

Mahoney

(From Page 27)

"There is nothing more important than conserving natural resources," Mahoney said.

Echoing refrains from leaders such as Aldo Leopold, Ding Darling and Teddy Roosevelt, he said that if people take too much, the country will become too fragile to exist.

Mahoney realizes that the

country faces large challenges with big agriculture and energy industries taking a bite out of natural resources, but the country has faced big challenges in the past. He cited examples where the United States came out of other challenging times, such as the War of Independence, Civil War, Dust Bowl, the 1929 Stock Market Crash, World War II, and Vietnam. Yet the United States rose as a nation and overcame them all.

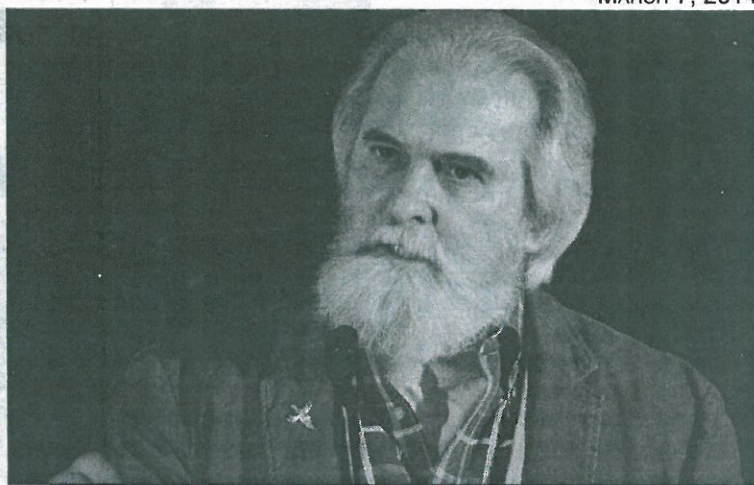
"Every nation is driven forward by a small percentage of people, and it will always be so," he said. "We have only one past, but we have many potential futures."

People see today as a difficult time for conservation, yet in the early 1900s when times were very difficult, hunters showed their true conservation feelings and they helped bring about institutions and laws that today are known as the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. These laws, government agencies and conservation organizations have worked together to bring wildlife back from the brink.

Mahoney credits a handful of individual hunters, such as Roosevelt and George Bird Grinnell, who saw the wasting of natural resources with market hunting. They brought in a system of wise use of natural resources.

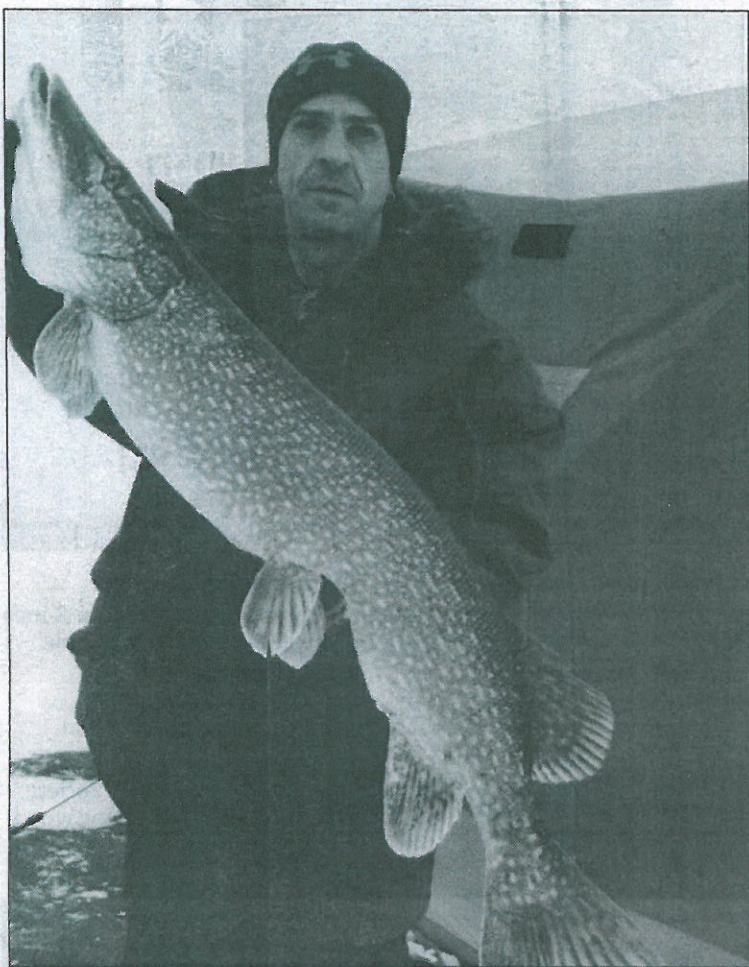
It was not easy to close down the widespread commercialization of wildlife, when barrels of passenger pigeons were shipped to market and herons were shot and left to rot merely for a few feathers to adorn fashionable hats.

Back in the early 1900s, there were no universities turning



Shane Mahoney told Pheasant Fest and Quail Classic attendees that hunters must deliver the conservation message.

