



Thursday Note

An Update on Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Issues

Volume 13, Issue 7

Thursday, August 19, 2010

Middleton Represents Wisconsin at Canon Envirothon, Takes First in Wildlife & Oral Presentations, Sixth Overall!

Congratulations to Middleton High School for their success at the Canon Envirothon August 1-6 in Fresno, California. Middleton High School did a fantastic job representing Wisconsin at the event, where 54 states, provinces, and territories tested their knowledge of aquatic ecology, forestry, soils and land use, wildlife and the 2010 current issue: Groundwater Protection through Urban, Agricultural and Environmental Planning where students were asked to develop regulations, educational opportunities and management plans for preserving groundwater resources in the San Joaquin valley.

Middleton High School placed sixth overall in the event, taking first place in both wildlife and the current issue oral presentation. Scholarships and Canon products were awarded to the top fifteen states, provinces and territories: California, Florida, Maryland, Minnesota, Delaware, Wisconsin, Ontario, New York and Ohio (tie), New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Missouri, Manitoba, Arizona, Pennsylvania and Idaho. Each student from Middleton High School received a \$1400 scholarship and Canon cameras.

The 2010 Wisconsin team was sponsored by WLWCA's Wisconsin Envirothon thanks to partnerships with Wisconsin Energy Foundation, the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board and the Dairy Farm Families of Wisconsin, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees, the University of Wisconsin-Center for Watershed Science and Education, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Canon Envirothon, Bradshaw-Knight Foundation, and more. Visit www.wlwca.org to find a listing of all our 2010 sponsors.

For schools, teams, agencies or organizations interested in more information about how to participate in the 2011 Wisconsin Envirothon: Salt and Fresh Water Estuaries on Thursday, April 21 at the Wisconsin Lions Camp in Rosholt, contact Kirsten Moore at the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association by phone or email at kirsten@wlwca.org. The 2011 Wisconsin Envirothon is currently seeking sponsors. Interested parties may also find Wisconsin Envirothon on Facebook to keep up with Wisconsin Envirothon information and achievements. Pictures from Canon Envirothon will be available on Facebook soon!

~Kirsten Moore, Office Manager

WLWCA Annual Conference December 9-10 in Wisconsin Dells, Registration Materials Coming in September

Planning for the 2010 WLWCA Annual Conference December 9-10 at Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells is underway and registration materials will be available in the beginning of September. Highlights of the 2010 WLWCA Annual Conference include a keynote address from NACD's new CEO Jeff Eisenberg, an entertaining luncheon featuring Robert "Ernie" Boszhardt from the Wisconsin Archaeological Survey, a spouse tour led by Kelly Maginnis of Columbia County LCD and sessions featuring representatives from DATCP, DNR, Golden Sands RC&D, La Crosse County LCD, USDA-NRCS, UW-College of Engineering, Vilas County LCD, the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters and more!

The 2010 WLWCA Annual Conference is YOUR conference and we need YOUR help to make it happen! Volunteer positions are still available for AV Assistants, Auction Assistants, Registration Assistants, Moderators and Raffle Ticket Sales. All volunteers receive a conference registration discount. Don't miss this great opportunity to save money and show YOUR support for WLWCA!

Special thanks to Chris Murphy (Adams County), Cathy Cooper (Richland County), Greg Cleereman (Marinette

County), Penny Pohle (Sauk County) Carolyn Scholl (Vilas County), Dorothy Burwell (Walworth County) and Joe Piechowski (Waushara County) for serving as our conference planning committee. We look forward to seeing you in Wisconsin Dells!

~Kirsten Moore, Office Manager

Policy Update

This is the time when preparations are being made for the upcoming legislative session. It represents a “calm before the storm” as we wait for the old gubernatorial administration to wind down and a new election cycle to wind up. A lot will depend on how the November elections turn out, but at this point WLWCA and our conservation partners are laying the groundwork for a busy legislative session.

The Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters has already hosted meetings with representatives from a wide range of conservation and environmental organizations to determine what the four conservation priorities will be for the next session. Several suggestions were presented by the group, and all of them are on the agenda at each of the listening sessions currently in progress. There are some familiar issues on the agenda: karst and groundwater quantity, for example. Those two issues were the subject of bills introduced late in the last session. Unfortunately they were introduced too late to have a realistic chance of passage, but the lobbying work we did, combined with the citizen lobbying during Conservation Lobby Day, has done a lot to educate legislators on the importance of your issues.

