



DEFENDERS OF SOIL, AIR, WOODS, WATER, AND WILDLIFE

IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE

Southwestern
Wisconsin
Chapter

Originated 1977 Chartered 1978

Cherish the Wisconsin Places Where We Hunt, Fish, Hike, and Bike

By Izaak Walton Member Mark LaBarbera

There's a stretch of the Fever River not far from the Hard Scrabble Scientific & Natural Area that holds a special place in the hearts of local residents and visitors from elsewhere who have discovered it.

It's a place that my wife, Coni, and I also cherish. Here in the Driftless Area, where anglers often focus on trout, you can enjoy great small-mouth bass fishing thanks to forward-thinking folks who created the free public access there. Wood ducks and woodcock, eagles overhead and turkeys calling in the distance, add to this special place.

No matter what kind of outdoors enthusiast you are—a hiker or biker, a hunter or angler, a kayaker or birder, a skier or all of the above—Wisconsin provides endless opportunities for each of us to connect with nature in this kind of profound way.

These experiences instill in us an appreciation for our state's woods, wildlife, and waters and a commitment to ensuring that the legacy of enjoying our natural areas continues for generations to come.

Last year's hunting, fishing, sports, and conservation patron licenses have just expired, and for the next few months, hunters and anglers renewing our licenses have a unique opportunity to help protect the extra special places we most enjoy.

When we buy our licenses and renew our boat, ATV or other registrations, we'll be asked whether we'd like to donate at least \$2 to the Cherish Wisconsin Outdoors Fund. Friends and I have started answering, "Yes, but make it \$4." If you cherish Wisconsin's outdoors and natural resources, I hope you'll do the same. *(Cont'd)*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TUESDAY, MAY 26

Kickoff of Trap and Archery Season
Begins at 5:00 at the Club Grounds

THURSDAY, MAY 28

Jr. High Fishing Trip
Apple Canyon Lake
Fishing Begins at 8:45

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

Regular Meeting
7 PM at the Club Grounds

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

Board of Directors' Meeting
7 PM at the Club Grounds



The Cherish Wisconsin Outdoors Fund will help cover costs for critical habitat management, including important waters, throughout the state. The current budget proposal, including a moratorium on the Knowles-Nelson Land Stewardship Program, has drawn attention to issues of habitat and access. Setting land aside so it won't be developed is the first step in protecting it, but making sure those lands and waters stay healthy requires careful management, including controlled burns, invasive species control, trail maintenance and biodiversity projects.

I'm not surprised that hunters and anglers are a generous bunch. You might say we started the "green movement," from the green in our camo and greenhead mallards to the greenback dollars we spend in support of our pursuits and pursuit of our sport.

In 2014, the fund's first year, more than 25,000 license buyers gave to the Cherish Wisconsin Outdoors Fund through DNR's Automated License Issuance System when they were asked to give \$2. These are individuals who are proud of what this state offers, proud of what may be a family tradition of enjoying time together outdoors, and proud to protect what they cherish.

I encourage outdoors enthusiasts of all types to give \$2, \$4 or more, either by giving to the fund through DNR's license registration process or by making a donation to the fund on CherishWisconsin.org. We hope you'll join us in celebrating this great opportunity to permanently protect the unique public lands we all love.

Mark LaBabera is founder of the Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo and serves as Treasurer of the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin.

Area 5th Graders Take Part in Earth Day Celebration

(From the Republican Journal May 19, 2015) In 1988 the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) began hosting "Earth Day" for Lafayette County school youth.

NRCS District Conservationist Melissa Bartz and her staff—Ryan Gerlich, Amy Schulte, and Matt Miller—presented this year's event at Woodford Park on Thursday, April 23.

This year's Earth Day included twelve learning stations for 5th graders from Argyle, Belmont, Black Hawk, Cuba City, Darlington, and Shullsburg school districts. The twelve stations had a total of 50 presenters from various area groups and agencies. Many stations offered hands-on learning for the several hundred students attending. Topics included such things as forestry, bat houses, wildlife calls, woodland survivors, fishing and fish management, gun safety, water quality, trapping, archery, soil conservation, forestry, and sawmills.



Area 5th grade students learn to identify fish varieties at the fish-identification station. Shown in the foreground is a hoop net.



Mike Gould, member of Fayette Sportsman Club, discusses fishing topics before teaching students how to cast.

