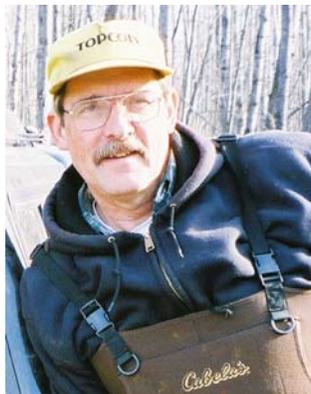


Chairman's Update



Conservation Chronicle



By Ed Harvey

Most of you have probably heard by now that, after five years, I will be stepping down as chairman in May. When I took this position, I set a time limit within which I would serve. While that time hasn't expired, we are at a point in time when it makes the most sense for us to make the change.

On the occasion of our 75th Anniversary, past chairman Oestreicher addressed the

Congress. He said that it had been "an honor and a privilege to serve as your chair." For most of those in the room it must have sounded pretty cliché, but three of us there understood how sincere he was. Besides Steve Oestreicher, Bob Ellingson Sr. and I are the only remaining people on earth who have known both the honor and the privilege of being your chairman. The chairman's duties are a great deal of work. But it would still be a great job at half the pay.

This May, a new chair will take my place. He will quickly become aware of how important the Congress is, even to those who are most critical of us. He will come to understand that because of the impact that we have on so many people, they have a right to be critical.

Five years ago, when Chairman Oestreicher stepped down, we pulled out a list of complaints and criticisms which had been collected from citizens, and from our delegation. I appointed a committee to look at those criticisms and consider changes which might be called for. It wasn't a new idea, Chairman Ellingson had done it years before. So had Chairman Oestreicher. Both of their committees included representatives from outside organizations, and from the legislature. I appointed our "A-team." It was entirely composed of some of our hardest working delegates, and they did a great job.

A year later, an unknown legislator requested an audit of the Congress by the Legislative Audit Bureau. We were interviewed by the Audit Bureau, and were required to produce

Continued on page 4

2011 Congress Spring Hearing Advisory Questions

By Kari Lee-Zimmermann, WCC DNR Liaison

Thirty-eight questions will appear on the Congress side of the spring hearing questionnaire this year.

Those questions, which were approved by the WCC Executive Council meeting in Wausau on January 7, range from hunting bear statewide with the aid of hounds to

changing the definition of a vehicle for the transportation of weapons and from allowing the use of rifles statewide for deer hunting to managing large and small mouth bass as separate species.

However, the question that seems to be getting the most attention from sportsmen and women seems to be

the question regarding the legalization of crossbows during the archery season.

"There has been a great deal of criticism of the Congress, and of the individual delegates who brought this question forward," stated Ed Harvey, WCC Chair in a memo to the NRB. "I assure you that the Executive Council was

Continued on page 7

Special points of interest:

- WCC District Meetings March 1-14, 2011
- WCC Award Nominations (page 9) due March 4, 2011
- 2011 Spring Hearings April 11, 2011
- WCC Youth Expo Travel Grant Application (page 5) due April 15, 2011
- WCC Learn to Hunt Bear Application (page 11) due April 20, 2011

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

Youth Conservation Congress Update

The effort toward establishing a Youth Conservation Congress, while progressing, will not be complete for the 2011-2012 school year as hoped. The subcommittee of the Outdoor Heritage and Education Committee met in September and made considerable progress. However, our December meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

The Executive Council heard a progress report at its January 7 meeting in Wausau sufficient to bring the matter to a vote. While the motion to establish the youth organization passed by a wide margin, several councilors expressed con-

cerns about trying to have the program up and running this year.

Meanwhile, all delegates are urged to take note of the 'Frequently Asked Questions' handout that will be included in your district meeting

package. At some point, each county will be asked to identify youth groups in their area so that we can send them information about the Youth Congress and how they might apply. The youth groups could be associated with area conservation clubs or connected to local school organizations.

"We will know success when the first youth is elected to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress."

