



Thursday Note

An Update on Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Issues

Volume 15, Issue 3

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Luxemburg-Casco High School and Island City Research Academy Win 2012 Wisconsin Envirothon

Nine high school teams and six middle school teams from Adams-Friendship, Appleton, Colby, Cumberland, Highland, Hurley, Luxemburg-Casco, Middleton, Montello and West Salem schools participated in the 2012 Wisconsin Envirothon on Friday, April 20 at Central Wisconsin Environmental Station (CWES) in Amherst Junction. Congratulations to Luxemburg-Casco High School's "Team A" and Island City Research Academy's "Team A" for winning first place in the high school and middle school categories. Teams spent the day outdoors taking on field challenges in Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Soils and Land Use, and Wildlife. In addition, teams studied the use of low impact development (LID) technology to reduce nonpoint source pollution and prepared presentations regarding potential management plans for developing on an island in Green Bay.

This year was the first year Wisconsin Envirothon allowed middle schools to compete at the event. Wisconsin Envirothon received special help from the Wisconsin Department of Instruction and Wisconsin Green Schools Network to advertise and facilitate the event. In addition, Wisconsin Green Schools Network hosted their inaugural Youth Summit on Thursday, April 19 at CWES, to cross promote the two educational events.

Wisconsin Envirothon is a member program of Canon Envirothon: North America's largest high school environmental education competition. Luxemburg-Casco High School will represent Wisconsin at the 25th Canon Envirothon July 22-28 at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania. The team will apply their field knowledge to another region's environment and continue to broaden their understanding of using LID technology to reduce nonpoint source pollution. Scholarships and Canon products are awarded to the top 15 teams.

Special thanks to our many volunteer and funding sources. Financial support was provided by Conserve School, Milk Source, Herbert H. Kohl Charities, Kikkoman Foods and Northland College. Wisconsin Envirothon was coordinated by WLWCA in cooperation with AmeriCorps, Arrowhead Trophies, Barron County Land Conservation Department (LCD), Canon USA, CWES, Dane County Office of Lakes and Watersheds, Econoprint, Juneau County LCD, Marinette County LCD, Nature's Bakery Cooperative, Powder Hill Photography, the Standards Oversight Council, Trees for Tomorrow, University of Wisconsin-Madison Biocore, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Center for Watershed Science and Education and the College of Natural Resources-Forestry, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, The Wildlife Society of UW-Stevens Point, Wildwood Productions, Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education, Wisconsin Green Schools Network, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

The Wisconsin Envirothon curriculum is designed by natural resources professionals and educators. The Aquatic Ecology Station was designed by Seth McGee, UW-Madison Biocore. The Forestry Station was designed by John DuPlissis, UW-Stevens Point and Greg Rebman, USDA-NRCS. The Soils and Land Use Station was designed by Shaunna Repking, USDA-NRCS. The Wildlife Station was designed by Andy Richardson, The Wildlife Society of UW-Stevens Point. The team presentation scenario Going Green: Using LID Technology to Reduce Nonpoint Source Pollution was created by Roger Bannerman, WDNR; Greg Cleereman, Marinette County; Marcia Hartwig, Dane County Office of Lakes and Watersheds; and Christine Mechenich, UWSP Center for Watershed Science and Education. Thank you for your support!

Find out more about Wisconsin Envirothon at www.envirothonwi.org. Stay tuned for more Wisconsin Envirothon developments and details on the 2013 event focusing on rangelands. If you are interested in serving on a committee to plan the 2013 event, volunteer, or just wish to be kept in the loop, contact kirsten@wlwca.org.

Congratulations to Luxemburg-Casco High School, Island City Research Academy, and all the participating teams, supporters and volunteers for a great event.

~Kirsten Moore, Interim Operations Director

WLWCA Executive Director Scheduled to Begin Work May 7, 2012

Jim VandenBrook, WLWCA's executive director hire, will begin working for WLWCA on May 7, 2012. After that time, VandenBrook's email address and voice mailbox will be activated. WLWCA will not be distributing contact information

ahead of VandenBrook's scheduled start date. The phone number to reach the executive director will be the same as our office lines: 608-441-2677. WLWCA does not have separate phone numbers or extensions at this time. Until May 7, please continue to contact kirsten@wlwca.org if you have any questions.

