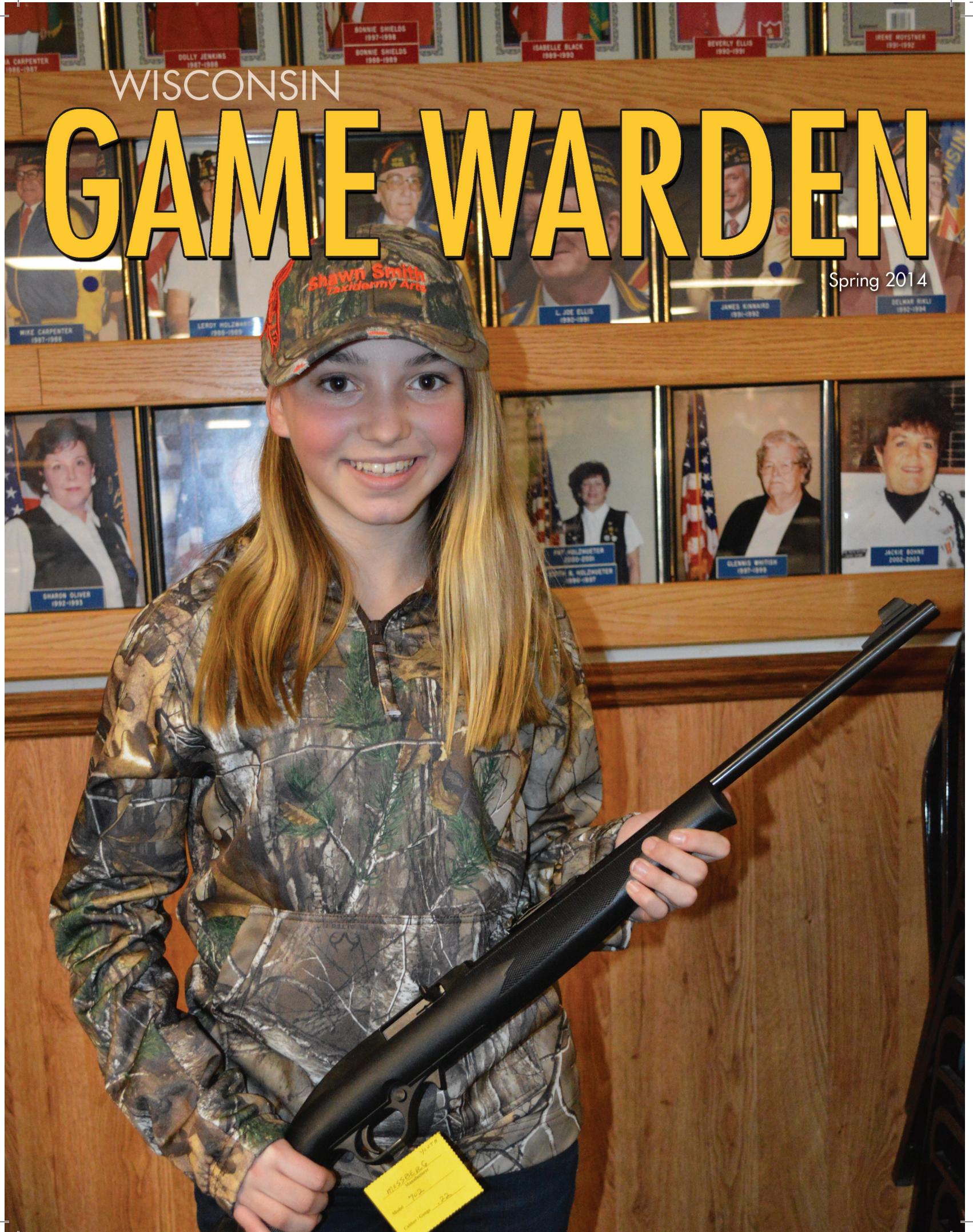


WISCONSIN

# GAME WARDEN

Spring 2014



— WISCONSIN —

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**On the Cover: The second annual WCEF banquet held on Feb. 22, 2014 was a success. Read all about it on Page 14.**

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## FROM THE WCEF PRESIDENT

By William Engfer

It has been a great past year for the Wisconsin Conservation Education Foundation and its partnership with the WCWA.

By the time this message gets to you we will have held our second annual fundraising banquet. Through your help last year, we were able to clear more than \$17,000 from the banquet. That money went directly back into regional projects through the WCWA that promoted many different activities to get kids into hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. There were also funds dedicated to help support the Warden Honor Guard and to offer scholarships to UW-Steven Point students. We hope that this year's banquet brings in similar revenues so that we can continue

to fund various efforts, goals and projects of WCEF and WCWA. THANK YOU!

Last year we set out to move the Foundation forward using the good footing that was given the Foundation from previous leadership. In my letter last year I set out some of our goals and strategies and I want to report back to you on their progress.

- Improving communications: The Foundation has a new website, [wiconservationfoundation.org](http://wiconservationfoundation.org), that enables us to let the world know what we are about and to interact with us. If you have not been to our site, please take some time to view it and go through the tabs. The ability for people to donate to our projects via the Internet has been a success. We also created a Facebook page for the foundation, as well as a bro-

## FROM THE WCEF PRESIDENT continued

chure that explains who we are and where the funds we raise go. If you received any correspondence from us, you will have noticed that we also have a new letterhead that includes more ways to contact us.

- Documenting our mission, goals and objectives: The Board of Directors was revised this January at the annual foundation meeting, which will help us move in new directions. We welcome our new board members Ryan Volenberg, Joe Ryder, Shannon Becker-Grob and Randy Dunkel. These members will serve with the current board members Mike Spors, John Daniel, Jim Jung, Mike Neal, Jim Horne and myself. The new Board revised the bylaws of the Foundation in January to reflect changes that have taken place since the inception of the foundation in 1989, allowing the board to operate more efficiently and effectively. At its next meeting the board will be finalizing the foundation's objectives for the next few years.
- Develop the groundwork for a long-term fundraising strategy: The foundation just held its second annual fundraising banquet, which is one of our strategies for fundraising; we

have also received funding and added a new scholarship to the list of ones we already give to students at UW-Stevens Point. The website has begun to generate donations to the foundation to help fund needed projects. In addition, we will be working on several other financial opportunities that have been brought to our attention recently; those should help us move the warden museum concept in a new direction.

For the future, we will look at developing the framework for mini traveling museums and virtual museums, and outside partnerships for funding these museum endeavors. We also want to create an opportunity for retired wardens to receive or purchase a unique identification item, as they have requested, that they can wear at special events. In addition, we are looking at taking on bigger projects within the state that will promote conservation and our mission, while also looking at how we can partner with other organizations to accomplish this. Your ideas and suggestions are always welcomed. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me at [Presidentwcef@gmail.com](mailto:Presidentwcef@gmail.com).

Sincerely,  
William Engfer

## FROM THE ARCHIVES: HAYNER, GAME WARDEN HURT BY ASSAILANTS IN 1933 ATTACK

*Editor's Note: Jim Chizek submitted this old news item that was dated May 2, 1933. He remembers wardens telling him of this episode, and said he believes the attackers were never apprehended.*

Working on meager information, state conservation officers were continuing today their efforts to solve the mystery surrounding a brutal assault upon Game Warden S. W. Hayner, of Eagle River.

The assault occurred at about 2:30 last Friday afternoon on what is known as the Stormy Banks of the Wisconsin River, about two miles south of Sisson's resort, near Gilmore Lake Road in Oneida County.

According to Warden Hayner, he had been investigating reports of beaver trapping in the area in which the assault took place. Early Friday he drove in on the Gilmore Lake Road and

followed a little used trail to Stormy Banks. He found the trappers's car and observed in it equipment used for beaver trapping.

### Unconscious Three Hours

Following the trail, Hayner came upon two men, both with guns drawn. He entered into conversation with them and was struck by one. So violent was the blow, the warden said, that he remembered nothing further for about three hours. His first conscious act was when he lifted the hood of his automobile, at about 6 p.m. and found that the distributor cap had been removed.

Hayner stumbled about two miles to a farmhouse and telephoned to Eagle River for help. A car was sent to get him and he has been under a physician's care in Eagle River since.

It is believed that Hayner was struck with a heavy, blunt instrument. One

tooth was knocked out and one side of his face was lacerated and bruised. The blow which felled him is believed not to have been the only one struck, as there was a concussion located in such a way as to indicate that the warden was hit several times and probably was kicked after being unconscious.

### Hayner Confused

Game wardens in Vilas and Oneida counties were assigned to the task of investigating the assault. The suddenness and fury of the attack was such, however, as to confuse Hayner's mind and clues found at the scene of the crime were meager.

Hayner is well known here, as he has cooperated with Oneida County wardens on local cases on several occasions and was at one time stationed in this county. His condition was reported as being fairly good today.

**This group of six, who served together in Echo Company during the Vietnam War, gathered again in 2012 for a reunion and to visit the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C. From left are Lynn Dixon, Hiawatha Jackson, Bruce Gant, Bruce Olson, Pat Lisi and William Kirkpatrick.**

By Pat Lisi

# BAND OF BROTHERS



Excuse me for not writing about natural resources. In fact, this story is as opposite as one can get in a magazine designed to embrace the genre of the great outdoors. However, the folks you're going to see and read about in the next few minutes did spend a lot of time "camping out" in countryside of stunning beauty and spectacular majesty. Please permit me to explain.