In addition to getting our youth involved with the Conservation Congress, the process also has the added benefit of sharing our natural resource protection mission with schools and other community organizations. Everyone is urged to become familiar with the project and lend your support.

Send your thoughts and ideas to Kari Lee-Zimmermann at Kari.LeeZimmermann@Wisconsin.gov (608 266-0580) or Lee Fahrney at fiveoaks@mhtc.net (608 967-2208).

Learn to Hunt Gains Traction

By Lee Fahrney

"Failure is not an option," said DNR chief conservation warden Randy Stark at an October news conference held to unveil a major new initiative to expand Wisconsin's Learn to Hunt program. Stark is referring to the declining number of young people taking up traditional outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing and trapping and the need to ramp up efforts to recruit new people to our hunting heritage.

Four statewide outdoor organizations have made a major commitment to expand the already-successful program. The event, held at the Gander Mountain outlet in Madison, was hosted by the Hunter's Network of Wisconsin and included the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association, Great Lakes Fish & Wildlife Commission, Wisconsin Bowhunters Association and Becoming an Outdoors Woman. Each organization agreed to conduct eight additional Learn to Hunt events by Nov. 1, 2011.

"The audience I work with is adult women," said Peggy Farrell of the UW-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources. "There aren't enough of these programs available so it's important to expand this kind of activity," she said.

The focus of Becoming an Outdoors Woman is to remove barriers to participation in outdoor activities for women, said Farrell. The organization has its roots in Wisconsin beginning in 1991 and has now expanded to 42 other states and six Canadian provinces, she explained. "We've nailed down four LTH events for this year

so far," said Farrell.

While the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association has hosted some LTH events in the past, the organization hopes to expand the scope of its involvement, according to WWA executive director Ron Kirby. "We pioneered the goose hunt program in the Green Bay area, but we need to do more," he said.

"It's very noticeable when you compare waterfowl Learn to Hunt with other species," he said. "This is a natural expansion of our effort to reach out and educate youth and other folks."

"We all realize our society has changed from what it was 30 or 40 years ago," Kirby noted. "Demographically, the family structure has changed. We don't have that automatic cultural flow from one generation to another."

GLIFWC shares the concern of other organizations regarding a slow down in hunter recruitment. "We are seeing the same issues others have seen," said Fred Maulson, GLIFWC's chief conservation warden.

"We see this as a good opportunity to adapt and change our approach to the use of the resources available," Maulson said. "We see hunting as a family gathering necessity."

Maulson points out that hunting includes other family-based activities like gathering wild rice and collecting maple syrup. "The hunter shares his experience with the whole family." GLIFWC has already sponsored a

Learn to Hunt pheasant hunt.

Ron Kulas, legislative liaison for the Wisconsin Bowhunters Association, sees the expansion of Learn to Hunt as an important step in getting the organization more involved. WBH already has a strong youth program, according to Kulas. "One of our directors also heads up NASP (National Archery in the Schools Program)," he said. "And we have a lot of involvement in the Kicking Bear youth program."



Chief Conservation Warden Randy Stark speaks at the press conference announcing the commitment of four outdoor organizations to sponsor eight new Learn to Hunt events in 2011. Looking on from left: Ron Kulas, Wisconsin Bowhunters Association, Fred Maulson, GLIFWC, and Ron Kirby, Wisconsin Waterfowl Association. Photo by Lee Fahrney

"We have people working with archery clubs to host events," Kulas said. He also points out that local groups may be reimbursed through the turkey settlement money.

"Hunter recruitment is critical to continuing our hunting heritage," Stark said. "We need to put a shoulder into recruitment and retention."

Wall of Fame Awarded “Best Educational Display” by NTA

By Kari Lee-Zimmermann, WCC DNR Liaison

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress' Wall of Fame was awarded the David Reed Memorial Award for the Best Educational Display at the National Trappers Association annual convention held in Marshfield, Wisconsin last August.

For four days, over 7,500 trapping enthusiasts from around the country diverged on central Wisconsin taking in workshops, demonstrations, product displays, and educational exhibits, like the Wall of Fame.

