WISCONSIN
GAME WARDEN
Fall 2012

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The $400 Coyote

By T.J. Edwards

It's really David Zeug's fault. That is, the $400 coyote is a direct result of his intervention into my life.

Back in 1978, I was the field warden stationed at Menomonie in Dunn County and Zeug was the field warden at Black River Falls. Whenever we would see each other at a meeting, training session, or some other place we'd always start talking about how many dogs we had recently shot that were chasing deer. Wardens back then often "hunted" dogs that chased and killed deer in the winter. This talk then got around to hunting coyotes.

Zeug grew up in Superior and was very familiar with Lake Superior. He would tell me stories about hunting coyotes on the big lake. My interest was piqued enough that I finally decided I had to try this sport. So one Friday in the winter of 1980-81, I loaded my truck with the hunting equipment I thought I needed and headed north. I drove to the first place I could find access to Lake Superior, walked about 400 yards offshore and started calling using a rabbit distress call. As luck would have it, I called a coyote on my first try. I also missed this coyote at less than 100 yards.

Even though I missed, I was instantly hooked on the sport. Watching a coyote come running into a call is one of the most thrilling sights I've experienced while hunting. During the next five or six winters, I went calling on the big lake whenever I had time. I usually went with a friend, Dick, who was in his early 70s. However, eventually Dick couldn't keep up and I got more interested in grouse hunting. With my interest waning in coyote hunting, I only went out a time or two each winter, but never had much luck.

In late January 2010, however, I went out to my tree farm one sunny afternoon and, just for grins, took along my old Mini-14 rifle and a predator call. With snowshoes on, I walked over to one of my ladder stands that I used for deer hunting, climbed up, and started calling using rabbit distress sounds. Within 6 or 7 minutes, a pretty male coyote come running through the woods to within 35 yards of me. I was hooked again.

Several days later, I went out again and called another coyote. The following day, I got yet another one. I continued to hunt a few more weeks.

Busy with my Christmas tree business during the next December, I didn't get a chance to hunt until Dec. 23. On that day, my son-in-law Jim and I went hunting on some private land in Washburn County. Jim was up in a tree stand and I was sitting on a round bale in a hay shed. Just prior to dark I called in a large female coyote and shot her at about 90 yards. She turned out to be the largest and nicest coyote I got all winter, and the only red-phase coyote I ever shot.

Early in January of 2011, I headed back to North Dakota, this time not for pheasants and sharp-tailed grouse, but rather for coyotes. If you've ever hunted in North Dakota you know that the wind never quits blowing. Winters are cold and there is often deep snow. This winter was no exception, with enough snow to warrant using snowshoes and daily temperatures never above 15 degrees.

T.J. Edwards shot this lone coyote in North Dakota during a January 2011 hunting trip.

The first morning the snow was blowing so hard across the roads that at times I could hardly see to drive. After about two hours and four calling stands in these conditions, it was time to move. I was driving to another place to call when I spotted a coyote crossing a field. Like most coyotes in North Dakota, he had probably been shot at several times because as soon as I started to slow down, he was off running. I drove around the section and discovered the land wasn't posted.

Hoping to head off the coyote, I strapped on my snowshoes and started hiking. After going less than a half mile I spotted the animal digging through the snow in a fence line about 800 yards up wind of me. As soon as I got my snowshoes off I started calling. With the wind blowing at least 30 mph, he didn't even hear me.

Soon the coyote dug out a frozen hen pheasant and started off to find a place to dine that was out of the wind. I also started off and walked another half mile to where I found a good vantage point and began calling. Two minutes later I saw the coyote coming less than 75 yards from me. I swiveled my rifle and shot him through the neck at about 50 yards.

Not bad I thought. Less than three hours of hunting under miserable conditions and I've already gotten a coyote. However, my luck was soon to change and it wasn't for the better. I continued to hunt for the next four days and called several more coyotes. I also missed several more coyotes, two of them at 85 yards! When all was said and done, I'd driven more than 1,500 miles and spent more than $400 for one coyote. The way I see it, Zeug owes me $400!

BEST *of the* BEST

Bill Miller receives coveted Noyes award

By Stephanie Daniel-Merkel

As a child, Bill Miller remembers being fascinated by the stories of his father and his father's friends as they sat around after work to discuss the highs and lows of the day. Miller's father, Larry, had been a conservation warden for 32 years, and those friends were other wardens who shared in the excitement and challenges of the job.

"While growing up, we lived in seven different towns and I met lots of wardens. I grew up around them, listening to their stories," explains Miller. "They were a tight-knit group. They were like an extension of the family."

Because his father was in the field, Miller was able to interact and learn from the wardens at an early age.

His fascination with the profession never died. Miller is now entering his 29th year as a Wisconsin conservation warden.

"Being a game warden is not a job; it is a passion," said Miller. "I take pride in being a voice for our natural resources."

His dedication and passion are just a few reasons why Miller was recently named the 2011 recipient of the Haskell Noyes Efficiency Award.

On June 2, members of the Noyes family traveled to Miller's home community to present him with the prestigious gold watch that has been given annually since 1930 in recognition of the "Faithful and Able Service" of Wisconsin's most dedicated wardens.

Haskell Noyes, a prominent Milwaukee businessman and pioneer in Wisconsin conservation, established the award to honor wardens for exemplary public service and natural resource protection.

In his career, Miller has received the 2000 West Central Region Outstanding Investigation Award, was named the 2004 State Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, and received the 2008 Wisconsin Outstanding Program of the Year Award. These awards have meant a lot to Miller, but he said the Haskell Noyes award is extraordinary because of its rich history.

(Top) Bill Miller caught this 28-inch walleye while fishing in Canada with his wife, Karen. (Bottom) Miller poses with deer mounts. These bucks were illegally taken in 2005, all by different hunters. Citizen complaints led to an investigation that ended in arrests.

"I am proud to be in the company of the past recipients. I knew some of those guys growing up as a kid," he said. "This award is special because it is coming from a family who has been doing this for over 80 years."

Miller received a degree in natural resources and conservation law enforcement from the UW-Stevens Point. After training, he was assigned to Adams County, where he has remained since 1985.

"Bill is one of the hardest working wardens in the state," said Korey Trowbridge, Miller's supervisor for the past six years. "He works just as hard as when he started 29 years ago. That is a testament to his character."

One of his biggest passions has remained fish and game enforcement. Miller has become a skilled investigator and enjoys the evolving challenges.

continued on next page

When he had decided to pursue a career in the warden field, Miller was introduced to now-retired warden Dan Maxinoski of Marshfield through his father. Miller credits Maxinoski for teaching him a solid work ethic and how to conduct a thorough investigation.

After Miller had been hired in Adams County, he met Mark Thibodeau, the longest running district attorney in the state. Thibodeau became a big influence in steering him in the right direction.

"He was a stickler about paying attention to detail," said Miller. "He taught me that I needed to know the law and the reason for it."

Miller has responded to new challenges and opportunities and has adapted to change throughout his career.

"Challenges evolve making the job interesting every day," said Miller who has been quick to step into increased roles with issues such as CWD regulations, deer farms, aquatic invasive work, and the new TRACs system.

Miller has remained active in education by annually participating in a kid's fishing day on Castle Rock Lake, as well as giving presentations to all third graders in Adams County. He also stays visible in his community by being available to field complaints, solve issues that may arise, and provide citizens with information they may need. He has earned his community's respect and is currently serving his second year as a supervisor on the Adams County Board.

Miller and his wife Karen have three children, Max, and twins, Joe and Rajanne, all of whom are attending college.

When he is not working as a warden, Miller enjoys working at their family businesses, Ginter Christmas Tree Farm and Twin Creeks Nursery and Greenhouses. He also fishes and hunts at his cabin in Ontario.

Stephanie Daniel-Merkel is a freelance writer in Oshkosh.

Noyes family helps keep legacy alive

By Stephanie Daniel-Merkel

On an evening in early June of this year, Chris Noyes, grandson of the late Haskell Noyes, presented Warden Bill Miller "The Watch" in appreciation for his "Faithful and Able Service."

At that moment, Miller, of Adams County, became part of a prestigious group of some of Wisconsin's most dedicated wardens that dates back over 80 years. Throughout those years, the spirit of Haskell Noyes, the founder of the Haskell Noyes Conservation Warden Efficiency Award, has always been present thanks to his family's continuous involvement.

Not much has changed since Haskell first presented the award to Ernie Swift more than 80 years ago. The Noyes family has stayed involved with the award as an important gesture to the wardens they so appreciate and admire. Since its inception, a member of Noyes family, with numerous family members in attendance, has always presented the award.

"It is an honor and a privilege for us to be involved with the award. We know the wardens are on the frontline of conservation for our state," explained Chris, of Whitefish Bay. "Their work is a 24/7 job and this award is our way to thank them for their service. We feel their efforts are remarkable."

Chris said the only evolution has been that the presentation is now on the third generation. The nature of the award and the criteria hasn't changed. The Noyes family is not involved in the selection process. Warden supervisors nominate the award recipient annually and the Noyes family organizes the presentation ceremony and funds the award.

Haskell presented the first award in 1930, the same year Chris's father Emerson was born. Haskell continued to present the award until his death in 1948. At that time, Haskell's oldest son, Haskell Noyes II took over and continued to present the award until 1968. Emerson then gave the award until 1995, the year he retired.

"My father had asked me to take over and present the watch each year," said Chris, who continued with the tradition in 1995. "I had suggested that it would make sense if my twin brother Blake (St. Louis) got involved."

From that point, the participation grew to also include Haskell's grandsons, Haskell Noyes III of Mequon and Robert Banks Jr. of Superior. Each year, these family members take turns presenting the award. Many of Haskell's extended family comes to the ceremonies to celebrate the recipient's successes.

"I have been involved since a child. My mother and father participated," said Banks. "Some of my father's closest friends were wardens and I have been around it my entire life. It is a thrill to witness the camaraderie and respect they show each other. They are a very respectful group of people, to each other and their communities."

Banks said the family has remained very passionate about honoring wardens for their work, for reasons that go beyond the award's historical significance.

"This is an incredible group of people who put their lives at risk for their work in protecting and sustaining our natural resource program," said Banks. "They have earned my and the whole family's utmost respect."

