

2018 Wisconsin Waterfowl Hunters' Conference

Wisconsin waterfowl hunters are encouraged to attend the 16th annual Wisconsin Waterfowl Hunters' Conference which will be held on March 10 2018 at the Mead Hotel and Conference Center in Wisconsin Rapids. The Conference is designed, developed and managed by a committee of independent waterfowl hunters. It is supported by individuals, conservation organizations, private businesses and government agencies. Our focus since the inception of this Conference has been Preserving and Enhancing Our Waterfowl Hunting Heritage and how waterfowl hunting in Wisconsin can be improved. Attendees can have a hand in determining the future needs of waterfowl management, research and hunting opportunities. Help determine that direction! The cost of the Conference is only \$35.00 if you preregister and \$40.00 at the door. The preregistration fee for University/College Wildlife Ecology students and attendees 18 years old and younger is only \$15.00 (\$20.00 at the door).

Our Conference is open to anyone interested in waterfowl hunting; allows waterfowlers from around the state the opportunity to meet fellow hunters, management biologists and wardens and to share questions, concerns, experiences and information that affect our waterfowl hunting heritage and future hunting opportunities

The Keynote speakers will be Aaron Yetter, Illinois Natural History Survey, speaking on "Tradeoffs between sanctuaries for migrating waterbirds and recreational opportunities in restored wetlands" and Dr William Hohman, US Natural Resource Conservation Service speaking on "The Ring-necked Duck".

In addition, this year's Conference will include Legislative updates, breakout sessions addressing a review of the Wisconsin 2017 migratory game bird seasons and what's in store for 2018, seeking your thoughts for the 2019 and beyond waterfowl seasons, Great Lakes waterfowl hunting, an introduction to a new UWSP wood duck study, an opportunity to ask questions about state and federal waterfowl hunting regulations, WDNR's Green Bay West Shore properties, isolated wetlands and their importance to waterfowl production and migration and more.

Presentations are typically about 30 minutes long and speakers include professional waterfowl staff, agency representatives, and non professionals. We are striving for an active agenda that provides opportunities to learn and participate in waterfowling and waterfowl management. On Friday evening, we will have a hospitality room available for you to enjoy a beverage, small snacks and talk with fellow waterfowlers.

For additional information on attending the 2018 Wisconsin Waterfowl Hunters' Conference and obtaining a registration form, please visit our website at www.wiswaterfowlersconf.org or contact one of the following: Jon R. Bergquist (NW WI) jonrbergquist@hotmail.com 715-268-5584; Robert Landerman (C WI) landermanrm@gmail.com 715-592-3651; 262-720-5937, George Braunreiter (W WI) gbraunre@yahoo.com, 507-251-0550 or Allen Kube 608-626-3531.

Pre-registration is encouraged. Registration includes the Conference, a noon lunch of Saturday, and a ticket to the Waterfowl Hunters' Conference hospitality room on Friday evening.

A block of rooms have been placed on hold for those attending the Conference on Saturday and need a room Friday evening. The Planning Committee has obtained a special Conference rate (\$84.00 plus tax for the 1st person in the room and \$10.00 extra for a 2nd person in the room from the Mead Hotel and Conference Center in Wisconsin Rapids for those wishing to spend the night there. The phone number for the Mead Hotel and Conference Center: 800-843-6323 or 715-423-1500 and their Website is: www.hotelmead.com. Ask for the "Wisconsin Waterfowl Hunters' Conference" rate. The Mead Hotel is holding a block of rooms for Conference attendees at the \$84.00 plus tax rate only until February 19. After that the rate will go up. The Mead allows pets for a small additional fee..

During the Conference, the recipients of the two 2018 \$500.00 Wisconsin Waterfowl Hunters' Conference scholarships will be announced. Scholarship monies were raised from generous donations of past Conference attendees. They are awarded to college students who are majoring in a field that will benefit the future of waterfowl in Wisconsin and continent wide. Also, the Scholarship Committee has been asked to make a recommendation for one of the recipients of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation's Carol and Allen Kube Scholarships and that recommendation will also be announced.

See you at the Mead Hotel March 10 2018 and hopefully the evening of March 9. Bring a friend!