variety of outdoor activities, conservation and safety training programs so they can choose which ones to explore further throughout the year. Teachers are given information about where students and their families can

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Youth Congress Initiative Expands with DNR

The WCC has worked to establish a YCC that would function under the umbrella of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, and under the current program there are 20 youth from around the state that are participating. The program as presently organized has youth attending WCC meetings with their WCC delegate mentor. However, while meetings discussing wildlife management plans, harvest methods and population trends are an excellent avenue into civic engagement, I think we can all agree they may not be viewed as the most exciting item on a teenager's calendar. The Congress has struggled to identify a more tangible and appealing incentive for the participants that would really draw and keep their interest, while continuing to engage them in this unique civic process.

NRB Chair Preston Cole asked Deputy Secretary Moroney to assign a group of DNR staff that could assist the WCC in developing the YCC and create a more robust program. Land Division Administrator, Kurt Thiede and WCC Liaison Kari Lee-Zimmermann were assigned to lead the effort. Together with Trish Nitschke (Office of Communications), Cindy Koepke (Green and Healthy Schools), Keith Warnke and John Motoviloff (Recruitment and Retention), Justine Hasz (Fisheries Section Chief), Jeff Pritzl (Northeast Regional Wildlife Supervisor), Jeff King (Training Warden), and Larry Bonde worked to more clearly define how we might "... effectively engage, educate, and involve youth in the management and protection of our natural resources and foster a conservation ethic through participation on the Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress (YCC)."

After much insightful discussion, we determined the following objectives for the program and activities to meet these objectives.

The YCC will teach youth delegates about natural resource management and careers through a variety of service-learning opportunities throughout the year and an all-day "field day" held in each DNR region. The DNR, recently committed to support the YCC effort by partnering with the WCC and hosting an annual all-day field day in each DNR region that will expose YCC

delegates to the many facets and factors involved in natural resource management, to various career options in natural resource related fields and afford them the opportunity to interact with professionals in those fields, and enable them the opportunity to participate in typical work done by natural resource professionals. In addition, YCC delegates will have the opportunity to work with DNR staff on a wide variety of volunteer opportunities (depending on youth interests, season and opportunities available) such as fish netting or wildlife surveys, tagging or marking fish at a hatchery facility, assisting with habitat assessments, air monitoring, ride-alongs,

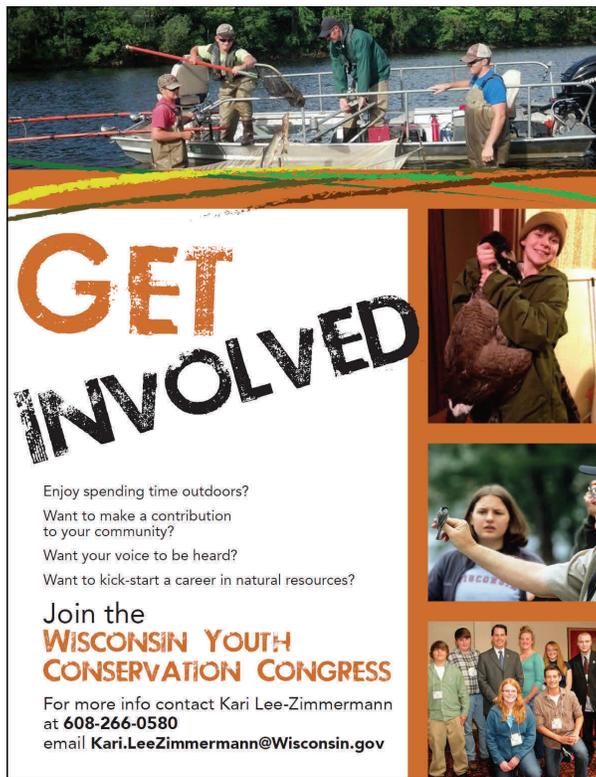
WCC Spring Hearings, and the WCC annual convention in May. The Youth Congress will afford young adults with an interest in environmental issues a voice in the management of those resources. YCC delegates may work with the Conservation Congress county delegation and district councilors to introduce a resolution to effect change at the annual Spring Hearings, which they can follow through the WCC process.

