



## Chairman's Update

By Rob Bohmann

**Mahatma Gandhi once said, "We must become the change we want to see."**

Change is constantly occurring both inside and outside our individual lives and workplaces. Our challenge is to understand the change process, while also managing it as proactively as possible. Central to our approach should be an understanding and acceptance of the fact resistance to change is a normal reaction.

2012 brought many changes within the outdoor world of Wisconsin. Dr. James Kroll was hired in October of 2011 to review our state's approach to deer management. In the spring of 2012, Dr Kroll traveled the state while holding six town hall meetings where he listened to citizens' con-

cerns on the current deer management practices. He submitted his final report in June of last year. The report contained many suggestions for change to deer management. While the department has implemented a few of those changes already, I can assure you that they are continuing to work on the implementation of Dr. Kroll's plan. The Congress supported this plan in its entirety. We played a active and visible role in assisting Dr. Kroll in facilitating all of the town hall meetings and we will continue to work with the Department in implementing Dr. Kroll's recommendations.

We also saw change that came by legislation. There was Act 24 which allows the culling of bass in a fishing tournament. There was Act 28



which addresses the privileges under a Class A or Class B bear hunting license, and bear carcass tag and back tag requirements, and Act 50 that prohibits the Department of Natural Resources from establishing certain restrictions on hunting antlered deer and regulating the establishment of fall open seasons for hunting deer with firearms. Act 51 relates to the placing, possessing, or transporting a firearm, bow, or crossbow in or on a vehicle or in or on a motorboat.

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## 2013 Spring Hearings- April 8

By Kari Lee-Zimmermann, WCC DNR Liaison

This year's Spring Hearings will afford attendees the opportunity to weigh in on 47 proposed rule changes related to Wisconsin's fish and wildlife. In addition, 31 questions will appear on the Congress side of the spring hearing questionnaire this year.

Those WCC advisory questions, which were approved by the WCC Executive Council meeting in Wausau on January 4-5, are proposals that range from eliminating the backtag requirement to expanding the definition of artificial light to hunt predators, and requiring the registration of non-motorized boats to splitting panfish bag limits by species.

"As is the case each year, the Spring Hearings will provide the opportunity for outdoor users of all types to offer input on Wisconsin's natural resources," said Rob Bohmann, WCC Chair.

"Whether you are a hunter, trapper, angler, state park user, or wildlife watcher— if Wisconsin's natural resources are important to you, we hope you will come out on April 8 and register your opinion on these various issues."

The Fur Harvest Committee advanced a number of questions including extending the muskrat season until March 31 and simplifying the season framework for some furbearers by changing the opening of coyote and fisher trapping seasons and fox, bobcat and rac-

coon hunting and trapping season to October 15 to be consistent with the opening of the wolf harvest season. In addition, the Fur Harvest Committee will ask citizens if they support a statewide bobcat season. This question differs slightly from the Department advisory question in that it suggests opening hunting and trapping bobcats south of Hwy 64 using the same harvest foal as is presently being used north of Hwy 64, while the Department question suggests establishing a separate zone with separate quotas.

The Migratory Committee has forwarded a question that proposes making changes to the waterfowl hunting concealment rule allowing the use of any rooted

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# WCC Looks to Future with Strategic Plan

By Lee Fahrney

After seven months of intense deliberations by a select group of delegates, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress is well on its way to approving a new Strategic Plan. The WCC Executive Council approved unanimously the 37-page plan at its Jan. 4-5, 2013 meeting in Wausau. The proposal will advance to the entire delegation for final consideration at the annual meeting in Eau Claire in May.

Heretofore, the Conservation Congress had never considered the need for an in-

depth study of its goals, strategies and tasks. Congress vice chair Larry Bonde said the planning process gave delegates an opportunity to offer their thoughts about the way the organization should function. "Every member of the committee brought something to the table," he said. "As a result, I see a more engaged Congress and one that is very transparent and accountable."

Efforts are already underway to take action immediately on some of the committee's recommendations. The process for study committee selection is one area where the council hopes to see some improvement.

According to Congress chair Rob Bohmann, committee assignments will be a priority beginning with the district meetings in March.

Oconto delegate Ralph Fritsch was a member of the committee. "The planning process was a great opportunity to take a look at the inner workings of the Congress," he said. "I think in the long run you're going to see a lot more interest in the Congress and the role it plays in the legislative and administrative rule process."

