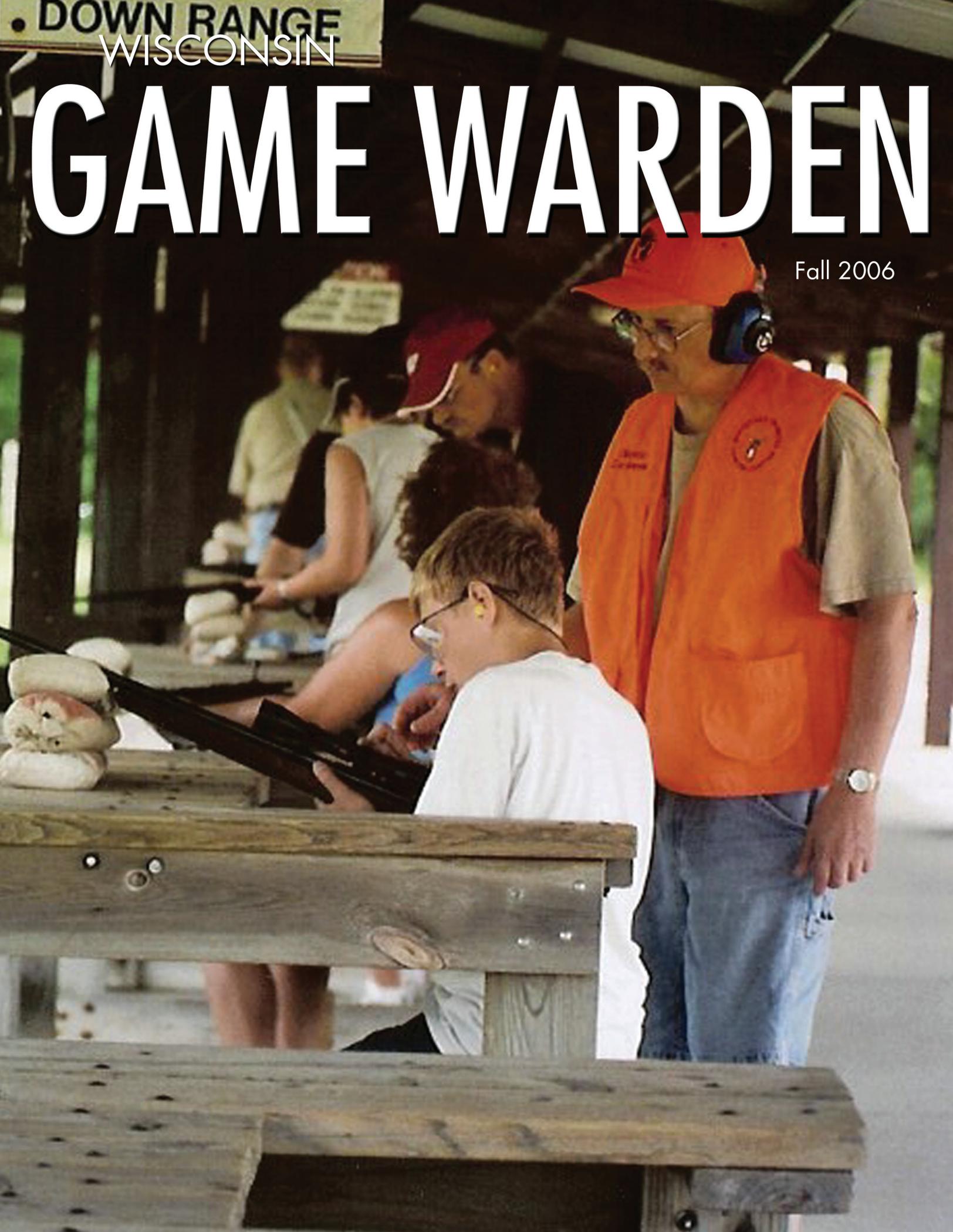


DOWN RANGE
WISCONSIN

GAME WARDEN

Fall 2006



— WISCONSIN —

GAME WARDEN

Fall 2006

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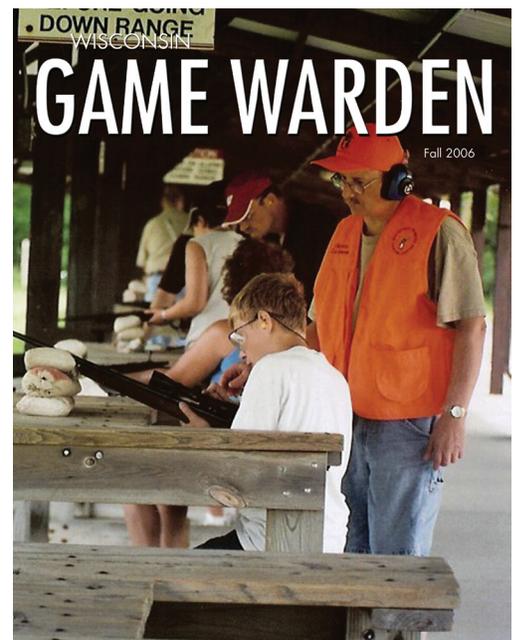
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Landing memorializes covert investigator

By Jon Bronsdon

Family members and friends of Mark Holmgreen were reunited on Memorial Day 2006 when the Mark Holmgreen Memorial Boat Landing was dedicated.

The project was made possible by donations from Mark's friends, including the Wisconsin Conservation Warden Association. The boat landing, located just above the hydroelectric dam in Black River Falls, is the only public boat landing that serves the upper Black River in Jackson County. It is used by fishermen, water skiers and pleasure craft.

Donations were used to make several additions and improvements to the existing landing. Two new concrete launching pads were added beneath the water line. A new concrete boat dock that also serves as a fishing pier was added. A special handicapped accessible fishing pier with guardrails was installed. New wooden railings were added for boats to tie on to. The landing also includes a very nice sign dedicating it to the memory of Mark Holmgreen, who died of natural causes in November 2003 at the age of 50.

Future improvements will include a large, decorative mine boulder and lighting

for night use.

In his dedication speech, Black River Falls Mayor Joe Hunter stated that he was "happy as a frog on a log" to be able to dedicate this new facility.

Mark Holmgreen was a Wisconsin conservation warden who served as a covert investigator from 1993-2003.

He died on Nov. 24, 2003.

Mark was involved in many memorable cases in Wisconsin and was also "farmed out" to other agencies looking for fresh faces. In that capacity,



Mark Holmgreen and his medals.



Mark served in Operation Brooks Range in Alaska. Brooks Range was a joint venture between The Alaska Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They were hoping to get some out-of-state wardens to pose as hunting clients for guides that they suspected were breaking the law. They were primarily concerned that guides were using airplanes to hunt same-day airborne.



A group gets ready to launch a boat at the Holmgreen landing.

Holmgreen and the other wardens found out they were not only spotting game with airplanes, but that they often used the planes to drive animals to waiting hunters. The animals they were after included grizzly bears, moose, caribou and Dahl Sheep. The operation was a big success and documented many illegal kills. The guides paid substantial penalties including prison time and loss of equipment, and the court confiscated five aircraft. The case was featured in the Fall 2004 edition of *The International Game Warden*.

Chief Warden Randy Stark, who also attended the ceremony, said, "It was a great way to remember Mark and everything he meant to us as a fellow warden and friend."

One of Mark's friends recalled a truly "Mark" story. Returning from a golf outing, Mark decided to stop by the friend's house unannounced. The friend was lying on the couch, resting before going to work when a golf ball bounced into the room. In typical Mark style, after throwing the ball into the room, Mark entered and said, "Mind if I play through?"

Mark was born in Black River Falls and spent much of his childhood fishing and playing in the Black River. As an adult, he often launched his boat at the landing that now bears his name. Many people at the ceremony commented that the landing was a very appropriate way to remember Mark because of his love of the area and the river.

JON BRONSDON is a conservation warden in Jackson County.





You don't have to suffer

Colorado elk hunt proves miracles can still happen

By Dave Sabrowsky

This adventure started out quite innocently, as most adventures do. During the fall of 2001, Kevin, our local state patrol officer, asked if I would assist him and his son, Alex, on an elk hunting trip the following fall. This was a relatively easy decision for me to make since I was going to be retired, I would have the time, and I have always loved the west. Kevin also agreed to pay for everything — a sure sign of desperation. After getting clearance from the controlling legal authority — my wife — I told Kevin that I would gladly accompany him on his elk hunt.

The next question was where to hunt. Kevin had never seen an elk on all his previous trips to Idaho and Colorado so it was easy to eliminate the hunting areas he was familiar with. The country I normally hunted had lots of elk, but was not for the weak of heart or those who had not seen their belt buckles or feet during the past few years. It was an option, but not a good one for Kevin, who was also known as the Fat Little Trooper. Kevin then asked if I knew of any ranchers who would let us hunt on their land. I knew of one (we'll call him Doug because that's his name) but suspected he would not be affordable. I called him anyway. The news I had for Kevin was both good and bad. The bad was that Kevin simply could not afford a hunt on Doug's ranch; but the good was that Doug said he could get us on public land between his upper and lower ranches where there were also a lot of elk.

Now Kevin had a choice to make. Hunt where Billie goats fear to tread — my normal spot — or something just a bit lumpier than Wisconsin's Rib Mountain. Kevin showed considerable wisdom by picking lumpy. More specifically, Kevin opted to hunt near Grand Junction, Colo. I had bow hunted for mule deer on Doug's ranch 20 years ago, but knew nothing about the nearby National Forest Lands where Doug suggested we hunt. Hunting an unfamiliar area was just another challenging element to the already formidable task of getting an elk in front of Kevin.

For the next six months, I slept with visions of a wall tent nestled at the bottom of an alpine valley, smoke curling up from

When I transferred to Langlade County in 1980 I inherited Kevin Schramke as an intern. He worked with me for awhile, then went back to finish school. When he graduated, he hired on with the state patrol and that became his career. After a stint down south he transferred back to Langlade County, where he still works as a state patrol officer. I recruited him to be a hunter safety and ATV safety instructor and he is still doing a great job as lead instructor for our area. Now I assist him.