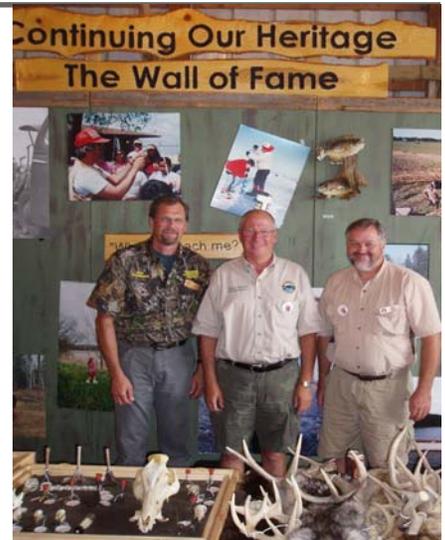
The award was presented by Kraig Kaatz, president of the NTA. The Marshfield convention was one of the most well attended conventions held by the NTA.

“It is a great honor to have been recognized like this,” said Mike Rogers, Sauk County delegate and attendee of the convention. “And by a national organization— all the hard work delegates have put into revamping and upgrading the display has paid off.”

The WCC Wall of Fame has, indeed, seen some major upgrades in the last few years. The hands-on portion now has a nearly complete collection of skulls of Wisconsin mammals, and in addition to the full body deer mount, the ducks and geese, and the wide array of pelts, last year the Wall of Fame acquired a wolf pelt for the kids to see and touch.

Another new addition to the Wall should be ready in time for the April Deer and Turkey Expo to be held in Madison. A table banner for the front of the display identifying the Wall of Fame as being sponsored by the Wisconsin Conservation Congress will be added to the exhibit.

If there is a youth event in your area that you would like to see the award winning Wall of Fame exhibited at, please contact your local county delegates for information.



The WCC Wall of Fame was honored with the National Trapper's Association 2010 David Reed Memorial Award at their annual convention in Marshfield. Kraig Kaatz (center) of the NTA is pictured in front of the display with delegates Rich Kirchmeyer (left) and Mike Rogers (right).

2010 WCC Youth Bear Hunt Permit

By Rich Kirchmeyer

In 2010, the WCC for the second time, received one of the four Learn to Hunt bear permits awarded by the Wisconsin DNR each year to four organizations within the state. The four permit sponsors are the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, Wisconsin Wild Turkey Federation, Wisconsin Bowhunters Association and the Wisconsin Conservation Congress.

Last year, Dave and Gary Mabie mentored 12-year-old Hunter Papham from Kewaunee in Price County near Kennan. Hunter had a chance to experience hunting both with the aid of hounds and over a baited site. He harvested a bear that weighed approximately 300 pounds, which is certainly a nice bear for a 12-year-old on his first bear hunt.

The alternate for the WCC LTH bear permit was Tyler Grison from Saukville. There were 15 youth and one adult that applied for our permit in 2010. The committee that selected the recipient for the permit consisted of George Bartels representing the Hunting With Hounds committee, Wade Jeske representing the Outdoor Heritage committee, and me from the Bear committee.

Learn to hunt events are often thought of as events for youth, and may youth are able to participate in the, but in addition, any person, regardless of age, with less than two

years of hunting experience is eligible to participate. The novice hunters that applied for the 2010 statewide permit system totaled 115 with only 50 permits available. They harvested 32 bear during hunts that occurred in eight counties throughout the state. There were nine bear harvested for 17 LTH participants in Price County, 16 participants harvested 11 bear in Bayfield County. Chippewa County had 10 participants and harvested five bear, Barron and Polk counties both went two for two with their permits, and Burnett, Marinette and Washburn all had one permit and each LTH participant harvested a bear. This all adds up to a successful and enjoyable hunt, not only for the participants, but also the mentors.

In this issue of the Chronicle you will find an application for the 2011 WCC's LTH bear permit (*page 11*). I hope that you will assist the Congress by distributing copies of it to interested and deserving youth or novice hunters in your area. We hope to increase the number of applicants for this unique experience by better publicizing the existence of this opportunity.