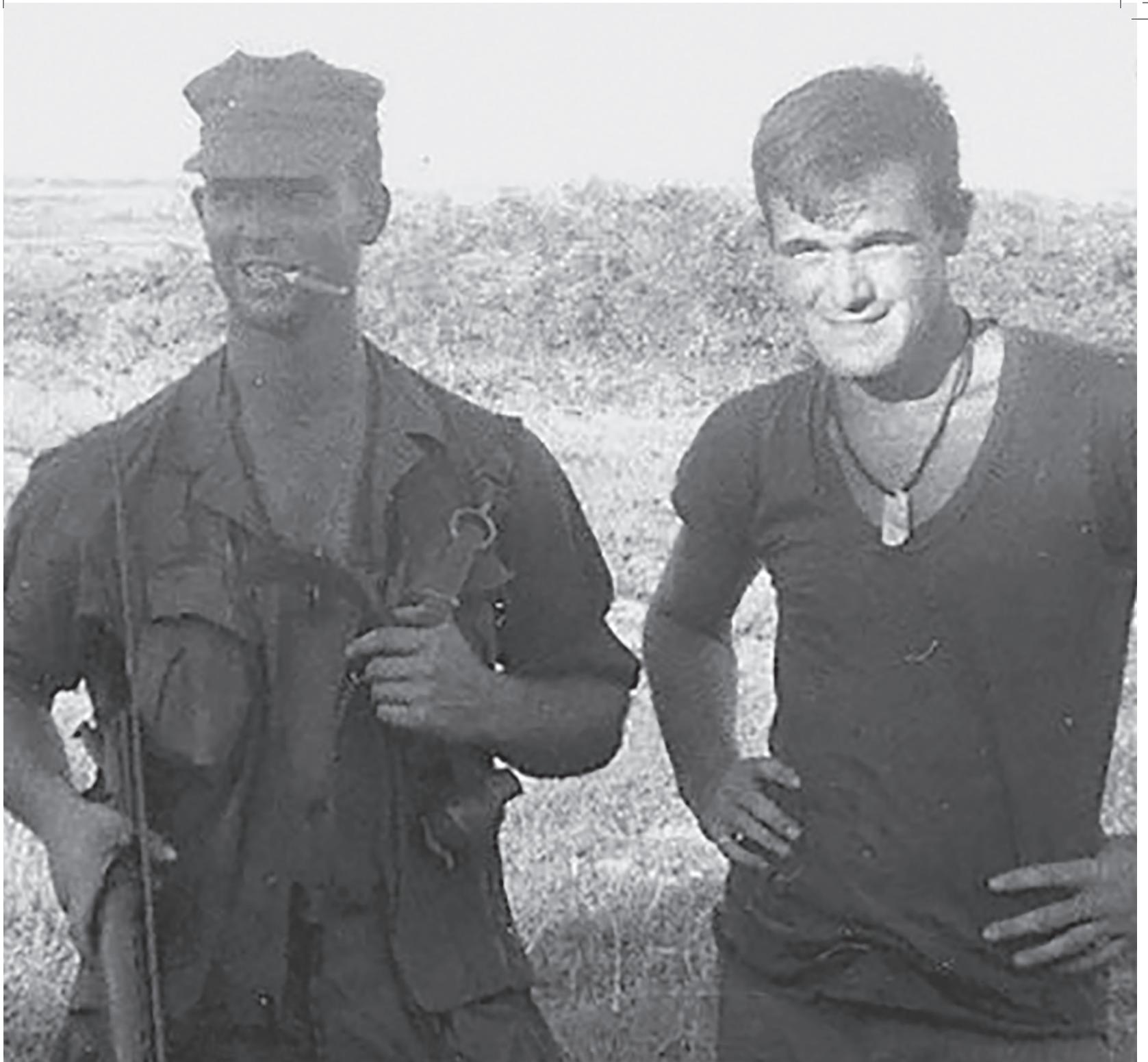
It was mid-July 1968 and I was a proud U.S. Marine, fresh out of boot camp and infantry training and ready for anything. I was assigned to Echo Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division. I had flown halfway across the world to join Echo Company and, to tell the truth, I wasn't sure what was going to happen to me or anyone else in my outfit over the next 13 months.

I landed in a "hot LZ" aboard a resupply helicopter late in the afternoon of July 18, and I immediately stepped into an unbelievable world of confusion and chaos. Echo Company had been engaged in heavy fighting for two days and this was a window to bring in ammunition, food, water, and new 'boot Marines' like me to beef up the platoons. It was also an opportunity to evacuate wounded Marines to the aid station in the rear, and to begin the journey home for those who did not survive the war.

The company "gunny" pointed the way to 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon and the 2<sup>nd</sup> squad, and that's when I met Cpl. Lynn Dixon who is pictured at the far left in the photograph of us six former Marines standing at the Wall in Washington, DC. Lynn was a devout Mormon, but

he had no hesitation pulling the trigger when it was necessary. And he was a superb marksman with his M-16 with open sights. He had been in 'Nam since early 1968 and had fought in Hue City, house-to-house combat, during the Tet Offensive. He was a great squad leader and I learned fast just by taking his cues and following his orders in firefights with the NVA and Viet Cong. In November, Lynn was wounded badly enough on Operation Meade River to be sent home for good. Although I only knew him for about 3 months, we reconnected in 1982 when he brought his family of eight from Billings, Mont. to Wisconsin on vacation.

The man to Lynn's right is Hiawatha Jackson and yes, that's his real name. Hi is from the Dallas area and he was my closest friend in Vietnam. Well, after Mike Wasserman was killed on Hill 100 in October 1968, that is. Hiawatha got to 'Nam a month before me and so our tours of duty pretty much coincided. We were good buddies because he and I had a knack for saving each other's hides! After a few weeks in Vietnam, we both became fire team leaders; a fire team in the Marines usually consists of four to six men. More times than I care to remember, Hi got my team and me out of trouble by ordering his team into the appropriate action to neutralize the situation. My team did the same for his team at every opportunity. I could write a ton just about Hiawatha Jackson. Fact: Before the Marines, Hi played tenor sax for "The Drifters." It took us many years to reconnect. His wife accidentally ran across my website one night and saw a photo and story I had published about Echo Company and Hiawatha. In



(Main photo) Pvt. 1st Class Pat Lisi, left, with squad leader Cpl. Lynn Dixon on July 23, 1968. (Far Left) Sgt. Bruce Olson, left, with Cpl. Hiawatha Jackson relax on China Beach in June 1969 during a three-day Echo Company R&R. (Left) 1st Lt. William "Kirk" Kirkpatrick, left, with Sgt. Bruce Olson sharpen their favorite knives in April 1969.

2012, she called me on the phone to verify who I was, and the rest is history. I was never so thrilled to see anyone like I was when Hi showed up at our company reunion in Quantico.

The big guy standing to Hiawatha's right is Bruce Gant from Miami. Bruce was a Navy corpsman, or medic if you're in the Army, and he was also the chief of the other corpsmen assigned to Echo Company during his tour of duty. A corpsman in a Marine rifle company in a combat zone is considered to be a true Marine in every sense of the word. Marines always protect their corpsmen at all cost and the reason is obvious. Several corpsmen won the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War. Bruce did not, but he did take home a Bronze Star Medal and two Purple Hearts in the year he spent with us. Bruce, who we called "Doc," told me at the 2012 reunion that he patched up just about every one of us during his time with Echo Company. "Your blood was on me, too, Lisi," he said. Bruce has been back to Vietnam several times to golf, of all things.

To Doc Gant's right, standing next to me, is a very interesting character. Bruce Olson, who back in 'Nam was our platoon sergeant, which is second in command of a Marine infantry platoon, was one tough, gutsy Marine. Sgt. Olson was always right up front when things got bad. It seemed he was almost bullet proof because no matter how fierce the fighting was, he managed to lead Marines much like you would see in a war movie. Bruce did two complete tours in Vietnam and in the end he earned three Purple Hearts and the Silver Star Medal. (There are only two higher decorations an enlisted Marine can earn: the Navy Cross and the Medal of Honor.) He wasn't completely immune to being shot or blown up, but he was always the last man evacuated out and the first one to return to the bush after his hospital stay. Bruce was from Connecticut when he enlisted in the Corps, but after Vietnam he moved to Australia and spent a long career as a game warden on the Great Barrier Reef. Bruce and I reconnected at the 2010 Echo Company reunion in San Diego. The outfit has been getting together during the even years since 2000.

The next guy in line is me, a little beat up from the war, but still a survivor just like the other five. I was known as "Sarge" in Vietnam because during my year and one month of duty there I held almost every leadership position in the platoon — from fire team leader to squad leader, platoon guide, and then platoon sergeant when Bruce Olson was wounded for the third time in June 1969 by a 100-pound box mine that was planted in the road.

On the far right is William "Kirk" Kirkpatrick who we knew as 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Kirkpatrick in Vietnam. Kirk, from West Chester, Penn., was the best platoon commander I had the pleasure of knowing and serving during my tour. (I had six platoon commanders in all.) If Sgt. Olson wasn't on the battlefield directing fire and barking orders, then Lt. Kirkpatrick was.

On May 15, 1969 a reinforced company of professional soldiers known as the NVA, or North Vietnamese Army regulars, ambushed our platoon. During this daylong firefight our platoon suffered 14 casualties and twice as many wounded including me, Jackson, Sgt. Olson and Lt. Kirkpatrick. Kirk was shot in the head by a NVA sniper and the last I saw Kirk they were hastily jamming him and several other casualties into a medevac bird. His face was completely bandaged and a corpsman had performed an emergency tracheotomy on him to keep him breathing. I never expected Kirk would survive his wounds. So I was stunned to see him at the 2010 reunion, and that's when I learned that the sniper



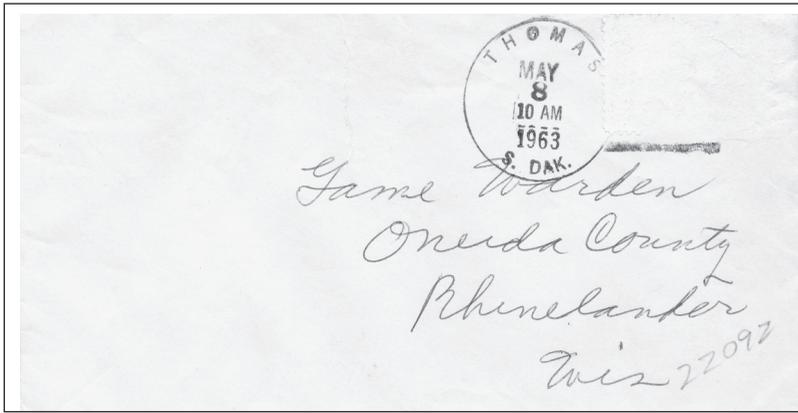
**Cpl. Pat Lisi, facing, assists Sgt. Bruce Olson, leaning over, and Corpsman Randy Baker, ground level, administering first aid to a wounded Vietnamese civilian. Collateral damage was the ugliest part of the entire war, Lisi says.**

had shot out his left eye and that he had indeed lived to tell his story.

It was wonderful that the six of us could make it to the 2012 Echo Company reunion in Quantico, Va. Our wives are not pictured here, but they also attended the reunion. We are all married to delightful women and we have lots of kids and grandkids among us. We all had great careers and are now retired and getting on with what's left of our lives. During the October 2012 reunion, our small clutch went to see all the monuments in D.C., which is just 40 miles up the highway from Quantico. The Vietnam War Memorial was the most somber and hallowed ground for us, and I'm not embarrassed to tell you that tears were shed. To see the Wall as a Vietnam combat veteran is something that is hard to explain, but at some point while you're there standing in front of all those names, it hits you like a ton of bricks. The pure insanity of the war is enough to make a sane person mutter in disbelief, because you actually knew some of the human beings whose names are, unfortunately, etched into that black granite forever.

