

Conservation Front Line

Happy Halloween!

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A Ballad: The Lake of the Dismal Swamp

Poet Thomas Moore

They made her a grave, too cold and damp
For a soul so warm and true;
And she's gone to the Lake of the Dismal
Swamp,
Where, all night long, by a fire-fly lamp,
She paddles her white canoe.

"And her fire-fly lamp I soon shall see,
And her paddle I soon shall hear;
Long and loving our life shall be,
And I'll hide the maid in a cypress tree,
When the footstep of death is near."

Away to the Dismal Swamp he speeds—
His path was rugged and sore,
Through tangled juniper, beds of reeds,
Through many a fen where the serpent feeds,
And man never trod before.

And when on the earth he sunk to sleep,
If slumber his eyelids knew,
He lay where the deadly vine doth weep
Its venomous tear and nightly steep
The flesh with blistering dew!

And near him the she-wolf stirr'd the brake,
And the copper-snake breath'd in his ear,
Till he starting cried, from his dream awake,
"Oh! when shall I see the dusky Lake,
And the white canoe of my dear?"



He saw the Lake, and a meteor bright
Quick over its surface play'd—
"Welcome," he said, "my dear one's light!"
And the dim shore echoed for many a night
The name of the death-cold maid.

Till he hollow'd a boat of the birchen bark,
Which carried him off from shore;
Far, far he follow'd the meteor spark,
The wind was high and the clouds were dark,
And the boat return'd no more.

But oft, from the Indian hunter's camp,
This lover and maid so true
Are seen at the hour of midnight damp
To cross the Lake by a fire-fly lamp,
And paddle their white canoe!

From the Desk of the WCEF President

William Engfer

This last year was an exciting one with the kickoff of the first WCEF banquet. Through your help, whether obtaining door prizes or by attending, we were able to raise \$17,000.00. These funds allowed the Regional Grants to get a needed jump start financially. We also raised much needed funds for the Honor Guard and for some of the scholarships. We look forward to furthering this great partnership

with the WCWA which allows for increased funding for Regional Grants around the state for critical projects in your communities.

Please consider supporting the 2014 WCEF banquet any way you can. With your assistance we hope to raise more funds this year to further important projects in your communities, provide university scholarships, and to continue our support of the

Honor Guard. This year's February 22nd banquet promises to be a great time for anyone attending. We have implemented many of the suggestions from those attending last year's banquet to make this one even better. Current wardens and retired wardens will be receiving special recognition at the upcoming banquet. We hope you can attend.

Inside this issue:

Retiree Picnic	2
Regional Grants	3
Book Report	4
Let them not be forgotten	4

On the Horizon

Fall brings so many great opportunities to our doorstep. Most people think of hunting, fall color tours, or trips to the pumpkin patch or apple orchard when they think of fall. But here are some extra things we think about in the fall:

- ◆ The fall issue of the Game Warden magazine
- ◆ Raffle Calendar orders
- ◆ Preparations for the 2014 WCEF banquet

Whether you're sitting on the porch with a cup of coffee, climbing a tree stand, or spending much needed time with family and friends, know that we're enjoying the season right along with you!

Did you know...

WCWA hosts the entire gamut of Wisconsin DNR recreational safety regulations on our website?

Just visit wgamewarden.com and click on "Regulations" under the Resources heading.

The regulations are set in a mobile-friendly download format too, so you can access them on the go!

Retiree Picnic

Mike Spors

On September 10, 37 retired game wardens had a luncheon group check on the shores of the Rainbow Flowage, near the Village of Lake Tomahawk. The event was organized by Pat and Sharon Harkins. Pat noted that there are now about 250 retired Wisconsin conservation wardens. Prior to lunch, Pat gave an update on the status of concealed carry authorizations and the annual qualification requirements. We are now shooting a relatively uncomplicated course of 27 rounds at reasonable distances with no weak hand shooting required. Retirees may now qualify with any caliber handgun down to and including .22 rimfire. Pat also mentioned that the Honor Guard has rendered their services at a couple of funerals, and has been both impressive and very well received.

Mike Spors gave an update on the WCEF fundraising banquet held last



March and informed everyone of the upcoming banquet to be held February 22, 2014. Attendance was encouraged, and it was suggested that those unable to attend should consider a donation, either earmarked for a specific purpose, or in general to the WCEF.

A delicious lunch of barbecued chicken and pork ribs, with all the trimmings was served by a local caterer. A group picture was taken, and it was a great time to catch up with old friends and co-workers. We'd like to see even more of you next year. Thanks to all who attended this year!



Nearly \$4500 in Conservation Grants Awarded

Jack Daniel

At a joint meeting of the Wisconsin Conservation and Education Foundation and the Association in August, 16 grants were awarded for projects that inspire the youth to experience outdoor activities and ensure the future of hunting, trapping, and fishing.

The award winners all submitted an application prior to the August

15 deadline. As a condition for receiving, the Foundation must receive photos and a brief description of the results of the projects.

These grants are ONLY made possible by the success of the 2013 WCEF Banquet held last March. This banquet is the principal fundraiser for the Foundation and income earned supports these pro-

jects. The 2014 banquet is being planned for February 22, 2014 to be held again in Madison at the VFW on Cottage Grove Road.

Your help in finding banquet sponsors, prize donations, and attendees will ensure that we can continue to award grants in 2014.