~Kirsten Moore, Interim Operations Director

WLWCA Area Elections Deadline and Details

Under the newly adopted bylaws, the WLWCA Board of Directors is made up of 16 members, two from each of the eight WLWCA Areas. The bylaws also prescribe a consistent statewide process for electing Area Representatives and set a **June 20th deadline** for completing the process. The guidelines for carrying out this new election process are linked at www.wlwca.org. Please note that it is critical to the integrity of the association that these procedures be correctly followed. Sample area bylaws to assist areas with their transition will be available soon. If you have any questions, please contact kirsten@wlwca.org.

~Chris Schlutt, Program Coordinator

Call for Participation: WLWCA Committees

WLWCA currently has three active committees, which are the former WALCE Administrative, Professional Improvement and Technical Committees. We welcome any LCC supervisors or LCD staff interested in either learning more or joining one of these committees to contact the WLWCA office. Additional information and current members can be found at www.wlwca.org/committees_info.html. The three committees in more detail are:

- **Administrative Committee; Greg Baneck, Outagamie County LCD, Interim Chair.** The Administrative Committee reviews and takes action as deemed necessary by the committee on any proposed legislation, administrative rule, or other policy and procedure that may significantly impact the administration of conservation programs. The committee is also charged with initiating action that may be needed to improve the administration of conservation programs and coordinating statewide information exchange for all county LCD administrators.
- **Professional Improvement Committee (PIC); Patty Benedict, Portage County LCD, Interim Chair.** One of the main functions of the PIC is developing and implementing the WLWCA annual conference. This includes selecting the site, developing agendas, scheduling presenters, establishing fees, advertising the event, and all other activities associated with carrying out a successful conference. Look for information soon about their next meeting as they begin planning for the 2013 conference.

The PIC also coordinates a scholarship program. Training scholarships are designed to help cover the expenses of WLWCA members who would otherwise be unable to afford a particular professional improvement or leadership training program. Scholarship information can be found at www.wlwca.org/pic_committee.html.

- **Technical Committee (TC); Paul Sebo, Washington County LCD, Interim Chair.** The TC provides an opportunity for staff and others to meet, discuss and evaluate land conservation related technical issues with their peers; share experiences and lessons learned; and solve common problems and/or improve technical services. The committee is charged with appointing representatives to serve on technical-related committees including the Standards Oversight Council and State Technical Committee.

The Technical Committee encourages attendance by all interested personnel. The remaining scheduled meetings for 2012 are Fridays June 8, August 10, and December 14. Meetings are held at the Portage County Annex in Stevens Point. Recently, the TC has been providing input on a state-wide task force dealing with barriers to widespread adoption of Nutrient Management Plans in Wisconsin. Planning is also underway for an annual technicians' tour. This year Waupaca County is hosting the event which will include a tour of a foundry, discussing the beneficial re-use of foundry sand, and the Wild Rose Fish Hatchery. Lastly, at the March meeting the TC discussed updating the committee's guiding principles and organizational structure.

If you are interested in participating in one or more of these committees, please contact kirsten@wlwca.org. More committees will be developed as the organization transitions to its new board of directors and organizational makeup.

~Chris Schlutt, Program Coordinator

Changes to WLWCA List Serves

Amidst the many actions being taken to facilitate the reorganization of WLWCA since the merger with the former Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees, WLWCA staff has been working to transition both the former WLWCA and WALCE list serves to Google Groups to serve a variety of communication functions. So far, WLWCA has two Google Groups in place:

- County Conservationists: This list replaces the former LCDs list serve administered by WLWCA, which is designated for county conservationists and the WLWCA board and staff. A WLWCA announcement-only list, this group is designed for WLWCA staff to pass legislative or administrative announcements on to the counties.
- LCD Staff Membership: This list replaces the former WALCE list serve, and includes all LCD staff that wish to be on the list. This group is designed for all LCD staff members to make announcements about conservation related events and topics for discussion. The WLWCA board and staff are also included on this list serve. Members can post to this list serve directly by emailing lcds@wlwca.org.

The next two groups that will be transitioned are the former WLWCA list serve and the SOC list serve. The WLWCA list serve is the list used for the *Thursday Note* and includes anyone; including partner organizations, agencies, and the public, who wish to receive the Thursday Note and WLWCA media releases or event announcements. The SOC list serve currently is used to make announcements to interested parties in regards to changes to technical standards.