But this story is not intended to be a downer. We actually have great times at our reunions! Not every story we recall among us is absolutely factual, but it doesn't really matter that much, does it? The important thing we take home after every encounter is that we truly were, and still are, a Band of Brothers who can only peel apart as each one of us passes from this earth. Courage, honor and commitment is the credo of the United States Marine Corps, and the six of us continue to live by this adage into our golden years.

*PAT LISI retired from the Wisconsin conservation warden force in August 2006 and lives in Saint George, Utah with his wife, Marjorie.*



## Letter seeks forgiveness

*Editor's Note: Retired Wisconsin Conservation Warden Sue Miller writes that she was going through some of her father's old files when she came across this letter and a copy of her father's response. It certainly is worth sharing here.*

The letter was dated May 7, 1963 and addressed to the Oneida County game warden. It read:

Dear Sir:

Back in August 1934, I went to Rhinelander to visit my brother. While I was there, I went with one of his friends to the river or lake near there and I rowed the boat while he trolled for muskies. Then we stopped and fished near some tree stumps and caught a few small fish. I did not have a license at that time.

I have been straightening out some of my back life. Please advise me what to do to make this right.

Yours truly,

Vernon Johnson

Thomas, South Dakota

**Warden Lawrence Miller wrote back on May 11, 1963:**

You sir, are a rare person to have even remembered what you did that long ago.

First of all, the Statutes of Limitations ran out long ago for any violation you may have committed here at Rhinelander in 1934.

Secondly, it is certainly my feeling that you have paid more penance over the years than anyone would have had they been subjected to a fine in a court of law.

It is unfortunate that we do not have more people like you in the world today. It would surely be a better place to live, and fish in.

With such diligence as yours, you surely are far ahead the rest of us in straightening out our back lives.

All good wishes to you in the future.

Sincerely,

Lawrence M. Miller

## LOOKING BACK



By Harland Steinhorst

### 125 years ago

- Wisconsin now has three “fish wardens” for the Great Lakes and four “game wardens” throughout the entire state. Total disbursements by the state for fish and game wardens was \$5,898.22, according to the Secretary of State.

### 100 years ago

- The “Kingfisher” was purchased for warden use on Green Bay and Lake Michigan. The law enforcement launch was docked in the city of Green Bay. Five smaller launches were also purchased, for a total cost of \$2,000.
- The State issued 21,000 non-resident fishing licenses.

### 75 years ago

- It was the first year of the resident fishing license requirement. The license fee was \$1 for fishing with two or more lines or fishing with a rod and reel. People over 16 years of age fishing with a single cane pole were exempt from the license requirement.

### 50 years ago

- Field wardens issued 469 citations for littering, including many citations for beer cans floating around fishing boats.
- Law enforcement has 279 boats of various sizes on inventory.
- State patrol officers and wardens now share the same two-way radio frequencies.

### 25 years ago

- Total warden positions funded is 174.
- “Gathering of the Gray” at Oconomowoc marked 110 years of service to the citizens of Wisconsin.
- Twelve candidates were in warden training.

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

## OBITUARIES

### Donald Bruce Knoke

Donald Bruce Knoke, 78, of Bayfield, died May 17, 2013 at his home with his loving wife by his side. He was born in the family farmhouse on Sept. 26, 1934 in Shiocton, the son of the late Marvin and Idella (Vanderhoff) Knoke.

Don was a 1952 graduate of Shiocton High School. He served two years in the U.S. Army and married Elizabeth Ann Thompson in 1956 in Shiocton; she preceded him in death in 1994. Don worked as a game warden in Oshkosh, Winneconne, Long Lake, Adams Friendship, Tomahawk and Bayfield. He married Heidi (Miller) Hanson on July 15, 2000 on Stockton Island.

Don loved to be outdoors hunting, fishing and trapping.

He is survived by his wife, Heidi of Bayfield; three children, Jeff (Diana) Knoke of Neenah, Jay (Jessica) Knoke of Wausau and Ellen Knoke of Eau Claire; six grandchildren, James (Sarah), Stephanie (Tom), Joe, Adam (Meghan), Ashley and Lizzie; six great-grandchildren, Lydia, Jasmine, Drake, Karma, Paige and Connor; sisters, Marlene and Diane (Dick); brother, Robert (Edie); sister-in-law, Mary Ellen; and nieces and nephews.

Besides his parents and first wife, his brother, Gilbert, preceded him in death.

Graveside services were held June 7, 2013 at the Northern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Spooner.

### Edward Clarence Thomsen

Edward Clarence Thomsen, 92, of Friendship, died Oct. 30, 2012 at Moundview Hospital in Friendship.

Edward wore many hats, but did so love his Church (Trinity Lutheran of Adams), The American Legion, The Honor Guard, The Masonic Temple (Adams and Friendship Lodges), and he held dear the many friends he had in these organizations. He was also a member of the VFW (Elderon) and the Purple Heart Organization.

Thomsen was always a game warden at heart and his career at the Department of Natural Resources (Conservation Department) echoed his passion for the outdoors, hunting and fishing. He was a fly fisherman who could read a stream like no other. He was an early pioneer of scuba diving and performed rescue searches throughout

Wisconsin. Edward still enjoyed participating in his trapshooting group.

Thomsen was a World War II veteran. He enlisted in the Army Infantry, despite having sight in only one eye. He attained the rank of staff sergeant and served in Sicily, at Anzio, Monte Cassino, Southern France, etc., and crossed the Rhine into Germany helping to liberate a Nazi death camp. He was wounded twice in Europe. Edward was called back into service for the Korean War in 1950 and served in both Korea and Japan. He recently accompanied other Wisconsin veterans to Washington, D.C. with the Badger Honor Flight.

He was born June 4, 1920 in Pulcifer, (Shawano County) Wis. to Edmund and Lenora Bergner Thomsen. He married his childhood sweetheart, Pauline Cannaday, on Sept. 6, 1947 and they celebrated their 65th anniversary.

Edward is survived by his wife, Pauline; daughter, Pamela Thomsen Fleishauer (Frederic); grandchildren Matt, Andy, Eli, Alyssa and Forrest; and great-grandchildren. Merceda VanderVeen and Mark Hemmrich further survive him.

His parents and three sisters, Lillian McNulty Grabs, Alice Feavel and Isabelle Thomsen, preceded him in death.

Edward was known for his storytelling and sense of humor. He had a love of poetry and was able to recite long poems from memory. He was incredibly courageous with a generous spirit. Edward's treasure was his family and his friends. We know that he would want to tell all those he loved, "Be of good cheer!"

He was buried in the Elderon Cemetery.

### Edward Nelson

Edward Nelson, 80, a longtime Minong area resident, died on July 1, 2013.

He was born on Nov. 19, 1932 in Chicago to Charles and Valentine (Shaughnessy) Nelson. He attended Catholic grade school and high school in Chicago, and earned his bachelor's degree in conservation from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Ed proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy.



He was employed as a game warden for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for 21 years before his retirement in 1985. It was a career he thoroughly enjoyed.

Nelson was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Minong, the Outdoor Writer's Association, writing columns titled "The Great Outdoors," Spooner Golf Club and a former member of the Spooner Muskie Club. He enjoyed his computer, reading, playing bridge, tying fishing flies, watercolor painting and woodworking. He was also an avid sportsman and loved to hunt and fish. His greatest pleasure was spending time with his family and friends, especially his three grandchildren.

He is survived by one daughter, Elizabeth "Libby" (Todd) Smith, Rice Lake, Wis.; one son, Charles "Chuck" Nelson, Minong; three grandchildren, Ethan, Emily and Ella; one sister, Donna (Tom) Howard, Wild Rose, Wis.; as well as several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife in October 2012 and his parents.

Nelson was buried in the Greenwood Cemetery in Minong with military honors by the Duluth Honor Guard.

### Herbert J. Schneider

Herbert J. Schneider, 83, of Crystal River, Fla. and Minocqua, Wis., died Aug. 23, 2013, at his summer home in Minocqua.

He was born Oct. 10, 1929, to Herbert B. and Rose Schneider in Adams, Wis. He graduated from Adams-Friendship High School in 1947

and on Oct. 12, 2001, Herb was inducted into the school's Athletic Hall of Fame as a three-sport athlete. He received honors in football, basketball and track. As the starting center, Schneider was named to the All-Conference first team in 1947.

After high school graduation he spent two years in the Navy on the USS Coral Sea, but then was called home to take care of his two orphaned brothers.

Herb married Betty Mann in Arkdale, Wis., in 1951. They had two daughters,



Pamalla and Cindy, and later two grandchildren, Herbie and Rose. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather.

Herb was always interested in law enforcement and loved nature. It was his dream in life to become a game warden. He was an Adams County game warden, a deputy sheriff and a member of the Wisconsin State Patrol before becoming a state warden in March 1958. He was soon assigned to Stevens Point and was known as C-165. He transferred to Woodruff in April 1973 and worked there as a field warden until his retirement on Oct. 1, 1983.

He relished working in the field and chose to remain a field warden throughout his career despite chances for promotion. During his tenure at Stevens Point, Schneider became well known to the university staff for his expertise and assistance in developing their conservation studies. He spent endless hours tutoring students. Many of these students were inspired by Schneider and later did become state conservation wardens.

While at UW-Stevens Point, Herb and William Bablitch, then district attorney, received a \$1,500 reward for apprehending the slayers of elk at Jordan Park. The two used the money to set up a scholarship fund for natural resource students. In February 1973, UW-SP College of Natural Resources named Schneider Outstanding Conservationist of the Year at its annual banquet.

While at Woodruff, Herb's persistent monitoring of water and shoreline alteration permits led to protection for these valuable resources. He started a new chapter of the Izaak Walton League to help protect the bountiful resources surrounding the Woodruff-Minocqua area. His efforts did and will make a difference to those who enjoy the outdoors.

After retirement, Herb and Betty spent the winters in Florida and summers in Minocqua. Herb enjoyed spending time with family and friends. He enjoyed reading, fishing, hunting and playing golf. While in Florida one winter in February, Herb had two holes-in-one in a two-week span.

Schneider is survived by his wife, Betty; daughters, Pamalla R. Schneider of Stevens Point and Cindy A. Cyra (Greg) of Minocqua; grandchildren, Herbert J.

Coulthurst of Madison and Rose Schneider of Stevens Point; and brother, Robert Schneider of St. Petersburg, Fla.