The past two years Dave and Gary Mabie from Price county have graciously volunteered their time and expertise to mentor the youths awarded the WCC permit. I think that they would be the first

ones to tell you that these experiences have been just as rewarding for them (if not more) as they have been for the permit holder. If anyone else is interested in mentoring a LTH bear hunt, please feel free to contact me at 715-428-2321.

Additionally, if there is a delegate or someone else that would like to transfer a Class A harvest permit to a youth or novice hunter this year, the Congress will reimburse them for the cost of the permit. I would be happy to assist with the necessary paper work to get the permit transferred to one of the applicants that applied for our LTH permit. In 2009 we were able to send two additional youth on bear hunts because of transferred tags generously donated to LTH alternates.

Remember, our youth are our future.

**“THOSE OF US PRIVILEGED
TO TAKE TO THE FIELD
ARE ENTRUSTED BY FATE
AND CIRCUMSTANCE TO
HOLD AND NURTURE OUR
HUNTER'S LEGACY.”**
~Theodore Roosevelt

Chairman's Update...Continued from Page 1

reams of documents. After seeing the audit report, the legislator who requested to audit chose not to release it. But, we have friends outside of the Congress, and somehow a copy wound up on my porch. The audit pointed out our fiscal responsibility. It also cited those three committees which were basically a self audit of our organization, and our processes.

A similar committee is currently repeating the exercise. This committee is the old A-team, plus two Natural Resources Board members. It will be important for the new chair to maintain the Congress as a valuable ally and tool for the Natural Resources Board, the new secretary, and the new legislature. We must continue to be our own biggest critics. The goal of these committees cannot be to compile a list of talking points that we can use when defending the Congress. We must also be willing to change when change is called for.

During the past five years we have accomplished a great deal. We have enjoyed a great relationship with the Natural Resources Board, the Secretary's office, the Governor's office, and the legislature. We need to treat all of those people as if they are family. We don't get to pick our family. But, we will never accomplish anything without their support, and we need to honor our obligations to them.

Following the deer population crash in 2008, the Congress played a key role in efforts to resolve the situation. In March of 2009, we were the first to call for a moratorium on earn-a-buck. A few weeks later, Secretary Frank asked for the moratorium, outside of the CWD zone, and the Natural Resources Board put it in place.

That summer, an outside committee (stakeholders committee) was appointed to consider alternatives to earn-a-buck. We appointed a committee of our own whose charge was, in part, to simultaneously work on the issue. An earn-a-buck alternative rule was drafted, and went out to hearing. It was scheduled to go to the Natural Resources Board to become law in December 2009. Our committee met in early November. Having attended the hearings, they recommended that no proposal, not the stakeholder's proposal, not our proposal, was ready to be put in place at that time. I am sure that Secretary Frank was much more comfortable in not advancing the rule, having heard the same

from the Congress. That's what we are here for.

For many years, hound hunters have asked for a later and preferably longer bobcat season. This is a complicated question because the cat population is small, other stakeholders are involved, and in all likelihood, the length or lateness of the season will affect the number of tags that can be issued. Hound hunters are not the only group who are impacted by such a change. In November 2008, we brought the affected parties together, and hammered out a two season compromise. Part of the arrangement required an increase in the permit application fee. That fee was the only fee increase that was allowed in the 2009 budget. It was in Governor Doyle's budget because the Congress asked for it.

We had a few successes in the legislature as well. We successfully worked for reauthorization of the Stewardship Fund. We were able to see the Great Lakes Compact ratified. Information from the Congress was primary in defeating the turkey bill, the uncased firearms bill and the bear bill. In his bear bill veto message, the Governor cited the Congress as having influenced his decision. I expect that we may see the bear bill again and, this time, it may find more supporters in the legislature.

Back when the original youth mentoring bill was introduced, there were two statewide organizations who flatly opposed it at hearings in the capital. Others supported an alternative eight-year-old bill which was joked about in the national media. Only the Congress supported that original ten-year-old mentoring bill. What is substantially the same bill finally passed in the last session.