2015 Awards Banquet Held Saturday, April 25th



2015 Izaak Walton Officers and Directors

Front row (l-r): Treasurer Gary Timmerman; Vice-President Dale Brink; Secretary Jordan Williams; President Terry Sheffer. *Back row:* Assistant Directors Don Shireman, Harold Peart, Stan Bonjour; Director John Rupp. *(Not pictured: Second Vice-President Bill Sides and Assistant Director Frank Blahnik.)*



Arnie Roper displays the shotgun he recently donated to the Chapter. The gun will be raffled at the annual Hog Roast on August 1, 2015. Thank you, Arnie, for your generous donation.



President Terry Sheffer presents Dale Brink with the prestigious 2015 Tobin Award.



MAY MEETING MINUTES

May 13, 2015

Call to Order. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the May 13, 2015 meeting was called to order by President Terry Sheffer at 7 p.m.

April Minutes Approved. Minutes of the April 8, 2015 meeting were read by Secretary Jordan Williams. Motion to accept the minutes as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report. The monthly treasurer's report was presented by Gary Timmerman. Motion to accept the report as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

AGENDA ITEMS

School Fishing Program. Benton Jr. High students will take their school fishing trip to Apple Canyon Lake on Thursday, May 28th. As in past years, Ikes' members will be helping carry out the fishing portion of the outdoor program. We will be leaving from the Zephyr Depot at 7 a.m. Fishing is scheduled to begin at 8:45 and will continue throughout the morning. Additional Apple Canyon registered boats and fishing instructors are needed. Contact Gary Timmerman (608.759.2292) if you're able to help.

Outdoor Heritage Education Expo. The Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo, founded by Izaak Walton member Mark LaBarbera, will host the second annual Expo on May 20th and 21st. The event will be held at the MacKenzie Center in Poynette, WI. Volunteers who would like to help with the hands-on event may contact Mark at 608-854-2196 or at mark@outdoorheritageeducationcenter.com. Archery, air-gun, fisherie, forestry, wildlife, and other activities are included in the Expo. Students can also be face-to-face with live wolves, lynx, badger, otter, bison and eagles in the wildlife area.

DNR "Kid's Don't Float" Loaner Lifejacket Program. In 2012, the DNR and various partners launched a loaner life jacket program at boat landings around Wisconsin. Stations contain a variety of sizes of lifejackets that may be borrowed while boaters are on the water and returned when they're done boating for the day.

Partners in the project are responsible for (1) securing permission to place the structure at a landing, (2) constructing and maintaining the station, (3) overwintering the lifejackets, and (4) periodically checking the station during the boating season. The DNR provides the construction materials, signage, and floatation devices. A life jacket loaner station is currently being considered for Yellowstone Lake.

Annual Awards Banquet. The Awards Banquet was held on Saturday, April 25th. Members recognized were: Dale Brink (Tobin Award); Harold Peart (Chapter Award); and Dennis Carpenter, John Rupp, and Whitey Wiegman (Service Awards).

Benton/Cuba City 4-H Meetings. Local 4-H members will be using the club house on the second Sunday of each month. They will also be using the gun and rifle ranges for practicing. Dates and times to be determined.

Trap and Archery to Begin. A reminder that trap and archery seasons will begin on Tuesday, May 26 and continue throughout the summer. Shooting times are from 5 p.m. to dusk. (Trap contact: Gary Timmerman / 608.759.2292.) Archery league and archery shooting also begins at 5 p.m. (Archery contact: Dale Brink / 608.574.6473.)

Fisharee Date Change. The 2016 Yellowstone Fisharee date has been changed to Feb. 14th. Our chapter will be in charge of the Fisharee treasury next year.

Thank You To

- . . . Jim Beau, Dennis Carpenter, Terry Sheffer, and Gary Timmerman for helping with Earth Day activities at Woodford's Bloody Lake.
- . . . Dale Brink and Lori for getting and handing out trees for the Chapter's tree program.
- . . . members who helped with the 2015 Awards Banquet.
- . . . everyone who helped get the archery range ready for the upcoming season.

Motion to Adjourn. Motion (J. Beau, C. Brandt) to adjourn. All ayes; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

** Note: Minutes are unofficial until accepted at the next meeting. (The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 10, 2015 at the cabin grounds.)*