

Conservation Front Line

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July 4, 2013

“We hold these truths to be self-evident...”

It's the Fourth of July. This day can mean so many different things to so many people. For some, it's a day with friends and family, celebrating life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Others see it as an unofficial start to summer. People take vacations and travel north, hitting the lakes for boating or swimming, grilling out on their back porches, and watching fireworks displays.

For most people, the Fourth of July is a time of relaxation and time off. But as so many of you can attest, someone has to be working to ensure that all those people boating, swimming, or enjoying the outdoors how they choose are staying safe and playing fair. Our Wisconsin State Conservation Wardens sacrifice so much for the protection of our natu-

ral resources and the individuals who enjoy them.

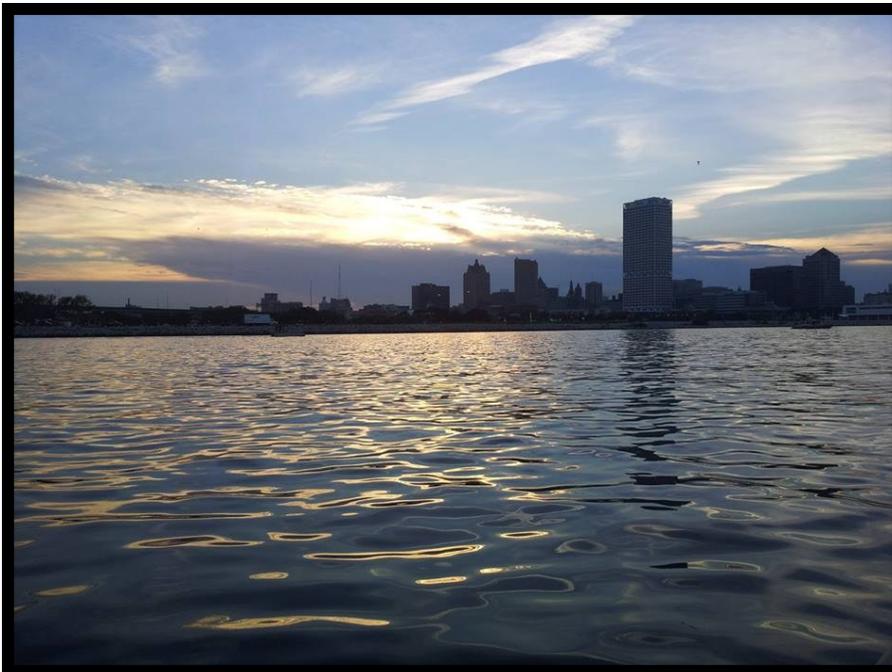
If you've served or are currently serving on our force, we thank you for your sacrifices and hope that you can find a moment to enjoy this holiday as it should be enjoyed—with a deep breath and a smile.

Thank you!

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Photo from the Field



Warden and SER Regional Rep **Kaitlin Kernosky** shared this photo with us of the Milwaukee skyline on June 26th. Warden Kernosky and Warden **Nick Blankenheim** (Milwaukee) were working boat patrol in the Milwaukee Harbor for the Big Bang Fireworks that kicked off Summerfest that day.

What a beautiful photo! Who knew Milwaukee could look so peaceful during one of the biggest events of the year! Thank you, Kaitlin, for sharing with us!

WCWA Grants

We are currently working on revising the grants application so it has the most up-to-date information on it. Once finished in the next few days, we will be posting it on our website and sending it out in a special bulletin email.

Completed applications will be due by **August 15, 2013** and will be reviewed at the August 21st board meeting.

If you have any questions regarding the grant application process, you can contact Todd Schaller, Grants Committee Chair, at todd.schaller@wi.gov.

Please check [our website](#) for more information in the coming days.

Honor Guard: From Vision to Reality

Jeremy Peery



Pictured here are members of the newly formed Honor Guard presenting the colors at the 2013 Recruit Graduation on June 21, 2013 at Fort McCoy.