## Wolf harvest shows Congress is 'family'

By Lee Fahrney

Tomahawk, Wis. – Fourteen-year-old Maegan Loka of Tomahawk learned a valuable lesson about "family" in 2012 when she was the recipient of a donated wolf tag from Wisconsin Conservation Congress delegate Richard Clark. He and Maegan's father, Mark Loka are longtime friends as delegates to the Congress – Clark from Oconto County and Loka from Lincoln County.

"I applied for the tag just because it was historic," Clark said. "I figured I didn't have a snowball's chance of getting it, but when I did, I decided it (donating) was the best way to utilize the tag."

Maegan wasted little time seizing the moment. Getting her equipment ready was the first item on the agenda. "I dyed and waxed my #3 Bridger traps that I won at the (2012) Wisconsin Trapper's Association spring banquet," she noted. And before opening day, she and her dad attended the Gray Wolf Education class held at Treehaven in Tomahawk.

After that it was all about executing the plan. "I knew exactly where I wanted to set my traps," she said. "I've been watching a certain area where there have been many wolf signs."

Mark Loka picked up his daughter after school on the opening day of the season. She set out four traps that first day, two more the next, and two more on the third day of the season with no results. "The traps were set along woods roads using dirthole sets," she noted.

Thursday was different. "My mom picked me up, and we met my dad and my sister at home to go check the traps.

"When we drove up to the second set I could see something moving," she reports. "I about climbed over the front seat of the truck to see what it was."

"Before my dad could turn the truck off, I was already out the door," she said. "There it was: a wolf! I was so excited. I harvested a wolf." Indeed, a female weighing 62 lbs.

Then things got really busy. After pictures, she called Richard Clark to tell him the news, then went home to call the Department of Natural Resources to report the kill. After a quick change of clothes she was off to play the clarinet in the pep band at Tomahawk High School for a volleyball game. Later that night after finishing her homework, she went out to the fur shed to skin the wolf – all in a day's work for Maegan Loka.

Her success comes as no surprise to her family. "Even when she was little she loved the outdoors," Mark Loka said. "She would spend many hours with me out in the woods and even in the fur shed while she worked on her homework.

Maegan has already joined the leadership ranks within Wisconsin's trapping community, serving as president of the Future Trapper's Association of Wisconsin and as a junior trapping education instructor in Lincoln County. She also worked through the Conservation Congress Fur Harvest Committee to get the youth trapping license reduced from \$20 to \$9.95.

Perhaps most importantly, she will soon become a charter member of the Junior Conservation Congress scheduled for implementation in 2013.



*Fourteen-year-old Maegan Loka enjoyed the thrill of a lifetime when she trapped this 62 lb. female wolf in Lincoln County. The tag was donated by Oconto County delegate Richard Clark. Maegan is the daughter of WCC delegate Mark Loka. Contributed photo.*

# Women of the Conservation Congress

By Pearl Holmstadt, Dunn County Delegate

I've had the opportunity to correspond and visit with several women on the Congress this last week. It's been interesting talking and reading about their lives. Each of us came from all walks with a variety of life experiences to bring to the table. They have impressive conservation backgrounds and have spent years fighting the good fight in preserving our natural resources and passing on the torch of the hunting tradition.

Since the majority of Congress members are men, I asked the ladies how they felt they were received. Each one gave basically the same answer; they were well received and accepted. Kathleen Tober of Walworth County on the legislative committee said it best, "We are all a team working for common goals." Kathleen has a remarkable record in her work with getting youth, such as inner-city kids, involved in shooting sports and outdoor activities. She has received several awards including Educator of the Year from The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, and the Turkey Federation. "I did not do any of it myself," she told me. "There is no *I* in team, and with every accomplishment, I've had many people involved and helping every step of the way. And that's how it is with the Congress. We all work together."

Laurie Groskopf member of the Congress for three years also has a most impressive background. On the Congress she has sat on four committees as well as being a member of several sportspersons organizations. And it didn't stop there for her either. Laurie has been an extremely active steward of our natural resources. She been involved in programs such as Second Story, a recycling management program of solid waste; she was active on Treehaven's Green Committee, and she actively works to promote sensible wolf management in Wisconsin. What I found noteworthy in Laurie's life is that her personal life reflects her public message. She and her family heat with wood and grow their own produce and some fruits. They try to buy locally and rely heavily on harvested wild game. On every hand, Laurie is a true conservationist, and her county was wise to place her on the Congress.

