

# WOCA Newsletter

July 9, 2014

## **From the President:**

Greetings, WOCA members, past members and prospective members.

With July here, our annual conference is just over two weeks away. In case you've forgotten, this year's conference is July 25-27 at "Trees for Tomorrow" in Eagle River. We'll again hold our casual campfire cookout Friday night, starting about 5 p.m.

In addition, Tim Eisele has put together a PowerPoint presentation about the work he and his family have been doing on their land in southwestern Wisconsin. Tim's presentation includes great photos detailing their prairie restoration, and the various plants, insects, birds and animals hanging out there. The presentation is titled: "*From Weeds to Wild Flowers on Gobbler Ridge.*" If you're interested in an "evening with Tim," he'll present his show in the conference center's main classroom, where we'll conduct Saturday's all-day session. Figure about 8 p.m., or earlier, depending on how the cookout goes.

As you'll notice on our agenda, I've revised it since you last saw it in late May. The biggest shocker is that we'll start Saturday's session at 7:45 a.m., with Libby Dorn's welcome, so you'll have to rush through breakfast a bit.

We originally planned to have Ed Culhane and Laurel Steffes open the day by discussing their before/after, private/public media jobs with newspapers and then the DNR. Instead, we'll hear two presentations during the opening hour-plus time slot. I've asked Tim Eisele to give his 50-minute presentation on Ding Darling and the Federal Duck Stamp Program, which ties loosely to our final talk later in the day by Tom Heberlein. Further, Laurel Steffes suggested we give her husband, Dick, some time to discuss the implications of the Land & Water Conservation Act, which expires in 2015.

After Dick's talk ends at 9:05, we'll move into our previously scheduled program for the remainder of the day.

**Speaking of Heberlein:** Our favorite professor (well, mine, at least) needs a ride back and forth from Madison, preferably leaving midday Friday and returning Saturday evening. If you have room for him in your car, truck, trunk, trailer, rear bumper or car-top carrier, please contact him at [ta.heberlein@gmail.com](mailto:ta.heberlein@gmail.com).

**As a reminder: Make your conference reservations now! Here are some details regarding fees, etc.**

**Conference Registration:** I've attached the 2014 conference registration form. Please fill it out ASAP and mail it, along with your fee, to our conference coordinator, Cheryl Todea, at TFT.

**Conference Fees, Lodging:** \$90 per person for those staying on campus all weekend (includes 2 nights' lodging with bedding, 2 meals (Saturday breakfast and lunch), registration, and social hour); \$65 per person for 1 night's lodging and all day Saturday, two meals (Saturday breakfast and lunch); \$40/person for commuters and Saturday only participants, includes Saturday breakfast and lunch).

We will bunk in the Spruce Dorm, directly across the lawn oval from the Education Hall, site of our conference.

Trees will provide a staff person on campus until 7 p.m. Friday. They will put keys in the "Late Arrival Box" for those arriving after 7 p.m. As a reminder, TFT provides pillows, sheets and blankets. *Those staying on campus must bring their own towels and washcloths.*

**For our workshops:** The conference center's main classroom in Education Hall will be

available from 2 p.m. Friday until 5 p.m. Saturday. A projector will be available both days for our use. Meal Times: Saturday breakfast, 7 to 7:40 a.m., Saturday lunch, 11:45 am to 12:45 p.m., and a Saturday Social (wine and snacks) at 5 p.m. in the Dining Hall.

**Auction Items & Raffle Prizes:** We have contacted about 50 companies and/or their representatives for our fund-raising silent auctions and door prizes. *As a reminder, all items solicited for WOCA cannot be sold for profit on eBay, Craig's List, etc. Let's not jeopardize the good will of companies that support WOCA.*

More items are on the way, but here's what we've received so far:

- Remington: R51 9mm handgun
- Mossberg 715T Duck Commander Series 22LR rimfire rifle
- Daisy: Goody box (book, pocket knife, travel mug, die-cast truck)
- St. Croix fishing rod
- Danner hunting boots
- Field Logic (the Block) target
- Clam Corp. LG10 Trailer
- Bass Pro Baitcast Reel/Signature Series II Trigger Rod Combos
- Bass Pro Folding Processing Table
- Bass Pro StalkerXPS Top Loader Tackle Bag or System
- Eagle Claw "Tony Roach" rod
- Abu Garcia Revo 3 SX reel
- Abu Garcia Veritas 7M rod
- Pflueger President spin combo
- Mossy Oak apparel
- Wildlife Research Center: Scent Killer Autumn Formula kits
- Wildlife Research Center: Scent Killer Gold sprays
- Irish Setter hunting boots
- Hunter's Specialties products
- Birchwood Casey products
- Bushnell optics.
- Caldwell Shooting Supplies: 2 AR Mag Chargers
- Leupold VX-1 3-9x40 riflescope
- Leupold RX-600 rangefinder
- Rage broadheads
- Muzzy broadheads
- Nocturnal nocks
- Hi Mountain Seasonings
- Lakewood Products: Hard-side rifle or bow case
- Robinson Outdoors Spider Webs safety apparel
- Robinson Outdoors logo sweatshirt
- Robinson Outdoors liquid products
- Tenzing Outdoors TZ TC1260 hunting pack