The grant winners are:

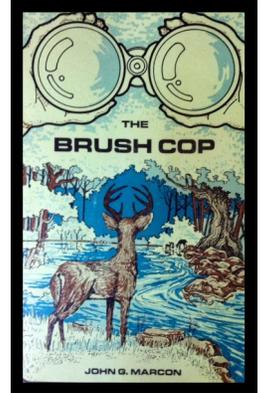
Region	Applicant	Grant Cause	Partnership	Total amount paid out
NOR	Ashton	Hunting Vests for Polk Co HE Graduates	Polk County Sportsman Club	\$ 300.00
NOR	Michels	Fishing Fun Day - School Program	St. Croix Rod Company, Coolidge Spring Trout Farm, Butternut Feed Store	\$ 125.00
NOR	Crotty	LTH Events (Bear and Turkey)	Various bear hounders, Aurora-Homestead Cons. Club, BearNDown Taxidemy	\$ 100.00
NOR	Otto	Learn To Trap Event	Wisconsin Trappers Association	\$ 300.00
NOR	Thole	LTH Turkey Event	Boulder Junction Shooting Range/Jerry Brost Builders/Dave Stenz Construction	\$ 200.00
WCR	Fetting	LTH Waterfowl Event and Waterfowl Ed Field Day	Friends of Mead/ McMillan Wildlife Areas	\$ 300.00
WCR	Dunkel	LTH Bear Event	WDNR	\$ 250.00
WCR-Retired	Falstad	Marathon County Sporting Heritage Youth Day	16 Partners listed on application (civic and conservation)	\$ 300.00
WCR	Modjeski	Youth Fishing Event	Wilton Rod and Gun Club	\$ 300.00
WCR	Hanna	LTH Turkey Event	Southern Clark County Safety Instructors	\$ 250.00
WCR	Cleven	LTH Squirrel Event	Dunn Co. Fish and Game Association	\$ 300.00
WCR	Cleven	LTH Pheasant Event	Dunn Co. Fish and Game Association	\$ 300.00
SER	Lee	2 Youth Fishing Events	Big Brothers/Sisters & Pike Lake Sportsman	\$ 400.00
SCR - Retired	Horn	Multiple LTH Events (pheasant/waterfowl)	Grant Co. Outdoor Sport Alliance, Southwest Tech, Nohr Chapter, TU	\$ 600.00
NER	Knorr	28th Annual Youth Fish Event	Waupaca Sheriff's Department, Village of Fremont Police Department	\$ 200.00
Bureau	Schaller /Dale Pearce	High School Trap Program - Fond du Lac	Wescot's Sports Club	\$ 200.00
Total				\$ 4,425.00

Book Report

We dug back through the archives for this book report! The Brush Cop, written by the late conservation warden John G. Marcon, was first published in 1983. Marcon was first stationed in Medford in 1952, transferred to Rice Lake in 1957, and retired in 1961. Marcon died not too long ago in 2002.

On the inside cover of a copy found online, Marcon himself refers to his time as a game warden as the “best years of my life”.

Not a lot else is said about this mysterious work from a former warden. Copies can be found occasionally online (ranging from \$7–\$15 depending on condition) or on well-worn book shelves in the cabins of the north. It’s sure to be a good read, as are all tales of the warden life. Best enjoyed with a cup of coffee on the porch.



Let them not be forgotten...

Too often we unfold the pages of a local newspaper to see legendary men and women listed quietly under the obituary section. Men and women who’s names were etched into plaques, citations, tall tales, and many memories. And it seems too often the void left by their passing goes unnoticed by the people whose lives they touched by their generous service to our state. We seek to honor these brave souls through this section of our newsletter.

Elizabeth Smith, daughter of the late Ed Nelson, shared with us the eulogy she read at her father’s funeral. We share some of that eulogy with you now:

This is the story of my dad. His story is one of integrity, of family, of love..... and his story has a happy ending.

Dad’s first job brought them to Cornell. Shortly thereafter Dad was stationed in Minong, where he would make his life long home, and where so many friends would become like family.

Dad always felt blessed. He was blessed with his family, and blessed to have a career he truly enjoyed. He felt privileged to have a job he looked forward to and one that had a cause he believed in.

It was hard for dad when he had to retire in 1983 after a heart attack on the job. He turned to new avenues conservation, including writing a weekly outdoor column entitled “The Great Outdoors”. He served on the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institution Board, became a member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America, he would run an outdoor education camp each year for area schools. He was also named Sportsman of the year for his work in conservation education.

So to my dad, my guide, my strength, my friend— I thank you for all you’ve given. May you rest in peace..... in a place where the blue gills are always biting and the partridge are around every turn..... and save a place for us in the sun.

Thank you for sharing your warm words with us, Elizabeth. We know that your father has found the peace he deserves.

The Wisconsin Conservation Warden Honor Guard was privileged to provide full detail for the funerals of the following conservation wardens who have recently passed from this world:

Ed Nelson

Herb Schneider

Mark Johnson

The Honor Guard provides full detail for funeral services of past wardens and other special occasions. If you wish to request the Honor Guard’s services, please contact OIC Jeremy Peery at: Jeremy.peery@wisconsin.gov or **715-839-3767**.

If you know of individuals whose names should be printed in future editions of the newsletter, please contact us at info.wcwa@gmail.com and let us know.



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