

WOCA AGENDA 2019

Wisconsin Outdoor Communicators Association

Trees For Tomorrow Conference Center, Eagle River, Wis.

Friday, July 19

2:45 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.: Field trip with Sportsmen for Wetlands Coalition. (Meet bus at classroom.)

5:30 to 6:55 p.m.: Dinner and Social at Trees for Tomorrow, Sponsored by Toyota. The meal will feature grilled “fireman’s corn,” and brats and/or hamburgers/cheeseburgers. **Location:** Outside the dining hall.

7 to 9 p.m.: Evening Session. *Location:* Trees for Tomorrow main classroom/conference center.

7 to 8 p.m.: Understanding, Discussing and Communicating about Wisconsin’s Wetlands

- Erin O’Brien, policy programs director, Wisconsin Wetlands Association.

8:05 to 9 p.m.: A Few Minutes with Sarah Hoyer, DNR Secretary’s Office

- Sarah Hoyer, Communications Director

Saturday, July 20

7 to 7:30 a.m.: Breakfast

7:35 a.m.: Welcome to Trees For Tomorrow, by Robin Ginner, Executive Director, Trees for Tomorrow.

7:45 to 8:45 a.m.: 10 Years at 10 Below: Winter Camping for the Northwoods to Canada.

- Jim Bishop, Spooner, Outdoor communicator and former DNR Public Information Officer.

8:50 to 10 a.m.: Trailcams Unlock Many Mysteries of Apostle Island Carnivores

- Professor Erik Olson, researcher at Northland College in Ashland, Wis.

Break

10:10 to 11:45 a.m.: Annual WOCA Panel Discussion:

Do Hunting Contests for Squirrels, Rabbits, Coyotes & Big Bucks Have their Place?

Introduction by Matt O’Brien, Wisconsin DNR Division of Law Enforcement

- Marc Boglioli, Chair, Department of Anthropology at Drew University, Madison, New Jersey.
- Dave Mabie, Houndsman and WCC delegate from Price County
- Doug Duren, farmer and CDAC chair from Richland County.
- Mikii Opahle, Stop the Madness, Baraboo.

11:45 a.m. to 12:15: Silent Auction Closes, Prizes Awarded; Group Photo at Education Center entrance

12:15 to 12:55 p.m.: Lunch Break

12:55 to 2:05 p.m.: A Few Minutes with Rep. Rob Stafsholt.

- Rep. Stafsholt is chairman of the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage.

2:10 to 3 p.m.: Grassroots Action: CWD Kiosks & Dumpsters for Deer

- Doug Duren, Farmer, Cattleman, Land Manager and Richland County’s CDAC Chair

3:05 to 4 p.m.: Drafting Enforceable Fish & Wildlife Laws & Why We Have Them

- Matt O’Brien, Law-Enforcement Policy Officer, Wisconsin DNR.

Break (and/or “Rain Date” for group photo session)

4:10 p.m.: WOCA Business Meeting

2019 WOCA Scholarship presentation: Recipient is Ryan Esch, University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point Biology, Wildlife Ecology and Management, and Spanish Major.

- Review of WOCA 2018 minutes, WOCA budget and finances, Laurel Steffes.
- Donations for 2019-2020, Scholarship Program update: Laurel Steffes, Art Barlow (vets bill update?).
- 1) Elect officers.
- Dates for 2020 WOCA conference: July 17-18, July 24-25 or July 31-Aug. 1? Approve?

4:45 to 5:15 p.m.: WOCA raffle and door prizes

5:30 p.m. Adjourn.

-- Over --

Speakers' Bios & Contact Info:

Erin O'Brien, policy programs director, Wisconsin Wetlands Association. (608) 250-9971, Erin.OBrien@wisconsinwetlands.org. Erin oversees WWA's nonpartisan government-relations work, and helps develop programs to improve community relations and partnerships in wetlands conservation. These efforts have been recognized with recent awards from Wisconsin's Council of Trout Unlimited and Wisconsin Ducks Unlimited. O'Brien earned a master's degree in land resources from UW-Madison.

