



Thursday Note

An Update on Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Issues

Volume 12, Issue 6

Thursday, October 15, 2009

WLWCA Continues to Champion Conservation Efforts in Spite of Tough Times for Nonprofits

We at WLWCA are proud to be meeting membership needs and working hard for you. In spite of some financial challenges, WLWCA has had one of the best years ever in terms of programmatic success. Our education programs and the SOC program continue to operate at full funding, the 2009 WLWCA Annual Conference will go on as planned in December and we are continuing policy work on groundwater related issues. **However, the success that had the most direct impact on the county Land and Water Conservation Departments was our lobbying effort on the state budget.** In the beginning of 2009, **we saved the state Land and Water Conservation Board from the budget axe.** In the best tradition of grassroots activism, you, our membership, contacted your elected officials and let them know that the LWCB is important to county conservation interests. **We also defeated over \$1.3 million in budget cuts to the annual statewide staffing allocation grant, or an average of \$18,000 per county per year of the biennial budget!** That is more than 10 times most county's annual dues. In close partnership with the Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees and in collaboration with the greater Wisconsin conservation community, we worked the grassroots networks and saved the counties from making difficult and painful staffing cuts.

Unfortunately, WLWCA faces a significant deficit for the 2010 budget. Several factors are at play, but the main reasons for the decreasing revenue are gradually declining profits from the annual conference and an abrupt loss of some of our state and federal grants and contracts. In order to balance our budget for 2009 we had to implement furloughs. It is still difficult to find sources of income for 2010, and we must in order to prevent drastic measures again next year. There are a couple of things that you can do to help:

- **Come to the annual conference this December:** Bring your colleagues and bring your families. Conference revenue is a significant portion of our annual budget, and so every registration helps to fund the good work at WLWCA.
- **Please encourage your county to pay its 2010 dues by May 31 next year.** I know that many counties are struggling with difficult financial conditions, but I think we have made a compelling argument why counties receive a big return on their dues dollars.

Thank you very much for your continued support of the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association!

~Julian Zelazny, Executive Director

Come Celebrate Our Origins at the 2009 WLWCA Annual Conference in La Crosse

Conservation farming started in 1933 with the Coon Creek Watershed Demonstration Project. Many practices used today to retain soil and keep water clean were born in the rural Driftless Area near the city of La Crosse. Of course, much has changed since the 1930s, and conservation farming is just one part, albeit a major one, of the conservation landscape in Wisconsin. Those must have been exciting times for the early conservation farmers, and we want to celebrate those times at the WLWCA Annual Conference in La Crosse on December 9 and 10.

This year, in response to members' requests, we have changed from a three day format to two days. With almost as much content as the three day agenda, you can expect two very full and informative days. We have invited US Congressman Ron Kind to make the keynote presentation. Then, Tim Jacobson, Executive Director of the Mississippi Valley Conservancy, will present the challenges facing our natural and working landscapes and some of the tools for protection and restoration used by nonprofit land trusts.

Also on the agenda is an account of the new duties and responsibilities of the Land and Water Conservation Board as told by Chair Mark Cupp and a panel of LWCB members; Former County Conservationist Jeff Hastings will present the Trout Unlimited Driftless Area Restoration Effort and the Coon Creek Watershed Project; representatives from

Wisconsin and Minnesota DNRs will teach us about the effects of multiple invasive pests on forest health; a panel of your peers from the Lake Michigan area will share their recent successes lobbying the legislature on behalf of their counties; and many other important and interesting discussions will fill the air in La Crosse this December. As always, there will be opportunities to network with colleagues from around the state and an evening of fun and relaxation.

Registrations are due Friday, November 6, 2009. Join us for the 56th Annual WLWCA conference in the "Cradle of Conservation," La Crosse, December 9-10, and help support *your* state association.