A scholarship was established in Herb's name for law enforcement at the UW-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources.

#### **Mark S. Johnson**

Mark S. Johnson, 62, of Wisconsin Dells and formerly of Boscobel, died on Oct. 2, 2013 at St. Mary's Hospital in Madison surrounded by loving family, friends and caregivers. He was born on June 30, 1951 in Sparta, Wis., the son of Albert F. and Beverly A. (Hennarichs) Johnson.

He graduated from Boscobel High School in 1969, worked shortly for Advanced Transformer and then enlisted in the service with hope of becoming an airborne ranger. While home on leave after jump school, he suffered an injury preventing him from fulfilling his service goals. Later, Mark worked for Wick Homes and then enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point where he earned a degree in natural resources. Mark worked for the Department of Natural Resources for more than 30 years in the Adams-Friendship and Wisconsin Dells area as a forestry technician, park ranger, and deputy conservation warden. He received numerous awards for outstanding state and community service.

Mark married Kathleen Chamberlain on Sept. 27, 1975 at the United Methodist Church in Boscobel. He was devoted to his family, proud of his children's accomplishments, and enjoyed doing activities with his grandchildren. He loved the outdoors and enjoyed hunting, fishing, boating, camping and wildlife preservation. He loved to tinker with "his toys," building, fixing and riding motorcycles, boats, jeeps, ATVs, and tractors. He also loved cooking, especially wild game and hog roasts, gardening, canning and grilling. He was eager to surround himself with friends, tell stories, entertain and help with projects. In retirement he enjoyed teaching his 2-year-old springer spaniel Buddy new tricks.



Johnson is survived by his wife, Kathleen Johnson of Wisconsin Dells; a son, Justin M. Johnson of Baraboo; a daughter, Porscha K. Johnson of Wisconsin Dells; three grandchildren, Jessika, Janessa and Jayden; and three sisters, Catherine Corpian and special friend Karl Jacobson of McGregor Ia., Lona (Regg) Adams of Boscobel and Linda (Jorge) Polanco of Onalaska. He is also survived by sister-in-laws, Patricia (Bill) Roseliep of Boscobel, Alisa (Rick) Oswald of Prairie du Chien and Marcia (Charles) Elliott of California; brother-in-law, Gary (Linda) Chamberlain of Fennimore; his stepmother, Lois Johnson of Boscobel; and his mother-in-law, Eleanor Chamberlain of Prairie du Chien. His parents and his father-in-law, Paul Chamberlain, preceded him in death.

Funeral services were held on Oct. 8 and he was buried in the Boscobel Cemetery.

#### **Gerald L. "Jerry" Trumm**

Gerald L. "Jerry" Trumm, 66, of Poynette, died on Nov. 1, 2013.

He was born on May 7, 1947 in Boscobel, the son of Jacob J. and Elizabeth A. (Smethurst) Trumm. He married Madonna "Donna" Osterhaus at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Platteville. Jerry worked at Nelson Dewey State Park in Cassville while attending UW-Platteville and earned a degree in biology.

On Dec. 9, 1969 he was inducted into the U. S. Army. He was a member of Echo Recon 1/5 First Air Cav, Vietnam. He was wounded in the invasion of Cambodia in June 1970 and hospitalized at several hospitals for nearly one year due to his combat wounds and malaria. He received the Purple Heart, Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medals.

Trumm returned to the DNR to work in fisheries then went into parks, managing Cadiz Springs State Park near Browntown. He was promoted to assistant park manager at Interstate State Park at St. Croix Falls and later became assistant superintendent at Kettle Moraine State Forest at Eagle. From there he was promoted to superintendent of Mirror Lake and



## OBITUARIES

Rocky Arbor state parks near Wisconsin Dells, where he also served as a special conservation warden until his retirement in 2004.

Jerry had been active in the Lake Delton Volunteer Fire Department and EMS, where he retired as assistant chief. He was a member of the Poynette Curling Club and Dekorra Lutheran Church.

He is survived by his wife, Donna Trumm, of Poynette; his children, Ryan Trumm, of Poynette, Robin (Miloni) Trumm, of Woodbury Minn., and Laura (Jeffrey) Eckert, of Edmond, Okla.; his grandchildren, Nolan, Sahil, Vishal and Adelinde; his brother, Dale (Heidi) Trumm, of Verona; his sister, Ann (Dr. Peter) Langenstroer, of Waukesha; his aunts, Bernice Frank and Cleo Reithmeyer; and other relatives and many friends. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral services were held on Nov. 7, 2013 at Dekorra Lutheran Church with the Rev. Ryan Rouse officiating, followed by burial in the Dekorra Norwegian Lutheran Cemetery with Poynette area veterans providing military honors.

### Kenneth L. Beghin

Kenneth L. Beghin, 86, of Mt. Horeb, Wis., died on Dec. 22, 2011 at Meriter Hospital in Madison.

He was born June 4, 1925 in Mauston, Wis. to Louis and Clara (Myers) Beghin. He graduated from Wisconsin Dells High School and from the U.S. Army Officers Candidate School. Beghin was a World War II veteran serving in the U.S. Navy. Upon his discharge in 1946, Ken was hired by the Wisconsin Conservation Department where he served as chief pilot and warden. He retired from the Conservation Department in 1982.

In his retirement, he spent time farming, hunting and fishing. He also enjoyed horses and his dog. He owned Blue Valley Trucking in Mt. Horeb.

Survivors include a son, Dr. John (Denise) Beghin; a daughter, Barbara (Mark Keenan) Beghin; many grandchildren; a stepson, Dr. Scott Pennington; a step-



daughter, Pam Marohn; his brother, Don (Marian) Beghin; his sister, Betty Nelson; a sister-in-law, Dorothy Beghin; and nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Clarice; a brother, Robert Beghin; and a brother-in-law, Ben Nelson.

Funeral services were held Dec. 24, 2011 at the Ellestad Camacho Funeral Home in Mt. Horeb with the Rev. Rick Heilman officiating. Burial was at the Mt. Horeb Union Cemetery with full military honors.

### Tell us when you hear of a warden, member death

We can't print obituaries if you don't tell us about them. We're making up for ones we've missed in this issue, but in the future, email [write2us@sbcglobal.net](mailto:write2us@sbcglobal.net) the names of deceased wardens or WCWA members, as well as where they are from, so we can print their obituary here. Also submit any career-related information on the deceased that could be added to the obituary.

## Keep this quiet, please

*Editor's Note: Susan Miller submitted this article, found in her dad's files, that appeared in the May 2, 1963 Cornell Courier. I think you'll agree that it's worth sharing.*

### By Dennis Losness

CONFIDENTIALLY, this story should be told in "confidential" tones — even whispered. It's true. It didn't happen in this community, but it's still true.

Seems a "bunch of the boys" were out spearing fish one recent night. Unfortunately for them, the game wardens were also out that night. Two wardens came upon a car parked by a stream. Through the trees they could hear the unmistakable sounds of a spear hitting the water.

One of the wardens looked into the car to determine if anyone was there. No sign of anyone until one of the windows was silently rolled down. The warden leaned in and whispered, "How you doing?" The man whispered back, "I don't know." The guy was, apparently, the lookout. While one warden kept up a whispered exchange with the lookout, the other headed for the stream.

The warden saw one of the men concentrating on his spearing as he neared the stream and asked in a loud stage whisper, "How many you got?" "Two," was the answer.

Confidentially, when the whispering finally ended, this pair and their two companions had problems that were no longer confidential.



# Where's Bruce?



Bruce Buening, left, and Duane Harpster at opening day at Milwaukee County Stadium.

By Duane Harpster

I was one of the oldest trainee game wardens ever, born and raised in the far north, and shipped off to the largest metropolitan area in the state to be trained by the legendary Bruce Buening, who among his many accomplishments received the Haskell Noyes Efficiency Award. From the outside, it didn't look like a trainer/trainee match made in heaven, but it had some things going for it from the get-go.

During the spring, I was to spend six weeks stationed in Milwaukee while my fellow trainees went off to more "traditional" spring venues. I reported in to the Southeastern District Headquarters where I was greeted by District Warden Norm Wood, then Recreational Specialist and college acquaintance Doug Hoskins and Bruce.

There is nothing like spring in Milwaukee! Spawning rainbow trout, trout-stocked lagoons, ready and willing customers and opening day at the ballpark. What more could a warden want?

It's probably fortunate that this was the "old days," when you could work as much as you wanted or work until the job was done. But the job never is really done, especially in Milwaukee.

It was immediately obvious to me that Bruce loved to catch people; we had that in common. It also was apparent that he knew how and where to catch people, that he liked to teach the ropes to a willing trainee, and that he loved baseball. I should mention here that as a youngster, I had been to Milwaukee many times to see Braves games. For you kids, that was the team that made Milwaukee famous before getting hijacked to Atlanta.

I had loved going to Milwaukee and I actually remembered how to get around a little bit. But now I spent considerable time studying the map, paying close attention while riding with Bruce, and taking different routes to and from my lodging in New Berlin. Pretty soon, Bruce felt comfortable enough with my ability to get around that he sent me off on my own a couple times. But, I digress. Every training station has those signature moments one

never forgets. Here are three that I will never forget with Bruce.

One, we were working Oak Creek late one night when three fellows showed up and tried their best to grab some big, old rainbows. As we went up to their car, one of them turned out to be a less-than-upstanding citizen who I personally knew from the Minocqua and Woodruff area where I had worked a couple months earlier. To say he was surprised to see me would be an understatement. He blurted out, "What are you doing here?" I smartly responded, "I followed you down." Bruce loved it!

Two, we were working the Menomonee River when a fellow took off running as soon as he saw us. We didn't know why he took off since we never saw him fishing. But I was confident he wouldn't get away since Bruce was a marathon runner. Apparently, our suspect knew that since he dove into the river and, holding his fishing rod over his head, he used the sidestroke to swim across the river, then climbed onto the shore where he fled into the rail yard.

We crossed on a bridge, took up his wet foot tracks and followed the tracks until the trail dried up, literally. Despite searching numerous abandoned buildings, we never found him. When another warden asked why we chased the man if we didn't see him do anything wrong, we responded: "They run, we chase them. That's what wardens do." He then responded, "At least you weren't dumb enough to jump in the river after him."

Third, Bruce and I accomplished the ultimate — catching a spearer, a snagger, a hand grabber and an over-bagger, all in one evening. We followed that up by treating ourselves to a hard-earned pizza.

What else did I learn? That even though it was Milwaukee, the fishermen knew their warden, and on several occasions I was looked at with suspicion and asked, "Where's Bruce?"