Although Haskell was a prominent Milwaukee businessman, he had a strong passion for conservation and the wardens who protect our state's resources. In the late 1920s, Haskell personally bought uniforms for the fledgling Wisconsin warden force. He felt that they deserved to be treated as professional law enforcement officers and wanted them to look the part.

He may be best known for establishing the efficiency award, but his influence and work validated him as a pioneer in Wisconsin conservation. One of his most important contributions was his work in establishing a Conservation Commission. Along with other Wisconsin conservation leaders, he pushed for independent conservation oversight, with a director and six unpaid commissioners who would be answerable to individuals professionally trained in resource management. The law passed in 1926 and the first state Conservation Commission was created in 1927. Haskell served as chairman for two years.

continued on next page

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He also worked to secure land for the Kettle Moraine State Forest. The area was to be preserved in its natural state, and today, a marker there notes Haskell's significance in the state forest's creation.

The Noyes family has had an appreciation for our state's natural resources that goes back generations. The family has spent many summers at their family camp on the Brule River. The camp was built in 1889 by Haskell's parents with the purpose of carrying on tradition and as a place for the family to get to know one another. It was here that the outdoors left a lasting impression on many of the Noyes family members.

"We are all outdoors people," said Chris. "Some are hikers, some fishers, and some hunters. We have always felt it important to support the conservation efforts of this state."

Although no one in the Noyes family has become a conservation warden, they have continued to be involved in conservation issues and the regulation of natural resources. Chris is a board member of the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, serving on the advocacy board. Noyes III is a member of the Rough Grouse Society, Ducks Unlimited and the Delta Waterfowl Foundation. Banks is the president of the Brule River Preservation, a board member of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Foundation and the Four Cedars Foundation, and a volunteer for the DNR's wolf tracking program.

The Noyes family feels strongly in continuing to instill a conservation ethic in future generations. Their hope is that Haskell's legacy of honoring Wisconsin wardens will continue for years to come.

All in the Family

Susi Blankenheim, left, shared her honeymoon with new husband Jim and Jim's supervisor and his wife, Art and Meg Schroeder.

By Jim Blankenheim

During the late 80s, Chief Warden Ralph Christensen stressed the idea of the warden family and he talked about the importance of making time for family. For decades, wardens had worked long hours and every weekend, often overlooking their families. He also talked about how the warden service itself was, in fact, a large extended family. I could have told him that I was way out in front on the latter concept and that it had been put into practice some 20 years earlier.

In the fall of 1969, I was just getting started as a warden trainee when my prospective mother-in-law cornered me. "Young man," she said, "just what are your intentions?" I had been engaged to Susi for 1½ years and no wedding date had yet been set. I told her my intentions were "strictly honorable," but that being on probation as a warden trainee meant that things were up in the air. It was late October and I was home for a couple days before going to Bill Barton at Black River Falls for my next training assignment. I felt I should do something to gain favor so I bought Susi's mom a Halloween gift. I rushed over to the local hardware store, made my purchase and gift-wrapped it myself just before leaving for Black River Falls. In retrospect, maybe it wasn't the best idea as it took several months for her to stop grinding her teeth whenever I was present. I did, however, think it was a really fine broom.

After deer season, the trainees were called to Madison. I told Assistant Chief Warden Harold Hettrick that I was under some pressure to set a wedding date. Harold thought for a moment and said around Washington's Birthday — now President's Day — would be fine with the Bureau. So Feb. 21, the Saturday nearest Washington's Birthday, was selected.

Our original plans were to honeymoon in Aspen, Colo. We were going to combine skiing with those other things couples do on their honeymoon. However, as the big day approached, it seemed more prudent to switch to Indianhead Ski Resort in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. On the first morning as we were headed up the chair lift, I swore that a skier passing downhill looked just like Art Schroeder. I had been permanently assigned to Kenosha earlier in February and Art was my supervisor. We knew Art and his wife Meg quite well, as I had worked for Art and Norm Wood as a conservation patrolman prior to being hired a warden trainee.

At the end of the day, we were headed to our room to change for dinner. As I was unlocking the door to our room, the door to the adjoining room opened and out stepped Art and Meg. For a long moment, it was like four deer being caught in the headlights. Finally, one of us asked, "What are you two doing here?" They then explained that they were planning a ski vacation to Aspen, but when they heard we were going to be honeymooning there, they decided not to "crowd" us and switched to Indianhead. As it turned out, we spent the week skiing and dining with them. It must have been a good time as the four of us returned to Indianhead the following February to celebrate our one-year wedding anniversary. Not many can say the warden family set their wedding date and then provided a supervisor to chaperone the honeymoon!

Jim Blankenheim is a retired warden living in Tomahawk with his wife, Susi, and their yellow lab, Quigley.

for the Defense

By Duane Harpster

Court is an integral part of a warden's life; after all, it is the end result of many field contacts and investigations. Of course, the warden's position is normally witness for the prosecution, or in civil cases, perhaps expert witness or investigating officer.

But sometimes the worm turns and the warden becomes the defendant. There was a period of time when the assistant attorney general who rode to the rescue was David T. Flanagan, and if so, you were one lucky game warden. The list of wardens that Judge Flanagan of Dane County Court represented is maybe not that long, but it is somewhat distinguished as I am on that list.

In 1988, I was the Boulder Junction warden, Chuck Wranosky was my Eagle River neighbor and Gary Scovel was my area warden. Chuck got a complaint that a fellow was in possession of an untagged deer at his home, and recruited Gary and I to help with a "game warden search." For those who aren't familiar with that, a game warden search involves stalking out a suspect's home and an anonymous person calling him or her to say a warrant has been issued when it really hasn't, and noting that the wardens are on their way. Hopefully, it results in the culprits trying to hide the venison in the woods or remove it from the scene, and the chase car makes the grab.

Since there was lots of snow on the ground and as the "junior" man, I donned my white parka, slunk through the woods, and took up a position on adjoining

David Flanagan is now a Dane County Circuit Court Judge.

property to observe. Everything worked as desired, and folks were captured with venison and some "pot." However, our circuit court judge took a dim view of the method, dismissed our case, and said we had violated the defendant's constitutional rights and should be sued. Thanks judge!

We were sued in federal court and I met my attorney, Flanagan, who would represent me. Talk about luck; I couldn't have been better off if they gave me Perry Mason. (I guess that really shows my age.) Anyway, Flanagan introduced himself and had me take him to the scene where he snapped photos as we did an in-depth walkthrough. At this point, I was scared to death, but the fact that my attorney took all this time and effort did give me some confidence. He also made this statement: "Remember two things. No. 1, it is not your money. And No. 2, it is not your money."

We did the deposition and finally traveled to Madison to go to federal court. The opposition had made a couple settlement offers for pretty large sums of money, and David always asked me if I wanted to settle. However, he never wavered in standing with me when I said, "No, that would make me look as if I had done something wrong, and I didn't."

There is that old saying, "Don't make a federal case out of it." That's because federal court runs at a little different RPM than state court. For instance, objections are via a number system, not a simple "I object, your Honor," and you best get it right. To say that I had the better representation would be an understatement; my guy whomped their guy. We held back the high fives and butt bumps until we were safely out of sight in the elevator. Did I mention that my brain trust consisted of David T., warden supervisor Gary Scovel and DNR Attorney Mike "Loophole" Lutz, who had come by to provide some greatly needed and appreciated support. We trooped off to Flanagan's office and then on to the Inn on the Park to celebrate.

It was also my privilege to see some of my warden pals represented in federal court by Flanagan, and he whomped that attorney also. I would be remiss if I did not point out that this fellow asked to represent wardens, which would be the furthest desire of most assistant attorney generals. There probably has never been a better defender of Wisconsin's wardens in 130-plus years. Thank you, Dave, from all of your clients.

To fellow members of the WCWA:

The WCWA is really a pretty young organization, and we are very fortunate to have it, I believe, because it gives us an identity beyond that of the DNR, and in some respects separate from it, which is a good thing quite a lot of the time. Our magazine is the public face of our association, and it gives non-wardens a window into the life of the folks who dedicate their lives to protecting the resources.

It has been my good fortune to know wardens who worked in the 1950s and wardens who are working today, and one thing that has remained consistent is "the stories." Wardens have more and better stories to tell than anyone else. Some make you laugh 'til your sides hurt, some make fun of themselves or somebody else, and some are sobering. But all have a lesson in them.

Personally, I love the tales of success and failure, and look forward to our magazine's arrival each spring and fall to read them. There are no literary requirements to write for our magazine, or obviously none of my stories would appear, but there is enjoyment in sharing the stories.

I would encourage you all to send in stories to Barb to keep our magazine fresh and interesting. I know you have great stories; I have heard them. Please share them with us all in our magazine.

Sincerely,
Duane Harpster

IN MEMORY of LES RIEHL

By Michael Young

It's 4 o'clock in the morning, but I can't sleep so I get up and make a pot of coffee. As a Wisconsin conservation warden, it's not unusual for me to have insomnia. I get it mostly in the spring and fall when I'm running non-stop on complaints.

But this morning I can't sleep because I keep thinking about the body I pulled from the river the night before. It was just one of many drowning victims I have assisted with over the years. But the difference this time is that it is my friend.

Les Riehl was at my house yesterday morning, asking me if I wanted to go for breakfast and see how the fish were biting. Since duty called, I had to decline breakfast and the fishing report was poor. After another 15-minutes of BSing, we went our separate ways.

Fast forward to 4:40 pm. I had stopped at a boat landing to talk to a couple of deputies when a radio call came in of someone yelling for help on the river. Since wardens carry PFDs — personal flotation devices — as well as throw bags and other water emergency equipment, I went along to assist. After a seven-minute light and siren run, we met with the caller who pointed out the area where he thought he heard the yell.

We found nothing after a half-mile hike to the flooded river. One of the deputies and I flagged down a passing boat and

Les Riehl

searched the area without locating any person or abandoned boat. A boat tied near shore was thought to be the cottage owners. But when the registration number was ran through dispatch, we discovered it was registered to Les's son. I called Les's cell phone a couple of times. When he didn't answer, I feared the worst.

We quickly drove to the other side of the river where we found Les's truck and trailer at the small boat landing. I borrowed a boat from a local resident and a county deputy and I headed back up river. Two other friends heard what was happening and came to help.

After looking over the boat a second time, we determined that Les fell overboard. The county sheriff's department called out their patrol boat with the drags and the dive team. Local fire departments were also dispatched for assistance.

