



# Thursday Note

An Update on Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Issues

Volume 13, Issue 6

Thursday, July 8, 2010

## Conservation Farmers Honored

On June 25, near the village of Edgar in Marathon County, farmers, conservationists and citizens gathered to honor the recipient of the 2009 Conservation Farmer of the Year award. The event, called Conservation Observance Day, is an opportunity to recognize one of the members of the agricultural community who has gone the extra mile in making conservation practices a central part of their farm. Special thanks to the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) for their support of the event.

Peter and Suzie Arnold were the honored farmers, and proudly showed the gathered crowd what they do to ensure that their 170 cow grazing based dairy operation incorporates sustainable agricultural practices. The Arnolds have attained the highest Soil Quality Index score as measured by the Natural Resources Conservation Service with organic levels increasing from 2.7% to over 6% on many fields. They have shown substantial improvements in other areas over the past 11 years and are excellent pasture managers. In addition to the great work on their own farm, the Arnolds act as mentors and educators for other farmers who want to see how conservation measures look in practice.

There were a great many distinguished speakers who took their turn to praise the Arnolds. Marjorie Bunce spoke on behalf of US Sen. Herb Kohl, and read a proclamation in the Arnolds honor that the Senator had read into the Congressional Record. State Conservationist Patricia Leavenworth of the USDA-NRCS put the Arnolds accomplishments in an historical perspective as NRCS celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. DNR Secretary Matt Frank praised the Arnolds and pointed out Wisconsin's leadership in areas of sustainable agricultural practices. Mike Krutza, a DATCP board member, honored the Arnolds for their example to other farmers and sent along messages from Secretary Nilsestuen. Senator Russ Decker explained how proud he was to have the Arnolds as part of his constituency. Kurt Calkins of WALCE and Julian Zelazny from WLWCA each talked about the value of conservation agriculture from the county perspective. Acting as the master of ceremonies was Paul Daigle of the Marathon County Conservation Department, who was largely responsible for pulling the day's agenda together.

The sun was shining, the food was plentiful, and conservation agriculture was the topic of discussion. Our congratulations go to Peter and Suzie Arnold.

~Julian Zelazny, Executive Director

## WLWCA Board of Directors Officer Elections to be Held August 18, Reminder to Appoint Area Board Members

The 2010-2012 WLWCA Board of Directors will be holding officer elections during the August 18 meeting in Stevens Point. WLWCA hopes that all areas will have met and appointed both a WLWCA board member AND alternate by that time. As of printing, WLWCA has received board confirmations from the following areas: Lake Michigan, Lake Winnebago, Southern, Western, West Central and North Central. Please send confirmations to [kirsten@wlwca.org](mailto:kirsten@wlwca.org) including the names, phone numbers, addresses and Email addresses for your area association president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, coordinator, and the WLWCA board member and alternate.

WLWCA is still soliciting a number of counties for their 2010-2012 LCC lists. If your county has not submitted to [kirsten@wlwca.org](mailto:kirsten@wlwca.org) a list of all your current county LCC supervisors including names, phone numbers, addresses and Email addresses for each, now is the time! Please designate on your list the chair, vice chair, secretary, FSA rep and citizen members. Thank you for helping keep WLWCA up to date with your county's membership rosters!

~Kirsten Moore, Office Manager

## WLWCA-WALCE Joint Board Meeting Held

Members of the Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees (WALCE) Board of Directors were in attendance at the June 24<sup>th</sup> WLWCA Board of Directors Meeting to discuss the future of both organizations. In recent years the aims and objectives of the two organizations have become increasingly similar.

The two boards had a cordial discussion about what areas of commonality can be explored, and how we might most efficiently work together. Input was solicited from key partners including USDA-NRCS, DATCP and DNR.

No firm actions were taken, but the two boards decided to continue the process of discussing our common future. The goal is to come to mutual agreement about what form the future relationship of the two associations will take.

