

WOCA Newsletter, March 2016

Greetings, WOCA Members and Prospective Members.

Our annual conference at Trees for Tomorrow in Eagle River is only four months away (July 22-24). I'm close to wrapping up the agenda and the bios for each speaker. Once I receive commitments from a couple of our invited speakers, I'll send the agenda in a separate email.

I also want to encourage you (again) to send a photo of yourself and a short bio to our vice president, Bob Haase (flytier@milwpc.com), so he can post it on our WOCA website (<http://www.w-o-c-a.org>). Currently, only me, Bob and Tim Eisele have our profiles on the site. Don't make us go on your Facebook pages and borrow everything we need. Just kidding.

Below is a preliminary look at July's agenda.

2016 WOCA Conference Agenda (Draft)

Friday, July 22

5:45 p.m.: Dinner and Social at Trees For Tomorrow, picnic area outside the dining hall.

Warning: No one is allowed inside the dining hall, and please do not borrow anything from the kitchen. We get charged for any help or gear they provide.

7:15 to 9 p.m.: Evening Session, main classroom/conference center.

News: Given the success of last year's inaugural evening session, we're reprising it this year with Dave Clausen, former Natural Resources Board chairman and WOCA member, who will discuss the economic impacts of overpopulated deer herds on private woodlands. I'm also trying to line up an accompanying speaker to share recent findings from a UW-Madison study on the impacts deer have on plant/shrub/tree communities in Wisconsin.

Saturday, July 23

7 to 7:30 a.m.: Breakfast

7:35 a.m.: Welcome to Trees For Tomorrow, by Trees spokesperson.

News: I'm saddened to report that Libby Dorn, executive director of Trees for Tomorrow in 2014 and 2015, died Oct. 5, 2015. You'll recall that Libby welcomed our group the past two years. She was fighting an illness when she addressed us last summer, and her condition worsened soon after.

Speakers (Times not yet confirmed):

– ***Ruth Oppedahl***, Executive Director, Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin:
“Staying afloat and above the fray while protecting and promoting natural resources.”

– **Rep. Joel Kleefisch, R-Oconomowoc:** “Q&A with the six-term state representative from Wisconsin’s 38th Assembly District.”

– **Panel Discussion:** “The Changing Identity of North Woods Tourism: 1966 to 2016”

- Kim Emerson, Eagle River Area Chamber of Commerce
- Leon “Buckshot” Anderson, longtime fishing guide, now retired, Eagle River area.
- Speaker 3: Yet to be confirmed.
- Speaker 4: Yet to be confirmed.

-- Continued --

11:45 a.m. to 12:15: *Silent Auction Closes, Prizes Awarded*

Group Photo Session (Entrance to Education Center)

News/Discussion, Item 1: After the 2105 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 required. Quite simply, it was too much information and bookkeeping to process at the end of a long day.

Therefore, WOCA’s officers agreed to split these popular events and end the silent auction at 11:50 a.m. on Saturday, or within five minutes of concluding the annual panel discussion. We will then 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.

News/Discussion, Item 2: We will continue to hold the annual door-prize raffles and giveaways after concluding the business meeting in mid- to late afternoon.

12:15 to 1 p.m.: ***Lunch Break***

Speakers, Afternoon Sessions (Times not yet confirmed):

– **Bryan Richards**, Emerging Disease Coordinator, USGS National Wildlife Center: “CWD’s Impacts and Spread, Near & Far”

– **Jack Sullivan**, retired DNR researcher and former program director of DNR Science Services: “Science & Research on the Chopping Block: A Close-up View”

2:55 to 3:05 p.m.: ***Break (and/or “Rain Date” for group photo session)***

3:05 p.m.: ***WOCA business meeting:***

- Review of WOCA 2015 minutes, Laurel Steffes.
- Review of WOCA budget and finances, Tom Muench.
- WOCA website update, Bob Haase; WOCA Newsletter update, Patrick Durkin.
- Donations for 2015-2016, Scholarship Program update: Laurel Steffes

- Election of officers, and recap/update compensation discussions.
- Dates & Location for 2017 WOCA conference: July 15-17, July 22-24 or August 13-15?
- Miscellaneous issues from the floor.

