

"The Aldo Leopold Legacy Center [www.aldoleopold.org/legacycenter] and the surrounding 1,500-acre Leopold Memorial Reserve offer the perfect setting in which to explore and appreciate the earliest attempts at habitat restoration in Wisconsin and to celebrate the contributions of wildlife art to habitat conservation," says Tom Hauge, director of wildlife management for the Department of Natural Resources.

The winning entries will appear on the 2011 Wisconsin Waterfowl, Turkey, and Pheasant stamps.

Artists can submit entries from May 15 through August 6, 2010. The contest judging will take place on Saturday, August 28, at 1 p.m. at the Aldo Leopold Legacy Center, and will be followed by a small reception for the artists and public from 3 to 5 p.m. Those attending the event will have the opportunity to view about 60 pieces of wildlife artwork by artists from across the state and will get a "sneak peek" of the winning designs for the 2011 stamps.

DNR wildlife staff will be available to discuss the history and accomplishments of the Waterfowl, Turkey and Pheasant Stamp programs and how wildlife artwork has been central to our habitat conservation efforts.

All stamp contest applicants should review the contest rules carefully to ensure the eligibility of their entries. Artwork must meet the technical requirements specified in these rules in order to be properly processed and prepared for display at the Leopold Center. The 2011 contest rules, entry forms, and Reproduction Rights Agreement for the Waterfowl, Turkey, and Pheasant Stamp are now available at the DNR website

2010 Spring Wildlife and Fisheries Rules Hearing questionnaire available online

The questionnaire package for the 2010 Department of Natural Resources Spring Wildlife and Fisheries Proposed Rules Hearing and Annual Conservation Congress County Meeting and the list of meeting locations is now available for review on the Department of Natural Resources Web site.

On Monday, April 12, there will be 72 public hearings, one in each county starting at 7 p.m. where individuals interested in natural resources management have an opportunity to provide their input by non-binding vote and testimony to the Department of Natural Resources, Natural Resources Board and the Conservation Congress on proposed hunting and fishing rule changes and advisory questions.

The hearings, held annually are combined with the county meetings during which residents can introduce their solutions to natural resources related issues, as well as elect fellow county residents as delegates to represent them on the Conservation Congress.

Printed copies of the questionnaire will be available after March 1. This year, in addition to DNR service centers, a limited number of copies is being distributed to DNR license vendors. Copies will also be available at the spring hearing locations the night of the hearing.

The spring hearings cover three major areas: elections for county Conservation Congress delegates; proposed wildlife and fisheries rule changes that have been developed through previous Conservation Congress meetings; and

Conservation Congress proposals for future rule development.

Among the wildlife rule proposal being considered are: establishing a definition and allow the use of atlatls for small game hunting; establish and clarify definitions of a normal "agricultural or gardening practice" and "manipulation" for the purposes of enforcing existing prohibitions of baiting and feeding wild animals; and allowing participation in the youth turkey hunting season by 16 and 17 year olds.

Among the fisheries rule change proposals are: permitting motor trolling in Ashland, Iron, Price and Sawyer counties; and changing the open season for anglers targeting game fish on the Chippewa Flowage to one consistent with statewide regulations.

In addition to voicing their opinion on these proposed rule changes, county residents have the option to run for a seat on the Conservation Congress and to elect delegates from their county to represent their views regarding natural resources issues on the Conservation Congress, the citizen advisory body to the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources. Also, individuals have the opportunity to bring forth new conservation issues of a statewide nature to the attention of the Conservation Congress through the citizen resolution process. Information about the process is also available on the Conservation Congress pages of the DNR Web site.

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