Not everything that has gone on these past five years has been positive. I can not remember a time when relationships between conservation organizations were more strained. The dissension that was apparent in the conservation community, when the Stewardship Fund was being debated, may well set it up for an early attack. In any case, if the conservation community continues in this divisive path, we will probably not see another reauthorization in 2018. The vision and tolerance that has always been the earmark of conservationists is woefully lacking today. There are organizations here in Wisconsin whose decision to support or oppose a proposal is not based on the merits of the proposal, but on what other organizations are supporting or opposing it. I don't care if you are a land trust, a local rod and gun club, or a statewide hound hunting organization. The tearing down of relationships that has taken place over the last five years has made you, and your programs, a terribly vulnerable target.

The most crucial issue facing the next chair will be the rebuilding of those old relationships. The conservation community must be brought together. They must be convinced to lay all of their ulterior and personal motives aside and work for a greater conservation agenda.

I feel as though my five years as your chair have been productive and meaningful. I'd like to thank all of you for that. I intend to stay on the Congress and be of whatever service I can to the new chair. I can't wait to get back on the floor. I have not yet decided if I will run for the Executive Council. That decision will be based on what I believe is best for my district. In any case, I'll be around. And as cliché as it may sound, it truly has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your chair.

DISABLED HUNT SPONSORS NEEDED!

The 22nd annual Gun Deer Hunt for Hunters with Disabilities is scheduled for October 1 - 9, 2011. These hunts are sponsored by private individuals or organizations and almost entirely take place on privately-owned lands.

If you would like to be a 2011 disabled hunt sponsor, please download an application at the following link: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/HUNT/DEER/DDHunt/disabledapp.pdf> complete and submit to your local wildlife biologist by June 1, 2011.

Please visit DNR's Disabled Deer Hunting web site: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/HUNT/DEER/disap.htm> or contact Linda Olver, at 608-261-7588 for more information.



Application for the Wisconsin Conservation Congress 2011 Youth Outdoor Expo Travel Grant

Transportation Grant Request

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress provides transportation grants to school districts who wish to attend the Wisconsin Outdoor Education Expo held each year at the Dodge County fairgrounds in Beaver Dam, WI.

This otherwise free educational event features archery, firearm safety, fishing, trapping, live wildlife specimens, sporting dogs, trail recreation and, the award winning Wisconsin Conservation Congress Wall of Fame comprised of beautiful photos and hands-on educational materials representing the state's outdoor heritage.

The Conservation Congress has travel grants available to help get kids outdoors! These grants are designed to help the school district cover the cost of transportation to and from the expo. First time attendees receive first priority for the grant. Other criteria include distance from the expo site and expected cost to the school district.

Expo dates in 2011 are **May 19 & 20**. Schools may attend either one of these dates. Go to www.wisexpo.com or call 1-877-WIS-EXPO to learn more and to register for the event. *Note: Applying for this grant does not register you for the event.*

Name of School: _____ County: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Contact Name: _____ Phone: ____ (____) _____

Email Address: _____ Date Attending (circle): May 19 May 20

Number of students attending: _____ Expected Cost to School District: _____

Has your school previously attended the Wisconsin Youth Expo (circle): YES NO If YES, what year(s)? _____

Other assistance being offered (e.g. your county's Conservation Congress delegation or local conservation club): YES NO

If YES, please describe: _____

Submit grant application by **April 15, 2011**. Applications received after that date will be considered if funds are still available. Any questions should be directed to Lee Fahrney, WCC Outdoor Heritage Chair at (608) 967-2208 or at fiveoaks@mhtc.net.

Submit the completed application by **April 15, 2011** to:

Conservation Congress Scholarship

C/O Lee Fahrney

7800 McKenna Road

Hollandale, WI 53544

Outreach Committee Explores Wide Range of Topics

Two meetings of the Congress' Outreach committee were held in 2010 with a goal of building on the positive outcomes achieved during a similar effort in 2007. The Congress' newsletter, Conservation Chronicle, was a direct result of that initiative, as were Congress involvement in the Outdoor Expo held each year in Dodge County and the upgrade of the Wall of Fame that is now prominently displayed in various venues around the state.