The real irony in this relationship is that his dad used to be the biggest deer poacher in Langlade County. Those years were pretty much behind him when I arrived, but we eventually became very good friends and I think he quit poaching out of respect for that friendship. I took Kevin's dad out turkey hunting shortly before he died, and although he missed two toms that day, he always said that was one of the biggest thrills of his life. Kevin and his dad were very close and Kevin's dad died three weeks before this elk hunt. I wrote the story when we got back for Kevin's memory and entertainment because he needed something like that at the time.

—Dave Sabrowsky

the tent's shepherd stove, towering spruce and pine guarding the meadow, and a clear mountain stream meandering through our peaceful elk camp.

This serene picture was shattered after Kevin and Alex drew licenses and they called, asking me if I wanted to stay "in a hotel with a suite so we could all have our own bed" or "a cheaper hotel."

"SAY WHAT?" I exclaimed. "Do you mean we aren't going to camp in the mountains?"

"Heck no," Kevin answered. "I want to get a good night's sleep." I was slowly getting suspicious why Kevin had never seen an elk on his previous hunts.

As the days neared for our departure, we debated frequently over what to bring along for the hunt. In fact, we debated about everything. Experience had taught me that unless you could afford an outfitted hunt, an elk hunter had to suffer to be successful. Pack it in on your back, live on berries and nuts for a few days, shoot an elk, and pack it out.

But Kevin does not believe in suffering.

Since it was Kevin's hunt, I could only advise. Ultimately, Kevin decided to bring a considerable amount of needless equipment, but he did agree to leave behind his computer, portable hot tub, ATV (which really stuck in his craw), Alex's dirt bike, chain saw, and teddy bear.

On Oct. 17, 2002, Kevin and Alex arrived at my home at 3 a.m. I added my one small duffel bag to their already burdened vehicle, and we were on the way to Colorado. Surprisingly, the journey went without a hitch, and we finally decided to call it a day by bivouacking in Sterling, Colorado ... at a Super 8.

After settling in, Kevin and Alex decided to swim in the pool while I relaxed in bed. Kevin and Alex were back to the room in less than 4 minutes with long, sorrowful faces. I asked them what happened, and Kevin answered sadly that the pool wasn't heated. With tongue firmly planted in my cheek, I congratulated the two on finally roughing it on an elk hunt.

It was becoming more apparent to me that getting an elk in front of Kevin and Alex was definitely going to be one of life's greater challenges.

We awoke early on Oct. 18, anxious to get through Denver before the rush hour and then relax and enjoy the beauty of the Rocky Mountains. Much to my surprise, the day again went as planned. No traffic jams, the mountains were right where I had left them on my last trip, and the vehicle performed admirably.

After securing our room in Grand Junction and relieving the vehicle of two tons worth of baggage, we drove to the National

Forest for some preseason scouting. Doug had indicated two areas that might be good, but I thought it best to learn a little about the country before the next morning's hunt. I didn't like what we learned.

Lots of campers, but worse yet, ATVers. I will concede that ATVs have their use, but I simply do not associate them with quality hunting experiences. Kevin saw it differently. Because he had not brought his ATV, he looked at it as a lost opportunity.

We drove to where the public land met the private land along the south boundary of the National Forest and then I broke the bad news to Kevin. "We walk from here."

"Where?"

"Up the hill, and then to the east."

"You got to be kidding me," he replied with disbelief.

I now knew for certain why Kevin had never seen an elk.

After some encouragement, I finally convinced Kevin that after climbing the first hill it would be easy. In fact the country was relatively flat compared to my elk hunting area. Kevin agreed to try and we were on the way.

After five minutes, Kevin was bent over wheezing, trying vainly to regain his breath, soaked with sweat, and red as a beet. I asked Kevin to step to the side so I could close the car door and then he could rest for awhile and cool down.

We did eventually climb the hill and explore to the east. It was a splendid mix of aspen ridges, spruce filled valleys, and natural meadows, but we found very little fresh elk sign. I was not overly optimistic about the next day's hunt, but I kept those feelings to myself. Kevin was already saying that this was like all his other hunts. Beautiful country, lots of hunters, and no elk. Alex wanted to go home and hunt pheasants.

My role as inspirational leader was being tested by the minute.

Our return trip to Grand Junction took us through private land and we were rewarded with the sightings of a zillion mule deer. After a little grocery shopping, we returned to our humble campsite in Grand Junction — (the five-star hotel) — consumed some pizza cooked over hot coals — (an electric oven)

— bathed in the frigid mountain stream — (a hot shower) — and retired to our individual cots and sleeping bags — (Kevin had a King size, I had a Queen, and Alex a Queen size hideaway bed.) We woke the next morning to the challenging bugle of a bull elk — (wake-up call from the front desk) — had the traditional outfitters' breakfast — (ham and cheese Bagel Bites done in the microwave) — mounted our already saddled horses — (a Ford Expedition) — and ventured forth on our mountain adventure.



Kevin and Alex pose with their Elk

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 / Miracle

Miracle: from page 5

The peaceful morning hike to our predetermined hunting spot was noisily disrupted by the whine of several ATVs whizzing by. That was nothing compared to the whining heard from Kevin about not being allowed to bring his ATV.

We finally arrived at our ambush site long after every self-respecting elk was bedded for the day but I was proud of my two companions. Despite the lack of elk sign, despite the fact we had arrived later than prime time, they remained vigilant ... for a good five minutes. Alex then fell asleep and Kevin extracted a book from his pack and began reading.

At 9 a.m. I decided to explore to the east and Alex volunteered to go with. I thought this would be a great opportunity to tutor the young hunter on still-hunting techniques. It worked out great. Utilizing 35 years of experience gained from hunting Missouri's rolling hills to Upper Michigan's vast wilderness, from Wisconsin's mysterious cedar swamps



Dave Sabrowsky, above, "roughs" it by "camping" in a hotel; right, Sabrowsky and Alex stand by the truck before the day's hunt.



to Colorado's rugged mountains, Alex and I teamed up to stalk within killing range of three cows (beef cows that is.) I thought Alex would pop his buttons. Having rekindled his fire for the hunt and not seeing another living wild animal, we returned to Kevin, who was completely engrossed in his book.

As tempting as it was to relax in the sun, we all realized we were on a mission — for Kevin to see an elk — so it was decided Alex and Kevin would hike back to the west and wait in the open aspen at the head of a spruce-filled valley. After an appropriate amount of time I would then explore the mountain, gradually working towards them in the hopes of finding some fresh elk sign and maybe even move some elk to them. Kevin left a walkie-talkie with me so we could communicate should the need arise.

At 1:15 p.m. I began my scouting/drive to my novice clients to the west hoping they would both be awake for the whole time. I had been walking for 20 minutes when a barrage of shots resounded throughout the mountains. It sure sounded like Kevin's style of "picking your shot" but it just couldn't be. The shots sounded too far north. I should have known better, especially since I could have sworn I heard the Mormon Tabernacle Choir singing "The Hallelujah Chorus" after the shooting stopped. I

was so sure that the shots were too far north of Kevin and Alex that I never turned on the walkie-talkie.

I continued with my assignment oblivious to the fact that history had been made just a half-mile away. When I finally arrived at our predetermined meeting spot I saw Kevin standing with only shirtsleeves on. I thought that odd. I took another few steps and saw that Alex too was dressed lightly. I started to suspect they had been the ones shooting. I walked closer and observed this large reddish/tan object lying on the ground. No, it couldn't be. I inched closer and positively identified the large object as a big 5x5 bull elk. I was stunned and a little nervous. I knew what this meant.

The impossible had happened. Not only had Kevin gotten far enough from his vehicle so that his remote wouldn't unlock the door, but he had **KILLED AN ELK**. The Minnesota Vikings would win a super bowl. Bill Clinton would tell the truth, but alas, the world just might be coming to an end.

Well, there was nothing else to do but enjoy the moment. Sincere congratulations were extended to Kevin and Alex and in the next five minutes I heard the story 10 times. Amazingly, the story never changed.

Apparently, Kevin and Alex had found their way to the designated spot without a hitch and settled in for what they assumed would be an uneventful afternoon. Alex immediately fell asleep to dream of some young cheerleader back home, while Kevin peacefully absorbed the splendor of the Rocky Mountains. Kevin isn't sure if he heard something or caught motion out of the corner of his eye, but when he looked to the right, there was a bull elk only 20 yards away and coming right at him. Kevin's response was quick and decisive. He swung around to shoot. The surprised bull's response was also quick and decisive. He reversed directions and

ran away. Kevin commenced firing. Kevin isn't sure which shots connected, but the bull was wounded and headed south, a direction which could eventually take the bull back to private land. Kevin was now out of shells. Alex, startled out of dreamland, was asked by dad to finish off the elk, and Alex willingly cooperated. Alex then looked for more elk and saw three more bulls running away toward the west. Alex was carrying a cow tag and could only watch.

When reality sunk in Kevin tried several times to call me. But I was blissfully exploring new territory. Kevin and Alex were on their own.

By the time I arrived — more than an hour later — they had most of the gutting finished. With a little help from their ecstatic but unpaid guide, the job was completed.

Kevin then asked, "Now what do we do? We can't drag it out."

I smiled on the outside and laughed on the inside. "It's time to suffer," I said. "We butcher it here and pack it out."

Kevin's shoulders sagged, his ears drooped, and he gave me this wet puppy look. I think I even saw a tear well up in his eye.

Just when Kevin gave up all hope, even reaching for his knife, the sound of an ATV driving past a couple hundred yards away rekindled his enthusiasm for the hunt.

“Why can’t we ask someone with an ATV to drag it out?” he asked.

“That’s up to you, but it really isn’t that hard to butcher it here and pack it out,” I argued.

I was over-ruled.

We all hiked back to the vehicle. Kevin figured he could ask around at the campsites for help. I figured the help would be in the woods looking for elk and deer yet and suggested that maybe we’d be better off waiting along the ATV trail nearest his bull. That required walking back up the ridge and the mile or two to the east. Kevin thought it a good idea, too. He suggested I take the walkie-talkie along so I could communicate with him after my hike.

Just before dark, I found help from some friendly hunters and relayed that information to Kevin. He was overjoyed.

It didn’t take long to secure the bull’s

head to the rear carrying rack of the ATV and our newfound friends headed down the mountain.

Kevin had stated that he wanted a full head mount. As the taillights of the ATV disappeared from my view I called Kevin to tell him that his elk was on the way down, but I had a little bad news for him. His bull elk was now a 5x3.