But I also learned how to have fun and work hard. Lastly, I learned that on opening day, you don't work. You tailgate!

*DUANE HARPSTER is a retired Wisconsin conservation warden now living in Boulder Junction.*

# All it took was a hike to get Young hooked on nature

By Stephanie Daniel-Merkel

As a child, Tony Young wasn't what you would call an "outdoorsy" person. He admits he had little, if any, affection for nature. But just one experience would change that, having a profound effect on the course of his future.

While in grade school, a friend's father took his son and Young for a hike in Whittall Park in Milwaukee County, giving the children an introduction to nature.

"I was immediately hooked on nature at that point," explained Young. "All it took was someone to take me for a hike, and now, I'm a game warden."

That one positive encounter with nature led to a love of paddling, camping and fishing, and eventually a decision to study natural resources in college.

Young went on to receive a bachelor's degree in natural resources from Northland College, Ashland, in 2009. He then worked for the U.S. Forest Service as a wilderness ranger in the Boundary Waters of Northern Minnesota.

His mother, Carmen Figueroa, and his grandparents, Daniel and Gregoria Acosta, were among his greatest supporters.

"My family had a very positive influ-



**Tony Young paddles in the Missouri Ozarks with his dog Ray Ray.**

ence on me by helping me be the best person I could be, regardless of what I ended up doing with my life," said Young.

Young said he knew he wanted to work in the outdoors, but wasn't sure in what capacity until he had the opportunity to work with conservation wardens. After doing ride-a-longs with Warden Amie Egstad of Bayfield, and interning with Warden Steve Sanidas of Waukesha, Young knew what he wanted to do.

"Ultimately, it was the total experience that had the greatest effect on me," said Young. "There are many duties of a warden, and seeing everything that wardens do made me realize the impact a warden

can have on a community."

In 2013, Young was assigned to the Port Washington workstation in Ozaukee County.

"I wanted to be able to do something with my life that allowed me to make an impact on our natural resources by doing whatever it takes to protect them," he said. "Being a warden allows me to do that in a variety of ways."

The variety of a warden's duties keep each day interesting. Young enjoys the interaction with people on a daily basis, and loves the moments during the day when he is out patrolling in a boat on Lake Michigan, riding the snowmobile trails,



**Tony Young helps at a recent Sheboygan County Dive Team training by shuttling divers from site to site.**

or walking in the woods. These aspects along with the variety of law enforcement cases make each day exciting.

“My most interesting case was with an individual who intentionally struck a deer with his truck and it was all on video,” explained Young. “That was very unique.”

The case involved a 29-year-old West Bend man who reported hitting a deer with his vehicle while on his way to a fishing spot in Port Washington in April 2013. The driver wanted to retain possession of the deer, so Young was asked to investigate the incident before issuing a tag.

During the investigation, it was found that a nearby business, We Energies, caught the entire incident on its power plant surveillance video, which showed the deer being intentionally run down. The driver was later charged with illegal hunting of deer, and in December 2013 was ordered in Ozaukee County Circuit Court to serve 90 days in jail and pay a \$1,000 fine. The driver is also prohibited from applying for DNR licenses, such as those required for hunting and fishing, for three years.

While cases like that are interesting, the opportunity to work with children is particularly important to Young. Through his experience, Young understands that one moment can change a child’s way of thinking for life. By doing such things as helping teach safety classes and working with the Learn to Hunt and Fish programs in Ozaukee County, he hopes every child he encounters will have a moment like he did on that hike as a child.

“Hopefully I can make a similar influence on others. It would be rewarding to have that effect on a kid,” he explained. “I know how rewarding it has been for me.”

*STEPHANIE DANIEL-MERKEL is a freelance writer from Oshkosh.*

## We want to stay in touch with you

**But we need your help to do it. The easiest — and least expensive — way to communicate and keep in touch with our members is through email. But to email you, we NEED your email address!**

**Please send your current email address to Ryan Propson, the WCWA membership coordinator, at [wcmembership@gmail.com](mailto:wcmembership@gmail.com).**

**WCWA President Randy Dunkel said many members are missing out on information because the organization does not have an email for them or has an incorrect email. So please email Propson today with your current information.**

## Articles, photos sought for Fall 2014 WGW issue

*Wisconsin Game Warden Magazine* is looking for interesting articles that deal with the great outdoors. The deadline for the fall issue is Aug. 15, 2014.

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 emailed as a Word document to [write2us@sbcglobal.net](mailto:write2us@sbcglobal.net). When possible, include photographs to go with your story. They can be mailed or emailed to Schmitz. Emailed photos should be at least 4” x 6” and 300 dpi, or 8” x 10” and at least 150 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 Ryan Propson at [wcmembership@gmail.com](mailto:wcmembership@gmail.com).

**Left: Wardens Jeremy Cords and Jon Scharbarth smile for the camera. Middle: Ten-year-olds Jerad Fedkenheuer, left, and Aiden Burkeland, both of Deerfield, are wishing hard that their tickets will be drawn in the youth gun raffle. Right: Abigail Zindars, 12, of Mukwanago, shows off the gun she won in the youth raffle.**

2014 WCEF banquet raises funds for conservation programs, scholarships



Good conversation. Good food.

# GOOD TIMES

But most importantly, a good cause.

**By Barbara A. Schmitz**

In many ways, the second annual Wisconsin Conservation & Education Foundation banquet was a repeat performance of the inaugural banquet held one year earlier.

About 200 people attended the banquet, held Feb. 22 in Madison, for a chance to win door prizes, raffles or auctions with prizes varying from firearms, to trips, hunting equipment, artwork, jewelry and more.

The amount raised this year was not available by press deadline, but funds will again be used to help pay for scholarships at UW-Stevens Point, provide grants for conservation projects like river clean-ups or honor guard uniforms, and provide funds for learn-to-hunt programs and other

events that meet the foundation's mission of supporting and promoting conservation education here in Wisconsin, said WCEF President Bill Engfer.

"We were happy with the turnout, and the banquet seemed to run very smoothly," Engfer said. "There was a good mixture of raffles, and of live and silent auctions. We received a lot of compliments on the food and the variety of prizes."

There was also variety in the people who attended — from retired and current wardens, to DNR employees and the general public, he said. Plus, he said they were excited that more children attended this year. "We do a free raffle for the kids because

we want to get them involved at a younger age so they develop an understanding why conservation is so important," Engfer said. "These kids will determine the future of conservation in our world."

Engfer said each year they try to offer some unique items for raffles or auctions. For instance, this year Chuck Horne donated a box of hand-tied fishing flies, and Mike Kitt donated a hand-carved walking stick and fish decoy. In addition, Jill Schartner donated use of her cabin and pontoon boat.

Lynne Hettrick also donated two Terry Redlin prints, with the proceeds from their sale going to purchase more honor guard



**Main Photo: Shannon Becker-Grob shows off her acrylic painting, “Harold’s Paradise,” which was auctioned off; Top: Deb Wilson stands for the colorful and one-of-a-kind quilt she made to benefit the WCEF; Bottom: Chief Warden Todd Schaller helps himself to chicken at the buffet table. Bottom Right: Mike Spors, Vice President of the WCEF, served as the banquet’s emcee.**

uniforms.

One of the top-selling items was a 20” x 20” acrylic painting by Shannon Becker-Grob. The painting, done from a photograph and titled “Harold’s Paradise,” showed Harold Hettrick, the former assistant chief warden who died in 2004, hunting with his dog.

“The Foundation is all about teaching kids environmental conservation, and that is extremely important,” said Becker-Grob, explaining why she agreed to do a painting for the second year. “We need to get kids enjoying all Wisconsin has to offer, and this Foundation helps to do that by helping to fund programs like safety or hunter education.”

Becker-Grob said she started the painting last March, and finished it just days before the banquet. She estimated it took her 100 to 120 hours.

A former customer service representative with the DNR, Becker-Grob said she is a big proponent for the WCEF and the work they do. That’s one reason why she has agreed to serve on their Board of Directors. “They are just a wonderful group to work with, and this is all for a very good cause.”

That’s also why Deb Wilson, of Marshfield, agreed to make a one-of-a-kind quilt called “Into the Wild,” with each square depicting different Wisconsin animals. Wilson said retired warden Joe Ryder told her about the WCEF. “I was so moved by what they do that I offered to make a wildlife based quilt,” she said.

Wilson said it was a lot of fun to make the quilt; her favorite squares are the ones that show the animals’ silhouette — a wolf, mallard and a deer. While she designed and embroidered it, her friend, Sarah Bohman, of Stratford, quilted it.

Wilson said she was impressed with the banquet. “The camaraderie of this organization and the fellowship is good for my heart,” she said. “I’m really enjoying myself.”

Engfer said while raising money is the major purpose of the banquet, it also is an opportunity for people to network and talk. In fact, he said interest in the Foundation and its mission was up after last year’s banquet, thanks to more people learning what the Foundation does and spreading the word.

“We want to keep doing things that make it enjoyable for people to come here,” he said. “It’s not just a banquet to raise money for a good cause; it’s also a social event where friends who haven’t seen each other for a long time can get together and talk.”

For more information on the Foundation, go to [wiconservationfoundation.com](http://wiconservationfoundation.com).

# Rest in Peace

*Activities surround 100th anniversary of passenger pigeon's extinction*

**By Barbara A. Schmitz**

At one time, they were the most abundant bird in North America and likely the world. Yet 2014 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of the last passenger pigeon.

So how did passenger pigeons, which at times darkened the sky above for days because of their sheer volume, become extinct in a relatively short time?

Stanley Temple, a Beers-Bascom professor emeritus in conservation at UW-Madison and a senior fellow with the Aldo Leopold Foundation, answered that question and others in his talk, “Remembering a Lost Bird: Lessons from the Past for a Sustainable Future.” The Winnebago Audubon Society and the Oshkosh Bird Club sponsored Temple’s program in February at the Oshkosh Public Library.

“We are trying to take advantage of this event — the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of the last passenger pigeon — to remind people of the story,” he said. Many people don’t know the story or realize the passenger pigeon is extinct; they confuse it with the common homing pigeon, he said.

Yet the passenger pigeon was unique. It resembled a mourning dove, but was about 1½ times its size and had iridescent plumage. Its closest relative, the band-tailed pigeon, still lives.

In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, one of every four birds was a passenger pigeon, Temple said. “If you took them and lined them up tail to beak, you could circle the earth’s equator 22 times,” he said.