Congress member Lisa Wilson from Menominee County is also interested in wolf

management. When asked what her greatest satisfaction with the Congress is, she said, "It's the truth. You always hear stories or rumors about things that are happening in Madison and with the DNR. Sitting on this committee (wolf) and (in the) Congress you hear the real truth. I do pass the proper information on."

All the ladies I spoke with had one major passion in life, which was spending time in the outdoors: in the fields, the woods and on the water. Like the men, we enjoy hunting, fishing and experiencing nature and all Wisconsin has to offer. However, some of us, myself included, also enjoy a hunt out west or a fishing trip in the Boundary Waters.

I asked the ladies what challenges they foreseen in the future of the Congress. Several mentioned Act 21, of course. Some felt that the public in general is not aware of the Conservation Congress and what we do. Others expressed concern over the issue of gun control due to the numerous and recent public shooting sprees.

As for myself, I am from Southern Dunn County living along the picturesque Chippewa River. While raising my family I never gave conservation a great deal of thought. Who has time? When I became Grandma one day, I began to wonder what will be left for my grandchildren when they reach my ripe old age of forty-four. I first joined up with a local sportspersons club and then became a hunter education instructor, teaching my students about conservation. I am now the secretary for Wisconsin Hunter Education

Instructor Association.

I joined the Congress nearly four years ago when one of our delegates became too ill to continue. It is one way to try to make a difference for future generations and our own generation as well. The Congress, along with my role as a hunter education instructor, is both a way to make a difference and an avenue to give back to the sport. The individuals who volunteer their time, money and energy for a cause in which they believe are the true movers and shakers in society.

I did not get to correspond with all the women of the Conservation Congress, so if you are a woman and would like to share your story, please contact me. I can be found in the big book under Dunn County.



*Pearl Holmstadt with one of her students at a hunter education course.*

## Looking for a few good Conservationists...



The Wisconsin Conservation Congress currently has vacancies in the following counties. If you are interested in becoming a WCC delegate and representing your county, please contact the chair of your county. Contact information can be found by searching "Conservation Congress" at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and using the link "local county delegates."

**Barron, Brown, Crawford, Dane, Iron, Jefferson, Lincoln, Outagamie, Pierce, Rusk, Taylor, Vilas, Washburn**

# Delegate Profile: Marlin Laidlaw—a delegate on the go

By Lee Fahrney

At the age of 68, Marlin Laidlaw (Wood County) might impart to the uninformed observer the notion that he is ready to slow down a bit. Those who know him, however, do not expect the man to ease off on the throttle any time soon. The outdoors is his calling and a steadfast commitment to fish and wildlife management marks his every endeavor.

He lists hunting of deer, waterfowl and upland game among his current outdoor activities. "My favorite outdoor activity is hunting with bow and arrow." Add fishing for walleye, panfish and Great Lakes salmon during the warmer months, and one captures the image of a very busy outdoorsman.

Marlin's involvement with the Conservation Congress and various other local organizations is measured in decades rather than years: More than three decades as a measurer with the Wisconsin Buck & Bear Club, a member of Whitetails Unlimited since its inception (WTU celebrated 30 years in 2012), and 20-plus years on the Congress and on the Big Game committee. His contributions during that time have not gone unnoticed.

"His research on the issues and his desire to hear from the sportsman are qualities we all should aspire to achieve," said fellow-Wood County delegate Al Lobner. "Marlin's

dedication to the Congress is evident by all the hard work he does...."

Al Phelan served for 17 years as the DNR liaison to the Congress. He considers Marlin an expert in deer management while noting his ability to work with others. "He strongly supports his beliefs but does so in a polite and respectful manner," Phelan said.

Marlin seldom passes up an opportunity to carry out the work of conservation, including connecting with our schools and youth. As one example, at a Big Game committee meeting last year, he set up a "pop stand" in the lobby with a stack of the latest Buck and Bear record books. While others were taking a break, he was signing people up to deliver the books to school libraries – and he wanted to make sure they got there by directing everyone to get back to him with the name of the librarian who received it.

Marlin knew at a very young age that an outdoor lifestyle would bring him the greatest satisfaction. "I was eight- or nine-years old when my Dad and I went looking for a newborn calf out in a marsh," he recalls.

"All of a sudden a massive buck stood up a few feet in front of me. He stared at me for what seemed like forever, then turned tail and bounded

away. "It was the first deer I had ever seen as there were very few in central Wisconsin in the early 1950s."