The mission statement of the Outreach Committee is as follows:

- Review both internal and external issues, suggestions and procedures that have been advanced by Congress members, the Natural Resources Board and the public pertaining to the role, visibility and function of the Congress;
- Discuss potential ways to help the Congress more effectively accomplish its mission, as well as remain a relevant and responsive institution; and,
- Make recommendations to the Executive Council on proposed changes to the Code of Procedures, and any other opportunities to expand or improve the role, visibility and function of the Congress.

Topics discussed included:

- Getting more people involved in the WCC process and getting the word out about the role of the organization.
- The committee determined that the

Congress should get involved with issues other than hunting, fishing and trapping, including environmental issues while broadening the umbrella of the organization to be more inclusive of other, non-consumptive users of the outdoor opportunities.

- Involve the Friends of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress in establishing scholarships.
- The need to restructure the system of granting awards to those who have contributed to the protection of our natural resources.
- Determining a strategy for dealing with resolutions that do not get out of committee on numerous occasions and which might benefit from public input.
- The possibility of electronic voting on the spring hearing questions.
- Delegate elections: is there a need to change the election procedures to make them more transparent? Opinion was divided on this issue, some suggesting internet voting would be a good idea, others suggesting it would be open to abuse.
- The need to follow Roberts Rules of Order at all WCC meetings.
- Youth Conservation Congress and possible connection to Wisconsin Hunter's Network.

Recommendations:

- Make Outreach a standing committee.
- Conduct surveys of participants in the spring hearing process and those who don't participate to determine reasons as to why or why not they are involved.
- Follow the Code of Procedures for following Robert's Rules of Order and comply with open meetings law. Establish a process for review incidents of non-compliance as reported to Executive Committee. Encourage a discussion-type format at the spring hearings balancing efficiency with productive discussion.
- So-called shotgun resolutions need to pass in 50 percent plus one of counties in which they are presented in order to be forwarded. Opinion divided within committee.
- If a resolution does not have a local sponsor, it should be discarded.

The following WCC policy should be included in the Code of Procedures: Resolutions should be assigned to one committee only. If assigned to more than one committee it is the responsibility of the respective committee chairs to draft one advisory question acceptable to both committees.

Note: At the January 7th Executive Council meeting in Wausau, the Council approved extending the charge of the Outreach Committee for at least another year so that these issues could be further reviewed.

Gov. Walker Uses WCC Process

During his first weeks in office, Governor Walker was approached with a proposal to open the general fishing season one week earlier to avoid conflicts with Mother's Day weekend. Those who brought the idea forward hoped that the change would help give a boost to tourism in the north.

The Governor asked the DNR to explore this idea and we are thrilled that the Governor and department have addressed the proposal by placing it in the spring hearings questionnaire as an advisory question. In doing so, Governor Walker

has demonstrated his desire to hear from not only the sports men and women of this state, but all citizens that may be affected by such a change.

We hope that the Governor finds the spring hearing process, and the Congress to be useful and valuable tools throughout his term in office.

The proposed change reads: Would you favor changing the opening day of the general fishing season from "the first Saturday in May" to "Saturday, April 30," in years when the first Saturday in May is May 7 and falls on Mother's Day weekend?

BITS & PIECES

- In November, Bruce Thomae stepped down from the Congress vacating his District 4 Executive Councilor seat. Chairman Harvey asked Arold Ninne-man, former District 4 Councilor, to fill the position until the councilor elections are held in May at the annual convention. Arold graciously agreed and will be representing his district for the remainder of the term.
- Kari Lee-Zimmermann accepted the WCC DNR Liaison position in December. She is pleased to be continuing her work on conservation issues with the Congress in this new capacity.

aware of all of the circumstances, objections, and criticisms, and gave them due consideration when they agreed to the Big Game Committee's request to advance the question."