What people know about the passenger pigeon is based on observations of 19<sup>th</sup> century naturalists:

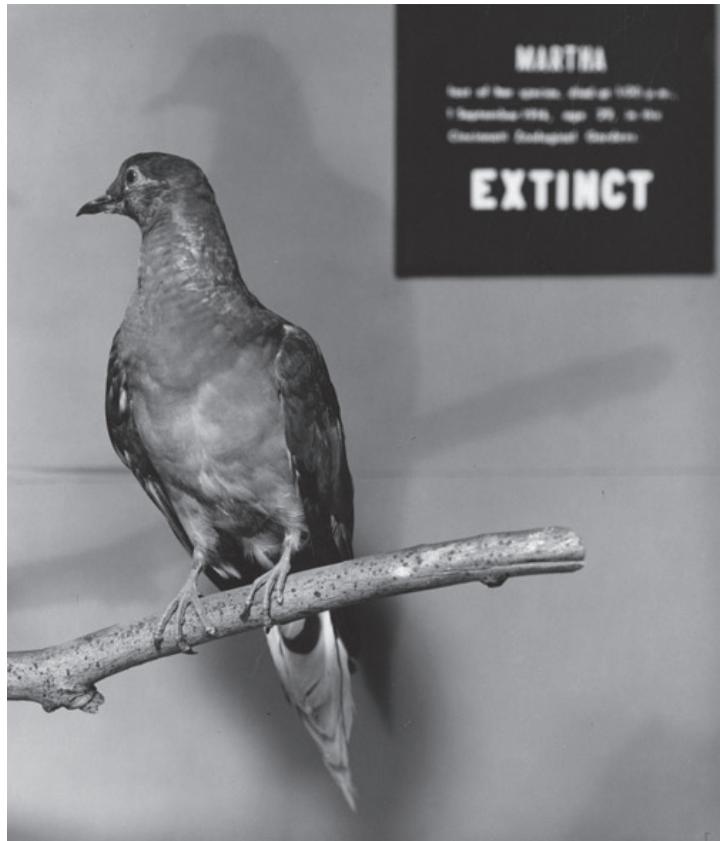
In Kentucky, Alexander Wilson wrote in 1810 that it was dangerous to walk in the woods when the birds were nesting since so many would nest in one tree that they could take down an entire tree with their weight.

In 1831 in Ohio, John James Audubon described three successive days of darkened skies and falling dung as passenger pigeons flew overhead.

In 1850, John Muir of Wisconsin wrote about it being a “memorable day” when passenger pigeons would come to their farm since it meant they would have food on the table.

In 1871, the largest nesting ever recorded occurred in central Wisconsin near Wisconsin Dells. That colony of many millions of birds covered 850 square miles with nests in almost every tree. It is reported that one Sparta gun dealer sold 512,000 rounds of ammunition during this nesting period.

“Passenger pigeons were known for their abundance and for wandering in search of abundant food,” Temple said. “From year to year, there was no way of predicting where they would go.” In fact, thousands of places around the eastern U.S. are named after this historic bird.



**“Martha,” on display in the newly opened Bird Hall, c. 1956. Image from Smithsonian Institution Archives. No photograph of a living passenger pigeon in the wild has yet been found.**

The passenger pigeon was tied to Eastern Deciduous forests, which provided the birds a diet of nuts and seeds from the forest trees, he said. “They were nomadic because their supply of food was episodic so they had to wander around to find the right place at the right time.” Acorns and beechnuts were mainstays in their diet.

Because of its sheer numbers, estimated at 3 billion to 5 billion, passenger pigeons had an advantage over their predators like hawks. “Since they nested by the millions, hawks could only take a small percentage of birds; that increased their chances of survival.”

The nesting of passenger pigeons was said to be spectacular. “Hundreds of nests would be in every tree,” Temple said. Although they only laid one or two eggs, their population continued to grow because of their habit of predator swamping.

But it was during this nesting period that passenger pigeons were most vulnerable since they stayed put for about one



**Stanley Temple said the passenger pigeon story has a lesson to society today.**

month. That became key, when in 1860 market hunters found a high demand for the bird.

“Every time they tried to nest, they would be pillaged by market hunters,” Temple said. Pigeoners, or market hunters, would follow the pigeons wherever they went. “They were continuously being exploited and slaughtered by the millions, while denying them the opportunities to reproduce.”

Passenger pigeon populations started declining 20 percent every year because of this excessive exploitation, he said.

“But people were still in this frontier mentality,” he said. “We had no conservation mentality. The human population tripled and urban areas started to grow. Passenger pigeons provided a lot of food for a lot of people that was easy to get.”

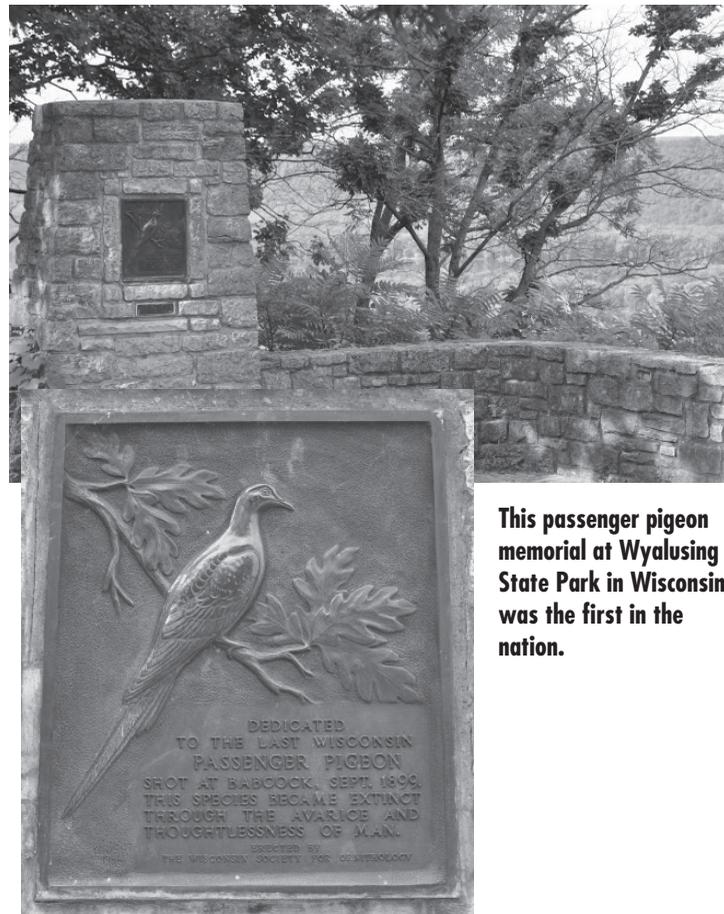
The telegraph and railroads also aided in the passenger pigeon’s demise. “The telegraph alerted the market hunters where the birds were,” Temple said, “and the trains allowed them to get there quickly.”

There are many accounts of passenger pigeons being hauled in thousands of barrels, each filled with 300 gutted and plucked birds and packed with ice, as they were transported to urban markets.

Other birds were captured alive and used in hunting competitions. In other words, instead of clay pigeons, the hunters used the real ones.

The last big nesting of passenger pigeons occurred in Petokey, Mich. in 1878 and covered 400 miles. After that nesting attempts were small and scattered.

But despite the obvious decline in numbers, there still were no conservation laws, Temple said. “And hunting continued year-round unabated.”



**This passenger pigeon memorial at Wyalusing State Park in Wisconsin was the first in the nation.**

“It happened so quickly that people couldn’t believe it,” Temple said.

The last passenger pigeon in the wild was shot in 1902 in Laurel, Ind. Then, on Sept. 1, 1914, the last surviving passenger pigeon died at the Cincinnati Zoological Gardens. Named Martha, the pigeon is believed to have been hatched in Wisconsin, but it is not known whether she was taken from the wild or raised in captivity, Temple said. She was 29 years old at the time of her death.

“There was a lot of awareness at the time,” Temple said, “but they still didn’t do much to stave it off.”

However, a passenger pigeon memorial in Wyalusing State Park, dedicated in May 1947 and the first in nation, reminds people of the bird’s extinction. The plaque states that the memorial is dedicated to the last Wisconsin passenger pigeon in Wisconsin, which was shot at Babcock in September 1899. It adds that the pigeon “became extinct through the avarice and thoughtlessness of man.”

Has America learned from the story of the passenger pigeon? The answer is somewhat. “Other birds, fish and animals have become extinct since then because of overkill,” he said. But some species have rebounded after being on the brink of extinction, including Trumpeter swans, Sandhill cranes, whooping cranes and Dickcissels, Temple said.

Temple said Project Passenger Pigeon is planning activities throughout 2014 to commemorate the passenger pigeon and to promote the conservation of species and habitat, strengthen the relationship between people and nature, and foster the sustainable use of natural resources. For more information, go to <http://passengerpigeon.org>.

## SPOTLIGHT: A WISCONSIN MARKET HUNTER

By Harland Steinhorst

Had you ridden a horse or walked into the farmyard of Lyman Rodman any November in the 1860s, you would have seen 80 deer hung out on meat poles and sides of farm buildings. Del Rodman, Lyman's son, described the scene in an article appearing in the *Clark County Press*. In another article, it was reported that Lyman had killed 119 deer in one year.

Del mentioned that his father had killed 48 deer within ½ mile of their farmhouse, which was located on an 80-acre farm one mile southwest of O'Neill's lumber mill. He added that the most deer his father killed in one day was seven. One must remember, single shot, muzzle-loading black powder rifles and shotguns were the hunting firearms of the 1860s.

What were the problems a Clark County market hunter would face? First, Lyman had to deal with the spoilage problem. Natural refrigeration was all he had available. Air temperature had to be below 40 degrees most of the day.

Second, securing a market and the distance to that location was an issue. For a Wisconsin market hunter, that market was mainly high-class restaurants in Milwaukee. He had to hire the Hewett & Woods Company lumber wagons and

drivers to haul the 80 frozen deer to Sparta and deliver them to the La Crosse & Milwaukee Railroad Depot, which was later renamed Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad. The distance was about 53 miles via crude wagon trails. No, there were no public roadways yet.

Railroads did not have refrigerated rail cars, called reefers, until the mid-1870s. The deer carcasses were loaded into the freight car, subject to air temperature, for the 175-mile trip to Milwaukee. One can only imagine the condition of the venison after days on the meat poles, a day in the lumber wagons and a day on the train.

Many market hunters dealing in the venison trade would only ship the hindquarters and saddles. Railroads charged shipping by the pound and restaurants saw the rest of the deer as waste material. It is not noted if the hindquarters were skinned. Quoting Del Rodman's article, "Very little money was received for them."

The supply of venison exceeded demand and too many "middle men" were not able to make a reasonable profit. A train derailment or warm weather could destroy the entire shipment.

