

Conservation Front Line

Volume 1, Issue 4

February 14, 2014

The 2014 Conservation Banquet is nearly here!

February 22nd marks the second annual Conservation Banquet held by our partner organization, Wisconsin Conservation & Education Foundation. A second year of fantastic food, epic prizes, and rollicking good times. A second year of raising funds for the important work that we are proud to support—learn-to-hunt events, scholarships, and other grants given to local conservation wardens and like-minded organizations. It was your support last year that helped us raise about \$17,000 for

our efforts! We couldn't have done without you, so THANK YOU!

Some key items up for raffle or auction this year are: another beautiful painting done by our own volunteer and local artist, Shannon Becker; original stained glass art by Michelle Ackerman; a quilt hand crafted by Deb Wilson of Marshfield specifically for the banquet (see photos on page 2); some spectacular firearms; and much more.

If you haven't bought your tickets for the banquet yet, please know that today is the last day! You can purchase them two ways.

- ◆ Online at <http://wiconservationfoundation.org>
- ◆ Or by contacting Joe or Joyce Ryder directly at 715-409-0215 or 715-536-8925

Tickets must be purchased by February 14th!

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On the Horizon

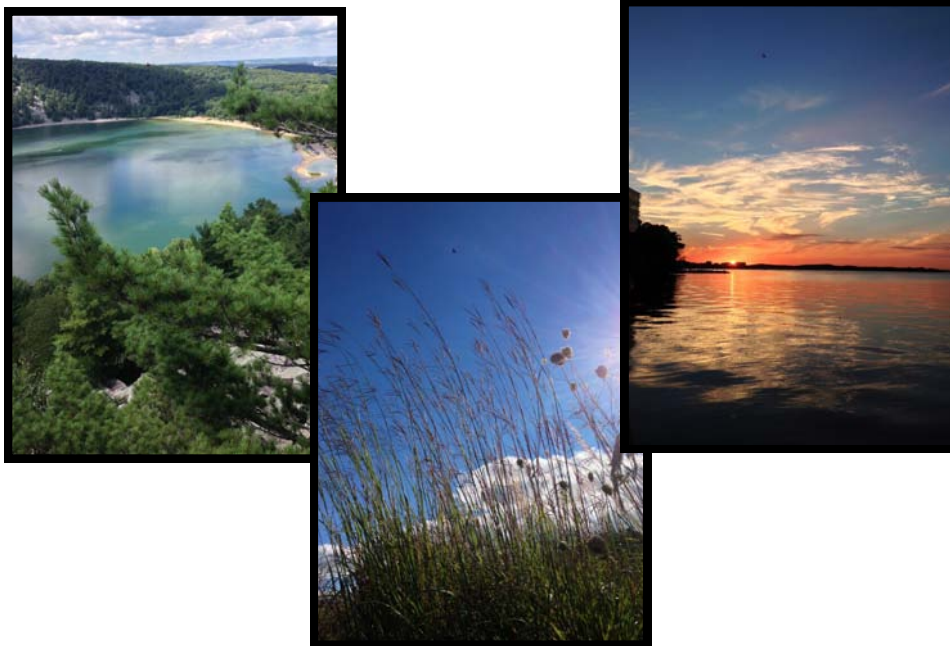
"At least we don't have hurricanes" is a mantra that could be heard escaping the mouths of Wisconsin residents everywhere these last few weeks. The mystical polar vortex has kept many of us inside when we'd rather be out ice fishing, snowmobiling, or partaking in other fun winter sports.

But don't let the chill of winter get you down! Spring is right around the corner! And with it comes the spring edition of our Game Warden magazine. Chock full of great stories, articles from the historical archives, photos of our warden family, and more, the spring issue promises to be as good reading as all the past issues. See page 4 for more information on how you can help our future issues!

Did you know...

T-shirts are now on sale through your local Board Representative. Featured shirts include the traditional "Badge" shirt and a new "Dislike Poaching" shirt. For those attending the Warden Statewide this month, shirts will be available for sale or order at the statewide.