## **Speakers Lineup**

Our list of speakers is now set. Here's our lineup, and the times of their presentations July 26:

7:50 to 8:40 a.m.: **Ding Darling and the Federal Duck Stamp Program**

- Longtime WOCA member and former WOCA president Tim Eisele has helped judge this famous contest, and likely knows more about the federal Duck Stamp program and its origins than anyone in Wisconsin.

8:40 to 9:05 a.m.: **The Land and Water Conservation Act expires in 2015. What impacts should we expect?**

- Dick Steffes spent nearly 40 years with the Wisconsin DNR, and was its longtime real estate director. In 2010 he was one of four honorees to be nationally recognized by Kodak American Greenways for outstanding achievement in greenways and open-space preservation.

9:10 to 10:10 a.m.: **The Hmong American Sportsmen Club**

- Cher Pao Vang, spokesman
- Peter Yang, Wausau Hmong Association, spokesman

Wisconsin's Hmong community has many dedicated hunters and anglers. Vang and Yang will discuss the Hmong's hunting/fishing heritage and how they're adapting to Wisconsin's (and North America's) hunting/fishing traditions. What challenges remain, and how well do we understand their hunting/fishing culture?

10:15 to 11:45 a.m.: **Point-Counterpoint: Wolf Hunts & Park Hunts: Room for Common Ground?**

*Panel Discussion featuring:*

- Rachel Tilseth, *Wolves of Douglas County*
- Peter David, *Tribal biologist GLIFWC*
- Rob Bohmann, *Chairman, Wisconsin Conservation Congress*
- Dave Mabie, *houndsman, Price County WCC*
- Paul Kuhlman, *WCC and Ice Age Trail Alliance rep, St. Croix Falls*
- Todd Schaller, *DNR Chief Warden*

2012 was a contentious year for Wisconsin's outdoor community. Lawmakers drafted legislation for the state's first regulated wolf season and directed that all state parks be open to hunting and trapping. The debates carried over into 2013 on various fronts, including a lawsuit to prevent the use of hounds to hunt wolves, and a question on the Spring hearings ballot to open state parks to hunting and trapping. The issues attracted a diverse crowd at the hearings in several counties. The expanded crowd influenced statewide votes on various issues at the hearings, and several nonhunters won seats as Conservation Congress delegates.

1 to 2 p.m.: **Time for Change? Challenging the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation**

- Tom Heberlein, *professor emeritus of rural sociology, UW-Madison*

The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation arose from efforts by conservation titans like Theodore Roosevelt, Gifford Pinchot and Aldo Leopold to use science-based management to restore the continent's wildlife. As we move deeper into the 2000s, however, the Model seems to be struggling with problems caused by overabundant species like white-tailed deer and Canada geese. Heberlein also asks if today's media are prepared to challenge and explain the politics and "best available science" in ways that move the process forward.

2:15 to 3:05 p.m.: **Groundwater Conflicts: Protecting Surface Water from Pumping Demands**

- Professor George Kraft, *UW-Stevens Point*

**Threading the Needle of Water Use and Healthy Lakes and Streams**

- Justin Isherwood, *Author & Healthy Grown potato farmer*

Kraft and Underwood will discuss water conservation issues confronting Wisconsin, and the growing demands for high-capacity wells targeting water resources.

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### **WOCA-related news ...**

- WOCA members, please send a short bio about yourself to Bob Haase, [flytier@milwpc.com](mailto:flytier@milwpc.com), so he can add it to our Member Profiles page on the Wisconsin Outdoor Communicators website. It doesn't have to be long. To see examples, visit <http://wioca.webs.com> and click the "Members Info" tab.
- Linda Martin, director of marketing for Eagle Claw, reminds WOCA members that they can receive 50 percent off retail for Eagle Claw products. Contact Linda for more information: [lmartin@eagleclaw.com](mailto:lmartin@eagleclaw.com).
- We recently updated our email directory of members, lapsed members and prospective members. See the attached PDF of our membership roll. Please review, send corrections or additions, and let me (Patrick Durkin) know if you notice any missing members or prospective members. If you wish to be dropped from the list, just say so.

- If you haven't renewed your annual WOCA membership, print off the attached form and fill it out. Please send your renewal to Tom Muench as soon as possible, or renew in person at the conference.