4 to 4:45 p.m.: *WOCA raffle and door prizes*

5 p.m.: Social in picnic area by kitchen/dining hall

6 p.m. Dinner on your own, or cookout at fire pit if there's interest.

Sunday, July 24

6 to 7 a.m.: Fishing, check-out and good-byes. Breakfast and lunch on your own.

In other News ...

-- **WOCA & Outdoor Heritage Education Center offer Scholarships:** The Wisconsin Outdoor Communicators Association and the Outdoor Heritage Education Center recently announced the launch of two \$500 cash scholarships for Wisconsin graduate or undergraduate students interested in outdoor recreational communication.

The program's parameters were approved by WOCA attendees at the July 2015 annual meeting. WOCA hopes to offer the scholarships annually. The program's goal is to encourage conference. The scholarships support student interest in communicating information about outdoor recreational activities through print, radio, television and social media.

Applicants will have until Jan. 1 each year to submit cover letters outlining their interest in outdoor recreation communication. They also must submit an original article, or radio, TV or podcast presentation; and include the recommendation from a professor or adviser. Applications can be mailed or emailed, and will be judged by WOCA's scholarship committee of Art Barlow, Bob Wilberscheid and Laurel Steffes. Winners will be announced in March.

Besides \$500 in financial support, winning applicants will receive a certificate and invitation to attend WOCA's annual July/August weekend meeting, expenses paid, and an invitation to fish Sunday. WOCA also will invite winners to make a presentation to the group, and try to arrange a job-shadowing experience with a member.

Information about the scholarship will be sent each autumn to all UW campuses, Marquette, Lawrence, Edgewood, Northland and other Wisconsin colleges. For more information about the program and to download an application, visit WOCA's website, w-o-c-a.org.

The scholarships are funded by annual proceeds from WOCA's silent auction, and by a \$500 contribution from Mark LaBarbera on behalf of the Outdoor Heritage Education Center.

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

Helgeland Publishes 'Bear Hunting Obsession' Book: Publisher and WOCA member Glenn Helgeland, owner of Target Communications, has released his latest book, "The Bear Hunting Obsession of a Driven Man, with Bill Wiesner."

Wiesner, a self-professed "bear crazy" hunter, shares facts and his many years of experience to help readers hunt bears. The book also features several memoir chapters with stories too good not to include.

For 40 years Wiesner has eaten, slept, thought, dreamed and hunted black bears. He has killed 57 bears and acquired a wealth of bear hunting knowledge in the process. Wiesner and his family (wife Sandy and sons Brad and Bryan) have hunted black bears in their home state, Wisconsin, as well as Michigan, Minnesota, Wyoming, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario. They've amassed 147 years of black bear hunting experience between them.

They've taken over 100 bears, and more than 30 qualified for the Pope & Young Club record book. Further, seven of those qualified for the Boone and Crockett Club's record book.

They've taken the bears over baits, by spot-and-stalk, and behind hounds. They've hunted with outfitters, and they've hunted on their own. They've taken the bears with rifles, shotgun slugs, crossbow, self-made bow, recurve bow, longbow, compound bow and muzzleloader.

The book has 10 "how-to" chapters detailing all aspects of black bear hunting: on your own as a D-I-Y hunter, guided with an outfitter, spot-and-stalk, and with hounds.

The how-to chapters describe scouting; baiting; hunting gear; bears from nose to tail; bear distribution and populations; record-book analysis; where-to trophy hunting tips state-by-state, and province-by-province; the shot – before, during, after; tracking and trailing; meat and hide care; and bear-on-the-table meat processing; storage and cooking instructions; and several recipes for bear meat.

The book also includes adventures you wouldn't expect to hear or read about, including odd events, memorable personalities, and unusual events in the author's development as a bear hunter.