Who was Lyman W. Rodman? He was born in 1828 in Zanesville, Ohio, and was a farmer by trade, mainly in Illinois.

He married in 1850 and settled in Clark County in 1853. He and his wife had two sons and two daughters, and he and his family were able to change 80 acres of woodlands into a productive farm.

As a second business, Rodman was involved in the lumbering industry, mainly floating lumber rafts down the Black River to La Crosse. He dabbled in market hunting as a short season business. Rodman died in 1896 of injuries he suffered after falling from a scaffold in a barn. He was 68.

Writer's Notes: We don't know if Lyman Rodman engaged in providing venison or bear meat to the winter-time logging camps around O'Neill's Mill, which was renamed Neillsville in 1885. Logging camps could have from 25 to 100 workers and fresh meat was not part of their daily menu. Instead, they ate flapjacks, salt bacon, beans and salt pork.

Debora Rodman, Lyman's wife, was known to take a muzzle-loading rifle and shoot a deer from her kitchen door as they came out of the woods into the clearing. The deer were probably eating various plants in her garden and she helped to provide fresh meat for the table.

*HARLAND STEINHORST is a retired Wisconsin conservation warden who lives in La Valle.*

## B-I-N-G-O

By Duane Harpster

Game warden stories educate and entertain, and I personally love listening to them, so when I stepped into Recreational Specialist Melvin "Bingo" Lange's office at Rhinelander one early spring day it didn't take much encouragement to get Bingo reminiscing about his field warden days.

Since it was spring, his stories naturally were about fish runs, and although I had heard quite a few of his stories, this one was new. Bingo was working some northern spawning spot in Fond du Lac County when he caught some guys using snares. These were like the snares that animal control officers

use with fairly long handles. I asked if the snares worked and Bingo said that they did, adding that when they tightened the noose, the fish seemed paralyzed and did not thrash around at all. Bingo also said the snare left a single, distinctive mark around the body.

Knowing that old wardens sometimes exaggerated or even made things up, I was not too sure that Bingo wasn't pulling my leg. However, I could see that snaring fish certainly was possible. Still, our local guys leaned more to spears and wall-eyes so I didn't think about it too long.

Later that spring, Al VanderBloemen, then stationed at Rhinelander, asked if I was available to work with him for the

# Where is *your* license button?

By Harland Steinhorst

Beginning in 1928 with the support of the Conservation Commission, the state Legislature passed a bill requiring a “metal button” be issued with each paper license purchased for resident hunting and trapping and non-resident fishing. Resident fishing licenses were first required in 1933.

The metal button, about the size of a quarter, was to be worn “on the front of outer, upper garments, cap or hat.” One could be fined \$5 to \$25 for not displaying the license button, although the licensee still had to produce the paper license on demand.

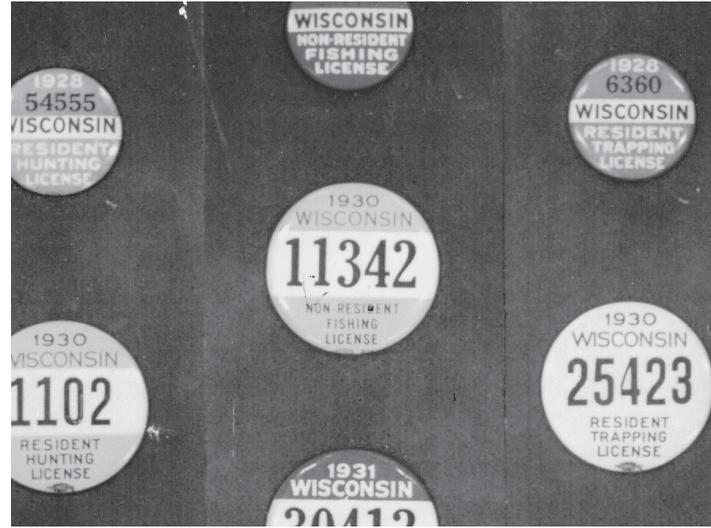
In June of the first year of this requirement, a small problem developed concerning the non-resident fishing button. President Calvin Coolidge was coming to Wisconsin to fish the Brule. The non-resident fishing license was \$3 and the Conservation Department could not issue a free license, even to the president of the United States. Private individuals purchased a non-resident fishing license for the president, and then had a facsimile license button made of solid gold to be worn by the president. Four state wardens were assigned to protect the president while he was fishing the Brule.

The buttons were color coded by year; a number on the button corresponded with the paper license number.

Director of Conservation Louis B. Nagler laid out some concerns over the enforcement of this law in a newspaper article dated May 31, 1928. He estimated that some 500,000 out-of-state tourists fished in Wisconsin waters each year.

“Of this number, approximately 60,000 bought licenses, the remainder having evaded the law by various subterfuges, many of them posing as residents of the state,” he said.

One in eight non-resident anglers (male and over 16) complying with the license requirement was not an acceptable number. The non-resident fishing license law was passed in 1915, and the cost



for general fishing (except trout) was \$1; with trout, the license fee was \$2. The fees were raised to \$2 and \$3 in 1917, a 100 percent increase in two years.

Conservation wardens making field checks had to sort out the non-resident (tourist or property owner) from the legal residents of the state. Was the person displaying the metal button really the purchaser of the license or was the button “borrowed” for the day? Would every person fishing, shoreline, dock or boat, be carrying some form of proof of Wisconsin residency? What if the button was misplaced or lost overboard? There was no duplicate provision in the existing law.

After five years, the button law was repealed, the year before state residents were required to purchase fishing licenses.

*HARLAND STEINHORST is a retired Wisconsin conservation warden who lives in La Valle.*

evening, and I agreed to go. Albert and I went to a lake outlet near Rhinelander, and upon arriving saw there were already guys in the creek. We snuck in pretty close, and after watching through binoculars for a while, determined that they were hand-grabbing suckers, so there was no violation. However, Albert thought we better watch them for a while because there might be some walleyes mixed in with the suckers.

After some time, we saw one fellow with a long handle in his hand. We immediately thought it was a spear, but we couldn't see the tines and he didn't appear to be trying to jab a fish. We soon also ruled out a net, and that's when the guy suddenly lifted a fish that looked like a musky or northern out of the water using the pole.

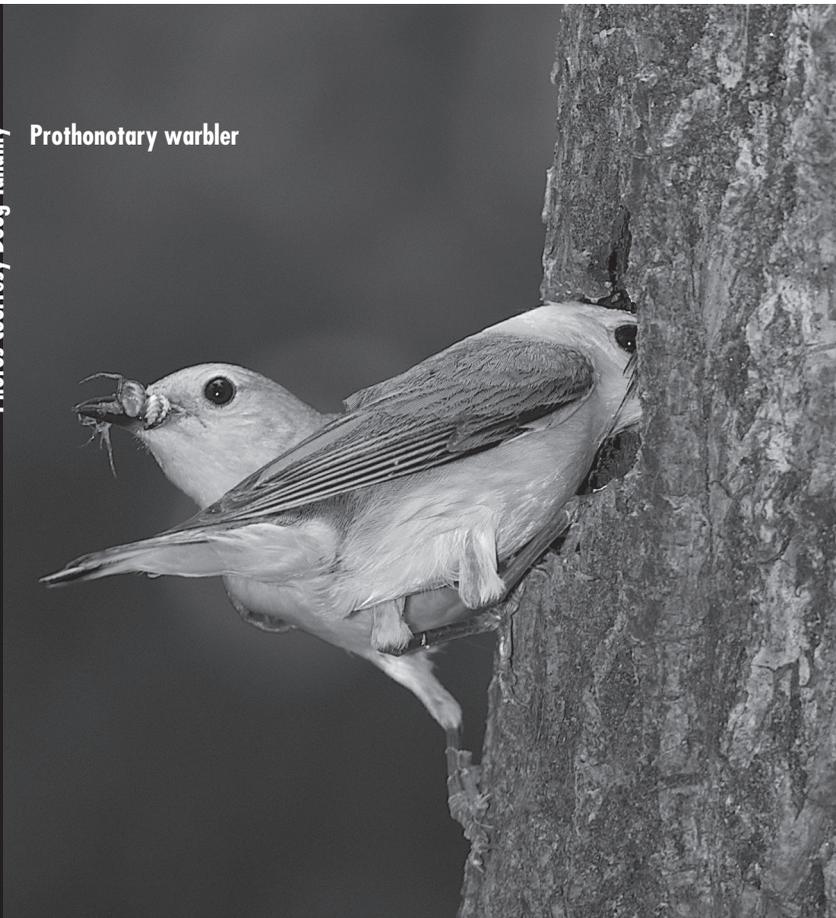
The fish wasn't moving and looked stiff as a board. I pro-

claimed, “I'll be dipped, it's a snare!” Al looked at me like I had lost my mind, but I proceeded to tell him I had heard about this from Bingo, which was greeted with a headshake. Whatever the anglers had, they headed for their truck and left. After a short chase, they stopped and we asked about their evening's activity. They assured us they were hand-grabbing suckers only, and proudly displayed their catch. Al asked if we could look in the truck bed and they grudgingly said yes. We immediately found the snare, and then a northern with a ring around its body. BINGO!

The moral of the story? I don't know if Bingo was BSing me or not, but obviously you can snare northern.

*DUANE HARPSTER is a retired Wisconsin conservation warden living in Boulder Junction.*

Prothonotary warbler



Chickadee



Bluebird

# TIME to go NATIVE

Bringing birds and butterflies to your landscape requires some native plants.

By Barbara A. Schmitz

If you want birds to come to your yard, then you need to first attract caterpillars. And if you want caterpillars to be in your yard, you need to include native plants in your landscape, said the author of “Bringing Nature Home.”

Doug Tallamy, a professor and chairman of entomology and wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware, was the keynote speaker at the Toward Harmony with Nature conference in Oshkosh. He said not all native plants are created equally. Some are better than others at attracting wildlife to your yard.

Many species are specialists — they must have a specific tree or plant to survive. And when those start disappearing, the species must move on or die out.

Tallamy said the key to getting specific birds or animals to your backyard is knowing what they eat. Then you need to make sure that you provide that “food.”

“Most people think chickadees eat seed, but they only feed their young caterpillars,” Tallamy said. “So if you don’t have caterpillars in your backyard, you won’t have any breeding chickadees either.”

And you don’t need just a few caterpillars in your yard. You need *a lot*.

“A breeding chickadee will feed its young 390-570 caterpillars a day,” he said. When you multiply that by the 16 or 18 days before they leave the nest, that’s between 6,000 and 9,000 caterpillars.