We were searching slowly along the bank, hoping that Les made it to shore, when the deputy with me spotted a small piece of cloth about a foot square in the brush along a snag. After getting closer, he decided it was nothing. I wanted to look it over better, just in case.

That's when we found Les. It was all the four of us could do to get him in the boat due to the river's strong current.

It was 6:54 p.m. And it was too late. It was the saddest I have been in a long time — and it was preventable.

Had Les worn his PFD, he would be alive this morning. We would be eating breakfast, BSing and giving him a hard time for falling out of the boat. Instead, we went to talk with his wife and family to console them, cry with them, and try to make sense of the senseless.

I remember seeing Les in a PFD and asked his son about it. His son said Les only wore it some of the time. PFDs only work if you wear them; please wear your PFD all of the time.

I'll miss you, Les.

Michael Young is a conservation warden in Shiocton. Riehl died on April 18, 2011. He was 65.

Need a properly functioning shotgun and girlfriend? One man tried to find both through classified ad

Jim Blankenheim shared a classified ad that appeared in a recent *Tomahawk Leader* newspaper that is sure to leave you wondering.

WANTED: Double barreled shotgun. Also: A girlfriend. Each need not be real pretty but proper functioning is important. (Need not be a single transaction). The man included his phone number for interested parties.

Blankenheim writes, "I can't help but wonder how that worked out for him."

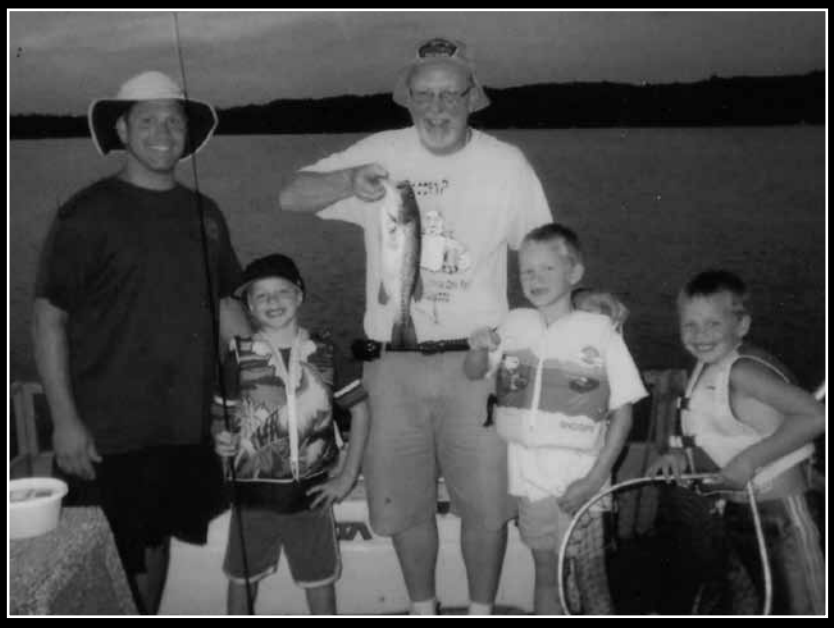
Waldera honored by Conservation Congress

Darrel Waldera has been named the Conservation Congress Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. Waldera, training director for the DNR Bureau of Law Enforcement, was recognized in May at the 78th annual Conservation Congress convention in Manitowoc.

Waldera received the award for his dedication to the protection of Wisconsin's citizens and natural resources and his commitment to providing exceptional law enforcement training to warden recruits.

Fruits of their Labor

a photo album



Retired Southeastern Regional Warden Supervisor Doug Hoskins holds an 18-inch bass caught in Oconto County during summer 2011. Hoskins writes that "everyone got in the action" and that the fish was truly caught by the group. With Hoskins are his son-in-law Bobby Woznicki and triplet grandsons, all 7. From left, the boys are Jack, Brendan and Eric.

Submit your photos of harvested fish and game

Do you have pictures of you or someone in your family who has harvested game? Send it in to write2us@sbcglobal.net or mail it to 1705 Graber St., Oshkosh, WI 54901. Please include cutline information.

Photos will be returned, if requested.

Retired Tomah Warden Jim Kincannon holds up some geese taken in the 2011 season.

Articles, photos sought for Spring 2013 WGW issue

Wisconsin Game Warden Magazine is looking for interesting articles that deal with the great outdoors. The deadline for the spring issue is Jan. 15, 2013.

Possible topics include ecology, warden cases made, places to go, resource conservation methods, gotcha-type stories, animal rescues, history of the warden force, and articles dealing with the natural world.

Other possible story topics include vacations, recipes and the future of the warden force.

Articles can be submitted to Managing Editor Barbara Schmitz at 1705 Graber St., Oshkosh, WI 54901, or e-mailed as a Word document to write2us@sbcglobal.net. When possible, include photographs to go with your story. They can be mailed or e-mailed to Schmitz. E-mailed photos should be at least 4" x 6" and 300 dpi, or 8" x 10" and at least 72 dpi.

In addition, the magazine is also looking for photos for its Fruits of their Labor feature. Do you have a picture of your family with fish and game they've harvested in Wisconsin? Or how about one of you and some game? Send it in!

Photos can be mailed to Schmitz at the above address. They will be returned, if requested. As before, photos can also be sent electronically to Schmitz.

If you have questions, you can also call Schmitz at (920) 235-0972.

Don't forget WGW when you move

If you are moving or have moved, don't forget to tell *Wisconsin Game Warden Magazine*.

The post office does not forward or return the magazines since they are mailed Third Class. That means the Association has no way of knowing which members are not receiving their copies.

For address changes or general mailing questions, contact Matt Groppi at Matthew.Groppi@wisconsin.gov.

WARDEN IN THE SPOTLIGHT

By Stephanie Daniel-Merkel

When Chris Groth was appointed warden supervisor of the Northeast region's Marine Enforcement Unit in 2007, he had a clear vision of where he wanted to take his team in the future. His goal was to make them the best they could be on the water.

"When the supervisor retired they recruited me to take the position," said Groth. "It was my time to put a mark on how I would want things run."

Groth leads a unit of three marine conservation wardens who monitor the Great Lakes and the tributary waters in Brown, Door, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette and Oconto counties.

Under his guidance, the unit has developed successful teamwork by paying attention to details and building relationships. Groth's disciplined and meticulous nature has helped him lead a team that has chemistry and cohesiveness, something he takes great pride in.

"My philosophy when taking over the marine unit was that I want my guys to be experts in boating and marine issues," explained Groth. "When people think of the Great Lakes, I want them to think of our marine unit."

Many wardens will tell you that they knew early on in life that they would enter a career involving conservation and the outdoors, or that they had one person who had a strong influence on their decision. Groth's experience was different, however.

"I didn't choose the job; it chose me," he explained. "It was more the job influencing my decision."

Groth did have family members who hunted, and he also hunted and spent time outdoors, but those factors were not the ultimate driving force behind his decision to enter the warden field.

While attending college, Groth had been looking for a summer job and became aware of a few LTE positions available in the area. He would have been happy working at any of the jobs, but decided on the law enforcement position. While working the LTE jobs during the summers, he was introduced to the idea of pursuing a career in the warden field from co-workers.

Groth attended the University of Wisconsin River Falls and earned a degree in biology. He was offered a conservation warden position in 1985 and started in January 1986.

(Top) One of Chris Groth's favorite hobbies is waterfowl hunting. (Bottom) Groth shows a sturgeon he speared.

"I consider myself blessed and lucky," he said. "I enjoy going to work and I enjoy what I do. We aren't going to make a million dollars, but I enjoy the challenges."

Groth has worked both on the water as a commercial fish investigator in Green Bay and as a marine conservation warden in Two Rivers, and more recently in the field as a warden for 17 years in Brown County. But he always felt himself gravitating back to the marine unit.

"I enjoy the aspects of working on the water and the marine issues," said Groth. "The Great Lakes have always provided challenges. Nothing is ever static."

He said when he went back to the marine unit, it was like coming home.

Throughout his career, Groth says that he has never had a dull day on the job. He appreciates that the interaction he has with people has the possibility to influence their choices.

"No matter whom you meet, somewhere down the line that contact may have changed someone's course," he said. "It is a good feeling knowing you had some kind of impact on them."

Groth's meticulous nature doesn't just apply to his work; he also takes his hobbies very seriously.

His hobbies include sturgeon and pike spearfishing, and waterfowl hunting. He makes his own equipment, carves decoys and makes his own calls.

For the past five years, Groth and his wife have been housing parents for members of the Green Bay Gamblers hockey team and the Green Bay Bullfrogs baseball team. They take in a player each season.

"They are like family," said Groth. "We enjoy following their journey."

They have an opportunity to meet young people from around the nation and develop a tight relationship with them and their parents. It has become a rewarding experience for the players and the Groth family.

"A great part of the program is being able to watch the kids' successes," explained Groth. "We are there to support them."

Groth and his wife Tamara reside in the Village of Suamico. They have two daughters, Emily, a junior at St. Cloud State, Minnesota, and Maggie, a junior at Bay Port High School.

Stephanie Daniel-Merkel is a freelance writer in Oshkosh.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Randy Dunkel

The Wisconsin Conservation Warden Association and the Wisconsin Conservation and Education Foundation changed its organizational leadership in May. I believe those who stepped up to take the new roles did it for the right reasons and will do an excellent job. I also know that in just a few months I will see some very good progression.

For those who don't know me, my name is Randy Dunkel and I am your new WCWA president. Professionally, I am the conservation warden in eastern Racine County and an active tactical instructor (Professional Communication Skills, Defensive and Arrest Tactics, and Firearms). I am also going to college full time to earn my bachelor's degree in business management. Prior to becoming a warden, I served three combat tours between Iraq and Afghanistan as a United States Marine. I now look forward to being a productive leader who helps bring the WCWA to the forefront of natural resource conservation efforts in Wisconsin.

As you may recall, the Association did not have a major fundraiser in fiscal year 2012. The WCWA took a break from its usual fundraiser to put more time and effort into determining where it would like to go. Because of this, the normal grants that are issued each fall will be significantly reduced. We apologize for this, but feel it was something that needed to be done for the betterment of the Association and its grant program in the future.

