

2013 WCC AWARDS

2013 Awards

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THE WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS

STATEWIDE CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress Awards Committee selected **Headwaters Muskies Inc, Chapter 12** as the recipient of the **Statewide Conservation Organization of the Year** award.

The organization was recognized and presented with the award at the annual Conservation Congress statewide meeting at The Plaza Hotel in Eau Claire. The Headwaters Chapter raised approximately \$60,000 in 2012 which they used for habitat restoration, invasive species removal, youth education, recreational opportunities, a scholarship, and increasing access for fishing. This past year, the Headwaters Chapter purchased 10 handicapped accessible piers, and purchased and installed 12 docks at various lakes in their area.

This organization provides members and monies for the annual “Fishing has



2013 Statewide Organization of the Year award accepted by Bill Jacobs, Club President.

No Boundaries” event, Eagle River’s Kids Guide Day, Conover’s Kids Fishing Day, and other local events. In addition, their members instruct the Sugar Camp School’s student fishing club, guide veterans and their families, and hold rod building classes for youth and adults.

At their annual “Kids Fishing Tips” event, members from the Headwaters Chapter also instruct over 300 kids and their parents on fish identification, fishing knots, boat safety, casting and basic fishing skills, netting, catching and releasing, fish handling, and preventing aquatic invasive species.

Headwaters Muskies Inc, Chapter 12 also provided money and manpower to help the Wisconsin and Michigan DNR with musky spawning habitat studies as well as donating money to the Wild Rose Hatchery.

The Conservation Congress would like to recognize Headwaters Muskies Inc, Chapter 12 for their accomplishments, thank they for their hard work, and acknowledge their commitment to our natural resources and their lasting contributions to passing on the outdoor heritage.

LOCAL CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

The **Sheboygan County Conservation Association** was honored as the recipient of the **Local Conservation Club of the Year** award. This year's Local Conservation Club of the Year award went to an organization that is actually compiled of 26 other clubs with 2000 members. The Sheboygan County Conservation Association coordinates the work of individual conservation and sport groups throughout Sheboygan County.

The SCCA raised approximately \$40,000 in 2012 for habitat improvements, education, and youth initiatives. The group financially supported Camp Y-Koda, Maywood Environmental Park, and the Longfellow Elementary School's "Reel'em In Fishing Club" with annual donations. In 2012 they pledged \$25,000 toward the restoration of the Camp Y-Koda fishing pond and outdoor skills center. In addition, the SCCA sponsored 13 high school students so they could attend a Trees for Tomorrow workshop weekend and gave a \$1000 scholarship to a deserving student. The association hosts an annual outdoor activity day and free fishing day for kids to introduce them to fishing, bb-gun shooting, and gun safety. And they even fry up the fish the kids catch!

For over 50 years, the Sheboygan County Conservation Association has had a pheasant rearing program and in that time they have raised and released over 100,000 pheasant chicks. In addition to their good work and fundraising for conservation efforts, the SCCA also collects canned goods for the local food pantry, collected \$800 for their local "share-the-spirit" program that buys Christmas presents for persons less fortunate in Sheboygan County, and collected over \$900 for the Wounded Warriors Project in Wisconsin.

For their continuing commitment to the citizens of this state and the extensive contributions to improving the natural resources of Wisconsin, the Conservation Congress has recognized the Sheboygan County Conservation Association.

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

The Conservation Congress has chosen **Terri Roehrig** as the **Conservation Educator of the Year**. Each year the Wisconsin Conservation Congress honors a deserving individual who dedicates themselves to educating others about the wise use and conservation of Wisconsin's natural resources and environment.

Terri Roehrig was nominated by her father and this is what he had to say about her:

"Terri is an active member of two Sportsmen's Clubs, Oxbow in Hilbert and St. Anna Sportsman's Club in St. Anna. Both are in Calumet County. She has served as an officer of both organizations. She is currently one of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress Delegates from Calumet County.

