

WOCA Newsletter, June 2016

Greetings, WOCA Members and Prospective Members.

As I write this, our annual conference at Trees for Tomorrow in Eagle River is only seven weeks away (July 22-24). Attached you'll find the completed agenda, along with short bios for each speaker. A couple of the bios might be updated in the weeks ahead, but there's enough there to make yourself familiar with everyone.

When I print the final agendas for our conference, I'll include 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, just contact me for the info.

In other matters:

1) Membership: I've also 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.

As always, please try to recruit new members and re-engage previous members. If it would help, send me their names and contact information, and I'll get in touch with them. Also, as we've discussed at previous conferences, encourage bloggers to attend, too. Once they're WOCA members, we can try to help them find ways to make money from their writings.

2) Meeting Registration: I've also 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. You might recall that Trees for Tomorrow no longer handles conference registration and bunkhouse assignments for us. That's now our secretary's job; at least for this year. The prices are the same as the past couple of conferences.

MORE ROOMS at the INN: You might recall bunk space was tight at the 2015 WOCA conference. Trees is holding two bunkhouses for us this year, so we should be able to accommodate everyone both nights.

3) WOCA Website address Reminder: For the past year we've had a new website address, courtesy of Bob Haase: www.w-o-c-a.org. We've made a little progress in updating our bios on there. Bob and I have been joined by Ed Culhane, Lisa Gaumnitz, Gary N-ski and Tim Eisele 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.

4) WOCA Silent Auction Reminder: After the 2105 WOCA conference, our officers agreed to change the schedule for our annual silent auction and raffle, given its size, time constraints, and bill-collecting and bookkeeping required. (These events have grown to the point where it's too much information and paperwork to process at the end of a long day.)

Therefore, the silent auction will end at 11:50 a.m. on Saturday, or within five minutes of concluding WOCA's annual panel discussion. If two or more members are still competing for a prize, we'll go to a live auction to determine a winner. We'll then announce the prize winners, and you can pay our treasurer/WOCA during lunch or the afternoon session.

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

5) Marquette Student Receives WOCA/Outdoor Heritage Scholarship:

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.

Soley is completing a master's degree in communication with an emphasis on environmental topics. In applying for the scholarship, she wrote, "I grew up in Milwaukee and loved the zoo, sailing and heading to Kettle Moraine State Forest to look for snakes with my father." She also noted she chose a career in conservation after seeing large tracts of rainforest converted to cattle pasture in Brazil.

WOCA initiated its scholarship program in 2016 to encourage and support student interest in communicating information about conservation and outdoor recreation through print, radio, television and social media. WOCA hopes the scholarship helps students address the fact that our population is becoming increasingly urban, which makes experience with the natural world and outdoor opportunities hard to find. Fostering that connection is critical to developing tomorrow's conservation stewards.

The Outdoor Heritage Education Center in Hazel Green connects youths and adults with Wisconsin's natural resources. The mission of OHEC (<http://www.outdoorheritageeducationcenter.com/>) is to increase public understanding, appreciation and sense of stewardship for natural resources and professional resource management, including activities like hunting and fishing.

In recommending Soley for the award, Joe Brown – Marquette's "professional in residence," wrote: "One thing that stands out about Theresa is her infinite love for the outdoors. ... Writing independently, Soley produced a feature-length article about Great Lakes fish being introduced into South American lakes. This article was published in the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*. The Smithsonian followed up with its own article a few months later."

Soley's article explored how invasive trout are choking out a small native fish that's a staple of Brazil's Aymara people.

College and university students interested in the annual scholarship should visit WOCA's website at <http://www.w-o-c-a.org/>.

6) Gear Solicitations for Annual Fundraiser and Raffle: If you know a company and/or contact person we should contact with WOCA's annual requests for support, please contact me as soon as possible. I'll be making our requests in the next couple of weeks, and hope to make this year's auction and raffle more successful than ever.