Over the past year and a half, the Association has been working very hard on reestablishing a working website. Thanks to the help from people like Jessica Lindner, Caity Carmody and Matt Groppi we are able to operate quite well with www.wigamewarden.com. It still needs plenty of work, but as of right now you can

See also the WCWA Vice President's letter to the membership on Page 20.

renew your membership, see some of the things our funding has done, donate, and catch up on some events around the state.

We are also excited to host a fundraising banquet on March 16, 2013 in Madison. We will be sending more information about the banquet to our members and posting information on our website. We hope to have active participation from our members in getting items to auction and raffle off during the banquet or as part of the banquet fundraising efforts.

We will also be introducing new merchandise and apparel items in the near future. In addition, we want to promote businesses of Wisconsin and the surrounding states that share our goals. It only makes sense that we work with each other to ensure that our outdoor recreational future continues to thrive.

We are also establishing a business plan for the Association. But we need your help to do so. In order to fulfill the goals of the Association, we must know what our stakeholders are expecting from us. If you feel that the Association should do something that it is not or if you have a great idea for us, please email me at wcwapresident@gmail.com.

It is everyone's responsibility to take the Association in the proper direction. I ask our members to become involved in whatever way they can. With the members we have, I know we can accomplish a lot more. We all have busy lives, but a little will do a lot. I look forward to do all I can for you and the Wisconsin Conservation Warden Association effort.

Egstad honored for contribution to state

By Barbara A. Schmitz

Bayfield Conservation Warden Amie Egstad doesn't think she does anything special in her job. But others definitely don't agree.

Egstad earned honorable mention for the Virginia Hart Award, which annually recognizes a woman for her substantial contribution to Wisconsin state service. Egstad's award was announced in May during a Capitol award ceremony.

"I just do what I need to do to keep our force safe and to protect the outdoors," Egstad said. "A lot of other people are more deserving than I, but I am very humbled and thankful for the award."

Supervisor David Oginski nominated Egstad for the honor. "Amie is truly a go-getter and seldom turns down an opportunity to advance the warden service," he said. "She strives for self-improvement and works as a defensive tactics instructor providing training to other wardens to ensure they have the skills to perform in any confrontation and return safely home each day."

Egstad has also shouldered an enormous workload in the Bayfield Station since the second warden assigned to the station has been on light duty status for a significant period of time, Oginski said. In addition, the Bayfield station has unique job demands including monitoring and enforcement responsibilities for both state and tribal commercial fishing activity on Lake Superior as well as commercial sport trollers and recreational sport fishing and boating.

Egstad started her career as a conservation warden in 1994 and was stationed in Neenah/Menasha. She transferred to Bayfield in 2007.Throughout the years, she has successfully solved a plethora of memorable cases, such as a man who chased coyotes on his snowmobile and then killed them, or a man shooting deer from the roadside.

But the best thing about being a warden is that something new happens ever day. "You basically can't plan a day," Egstad said. "You can have an idea, but it can change at a moment's notice if you get a call."

She said a warden's job is more proactive than other law enforcement agencies.

"The majority of people are just out having fun and you get to meet with them and give them tips," she said. "Plus the best thing about the job is your office is the outdoors."

Egstad is married to Gary, who recently retired as a deputy for the Outagamie County Sheriff's Department after 21 years. In her spare time, Egstad enjoys horse riding, fishing, hunting, snowmobiling and camping.

Hunting with Kloey

Getting a 3 year-old to be quiet as she sits in a blind can be challenging. But it can also be extremely rewarding when you share a successful hunt.

By Joe Paul

I drew a bear tag this year so I decided to go back to the farm and help my brother harvest corn and maybe get a little time in the stand. He told me most of the bears were coming in after dark, however, so I did not have very high hopes.

The first evening I got out for a half hour with my 3-year-old daughter Kloey, who had begged me to bring her along. We did not see anything.

The following evening and the next morning, I snuck out without Kloey and my mom said she cried the entire time I was gone because she had wanted to go hunting, too. So when the next evening came along, I did not have the heart to leave her behind again.

I packed a bag with every kind of snack I could find. I packed a second bag with her favorite blanket (pinky), stuffed toys, several books and a blanket for her to sit on. On our way to the blind I carried her and all of the stuff and told her we needed to be quiet.

As we walked she told me that my pants were too loud and my feet were making noise. She coached me and said I needed to be sneaky and say "da dunt, da dunt, da dunt" like a sneaky shark. So from then on I walked like a sneaky shark.

We got to the blind and Kloey climbed up the ladder and immediately looked out the window. "I don't see any bears yet, Dad," she said out loud. At that point, I thought I was doomed. I started feeding her snacks to keep her quiet. She was doing pretty well, but she would occasionally kick the side of the blind and put her head out the window and tell me loudly that she still didn't see any bears.

I whispered for her to "read" her books. After she finished reading, she wanted more snacks. Then she played with her stuffed animals. She said she wanted to get her own "shoot gun" someday so she could get a bear. She said it needed to be pink.

After about 2 1/2 hours, a 3 year old in an enclosed space can be a recipe for disaster. Since she was getting restless, I gave her my phone until she started dialing random numbers and one connected. Then I took it away. That was a mistake. She purposely started to continuously test me so I gave her the phone back. Right about that time a nice bear showed up. I told her to stay still. She was really excited. I told her to cover her ears.

I shot the bear and it dropped so I unloaded the gun and gave Kloey a high five and went to pick her up to show her the bear. She immediately said, "I want to go deer hunting now, Dad."

But the bear stood up and started walking away. I then set her back down and reloaded the gun and put another round in it. The bear dropped again, but this time Kloey could not see it and she became very sad. I left her in the stand while I made sure the bear was dead. Then she got to take a look. She has been telling everyone about the hunt ever since. She is pretty excited and so was I. It was an awesome hunt. It was a hunt I will never forget.

Joe Paul is a conservation warden in Oconto County.

The Great Baiting Case

By Duane Harpster

Being a special has its advantages, such as if the warden you work for gets invited to work a complaint, you usually get to go along. That's what happened when my old friend Roger Lichtenwalner, Three Lakes warden, invited Dick Abney, Crandon warden, to work a duck complaint near Monico in Oneida County. I got to go along.

It was a duck baiting complaint on a beaver pond back in the bush off an old logging road. Roger had scouted it out and found a canoe, two duck blinds and bait.

So, on opening day, Roger, Dick and I settled in to watch and wait. Roger had a saying, "Plan your work and work your plan." He laid out the plan: Depending on the number of people, we would each be responsible for a person or persons and document what time they shot, how many times they shot and what they shot.

There were five guys, two to a blind and a roamer on shore who became a constant source of worry. They got into their spots well before noon, then the official opening time, and the ducks came to dinner. Oh, my Lord, did the ducks come. I had never before seen ducks come to a baited pond, and it was a spectacle. There were mallards and black ducks, and lots and lots of them.

By a quarter to noon there were hundreds of ducks on the water and still more arriving. We couldn't figure out what the hunters were waiting for. After all, if you bait ducks, it sure doesn't figure you need to wait for the opening bell. All of a sudden, somebody in one of the blinds did something, and with a tremendous roar, the birds took off and left. Not a shot was fired!

We were stunned and so were they. But in a minute the hollering and profanity started. After a short period of arguing, somebody said shut up and noted the ducks were coming back, and so they did. However, it was now legal shooting, so there went five beans! The firing commenced, with us each keeping records the best we could.

It soon became apparent why they baited. They couldn't hit a barn door from inside the barn. Ten ducks would come in, they'd fire shots and nine ducks would fly out. Six ducks in, more shooting, and six ducks out. And so it went.

Finally, one guy said he had to leave to get to the paper mill for his 3 o'clock shift, and prepared to leave. Roger announced we were going to let him go, and get him later.

I learned about addiction that day, however. When ducks are hooked on corn, they are suicidal. Although the traffic eventually slowed down, a reasonable shot would have killed birds right up to dark. But these guys were terrible shots. In fact, Roger and Dick were not even sure they were over bag because we never saw an airborne bird fall, not for want of trying I might add.

Eventually dark arrived; they picked up and came in. AHHH, now the real fun would begin. I was so excited I was shaking with anticipation. They came all in a row, and as they passed in the dark, we fell in behind them on down the path. When we got to the logging road everyone stopped. They put their guns and gunny bags down, and pulled out their cigarettes. One guy asked for a light, and Roger obliged him. Talk about surprise! They were so shocked they didn't move.

We gave them the bad news, and one asked if maybe they could have just a limit or two of birds for dinner. I had been placed in charge of idling the kill, and had them piled in their respective piles. This was in the point days — 100-point blacks, 100-point hen mallards, and 35-point drakes. That's all there were! Roger told the one fellow to go ahead and pick out a limit. He promptly picked up a black, and as he started to pick up another, Roger said that's it. The guy said you gotta be kidding. Roger said to try again. Now he picked up a hen and as he started for another, again got a no from Rog. On his third try, the hunter picked up a drake, looked at Rog and picked up another. Gaining confidence, he picks up a third, and as he reached for No. 4 Roger said done. The guy threw down the three ducks, looked at Roger and said, "Hell, there ain't no way we're gonna get dinner at this rate; you keep them all!"

That ended the great baiting case. As usual, I was asked what I had learned. "Plenty," I said. "Addiction will get you killed eventually."

RECIPE

Recipe from *500 Wild Game and Fish Recipes*

Homemade Jerky

Start with a good-sized venison steak or roast, or a commercial chuck roast, round steak, etc. Cut meat into thin strips, cutting with grain of meat.

Boil 2 quarts of water, ½ pint of vinegar, 2 cups of salt and 2 tablespoons pepper. This quantity of brine is adequate for up to 10 pounds of meat. Soak meat for 5 minutes.

Next, with a rolling pin, flatten out the strips of meat. The jerky should be somewhat rubbery and grey. Place the strips on the oven rack allowing air to circulate. Set oven at 200 degrees and keep door ajar to allow moisture to escape. Remove meat from oven when almost dry, which usually takes about 1- ½ hours.

To season jerky, paint both sides with A-1 sauce. Add some Worcestershire sauce or Tobasco for a hotter taste. A mixture of ketchup and vinegar is good, too. Dry the sauce on the jerky for about 30 minutes in the oven.

Store in jars. Kept dry, it will last for years.