~Julian Zelazny, Executive Director

Donate Items to the 2009 WLWCA Annual Youth Education Silent and Live Auctions

Don't forget to represent your county or organization with local items at our 2009 WLWCA Annual Youth Education Silent and Live Auctions on December 9-10 at the 2009 WLWCA Annual Conference. Information about the 2009 WLWCA Annual Youth Education Silent and Live Auctions was sent last week to the land conservation departments, will be available at our Web site, and is also included in the online distribution of this *Thursday Note*. The annual State Conservation Awareness Poster and Speaking Contest is funded 100% by this important fundraising event. The Wisconsin Envirothon and the WLWCA Conservation Camp also receive benefits from this program. Don't miss out on this fun and exciting opportunity to donate items and shop for the holidays while supporting Wisconsin's youth conservation education efforts!

~Kirsten Moore, Office Manager

Exhibit at the 2009 WLWCA Annual Conference

The exhibitor registration form is now available at our Web site for the 2009 WLWCA Annual Conference in La Crosse. Join us on December 9 to tout your organization or corporation's products and exciting projects. Exhibitors will have the opportunity to network with conference attendees in the high-profile lobby area at the La Crosse Center, where conference attendees will travel to various sessions and drop by during the refreshment break and networking reception. This is a wonderful opportunity for your business to market and educate conservation professionals and politicians about your conservation efforts and services. Sign up by Friday, November 6, 2009 to be listed in our Conference Program. We look forward to seeing your exhibit!

~Kirsten Moore, Office Manager

2009 Resolutions and Proxy Voting

Resolutions must be received **by WLWCA by October 23 or immediately following your fall area meeting** for discussion at the November WLWCA Board meeting. Resolutions received after the November WLWCA board meeting may be brought to the floor during the annual meeting with a 2/3 vote for consideration. Along with the resolution, there **must be a resolution attachment** stating the contact person and conference speaker as well as any additional information that may be helpful in understanding the resolution. **This form is available on our Web site via a link from the 56th Annual Conference page.** Resolutions will be posted on the WLWCA Web site as they are received.

Please also remember that if your LCC Chair will not be attending the annual business meeting on December 10, a 2009 Proxy Voting Form must be completed prior to the meeting for a member county to vote. This form is also available via a link on our conference Web page.

~Chris Schlutt, Program Coordinator

Call for Moderators

We are looking for volunteers to assist us at the conference and moderate a break-out session. Moderators make sure everything runs smoothly and help out as needed during the session. Contact Chris for additional information at chrisschlutt@wlwca.org.

~Chris Schlutt, Program Coordinator

Outstanding Supervisor Award

It's not too late to nominate a supervisor in your county for this award. The Outstanding Supervisor Award is for a supervisor who has provided strong and effective leadership in promoting resource conservation through his or her own

actions and work in their community. The nomination form doesn't take long to complete, and you'll be recognizing someone who is doing a great job in your county. Information can be found on our Web site under WLWCA Programs, Conservation Awards. The deadline is October 16, but if you get the nomination to us immediately following your fall area meetings, we'll submit it for judging. The winner will be honored at our dinner and awards banquet on December 9 in La Crosse.

~Chris Schlutt, Program Coordinator

2009 Poster & Speaking Contest Update & Call for Volunteers

The 52nd annual State Conservation Awareness Poster and Speaking Contest takes place November 7, 2009 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Stevens Point. Many of our conservation colleagues have stepped up already to volunteer for this important youth event, but **we need three more volunteers to make the competition happen**. The competition is scheduled from 8:30-2:00 and volunteers receive breakfast and lunch for their time. Lodging at the hotel is also provided for those volunteers who travel from afar to participate. Come see Wisconsin youth express themselves about current conservation issues, and see the finalist posters from the "Dig It! The Secrets of Soil" poster contest.