Anyone wishing to provide ideas or comments into the process is welcome to contact me by phone or at [julian@wlwca.org](mailto:julian@wlwca.org).

~Julian Zelazny, Executive Director

### **Would Your County Like Their 2011 Dues Waived?**

As part of WLWCA's Conservation Awards program, the WLWCA board is promoting the Conservation Farmer of the Year award by waiving 2011 WLWCA dues for the county that submits the state winner. You still have plenty of time, as nominations should be submitted at the area level by August 27, with the area winner submitted to WLWCA by October 22. The other award offered is for Outstanding Supervisor. It only takes a few minutes to nominate a supervisor and show your appreciation for the outstanding work they do. Nominations must be submitted to WLWCA by October 22, 2010.

Information and applications for these awards can be found on our Web site under *WLWCA Programs / Conservation Awards*. Please take the time to recognize a worthy farmer or supervisor in your county who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to help preserve Wisconsin's natural resources.

~Chris Schlutt, Program Coordinator

### **LWCB Elections**

An election for WLWCA's three representatives on the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Land & Water Conservation Board (LWCB) will take place at our annual conference in December. The LWCB Election Policy and LWCB Bylaws are posted on our Web site at [www.wlwca.org](http://www.wlwca.org) via a link on the conference page.

Each area association is encouraged to nominate one candidate and must submit the nomination, along with a one-page biography or resume, to the WLWCA office by **November 5**. Biographies and an election ballot will be sent to all LCD offices via our list serve shortly thereafter and will also be available at our conference. Please note that the voting ballot must be completed by the LCC Chair or a designee appointed by the Chair. Proxy forms will be available on our Web site and at the conference.

Each area is also requested to write one or two questions for the LWCB candidates. Questions must be submitted to WLWCA *prior* to the November 5 board meeting. The board will choose questions for all candidates to respond to during their speeches. Questions not used could be asked directly during the question and answer period. Please contact Chris if you have any questions.

~Chris Schlutt, Program Coordinator

### **2010 Resolutions**

During your upcoming county and area meetings, you may want to consider submitting resolutions to be discussed and voted on at the WLWCA business meeting at our conference. Resolutions must be received by WLWCA by **October 29** for discussion at the November WLWCA Board meeting. Resolutions received after that date may be brought to the floor during the annual meeting with a 2/3 vote. Along with the resolution, there **must be a resolution attachment** stating the contact person and the presenter at the annual meeting, as well as any additional information that may be helpful in understanding the resolution. This form is available on our Web site's Resolutions Page via a link on our conference page. Resolutions will be posted on the WLWCA Web site as they are received.

~Chris Schlutt, Program Coordinator

### **Sand Lake Conservation Camp Wraps Up Another Great Summer**

The fifth annual Sand Lake Conservation Camp held at Camp Bird near Crivitz was again a success this year, with 87 campers from 20 counties in Wisconsin and one county in upper Michigan. This event is sponsored by the Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Division (LWCD). Conservation Camp provides youth with positive educational

outdoor experiences, helps them better appreciate and understand nature, and introduces them to the variety of opportunities in natural resources and conservation careers.

Attendees ranged from 6-8<sup>th</sup> grades and learned about forestry, wildlife, aquatic ecology, fisheries, and habitat. This is the second year we offered “choice activities” for campers, which they sign up for on their registration sheets. Choice activities included archery, canoeing, hiking, t-shirt making, geology, fishing, spinner making, hiking, GPS use, a low ropes challenge course, and trapping. Two offsite trips - a fishing trip and a visit to the Thunder River Trout Rearing Station - were also offered. Other activities included visits from DNR Conservation Warden Dave Oginski, Jr. and retired DNR Fisheries Biologist Greg Kornely; a campfire building competition; a scavenger hunt; and the culminating activity, “Conservation Jeopardy.” New this year, the Zoomobile from the NEW Zoo of Green Bay paid a visit; campers were introduced to several interesting wildlife species and learned about their habitats.