Photo of the Month



Above (left to right): Devil's Lake State Park (Baraboo, WI), Token Creek County Park (Dane County, WI), and James Madison Park (Madison, WI). A great big thanks to Alix Lumina, a volunteer for the Association, who shared with us these beautiful photos she took last summer! We hope it helps warm you up to see such sunshine and greenery!

Conservation Banquet cont.

Special note for out-of-town guests: if you haven't yet, make sure you call now to make your reservation for a room at the AmericInn just 2 miles from the banquet. (See our website for more information.)

Perhaps you're interested in donating some merchandise or funds to support the banquet instead? To do so, please feel free to contact WCEF President Bill Engfer, VP Mike Spors, or any WCWA or WCEF member! Monetary gifts can also be mailed with the order form at the end of the newsletter, or submitted online.

Please consider either attending the Conservation Banquet or making a donation to the cause. Your efforts are what keep us going strong each year and we truly appreciate any amount of support you can offer!

Thank you!



Above: Photos of the donated painting from Shannon Becker for the 2013 Conservation Banquet (left) and the original photo (right). The photo is of Warden Charles Otto who was stationed in Argonne in the 1930's and a bear cub he rescued. **Final auction price: \$1000** Shannon has been gracious enough to paint us another iconic image for this year's banquet. But it's top secret so you'll have to be there to see it!



Above and right: Photos of the donated designed and embroidered by Deb Wilson (Marshfield) and quilted by Sarah Bohman (Stratford). The quilt will be sold in a special raffle drawing at the 2014 Conservation Banquet. **Estimated value: \$800**



The Honor Guard extend their thanks!

Jeremy Peery

The members of the Conservation Warden Honor Guard would like to extend their thanks to a few people.

To Lynne Hettrick: Thank you very much for your generous donation to the Honor Guard in honor of your father, Harold Hettrick. Your donation of \$1000 will enable us to buy one full uniform for another member of the Guard. With your help, we are one step closer to our goal of purchasing about 6 more

uniforms for a second guard unit. Thank you, Lynne!

To John Holmes: The Warden Honor Guard would like to thank retired Warden John Holmes for his work in refurbishing the ceremonial M-14 Honor Guard rifles. The rifles, which were acquired through the federal government surplus program, were in decent shape when provided to John. However, John tore each one apart, ensured it was in serviceable condition and

added a wooden hand guard to each rifle before cleaning them to a spotless finish. Thanks to John's work, the Honor Guard was able to save valuable funds to further our mission by saving for additional uniforms. Thanks John!!

If you'd like to donate to the Conservation Warden Honor Guard, please visit their webpage on the [WCEF website](#) (click link).

2014 Annual Board Meeting Review

On January 31st, 2014, the Board of Directors for WCWA and its partner, WCEF, met in Plover for their annual meetings. The meeting was a "joint" meeting, where the WCEF agenda was discussed first and the WCWA's second.

WCEF made quite a few changes to their status quo during the course of the meeting. The by-laws were updated (a similar vetting process as the WCWA undertook in August of last year) and inactive board members were removed, active ones taking their place.

Projects that WCEF has undertaken to heighten their game in fundraising were discussed: the website, fundraising brochure, and others. The WCEF banquet was discussed at length since it

is just around the corner. All in all, it was a highly productive meeting and one that signaled a new age in WCEF's legacy of fundraising for natural resources and education projects.

The afternoon brought the WCWA board together to talk over items from the previous board meeting that had required action or new items of business. With the recent warden transfers, some of the WCWA board members will need to be reassigned or replaced. Regional wardens may be sending out requests for interested parties in the near future.

The by-law changes that were completed in the August 2013 board meeting were accepted by the board. Those changes will be available on the [website](#) for

member review in the near future (notification will be sent out to members when that task is completed).

The Strategic Business Committee discussed their Business Plan which consists of goals and objectives for WCWA for the coming years (see attached pages).

Calendar sales are progressing nicely with a few outstanding calendars. Members should contact [Jon Scharbarth](#) or their local WCWA warden rep for more information. A membership update was provided and the trailer inventory reviewed.

Thank you to all who attended!