The YCC will provide youth delegates with the opportunity to strengthen valuable transferable skills such as problem-solving, communication, teamwork, and leadership skills through working with other

Youth Conservation Congress delegates, WCC delegates, and DNR staff. Participants can make an oral and/or poster presentation on their service-learning project at the annual Wisconsin Conservation Congress' convention, thereby strengthening communication and presentation skills. YCC delegates will also participate in breakout sessions at the annual convention that will require the delegates to work in groups to discuss current natural resource issues facing the state and determine potential problem-solving options. Youth will also work together to mold and shape the YCC program moving forward.

The YCC will afford participants the opportunity to network with youth from around the state that are interested in natural resources as well as DNR professionals and policy makers. The Youth Conservation Congress may fulfill independent study requirements or service-learning hours/credits for some schools. Educators may also use this program to complement their course curriculum for interested students.

The above proposed initiative to enhance and bolster the Youth Conservation Congress was presented to the Executive Council at their January meeting and was rolled out in March to schools, teachers and guidance counselors, established groups such as Project Wet/Wild, Green and Healthy Schools, National Archery in the Schools Program, Future Farmers of America, 4-H, Boy/Girl Scouts, Big Brothers/Sisters, Kids and Mentors Outdoors (KAMO), and similar organizations. For more information on the Youth Conservation Congress go to dnr.wi.gov and search "Youth Congress."



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or water quality sampling. YCC delegates will also be given a complimentary Natural Resources Foundation membership and have an opportunity to attend Natural Resources Foundation educational field trips at a reduced rate.

The YCC will teach youth delegates the process by which Wisconsin's natural resource policy is determined and the role and history of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC), a statutorily created citizen advisory group. Youth delegates will have access to DNR policy makers and will participate in WCC meetings such as the district meeting, advisory committee meetings, the DNR and

Delegate Profile: Scott McAuley

My wife cringes when I answer the phone because I can't say no," says Scott McAuley, 14-year veteran delegate from Wood County where he serves as chair. Indeed, Scott has contributed countless volunteer hours to support the mission of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress and other noteworthy outdoor organizations, both locally and statewide.

Scott leads the charge as chair of his County Deer Advisory Council while contributing indirectly to the WCC mission as part of his extensive service to Wisconsin's trapping community. Throughout, he has methodically and calmly left his mark on the state's conservation heritage while representing the Congress in the finest tradition of Wisconsin's foremost outdoor organization.

During his tenure on the Congress, Scott has served on both the Wolf and Fur Harvest Advisory committees as either secretary or vice chair. Most recently he was selected to serve on the statewide CDAC Advisory Committee and also represents the Congress on the Department of Natural Resources wolf and furbearer committees and lends his expertise to the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Wildlife Committee.

Like many other WCC delegates, Scott blends his work on the Congress with involvement with numerous other conservation groups. His contributions have been most evident regarding the Wisconsin Trappers Association where he has served as both president and secretary. His reputation as an expert on trapping equipment, techniques and best management practices led to his appointment to the National Trappers Association Board of Directors where he chairs the Education Committee and the Hall of Fame Committee.

Scott has introduced numerous citizen resolutions at the Spring Hearings over the years, most having to do with trapping issues such as ideas on weasel boxes, feral pigs and turtle trapping. "I think it's great to take an idea and work with a group or several groups

to get a good product that results in a rule change," he said.

To listen to the many stories about his outdoor experiences one might conclude that he was born and raised in the outdoors. Family history reflects he was introduced to the outdoors while duck hunting with his father when he was barely able to walk. "I'm told the first word I learned was 'daddy,' the second was 'duck.'"

A local icon of sorts, there are few sportsmen and women within his Wood County locale that haven't benefitted from his tireless efforts at organizing youth hunts and teaching trapper and hunter education.

He recalls organizing deer drives as a member of the Crystal Lake Deer Hunters Association in Waupaca County. "We might drive with 50 people, putting the kids in great spots to see deer," he said. "The drivers didn't carry guns as a safety precaution."

He recollects with gusto an episode involving a collision with a deer in the middle of a corn field. "Halfway through the drive, I saw a deer trying to sneak around behind, so I jumped into the next row of corn to move the deer the correct way," he said. "When everything stopped spinning a different deer had run me over. I never saw it until we were both on the ground."

Always interested in involving youth, Scott says it's a better hunt if the kids shoot one rather than him. "It's also easier to let them drag it," he admits wryly.

Trapping is his favorite outdoor pursuit at this point, mostly water species such as muskrat and beaver, but he also trapped a 75 lb. wolf during Wisconsin's most recent wolf hunting season. He relates working with long-time Conservation Congress colleague Dan Carroll and others to scout, ready equipment and move quickly to other areas as trapping zones closed.