Recalling that first deer as a young boy, Marlin said, "That was the start of a relationship with deer that has given me so much joy." That singular event prompted Marlin to foster his appreciation for the outdoors while walking the trail with others in the conservation of our natural resources. "The story continues, I hope, for a very long time," Marlin concluded.



## Chairman's Update (continued from page 1)

Act 168 creates a sporting recruitment and retention council, programs to encourage recruitment of hunters and trappers, restrictions on expenditures under the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson stewardship program, reduced fees for certain first-time hunting and trapping approvals, high school credit under and administration of the hunter and trapper education programs, waiving fishing license requirements for a weekend winter fishing event, and sturgeon spearing license age requirements. The Executive Committee requested applications for persons interested in sitting on the Sporting Heritage Council and we received an excellent pool of candidates. From those applications, Joe Caputo was selected to represent the Congress on this new council. Act 169 relates to hunting and trapping of wolves, providing an exemption

from emergency rule procedures, extending the time limit for emergency rule procedures, and making an appropriation. Act 180 relates to the definition of rough fish and taking rough fish with a crossbow. Act 251 addresses the possession of certain animals killed by vehicles. Act 252 relates to weapons that may be used to hunt certain animals and requirements for establishing open hunting seasons for those animals. It is not insignificant that all of these acts or portions of them have been a WCC advisory question at one time or another.

This past year has brought change internally to our organization as well. In January of 2012, the WCC Executive Council voted unanimously in support of creating a strategic plan for the congress. After the convention adjourned in May, the execu-

tive committee selected Joe Weiss (D1), Wally Trudeau (D2), Laurie Groskopf and Mike Riggle (D3), Ralph Fritsch (D4), Doug Burrows and Bill Yingst (D5), Frank Reith (D6), Greg Wysocki (D6), Dale Mass (D7), Larry Bonde and Dave Tupa (D8), Mike Murphy (D9), Jayne Meyer (D10) and Andrew Limmer (D12), to serve on the Strategic Planning Committee. I would like to thank all of these committee members for volunteering to serve on this committee. I would also like to thank Kari Lee-Zimmermann and Sharon Fandel, and especially Art Lersch for facilitating this project.

After conducting six meetings and many hours of constructive discussion, the strategic plan was completed and submitted on December 8. The plan was approved by the council this past January, and will be pre-

sented to the full delegation for adoption on the floor of our convention in May. This plan is truly an outstanding vision for the future of the Congress that is the result of many hours of hard work done by some of our finest delegates.

I can't cover everything in this issue, but will touch on a few things within the plan. The committee is suggesting a new mission statement for the Congress. They've addressed what we need to do to accomplish the goals of how to improve our organizational structure, how can our delegates create a greater awareness of the WCC, how the WCC can expand what it does, and what must be done to make the spring hearings more effective. There are suggestions for changes to our code of procedures as well as enforcement of our code of procedures. They've also addressed our committees and how they are structured. Please take the time to read the plan before the convention, because it will be on our agenda in May.

Lastly, we are asking all of you to work with your District Councilors in finding some young adults (High School freshman through senior) from your district who are interested in serving on the Youth Conserva-

tion Congress. Every one of us has a network of friends and neighbors, family and co-workers; some of whom may be young adults interested in getting involved with conservation issues and the YCC. Our goal is to have at least twelve youth delegates from around the state, preferably one from every district. We would like to have this group assembled by our convention in Eau Claire next May.

Youth delegates will represent the youth within their districts as it relates to natural resource management and the interactions with the WCC and the NRB. They will attend and participate in the annual Spring Hearings/WCC County Meetings and the statewide convention. Youth delegates will advise and make recommendations on strategies, opportunities, and policies that will engage Wisconsin youth in nature based outdoor activities.

Each District will be asked to provide a sponsor/mentor within their delegation to assist the YCC delegate. The YCC delegate will be assigned to the same committee as their sponsor/mentor. The sponsor/mentor's role will be to assist in providing transportation to and from the spring district meeting,

spring hearings, annual convention, fall district meeting and your assigned committee meeting.

If you know someone who is interested in getting involved, please have them fill out the paperwork that was sent to you in your district meeting mailing and return it to Kari by April 12, 2013. This affords you an excellent opportunity to encourage interested young adults to attend the April 8 Spring Hearings and see first-hand the type of work the WCC delegates are involved in.