Areas participating in the State Conservation Awareness Poster and Speaking Contest must register and send final posters to the WLWCA office by October 30, 2009. All registrations must include the state issued forms and a parental signature in order for students to participate. First place winning posters will advance to the NACD "Dig It! The Secrets of Soil" poster competition, which will conclude at the NACD Annual Meeting in Orlando on January 31-February 4. **If you would like to volunteer on November 7 or if you have any questions, please contact Kirsten Moore at the WLWCA office by phone or Email kirsten@wlwca.org.**

~Kirsten Moore, Office Manager

SOC Update

The NRCS 634 Waste Transfer technical standard work team recently prepared a draft standard for the first stage of review and, in late September, distributed the draft to a select group of reviewers for comment. Currently, the work team is carefully reviewing the written comments received. In the next step, the work team will prepare a response to each comment and use the input to continue revising and improving the draft standard.

A separate Standards Oversight Council (SOC) work team has been working diligently to address the large number of topics relevant to revising the NRCS 313 Waste Storage Facility technical standard. This summer and early fall, the work team devoted several meetings to the topics of bedrock, interpreting soils investigation data, defining saturation, and reviewing separation distances of storage structures from groundwater. The discussions have been detailed and the team is attempting to reach agreement on several key issues. An important goal is to make changes to the standard that will improve the consistency of interpretations in the field.

Earlier this year, the SOC work team that's been developing a new Infiltration Trench technical standard for the Dept. of Commerce finished responding to more than 60 comments received in the first stage of review. As a result, several key changes were made to the draft standard. At this point, a revised and improved draft is ready to distribute to a wider audience for comment. This stage, known as Broad Review, is the last major step in standard development.

~Kevin Hogan, SOC Coordinator

Donate to WLWCA every time you search the Internet and shop online!

GoodSearch & GoodShop

Search the web with Yahoo-powered GoodSearch.com and donate about a penny to WLWCA with every search!

Shop at more than 600 GoodShop.com merchants and WLWCA will receive a percentage of each purchase!

FEATURED IN

The New York Times

abc NEWS

O, THE OPRAH MAGAZINE

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

FORTUNE
SMALL BUSINESS



**Wisconsin Land & Water
Conservation Association, Inc.**
702 E. Johnson St.
Madison, WI 53703-1533
(608) 441-2677
FAX: 608-441-2677
www.wlwca.org

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MADISON, WI
PERMIT NO. 1989

 Printed on Recycled Paper

Calendar of Events

LMLWCA Fall Conference, Green Bay	Oct. 16
LWLWCA Fall Meeting, Appleton	Oct. 16
SOC Meeting, Madison	Oct. 16
UWEX Workshop "Understanding Hmong Culture," Rothschild	Oct. 16
WALCE Technical Committee Meeting, Stevens Point	Oct. 20
SAA Fall Meeting, Verona	Oct. 21
WAEE Annual Fall Conference, Eau Claire	Oct. 21-24
WCLWCA Fall Meeting, Eau Claire	Oct. 29
NCLWCA Fall Conference, Wausau	Oct. 29-30
NWLWCA Fall Meeting, Hayward	Oct. 30
WLWCA Board Meeting, Stevens Point	Nov. 6
WLWCA Poster & Speaking Contest, Stevens Point	Nov. 7
WSTC Meeting, Madison	Nov. 19
Thanksgiving Holiday, WLWCA Office Closed	Nov. 26-27
WLWCA Annual Conference, La Crosse	Dec. 9-10
WLWCA Board Meeting, La Crosse	Dec. 10
WLWCA Member Business Meeting, La Crosse	Dec. 10
Christmas Holiday, WLWCA Office Closed	Dec. 24-25

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

Post your event by Emailing kirsten@wlwca.org.

WLWCA Board

Allen Carothers, President
Buffalo County

Thomas Rudolph, Vice President
Oneida County

David Hammer, Sec'y/Treasurer
Lafayette County

Jacob Van Dixhorn
Sheboygan County

Patrick Laughrin
Calumet County

Dorothy Burwell
Walworth County

Simon Wells
Monroe County

Kay McKenzie
Douglas County

WLWCA Staff

Julian Zelazny
Executive Director

Kirsten Moore
Office Manager

Kevin Hogan
Standards Oversight Council Coordinator

Chris Schlutt
Program Coordinator

Go paperless! Subscribe to *Thursday Note* on line! Email kirsten@wlwca.org for details.