Nice honored for waterfowl education efforts

By Barbara A. Schmitz

With a passion for waterfowl hunting, it should come as no surprise that warden Mike Nice also has a passion for protecting Wisconsin's wetlands.

Nice was only 6 when he shot his first duck in North Carolina. He was instantly hooked on the sport.

"My fondest memory is my brothers doing a duck drive… and the ducks started coming at me," Nice said. "My father was behind me, and he told me to pick one out and shoot it."

Nice said he tells that story, not because he got a duck, but because someone provided him the opportunity to go duck hunting.

"We're losing that opportunity to get kids hooked today," he said. That's why people should take someone hunting who otherwise may not have that opportunity."

In May 2012, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress honored Nice, Richland County warden, as the 2011 Waterfowl Officer of the Year for his outstanding efforts in waterfowl education and wetland protection.

Nice at a glance

- **He worked as a special warden in the Woodruff/Minocqua area in 1989-90.**
- **In January 1991, he was hired full-time with the DNR and was initially stationed in Beloit.**
- **Nice stayed in Beloit only five months before moving to the Wisconsin Dells area.**
- **In the fall of 1994, he transferred to Richland County, where he still works today.**

One of the jobs that Nice has always taken seriously is educating people about the diversity of wetlands and what wetlands do for the ecosystem. He talks to sportsmen at conservation clubs or students at field days and explains what a wetland is and how to protect it. "Seventy-five percent of our wetlands are privately owned," Nice said. "A lot of people don't even know they're destroying them."

Besides youth, Nice has concentrated his education efforts on contractors. "They're the guys with backhoes," he said. "Education is so important because you can prevent damage from happening. You hear of violations before the backhoe even gets there."

With 86 "phenomenal" trout streams in Richland County, Nice encourages the public not to touch anything that looks like it could be a wetland without first calling.

Mike Nice was named the Waterfowl Officer of the Year. Nice poses with his award with his daughter, Carly, and Doug Duhr and Rick Fruit, members of the Richland County Conservation Congress.

Most of the complaints he receives are generally over-bagging cases of just one or two ducks, or shotgun violations. But there was one memorable case when he was working the Mississippi River.

"I walked back into a wood duck hole and just watched a hunter who was way over his limit," Nice said. "He came out at dark, and I was standing by a tree and surprised him when I asked to see his bag limit. He produced two wood ducks, but I said I needed to see the rest."

Nice said he isn't sure why he next patted the hunter's chest waders. But as soon as he did, the hunter said, "You got me." The hunter would shoot the ducks, breast them out, stomp the remains into the swamp, and put the breasts into a Zip-lock bag. He had 15 in that bag. "It was just dumb luck … that I got him," Nice said.

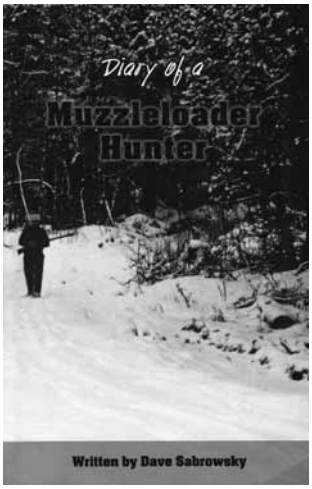
What he likes best about his job, however, is the diversity it offers.

"The diversity of the people we deal with, the diversity of the activities we do, and having the flexibility to be in the outdoors is priceless to me," Nice said.

Nice said he was surprised to receive the award. "I'm not the awards type of person, so I told them to give it to someone else. But it is a nice honor."

'Diary' chronicles 20 years of U.P. hunting

By Barbara A. Schmitz



Dave Sabrowsky laughs when he said most of his school classmates never thought he would read a book, let alone write one.

"Diary of a Muzzleloader Hunter" chronicles 20 years of deer hunting with muzzleloaders in Michigan's U.P. It features stories of retired Wisconsin wardens Tom Wenninger, Jim Blankenheim, Gus Ernst, Dick Streng, Randy Falstad and Sabrowsky, among other DNR staff and friends.

But it tells more than just their hunting exploits. Reviewer Sheila Wilkinson wrote: "Dave's book, however, is not about teaching us the ins and outs of muzzleloader hunting. It is a book about friendship and camaraderie. It is about loving the land. It is about tradition."

Sabrowksy, a Wisconsin warden from 1977-2002, said he was an avid deer hunter all his life. But like most wardens, he didn't have time to hunt during Wisconsin's traditional deer-hunting season because he was working.

Not wanting to give up deer hunting, however, he found an alternative in Michigan's December muzzleloader season. He and his friends participated in those hunts from 1979-1999.

Sabrowsky said he isn't sure how the book happened. "For some reason when we started those hunting trips to Michigan in 1979 I kept a diary. One day I found my notes, read them and thought I should type it up and put it in a binder. A college friend persuaded me to make it into a book."

While he started typing up his notes several years ago, about 80 percent of it was finished in 2011.The book was published in 2012 and brought back a lot of memories.

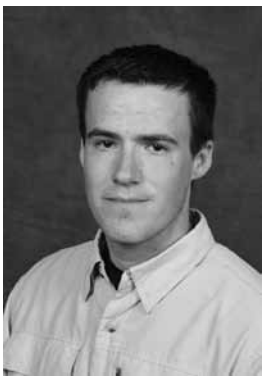
"We always met back at the truck at noon to be sure that no one was lost since we were hunting in the wilderness, and to report where we were seeing deer," he recalled. "Tom Bahti had the idea to start a fire to cook our sandwiches, but he had trouble getting the fire started. He thought it would work better with gunpowder, and as soon as he used it, he became engulfed with black powder smoke. We still talk about if Tom looks better with eyebrows or not."

Then there was the year that Randy Falstad really did get lost. Four hours after dark, the group realized that something bad had probably happened to their friend, so they went to a nearby tavern to call the sheriff's department. That's when a sheriff's deputy pulled up with Falstad, who had walked 17 miles in the opposite direction before being found. "He stepped up and said, 'Hi guys.'" Sabrowsky recalled. "We were so relieved that we could have hugged him, but there were too many loggers at that tavern."

Sabrowsky did get permission from his friends to include their names and photos in the books, and the group had a reunion of sorts after the book came out so they were the very first to see it.

"I didn't write the book to make money," Sabrowsky said. "I did it to bring back the good memories, and to share the stories with other hunters." The book sells for $13 and can be purchased by emailing Sabrowsky at muzzleloader1979@gmail.com.

Courtney Adair


Chris Bender

Dustin Masin

John Schreiber

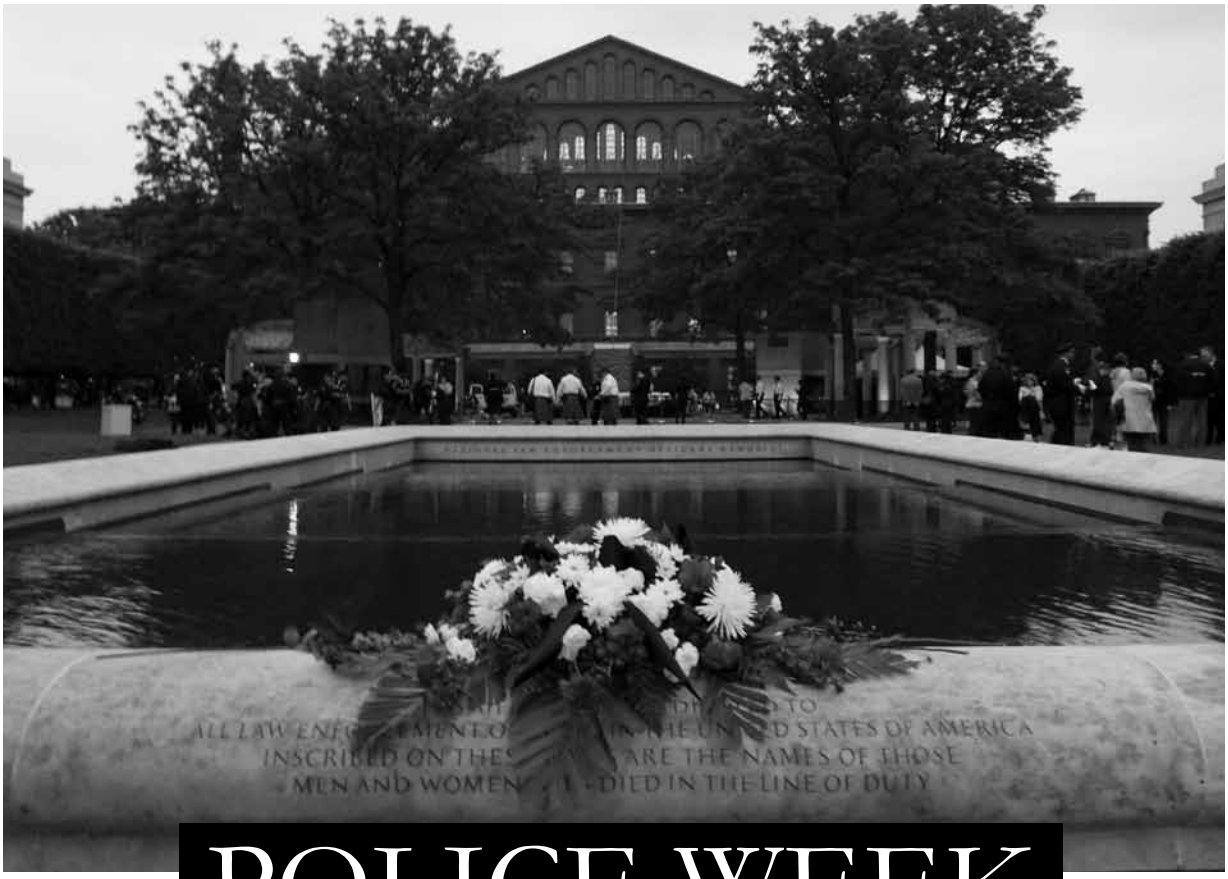
Michael Van Offeren

WCWA awards scholarships to UW-SP students

The Wisconsin Conservation Warden Association through its educational foundation awarded five $1,000 scholarships to University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point students enrolled in the College of Natural Resources. In an awards program on March 30, 2012, Chief Warden Randy Stark and Conservation Warden Jon Scharbarth presented gift cards and checks to the recipients. From left, they include:

- Courtney Adair of Stevens Point— Tyler Kreinz Memorial Scholarship
- Chris Bender of Mosinee — Andrew A. Krakow Memorial Scholarship
- Dustin Masin of Neenah — Robert Markle Memorial Scholarship
- John Schreiber of Franksville — Harold Hettrick Memorial Scholarship
- Michael Van Offeren of Chilton — Emerson Noyes Memorial Scholarship

The awards program was also attended by Retired Deputy Chief Warden John Daniel, the treasurer of the Association and Foundation, and David and Mary Kreinz of Janesville whose son, Tyler was killed in action in Afghanistan in June 2011 and whose dream was to attend college to become a conservation warden.