Similarly, most people think hummingbirds eat mainly nectar. But 80 percent of their diet is insects, Tallamy said. So, if you want hummingbirds in your yard, you need insects there, too.

So how do you get caterpillars or insects to your yards? You include native plants in your landscape that



the caterpillars or insects need. For instance, Monarch butterfly caterpillars will only develop on milkweed. Black swallowtails feed only on parsley, dill and related plants.

But plants defend themselves against insects by having distasteful chemicals in their leaves. With few exceptions, the only insect species that share that long evolutionary history can digest the chemicals.

“Ninety percent of insects that eat plants can develop and reproduce only on the plants with which they share an evolutionary past,” Tallamy said.

While some may think that alien ornamental landscaping, much of it introduced from China, is better than none in attracting wildlife, studies have shown non-native plants have a very limited impact. Ornamentals support 29 times less biodiversity than do native ornamentals, Tallamy said, and native plants will produce 22 times more caterpillars than non-native plants. Does that matter?

“It does if you eat them,” Tallamy says. “That means you have 22 times fewer caterpillars to find and you will have 22 times less birds because you’ve reduced what they eat.”

But it’s just not birds that eat insects. Spiders, frogs and amphibians, freshwater fish, lizards, bats, rodents, possums, skunks, red fox ... all eat insects because they provide two times as much protein. In fact, 25 percent of a red fox’s diet is insects,

“We must restore viable corridors that support life so we can save nature and thus ourselves.”

– Doug Tallamy

Tallamy said.

“A world without insects would be a world without biological diversity, and that is what we are creating today,” he said.

Tallamy said if children are to be future stewards of the planet, we need to get them out of the house and turning over rocks to find salamanders and other animals. But there are few areas for them to go explore nature at its finest.

“Only 5 percent of the U.S. is largely pristine,” he said. “We have 4 million miles of paved roads; that’s five times the size of New Jersey. And way too much space is dedicated to lawn, which has no function in our ecosystem.”

But we have the ability to create functioning ecosystems in our own yards and neighborhoods, he said. “Don’t have 90 percent of your yard in lawn. Instead, plant long-living trees like oak or hickory that keep carbon in the atmosphere for hundreds of years.”

Tallamy said we’ve gotten to this point because people view plants as decorations. “If they don’t have aesthetic value, then people won’t use them. They’ve ignored the ecosystem value, the food web value...”

Tallamy said we need to create corridors that connect natural areas, reduce the size of areas now in lawn, and begin the transition from alien ornamental plants to native ornamentals.

“Walking areas should be lawn only,” he said, “and if you can convince your neighbors to do the same, then we have started the connectivity.”

Why is connectivity so important? He gave an example of box turtles that live in a 35-acre woodlot that is isolated. In 1968, it contained 91 turtles; by 2002, 22 turtles remained, and in 2010, there were only 12 turtles left. Why?

“As soon as they leave the woodlot to lay their eggs in the sun, it becomes perilous for them,” he explained. “Chances are they will be run over by a car. Parks and preserves aren’t big enough to sustain populations that are small,” he said. “They become locally extinct.”

“We must restore viable corridors that support life so we can save nature and thus ourselves,” Tallamy said. “If we put plants back into our neighborhoods, we can recreate functional ecosystems.”

Just how effective such corridors are can be seen by the Atala butterfly. “It was saved from extinction by Florida homeowners by accident,” he said. “Landscapers suddenly found coontie, the Atala butterfly host plant, and homeowners started planting it. And all of a sudden the butterfly was back; it was thought to be extinct.”

“It truly was an accident,” he said. “But just think what we could do if we tried.”

# The Top 11

If you want butterflies and moths in your yard, then consider planting these trees:

Common name	Plant Genus	Butterfly/moth species supported
Oak	Quercus	534
Black cherry	Prunus	456
Willow	Salix	455
Birch	Betula	413
Poplar	Populus	368
Crabapple	Malus	311
Blueberry	Vaccinium	288
Maple	Acer	285
Elm	Ulmus	213
Pine	Pinus	203
Hickory	Carya	200

Source: Doug Tallamy



# Wisconsin Conservation Warden Association

## I want to become a WCWA member or renew my membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Regular Memberships

- \$20 for one-year membership
- \$40 for three-year membership
- \$200 for lifetime membership

### Associate Memberships

- \$20 for one-year membership
- \$40 for three-year membership
- \$200 for lifetime membership

### Sponsor Memberships

- \$500 for one-year membership  
*(Includes ad in 2 issues of magazine)*
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

*Memberships expire on June 30. Please make your check payable to the WCWA and mail it to P.O. Box 44, Madison, WI 53701-0044. Your email 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 round 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, full-time conservation wardens; past and present deputy, special, and county conservation wardens; and all active and retired law enforcement officers from other agencies*
- ***Associate membership*** — *Individuals or organizations expressing an interest in supporting the association or any project in which the association is involved with*
- ***Sponsor membership*** — *Any business that provides financial support to the WCWA*

## **Consider a gift to the WCEF**

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

- Awards 15-20 grants annually to Wisconsin conservation groups, teachers and wardens who 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 clean-up projects to improve habitats; and funds development of and improvements to exhibits and educational materials at nature centers and public schools
- Provides funding for scholarships to natural resources law enforcement students selected by UW-Stevens Point
- Provides support for warden conferences
- Provides support to send children of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty to summer camp, and more

## **Yes, I want to donate to the WCEF**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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*Please send your tax-deductible gift payable to the WCEF to:*  
**Wisconsin Conservation and Education Foundation**  
**P.O. Box 44, Madison, WI 53701-0044**

*The Wisconsin Conservation and Education Foundation is exempt under section 501 (c) (3) of the IRS code. The Foundation is classified as a public charity under IRS code 170 (b) (1) (A) (v9).*

# Langlade County's Learn-to-Trap Class:

*Teamwork, planning, experience behind annual event's popularity, fun*

By Conservation Warden Tim Otto

Teamwork and great students made an August 2013 two-day Wisconsin Trappers Association class in Langlade County a true success.

I had the pleasure of helping to teach the Wisconsin Trappers Association trapper education class on Aug. 17-18. It was taught concurrently as a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Learn-to-Trap event. This allowed instructors to certify the students as trapper education graduates and to set traps when and where it would otherwise be illegal. I have been a Wisconsin Trappers Association trapper education instructor for about six years.

My fellow instructors for the 2013 class were Pat Raith from Summit Lake, Duane Fronck from White Lake, Conservation Warden Mike Rader from Wausau, Maynard Breunig from Wausau and DNR Customer Service Supervisor Chris Theilman from Woodruff. Mike and Chris also are apprentice instructors with plans of starting their own groups in the future.

After years of doing the class in various ways to gauge students' participation and motivations and to learn effective ways to present the important information, we changed it to a hands-on class and a Learn-to-Hunt event in 2012.

After speaking with other instructors, we decided the most effective way to attract students was by teaching the class over a single weekend. The first year we made the change, we had to turn people away because the class was full.

By becoming a Learn-to-Trap event we were able to ensure each student set traps. We demonstrated how to make specific types of sets and then issued the students traps to make their own sets. This allowed us to teach about identifying animals' sign, habits and habitats, while allowing students to make common beginner mistakes under an instructor's watchful eye. Based upon the previous year's experiences, we offered more positive changes in 2013.

One of the biggest changes was the class location. We moved from the Elcho area to the Ackley Wildlife Area. The Ackley area, as it is known, is almost two townships of land owned by the State of Wisconsin and Langlade County with a number of artificial impoundments containing a plethora of beaver and muskrats. There is also an abundance of coyotes and raccoon to try and catch. We required students to preregister to ensure they had time to read the textbook before class; that also allowed us to use more time in the field. A letter sent to participants explained the class and included suggestions on what to bring, such as bug spray, hip boots, lunch and a change of clothes.

We took a number of logistical issues into consideration when we planned the class. We held the class in August when furbearer populations are at their highest. This means there are the most opportunities for our students to catch animals, while being the least likely to negatively impact the long-term health of furbearer populations. To minimize conflicts with other users of the area who may not be accustomed to trapping, the field stations where the students trapped were at least a half-mile behind a locked



**From left, the instructors included Duane Fronck, Maynard Breunig, Pat Raith, Chris Theilman, Mike Rader and Tim Otto. See more photos on the back cover.**

gate. A sign was also posted on the gate indicating that trapping was occurring, when the traps would be removed, and that the area continued to be open to the public. We had five committed instructors for Saturday, so we limited the class to 25 students. This allowed five students per instructor for the field portion.

On Saturday morning, we met in the classroom at the Ackley Town Hall and went through introductions, ethics, laws and furbearer identification. After lunch, we headed to our field stations to begin hands-on learning. Each instructor was assigned an impoundment as his classroom. The dikes on the impoundments were filled with muskrat dens and some of the ponds had wild rice. The weather couldn't have been better for an August trapper education class. The students were able to slosh in the water, find dens, sign, crossovers, tracks, scat and different habitats. The students were able to make several sets apiece. Each set was flagged with bright flagging to ensure the traps would be recovered the following day.

We met in Ackley on Sunday morning to pull up our traps. The students were excited to see which of their traps would produce a catch. In a class of 25 students, we tallied eight muskrats, two beaver, dozens of smiles and a lifetime of lessons. While I had dreams of getting enough muskrats for each student to skin one, it was a vast improvement over the previous year.

We returned to the classroom to begin skinning our catch. Our fur handling lessons involved demonstrating opening cuts on different animals, allowing students to help skin, and fleshing opportunities. At times two animals were being skinned and two others were being fleshed simultaneously. This allowed students to rotate between skinning different animals and fleshing, which kept them interested and learning.

After the class ended, the instructors met again to discuss how it went. We agreed that it was a great experience, and that we only needed to make a few tweaks. Trapper education instructors, if you have a location to hold a similar event, please consider hosting a Learn-to-Trap event. The paperwork is quite simple to complete and the learning is exponentially increased. If you have questions, feel free to contact me through the DNR website.

**Wisconsin Conservation Warden Association**  
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## Langlade County's Learn-to-Trap class is fun and popular event



The Wisconsin Trappers Association and the Department of Natural Resources teamed up in Langlade County to not only provide trapper education, but also to give the students experience in the field. Twenty-five students completed the class, and got eight muskrats, two beavers, dozens of smiles and a lifetime of lessons. Dominant photo: Pat Raith demonstrates muskrat skinning. Right: Mike Rader demonstrates how to set a body-grip trap. Above, right: One of the groups shows off their catch. See related article on Page 23.