“You’re kidding me, aren’t you?” Kevin called over the walkie-talkie.

“Sorry Kevin, you’re breaking, try again,” I innocently replied.

“I know you’re kidding about the antlers; tell me you were kidding about the antlers,” he called again.

“Kevin, I can barely copy, lots of static. I’ll see you when I get back down,” I answered again.

Kevin was finally suffering on this elk hunt.

When we arrived back at the campsite of the neighborly hunters, Kevin got a genuine helping of western hospitality. (He was too happy to hold a grudge for misleading him on his bull’s rack.) The whole crew never thought about eat-

ing, but went to work on getting the elk properly cooled down. I had told Kevin that westerners were the greatest people and Kevin was overwhelmed with their generosity. We finally headed back to our campsite in Grand Junction at 9 p.m.

Sleep came easy for all of us that night and because Alex did not have an all-consuming desire to get up before 10 a.m. or hunt elk any more, we slept late and spent the day looking for a meat processor. No one would be able to butcher Kevin’s bull within a week so Kevin rented a U-Haul and decided to head home on Monday with the elk intact. Not many hunters drive 1,300 miles one way for a weekend hunt, but Kevin and Alex were comfortable with it, so I was too.

After returning to Wisconsin, I had plenty of time to reflect on the trip. I had originally thought I could teach Kevin and Alex a little about elk hunting, but I was the one who learned. Yep! I learned that you don’t have to suffer to be successful.

Dave Sabrowsky is a retired Wisconsin conservation warden from Elcho.

LOOKING BACK

By Harland Steinhorst

100 years ago

- C.D. Nelson stationed at Madison had 51 arrests and 41 convictions. It was the most arrests by a deputy warden in the year 1906.
- Twenty caribou were released near Brule River, Douglas County.
- Some 473 non-resident deer hunting licenses were issued.

75 years ago

- During the year, five people were arrested for fraud in obtaining licenses and three were arrested for “resisting and assaulting conservation wardens.”
- The Legislature repealed the law making licensed guides special deputy wardens when requested by the Department.
- The Legislature appropriated \$12,000 per year for deer and bear damage.

50 years ago

- The warden force is now using aircraft in the line of duty.

- 1956 marks the 100th established gun deer season in the state of Wisconsin.
- Hunters per deer taken: 8.0.
- A field warden was stationed in Chicago at the Wisconsin Conservation Department contact office. After 18 months, the position was discontinued.

25 years ago

- The third year of the Poacher Reporting Hotline, some 800 calls were reported in 1981.
- Brian Hussong, escaped killer of Special Warden Neil LaFave, is located in Shawano County. A raid team of 50 law enforcement officers, including seven conservation wardens, surrounded his hideout. He is killed when he fails to surrender to authorities.

HARLAND STEINHORST is a retired conservation warden living in LaValle.

What a difference a determined group can make!

True Teamwork

Conservation Wardens Jim Jung of Rhinelander and Tom Kroepelin of Minocqua coordinated a spring cleanup around the Rhinelander area on May 20.

Jung had been keeping track of known dump sites in his administrative area for some time waiting for an opportunity to work with an area group willing to clean up other peoples' garbage. Jung and Kroepelin contacted the Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association and over 25 volunteers showed up on a Saturday, willing to spend their day picking up junk that had been dumped and long forgotten by the responsible parties.

This was not the most glamorous project, being knee deep in some of the funkier smelling stuff known to man. But it ended up being very rewarding at the end of the day, Jung said. The group joked and laughed as the "Born on Date" of some not-so-ice-cold Budweiser was found, (Harry Carey would have been proud) and some volunteers joked about picking out gifts for an upcoming birthday or anniversary.

Jung said that he underestimated the overall amount of waste on the landscape around Rhinelander and wished he could have found additional funds to cover more dumpsters and the associated tipping fees. Within three hours the 30-yard dumpster was filled to capacity and the group resorted to filling the office dumpster and all available trailers.

Jung estimated that only half of the known dumpsites had been cleaned up and that there was a lot of work left to do. Over 60 yards of waste were collected, in addition to over 100 tires, numerous appliances and items such as car batteries.

The group focused their efforts on county lands, Plum Creek Timber Company lands, and some township properties. Jung arranged for the local television station and newspaper to scoop the big event.

Jung hopes to continue the clean-up effort around the Rhinelander area in the future.



BEFORE



AFTER

Making a difference

Sparta man's efforts to continually promote state's outdoor heritage gets noticed

By Matthew S. Modjeski

We all know someone who is making a difference. But what does it mean to make a difference?

Webster's II Dictionary defines "making" as: To cause to happen or exist; to bring into being; create or fashion; to cause to be or become. "Difference" is defined as: The quality, state, or degree of being different – separate, distinct or varied.

Since being stationed in Sparta in 1998, I have come to know a man who is making a difference in continuing our outdoor heritage. His name is Donnie L. Schnitzler. He and his wife, Vi, who will be married 47 years on Nov. 8, 2006, own and operate Don & Vi's Hunting and Fishing Sports Store in Sparta.

Don grew up on a farm south of Sparta. Since leaving the farm, his career included serving four years in the Army as a staff sergeant. After the Army, he worked eight years at DeComet in Sparta. For 13 years he owned and operated a local tavern that included a small sports shop in the back.

The following three years he worked roofing and remodeling homes. Later, he worked eight years at Fort McCoy doing everything from making snow at the ski hill, to driving a bus and furnace maintenance. In 1993, he and Vi opened Don & Vi's Hunting and Fishing Sports Store, where they have worked nonstop catering to their customers, except for a few times when family and friends watched the store so they could go hunting.

For 13 years Don & Vi's Hunting and Fishing Sports Store has served the Sparta community. Don has had a good working relationship with wardens including John

Adamski, Calvin Clark, Jim Kincannon, Paul Thomsen, Roy Zellmer, Rich Thole, Mark Little and me.

On Jan. 23, 2006, the Wisconsin Conservation Warden Service recognized Don's steadfast service in helping protect, enhance and promote the safe and wise use of our natural resources.

Don has tirelessly devoted his time and energy to being informed and educating others with regard to hunting, fishing, trapping, boating and other outdoor recreation activities. He has served 39 years and continues to be a fire warden. He also operates a sports store that sells licenses and registers deer and turkey.

For the last four years, Don has organized a deer hide donation collection effort from area hunters that has raised \$8,189

for local sports clubs. For the last two years, Don has organized and hosted a youth fishing tournament. Don has donated countless time to help carry on our outdoor heritage through various community organizations, schools, clubs and outdoor organizations. Specifically, he has helped Morrow Memorial Home, Rolling Hills Nursing Home & Rehabilitation Center, Maplewood Elementary School, Brookwood High School, 4-H Clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Rod & Gun/Sportsmen's Clubs including Sparta, Coulee, Bangor, Cataract, Norwalk, Wilton, Kendall & Millston/Knapp, the DNR Hunter Safety Education Program, Ducks Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, NWTW Women In The Outdoors, Pheasants Forever, Trout Unlimited, Wisconsin Bowhunters Association and others.

Throughout the years, he has continued to make a difference, and on Feb. 9, 2006 his contributions were recognized. During the Sparta Rod & Gun Club monthly meeting, I presented a plaque to Don honoring his actions. Don was quick to point out that he could not have done it without help from Vi. The framed certificate of appreciation, signed by me, Regional Warden Mark Burmesch and Chief Warden Randall Stark, ordered that Don's actions shall not go unnoticed.

Don and Vi proudly display the plaque in their store.

Matthew S. Modjeski is a warden in the central forest team in Sparta.



WARDEN MATT MODJESKI hands a plaque of appreciation to Don Schnitzler.

Youth trap shoot league aims to get, keep kids interested in the sport

By Mike Young

If you want to feel young again, the easiest way is to go to your local gun club. As you look at the worn and grizzled faces you will soon feel like a young pup. I'm not sure what the average age of the members of the Outagamie Conservation Club is, but at 40-something, I think I am still on the shy side of average. I really noticed this 20-plus years ago when I was first introduced to trap shooting. At 20, I was worried that the teams we shot against would die from coronaries before the round was finished. Years later, I'm worried that when those shooters die there will not be anyone to replace them.

About six years ago I had a discussion with Warden Roy Kalmerton, now retired, and Roy explained how in Sheboygan County they had trap as an extracurricular activity in the school system with the kids traveling throughout the area to compete. I thought this was a great idea, but did not think the schools in my area would endorse the shooting sports. I approached the Outagamie Conservation Club with the idea of setting up a youth trap league. The club endorsed the idea and told me to set it up.

I chose Monday night for the youth league since the club is not normally open on Mondays and we would not conflict with any other users. I also made the proposal that we shut down the bar during the youth league to eliminate any connections between shooting and drinking. The next

step was to get the cost down to an affordable price for the kids. The club agreed to allow the kids to shoot for the cost of the birds only. The club also gives each kid a free membership that allows full use of all the club's facilities.

Another member thought we should check for donations to cover the cost of

for the first year.

I took fliers to the local schools explaining the Youth Trap League and ended up with 50 interested boys and girls between the ages of 12 to 16 for the first year. Of these, 38 of the kids stuck with it for the whole summer.

Prior to the first shoot an orientation night is held explaining how to shoot trap, firearm safety, and what is allowed and what is not allowed. We also recruit adult volunteers from the club membership and parents to assist the kids on the firing line. The kids are assisted with their firearm handling skills, their stance, and marksmanship. At the end of the season, a banquet is held and trophies are awarded.

We are now going into our fifth year and had 158 shooters this past summer. We have had several organizations help fund the program. In addition to Shadows on The Wolf and Whitetails Unlimited, the Safari Club International, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, the "Ron and Ron Pheasant Competition," and the WCWA have all donated money to this program.

Since the initial youth trap league, the club has expanded with a youth archery league and a range for air guns so kids under 12 can shoot air guns while their older siblings are shooting trap. The big payoff is having kids handling firearms safely and responsibly and becoming advocates for the shooting sports.

MIKE YOUNG is a conservation warden in Outagamie County.



Kids on the firing range during Youth Trap Shoot at the Outagamie Conservation Club.