POLICE WEEK 2012

By Amie Egstad

It started out innocent enough. In February 2012, Wisconsin female wardens received an e-mail from Warden Heather Gottschalk wondering if anyone was interested in going to Washington, D.C. during National Police Week. Conservation Warden Sue Miller, Hayward, was headed there for AFSCME since she is on the National Law Enforcement Advisory Committee. Whoever went on the trip could room with Sue and the Wisconsin Conservation Warden Association would pay for transportation to the nation's capitol.

I emailed Heather that I was interested, and a week later, Heather responded that I could go.

Being a Defense and Arrest Tactics instructor since 2001, I wanted to go see the Law Enforcement Memorial wall containing the names of fallen officers who died in the line of duty. There would be a big ceremony on the U.S. Capitol lawn on May 15, which has been recognized as Peace Officers Memorial Day since 1962 when President Kennedy signed it into law.

So it came to be early on the morning on May 12, Sue and I traveled to Washington, D.C. Once we arrived, we checked in at the hotel and grabbed our walking shoes to visit the sites. We eventually made our way to the Law Enforcement Memorial, which was built in 1991. What a sight to be seen! There were two 304-foot long walls that had more than 19,000 names etched on them. You can go to www.nleomf.com and type in a name, state, or agency to look up the "panel" and "line" down from the top to where a particular officer's name is located. Sue gave me a copy of the 13 names of Wisconsin wardens who died in the line of duty so I was able to go directly to their names and take a photo of each.

Being around the Memorial just gave you shivers. You look around at the mothers, fathers, husbands, wives, children, siblings, friends, and fellow officers who grieve for their fallen officers and you think you never want your family to go through that. One thing that does give you hope is the pride and community of being in law enforcement as you look around the memorial. On each corner of the two walls are lions with sayings below them. One of them is "In Valor, There Is Hope." That says it all. You have to carry on in law enforcement no matter what or the bad guys will win. We have to believe in humanity and the human spirit to keep ourselves going.

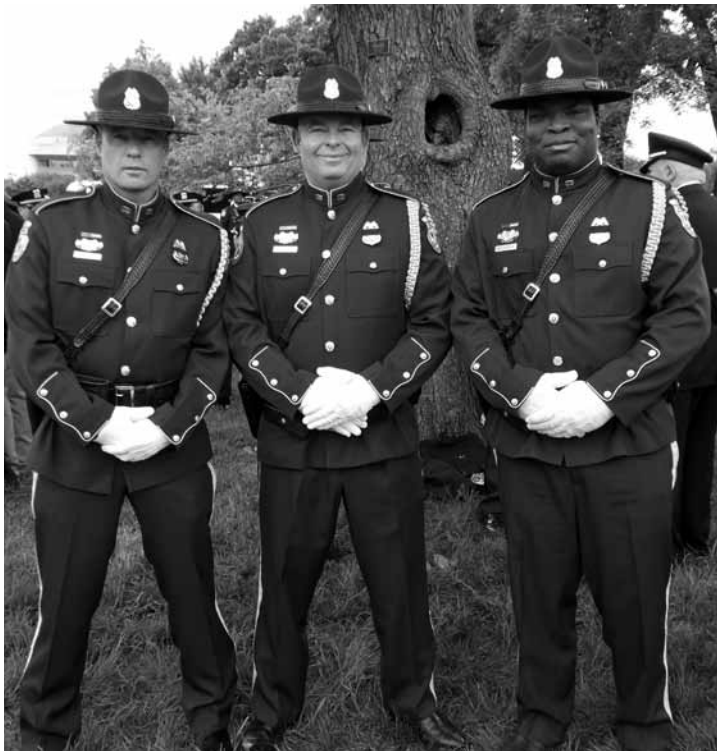
I saw more sites the following days. Then at 8 p.m. on May 24, the 24th annual Law Enforcement Memorial Candlelight Vigil started. Talk about being proud to be an LE officer that night! More than 20,000 survivors, friends, families and officers attended, listening to speakers that included U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and Attorney General of the United States Eric Holder, Jr. There was taps, a bagpipe solo and songs as people lit the candles that were handed out. They read off the names of 362 officers who had their names carved on the wall this year. The number of fallen officers for 2011 was 166, but there were nearly 200 more who had died in past years but had agencies submit their names this year.

On Monday, I attended the Below 100 training, put on, in

Wisconsin wardens' names on the Law Enforcement Memorial

- **J.B. Carter, EOW 07/30/23, Auto Accident**
- **Michael Kleist, EOW 07/14/24, Auto Accident**
- **Alfred P. Vanderkelen, EOW 11/06/28, Drowning**
- **Einar Johnson, EOW 05/17/29, Gunfire**
- **William A. Riebe, EOW 06/19/30, Auto Accident**
- **Edgar L. Alderman, EOW 07/22/33, Auto Accident**
- **Albert Lee, EOW 07/18/34, Auto Accident**
- **Albert E. Reif, EOW 11/18/42, Gunfire**
- **Mark H. Russell, Jr., EOW 05/21/55, Drowning**
- **Robert B. Markle, EOW 05/08/66, Auto Accident**
- **Neil L. LaFave, EOW 09/24/71, Gunfire**
- **Andrew A. Krakow, EOW 06/05/90, Gunfire**
- **Patrick Douglas Warner, EOW 05/24/93, Heart attack**

Family members tape photos to the Law Enforcement Memorial to remember loved ones killed in the line of duty. More than 19,000 names of fallen officers are etched on the memorial.



The U.S. Department of Interior Honor Guard smiles for the camera.

part, with help of the Officer Down Memorial Page (ODMP.com). The training included instruction by Jim Glennon, Travis Yates and Dale Stockton, as well as concepts by Brian Willis. The idea behind Below 100 is to get officer deaths below 100 each year. The yearly number of officers dying in the line of duty has not been below 100 since 1944! The thinking is if it is ***predictable***, it is ***preventable***. The number of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty has been related to vehicle crashes for many years (except for 2011.) So the five tenets of Below 100 are:

- Wear your safety belt
- Wear your vest
- Watch your speed
- WIN—What's Important Now
- Complacency Kills.

So whoever is reading this, I will be bugging you as usual to wear your vest, use your safety belt, watch your speed, and take seriously the training that tactical instructors provide.

After the Below 100 training was over, I headed to the hotel to wait until the parade kicked off at 6 p.m. The parade started with the DC squads and LE motorcycles leading the way toward the Law Enforcement Memorial. Behind them were the fallen officers' Honor Guards, and old and new squad cars from as far away as California. The parade led down to the Law Enforcement Memorial where they held more ceremonies and laid the wreath that would be guarded by various officers throughout the night until the main ceremony the next day.

On Tuesday, the 31st Annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service was held on the front lawn of the U.S. Capitol. About 15 minutes before the ceremony, the survivors of the fallen officers walked to their seating. After introductory remarks and the national anthem, President Obama talked about officers who go out each day and do their jobs to keep the peace so the rest of society does not have to. The President later met with the families.

The ceremony continued with the reading of the name of each officer fallen in 2011 for each state. The officers from each state would salute until all names were read off from that state. The service ends with the tribute: "Well served peace officer. May you rest in peace."

I am happy I attended and believe every officer should go if they have the opportunity to see the Law Enforcement Memorial and Washington, D.C. during Police Week. The National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund is continuing to raise money to build the National Law Enforcement Officers Museum, which is scheduled for completion by 2014.

Thanks to our Warden Local 1215, the Law Enforcement Bureau, and the Wisconsin Conservation Warden Association for supporting me in taking this great trip. If you happen to be a family member of a game warden or a law enforcement officer who is reading this, I also want to say a big thank you to you. Without you we could not do our jobs because you are our biggest supporters in doing a job that we not only do for a paycheck, but also because we live and breathe this profession. With having a brother (Adam Jarozewski, Trempeauleau County Deputy #40) and a husband (retired Outagamie County Deputy #262) in law enforcement I know what goes through family members' minds every time that person heads out the door for work. You wonder whether they will make it back home safe and sound. That's one of the main reasons I am a DAAT instructor; I want to do everything I can to make them come home safe and sound!

A successful unsuccessful hunt...

By Pam Buss

As adults, we are used to disappointment, especially when it comes to hunting and fishing. We have all heard numerous stories about the fish that got away or the huge buck that was just out of range and ran off in the opposite direction. As hunters we have plenty of our own stories of near misses.

During the 2012 youth turkey hunt, my husband John and I took our daughter Valerie, 11, out on her first mentored hunt. We had the chance to teach Valerie not only about turkey hunting, but also about valuable life skills that are presented by participating in outdoor opportunities.

In preparation, we had been having Valerie shoot turkey targets in the yard with a .410 shotgun. She seemed to be doing a great job shooting right handed when all of a sudden we noticed her struggling with her vision. We found out that shooting right handed doesn't work well when you are left eye dominant! We quickly changed our strategy with only days before the hunt. Valerie learned that only by practice do you become skillful.

Valerie didn't get a turkey on her first hunt, but did learn valuable lessons.

Saturday morning of the youth hunt started out with a big, bright full moon. Luckily, Valerie offered no resistance to getting up at 4 a.m. We repeatedly told Valerie that she had to be very quiet and move as little as possible in the blind. Over the weekend, this message was conveyed over and over as she fought to not squirm or make much noise. We had created a portable blind out of camouflage canvas. The blind offered just enough coverage for an 11 year old to wiggle.

We immediately were surrounded by gobbles and scrambled to get set up quietly. An unbelievable sight of four toms walking toward us started off our morning. We heard drumming and watched one turkey after another come into view. The show was spectacular as the toms strutted and gobbled before us. My heart was pounding and I felt like the whole woods could hear my quick breaths. Valerie learned perseverance as she struggled with cold fingers and the weight of the gun. My visions of hot coffee and a breakfast of bacon and eggs at the local restaurant were quickly ruined as the gobblers stayed just out of range and eventually wandered off.