If you have any questions regarding the Youth Conservation Congress, please contact: Dave Tupa (Door Co) at (920)-495-2864 or Kevin Smaby (La Crosse Co) at (608)788-0220.

In closing, I want to thank you for all of the tireless work you do on behalf of conservation for the citizens of this state. I would also like to thank every one of our delegates for the making the sacrifices of Saturday meetings, reduction of mileage reimbursement and no overnight lodging in order to offset the cost of the strategic plan. Hopefully, after you see the final result, you'll agree that it was worth it.

## Remember to take new hunters with you

By Al Shook, Waukesha County Delegate, District 11 Councilor

I've been involved with youth and mentor hunts since 2001. I'm a self taught hunter and fisherman as no one in my family did these things. My Father had to hunt and fish during the "Depression" and refused to do it if he could just buy food. Although, my Dad wouldn't teach me to hunt or fish he did show me how to clean / skin whatever I brought home. This is when Mom stepped in by finding a recipe and cooking whatever. The pride I felt when it was announced that I got the main course for Dinner was a feeling I've never forgotten.

Not forgetting my past, I owe it to whomever wants to try hunting / fishing to at least take them one time and teach them as much as they want to know.

Over the last ten years or so I've taken about fifteen different kids and adults out with me. The easiest hunt to control in order to maintain interest is a pheasant at the club I belong to. I don't care if the new hunter has done this once or twice before, I'm sure with me at the club we'll have

enough birds and flushes to keep three hours in the field more exciting than the phone I make them leave in the truck.

Along the way we talk about safety, dog work and cover changes. A good friend of mine always helps along with his dog. This allows us to put the newbies between us with the dogs working back and forth in front of us.

I think the best part of this is when the "light" goes on. Fishing or hunting doesn't matter. You know they get it when they start telling you things that you told them just a few hours ago.

When this happens, I'm smiling from ear to ear because I know we have a new member in the outdoors. If it doesn't happen the next day, it will happen because they had a great time outside.

Don't wait for someone to find you, ask the people you work with or your neighbors.

It's a blast. Take a newbie out the next chance you get. You'll get as much out of it as the person that's with you.



Al Shook (center) with Alex Jelacic (left) and Joe Jelacic, cousins that he knows through work. This was the young men's second time pheasant hunting.

# New WCC Coordinator on board

Let me introduce myself, Adam Lindsey, your new WCC Coordinator. I had the privilege of meeting a few of you at the January Executive Council meeting and have not yet been deterred from keeping my position. For those of you I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting, I will provide a brief biography.

I grew up in the village of Wonewoc nestled in the bluffs of the driftless area. My parent's house is in a prime location with the Baraboo River in the backyard and the 400 State Bike Trail just across the street. In high school I lettered in football, basketball, and baseball; obtained the rank of Eagle Scout; and had one of the best outdoor education teachers: John Cler. My high school owned 97 acres of swamp land located about a half mile away. For one class with Mr. Cler we learned how to trap catching a 35 and 55 pound beaver and numerous muskrats; I can attest muskrat meat isn't all that bad.

For college I attended the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point with the aspiration to become a wildlife biologist. After surviving classes with two very quirky professors in botany and zoology my freshman year I decided to switch gears and become a high school social studies teacher. I graduated with honors com-

pleting three majors (Education, History, & Broadfield Social Science) and two minors (Psychology & Coaching). I also took the opportunity to play Rugby and can say I have played against such teams as UW-Madison, Iowa State, and Purdue.

After college I taught as a full-time teacher for one year in the Hillsboro School District. I was hired two days before the start of the school year and developed an alternative education program from scratch. I worked with at-risk students at an off-campus location by myself. I had to be my own judge, jury, and executioner with students nobody else cared to deal with. My bright spot was coaching 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls basketball and being an assistant for the varsity baseball team. My position was cut due to lack of funding at the close of the school year.

After a few years of not being able to find another full-time teaching position I made the very tough decision to go back to school. With the price of law school being way out of my league, I decided to attend Madison College (formerly MATC) to obtain a Paralegal Certificate. During my coursework I needed to complete a



paralegal internship and did so at the DNR. When a position with the DNR became available I applied and was selected to my current position.

Lastly, as far as my field & stream credentials go, I hunt deer with bow and rifle, fly fish and tie a few flies, can operate a baitcaster without backlashing, have harvested a cow elk in Colorado, and enjoy hand loading my own ammunition. I also enjoy upland bird hunting, turkey hunting, and ice fishing.