A full house — Parents and their children overflowed the club house youth night.

shooting for the kids. I was able to get "Shadows on The Wolf" and the Fox Valley chapter of Whitetails Unlimited to donate the money to cover the total cost

Family Outdoor Experience: 'It's about the outdoors and whatever goes with it'

About 80 youth ages 12-17 and their parents learned about outdoor skills in October 2005 through the Chippewa Valley Family Outdoor Experiences Association. The event, called the Chippewa Valley Family Outdoor Experience 10-5, was paid for mainly through donations and grants, including \$300 from the Wisconsin Conservation Education Foundation.

Jim Butler, president, said in three years the event grew from 12 children in one day to almost 100 children and their parents in two days. It is held at Rock Ridge Game Farm in Bloomer.

"It's not just about hunting," Butler says. "It's about the outdoors and whatever goes with it."

Parents are required to attend with their children and participate in all events. "The youth and parents learn a lot about all aspects of hunting and outdoors, including pheasant hunting, sporting clays, pellet gun shooting, bird cleaning, meat preserving, fly-tying and more."

Wisconsin DNR and Chippewa County Sheriff's Department representatives taught participants about trespassing, and reminded young hunters that they need to plan before going into the woods.

In addition, participants learned about the Five P's — Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance — and learned how simple things, such as garbage bags, compasses, a small knife and more could help save their life in the woods, Butler says.

Butler says many people came up afterwards to thank the association for the event.



"A grandfather told me he could never get his grandson to go trout fishing. But after learning to tie knots ... he walked over to him and said, 'Pa, I can sell these for college and you can show me how to use these to catch trout.' The grandfather was so happy he was almost crying."

The event will again be held in October 2006.



Top photo, Youth hunters, parents and staff pose for a photo during the 2005 event. Lexi Calo, 12, top right, was the top shooter of the day, killing three pheasants. Bottom photo, youth and their parents were able to pheasant hunt and much more during the Chippewa Valley Family Outdoor Experience 10-05.

Articles, photos sought for spring issue

Wisconsin Game Warden Magazine is looking for interesting articles that deal with the great outdoors. The deadline for the spring issue is Jan. 1, 2007.

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.

Aren't sure if your story is a good one? Contact Managing

Editor Barbara A. Schmitz at (920) 235-0972 and ask.

Articles can be submitted to Schmitz at 1705 Graber St., Oshkosh, WI 54901, or emailed to Schmitz at write2us@sbc-global.net.

When possible send photographs to go with your story. Photos will be returned, if requested.

Photos can also be sent electronically to Schmitz. However, they need to be scanned in at 300 dpi for to ensure quality printing in the magazine.

THE FUTURE OF HUNTER EDUCATION

How must training change to meet the needs of tomorrow's citizenry?

By Barbara A. Schmitz

Bill Akan says two things told him it was time to get involved.

One, he was out duck hunting with some friends when he ran into two young men, ages 15 and 16. Akan stopped and chatted with the two, then went on his way. Minutes later, he heard a gunshot and one of the teens came running up to Akan, asking for help.

The youth had shot his friend when shooting at a grouse. The boy later died.

The second time, Akan was out hunting with a father and son when the son fired at a rabbit. Akan was in the line of fire, and was hit in the back of the scalp. He lived, but he still bears the scar.

"After that, I decided to do something with young people and education," he says.

Thankfully, he isn't the only one who has decided to get involved. He is one of 5,200 active volunteer instructors in Wisconsin, the largest volunteer instructor corps in North America, according to Hunter Education Administrator Tim Lawhern. "In fact, we have more instructors than several states have students," he says.

Wisconsin's dramatically improved hunting safety rate accident rate reflects the growing number of hunters in the field who have passed hunter education courses. The DNR has certified nearly 850,000 students since 1967, and the accident rate has dropped by 90 percent since that time.

Wisconsin's Hunter Education program began in 1967 and became mandatory in 1985 for persons born on or after Jan. 1, 1973. Both the National Rifle Association and the International Hunter



Top photo, hunting instructor Charlie Sackmann watches as 12-year-old Marta Kerr of Fond du Lac, readies to shoot.. Bottom photo, Hunter Ed instructor Bill Akan helps students and parents clean the guns at the conclusion of the safety course.

Education Association have recognized Wisconsin's program as being one of the best in North America.

Statistics bear that out:

- The incident rate for hunting accidents in 1966 was 44 per 100,000 participants. In 1994, that rate had dropped to 4 per 100,000.

- In 1966, there were 265 reported hunting incidents with 21 fatalities. In 2005, there were 38 reported incidents with three fatalities.

Hunter education courses instill in students the knowledge and skill to be responsible and safe hunters. Through lectures, demonstrations and practical experience, students learn about hunter responsibility, safety, animal identification and habits and much more. One of the things stressed is TABK —

- Treat every gun as if its loaded.
- Always point your muzzle in a safe direction.
- Be sure of your target.

THE REGULATIONS

- Any one born on or after Jan. 1, 1973, must pass a hunter education course to buy a hunting license.
- Wisconsin law requires anyone under the age of 16 to be accompanied by a parent or guardian over 18 while hunting or using a firearm for any purpose. However, young people who complete the hunter education course and receive a certificate are eligible to hunt and use firearms without supervision at age 14.
- Hunter education graduates receive a certificate that is accepted in every state, Canadian Province, and Mexico.
- For state residents, a Wisconsin certificate is valid in lieu of a small game hunting license from the date of issuance until March 31 of the following year. Also, any Wisconsin resident that graduates from the course for the first time may take an antlerless deer in the deer season immediately following graduation with the regular gun deer license.

• Keep your finger off the trigger until you're ready to shoot.

The ultimate objective is to reduce the potential for hunting accidents, injuries and fatalities.

During a class in June, Akan told students about the 2005 incidents. The 12-year-old who shot his 14-year-old cousin in the back during a deer drive. The 81-year-old who shot a 14-year-old who was just walking to his stand.

And each time, he asked how the accident could have been prevented. The answer was always part of TABK.

The average course runs 18 hours, but for those who may be busy the days or nights classes are held, students can now complete the book portion of the course via a CD-ROM or online. Then they must only attend a special field day where they get the hands-on training and complete the exams.

While Wisconsin's hunter education program has been very successful, Lawhern says he is always trying to make it even better. About 125 hunter education instructors attended a DNR-sponsored conference in August, as well as professionals from throughout North America, to help Lawhern and the DNR figure out how to do that.

The statewide conference, last held 14 years ago, had three main purposes, Lawhern says.

"One, to celebrate our successes and our past, and to recognize people for the significant contributions they've made to the programs," he said. Besides recognizing the outstanding instructors who give of their time, energy, skills and resources, the conference highlighted all the positive things Wisconsin has been in the forefront of, such as the Hunter Education Instructor Academy, the world's first hunter education course on CD-Rom and the Internet, and advanced hunter ed programs.

The second purpose of the conference was to allow everyone to take a hard look at where the hunter education program is in the state and if that is where it should be.

And lastly, the conference was for beginning for developing a strategic plan for the hunter education program for the next 25

years. "Professionals looked into their crystal balls to tell us what's coming," Lawhern said. The cost of hunting, complicated game laws and lack of time mean fewer people are hunting today, and likely in the future.

"We really need to decide what we're trying to accomplish and to teach what students need to know vs. what is nice to know," Lawhern said. "How can we deliver a program that is efficient and effective?"

The state needs to provide classes that interest the public, he said, "and provide them with the knowledge and skill to help them become better at what they want to do."

Nothing ever stays the same in this world, Lawhern said, and hunter education programs can't either. "People either grow or they don't. The programs that we provide to the public must grow as well."

Lawhern said five issues will fuel that change that eventually occurs — social, technological, environmental, economical and political, or STEEP for short.

Some things they know already, he said, such as that the fastest growing segment of the population in Wisconsin is retirees. "We don't have the same number of 11- and 12-year-olds available that we did have 10 years ago and it will become even less in the future." And the population will be more diverse racially and sexually, with female participation one of the fastest trends.

Other issues can only be speculated on.

"What will the land use be 20 years from now?" Lawhern asked. "We're losing a number of family farms a day. Where will people hunt other than state land if they don't own land?"

"What about environmental diseases like Chronic Wasting Disease and West Nile Virus? How will those things affect participation in hunting?"

"And what are our legislators going to do?" Lawhern asked. "Aldo Leopold told us in the 1930s to beware, that we are losing our connection with the land. Today we are showing the results of that warning. Many of our kids do not want to step

outside to have fun. They travel down the roads watching videos instead of looking out the windows at flora and fauna."

Any revisions to the hunter education program can't be accomplished without the instructors believing in and understanding the reasons for the changes, he said.

"There must be buy-in. The best way to address a change is not to solve the problem, but to sell the problem. Set some type of parameters, but be realistic. If you want this or that, where will it come from and how will it be paid for? How can we be more efficient with our resources? What additional resources are necessary? Are there other ways to get the same result?"

Lawhern said that the rate of change that we face today is faster than the human race has ever known.

"Our ability to be resilient will be a major factor to be able to address the changes being made," he said, "and to control the destiny of hunting and hunter education in the future."



Lawhern



Bill Akan watches as a student shoots at clay pigeons during field exercises.

Peery named state officer of year

Warden also first to be awarded NWTf honorable mention at national level

By Barbara A. Schmitz

In third grade, Jeremy Peery's teacher told the class to write about what they wanted to be when they grew up.

Without hesitation, the young Jeremy wrote about being a conservation warden.

"It's something that I wanted to do for a long time," says the Rusk County warden.

That's good, because he excels at it.

Peery, of Ladysmith, received the Wisconsin Wildlife Officer of the Year Award from the National Wild Turkey Federation in mid-January in Middleton; then in February, he received honorable mention at the national level during the NWTf's conference in Nashville. He was the first to ever get the honorable mention distinction.

"Nobody knew who would be awarded the national officer of the year until it was announced," Peery recalls. "But when they announced that they first wanted to recognize me for the work I've done, I couldn't believe it. I was one of the youngest officers there; I didn't have any idea that I would come close to receiving the national award."

Conservation wardens deal a lot with people in the resources, but seldom get thanked, Peery says. "Every once in a while it is extremely gratifying to be recognized by a special interest group like the NWTf."

In addition, Peery and Warden Ron Nerva of Tomahawk received the Conservation Warden of the Year award at the annual Wisconsin Bear Hunter's Association convention in Stevens Point. The wardens were honored for their work involving the Learn to Hunt Youth Bear Hunts conducted in several counties in northern Wisconsin.