The Honor Guard is available for a variety of activities, including presentation of colors.

Current Honor Guard members (left to right): Warden **Andy Lundin** (Green Bay), Warden **Randy Dunkel** (Cornell), Warden Supervisor **Jeremy Peery** (Lower Chippewa River Team), and Warden **Cody Adams** (Prairie du Chien).

The program started as my leadership project (class of 2010). After many years of tossing informal honor guards together for funerals, I wanted to establish a formalized, well trained, and disciplined team that could perform ceremonial and funeral details with honor, pride, and dignity. I also wanted to ensure that the DNR and the Warden Service were represented with members who took the honor guard duty seriously and that the agency would be proud of the team.

Although Northeast Regional Warden Byron Goetsch had developed some guidelines for honor guard details at funerals several years prior, I knew that I would need some assistance establishing more detailed guidelines. That's when I enlisted the help of Conservation Warden Randy Dunkel. Randy, while serving in the Marine

Corps, spent a year on the 2nd Marine Division Color Guard and had the experience that I needed to help get the honor guard running.

In March of 2011, Randy and I attended a week long police honor guard training in Oak Creek, WI that was taught by members of the Washington DC Ceremonial Honor Guard - the officers who perform honor guard duty at the Presidential ceremonies and organize the annual Law Enforcement Memorial week. The training was intense and disciplined, and by the end of the week though we were exhausted, we had a multitude of ideas and a wealth of ambition to develop the first ever DNR Conservation Warden Honor Guard.

Over the next few months Randy and I consulted, brainstormed, researched, and devel-

oped the honor guard uniform, policies, and procedures. In developing the uniform, we decided to honor the past while staying true to our current uniform. We worked with Lark Uniform to have replicas made of the 1920's uniform blouse coat, right down to the badger lapel pins. We decided to use our current dress shirt and tie. We added 1920's era breeches made from our current winter dress uniform pants, 10 inch rise dress boots with the breeches bloused in, and a campaign cover (hat). I was able to secure some of the old Wisconsin Conservation Department seal warden badges from the 1950's for the uniforms to serve as our honor guard badge. We added detail in the gray aiguillette (shoulder cord) and the green on gray stripe down the leg of each pant to signify that the Conservation Warden force is the "thin green line" of protec-

Honor Guard cont.

tion for our natural resources. The DNR's Homeland Security Coordinator, Brian Knepper, helped us acquire our ceremonial rifles through the Department of Defense's 10-33 program. The program provides military surplus equipment, in this case M-14's, to law enforcement agencies for use, free of charge.

Due to the current economic situation, the Department was unable to provide any startup money to get the project going. That's when Randy and I approached the Wisconsin Conservation Warden Association with the project, its goals, and aspirations. The Association and its partner organization, WCEF, graciously jumped into the project with both feet and provided funds for the honor guard flags, staffs, and lapel pins and began a fund for donations to the project. Letters were sent to donors and retired wardens all over the country and, after a few months and a large contribution from the Noyes family, 5 uniforms were purchased. Once the uniforms and gear were purchased, the administration agreed to allow members to conduct duties on pay status and use the state issued patrol vehicles for travel.

In determining the guidelines for the Honor Guard Team, we wanted to ensure that potential members were dedicated and could commit to at least 5 years of service since the uniforms are tailor made to the members' specific measurements. Then, in order to ensure that the uniforms continued to fit during the duration of their service, a physical fitness requirement was ap-

proved. In addition to the high physical standards, in order to be chosen for the honor, potential members have to go through a selection process consisting of a letter of interest, oral interviews, and a practical test. Those selected are then presented with their "badgers" (Honor Guard lapel pins) and measured for their uniforms.

As of right now, we have 5 members on the team – Randy Dunkel, Cody Adams, Andy Lundin, Mike Rader, and me. The ultimate goal is to have 12 members total comprising two six person teams – one in the North and one in the South. Recruitment for the remaining positions is closed at this time as we build up the necessary funds for the uniforms.