Holiday highlight

February: a time for celebration of our presidents, our loved ones, and the foretelling of the coming season. Some food for thought on the holidays of February:

Groundhog's Day (2/2):

"Today is tomorrow! It happened!" - Phil, Groundhog's Day (1993)

Valentine's Day (2/14):

"What the world really needs is more love and less paperwork." - Pearl Bailey

President's Day (2/17):

"It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit." -Harry S. Truman, 33rd president of the United States



Wisconsin Conservation Warden Association

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E-mail: info.wcwa@gmail.com

Web: <http://www.wigamewarden.com>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/WIGameWarden>

Book Report

I have a confession to make. Often when a book title is sent to me for review in this section, I've never read the book before I compile the book report (and many of them I haven't even gotten around to reading after). But when I discovered this book in a recent news article in Connect Stoughton, I immediately put it on my "To-Read" list.

[Gamekeepers – Wisconsin Wildlife Conservation from WCD to CWD](#) was written by David L. Gjetson, a former wildlife manager with the DNR. Gjetson was tasked with the chronicling of Wisconsin's rich wildlife conservation history for the Department of Natural Resources a number of years ago. The goal was to research so thoroughly Wisconsin's wildlife conservation past that a professional author could write a book on it. But, as Scott Craven—Professor Emeritus for UW-Madison says in his foreward, the job of writing the story fell to Gjetson when "CWD struck" and the Department had to pull the book funding for a different program.

Gjetson definitely did his homework. The book is chock full of interesting facts, tidbits, and stories of Wisconsin's past as well as pictures from the archives that are enchanting as the history they reflect. Even just by flipping through the pages you'll absorb such fascinating information that you will most certainly be compelled to read more.

Though I haven't yet had the chance to read the book completely, it promises to be a compelling review of Wisconsin's bygone days and one that I, as a relatively young DNR employee, can learn much from. Acquiring the book could prove difficult for those not employed with the Department, but I have it on good faith that all wildlife biologists, wardens, and many public libraries have received a copy for their bookshelves. If you're as anxious to read the book as I am, I have no doubt you'll find it easily enough. If you are having trouble though, let us know and we'll try to point you in a good direction.

Happy reading!

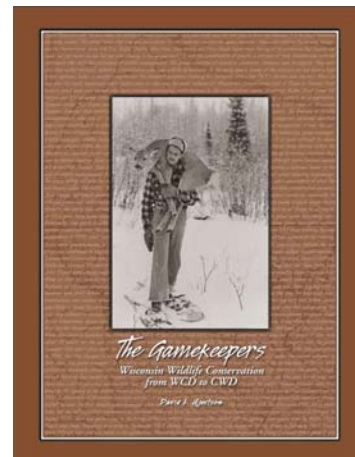
Caity Carmody

"Fruits of our Labor" Request

With the New Year, we're given the opportunity to rest and reflect on the year we left behind. Please take a moment to share with us the bounty that 2013 provided to you. Fruits of Our Labor is a section of our magazine dedicated to demonstrat-

ing that all the hard work you put in actually pays off for ourselves and our families. We're looking for pictures and the stories behind them of your adventures in the great outdoors. Shared photos will be included in our future issues of the Warden

Magazine. Please send photos and stories directly to our magazine editor, Barb Benish, at write2us@sbcglobal.net and CC: Publications Committee Chair Jim Horne at james.horne@wisconsin.gov. Thank you in advance for your submissions!



Wisconsin Conservation Warden Association Business Plan 2014-2017

Goal 1: Promote the profession of natural resources law enforcement and enhance conservation warden community relations.

- Objective 1.1: Provide scholarship opportunities for students seeking careers in natural resources law enforcement.
- Objective 1.2: Develop and maintain a Wisconsin Conservation Warden Museum to display the history of the warden force.
- Objective 1.3: Maintain a website to promote our current activities, merchandise sales, as well as to provide public access to past magazines and newsletters.
- Objective 1.4: Promote career achievements, special projects, significant enforcement cases, and other significant life achievements of our members through our magazine, newsletter, and calendar, **and other media outlets.**
- Objective 1.5: **Support and Recognize members of the community or other organizations for activities that parallel the WCWA Statement of Purpose.**
- Objective 1.6: **Support the members and families of the Conservation Law Enforcement community who have suffered significant loss.**

Goal 2: Promote natural resources and environmental protection, education and public understanding of conservation and environmental issues.