Terri has volunteered as a mentor in the Learn-to-Hunt program for turkey in Calumet County and as a mentor in the pheasant Learn-to-Hunt program for both Oxbow and St. Anna. She has been instrumental in developing the programs for both of the clubs.

She is a volunteer Hunter Safety Instructor and has conducted numerous classes training the next generation of hunters.

Terri is active in recruiting more female hunters into our sport through her continuous efforts to encourage and mentor young women to get involved in hunting.

She is also a very active member of the German Shorthair Pointer Rescue program in Wisconsin. She has fostered numerous German Shorthair Pointer's that are no longer wanted by their owners and prepared them for adoptions into new homes where they are welcomed.

I believe Terri is a very worthy recipient of this honor as she exemplifies everything an outstanding educator should be.



Terri Roehrig accepting the 2013 Educator of the Year Award from WCC Chairman Rob Bohmann with her father, Gary Roehrig, and Vice Chairman Larry Bonde.

WCC HEAVY LIFTER OF THE YEAR

Jim Burmeister recognized as the Conservation Congress Heavy Lifter Award Recipient

Help when asked; come when called. That is the mantra of this year's selection for the WCC Heavy Lifter Award. Jim Burmeister, delegate from Columbia County, works tirelessly, often behind the scenes, to bring our message of conservation to the citizens of Wisconsin and, in particular, its youth.

Someone once said: if you work hard enough, long enough, someone is sure to notice. Jim has worked hard for many years. Now he has caught the attention of those who appreciate all that our delegates do for the Congress—often times without fanfare and with little recognition.

No matter what the task at hand, Jim finds time to help. Whether the Outdoor Expo in Beaver Dam, the Deer & Turkey Expo in Madison or for any other call to arms, Jim is always willing to help out. That was true before he retired as head custodian at Pardeeville High School and it has been true since his well-earned retirement from that position.

One need look no further than the three-day Deer & Turkey Expo held at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison this past April. When the call went out for volunteers to staff our Wall of Fame exhibit, Jim was the first to respond. The first work schedule sent out by our assistant liaison Adam Lindsey tells the story: Jim Burmeister was the first name on the list. His name was on the schedule to help setup Friday morning and to staff the exhibit until 9pm that night. His name filled the roster for Saturday as well. On Sunday, he was there the entire time public was in the hall and he even stayed for take down. Anyone who has helped with that process knows it is no menial task. The dozens of display pieces must be placed back aboard the trailer just as they were found in order for everything to fit. Jim always seems to know which bolt goes where and which artifact belongs on which panel of the display. I think Jim could set it up in his sleep. But most importantly, he draws the attention and respect of all those who come to our display to find out more about the Congress and its mission.

Show time is irrelevant for Jim when it comes to putting a shoulder into the task at hand. At Beaver Dam for the Outdoor Expo that draws thousands of school children and their teachers and parents each year, he is always there at o'dark thirty to help set up our display. He often times works both days of the event, explaining to literally hundreds of school children about our outdoor heritage and why it is important to protect our natural resources.

Jim has served previously on the Outdoor Heritage and Education Committee where he carried out the duties of Secretary and he currently serves on the Upland Game Committee. He also serves as Vice Chair of the Columbia County delegation.

His performance over the years proves conclusively that those who work behind the scenes can and do catch the attention of each and every Congress delegate. As I look back on all that Jim has contributed I wonder how we could have done it without him. It is only fitting that Jim Burmeister receives recognition for his efforts as a token of the organization's appreciation.

Jim is richly deserving of this year's award and the Congress looks forward to many more years of significant and singular contributions by Jim Burmeister.



Jim Burmeister accepting the WCC Heavy Lifter Award from Chairman Rob Bohmann.

WCC RECOGNIZES DEPARTMENT STAFF

At its Annual Convention in May 2013 the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) recognized several DNR employees for their ongoing, outstanding work on behalf of the natural resources of the state.