"We are simply asking the citizens if this is an idea they are interested in," stated Mark Noll, co-chair of the Big Game Committee. "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." Any changes to the legal weaponry used with a hunting license would require the legislature to change state statute.

Additional questions relating to big game include the use archery equipment with a gun deer license and the legalization of rifles for hunting deer statewide.

"With most of the CWD zone now open to rifle use for deer hunting with no reported safety incidents, there are very few areas of the state where rifle use is still restricted," said Al Phelan, co-chair of the WCC Big Game Committee and author of this resolution introduced at the 2010 Spring Hearings. "And statistically, shotguns are actually involved in a disproportionately higher number of incidents."

The Bear Committee advanced a question asking about the division of Bear Management Zone C into two separate units, each having its own quotas and harvest goals.

"We (the committee) purposefully did not recommend any specific dividing line to Zone C, but rather we're asking the question to get feel for the amount of support or lack there of, this idea may have," said Rich Kirchmeyer, chair of the Bear Study Committee.

The two questions out of the Forestry, Parks, & Recreation Committee will ask citizens if they would like lands purchased as state parks to be open for hunting and trapping unless specifically closed by rule. Currently, lands purchased as state parks are closed to hunting and trapping until opened by Administrative Rule.

Trappers around the state will get to weigh in on the use of cable restraints on private lands and will also be asked if they would like to see a shorter fall beaver trapping season in northeastern Wisconsin.

"Trappers are extremely concerned over the declining population of beavers, particularly in northeast Wisconsin. As resource managers, users, and conservationists, we felt strongly that we wanted to be proactive in response to this issue," said Scott McAuley, of the Fur Harvest Committee.

The Hunting with Dogs Committee advanced questions including ending the prohibition on the night hunting of raccoons during the 9-day gun deer season and bear hunting with dogs statewide.

"This question attempts to minimize conflicts we see between bait sitters and hounders and will ask people if they are interested in allowing hunting (bear) with hounds statewide, including Zone C (where it is currently prohibited) if bait sitters are allowed the first week of hunting each year without any interference by dogs," said Dave Puhl, chair of the Hunting with Dogs Committee.

The Migratory Committee will be asking if citizens favor a modification to the open water rule for disabled hunters and if unattended decoys should be allowed on private lands. While the Private & Public Land Use Committee will ask hearing attendees if they would support an exemption to 100 yard firearm discharge prohibition while on public lands. The Outdoor Heritage & Education Committee has a series of questions including the removal of the 15 day requirement for permit transfers, the creation of a disabled veteran's recreation card and a \$1 increase in the archery license to fund youth bowhunting programs.

Anglers will also have a wide array of questions ranging from the use of crossbows for rough fish to walleye restoration on the Chippewa Flowage; and from the extension of the gamefish season in northern Wisconsin to the creation of a free winter fishing weekend.

"Again this year, there is something for everyone," said Harvey. "Whether you're a hunter, trapper, angler, state park user, or wildlife watcher, if Wisconsin's natural resources are important to you, we hope you'll come out on April 11 and register your opinions on these various issues. Wisconsin provides its citizens with this unique opportunity to provide their input and ideas on the management of their natural resource and I hope they take advantage of it. [Citizens] will notice that many of the rule proposals being

asked by the department originated from citizen resolutions or Congress questions proving that the process does work and citizen input can and does effect the management of our natural resources."

A complete list of the department's rule proposals and the Congress' thirty-eight advisory questions can be found by visiting dnr.wi.gov and searching for "Spring Hearings." This year the Natural Resources Board will also be asking two advisory questions relating to the use of lead shot on department managed lands and restricting the baiting and feeding of deer 10 days before and during the 9-day gun deer season.

The April 11, 2011 spring hearings begin at 7:00 pm in each county of the state. Hearing locations for each county can be found online at the WCC website.

Editor's note: This year, in an effort to conserve both money and resources, the proposed changes to the rule language for the department's fish and wildlife questions will not be published in the spring hearing questionnaire. The proposed rule language will be available for your review at each hearing location and online at dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/spring_hearings/.