"Scott especially enjoys working with kids, making sure they are enjoying the outdoors, safely and with respect for the animals they pursue. "I think teaching rapper education, or taking a new person out is the neatest thing," he said. "It's like seeing the world for your first time again through the new trapper or hunter. I love to teach."

"Scott is an expert when it comes to furbearer issues," said WCC Chair Rob Bohmann. "When we need to get to the bottom of a question on trapping legalities or a safety concern, we can always count on Scott to have the right answer."

Scott McAuley is married to wife, Sue, and has three children, Maggie, Nick and Ben.



NRB backs CDAC recommendations on antlerless tags

The Natural Resources Board at its May 27 meeting approved the DNR recommendation regarding the 2015 deer harvest quotas based on County Deer Advisory Council actions from around the state. Included in the CDAC recommendations were 13 counties which will be buck only this year, down from 19 in 2014.

Most of the buck only counties are in the far northern regions of the state. Jackson County in the Central Forest area and Racine County in the southeastern corner of the state will also be designated buck only. The only exceptions to the rule within the buck only counties are

for youth, the disabled and military personnel on leave. Youth tags will not be allowed for group bagging this year based on earlier legislative action.



Tom Hauge addresses CDAC chairs and alternates at the training session January 31, 2015.

Discussion at the NRB meeting included impressions of the CDAC process during its inaugural year. The NRB commended the Department for its efforts to work with the counties in support of the CDACs. One major concern

regards the wide differences in habitat within some counties, leading some coun-

cils to recommend splitting their counties into separate management zones.

Secretary Stepp said that for the first time the department will be able to monitor and manage the deer harvest more closely with regard to public vs. private land. Hunters in farmland areas will have to designate whether they will be hunting public or private. She said the department will be able work with the actual numbers based on land ownership.

Secretary Stepp also noted that the work with the CDACs is a partnering effort. "The biologists are building partnerships and trust relationships," she asserted.

Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo (continued from page 1)

go to find more information about ongoing programs.

For many students, outdoor expos, hunter ed courses and mentored Learn to Hunt events are important early steps toward becoming hunters.

Admission to the MOHEE event at the Wisconsin DNR's MacKenzie Center is free thanks to generous support from Wisconsin Conservation Congress and other groups, including large donations from the Southeast Wisconsin Bow Hunters Chapter of Safari Club International, SCI Wisconsin and SCI Badgerland Chapters plus Friends of NRA and Dane County Conservation League. Among the other donors are the National Wild Turkey Federation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Wings Over Wisconsin

Talking about the MOHEE venue, WCC Chairwoman Rob Bohmann and NWTFR Regional Director Charley Burke pointed out that MacKenzie is one place where students can try the shooting sports, climb a fire tower, explore the wood

face-to-face with a live wolf, deer, lynx, bison, badger, otter and eagle.

One of the benefits of the MOHE Expo being launched at the DNR's MacKenzie Center is that it showcases the property to additional groups of hunters, anglers and others who can help support it year-round as it works to connect youth with nature, including increasing outdoor skills training and learn to hunt programs on the property.



Dodge County delegate Dale Maas is interviewed at the Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo.

trails, discover forestry, parks, fishing and natural heritage conservation, plus be

JD Smith, DNR MacKenzie Center Director said, "We are excited to have the opportunity to host the Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo at the MacKenzie Center and build upon the DNR's work with WCC and others. The DNR is a supporting partner at many other expos and we are happy to continue that support

by providing an ideal location for schools to bring students for this outdoor experience."

Bohmann said, "Friends of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress will donate funds and offer transportation grants again next year for schools planning to attend the Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo, May 18-19, 2016."

Additional funding is coming from individuals and groups across the state that want their local schools and students to connect with natural resources and healthy outdoors activities.

The Wisconsin Trappers Association, Ducks Unlimited, Friends of Poynette Game Farm and Friends of MacKenzie, Dodge County Sporting Conservation Alliance, River Valley Hunting Retriever Club, Columbia County Sporting Alliance, Pheasants Forever, North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association and

Whitetails Unlimited are some of the groups that have added their support.