The paperback book is 172 pages and measures 8½ by 5½ inches. It's part of Target Communications' "On Target" series of outdoor books. For a review copy, call Glenn at (262) 402-7668, or email him, glenn.helgeland@gmail.com.

-- **WOCA member Mark LaBarbera** covered the annual Midwest Outdoor Heritage Outdoor Education Expo last year in this article in the Wisconsin DNR's "Natural Resources" magazine. As Mark notes, students, educators and conservation partners enjoyed a record-setting event in 2015 at the DNR's MacKenzie Center near Poynette. <http://dnr.wi.gov/wnrmag/2015/10/WNR%20OCTOBER%20Mohee.PDF>

-- ***Gear solicitations for annual raffle:*** I've heard complaints that I'm not getting enough fishing tackle for door prizes and product samples. If you know a company and contact person I should contact with our requests for support, please contact me. In lieu of further complaints, please share any tips and leads you might have. ;-)

-- ***Send us your bios and a photo:*** We're eager to post more bios of WOCA members on our website. Please submit your bio to our webmaster, Bob Haase, flytier@milwpc.com. Also, help spread the word that WOCA membership is open to anyone involved in outdoor communications. Visit our website at <http://www.w-o-c-a.org/>, and you'll see examples of other members' bios and photos.

-- ***4 WOCA Members Win AGLOW Awards:*** Dan Small, Jeff Kelm, Mark LaBarbera and Gary N-ski won several awards in the annual excellence-in-craft competition conducted by the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers.

Dan Small won these awards:

-- Best of Show for Excellence in Writing or Electronic Media: Mostly Peaceful Coexistence;

-- 1st place, Best of TV/Hunting: Track Chair Pheasant Hunt;

-- 1st place, Best of Radio/Open: Avoiding Electroshock Drowning;

-- 1st place, Best of TV/Open: Shipwreck Survivor;

-- 1st place, Best of Newspaper/Open: Mostly Peaceful Coexistence;

-- 2nd place, Best of TV/Fishing: Junior Coho Derby;

-- 2nd place, Best of Newspaper/Fishing: Putting Some Green back into Green Bay;

-- 3rd place, Best of Radio/Hunting: Turkey Hunting with Ray Eye;

-- 3rd place, Best of TV/Hunting: KAMO Youth Deer Hunt!

-- 3rd place, Best of Magazine/Hunting: Hunting with "Mr. Goose."

Jeff Kelm won these awards:

- 1st place, Best of TV/Fishing: Operation TipUp;
- 2nd place, Best of Radio/Hunting: Training a Deer Dog;
- 2nd place, Best of TV/Open: Badger Nationals BMX Races.

Mark LaBarbera won these awards:

- 2nd place, Best of TV/Hunting: Deer Hunt Wisconsin 2014;
- 2nd place, Best Photography/Outdoor Recreation: Happy Scout at Camp Long Range.

Gary N-ski won these awards:

- Best of Show/Pete Czura Award for Excellence in Photography;
- 1st place, Best of Photography/Outdoor Recreation: Pulling in Summer;
- 1st place, Best of Photography/Outdoor Scenic: Cobweb Horse;
- 2nd place, Best of Photography/Black & White: Little Girl and Gray Wolf.

Small Wins 2015 OWAA Honors: Dan Small won four awards from the Outdoor Writers Association of America for its 2015 "Excellence in Craft" contest. His awards were in the Radio/Podcast category:

- 1st place, humor: Red Green on Tour;
- 2nd place, fishing: The Magic of Spring Creek Troutng;
- 2nd place, outdoor fun and adventure: Shipwreck Survivor Dennis Hale;
- 3rd place, family participation/youth education: Sara Nieheuser – Women on Target.

Membership Drive: 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, of course, you can pay Tom in person.

As always, please take it upon yourself to recruit new members and re-engage previous members. If you think it would help, send me their names and contact information and I'll contact them. Also, as we discussed at recent conferences, encourage bloggers to attend, too. Once they're WOCA members, maybe we can help them find ways to make money from their writing/photography/videography, etc.