

WOCA Newsletter, July 2016

Greetings, WOCA Members and Prospective Members.

Our annual conference at Trees for Tomorrow in Eagle River is only two weeks away (July 22-24). Attached you'll find the completed agenda, along with short bios for each speaker. You'll notice I added a final speaker to our Saturday afternoon lineup: retired UW professor and WOCA member Tom Heberlein. He was recently asked to write an editorial about gun responsibilities for a Swedish magazine. You might recall that Heberlein lives over half the year in Stockholm. I thought you'd find his ideas relevant and thought-provoking, and maybe even worthy of further debate/discussion.

As you'll see, the final agenda includes phone numbers and email addresses for our speakers so you can follow up with them. If you want to reach any of them before the conference, I'm sure they'd be happy to talk with you.

News, Updates and Reminders:

1) Meeting Registration: ***Register now!*** We need to make room assignments and provide a head count for meals by July 15. I've attached our conference registration form. Please fill it out asap and return it to Laurel Steffes with your registration fee. Laurel's address is on the registration form. Laurel must deliver our room assignments to Trees for Tomorrow by Friday, July 15. Conference prices are the same as the past couple of conferences. Trees is holding two bunkhouses for us this year, so we can accommodate everyone both nights.

2) Check-In Reminders: Our two bunkhouses (Pine and Hemlock) at Trees for Tomorrow will open for check-in at 2 p.m. on Friday, July 22. A staff member will be available from 2 to 9 p.m. to help with check-in, set-up, etc. Be sure you're out by 10 a.m. Sunday, July 24. Also ...

-- Stay out of the cafeteria and its kitchen during our Friday evening cookout.

-- We have access to the big classroom Friday 5 to 10 p.m., and Saturday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. A Trees staff member will be on hand Saturday all day.

-- Trees will provide a breakfast snack cart by 7 a.m. on Saturday in the classroom, and it will be refreshed with afternoon items by 12:30 p.m.

-- If you have special dietary needs, let Laurel know by July 15.

2) Membership: I've attached our membership application and renewal form. Please fill it out and send your annual \$25 dues to Tom Muench before the conference. If you plan to attend the conference, you can pay Tom in person. ***HOWEVER***, please send your conference registration info to Laurel Steffes ASAP so we can get a head count for rooms and meals.

-- As always, please try to recruit new members and re-engage previous members. Also, as we've discussed at previous conferences, encourage bloggers to attend. Once they're WOCA members, we can try to help them find ways to make money from their writings.

3) Silent Auction and Raffle Prizes: After the 2015 WOCA conference, the WOCA officers agreed to change the schedule for our annual silent auction and raffle, given its size, time constraints, and bill-collecting and bookkeeping requirements. It has become too much information and paperwork to process at the end of a long day.

Therefore, we will end the silent auction at 11:50 a.m. on Saturday after our panel discussion, and announce the prize winners. If two or more members are still competing for a prize at that time, we'll go to a live

auction to determine a winner. You must pay for your items before going home. All items and bid sheets will be set up for review by 7 p.m. on Friday, so you will have plenty of time to check things out and make your bids before the lunchtime cutoff Saturday.

We will continue to hold the annual door-prize raffles and giveaways after concluding the business meeting in late afternoon.

4) Auction Items Coming in: Several great auction items have already arrived, and we expect more to ship between now and July 22. Among the companies that have pledged product support are Robinson Outdoors, Wildlife Research Center, Northland Tackle Co., Tink's, Caldwell Shooting Supplies, Ardisam/Rivers Edge, Hunter's Specialties, Skull Hooker, Rage, Hi Mountain Seasonings, Vero Vellini, ZeRust, LensPens, Cotton Carrier and Dreamweaver Lures, to name a few. What follows is an incomplete list of specific items we've received or been promised:

- Jiffy Pro-IV 42-08 Lite Power Auger
- Mossberg Deer/Turkey Model 500 12-Gauge Shotgun Combo
- Shimano muskie combo, PowerPro line
- Boots from Irish Setter, Danner & La Crosse
- Eagle Claw product
- Absolute Outdoors lifejacket, hunting parka, bibs
- Leupold rifle scope
- *Hawg Wobbler muskie lure signed, dated by Terry Moulton*
- Daisy "Red Ryder" BB gun with "WOCA 2016" engraved on forend stock
- Mossy Oak clothing
- Mission 360 crossbow
- Rapala Shadow Raps, Shadow Rap Shads
- Gamehide clothing
- Vortex rifle scope
- HT Enterprises: 4 Polar Fire Red Zone ice-fish combos

5) Dates for 2017 Conference: We have two options for our annual conference next year if we want to keep it in our usual mid-July to mid-August slot. Our choices: July 21-23 and Aug. 11-13.

Complicating factor: I have to be in Colorado for a family wedding the weekend of July 21 next year. If you decide to go with July 21-23, this would be a good time to elect a new president to run next year's conference. If you want me to remain as president and run the 2017 conference, it will have to be Aug. 11-13. Email me your

preference and thoughts, and we'll decide the matter during our business meeting July 22. (I am open to a coup, assuming it's bloodless. Don't be shy.)

4) WOCA Website address Reminder: For the past year WOCA has had a new website address, courtesy of Bob Haase: www.w-o-c-a.org. We've made some progress in updating our bios on the site. Bob and I have been joined by Ed Culhane, Lisa Gaumnitz, Gary N-ski, Tim Eisele, Tom Luba, Judy Nugent and Ron Weber with full bios and photos. Please send a short bio and photo of yourself to Bob (flytier@milwpc.com). The sooner you do it, the sooner I'll quit pestering you.

5) Another Possibility for Scholarship Program: WOCA member Art Barlow, who worked with Bob Wilberscheid and Laurel Steffes to launch our scholarship program, suggests another possibility: An annual donation to pay for hunting/fishing licenses for wounded/disabled military veterans.

Meanwhile, in case you missed it, WOCA awarded its inaugural scholarship to Marquette University graduate student Theresa Soley in May. The \$500 scholarship was funded by proceeds from WOCA's silent auction, and by a \$250 contribution from Mark LaBarbera on behalf of the Outdoor Heritage Education Center.

Let's keep encouraging college and university students to check out our annual scholarship by visiting WOCA's website at <http://www.w-o-c-a.org/>.

6) Orion Coolers Makes Special Offer to Outdoor Communicators: Orion Coolers offers a check-out program for media who wish to field test one of its high-end coolers. When you're done reviewing the cooler, you can buy it at 50 percent off MSRP or return it to Orion Coolers. If interested visit <http://orioncoolers.com>, study its product options, and email your preferred cooler size and color to Kim Emery at Firefly Publicity, kim@fireflypublicity.com, along with your shipping address.

7) 'Tree Stand Murders' Update: WOCA member and author David Whitehurst, who spoke at the 2015 WOCA conference about his book on the 2004 deer hunter murders in the Blue Hills east of Rice Lake, reports that "Tree Stand Murders" is now carried in 22 bookstores in Wisconsin and on-line. The book has sold over 4,000 copies, and it's rated at 4½ of five stars by Amazon. David said, "I'm gratified by nice reviews by men as well as women."