After we all could breathe normally again, Valerie learned the excitement of a shared hunt as we compared what we had just experienced with one another.

Throughout the weekend we stopped to watch and enjoy the sunrise, deer, birds and rocks. Valerie learned appreciation for the beauty that surrounds us. We entertained Valerie with our past experiences turkey hunting and helped her practice with a call.

Another experience was having a hen come within touching distance of us. The hen was eventually followed by two toms. The hen stayed close to us for an extremely long time. Again, we all held our breath as we waited for her to sound a warning. Valerie learned anticipation, as we knew that a gobbler would follow the hen. She could have taken a shot at a tom, but she didn't feel comfortable. This was Valerie's hunt, so the decision to shoot was hers. Valerie learned determination as she wasn't going to miss another opportunity to take a shot.

We let Valerie set the pace. It was important that we didn't wear her out, but Valerie learned stamina as we moved to different locations throughout the morning. Trying to have her walk and talk quietly was almost an impossible task.

On our second morning, we heard gobblers across the road from our location. Confident that we could call them to us, we waited. As often happens, three gobblers came in from a position that left Valerie unable to take a shot. Valerie learned patience as she struggled to stay quiet and remain still all the while knowing that the gobblers were moving in our direction. Just after the gobblers moved off, John started to change position so we could try to call the gobblers back. Valerie whispered: "JB shut up! We've got company." All of a sudden three jakes were right in front of us!

Valerie again experienced excitement as she took her first shot. She didn't even seem to be disappointed that she missed. We were so proud of her! Valerie was the one who noticed the jakes and this time she was ready!

Valerie learned the art of creative storytelling that comes with hunting and fishing. On Monday morning Valerie shared her turkey hunting adventures with her sixth grade class.

Valerie also learned that life is full of hard choices. She wanted to go out hunting again during her regular permit period. But going hunting would have resulted in Valerie missing her first soccer game of the season. She made the choice to play soccer and not go turkey hunting. Once she made that decision and her permit expired, Valerie fully realized the consequences of not being able to hunt.

We have to give Valerie credit for getting up early two days in a row, not complaining, and for overall being a great hunting partner. John and I hope that when Valerie eventually shoots a turkey, she will learn that nothing worthwhile ever comes easy.

Pam Buss is an environmental enforcement specialist covering the South Central Region. Her husband is Sauk County Warden John Buss.

Krsnich receives Shikar-Safari Award

Tom Krsnich poses with his family after receiving the Shikar-Safari Award. From left, are his wife, Debra, Mert Warner, Krsnich, Bill Bailey and Elaine Bailey.

By Barbara A. Schmitz

Tom Krsnich says his job as administrator of the Environmental Crimes Investigation unit for the Department of Natural Resources means he is part coach and part mentor. In short, he helps wardens in his area be more successful in their jobs.

"I like to reach out to the young wardens who are coming on … and pass on some of the things I've learned from doing a pile of different investigations," he said. "It doesn't do any good if I have experience and don't pass it on."

Over the years, he has provided information about forensics and crime labs, or such things like how to track people down or where to go for help in another agency.

His help didn't go unnoticed. Krsnich received the Shikar-Safari Club International Officer of the Year award at the June 2012 Natural Resources Board meeting.

He said he was surprised to receive the award. "I didn't know I had been nominated. I know many of the supervisors who have received the award in the past and the things they did for the state. I'm honored to be part of that group."

After attending UW-Milwaukee, Krsnich started his career as a conservation warden in 1979. He trained at Montello, Superior and Green Bay before he moved to his first permanent station at Black Creek. After eight years, he moved to Appleton. Then, in 1990, he became an environmental warden. For the last 11 years, he's been the state environmental warden supervisor and is stationed in Green Bay.

Certain cases stick out from his years in the field, particularly environmental cases.

"Some of the cases have been complex because of their length and depth to gather the evidence necessary to prosecute," he said. But in one case of a company illegally disposing of hazardous waste, "the stars aligned" and they caught the company burning hazardous waste behind its facility. "I should have bought a lottery ticket that day," he said, laughing.

In another case, a city employee was making up results for the municipality's wastewater treatment samples. "When it came down to putting the case together, we found out what he was doing with his free time," Krsnich said. "When we analyzed his work computer, we discovered he spent about 8 hours a day on various porn sites."

During the trial, the prosecutor asked Krsnich how he knew they were porn sites. While it was easy to tell from the sites names, Krsnich said he figures he is the first state employee paid to look at porn to confirm that.

Steve Sisbach, section chief for the Bureau of Law Enforcement's environmental enforcement and emergency management sections, said Krsnich is deserving of the award for his true dedication to public service and to the mission of the Department.

"He not only helps the DNR become a better agency through his time and personal effort to train himself, but he also trains others such as our recruit conservation officers and the regulatory staff." Sisbach said. "He has a passion for making the Department better by constantly learning how he can do the job more effectively."

Sisbach said Krsnich has also been involved in a number of very complex and politically charged investigations. "Those cases have been challenging ...but due to his level of professionalism and expertise … those cases survived."

While the cases are memorable, Krsnich said what he remembers most is the people he has helped. He participates in youth hunts, and does talks at schools and other venues. But he also remembers the people he's helped during a snowstorm, or the number of times he has reached out when a company was having trouble and "encouraged" them to be in compliance.

In addition, there are the other wardens he's helped, whether it's giving advice on how to handle an interview, or where to look for another piece of evidence. "For a supervisor, that's gold."

Earlier this year, Krsnich also received the Life Saving Award for stopping a young woman from killing herself. "It's what you do, and it is who we are as wardens," he said. "You don't let stuff like that happen without trying to stop it."

Krsnich is also proud that he is one of only two still-active wardens who attended the FBI National Academy. You need to be selected to attend the 10-week program that includes about 300 law enforcement officers from the U.S. and world, he said.

"It fundamentally changes how you do business," he said. "You come out of it thinking a great deal about your employees, fellow officers, fellow supervisors, even the highest-level managers in your own department, and the things they go through every day to accomplish the goals of the agency. You lower barriers. You don't hesitate to reach out to someone and say you did a great job, or ask if they need your help."

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

By Matt Groppi

Dear WCWA members:

At our last board meeting, Randy Dunkel was elected president and I was elected vice president. I am excited about this new role and have been meeting with Randy regularly to discuss ideas for our Association. One of the questions we continue to ask ourselves is how we can make the Association better for our members. Both of us have been asked several times what the Association is doing, what benefits we provide to our members, and where the Association is headed in the future. I am encouraged by several ideas and projects we are working on and want to take this opportunity discuss a couple of these.

In May, we began the process of creating a business plan for WCWA to lay out its long-term goals and objectives. Ultimately, we need our Association to be fiscally sustainable so that we can continue to provide grants and scholarships as we have done in the past. These grants are a vital benefit to our members in each region as we focus on assisting community projects that protect fish and wildlife, enhance habitat, and promote involvement in the outdoors. Our ability to generate revenues will come from our annual memberships, lifetime memberships, sponsors, donations, our banquet, and merchandise sales.

One of the specific ways we identified to attract new members is by keeping our website up to date. This will assist us with keeping our members informed and marketing our Association to the public. We have added several new sections to the site including links to our regulations, the Warden Wire, past issues of our magazine, and online membership purchasing. We are currently working on having sections for conservation news, Wisconsin Wardens in the News, summaries of our past grant and scholarship recipients, merchandise sales, and a page where the public can find volunteer opportunities for conservation projects.

We also identified one area where we need assistance. We need our members to become active with the Association. We have reps from each region, cabinet positions, and several active volunteers, but we need more help! We need donations for our banquet to be a success, we need links to news stories regarding conservation issues or Wisconsin wardens to put on our website, we need ideas on how to increase our membership sales, and we need to create partnerships with other non-profit organizations.

WCWA will continue to move forward into the 21st century and we will continue to focus our efforts on the overall goals of promoting conservation and education. To make this transition as smooth as possible we need our members to be involved. The Association is going to be what we make it and the more involvement we have, the more benefits we will be able to provide. Thank you for your continued support of WCWA.

For more information on getting involved, please contact either Randy Dunkel at wcwapresident@wigamewarden.com or myself at wcwvp@wigamewarden.com.

Matthew Groppi is the field warden in Northeast Waukesha County. He was hired as a warden in 2008 and is an Army Veteran who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

LOOKING BACK

By Harland Steinhorst

125 years ago

- State legislators passed a law, which was the first in the nation, to prevent killing of birds for millinery purposes. Carolina parakeet (extinct) and whooping crane were some of the birds killed for their feathers.
- Wisconsin was among three states to prohibit spring hunting of waterfowl.

100 years ago

- Thirty-three counties were open for deer hunting. The season was 20 days long and the bag limit was any one deer.
- The head warden annual report listed 907 arrests, with 717 paying fines and 38 receiving jail sentences. Two persons were arrested for impersonating a game warden and one for interfering with a warden.

75 years ago

- Warden H.J. Paul, Eagle River, caused $170 in damages to his car when it left the road on a curve while he was chasing deer shiners.
- Chief Warden Barney Devine reported 2,920 arrests and 2,796 convictions, a 95.7 percent conviction rate.

50 years ago

- The warden division had four aircraft, all fully equipped with FM two-way radios and aerial cameras. The warden pilots logged some 3,995 airborne hours on specific assignments. During a two-year period, the four aircraft assisted in the arrest of more than 200 nighttime violators. A fifth Champion Challenger aircraft was added in 1963.

25 years ago

- Waterfowl steel shot enforcement is now statewide.
- Judge Dole rules that Chippewa Tribal members may harvest all forms of wildlife and they may hunt on public and forest crop law lands.

HARLAND STEINHORST is a retired Wisconsin conservation warden now living in LaValle.

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Saturday, March 16, 2013

At VFW Post 7591, 301 Cottage Grove Road, Madison
Raffles and Social – 4:30 PM; Buffet Dinner – 6:30 PM

Tickets - $45 single, $35 spouse, $25 junior
$45 tickets include a one-year membership in the Wisconsin Conservation Wardens Assoc.
****Life members will receive $10 discount****
Ticket order deadline – March 8, 2013
This event will include dinner, silent and live auctions, and a wide array of prizes such as firearms, bows, trip packages, hunting and outdoor related equipment, artwork and collectibles.