Neil Bishop, President of the Friends of MacKenzie volunteer group, said, "We're glad to support this event and to showcase the MacKenzie Center, just 25 miles north of Madison, and one of the most diverse education centers in Wisconsin. With interpretive trails, wolves, bison and other live wildlife, plus museums and education programs for school and youth groups, MacKenzie is a wonderful place to visit and learn about the natural world."

The State Game Farm is connected to the MacKenzie Center and is adjacent to the arboretum on the western half of the property. The facility raises 75,000 pheasants that the DNR releases

on more than 90 properties open to the public in Wisconsin.

"Wisconsin conservation is rooted at this place," said Vic Connors, President of the Friends of Poynette Game Farm, "and we see this education expo as a valuable way to share this history and build upon our outdoor heritage."

The DNR MacKenzie Center is located on a 500-acre property near Poynette in Columbia County, 25 miles north of Madison at W7303 County Highway CS.

Volunteers, donors and educators can reach LaBarbera at 608-854-2196 or mobile 520-730-9252, or mala-barb@peoplepc.com for more information.

Strategic Plan Update

By Jayne Meyer

The Strategic Plan Review Committee met twice in late fall to review implementation of the plan. While a good number of items are moving along there is still work to be done. The group was charged ***"to review the Conservation Congress' Strategic Plan that was approved and adopted in 2013, review and discuss the responses from the delegate survey on the Strategic Plan, and make recommendations on how to proceed with implementation of those areas within the plan that have not been implemented."***

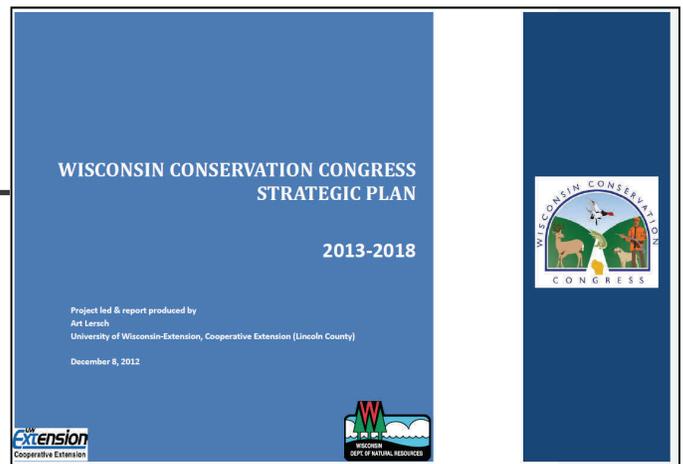
During the first meeting we reviewed what things had been accomplished so far and the results of the survey delegates returned to with their views of the plan and its progress. Survey results were mixed. In some areas such as improving the WCC organizational structure, delegates felt the results were very good. In other areas such as creating awareness about what the WCC does and access to tracking things like resolutions and rules, clearly need improvement. Other goals; expanding what the Congress does and making the spring hearings more effective received fair grades. Positive and negative consequences of the plan as well as how the Strategic plan is forwarding the goals of the Congress and helping

fulfill our mission were included in the discussion.

During the second meeting we discussed the development of another survey to delegates at this year's annual meeting. The group wants answers that are meaningful and will tell us if we are meeting our goals, and if not, why. Developing survey questions that are not leading to elicit such a response is much more difficult than you would think.

We also developed some other recommendations for the Executive Council and delegates to consider implementing.

- *Designation of standing committee to monitor and communicate progress.* We felt if the plan and progress isn't looked at regularly progress will stop. The Executive Council agreed with this concept. The Committee would be a smaller one comprised of individuals from the original group and some new ones.
- *Build the capacity to track and communicate the outcomes of resolutions, rules changes, and legislation advanced through the WCC process.* Ways to accomplish this yet to be set



up.

- *Annual delegate survey (progress on expected results)*
- *Ongoing items on Council and committee agendas.* We discussed that each time the Council meets, review of plan items should be a part of the agenda. In addition the group recommended that the Council adds another meeting to its schedule for the year.

FEEDBACK WELCOME!

This is your newsletter! Let us know what types of updates, articles, and features you would like to see in upcoming issues of the *Conservation Chronicle*. Send your ideas, thoughts, comments, concerns, pictures, and articles to:

Kari Lee-Zimmermann, WCC Liaison
101 S. Webster Street, / PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

2015 Wausau Convention Recap

Chair Bohmann's report to the Natural Resources Board on the 2015 convention.