Other potential priority issues that are of interest to us are environmental education, forest conservation and staff funding. The latter item is, of course, huge for WLWCA and WALCE. It is very good news that this issue is being promoted by a whole host of organizations including the River Alliance of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, Clean Wisconsin and others. We have made a lot of progress educating our colleagues about what the county departments do and how important county staffs are for implementation of the programs that they care about. We are proposing that the legislature fully fund the staffing allocation formula as stated in statute, and further increase funding for cost share. Naturally this would be an impossible task without some way to pay for it. We are prepared to offer some suggestions to legislators on how to raise the funds without raising the ire of their constituents.

Please attend the listening sessions that are scheduled for your area and tell WLCV what issues are important to you. For more information about WLCV listening sessions, visit <http://www.conservationvoters.org/blog/?p=6928>.

~Julian Zelazny, Executive Director

Support from the Land and Water Conservation Board

At a recent meeting of the Land and Water Conservation Board (LWCB), board member Denny Caneff proposed a resolution that puts the support of the LWCB firmly behind efforts to fully fund the formula that pays the staffing grant for county employees. The Board has the authority to make recommendations to the legislature and to state agencies. The resolution will be delivered to the members of the key committees in both the Assembly and Senate, as well as to the new governor and agency secretaries of DNR and DATCP.

Let's keep the momentum going.

~Julian Zelazny, Executive Director

A Convergence of Thought

The Boards of Directors of both WLWCA and WALCE continue to have an interest in pursuing talks that might lead to a closer relationship of the organizations or, possibly, a merger. Informal talks have been on-going between WALCE officers and me. A process for vetting ideas and a framework for decision-making has been proposed to both boards for the purpose of gathering input. Once the processes and frameworks are established for moving forward we can explore more substantive changes to our existing relationship. This is still a very young process, and I would encourage anyone who is interested in participating to step forward and get involved. There is

potential to redefine the future of how county land conservation structures relate to each other, the state, the federal government and NACD. If you would like to be involved please contact WALCE President Kurt Calkins, or contact me directly.

~Julian Zelazny, Executive Director

SOC Update

The Standards Oversight Council (SOC) work team that is revising the NRCS 634 Waste Transfer technical standard recently expanded its workload to include drafting a new construction specification for waste transfer pipe.

The work team has already prepared an initial draft of the specification by adopting material from certain sections of the draft 634 standard, the NRCS 430 Irrigation Pipeline standard and other specifications. To complete the draft specification, the work team intends to also address the following topics:

- pressure testing criteria for severe service transfer pipe;
- finalize a new table of specifications for categories of transfer pipe and fittings;
- penetrations into liners and structures to maintain integrity;
- sealants;
- rubber, mechanical-style boots;
- water flow paths along pipes and preventing via anti-seep collars, etc.;
- thermal expansion and contraction of pipe; and
- UV protection.

Once the draft specification is finished, the work team plans to solicit a second round of input from persons who submitted Broad Review comments on the draft 634 standard earlier this year.

~Kevin Hogan, SOC Coordinator

2010 Canon Envirothon August 1-6, Fresno California

Congratulations Middleton High School!

Advisor Debra Weitzel, Kristin, Jim, Sam, Ricky, Alex, Advisor Derek Wagler





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Calendar of Events

WLCV Conservation Listening Session, Madison	Aug 19
WC Area Meeting, Menomonie	Aug 19
SOC Meeting, Madison	Aug 24
WALCE PIC Meeting, Wautoma	Aug 24
WLCV Conservation Listening Session, Stevens Point	Aug 26
WLCV Conservation Listening Session, Kenosha	Sept 29
WI Assn of RC&Ds Annual Conference, La Crosse	Sept 22-24
National Estuaries Day	Sept 24
WLCV Conservation Listening Session, Milwaukee	Sept 30
LWCB Meeting, Madison	Oct 5
WC Area Meeting & Speaking Contest, Eau Claire	Oct 27
WAEE Conference, WI Dells	Oct 28-30
State Poster & Speaking Contest Registration Deadline	Oct 30
WLWCA BOD Meeting, Stevens Point	Nov 5
State Poster & Speaking Contest	Nov 6

For more information, visit www.wlwca.org and click on
"What's Going On?"

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