Finally, in addition to transitioning the current list serves to Google Groups, WLWCA plans to create Google Groups discussion boards for the WLWCA Committees. If you have any questions or feedback about the list serves, subscriptions, or the transitions, please contact kirsten@wlwca.org. WLWCA staff thanks you for your patience and input while we make these important technical upgrades.

~Kirsten Moore, Interim Operations Director

Conservation Observance Day – Save the Date!

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for this year's Conservation Observance Day, which will take place on Monday, June 11, at Trees for Tomorrow, Eagle River, in Vilas County. We are extremely excited about this year's theme: Wisconsin Youth Conservation Education. The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and include exhibits, lunch, speakers, a tour of Trees for Tomorrow, and commence with a special tree planting ceremony in memoriam of the late and former DATCP Secretary Rod Nilsestuen. Additional details will be provided soon. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact Carolyn Scholl at cascho@co.vilas.wi.us.

~Chris Schlutt, Program Coordinator

SOC Update

While I've only been on the job for a little more than three weeks, I am starting to speak with more confidence about the goals of the Standards Oversight Council and the work that we accomplish each year. Besides reviewing the past work of the Council, becoming familiar with the current standards work teams and the new ones planned for 2012, I have charged myself with having at least one stakeholder meeting each week to get to know you and begin to piece together the players and dynamic of the Council. I am pleased to see the variety of agencies and businesses involved in the process of developing new and revising existing standards.

From my experience in collaborative processes, the more diverse minds in the room the better. One of the many things that attracted me to this position is this inclusive process of collaboration to ensure buy-in and support for conservation standards across the state. Wisconsin is unique to the rest of the country in that we have these inter-agency teams to develop and revise technical standards with the best, most up-to-date science and without political influence. To implement this process well, we need all stakeholders engaged. I appreciate your past support and participation in the SOC process, and hope that you will continue to be involved as we move forward. This year we have three teams whose work is coming to a close – Waste Storage Facility, Waste Transfer, and Waste Treatment; and we will start initiating new teams soon to begin work on standards based on the Technical Needs Assessment survey we distributed and summarized last fall. Two of the few teams that are being slated to begin work this year will be developing a new standard for Pervious Pavement and revising an existing standard, Nutrient Management, to be aligned with a newly revised national Nutrient Management standard.

Get involved in our upcoming work by contacting me at gini@wlwca.org or respond to requests from the SOC list serve. I am pleased with the warm welcome into the position and with the opportunity to work with you and the Council to further the SOC mission.

~Gini Knight, Standards Oversight Council Coordinator

Don't forget! Please pay WLWCA membership dues by May 31, 2012. Contact kirsten@wlwca.org if you need a duplicate copy of your county invoice. Thank you for your support!



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Calendar of Events

LWLWCA Meeting, Oshkosh	Apr 27
WGWA Annual Conference, Pewaukee	Apr 27
WAEE WI Adventure in Outdoor Ed, Wausau	May 4-6
WLWCA Executive Director Start Date	May 7
WLWCA BOD Meeting, Stevens Point	May 14
LMLWCA Meeting, Gillett	May 18
NWLWCA Meeting, Hayward	May 18
SOC Meeting, Madison	May 30
WLWCA Membership Dues Deadline	May 31
LWCB Meeting, Madison	Jun 5
NCLWCA Meeting	Jun 8
Conservation Observance Day, Eagle River	Jun 11
WLWCA Youth Conservation Camp, Eagle River	Jun 12-15
Area Association Appointments to WLWCA BOD Due	Jun 20
Sand Lake Conservation Camp, Crivitz	Jun 21-23

For more information, visit www.wlwca.org/eventscalender.html

WLWCA Board of Directors

Charles Wagner Kewaunee County LCC	Dorothy Burwell Walworth County LCC
Kurt Calkins Columbia County LCD	Chris Arnold Columbia County LCD
Thomas Rudolph Oneida County LCC	David Hammer Lafayette County LCC
Greg Baneck Outagamie County LCD	Paul Backhaus Washington County LCD
Kay McKenzie Douglas County LCC	Herbert Cornell Vernon County LCC
Derek Kavanaugh Green Lake County LCD	Mary Jo Gingras Iron County LCD
Joe Piechowski Waushara County LCC	Tami Schraufnagel Eau Claire County LCC
Carla Masten Outagamie County LCD	Ben Wojahn Vernon County LCD

WLWCA Staff

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Chris Schlutt
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Gini Knight
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Conserve by Subscribing to *Thursday Note* on line! Email kirsten@wlwca.org for details.