First, I would like to thank Chair Cole for his presentation at our convention, and the attendance of sitting and outgoing Board members Jane Wiley, Christine Thomas, Greg Kazmierski, Bill Bruin, Terry Hilgenberg and Gary Zimmer at our meeting. I cannot remember a convention in recent history when all of the sitting Board members were in attendance. It was a privilege to have you at our convention interacting with our delegates. Your involvement and attendance speaks volumes to your commitment to the role of the Congress as an advisory body to this Board.

Second, I would like to welcome Julie Anderson to the Board. I look forward to working with you on important conservation issues.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to review the business conducted by the Congress at our annual meeting. The Wisconsin Conservation Congress convened for its 81st annual convention on May 14, 15, and 16, 2015, in Wausau. Our statewide delegation voted on the proposed DNR rule changes, Board advisory questions, and each of the proposed congress advisory questions from the 2015 spring hearing questionnaire (Attachment 1).

WCC Advisory Questions

There were 41 Congress advisory proposals presented for public comment at this year's Spring Hearings. Thirty six of these proposals were recommended for advancement to the Department, Natural Resources Board, and Legislature for consideration as possible future rule changes or legislation. The four proposals that were not supported by the delegation for advancement were also not supported by the public vote. However, the Congress supported and advanced WCC question 7 (#78 on results sheet) regarding allowing County Deer Advisory Councils to recommend the hunting of white deer in their county. WCC question 29 (#100 on the results) regarding delisting the Winnebago System as federal waters was referred back to committee. Included in the recommendations advanced to the Department, Board, and Legislature for further consideration are the request for strengthening waste laws for game, changing deductibles for crops damaged by wildlife, changing the

definition of attended lines, limiting watercraft on spring spawning marshes of the Fox and Wolf Rivers, and utilizing new funding sources for to support warm water habitat initiatives.



Chair Bohmann reports to the Natural Resources Board on the business conducted at the 2015 annual convention in Wausau

Congress Business

This is also the third year we have had the Youth Conservation Congress and you'll recall, we came before you in January to report on the more robust efforts we are making to expand the program and better engage our youth delegates. We now have 21 students involved as youth delegates and 10 of them were able to attend the convention and participate in the discussion and breakout sessions arranged specifically for them.

Awards

Again this year the Congress recognized a number of DNR employees for their outstanding service. Nathan Roberts, Research Scientist, received the wildlife award for his commitment to working cooperatively with citizens, sharing information, and expanding knowledge. Fisheries biologist Ryan Koenigs received our fisheries award for his dedication and excellent work with the sturgeon fisheries. Michael Hirschboeck (Racine County), was recognized for his outstanding law enforcement efforts, his well-rounded program, and his work to involve the community in protecting Wisconsin's resources. Kyle Dilley (Dane

County) was awarded the Waterfowl Officer of the Year by the WCC Migratory Committee for his leadership within his community and commitment to waterfowl education.

Former chair, Ed Harvey, Jr. from Sheboygan County received the WCC's David A. Ladd Delegate of the Year Award. Ed has been on the Congress for 37 years and he is always willing to step up to the plate when called upon.

The WCC also inducted two former Congress members, Wilhelmine LaBudde and Henry Liebzeit, to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress Hall of Fame.

We handed our years of service certificates and pins to those delegates who have served the congress for 15, 20, 25, 30 and over 35 years. Impressively, we have 16 delegates that individually have 35 or more years of service to the Congress.

Rounding out our awards, the 2014 Statewide Conservation Organization of the Year Award went to Shadows on the Wolf, the Outstanding Local Organization was awarded the Southwestern Wisconsin Chapter of Quality Deer Management, and the 2014 Educator of the Year was awarded to Chuck Strynick.



Chair Bohmann and the WCC's Educator of the Year, Chuck Strynick.

DNR Rule Change Proposals

The full delegation reviewed and registered

their support for all of the questions that the Department presented, both from wildlife and fisheries.

The Congress did not support the NRB's advisory question number 70 relating to allowing stands and blinds overnight on DNR managed land; however, the delegation did support question 71 concerning the subdividing of Bear Management Zone C.

Officer Elections

On Friday, May 15 the delegates from our twelve districts elected their 2015-16 Executive Councilors. I would like to thank each of the councilors from 2014-15 that will not be returning this year as councilors and also congratulate those that have been elected or reelected. I have included a list of this year's Executive Council with this memo for your information (Attachment 2).