Peery grew up on a farm in northern Missouri and was an only child, so he was forced to entertain himself, he says. And the entertainment almost always was in



Jeremy Peery poses with this year's harvest in Rusk County.



the outdoors.

With a father and grandfather who were avid hunters, there was no doubt that Peery would also take up the sport.

In fact, turkey hunting is one of his favorite activities. "I shot my first turkey in Missouri when I was 10; it's one of my passions," he says. "It's in the spring time, which is nice because you've had four or five months of snow and ice to contend with. And it's great to get back in the woods.

"Plus, you get to interact with the bird. It's amazing that something that has the brain size of a quarter can outsmart you 60 percent of the time," Peery says.

"It's just a lot of fun being out there and trying to outsmart that bird and to listen to nature waking up in the morning. It's a great time to be alive."

He started school in Missouri and then transferred to UW-Stevens Point, graduating in December 1998 and starting work for the Wisconsin DNR in January 1999. He trained in Ladysmith and Poynette before coming to Rusk County.

What does he like best about the job?

"Being outside and being able to protect the resources that I grew up admiring," he says without hesitation. "You get to go out and be in a boat during the day time, and be paid to do what most people pay to do — to be outside, and not be stuck behind a desk or working on an assembly line."

But the reason for the awards is Peery's dedication to promoting hunting among youth, as well as his enforcement work. He started SHOT — Safe Hunters of Tomorrow — and through that program, helped to establish a Rusk County bear hunt for youth who are terminally ill, as well as a youth turkey hunt and youth pheasant hunt.

"Rusk County has always been a hook and bullet county," Peery says. "People here love to hunt and fish. They realize the future of hunting and fishing life as we know it rests with the kids. Without the cooperation and backing I have from the residents of Rusk County, there is no way I could be as successful as I am."

Of course, sometimes things don't go smoothly. Peery admits there have been times when he's checking ice fishermen and he has stepped into their hole up to his hip. And there was one time when he was backing the boat into the Flambeau River and the boat came off the trailer. "I had to swim for it in front of an audience," he says, laughing.

Josh Prohaska, a committee member on the youth hunts and a friend, says he's known Peery since he was riding with another warden, Jerry Carow, during his training.

"Jeremy believes in the value of the re-



Peery holds an illegally harvested sturgeon. The individual was convicted of criminal possession of a sturgeon during the closed season. He was fined \$2150 and had his licenses revoked for three years.

source and its importance in our culture,” he says. “He an avid outdoorsman ... and he realizes the importance of the outdoors to our youth. That is his biggest drive and desire, to promote learn-to-hunt programs for youth.”

Prohaska said Rusk County is fortunate in that the Rusk County Wildlife Restoration Association holds a three-day fundraiser in the spring, with profits going to restore wildlife habitat. Many of the people on the wildlife association are also active in the youth hunts. “They realize the habitat is important, but that someone needs to use that habitat and that’s why it is important to get kids involved.”

Not every child who participates in the youth hunts go on to become a hunter, Prohaska acknowledges. But at least they have a chance to try it. And Peery asks each child about the hunt afterward, whether they were successful or not. “It’s more about lifestyle and quality of life, rather than if they shot something. It’s about getting the kids away from TV and Nintendo.”

And all the work is worth it.

“There is a smile on Jeremy’s face the entire day,” Prohaska says. “Seeing everything come together is just really, really neat. It’s as much fun for the mentors as it is for the kids”

Prohaska says Peery is professional in everything he does. “He’s a neat individual and warden who has been great for our county.”

But Peery is modest. “I’m having a great time doing what I’m doing,” he says. “It really is a pleasure to serve the people of Wisconsin.”

WISCONSIN CONSERVATION WARDEN ASSOCIATION

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 W.C.W.A.?

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

Membership Categories

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

I want to become a WCWA member

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Regular and Associate memberships

\$20 for one-year membership

\$200 for life membership

Sponsor memberships

\$25 - \$99 one year

\$100-\$499, five year (with certificate suitable for framing)

\$500 or more, life membership (with wooden plaque)

Corporate Sponsorship

\$250-\$500 one year (\$500 or more includes free ad)

Memberships expire on June 30. Please make your check payable to the W.C.W.A. and send it to the W.C.W.A., Post Office Box 44, Madison, Wis., 53701-0044.

Your e-mail WILL NOT be shared with anyone. It is for the sole purpose of the WCWA to help maintain membership status and contact with our members.

Young named WWF Warden of Year

By Barbara A. Schmitz

Mike Young calls himself an “accidental warden.”

But sometimes you have to believe things happen for a reason. Like someone up high knew Young would do a good job.

He was right.

Young received the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Warden of the Year award in April, in part for creating an innovative program designed to get young people involved in shooting.

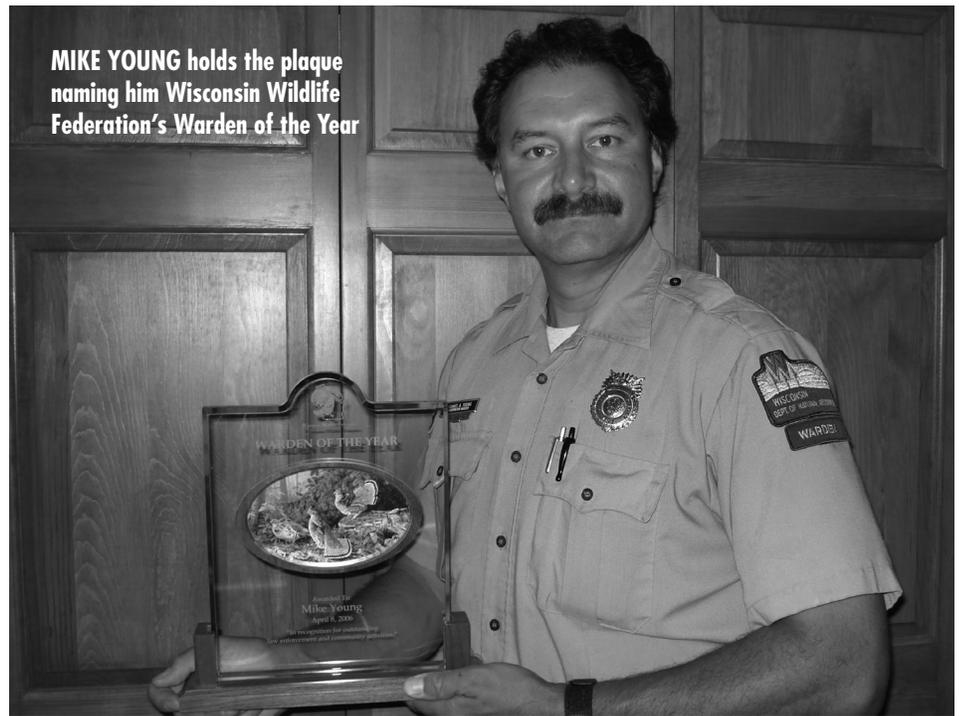
“Most of the other wardens I know wanted to be wardens since they were little kids,” Young says. “They hunted or fished, or met a warden and that’s why they chose to be a warden. But I came from a non-fishing and non-hunting family. Dad’s idea of roughing it was staying at a hotel with a black-and-white TV.”

After high school, Young built houses for eight years. But with finance rates in the 20-something percent and home building going down the tubes, Young started to look for another career.

Since he liked hunting and fishing from the occasional times he went with his uncles, Young enrolled at Fox Valley Technical College. He earned his associate’s degree in natural resource technology in 1988 and for three years worked as a park ranger.

“What I found is that the law enforcement part of the park ranger job was pretty interesting,” he says. “I enjoyed it.”

He transferred to Black River State Forest, where he worked for 2 1/2 years before being hired in 1993 as a conservation warden. He worked in Woodruff,



MIKE YOUNG holds the plaque naming him Wisconsin Wildlife Federation’s Warden of the Year

Lake Geneva and Marinette during training and started his regular station in Kenosha. He worked there one year before transferring to Shiocton, where he remains today.

“I’m originally from Neenah so it was closer to home,” he explains. “But I like the river. My goal is that when I leave the river will look the same or better than when I came. Then I will know I did my job. And I think it’s going to look better.”

Young says being a warden is one of the best jobs in the Department. “There is a tremendous amount of freedom, although there is a tremendous amount of responsibility that comes with it. The program is what you make of it.”

Making a difference is the best thing about his job, he says. “That’s the type of job I always wanted. A warden can make a difference not only in the environment, but in how people react to the resources and their attitudes toward those resources.”

Young says he has had hunter education students come up to him, sometimes years later, to say what an impact something he said had on them. “And sometimes I don’t even remember saying it. Even things you say off the cuff they remember.”

One example of that occurred when a man called in a complaint on a friend. “I had told him by calling in complaints you’re not getting people in trouble; they get themselves in trouble.”

Yet the highlight of his career, he says, was the state purchasing the LaSage prop-

erty, located in west central Outagamie County in the town of Ellington, in 1999. The property, nearly 500 acres, includes about 200 miles of shoreline, including several sturgeon-spawning sites.

Young says the sale occurred only after countless meetings with town and county officials, the natural resource board and citizens. “It really started the ball rolling for the Wolf River Bottoms Wildlife Area project, from the Shawano Dam to Lake Poygan,” he says. The area encompasses 214,000 acres and includes 14 existing Department projects, and is ongoing.

Young says his job isn’t without anecdotes. He recalls issuing a man a ticket one day, as the man said, “Half of the people hate you.”

Young responded, “That means half must like me.”

When he first moved to the Shiocton area, people told him the plan was to “run him out. Today, people hear rumors that I’m moving out, and tell me they hope it isn’t true.”

But of all the activities he enjoys one most, a youth trap league he helped start at the Outagamie Conservation Club. (See story on the league on Page 10.)

“I didn’t have a dad around who hunted and fished. My dad was a merchant marine, and he was gone three to five months at a clip. Even if he had hunted or fished, he wouldn’t have taken us often. A lot of kids don’t have that opportunity; the youth trap league gives those kids that opportunity.”

The trap league has grown from 38 youth the first year to 150 youth today, Young says. There is no charge for first-year shooters who are 12 and over. But the cost is kept minimal — \$4.25 a round — for those who come back for their second or third years.