All attendees have a one-in-ten chance to win a muzzle-loading rifle

Support Conservation Education

Proceeds will go toward projects that fulfill the Foundation's mission of Conservation Education

Become a Table Captain

Purchase tickets for 8 or more people and become a Table Captain and receive a free gift and an entry into a table captain only drawing for a rifle.

Become a Sponsor – 3 Levels

Silver-Donate $150 cash or $250 merchandise
Gold-Donate $250 cash or $350 merchandise
Platinum-Donate $400 cash or $500 merchandise
Silver sponsors receive 1 free banquet ticket with membership; Gold receives 1 banquet ticket and a 3-year membership; Platinum receives 2 banquet tickets, two 3-year memberships, PLUS $150 in Lucky Bucks to use on raffle tickets. All are entered in a sponsor only raffle.

Lucky Bucks

Purchase $150 worth of Lucky Bucks for $100. Lucky Bucks may be used all evening to purchase tickets in all raffles except the 50/50 cash raffle. Not sold at the door.

For tickets or information

Mike Spors at 608-366-1160 or 608-797-2864
Any banquet related contributions are welcome. Contact Mike or any WCWA-WCEF member to donate
Make checks/money order out to WCEF
Mail to Mike Spors, 18934 Ibsen Road, Sparta, WI 54656

Order Form **(tickets to be picked up at the door)**

Please reserve:	**Qty**	**Each**	**Total**
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Spouse ticket	_____	$35	$_____
Junior ticket (<18)	_____	$25	$_____
____Yes, I will be a table captain (must order at least 8 tickets)			
$150 in Lucky Bucks	_____	$100	$_____
Silver Sponsor Cash*	_____	$150	$_____
Gold Sponsor Cash*	_____	$250	$_____
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		For Total Amount of	**$_____**

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Please charge my Visa or MasterCard
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Name on Card:_____V-code_____
Signature:_____
*Merchandise Sponsors Contact Mike Spors. Thank you.

Talking Turkey

Youngquist is Wild Turkey Officer of Year

By Barbara A. Schmitz

David Youngquist doesn't just talk turkey. As an avid turkey hunter, the Spring Green conservation warden also works to educate turkey hunters and enforce rules and regulations.

"I've gone turkey hunting just about every year since 1986, although I haven't gotten a bird every year," Youngquist said. "But I also have a passion for protecting them and of thinking of ways that people will try to cut corners."

For his work in turkey conservation, education and enforcement, Youngquist was named the 2011 Wisconsin Officer of the Year by the National Wild Turkey Federation. He received his award in February. In fact, it was the second time he received the award, also taking the state honor in 2006.

"I've arrested a lot of people for hunting over bait or for group hunting for turkeys," Youngquist said. Some cases were after Youngquist noticed patterns of who was registering birds. "Every year, there was one dad and his three sons who would register turkeys," he said. After figuring out where they were hunting, Youngquist went out at 5 a.m. and found the father and son out hunting, even though the father didn't have a permit.

Other cases were made because he was observant.

"In spring 2011, I saw tire tracks going into a field and I just followed the fresh tracks," he said. There he found a father and son hunting, even though the father had already shot his bird.

Being observant also allowed Youngquist to solve some baiting cases, including by an absentee landowner. In another case, when one man complained about being fined and noted everyone else was baiting, too, Youngquist started walking the neighboring properties and found out that he was telling the truth. That resulted in more arrests.

Youngquist said the biggest influence on him becoming a conservation warden was the time he spent outdoors hunting, fishing and participating in Boy Scouts. He graduated in December 1990 from the University of Wisconsin River Falls and he gained experience working at the Maple Bluff Police Department, in security at Meritor Hospital, or as a ranger at Devils Lake State Park.

In 1995, Youngquist was hired as a deputy warden. Then, in 1998, he was hired as a full-time warden. He's been stationed in Spring Green since 1999.

"I really enjoy working with the public, and I enjoy developing and keeping up relationships with people in my area," Youngquist said. "I get a lot of satisfaction helping people with problems. I think I'm a good listener and interviewer. I'm empathetic, and people will open up."

Youngquist also helped start the learn-to-hunt turkey program in Iowa County in 2003, and has remained active in that program. Each year, they introduce turkey hunting to about 30 young hunters. "A lot miss, but some have harvested birds, and almost all have seen birds," he said. "Once they go into the program, they are hooked. It's such a beautiful time to be in the woods and see the woods coming alive…"

Even a bad knee doesn't keep David Youngquist from one of his favorite hobbies — turkey hunting. He got this 27-pound Tom 40-yards from his house.

Youngquist's supervisor, Tyler Strelow, nominated him. He said Youngquist passes on his knowledge of turkey enforcement and public relations by working with other members of his team and working as a field training officer. "David is always willing to assist other team members on turkey investigations and has taught other wardens how to detect turkey baiting violations," he said. "David is a field training officer for the warden training program. Whenever a class of new wardens is hired David is one of the senior wardens that train the new officers."

Youngquist said he was surprised to receive the award. "It makes you feel good about your education and enforcement efforts, and makes you think that maybe you are doing something right."

Wisconsin Conservation Warden Association

I want to become a WCWA member or renew my membership

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Regular and Associate Memberships
- ❑ $20 for one-year membership
- ❑ $200 for life membership

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- ❑ $25-$99 one year
- ❑ $100-$499, five year with certificate
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Corporate Sponsorships
- ❑ $250-$500 one year ($500 or more includes ad.)

Memberships expire on June 30. Please make your check payable to the WCWA and send it to P.O. Box 44, Madison, WI 53701-0044. Your e-mail will not be shared with anyone. It is for the sole purpose of communicating with our members.

Our purpose

The Wisconsin Conservation Warden Association (WCWA) exists to further conservation efforts within the state, without unionizing or collective bargaining, and is dedicated to all of the men and women who have served as Wisconsin Conservation Wardens since 1879.

Our objectives

- Promote natural resources education.
- Promote the profession of natural resources law enforcement.
- Strive to enhance conservation warden/community relationships.
- Provide encouragement, recognition and support to all members in their profession.
- Increase awareness and understanding of conservation and environmental issues.

Why join the WCWA?

- Receive the official WCWA magazine with information, pictures and stories that revolve around Wisconsin conservation wardens, past and present.
- Help support the WCWA Scholarship Program at UW-Stevens Point.
- Help establish and maintain a Conservation Warden Memorial Program.
- Help establish and maintain a Conservation Warden Museum.

Membership categories

- *Regular Membership* — Active and retired, fulltime permanent conservation wardens who have served part of their careers as wardens; past and present special and county conservation wardens; and active and retired law enforcement officers from other agencies.
- *Associate Membership* — Individuals, organizations and businesses expressing an interest in supporting the association.
- *Sponsor Membership* — Any individual or organization that wishes to provide additional financial support.
- *Corporate Membership* — Any business that provides financial support to the WCWA. Receive a free ad in this magazine with donation of $500 or more.

Consider a gift to the WCEF

The Wisconsin Conservation and Education Foundation is a non-profit public charity associated with the Wisconsin Conservation Warden Association. The WCEF:

• Awards 15 to 20 grants annually to Wisconsin conservation groups, teachers and conservation wardens that promote hunting and angling opportunities for the young and inexperienced; recognizes and supports dedicated volunteer safety education instructors; funds river watch programs to protect Wisconsin's natural resources; funds river and lake cleanup projects to improve habitats; and funds development of and improvements to exhibits and educational materials at nature centers and public schools.

- **Provides funding for four scholarships to natural resources law enforcement students selected by the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Points.**
- **Provides support for warden conferences.**
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Bowe named boating officer of year

By Barbara A. Schmitz

Scott Bowe says it is sheer bad luck. That's the only reason he can explain a series of fatal boat crashes he's investigated in recent years.

But the way he handled those cases is one of the key reasons he was chosen as the Wisconsin Boating Officer of the Year by National Association of State Boating Law Administrators or NASBLA.

"I worked with Scott in the field when I was a field warden in Ladysmith, and he was always very dedicated to doing boating enforcement work and educating the community," said Jeremy Peery who nominated Bowe for the honor. "But in the last year, he's been involved with several severe boating crashes, and one involved a wedding party where four people ended up dying," said Peery, who is now conservation warden supervisor for the Lower Chippewa Team. "He performed admirably and professionally in those cases," he said, noting they involved a lot of paperwork, interviews, and national media attention.

In June 2011, Bowe investigated a tubing accident on Lake Holcombe that killed a 29-year-old when the inner tube he was riding slammed into a concrete support pillar of a bridge. Then, in July, he investigated a boat collision on Lake Hallie that killed four, including three groomsmen celebrating an upcoming wedding. Two other accidents he investigated were serious, but did not result in fatalities.

Scott Bowe poses with his children, from left, Ryan, 2, Ben, 4, & Bridget, 7.

"There was nothing overly difficult about the cases," he said, "but they were just complex and involved a lot of tedious work to make sure everything got done."

Unfortunately, the 2011 boating accidents weren't the only ones Bowe has had to investigate. A May 2007 accident on Lake Holcombe injured nearly 20 people when a speedboat drove over the top of a pontoon boat, throwing people overboard and knocking people unconscious. The year before, he investigated a similar accident, also on Memorial Day weekend, which left a woman with serious head injuries. In that case, Bowe said he arrested the drivers of both boats with operating a vehicle while intoxicated, as well as the driver of the witness boat. Later in the summer, another boat ran over a flat-bottom boat on Otter Lake and the occupants were severely injured. Because of injuries like these, Bowe said he spends "as much time as he can" on educating people about boating safety, and he often works with lake associations to spread the word.

Bowe graduated from UW-River Falls in December 1992, and was hired in 1994 as a warden. He was temporarily assigned to Iron County before moving in December 1992 to his first permanent station in Wisconsin Dells. He moved to Chippewa County in spring 2002, and in May 2012, became supervisor for the Park Falls team.

He is married to Michele, and they have three children. He said he considers himself fortunate to work for the DNR. "I really believe in what I'm doing," he says. "It makes getting up and going to work easy every day, knowing that I'm able to play some small part in protecting the natural resources."