As recommended by the strategic plan and implemented for the first year in 2013, our



2015-2016 WCC Executive Council

Executive Committee now includes five members. The public relations and outreach coordinator position will be held by Lee Fahrney (Iowa County) and Joe Weiss (Washburn County) will act as historian. Dale Maas (Dodge County) was elected as the secretary, Larry Bonde (Manitowoc County) was re-

elected to vice-chair, and I was honored to be re-elected to serve another year as Chair.

In closing, I want to reiterate our appreciation for the support of this Board and we look forward to working closely with you this year on important resource management issues.

Youth Congress Oversight Committee takes the reins

In March, a more robust version of the Youth Conservation Congress was rolled out to youth, teachers, and parents across the state. The enhancements to this program will allow youth to preferentially participate in volunteer opportunities with the DNR and take part in an all day "field day" to be held in each region.

A group of WCC delegates will participate on the Youth Congress Oversight Committee to shepherd youth and guide the development of the program, and keep it running smoothly.

The two major responsibilities of this committee are assisting youth in finding a mentor in their county and working with the youth (and their WCC mentor) to identify volunteer opportunities that they'd like to participate in with DNR staff and help them arrange that. The DNR staff will be working through this oversight committee to assist in making those contacts.

Current volunteers for the YCC Oversight Committee include Frank Pratt and Larry Damman (D1), Dan Dukerschein (D2), Ron Waller (D3), Tom Thill (D4), Kevin Smaby

(D5), Dale Maas (D7), Dave Tupa (D8), Jim Burmeister (D9), Kathleen Tober (D10), Stephanie Blazich (D11/12), and Eugene Altwies (D11/12).

We're still looking for a volunteer to assist with this endeavor for district 6. If you are interested in joining this group and helping to guide the project, please let your district councilors know. Likewise, if you're interested in being a mentor for a youth, please let one of the YCC Oversight Committee delegates know.

Chair's update (continued from page 1)

It's almost September and some of our committees have already met. I'm sure that committees have been busy discussing the 245 citizen resolutions that passed around the state this last April. I'd like to remind committee officers that their meeting minutes and questions for the spring hearing questionnaire need to be submitted to Kari within 15 days after their committee meeting. As a reminder to all committee members, if you cannot make your committee meeting, please call your committee chair to be excused.

2014 brought a new beginning to Wisconsin's white-tailed deer management. This

was a great opportunity for us, for we were given the role to lead this charge. I would like to thank each and every delegate who was involved on their CDAC this last year. I know not everyone was able to participate on their County's CDAC, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't be involved. We need to stay informed with what is happening in our county so we're prepared to assist those that may request information regarding their county's advisory council. Stay tuned for year two is creeping up on us in a hurry.

Reminder, we are having difficulty finding

mentors for YCC delegates that wish to participate. The YCC Oversight Group determined that each county delegation should provide their district councilors a list of delegates from their county that are willing to act as mentors. If you were unable to attend your fall district meeting and are interested in mentoring a YCC delegate, please contact your District Councilors.

Whether in the woods or on the water, I hope all of you continue to enjoy Wisconsin's Natural Resources.

The Parliamentarian's Perspective



By Larry Bonde, Vice Chair

One common question that is brought forward almost every year is, “Why do we always have to vote on changes the WCC Code of Procedure at our annual meeting?” A COP is a document that should be referred to as a guide to how an organization is structured and operates. A simple web search shows how many different types of Code of Procedures there are and how many different organizations use them. It is always important that all members of an organization understand and try to abide by their COP. It also is a “living document” which means it needs to be changed to accommodate changes in an organization.

In my 20+ years with the Congress I think we have dealt with more changes to the COP in the past 8 years than any time before. Part of the reason is the WCC

COP was not updated for some time and many of the operations needed to be changed to mirror what and how the WCC had evolved. Because the WCC just completed a Strategic Plan and now are in the implantation stage the COP needs to be altered to accommodate ideas that are coming out of the Strategic Plan. From the prospective of Chairing the Rules and Resolutions Committee for the WCC, I view this committee as one of the most important committee the WCC has. Because we work with the many issues our COP deals with and resolutions that come in every year that have suggested changes to the WCC; the task of keeping our COP current is a never ending job.