Sand Lake Conservation Camp is funded through registration fees, donations, and grants. This year we received generous donations of \$200 each from both the Marinette County Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the Southeast Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited. For more information about Sand Lake Conservation Camp, please visit the Marinette County website at [www.marinettecounty.com](http://www.marinettecounty.com) or contact Anne Warren, Information & Education Specialist, at 715-732-7784 or [awarren@marinettecounty.com](mailto:awarren@marinettecounty.com).

~Anne Warren, Marinette County LWCD

#### **NACD Great Lakes Committee Update**

The NACD Great Lakes Committee (GLC) met on June 21 in Ann Arbor, MI. Attendees included representatives from conservation districts in Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio and Wisconsin, the US Army Corps of Engineers, USDA, USGS, NRCS, NOAA, EPA, USFS, FSA, Michigan Department of Agriculture, NACD, The Nature Conservancy, National Parks Service, Purdue Research Lab and GLC Staff. Meeting topics included stable funding, staffing, and shovel-ready project proposals for SWCDs; Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant recipients and applications; training for districts in grant-writing; bundling smaller projects within Lake Area Management Plans (LaMP); leveraging technical assistance in existing partnerships; putting forth systematic proposals; showing work on the ground; multi-county proposals; buy-in from LaMP coordinators; and networking opportunities among SWCDs.

In the next three to four months, another round of GLRI RFPs is expected and LaMPs will be gearing up. Each of the Great Lakes' states has an EPA coordinator. Among federal agencies communication internally and scientist to scientist is an iterative process. Forming relationships within and among agencies and getting information out to districts is essential. Coming together within an area of interest costs staff time and transportation. The GLC meeting in Ann Arbor evoked questions regarding how RC&D districts can be involved in GLRI when some parts are within the Great Lakes Basin and some are not, and how coalitions can be formed to make the next round of GLRI grants more viable and attainable. In WI the Great Lakes Non-Point Abatement Coalition (GLNPC) of the 32 Great Lakes Counties is an option unavailable in any other state except New York. If you have any questions or ideas for the GLC or GLRI grants, please contact Kathryn McKenzie at [kamck@chartermi.net](mailto:kamck@chartermi.net).

~Kathryn McKenzie, WLWCA Board, Great Lakes Committee Representative

#### **SOC Update**

A Standards Oversight Council (SOC) work team has moved a step closer to seeking initial comments on the team's proposed changes to the NRCS 313 Waste Storage Facility technical standard. The work team has been tackling several important topics that are at the core of the Waste Storage Facility standard. Many of these topics relate to the site assessment and soils investigation criteria for the siting and protection of waste storage facilities, to making the 313 standard compatible with NR 243 (CAFO rules), and to updating the standard's series of tables that establish criteria for liners of waste storage facilities. Recently, the work team developed a new proposed table that sets criteria for permanent stacking facilities storing high-solids content manure in the production area. In July, the 313 work team will be distributing a draft of the revised standard for limited review by a select group of initial reviewers.

~Kevin Hogan, SOC Coordinator



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## Calendar of Events

<b>NACD Summer Legislative Conference, Washington DC</b>	<b>Jul 16-20</b>
<b>WLWCA Conference Planning Committee Phone Mtg</b>	<b>Jul 20</b>
<b>NW Area Meeting, Hayward</b>	<b>Jul 23</b>
<b>S Area Summer Tour, Portage</b>	<b>Jul 28</b>
<b>Canon Envirothon, Fresno, CA</b>	<b>Aug 1-6</b>
<b>LWCB Meeting, Madison</b>	<b>Aug 3</b>
<b>WLWCA Board Mtg &amp; Officer Elections, Stevens Point</b>	<b>Aug 18</b>
<b>WC Area Meeting, Menomonie</b>	<b>Aug 19</b>

*For more information, visit [www.wlwca.org](http://www.wlwca.org) and click on  
"What's Going On?"*

### WLWCA Board

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