The trap league has also been beneficial to the club, Young says. “A lot more memberships are sold, and more people are involved in the club.”

During the first year it was difficult to get enough volunteers to help with the league. But that’s no longer a problem. “If we get them to do it one day, they keep coming back because it’s so much fun,” Young says.

Young says he is now trying to connect with other trap clubs in the area, to get them involved in similar youth leagues.

But he hopes to accomplish other things in the future, too. He is working with Pheasants Forever, for example, to begin a Learn to Hunt program in the fall. And he hopes to begin an Adopt a Wildlife program to keep wildlife areas clean and alleviate trash problems.

“I’ve learned that if you want to accomplish a lot, you need to hook up with groups that are active. You can accomplish a lot more with volunteer organizations, and usually faster, too.”

Brad Driessen, manager and vice president of the conservation club, says Young is willing to do anything he asks of him, especially when it comes to youth programs. That includes talking about fish identification and handing out hooks and bobbers for Cub Scout camps, to bring-

Warden Mike Young poses after the award ceremony with his son, almost 2, and daughter, Nicole, 18.



ing a laser-shooting screen for a children’s fishing day.

“It’s just amazing how much time he gives us, especially considering he has a wife and kids at home,” Driessen says. “He really donates too much time to us.”

Driessen says Young is a fair, but tough warden. “He strikes fear in those who violate, and everyone else he’s good with. But if you’re going to violate, you will get nailed.”

Yet Young doesn’t come across as a tough guy with an attitude. “He’s got a personality that anyone can talk to,” he says.

Mike Kohl, president of the OCC, says Young is also a practical joker. “If you’re trying to get someone, he’s always right in the middle of it and somehow involved.

That sense of humor was apparent when a fellow warden was getting married, Kohl says. “She was getting married in two or three weeks, and was on a ‘Ask the Warden’ program on the radio. Mike called in and asked what wardens wear for a wedding dress — camouflage or blaze orange?”

Young also makes it more fun to teach the kids, Kohl says. Some times are more memorable than others, however.

“Once when he was teaching trapping, he was showing how it doesn’t hurt when the trap snaps,” he says. “He put his finger in, the trapped snapped ... and he couldn’t get it out.”

So he tried to make his point using another trap. Again, he put his finger in the trap and it snapped shut, Kohl says. Suddenly, Young’s face started to get a little red; he couldn’t get his finger out of that trap, either.

Young helps out with all five safety classes at the club, and really is trying to make sure outdoors sports like hunting don’t die, Kohl says.

“I was raised to believe that when you see a warden you duck,” he says. “But Mike has made it clear to people that he wants to see them outside having fun. If you need him or help, all you really have to do is call.”

Pat Lisi, recreational safety warden who retired in August, says Young is one of the most dedicated game wardens he has ever known.

“He runs a well-organized and varied program that works for his community. Mike has an outstanding record not only with protecting the natural resources in Outagamie County, but with his service to the safety programs as well.”

Letters To the Editor

Thanks for \$500 toward accessible fishing pier

Dear WCEF:

I want to thank the WCEF for their generous donation of \$500 toward the Perch Lake accessible fishing pier. The check has been deposited into a “gift account” that is being set up for other pier funds. These accounts are earmarked and cannot be used for any other purpose than the original intention.

Interest in providing accessible fishing and hunting opportunities is gaining interest in many parts of the state. Since 1990, our La Crosse DNR office has constructed an accessible fishing trail along the Coon Creek in Coon Valley, accessible fishing piers on two small local lakes (Jersey Valley and Runge Hollow, Vernon County) and will have two more piers installed by the May 2006 opener in Lake Onalaska and Lake Neshonoc (La Crosse County.)

The North American Squirrel Association, an advocacy group for people with accessibility needs, has become very active in providing both hunting and fishing opportunities in the La Crosse area. They have already provided funds for the two new piers and have committed to funds for the Perch Lake projects.

I have initiated the application process to acquire additional state funds for the pier and will keep Matt Modjeski apprised of the progress.

Again, thank you for your contribution. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
David Vetrano
Fisheries Supervisor
Wisconsin DNR

...

Do you have a letter you’d like to write to Wisconsin Game Warden Magazine? Send it to Editor Barbara A. Schmitz at 1705 Graber St., Oshkosh, WI 54901, or email it to write2us@sbcglobal.net.

FRUITS OF THEIR LABOR

a photo album



Mike Bronsdon, 5, caught his first bass near Eagle Tower on June 14, 2006. From left are John Collison, Claire Collison, Mike Bronsdon and Matt Bronsdon. Mike said the fish was "really strong."

Wisconsin wardens don't just protect the resources. They also enjoy the resources, often with their families.

That's the purpose behind our newest feature, Fruits of their Labor.

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? We'd like to include it in future issues of Wisconsin Game Warden Magazine.

Mail or email photos — color or black and white are acceptable — to Gary Eddy or Barbara A. Schmitz. Submitted photos will be returned; emailed photos should be at least 4" x 6" and 300 dpi.

Eddy can be reached at gary.eddy@dnr.state.wi.us or 101 S. Webster St., Madison, WI 53707.

Schmitz can be reached at write2us@sbcglobal.net or 1705 Graber St., Oshkosh, WI 54901.

Waupaca County Warden Jeff Knorr, left back row; Northeast Regional Investigator Steve Daye, right back row; Lincoln County Warden Ron Nerva, left middle row; and Manitowoc County Warden Ryan Volenburg, right front row, pose with their ducks.

Below left, Waupaca County Warden Jeff Knorr takes aim on Lake Michigan. Below right, Knorr holds two big catfish from his setlines.

Submitted photos





Polk County Warden Jesse Ashton shot this buck with his bow on Oct. 27, 2004 in Polk County. It had a 10-point rack that grossed 152 5/8 Pope and Young and it dressed out at 222 pounds.

Photo submitted by Jesse Ashton

Buffalo County Warden Bob Jumbeck harvested this bear with his bow on Sept. 9, 2003 near Ladysmith. It field dressed at 324 pounds and the skull scored 19 inches and change which made P&Y. He is pictured with Rusk County Warden Jeremy Peery.

Photo submitted by Bob Jumbeck



Midwest deer and turkey expo dates set

Midwest deer and turkey expos, produced by Target Communications Corp., will have a new feature in 2007.

New will be a series of seminars and a demonstration area on food plot development and management. In addition, each expo will have an optics hands-on viewing area, new products special display area, big game contest/display, wild foods cooking demonstrations, venison butchering and processing demonstrations, and more than two days of how-to-seminars on a wide range of topics, hands-on shooting opportunities and 200-550 exhibit booths, varying from expo to expo.

Byron Ferguson, an internationally known archery trick shot and accomplished bowhunter, will perform on Saturday and Sunday at all five expos. Ferguson shoots wooden discs and pennies from the air, snuffs a candle with an arrow, shoots ricochet arrows into a target's bullseye, and bursts inflated balloons while shooting from all sorts of contorted positions. He is a veteran bowhunter and has taken more than 160 whitetails, plus black bear, a record-book mule deer, moose and game birds.

The expo dates include:

- Feb. 9-11 — Michigan Deer and Turkey Spectacular, Lansing Center, Lansing, Mich.

- Feb. 23-25 — Illinois Deer and Turkey Classic, Interstate Center, Bloomington, Ill.

- March 9-11 — Minnesota Deer and Turkey Expo, Four Seasons Centre, Steel County Fairgrounds, Owatonna, Minn.

- March 16-18 — Ohio Deer and Turkey Expo, Bricker Building, Ohio Expo Center, Columbus, Ohio.

- March 30-April 1 — Wisconsin Deer and Turkey Expo, Alliant Energy Center, Madison, Wis.

To be sure that young people get continued exposure to shooting sports, the events will have a children's instructional archery range and information on the National Archery in Schools Program. Instructors will be provided by NASP.

The Wisconsin expo will have several hands-on shooting opportunities, such as archery, airgun, laser firearms, and a bow tryout area; live wild animal display, including cougar, bears, coyote, bobcat, plus four subspecies of wild turkeys; outdoor photo contest; and an Outdoor Village of

natural history displays and activities.

The Wisconsin DNR will also have its "Wall of Shame" there, showing illegally taken deer trophies, while the Mountain Men Encampment will feature tipis, wall tents, campfire cooking, a working blacksmith set-up, and more. The camp display will be conducted by members of the Wisconsin Muzzle Loaders Association.

Hours are 2 -9 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday.

Tickets are available at the door and are available online at www.deerinfo.com. All youth ages 11 and under are admitted free on Friday when accompanied by an adult. In addition, all first-year hunters will be admitted free when they show proof of hunter ed course completion within the year preceding individual expo dates. Youth ages 12-18 get a ticket discount when they show proof of hunter education course completion at the ticket window, while certified hunter ed instructors are admitted free when they show their certification card at the ticket window.

For more information on the Wisconsin expo, visit <http://www.deerinfo.com/wisconsinhome.asp>.

2005-06 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Tom Van Haren

The following are some of the Wisconsin Acts that were passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Doyle during the 2005-06 legislative session.