Eric Lobner Recognized as WCC Wildlife Biologist of the Year

Eric Started with the Department in 1994 as a wildlife technician at the Mead Wildlife Area. He became the Wetland Glacial Habitat Restoration Area (GHRA) Coordinator in 1996. He served as the Assistant Upland Ecologist in the Bureau of Wildlife Management in 1997-1998. He then served 8 years as the Wildlife Biologist coordinating all grassland, wetland, and oak savanna restoration as well as land acquisition activities on the Glacial Habitat Restoration Area (1998-2007). He is a 2007 graduate of the Department's Leadership Academy

In 2007 he was promoted to the Regional Wildlife Manager Program Supervisor for the South Central Region. These duties expanded upon restructuring of the Wildlife Program which consolidated the Southeast and South Central Regions into the 18 county Southern District in 2011.

Earlier this year he accepted the challenge of leading the Department's process to implement the recommendations of the Deer Trustee Report (DTR). Eric's management style and attitude reflects his commitment to working with and listening to Wisconsin's deer hunters. His knowledge and familiarity in all aspects of the Deer Management

Program, excellent organization, communication and leadership skills are serving him well in this effort. He has done an excellent job of developing a plan. He has organized action teams involving Department staff and our partners (including the Conservation Congress) to address the Report's recommendations.



Eric Lobner accepting the Wildlife Management Award

WCC Fisheries Management Award goes to Marty Engel

Marty was nominated by Michael Kelly of the Star Prairie Fish and Game Association (SPF&G). In his nomination, Mike wrote "Our main involvement with Marty has been the construction of over 400 fish cribs in Cedar Lake, over the last 8 years. He has been instrumental in site location, construction supervision, and follow up surveys. Cedar Lake has become a prime fishing location because of the fish cribs and Marty's efforts. The number of anglers and fish caught have improved dramatically in recent years. He was also key in working with area sports clubs and organizations to get agreement on a 10 panfish limit and walleye slot size regulation changes for Cedar Lake. The club also worked with

Marty on installing downed tree fish shoreline structures and fish cribs on Bass Lake in the winter of 2012.

Marty also worked with us in securing purchase of a permanent parking area on the north public landing on Cedar Lake, working closely with our club, local town governments, and civic groups using the old school building on the site.

Marty is a pleasure to work with and takes the time and effort to attend SPF&G meetings multiple times a year. He is always willing to answer our questions and comment on proposed projects as to their technical soundness and required cost and labor."

Marty also collaborates and works cooperatively with other outdoor groups in the area, including Cedar Lake and Bass Lake associations, the St. Croix County Sportsman's Alliance, and others. Marty is highly involved and contributes much to the DNR programs of the Driftless Area Master Plan and the Trout Team.



Marty Engel accepting the Fisheries Management Award

WCC RECOGNIZES DEPARTMENT STAFF

Conservation Warden Mike Dieckhoff, Awarded Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Mike has been with the Department for only 8 years, but has worked diligently to build a law enforcement program that balances enforcement and community needs at his Rock County station.

The list of Mike's accomplishments as a warden is very hard to condense down into a few paragraphs but listed below are the main points.

Mike has earned the public's respect for his work ethic, integrity, and his programs that promote community involvement. He has worked hard to create programs that fit both the community and resource needs and focus on both educational and enforcement efforts.

Mike has assisted in organizing two learn to hunt events (pheasant and turkey) and two fishing events (one for kids from Beloit's inner city and the other for developmentally disabled children). His efforts have enriched the lives of many young people through exposure to resource related activities and showing citizens the resource is theirs to enjoy and manage.

Mike is known on the Madison Team as the "go-to" guy; always ready to assist Department staff or other agencies when needed. He is a Defensive and Arrest Tactics (DAAT) instructor as well as a Field-Training Officer. Among his peers he is highly regarded for his well-rounded program, investigative abilities, fair enforcement of fish and wildlife laws as well as environmental regulations, and team work. He is an example to the full time wardens he works with as well as the recruits he trains.