7) Honorary Life Members & WOCA Presidents: Below is the list Tim Eisele helped me compile the past couple of years of our organization's past presidents and life members. Feel free to fact-check it. I'd like to add these lists to our website for posterity, etc. I'm sure Bob will make it happen. Thanks in advance, Bob!

Honorary Lifetime Members:

Walter Scott and Mully Taylor, 1977

Mel Ellis and Harley MacKenzie, 1978

Owen Gromme, 1979

Walt Sandberg, 1980 (he was instrumental in forming the organization)

Lee LeBlanc, 1981

Fred and Francis Hammerstrom, 1983

Francis "Bill" Murphy, 1984

Clay Schoenfeld, 1985

Gov. Warren P. Knowles, 1988

Ced Vig, 1989

Art Oehmcke and Don L. Johnson, 1990

Howard Mead, 1991

Dave Otto, 1992

Gene Cooper, 1993

Tom Muench, 1999

Tim Eisele, 2000

Steve Henry, 2004

Roger Sabota, 2006

Past WOCA Presidents:

Steve Henry (1976-79)

Jim Rehbein (1979-80)

Tim Eisele (1980 - 81)

Dave Otto (1981-82)

David Hansen (1982-83)

Dan Small (1983-84)

Dan Small (1984-85)

Chuck Petrie (1985-86)

Kevin Naze (1986-87)

Daryl Christensen (1987-88)

Roger Sabota (1988-89)

Earl Little (1989-90)

Earl Little (1990-91)

Joan Little (1991-92)

Steve Heiting (1992-93)

Patrick Durkin (1993-94)

Patrick Durkin (1994-95)

Dick Larson (1995-96)

Brian Lovett (1996-97)

Alan Martin (1997-98)

Paul Shaurette (1998-99)

Gary Martin (1999-2000)

Rick Wulterkens (2000-2001)

Rick Wulterkens (2001-2002)

Rick Wulterkens (2002-2003)

Rick Wulterkens (2003-2004)

Tim Eisele (2004-05)

Roger Sabota (2005-06)

Judy Nugent (2006-07)

Judy Nugent (2007-08)

Jerry Kiesow (2008-09)

Paul Smith (2009-10)?

Ed Culhane (2010-11)

Patrick Durkin (2011-12)

Patrick Durkin (2012-13)

Patrick Durkin (2013-14)

Patrick Durkin (2014-15)

Patrick Durkin (2015-2016)

8) *Durkin Honored by Brown County Conservation Alliance:* Yours truly, Patrick Durkin, received the Brown County Conservation Alliance’s “2016 Communication Award” in March. The citation reads: “In recognition of your years in journalism keeping those concerned with our natural resources informed on the issues confronting them.”

9) *WOCA is Up to Date with DFI:* The Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions has accepted and filed WOCA’s electronic annual report as a “Non-Stock Corporation. To view and print the filed annual report, click this link:

https://www.wdfr.org/apps/gofr/Summary/Index/137586_True!gEP6MGUyj0Xq.

10) *Durkin’s Column Now Carried by USA Today Network-Wisconsin:*

Starting in mid-February, my weekly newspaper column (now in its 33rd year without interruption) received a boost when the USA Today Network-Wisconsin began carrying it in all 10 of its newspapers. This expanded its base in Green Bay and Oshkosh, which have carried it since 1991, the same year the *Wisconsin State Journal* picked it up. The column is now in 17

newspapers statewide: Green Bay, Madison, *Wisconsin Outdoor News*, Appleton, Wausau, Oshkosh, Sheboygan, Fond du Lac, Manitowoc, Stevens Point, Marshfield, Wisconsin Rapids, Watertown, Chetek, Barron, Ladysmith and Bloomer.

Full disclosure: During the 1990s, my column was also dumped after runs of varying lengths in Waukesha, Racine and Eau Claire. When a reader asked about its disappearance, an editor at one of the papers defended the decision, calling my column, “tedious.” ;-)

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