Sarah Hoye, Communications Director, office of the secretary; Department of Natural Resources. Work: (608) 267-2773; Cell: (608) 400-2986; sarah.hoye@wisconsin.gov. Sarah is an award-winning journalist with nearly 20 years of field reporting for broadcast, print and digital news. She is from Milwaukee, and spent her career as a national TV news correspondent and storyteller for media outlets such as Al Jazeera America, CNN, The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and more. Her awards include the Peabody, Knight Digital Media Fellowship at Ohio State University, and the Women's Media Center's Emerging Journalist Award. Sarah is also a licensed Wisconsin REALTOR®. She received her master's degree from the University of Maryland and bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Jim Bishop, *Spooner, outdoor communicator*: (715) 416-3375, iamajimbo@yahoo.com. Jim spent 30 years with the DNR. He served all of his years as the public affairs manager for the DNR's Northwest District, and later its Northern Region. He retired from the DNR in 2011. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Wisconsin Indianhead Country.

Erik Olson, Ashland, professor at Northland College: (715) 682-1235; eolson@northland.edu; He earned his PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison; his MS from UW-Madison; and his BS from UW-Stevens Point. Erik is currently researching wolf management and ecology in the Great Lakes region, including the implications of sociopolitical conflicts over wolves, patterns of wolf-human conflicts, how changes to wolf management and policy affect wolf-human conflicts, wolf management and tribal treaty rights, the behavioral response of white-tailed deer to the presence of wolves, and the top-down effect of wolves throughout the food web (trophic cascades).

Matt O'Brien, Law-Enforcement Policy Officer, Wisconsin DNR, (608) 266-3244; matthewm.obrien@wisconsin.gov. Matt O'Brien is a lieutenant conservation warden. He's a Marquette law grad (2013), and responsible for conservation law development (statutory and administrative rule). He provides law-enforcement liaison and ombudsman services to the Legislature, Natural Resources Board, Wisconsin Conservation Congress, and Judicial Conference's Uniform Bond Committee. He also administers the DNR's law-enforcement policy development program, which consists of traditional police functions and specialized natural resource, environmental and recreational-vehicle enforcement. Matt instructs recruits at the DNR law-enforcement academy in constitutional law, juvenile law, warden authority, state lands enforcement, and tactical emergency casualty care. He also serves on the WisDOJ Training & Standards' Legal Context Advisory Committee.

David Mabie: Wisconsin Conservation Congress delegate from Price County, and an avid outdoorsman. (715) 567-0555; dmabie1972@gmail.com; Dave has over 30 years of hound-hunting experience in Wisconsin. He has also participated in many hunting contests for rabbits, deer, raccoons and coyotes; and organized/run coyote, raccoon and big-buck contests.

Marc A. Boglioli, associate professor and chair, Department of Anthropology at Drew University, Madison, New Jersey. (973) 408-3363. mbogliol@drew.edu. Author of "A Matter of Life and Death: Hunting in Contemporary Vermont." (2009) Marc is a UW-Madison alum, studied under WOCA member Tom Heberlein, and studied Vermont hunters while earning his doctorate in anthropology. As a description of his book notes: "American hunters occupy a remarkably complex place in this country's cultural and political landscape. On the one hand, they are cast as perpetrators of an anachronistic and unnecessary assault on innocent wildlife. On the other hand, they are lauded as exemplars of no-nonsense American rugged individualism."

Doug Duren, Cazenovia, (608) 279-1695; douglasduren@sbcglobal.net; Doug is a passionate hunter, conservationist, farm owner and land manager. He builds and manages athletic fields, and consults/advises and contracts with rural landowners on their properties. Doug also is a member of the Citizens Deer Advisory Council in Richland County. He's active in local conservation efforts that include turkey-hunting organizations and winter ice-fishing derbies, and he's participated in rabbit and squirrel hunting contests organized by local taverns.

Mikii Opahle, Baraboo, (608) 513-4444; kiilea@mac.com. After reading the article, "No Contest" in All Animals magazine, Mikii was shocked to learn hunting contests were common in Wisconsin. That caused her to start a grassroots campaign, "Stop the Madness," to raise public awareness about the contests and support legislative action to ban them. Mikki earned her undergraduate degree in aeronautical studies at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, and her masters' degree in museum education from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia.

Rep. Rob Stafsholt, R-New Richmond: Chairman of the Assembly's Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage. (608) 266-7683, (888) 529-0029, Rep.Stafsholt@legis.wisconsin.gov. Rep. Stafsholt is an avid hunter, trapper and angler. He's a lifelong resident of St. Croix County, and graduated from UW-Eau Claire with a communications degree and minor in history. He's a member of the Sportsman's Alliance, SCI-Wisconsin, and board member of the Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association.