Photo courtesy of Pheasants Forever



Rich Buchholz, of Sheboygan, landed this 37½-inch northern pike while fishing Sturgeon Bay with a tip-up.

out college-trained biologists and no laws preventing spring hunting or slaughter of wildlife.

But hunters, such as Darling and Leopold, were conservationists and they knew conservation was in the best interest of our culture and of wildlife. They had idealism and they stood for something and gave today's citizens opportunities to participate in hunting, trapping and fishing.

"They fought so that our generation would have the opportunity to worry about the challenges we face," he said. "Without those leaders of the past, we would have nothing to be challenged over."

"Today's volunteers with organizations, such as Pheasants Forever, have done more for wildlife than many others, but they are condemned to give more," he said. "You are the core of relentless citizens who will always give more because you believe and are committed."

Mahoney listed three major

challenges facing conservation today:

1. Far too few people care about conservation.
2. Those who do care are divided in how they approach conservation. They forget what Roosevelt said, that wildlife can't speak for itself, so we must. "If you had to give one thing to your grandchildren, would it be wide open meadows and clear skies, or would it be some material thing?"
3. The economic model supporting conservation is faltering. Hunters must create a new sense of urgency to speak to all citizens of the country about the value of natural resources. "It is a changing world that demands we adapt and change with it," he said. "We have to find a way to reach modern America. There is no alternative."

Hunters should stand proud for all they have done, but they cannot stand alone. They must reach out and expand the conservation effort with all people and organizations to fight for those things that matter.

People allow issues to divide them, but that does not build greatness.

"I don't know most of you but in the world in which I live there is no alternative but to admire (what you do). I know what it takes to keep wildlife with us and I will fight for that until the day that I die," he said. "I love wild creatures and wild places. They give me something that nothing else can give."

Mahoney stressed that conservation, due to the help of sport hunters, rescued wildlife from oblivion. Mule deer, elk, antelope, wild turkeys, Canada geese, wood ducks and wild-tailed deer would no longer exist today except as a reminder of what we had without conservationists.

"If there had been an Endangered Species Act in 1910, every one of those species would have been on it," Mahoney said. "Thankfully leaders could see the way out and they saw hunting as the way forward."

Conservationists of the early and middle 1900s fought for what they believed in and brought a world much fuller and more worth living in than any other group in society, he said. They instituted laws and funding programs supported by hunters that brought modern wildlife management into existence.

Today's hunters need to become more familiar with the many positive things that sport hunters have done and bring the conservation message to every corner of the nation.

ALPACA OUTDOORS

Alpaca, Mother Nature's Finest Fiber!



Made with Pride in the U.S.A.

For more info or to order call Jeff Cowher at 724-683-7054 or email jdcowher@verizon.net

Superior outdoor clothing for the discriminating outdoorsman!

Warmer, lighter & stronger than wool!

- Wind resistant, water repellant and thermal when wet. Superior at wicking moisture!
- No itching
- Softer, cooler and more durable than cotton. More comfortable in hot or cold weather

We carry: Boot socks, Crew Socks, Diabetic Socks, Gloves, Half Gloves, Stocking Hats, Scarves, Alpaca Buddies (toys)

SEE US AT THE MJS SPORT SHOW

CALL FOR ICE FISHING SPECIALS!

Special Savings Jan. 1st thru June 15th

3-DAY DELUXE HOUSEKEEPING CABIN 2-Bdrm \$275 (3 nights)	5-DAY DELUXE HOUSEKEEPING CABIN 2-Bdrm \$450 (5 nights)	7-DAY DELUXE HOUSEKEEPING CABIN 2-Bdrm \$625 (7 nights)
---	---	---

PACKAGE SPECIALS INCLUDE:
Your Own Cottage, Bed Linens & Towels

Rest...Relax...Play... There's Fun for Everyone!

Zastrow's LYNX LAKE LODGE

For Reservations or Further Info., Contact:
P.O. Box 277
Boulder Junction, WI 54512
PH: (715) 686-2249
email: bettyzastrow68@gmail.com
Reservations Line Only
1-800-882-5969

256 ACRES WAUSHARA COUNTY

Outdoors Paradise with Easy Access to I-39!

Just outside of Coloma WI. with easy access to I-39. This 256+/- acre parcel of land that is all contiguous is a rare find. Property consist of pine plantations, natural regrowth of timber, approx. 20 acres of tillable, trails throughout the property, borders 3 roads for easy access to different sections of the property. 154 acres enrolled MFL. Property can be divided into 4 smaller parcels of 70 acres, 40 acres, 55.5 acres and 91 acres.

Listing #: 48084-01687

Price: \$693,847



For more info or to set up a time to walk the property please call 608-742-5000

A Division of United Country Home Auction & Realty

To see all of our Hunting Properties please visit www.uchuntingproperties.com

Stevens Point Area

Located at the center of Wisconsin

BIG fish and GOOD beer

Fish the Wisconsin River, Tomorrow River and 7,700-acre Lake DuBay. Then, enjoy tours and tastings at four outstanding breweries. It's a combination you'll find nowhere else.

Plan your own relaxing fishing trip today! StevensPointArea.com