- **Wisconsin ACT 53 (AB 178)** - Allows the deferral of the use of certain hunting and trapping approvals by certain members of the armed forces called up for active duty until the season after their tour of duty ends. This new law allows a person who is selected under a random or preference drawing system and who is unable to exercise the privilege to hunt or trap granted by the permit or license because the person is serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces to ask that the permit or license be deferred. The person must ask for the deferral at least the day prior to the beginning of that hunting or trapping season. A person whose permit or license is deferred has until the end of the calendar year after the year he or she ceased serving in the armed forces to apply or request the permit or license that was deferred. The person may apply earlier if he or she is able to exercise the privilege to fish, hunt, or trap. **Took effect 4-1-06.**
- **Wisconsin ACT 55 (AB 410)** - This new law allows the nonresident child of a Wisconsin resident to pay the same fee for hunting and fishing approvals as a resident would pay (separated parents, etc). **Took effect on 12-30-05.**
- **Wisconsin ACT 57 (AB 93)** – Allows the use of a flashlight at point of kill while hunting coyotes at night. This new law expands the current raccoon, fox and unprotected species exception to also allow a person to use a flashlight at the point of kill while hunting coyotes on foot. **Took effect on 12-31-05.**
- **Wisconsin ACT 60 (AB 648)** - This new law requires law enforcement agencies to establish procedures for using an eyewitness to identify a person suspected of committing a crime, requires audio or audio/visual recordings of custodial interrogations of juveniles and persons suspected of a felony, and creates a grant program for equipment and training for digital recording of custodial interrogations. **Took effect 12-31-05.**
- **Wisconsin ACT 82 & 108 (AB 166 & AB 229)** - Under this act, a person who receives only wildlife damage abatement assistance and not any wildlife damage claim payment as the result of damage caused by deer would not be required to permit public hunting of deer on the land. **Took effect on 1-1-06.**
- **Wisconsin ACT 88 (AB 384)** - This law allows a person who has obtained preference points or who has been selected for an approval through a drawing, to designate a person who can designate a minor to receive those preference points or the approval, if the person who was selected in the drawing dies before the first day of the season to which the approval is valid. The request to transfer the preference points or approval must take place within one year of the person's death. **Took effect on 1-20-06.**
- **Wisconsin ACT 108 (AB 229)** - This law allows the transfer of a landowner's eligibility to apply for a turkey hunting license to any minor and no longer limits such preference transfers to only family members or operators of the farm who live on the land. **Takes effect on 1-1-07.**
- **Wisconsin ACT 117 (AB 117)** – This act created an exemption to blaze orange clothing requirement during a firearm deer hunting season for legal night hunting activities, such as coon hunting. **Took effect on 3-16-06.**
- **Wisconsin ACT 169 (AB 748)** - This new law makes it a violation of s. 167.31(3m), Wis. Stats., for a person to intentionally discharge a firearm in the direction of any pipe, pipeline, duct, wire, cable, line, conduit, pole, tower, equipment, or other structure used to transmit or distribute electricity to or for the public. If the person does so **and causes damage**, the person is subject to a forfeiture and will have his or her hunting licenses revoked for one year. In addition, the court must order that the defendant pay for the cost of repairing or replacing the electric transmission facility. **Takes effect on 11-1-06.**
- **Wisconsin ACT 210 (AB 566)** – Under this Act, new noise level requirements are established for snowmobiles. In addition, it provided authority for DNR to modify the exhaust and engine noise level standards for newer snowmobiles by rule, but not before May 1, 2008. **Took effect on 4-11-06.**
- **Wisconsin ACT 243 (AB 905)** – This Act expands the opportunity for full time undergraduate students attending 4 year colleges or universities in this state to purchase fishing, small game and deer hunting licenses at the resident fee, to any full time student of a Wisconsin college or university that offers any degree. Now students attending schools that offer only a 2yr associate degree and graduate students are also qualified. **Took effective on 7-1-06.**
- **Wisconsin ACT 282 (AB 26)** – Grants the DNR authority to enter into the wildlife violator compact with other member states and created a \$5 wildlife violator compact surcharge for violations of Ch. 29 and all rules promulgated under Ch. 29 to pay for this program. This Act also provides authority to mail citations to nonresidents. The passing of this legislation does not automatically make Wisconsin part of the Wildlife Violators Compact. Wisconsin must now first promulgate some rules and establish procedures for administering the terms of the compact and then make formal application to become a member. It is hoped that this will all be completed by sometime in the year 2007. Under the compact, if a person is arrested for violating a law that protects wildlife in any of the member states, the person is handled or processed in the same manner as a resident of this state. **Aspects of the compact include:**
 - The right to sign a recognizance stating that a nonresident will comply with the requirements of the citation, without being required to post bond or appear immediately before a court. This same treatment will also be afforded to any Wis. resident who is charged for a violation of a Fish or Wildlife violation in any of the member states.
 - The treatment of any violation committed by a non-resident in any of the member states, the same as if the violation occurred in this state (including repeat offenders & revocation) The suspension or revocation of hunting, fishing or trapping privileges by a resident of any of the member states applies to all member states, regardless of which state the violation occurred.
 - To help pay for the annual cost to administer this program, this legislation has also created a \$5 “Wildlife Violator Compact Surcharge” that would be applied to the penalty imposed on each person convicted of a Fish or Wildlife violation in this state.
- **Wisconsin ACT 283 (AB 523)** - Under this Act, a qualified member of the armed forces is now eligible to obtain **ANY** hunting, trapping, or fishing approval at the resident fee (no longer just small game, fishing & deer hunting). A qualified member of the armed forces is a person who exhibits proof that he or she is in active service in the U.S. armed forces or in forces incorporated in the U.S. armed forces and that he or she is stationed in this state. Qualified students identified in Act 243 are still only eligible for the small game, fishing and deer hunting approvals at the resident fee. **Took effect on 4-21-06.**
- **Wisconsin ACT 284 (AB 131)** - Allows trapping licenses to be issued to nonresidents if their home state allows Wisconsin residents to purchase a trapping license in that state. Such nonresident trappers however, must first obtain a Wisconsin Trapper Education Certificate. There is no reciprocity to accept a trapper education course from another state, and nonresidents who are farmers or who purchased a trapping license before May 12, 1992 in this state or any other state are also not exempt from the Wis. Trapper Ed. requirement. **Took effect on 4-21-06.**
- **Wisconsin ACT 285 (AB 286)** - This Act removes the 100lb. draw weight for crossbows if the crossbow is a conventional compound bows with a Draw-lock device attached. A person still must be eligible to use a crossbow in order to use a compound bow with a full draw Draw-lock device attached. Currently, a crossbow used by a qualified disabled hunter or resident senior citizen must have a minimum draw weight of 100 lbs. Since a compound bow equipped with a device to hold the bow at full draw is considered a crossbow by definition, a hunter could not legally use such a bow unless the compound bow also

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met the 100 lb. draw weight. This bill simply created an exception from the minimum 100 lb. draw weight if the bow is a compound bow. The minimum 30 lb. draw requirement to hunt deer or bear with a bow still applies. **Took effect on 4-21-06.**

- **Wisconsin ACT 286 (AB 609)** – This act allows the state to indemnify persons (landfills) who process or dispose of carcasses with chronic wasting disease. It gives the DNR authority to promulgate rules to regulate the transportation, possession, control, storage, and disposal of the carcass of a cervid to control CWD, even after a deer has been registered. The bill also allows DNR to promulgate rules prohibiting the transportation of the carcass of a cervid from another state or country in which CWD has been confirmed in a cervid. This legislation specifies that any new rules may not apply to certain types of meat and antlers, including deboned meat, wrapped meat, and finished taxidermy heads. This act requires a person to provide DNR with sample tissue or data derived from any wild animal if that sample is needed to determine the extent of a disease in wild animals. This act will again allow DNR staff, federal employees, and landowners to shoot wild animals from certain vehicles in areas designated as a CWD control zones (*This authority sunsets on June 30, 2010*). Lastly, this bill allows (but does not require) the DNR to exempt deer hunters in CWD control zones from having a deer hunting license. This authority may at some point in time be used to replace the administratively burdensome issuance of landowner shooting permits in the CWD ERZ, however no plans have been made to implement this authority at this time. **Took effect on 4-21-06.**
- **Wisconsin ACT 288 (AB 581)** – This Act was a result of many years of cooperative work by the Commercial Fishing Task Force to update statutes related to commercial and wholesale fish dealing licenses, vehicle identification, and record-keeping requirements, inspections of wholesale fish dealer and commercial fisher records and premises, commercial fishing boats, periods when a commercial fisher may fish on the waters of Green Bay, the sale and purchase of eggs from certain trout and salmon, commercial fishing approval fees, seizure of certain fishing devices, access to places used to store or retain wild animals, establishing a commercial fish reporting system, imposing certain surcharges, etc. As a result of this rewrite of the commercial and wholesale fish dealer statutes, new rules will now need to be developed in NR25. **Took effect on 4-21-06.**
- **Wisconsin ACT 289 (AB 800)** – Under this Act, the DNR can accept a certificate of accomplishment, license or other evidence satisfactory to the department indicating that a person has **successfully** completed a hunter education course recognized by the

department in another **country** or **province**. **Took effect on 4-21-06.**

- **Wisconsin ACT 291 (SB 158 & AB 337)** - This Act removed the restrictions which limited night bow fishing to only certain inland lakes designated by rule. Now, when any water is open to spearing of rough fish during the day, that water is also open to night bow fishing. This Act also creates an exemption from the 10pm – 7am shining restriction from Sept. 15 to Dec. 31 for a person who possesses or uses a light while using a bow and arrow for taking rough fish. In addition, this Act created s. 29.405, Wis. Stats., which states no person may take rough fish with a bow and arrow unless the arrow is equipped with a metal barbed tip that is attached to the bow with a tethered line that allows for the retrieval of the arrow and the fish. Under this Act, the release or return any rough fish taken with a bow and arrow, whether dead or alive, to the waters of this state is illegal as is leaving any rough fish taken with a bow and arrow, whether dead or alive, on the ice or banks of any waters of this state. **Took effect on April 21, 2006.**
- **Wisconsin ACT 308 (AB 934)** – This Act grants the operator of a patrol boat who is responding to an emergency call or who is pursuing a person suspected of violating the law an exemption from most boating laws and ordinances when a siren or emergency light is activated, provided that the operator gives due regard to the safety of other persons in the vicinity, revises current law specifications for emergency lights on patrol boats to be of a type and design specified under federal law. **Took effect on 4-21-06.**
- **Wisconsin ACT 345 (AB 864)** – This Act created a new exception to the s. 167.31, Wis. Stats., restrictions on transportation of uncased firearms. The new exception authorizes a person to transport an unloaded and **uncased** firearm for non-hunting purposes in certain self-propelled motor vehicle with four rubber tired wheels (golf carts and Gators, but not ATV's) at sport shooting ranges located on private property. **Took effect on 4-29-06.**
- **Wisconsin ACT 356 (AB 248)** - Under this Act, a person who is born after Jan. 1, 1989 and has reached that age of 16, must complete a boating safety course established by the DNR before they may operate a motor boat, even if they are accompanied by an adult. This law requires the department to pass administrative rules dealing with rental boats and people who are not certified and wanting to rent a boat, before the bill becomes effective. In addition, no person who is engaged in the rental or leasing of motorboats to the public may rent or lease **any motorboat** for operation by a person who will be operating a motorboat for the first time **in each calendar year** and who does not hold a valid certificate issued by the department, unless the person engaged in the rental or leasing gives the person instruction on how to operate the motorboat in the manner

established by the department under s. 30.74 (1) (am). **Takes effect when DNR gets rules in place to administer the new changes (summer or fall 2007)**