## 2013 Spring Hearings— April 8 (Cont'd from pg 1)

naturally occurring vegetation located within 3 feet of the hunter's boat or blind, including shoreline or upland vegetation, that would provide 50% concealment.

The Outdoor Heritage & Education Committee will ask citizens for their input on expanding the participation of youth in youth hunts and eliminating some stamp requirements for youth.

However, the question posed by the WCC that seems to be getting the most attention is a question that asks citizens for further input on the implementation of Act 168. The question asks if they would support expanding hunting and trapping opportunities in state parks beyond what the Natural Resources Board approved in December.

"We are simply asking the citizens for additional input," stated Bohmann. "The purpose of the Congress is to take the pulse of the people and that's what we are doing by asking them what they want."

In a recent statement to the NRB Bohmann stated that "We recognize that this issue is highly emotional and that you heard testimony from many individuals with a wide range of perspectives prior to approving the current plan. However, as is often the case with natural resource issues, this is an issue that should be monitored closely and perhaps may need to be revisited and expanded based on feedback and actual results from the implementation of this law."

This year the Natural Resources Board will also be asking three advisory questions

relating to options for expanding the use of crossbows and hunting wolves with the aid of dogs.

The April 8, 2013 spring hearings begin at 7:00 pm in each county of the state. Hearing locations for each county and a complete list of the questions being proposed for consideration can be found online at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), key words "Spring Hearings."



# Understanding the WCC Code of Procedures



By Larry Bonde, Vice Chair

A former delegate recently sent in some questions regarding whether or not the WCC was following proper meeting notices required under the Wisconsin Open Meeting Laws (WOML). What was in question was how business is handled at the annual Executive Council meeting held each January when the Council takes up the business of approving the WCC advisory questions for the annual Spring Hearings.

The first concern raised was that in the past there have been motions made under the “Members Matters” portion of the meeting to add questions to the WCC advisory portion on the Spring Hearing. He felt this should not be allowed under the Open Meeting Law because the specifics of the question being discussed are not posted on the agenda. WCC leadership conferred with the WCC Liaison and legal staff and determined that the WCC’s allowing those questions to be acting on under “Members Matters” is not in any way a violation of the WOML.

“Proposed WCC Advisory Questions” is noticed on the agenda as an action item indicating that at this meeting the advisory questions for the WCC portion of the Spring Hearings will be discussed and acted on, whether they are forwarded from a committee or created by the Council. Questions that are forwarded by each study committee are not required to be identified separately on the agenda and it is completely appropriate under the purview of the Council to create or suggest questions for the Spring Hearings to address timely issues.

Under Members Matters you can act on items, provided it is directly related to an action item already noticed on the agenda. Further, if an item was approved previously in the meeting (the same or previous day), but you felt the issue needed to be reconsidered for some reason, there is even a process for that. It is called a “motion to reconsider.” A motion to reconsider needs a second and is a debatable motion. However, you may only de-

bate the motion to reconsider and not debate the issue itself. If the motion to reconsider passes (it needs a simple majority 50%+1) then a member of the committee can make a motion to modify or change something that may have been acted on previously in a meeting. The motion identifying the modifications or changes must be seconded before discussion is allowed on the proposed changes or revisions to the item that was acted on previously during a meeting.

The second concern raised was accepting and voting on resolutions from the public during the WCC portion of the Spring Hearings. The concern was that that this may be a violation of WOML since there is no prior notice of the specifics of the local resolutions to be voted on in each county. Again, on the agenda for the Spring Hearings, citizen resolutions is identified and that information is sufficient to alert the public of the importance of the meeting so they can make an informed decision on whether or not to attend. The WCC regularly receives over 200 resolutions and it is unreasonably burdensome to suggest that 72 different agendas be created for each county meeting with the resolutions identified ahead

of time. In addition, those resolutions that pass a county vote are specifically noticed in the agenda for the study committee to which they were assigned for further public review. So again, after consultation from our liaison and legal staff it is our opinion the WCC is following all requirements of the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law.