The Honor Guard is primarily a ceremonial unit. We conduct

funeral details including full funeral service honors (casket watch, flag folding and firing squad). We conduct ceremonial presentation of colors at major events (such as the Haskell Noyes recognition dinner, recruit graduation, swearing in ceremonies, law enforcement memorials, etc.). Any present DNR employee or retired wardens can request the Honor Guard; however, the final approval rests with the Chief Warden. As the Honor Guard Officer in Charge (OIC), I will administer the program statewide. Requests can be made by contacting me via email at Jeremy.Peery@Wisconsin.gov or by phone at 715-839-3767 or 715-210-0164.

Donations are tax deductible and can be made through WCEF via Treasurer John Daniel or their website at <http://wiconservationfoundation.org>.

The Honor Guard proudly served at former conservation warden Don Knoke's funeral on June 7, 2013 at the Northern Wisconsin Veteran's Memorial Cemetery in Spooner, WI.

The Honor Guard is available for full funeral detail.

Current Honor Guard members: on the left Warden **Mike Rader** (Wausau) and on the right Warden Supervisor **Jeremy Peery** (Lower Chippewa River Team).



We have a title!

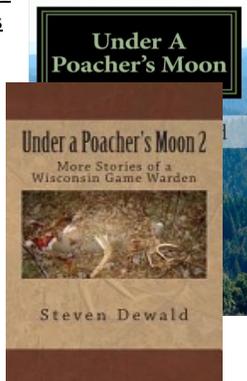
Congratulations goes out to Warden **Kyle Kosin** (Campbellsport) for coming up with the winning title for our newsletter!

Votes were tallied on Tuesday, June 25th and Kyle's suggestion came out of the battle as a clear winner.

Thank you to all who participated in our contest. Fret not! We've decided contests are really fun, so we promise to host more in the future!

Book Report

Retired conservation warden Steven Dewald recently released [Under A Poacher's Moon 2: More Stories of a Wisconsin Game Warden](#), the sequel to his first book [Under A Poacher's Moon](#). Steve served as a warden for over 30 years and compiled quite the list of stories in that time.



Steve says of his work in an exposé with [Northern Wisconsin](#), "Rather than write about how to catch people, I instead tried to focus on what the officer sees and feels so the reader can experience the events with a view from behind the badge."

Copies of [Under A Poacher's Moon](#) and it's sequel can be found via many online retailers.

Congratulations on completing your second book, Steve!

Board Meeting Review

June 4th this year found members of our Board gathered in a large meeting room in the basement of the Plover Library. Our agenda was packed and spirits were high. We have accomplished so much in the last year and we were all so eager to see what new things we might take on.

Among other things, we elected our new board reps and set the clock turning on their terms. We set the Fiscal Year 2014 budget allocating more money towards training, education, and technology than in years prior.

We reviewed the language designation for membership categories and a motion was passed to change the categories to Regular (past or presently credentialed conservation wardens and spe-

cial conservation wardens) and Associate (all others). The costs between the two memberships are the same. The primary difference is that Regular members can vote on certain Association policy and Associate members cannot.

We heard updates from Committee Chairs. Vice President Matt Groppi spoke on behalf of the Business Plan Committee that has been working hard to design a long-range business plan for the Association based on our mission and objectives. We discussed how to promote the Association's business among our members and to potential members.

The Grants Committee discussed hosting a meeting to review the grant applications and to review the application process in

general. Warden Todd Schaller would like to remind grant recipients to send in your stories and photos following the event date.

A reminder was given that submissions for the 2014 Warden Calendar were due on July 1.

In addition, a request was made for regional reps to take extra care when documenting their calendar sales.

Lastly, dates to put on an annual calendar for the Board were compiled and website updates shared.

The next board meeting is scheduled for **August 21st, 2013**. We already have a packed agenda, but if you have anything you would like discussed, please let your regional representatives know.



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