- **Wisconsin ACT 359 (AB 345)** – This act created a grandfather clause for deer hunting preserves that are less than the 80 acres as currently required by law. Under this new law, if the deer farm was licensed by the DNR as a deer farm in 2002 and that farm can prove to DATCP that it was operating as a shooting deer farm on less than 80 acres, but not less than the 2002 minimum of 10 acres, then that farm may obtain a deer hunting preserve registration from DATCP. **Took effect on 5-3-06.**
- **Wisconsin ACT 394 (AB 842)** – This new law authorizes DNR to sell skins that are prepared as part of the trapper education program and to use the proceeds from the sale of the skins for the trapper education program. This bill also allows the department to use any wild animals, plants, vehicles, or objects that it confiscates in any of the educational programs that it conducts, as well as unclaimed property in the possession of the DNR. **Took effect 5-25-06.**
- **Wisconsin ACT 395 (AB 923)** – This Bill establishes alternative warning methods for lake protection and rehabilitation districts or nonprofit corporations who create ice holes by aeration as approved by the DNR for the purposes of water quality. The alternative methods required such persons to post highly visible warning notices at each shoreline area through which the public has access and to provide written notice to owners of riparian property on the affected lake. The bill also provides general liability protection for organizations and individuals who follow the required notice provisions. The alternative marking methods created by this bill are still located in s. 167.26 Wis. Stats., which wardens still do not have direct authority to enforce. Enforcement is still the responsibility of local authorities. **Took effect on 5-23-06.**
- **Wisconsin ACT 409 (AB 1209)** - This new law allows the DNR to issue a fence inspection certificate for a only the Wisconsin portion of a deer farm fence when the deer farm is located on the state line and includes lands in more than one state. The deer farm fence must meet the minimum requirements of the state with the more strict fencing requirements, as determined by Wisconsin DNR. **Took effect 6-2-06.**
- **Wisconsin ACT 481 (AB 875)** This act creates a new exemption from the registration requirements for a boat, snowmobile, or ATV that is present in this state for a period not to exceed 15 days and that is used exclusively as part of an advertisement that is being made for the manufacturer of the boat, snowmobile, or ATV. The bill also creates a similar exemption from the trail use sticker for ATVs and snowmobiles. **Took effect on 6-14-06.**
- **Wisconsin ACT 209 (AB 840)** This law creates a 55 mph speed limit for operation of snowmobiles during the hours of darkness for one year. **Effective 7-1-06 through 5-1-07.**

Drake receives prestigious Haskell Noyes Award

By Barbara A. Schmitz

Enforcement. Education. Community programs.

While many conservation wardens do well in one or two of the above areas, few excel in all three like Kyle Drake.

And that's a major reason why Drake, a Waukesha County warden, received the Haskell Noyes Efficiency Award for 2005 on June 2.

Recognized as the "Warden of the Year" award, it is given to a Wisconsin conservation warden to recognize outstanding work in all areas.

Hired in 1992 as a conservation warden, Drake serves the northeast portion of Waukesha County.



Drake

Enforcement

Drake has been involved in some big cases, such as a large thrill killing case resulting in criminal and civil charges against eight individuals who poached animals at night.

"It was pretty similar to a lot of thrill kill cases in Wisconsin," he says. "People in their late teens and early 20s going out and shining animals with spotlights and then shooting them with a .22-rifle. They would shoot at deer, raccoon, coyotes ... anything they came across."

In most cases, they would let the animal lie, and not even bother to see if they hit the animal or not, he says.

And like many cases, Drake started to hear information about the case through the grapevine. "Kids have a tendency to talk," he explains. "It all centered at Arrowhead High School."

Although most of the shooting occurred in 2002, it took two years for Drake to make the case. And finally, in late 2004, the eight received \$12,000 in fines and had their hunting privileges revoked for 13 years.

Drake also played an important role in the takedown and follow up on the "Urban Market" cases. "It was a case where we had some individuals, mostly from the city

DRAKE AT A GLANCE

- Graduate of UW-Stevens Point in 1987, Kyle Drake began his career as a LTE in wildlife management in Green Bay and then went to the fish and wildlife services in Madison for about 1 1/2 years before he went back to the DNR in wildlife management.
- Hired as a warden in 1992.
- Married to April, and they have two sons — Conor, 10, and Eric, 7.
- When he's not working, Drake is a basketball and baseball coach for his sons and he enjoys taking them fishing.

of Milwaukee, who would over-bag on panfish and sell them illegally," he says. That case is still ongoing.

With an extensive background in wildlife, he recently worked with wildlife staff conducting helicopter surveys, wildlife rehabilitator inspections, CWD sampling and deer farm fence inspections. His background in wildlife has also assisted him in enforcement situations, including the illegal possession of an Ornate Box Turtle, an endangered species, and in public involvement activities regarding the Butler Garter Snake and CWD regulations and management.

He is also dedicated to environmental enforcement and has been involved in investigations in contaminated groundwater and developers who are in noncompliance. In the latter case, the developer allowed 6-8 inches of soil and mud to run off into a wetland, nearby cemetery and Fowler Lake. Several defendants in the case spent more than \$469,000 conducting cleanup and restoration activities and were fined \$120,000.

Yet Drake isn't one to be satisfied with his enforcement accomplishments. "I have things still to accomplish. For one, with the urban sprawl going on, I wish I could do a better job on water regulation, erosion patrol, and pollution cases. I wish we could inform or get better compliance with the

developers and contractors. It's difficult for me to see the resources that used to be and what is now left with the new development. I'd like to maintain more green space, and see developments be less intrusive."

Education and community programming.

The two are really intertwined since community programming often includes an education aspect.

Warden Supervisor Jeremy Plautz says Drake is an advocate for the hunter education program and gave presentations at 38 safety education courses last year. But Drake also attends field days and gets involved in field dressing and tracking scenarios with the students.

Drake says the time he spends educating people about the natural resources is the most rewarding part of his job. "I enjoy most working in safety education and working with kids who are interested in natural resources," he says.

He has been involved in the Safari Club Youth hunting day on a regular basis over the last several years, and the Wern Valley Rod and Gun learn to turkey hunt programs which last year had over 60 participants.

Drake also uses the media to educate the public about a variety of issues, from deer season rules to ice safety.

"I have developed a relationship with a couple of newspaper media and when issues come to the forefront, I know I can call these writers and they will put a snippet or article in the paper," he says.

In addition, the Waukesha Police Dept has its own show on cable — and people can call in with any law enforcement questions.

While the percentage of people who hunt and fish is less today than in the past, Drake says he still has plenty to do since he works in a heavily populated community.

"I can find plenty to do on any night, and every day is a little bit different," he says. "Waukesha is the busiest county in the state. We graduate the most kids from hunter education and boating education classes in the state and we have the most instructors."

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WCWA awards scholarships

The Wisconsin Conservation Warden Association awarded several scholarships to students in the College of Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. The winners, awarded April 7, and the scholarships they received, include:

WCWA Harold Hettrick Memorial Scholarship

Jack Shead is a sophomore with a wildlife management major and an environmental law enforcement minor. After graduation he hopes to become a conservation warden. He has always been amazed by what nature can offer, and he hopes to pass this love and respect on to future generations.

WCWA Andrew A. Krakow Scholarship

Jennifer Kline, originally from Casco, Wis., is a double major in wildlife management and biology and an environmental law enforcement minor. On campus she is involved with the Student Law Enforcement Association and The Wildlife Society.

After graduation, she hopes to work for the DNR as a conservation warden. During

her free time she enjoys swimming, canoeing, kayaking, camping and hunting.

WCWA Einar Johnson Scholarship

Originally from Campbellsport, Jonathan Fenrick is a general resource management major with a minor in environmental law enforcement. Fenrick has spent time working for the DNR in the past and hopes to become a conservation warden or police officer after graduation.

He has also been a member of the UW-Stevens Point Track and Field team for two years.

WCWA Robert Markle Scholarship

Kurt Haas is a general resource management major and an environmental law enforcement minor. He is actively involved with intramural basketball and volleyball and with the Student Law Enforcement Association.

Originally from Rib Lake, Haas was a natural resources officer this past summer with Willow River State Park.

After graduation, he hopes to become a natural resources law officer.

Wardens killed on duty

Thirteen Wisconsin conservation wardens have died in the line of duty since the force began. Their names, date of death and age follow:

- Carter, James - July 30, 1923. Age 39.
- Kleist, Michael - July 14, 1924. Age 51.
- Vander Kelen, Alfred - Nov. 6, 1928. Age 29.
- Johnson, Einar - May 17, 1929. Age 33.
- Riebe, William - June 19, 1930. Age 37.
- Alderman, E. Lynn - July 22, 1933. Age 45.
- Lee, Albert - July 18, 1934. Age 48.
- Reif, Albert E. -- Nov. 18, 1942. Age 33.
- Russell Jr., Mark - May 21, 1955. Age 30.
- Markle, Robert B. - May 8, 1966. Age 54.
- La Fave, Neil - Sept. 24, 1971. Age 32.
- Krakow, Andrew - June 5, 1990. Age 41.
- Warner, Patrick - May 24, 1993. Age 46.

2006 Super Conservation Education Raffle Winners Drawn

One hundred people became winners Aug. 22 when their names were drawn for the 2006 Super Conservation Education Raffle.

Douglas and Erika Keeser of Watertown, Wis. won the grand prize, a 2006 Chevrolet Colorado. They accepted their prize from Jason Brickl, principal dealer of Ballweg Chevrolet in Middleton, and Dave Branley, raffle manager for the WCWA/WCEF.

Raffle proceeds are used to fund college scholarships for students studying natural resources; conservation education publications; community oriented projects that encourage youth to participate in outdoor skills safely; habitat protection projects; and recognition of outstanding DNR volunteer instructors in safety education. Funds also go toward aiding families of officers killed in the line of duty.

The raffle is conducted by the Wisconsin Conservation and Education Foundation, the public charity affiliated with the Wisconsin Conservation Warden Association.



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