If you ever have a question about how the WCC conducts our business, the requirements and procedures we follow, or any other questions, please feel free to let me know. The WCC is your organization and we are happy to address your questions and concerns so that you have a better understanding of our operations or we can make a change in the way the WCC does business if needed. The more informed our delegates and our public are, the stronger the WCC will become. To learn more about Wisconsin Open Meetings Law you can search it at [http://www.doj.state.wi.us/AWP/2010MCG-PRO/2010\\_OML\\_Compliance\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.doj.state.wi.us/AWP/2010MCG-PRO/2010_OML_Compliance_Guide.pdf)



## WCC Learn to Hunt Bear Tag

### Available, Applications due April 24

Beginning in 2005, the Wisconsin DNR began offering Learn to Hunt Bear opportunities. The Learn to Hunt Bear Program (LTHB) is an opportunity to expose novice hunters to the hunting experience and recruit new hunters into the sport. The Conservation Congress is one of the statewide conservation organizations that are specifically issued a bear harvest tag through the LTH Bear Program. Each year the Wisconsin Conservation Congress is awarded a tag with the express intent of awarding it to a deserving individual with the desire and interest in learning more about hunting bear.

Each spring the Conservation Congress accepts applications from novice hunters interested in participating in the LTH Bear Program. Applicants must fill out and submit an application along with a brief essay describing why they would like to be considered to receive the bear harvest tag and why they would like the opportunity to hunt bear.

**If you know a novice hunter that would be interested in receiving the WCC’s LTH Bear Harvest Permit, please direct them to the WCC website. The link to the application can be found under the “Community outreach” section.**





# Wisconsin Conservation Congress 2013 Annual Recognition Awards

It is time to nominate the Statewide Conservation Organization,  
Local Conservation Club and Conservation Educator of the Year!

## Statewide Conservation Organization of the Year Award

Do you know a statewide conservation organization that has been active in promoting conservation and conservation education activities and projects throughout the state?

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress would like to request your assistance or the assistance of your organization in nominating a statewide conservation organization for their efforts regarding conservation and conservation education activities and projects throughout the state.

The "Statewide Conservation Organization of the Year Award" is intended to recognize a Wisconsin organization who has dedicated themselves to conservation and conservation education activities and projects throughout the state to include habitat development, youth fishing clinics, scholarships, access points, hunter education, etc.

Through this award the Conservation Congress will recognize the many hours of service, the number of individuals who have been impacted and the numerous opportunities that have been developed by this organization.



## Conservation Educator of the Year Award

Do you know a Wisconsin teacher, sports person or youth group leader who is active in promoting and teaching conservation education, ethics, safety or outdoor skills?

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress would like to request your assistance or the assistance of your organization in nominating an outstanding educator for his/her efforts regarding conservation education.

The "Conservation Educator of the Year Award" is intended to recognize Wisconsin conservationists who dedicate themselves to educating others about the wise use and conservation of Wisconsin's natural resources and environment.

Through this award the Conservation Congress will recognize the many hours of service, the number of individuals who have been impacted and the numerous programs which have been developed by Wisconsin's conservation educators.

**CONSERVATION CLUBS AND  
SPORTSMEN AND WOMEN  
THROUGHOUT THE STATE ARE ASKED  
TO HELP THIS EFFORT BY  
NOMINATING A DESERVING CLUB,  
ORGANIZATION, OR EDUCATOR.**

**THE WCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
WILL REVIEW NOMINATIONS IN LATE  
APRIL AND THE AWARDS WILL BE  
PRESENTED AT THE WCC ANNUAL  
CONVENTION IN EAU CLAIRE ON  
MAY 10, 2013.**

## Local Conservation Organization of the Year Award

Do you know a local conservation club that has been active in promoting conservation education and training, habitat enhancement, recreation activities, outdoor recreation access and non-conservation community service projects?

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress would like to request your assistance or the assistance of your organization in nominating an outstanding local conservation club for their efforts regarding conservation education and training, habitat enhancement, recreation activities, and non-conservation community service projects.

The "Local Conservation Club of the Year Award" is intended to recognize Wisconsin conservation clubs who dedicate themselves to conservation education and training, habitat enhancement, recreation activities, outdoor recreation access and community service projects to help maintain Wisconsin's natural resources and environment.

Through this award the Conservation Congress will recognize the many hours of service, the number of individuals who have been impacted and the numerous opportunities that have been developed by Wisconsin's local conservation clubs.