- As of June 16, this is Tom Muench's list of **WOCA members** and their \$25 annual dues status:

Tom Heberlein, paid June 2014;  
 Tom Luba, paid May 2014;  
 James Farley, paid Spring 2014;  
 Steve Suman, paid Winter 2014;  
 Dan Small, paid Winter 2014;  
 Art Barlow, paid May 2014;  
 Sara Barlow, paid May 2014;  
 Keven Naze, paid Winter 2014;  
 Patrick Durkin, paid Winter 2014;

Judy Nugent, paid Winter 2014;  
 Laurel Steffes, paid June 2014;  
 Lee Fahrney, paid Winter 2014;  
 Paul Smith, paid Winter 2014;  
 Jeff Kelm, paid Winter 2014;  
 Jerry Kiesow, paid Winter 2014;  
 Bill Pivar, paid Conference 2014;  
 Brian Otten, paid \$50 Sponsor membership for Wis. Outdoor Fun

- Ed Culhane, paid Conference 2013; Dave Clausen, paid Conference 2013; Bob Haase, paid Conference 2013.

Let us know if you've paid and your name doesn't appear on this list.

- **Lifetime WOCA members:** Tim Eisele, Tom Muench, Roger Sabota and Gene Cooper.

### **Member News ...**

- **Dave Carlson Retires from TV:** Dave recently announced that after 34-plus years and 1,700 half-hour shows, he retired from television outdoors programming on Dec. 27, 2013. His last episode aired Dec. 29, 2013. "Currently I'm slipping in and out of retirement to freelance for *Wisconsin Outdoor News*," Dave said. "Also, I'm privileged to announce that on May 17 I received a 'Lifetime Excellence Award' from UW-Eau Claire Alumni Association during the school's graduation ceremonies."

This award has been given to fewer than 300 of UWEC's approximately 75,000 graduates. "Never in my wildest dreams did I anticipate such an honor," Dave said. "I was a terrible student. After losing my student deferment, I was drafted into the Marine Corps in 1969, served two years, and returned a much more serious student with a wife and unborn child in 1971, and finally graduated in 1972.

"By the way, while in the USMC, I worked as a public-affairs specialist, honing my reporting skills for several military publications," Dave continued. "An instructor at a defense information school told me an aptitude test I took determined I had no future in TV. He suggested I stick with print! I did for 10 years, and now after 34 years in TV I'm back in print!"

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### **Member Awards & Recognitions ...**

- Dave Carlson, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, OWAA Conservation / Nature Category: "Sage advice," WQOV-TV 18, Nov. 18, 2013.
- Dan Small, 1<sup>st</sup> place, OWAA Conservation/Nature Category: "Operation migration," Outdoors Radio Network - WHBL, June 15, 2013.
- Dan Small, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, OWAA Family Participation/Youth Outdoor Education category: "New vision wilderness," Milwaukee Public Television / "*Outdoor Wisconsin*," Jan. 31, 2013.
- Dan Small, 3<sup>rd</sup> place, OWAA Outdoor Fun and Adventure Category: "New vision

wilderness," Milwaukee Public Television / "Outdoor Wisconsin," Jan. 31, 2013;  
Radio/Podcast Contest

- Dan Small, 1<sup>st</sup> place, OWAA Family Participation/Youth Outdoor Education Category: "Youth turkey calling champ," Outdoor Radio Network - WHBL, April 13, 2013.
- Dan Small, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, OWAA Family Participation/Youth Outdoor Education Category: "Scholastic pistol program," Outdoor Radio Network - WHBL, Aug. 3, 2013.
- Dan Small, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, OWAA Gear/Technical Category: "Video your valuables," Outdoor Radio Network - WHBL, Feb. 23, 2013.
- Dan Small, 1<sup>st</sup> place, OWAA Hunting / Shooting Sports Category: "Colten Bonk: Safari intern"
- Dan Small, 1<sup>st</sup> place, OWAA Outdoor Fun and Adventure Category: "Iditarod twins," Outdoor Radio Network - WHBL, March 2, 2013.

## **From the 2013 WOCA Conference:**

### **WOCA Officers ...**

At last year's business meeting at Trees for Tomorrow (July 27, 2013), attendees elected WOCA's 2013-2014 officers:

- President: Patrick Durkin re-elected
- Vice President: Bob Haase
- Treasurer: Tom Muench re-elected
- Secretary: Laurel Steffes re-elected
- Webmaster/Newsletter editor (jobs now combined): Patrick Durkin
- Membership chair: Bob Haase

### **WOCA Board of Directors ...**

- Continuing directors: Art Barlow, Jerry Kiesow, Bob Wilberscheid, Dave Zeug, Lisa Gaumnitz.
- New directors: Dave Zeug, Roger Sabota

### **WOCA Budget ...**

- As of April 30, 2014, the WOCA treasury had a balance of \$5,488.35 in its account at the Oakdale Credit Union.