- Objective 2.1: Work with WCEF to implement grant program for members.
- Objective 2.2: Highlight the positive impacts of grant assisted member projects by promoting these projects through the WCWA Website, Newsletter, and Magazine, **and in other media outlets.**
 - Tactic 2.2.1: **Review cost measures for the Magazine and Newsletter.**

Goal 3: Provide encouragement, recognition and support to members.

- Objective 3.1: Provide networking opportunities and assistance with professional development for members through financial support of career orientated events and social events involving **all members.**

Goal 4: Maintain fiscal solvency by producing an annual budget to include specific fundraising goals and objectives.

Wisconsin Conservation Warden Association Business Plan 2014-2017

Objective 4.1: Research and Apply for grants that would support the Associations projects.

Objective 4.2: Conduct recurring and one time fund raising activities.

Wisconsin Conservation & Education Foundation cordially invites you to our

2nd Annual Conservation Banquet

Saturday, February 22, 2014

VFW Post 7591, 301 Cottage Grove Road, Madison, WI 53716
Social at 4:30pm ➤ Raffles at 5:00pm ➤ Dinner served at 6:30pm

What can I expect from this year's banquet?

- The event includes dinner, silent and live auctions, and many raffles. Prizes vary from firearms, bows, trip packages, hunting and outdoor related equipment, artwork, and other fine collectibles!
- Proceeds will go toward projects that fulfill the Foundation's mission of supporting and promoting conservation education here in Wisconsin!
- All attendees have a one-in-ten chance to win a door prize firearm!

Sponsor Levels

All sponsors are entered into a sponsor-only raffle.

Silver – Donate \$150 cash or \$250 in merchandise

- Receive 1 free banquet ticket & 1-yr WCWA membership

Gold – Donate \$250 cash or \$350 in merchandise

- Receive 1 free banquet ticket & 3-yr WCWA membership

Platinum – Donate \$400 cash or \$500 in merchandise

- Receive 2 free banquet tickets, two 3-yr WCWA memberships, PLUS \$120 in Lucky Bucks to use on raffle tickets.

Ticket Prices

\$45 single*

\$35 spouse

\$25 junior (under 18)

*Includes 1-yr Wisconsin Conservation Warden Association membership

Ticket order deadline – February 10

WCWA Life members receive \$10 discount!

Become a Table Captain!

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

Lucky Bucks

Pre-event offer only! Purchase \$100 worth of Lucky Bucks for only \$75! Lucky Bucks may be used all evening to purchase tickets for all raffles*.

*Excludes the 50/50 cash raffles.

For tickets or more information

Contact Joe or Joyce Ryder at 715-409-0215 or 715-536-8925. To donate merchandise, please contact President Bill Engfer, VP Mike Spors, or any WCWA or WCEF member! Monetary gifts can be mailed with the order form below.

Tickets can also be ordered via our website. Visit <http://www.wiconservationfoundation.org>



WCEF Conservation Banquet Ticket Order Form

Mail to: Joyce Ryder, W3349 Schiller Drive, Merrill, WI 54452

Tickets will be mailed to you upon receipt of this order form

Ticket Order:	Qty	Each	Total
Single	_____	x \$45	\$_____
Spouse/Life Member	_____	x \$35	\$_____
Junior (<18 yoa)	_____	x \$25	\$_____
\$100 in Lucky Bucks	_____	x \$75	\$_____

_____ Yes, I am a Table Captain
(must order at least 8 tickets)

Cash Sponsor

Silver	\$150	\$_____
Gold	\$250	\$_____
Platinum	\$400	\$_____

Please include mailing address below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ - _____

Please make check or money order out to WCEF. If you wish to have it charged to a credit card, fill out the portion below.

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard

Card #: _____

Name as appears on card: _____

Security Code _____ Expiration Date ____/____

Signature of cardholder: _____