## 2013 Wisconsin Conservation Congress Recognition Award Nomination

I would like to make a nomination for the following award(s):

- 2013 Educator of the Year
- 2013 Statewide Conservation Organization of the year
- 2013 Local Conservation Organization of the Year

Your name and phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

### 2013 NOMINATION INFORMATION -- EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

If you are nominating an Educator of the Year, please attach an additional sheet of paper and in 200 words or less, describe the activities and accomplishments of your nominee in teaching or promoting conservation education, ethics, safety or outdoor skills. Include information regarding the number and types of different educational activities conducted by the nominee, their years of service, the number of youth or adults who have been impacted by the nominee and any innovations or programs developed by the nominee.

Name of Educator: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Educator: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address of Educator (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

In which county is the nominee teaching or promoting conservation education?: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2013 NOMINATION INFORMATION -- LOCAL & STATEWIDE ORGANIZATIONS

The following information will provide the Executive Committee with the accomplishments of the club or organization in 2012. Please organize the accomplishments using the subject headings provided on the reverse of this page. Accomplishments and activities should only be listed once using the most applicable category. If extra space is needed, you may attach one additional sheet per category.

Circle One:                      Statewide Organization                      Local Organization

Name of Organization or Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Organization or Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_ Email Address for Organization (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

President of Organization or Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Members: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Dues: \$\_\_\_\_\_ per Month / Year (circle one)

Frequency of Meetings:  Weekly  Monthly  Quarterly  Annually  Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

If nominating a local club, in which county are they located?: \_\_\_\_\_

- Funds raised in 2012: \_\_\_\_\_
- Funds were utilized for:  Habitat  Education  Recreation  Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Funds provided opportunities for:  Members  Non-Members  Both

Please describe efforts in the area of **Conservation Education** (such as hunter education courses, outdoor skills courses, ecological or environmental education, or learn-to-hunt programs):

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Please describe efforts in the area of **Habitat Enhancement / Conservation** (such as stream improvements, invasive species removal, prairie restoration):

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Please describe efforts in the area of **Recreational Activities / Projects / Fundraisers** (such as fisheries, contests, auctions, disabled hunts, access piers, or scholarships):

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For **Local Organizations or Clubs**, please provide details of local community service projects (such as venison donation programs), and for **Statewide Organizations or Clubs**, please provide details of activities that were statewide or regional in scope (such as cooperative efforts with other organizations or government agencies):

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**Deadline April 12, 2013**

All nominations should be sent to:  
Kari Lee-Zimmermann  
PO Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707-7921







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**WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS**

*79 YEARS OF CONSERVATION!*

**2012-2013 WCC Executive Committee**

Rob Bohmann, Chair  
 Larry Bonde, Vice-Chair  
 Lee Fahrney, Secretary

PO Box 7921  
 Madison, WI 53707

**WCC Liaison**

Kari Lee-Zimmermann  
 Phone: 608-266-0580

E-mail: [Kari.LeeZimmermann@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Kari.LeeZimmermann@Wisconsin.gov)

**WCC Coordinator**

Adam Lindsey  
 Phone: 608-261-0767

E-mail: [Adam.Lindsey@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Adam.Lindsey@Wisconsin.gov)

*"Let us work together to properly manage and wisely use our natural resources..."*  
 - Prolog of the Congress Creed

## Wisconsin Conservation Congress – 2013 Spring Calendar

Please visit the WCC website for up-to-date listings of all WCC meetings and events – go to [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search for "Conservation Congress."

**February**

- 16 Fur Harvest Committee: Bobcat discussion—Milladore
- 25 District 1 Spring Mtg—Hayward
- 26-27 NRB Meeting— Madison

**March**

- 4 District 3 Spring Mtg—Tomahawk
- 4 District 8 Spring Mtg—Cleveland
- 5 District 6 Spring Mtg—Babcock
- 5 District 7 Spring Mtg—Winneconne
- 5 District 10 Spring Mtg— Janesville
- 6 District 9 Spring Mtg— Spring Green

- 7 District 2 Spring Mtg—Barron
- 7 District 5 Spring Mtg—Alma
- 12 Districts 11 & 12 Spring Mtg—Sturtevant
- 14 District 4 Spring Meeting—Mountain
- 23 Big Game Committee Mtg—Milladore
- 26-27 NRB Meeting—Madison

**April**

- 8 Annual DNR/WCC Spring Hearings
- 23-24 NRB Meeting—Madison

**May**

- 9 Executive Council—Eau Claire
- 10-11 WCC Annual Convention—Eau Claire
- 21 Executive Council/NRB joint Meeting—Location TBD
- 21-22 NRB Meeting—Location TBD

**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](http://dnr.wi.gov) search "Conservation Congress"