This year one of the proposed changes we will be dealing with at our annual meeting is that all delegates will be required to sign and return to their Executive Council members and affirmation indicating they have read and understand the WCC COP. By doing this the Rules and Resolutions Committee thinks it will make delegates

more accountable. Too often we have to deal with delegates questioning duties or responsibilities that are clearly spelled out in our COP. It can also be useful in making delegates proactive by simply having a better understand of what is expected of them and how useful they can be for the Congress as a whole by using the roles and responsibilities that are listed in the COP to reach out and interact with constituents in their respective counties. A good understanding of expectation of being a WCC member can only lead to a stronger organization.

As always, if anyone has an idea for the Rules and Resolutions Committee to review or see something in the COP that they feel may need to be review don't hesitate to bring the issue to WCC leadership. We all need to work together to make sure the WCC stays the strong voice of the public on the many issues statute allows the WCC to advise the Natural Resources Board.

Grabski is fourth WCC member on Sporting Heritage Council

With the appointment of Iowa County delegate Tony Grabski to the prestigious Sporting Heritage Council, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress now claims four seats on the Council. The Natural Resources Board made the announcement at its June, 2015 meeting. Grabski was appointed to represent deer hunters on the Council.

According to a DNR press release, recently retired Fisheries Bureau Chief Ron Bruch also secured an appointment to the Council. Bruch will represent angler interests. The two appointments are effective immediately and will run through July, 1, 2018. Members can be re-appointed.

“These appointees will add a wealth of creative ideas to the recruitment and retention of sportswomen and sportsmen around the state of Wisconsin,” said Preston Cole, Natural Resources Board chair in the press release.

In a message to other WCC delegates, Grabski urged them to contact him if they want to make input. “If you have specific issues that might be addressed by the SHC, please let me know and I will bring them to the attention the Council where appropri-

ate.”

The council was established in 2011 by Gov. Scott Walker to serve as an advisory body to the NRB, the Governor and the Legislature on issues related to recruitment, retention and increased access to resources and outdoor opportunities. The Council consists of 12 appointees, including the DNR secretary or designee, one member appointed by the Governor; two members of the State Assembly, two members of the State Senate, one member appointed by the Wisconsin Conservation Congress executive committee and the remaining five members appointed by the Natural Resources Board.

“I will make every effort to foster the interests of deer hunters locally and throughout the state with emphasis on hunter recruitment and retention,” said Grabski. “I am honored to serve in this capacity.” An avid deer hunter with both crossbow

and gun, Grabski also enjoys grouse hunting, with his two United Kennel Club titled Nova Scotia duck tolling retrievers.

In addition to Grabski, Mike Rogers (Sauk County) represents bear hunting issues, Scott Zimmermann (Dodge County) represents trapping interests, and WCC Chair Rob Bohmann of Racine County serves as the Conservation Congress representative on the Sporting Heritage Council.



WCC delegate Tony Grabski was recently appointed to the Sporting Heritage Council. He will represent deer hunters on the council, but has wide experience in other areas of wildlife and fish management.



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2015-2016 WCC Executive Committee

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- Dale Maas, Secretary
- Lee Fahrney, PR & Outreach
- Joe Weiss, Historian

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"Let us work together to properly manage and wisely use our natural resources..."

- Prologue of the Congress Creed

WCC commendations and awards on display

If you're in Madison at the Department of Natural Resources State Office Building (101 South Webster Street), you might notice a variety of WCC plaques posted prominently in the lobby. In September 2014, Chair Bohmann sent a letter to Secretary Stepp respectfully requesting that the DNR afford the Congress some display space "where the Congress could display the hall of fame plaque and other important Congress information or memorabilia."

In the letter to Stepp, Bohmann stated, "Since we do not have an 'office' or 'headquarters' but rather work closely with the DNR and NRB through our DNR Congress Liaison, we'd request the opportunity to display

Congress information and commendations in an area available to visitors and DNR staff alike."



Secretary Stepp was happy to accommodate this request and the Congress now has their commendations from the 75th anniversary as well as the 80th anniversary hanging along side the newly created Wisconsin Conservation Congress Hall of Fame plaque.

Given the Congress' deeply rooted partnership with the DNR as the statutorily created avenue for citizen input to the NRB, it seems fitting that the public the Congress and Department work hard for, should have access to view this important recognition of the Congress' rich tradition and proudest accomplishments."

Keep Up With the Congress: Read Congress testimony, statements, and press releases, find meeting dates and minutes, and learn about what the Congress is doing by going online to dnr.wi.gov search "Conservation Congress"