Workers needed for the WCC Wall of Fame at the Deer and Turkey Expo

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Madison, April 1-3, 2011

The WCC educational exhibit will be on display at the Deer and Turkey Expo in Madison and workers are needed. Those delegates who are attending the event or local delegates who are available to help staff the booth should contact Kari Lee-Zimmermann at 608.266.0580 or Kari.LeeZimmermann@Wisconsin.gov for details.



Wisconsin Conservation Congress 2011 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 Wisconsin organization who has dedicate 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.



Local Conservation Club 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.

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 AWARDS COMMITTEE WILL REVIEW NOMINATIONS ON SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2011 AND THE AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE WCC ANNUAL CONVENTION IN WAUSAU ON MAY 13, 2011.

Left: Salmon Unlimited was named the 2010 Statewide Organization of the Year by the Conservation Congress.

Above: Mike Reiter accepts the 2010 Educator of the Year Award from Chairman Harvey.



Application for the Wisconsin Conservation Congress 2011 Learn to Hunt Bear Hunt Tag

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress was allocated a bear tag for the 2011 Learn to Hunt Bear Program which will be presented to one deserving applicant. This application is for the single tag awarded by the WCC. Other tags are available through the LTH program.

Applicant's name: _____ Date of birth: ___/___/_____
First Middle Last

Address: _____ DNR Cust. No. _____
Phone: (____) _____

County of residence: _____

Parent/ Guardian's name: _____ Phone: (____) _____
First Middle Last

Address: _____

- Do you have less than 2 years hunting experience of any kind? YES NO
- Have you ever applied for a bear preference point YES NO
- Have you participated in a LTH bear hunt before? YES NO
- Have you received a transferred bear tag before? YES NO
- Which method would you prefer to hunt by? Bait Hounds Both Don't Know

Please describe in 400 words or less why you would like to receive this tag and why you would like the opportunity to hunt bear. Attach the essay to this application.

By signing below, I certify that the information provided on this application and the corresponding essay are true, and that the falsification of any information may make me ineligible to receive the WCC tag.

Applicant's signature: _____ Date: ___/___/_____

Parent or Guardian's signature: _____ Date: ___/___/_____

Please send completed applications (including essay) to:
Wisconsin Conservation Congress Liaison
LTBH Application
PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

Applications must be postmarked by Wednesday, April 20, 2011.

Successful applicants will be contacted via phone by May 15th, 2011!



**WISCONSIN CONSERVATION
CONGRESS**

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Wisconsin Conservation Congress Calendar

Please go to:
dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/calendar/ for an
up-to-date listing of all Congress meetings and events.

February

22/23 NRB Mtg.— *Madison*

March

- 1 WCC District 7 Spring Meeting
WCC District 9 Spring Meeting
WCC District 11/12 Spring Meeting
- 2 WCC District 2 Spring Meeting
WCC District 5 Spring Meeting
- 3 WCC District 4 Spring Meeting
- 7 WCC District 1 Spring Meeting
WCC District 8 Spring Meeting
- 8 WCC District 6 Spring Meeting

- 12 WCC District 10 Spring Meeting
Awards Committee Mtg.—
Stevens Point
- 14 WCC District 3 Spring Meeting
- 19 Big Game Committee Mtg.—
Milladore
- 22/23 NRB Mtg.— *Madison*

April

- 1-3 Deer & Turkey Expo—
Madison
*(The WCC Wall of Fame will be
exhibited at this event)*
- 11 Annual DNR/WCC Spring
Hearings
- 25 Rules & Resolutions Commit-
tee Mtg.— *Stevens Point*
- 26/27 NRB Mtg.— *Madison*

May

- 12 Executive Council—*Wausau*
- 13-14 WCC Annual Convention—
Wausau
- 19/20 Wisconsin Outdoor Education
Expo —*Beaver Dam*
*(WCC Wall of Fame will be
exhibited at this event)*
- 24 WCC Executive Council—*TBD*
- 24/25 NRB Mtg.— *TBD*

June

21/22 NRB Mtg.— *TBD*

August

9/10 NRB Mtg.— *TBD*