For all of the work Mike does to incorporate the community into resource protection, the Conservation Congress, at its annual convention, recognized Michael Dieckhoff for his exemplary service to the people and natural resources of Wisconsin

Conservation Congress chooses Dale Hochhausen, Vernon County, as the Conservation Waterfowl Officer of the Year



Waterfowl Officer of the Year, Dale Hochhausen, with Dick Koerner, Chair of the WCC Migratory Committee

Warden Dale Hochhausen is a field warden stationed in Vernon County and assists with enforcement efforts on the Mississippi River Team spanning from Alma to Prairie du Chien. Dale is also an avid waterfowler who brings his passion for waterfowl conservation into his work life.

Warden Hochhausen is very involved with education by helping with the Waterfowl Learn to Hunt program at the Chaseburg Rod & Gun Club. With the program Dale is a lead contact and event planner. This past year the program introduced 20 new participants to waterfowl hunting and they harvested 36 ducks and 2 geese during the program. Dale also works with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to present the Ducks-on-a-Stick display at various youth events in his area.

Beyond the realm of education, Dale is proactively involved in wetland protection and has a station that is largely wetlands with feeder streams flowing in the wetlands bordering the Mississippi River. Dale works closely with landowners to inform them of wetland concerns, is very active with local conservation clubs and groups, and spends a great deal of his time on patrol for waterfowl enforcement.

While on patrol during the 2012 waterfowl season, Warden Hochhausen issued numerous warnings and citations for everything from not being HIP certified to possessing an unplugged shotgun and from shooting from a moving boat to not having life jackets. In addition, Dale makes time to follow up with, and pursue, reports of illegal hunting activity.

Overall, Dale Hochhausen is an outstanding conservation warden who is passionate about waterfowl conservation, is a leader in the warden service serving as a Field Training Officer, and is very deserving of this year's award.



Mike Dieckhoff, the WCC Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

THE WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS

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*“Let us work to together
to properly manage
and wisely use our
natural resources...”*
- Prolog of the Congress Creed

We're on the web!
Visit dnr.wi.gov and
search for
“Conservation Congress”



WCC Delegates volunteering
their time at the WCC display

WCC RECOGNIZES DEPARTMENT STAFF

Chief Warden Randy Stark Recognized For Years of Service

The WCC heard a rumor that Randy Stark would be hanging up his duty belt and this would be his last year addressing the Congress.

Warden Stark has been serving the citizens of Wisconsin for 29 years; the last 11 as chief warden. During that time he has shown tremendous leadership, and friendship to his fellow wardens, colleagues, and to the men and women of the Conservation Congress. Randy's successful initiative “Harmony in the Woods,” to ease tensions between Hmong and non-Hmong hunters is just one example of his ability to think outside the box and implement progressive ideas to effect change.

“Regardless of what side of an issue we were on, whether we agreed or disagreed, you have always treated people with respect. You are a person with a great deal of compassion and integrity, and for these enduring qualities, you have earned the respect of this organization,” stated Chairman Bohmann honoring Chief Warden Stark before the Congress.

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress would like to thank Warden Stark for his leadership, friendship, and service. The Congress presented Randy with a plaque in honor of his dedication to the protection of Wisconsin's natural resources, his exemplary service to the citizens of this state, and his unwavering commitment to passing on our conservation heritage.



Randy Stark accepting an award for his years of service.

DO YOU KNOW AN ORGANIZATION OR INDIVIDUAL THAT SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED?

Each year the Conservation Congress seeks nominations for Statewide Conservation Organization of the Year, Local Conservation Organization of the Year, and Educator of the Year.

If you know of a statewide or local conservation organization or individual dedicated to educating others on conservation matters, please consider nominating them for one of the Conservation Congress's annual awards.

Visit the WCC website at dnr.wi.gov for application and nomination forms.