

CNRA Annual Report

Focus in 2009 was on our active membership—promoting issues close to the hearts of those participating on the Council and paying tribute to those in transition.

HORICON MARSH

Marsh Education. Nearby wind turbines, declining water quality and decreasing water levels continue to be threats to Horicon Marsh. Educating citizens about the Marsh through our Web site, in addition to promoting statewide siting standards to prevent construction of wind turbines near other wildlife refuges and scenic areas, continues to be one of CNRA's missions. With a recent judicial decision striking down local ordinances regulating wind turbines, we are watching the results of state legislation aimed at letting the Wisconsin Public Service Commission set statewide standards.

Bat Conservation International. As a member of Bat Conservation International, CNRA continues to support new research on bat mortality from wind turbines. Recent research showed mortality may drop if turbines are shut down during low wind. Our concern is for the Neda Mine Bat Hibernaculum, a sanctuary for about 350,000 bats near Horicon Marsh.

Marsh Haven Nature Center. CNRA continued to support Marsh Haven Nature Center which provides marsh education to thousands of visitors annually. CNRA was one of its early contributors

Gromme Prints. Owen Gromme's print *Requiem Horicon Marsh, 1916-1976*, helped CNRA raise funds for the "goose wars" in the late 1970s. Since then it has helped support our grant programs and raised funds for building the Horicon Marsh International Education Center. In 2009 CNRA transferred the remaining prints to the Friends of Horicon Marsh to be sold in the Center's gift shop. Future sales will support programs by the Friends.



Horicon Marsh International Education Center

NATIVE PLANT COMMUNITIES

Wild Ones. CNRA contributed \$500 to Wild Ones toward the reproduction of 2500 copies of a film entitled "Wild About Wildflowers" in DVD format. This film shows how to develop a natural landscape by using native plants-- a sustainable form of landscaping requiring no fertilizers, no insecticides, no herbicides, and no fossil fuel waste. Another grant of \$1000 will help Wild Ones publish a series of 71 articles by Janice Stiefel, a well-known Wisconsin writer, naturalist, photographer and entomologist. Janice died in 2008.

Bubolz Nature Preserve. A grant of \$1000 was awarded to Bubolz Nature Preserve to help manage invasive buckthorn, Russian Olive, spotted knapweed and other species crowding out native communities. Located in the Appleton area, the 775 acre Preserve is popular for its nature center, hiking, cross-country skiing and outdoor education programs.

Winnebago Lakes Council. CNRA contributed \$1000 to the Winnebago Lakes Council to help match a \$63,000 state grant to protect the lakes from the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). The Winnebago lakes are just a short trailer drive from the Great Lakes, currently infested with more than 185 aquatic invasive species.

FINANCES

Total assets are \$20,199. Funding comes from dues, donations and investments.

TRIBUTES AND TRANSITIONS

Lorrie Otto moved from the Milwaukee area to Bellingham, Washington last fall to stay with her daughter. To celebrate her 90th birthday and in recognition of her dedication to CNRA and the natural landscaping movement, CNRA contributed \$700 to the Wild Ones Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Fund.

Harold Kruse's new book *Dear Editor: Opinions and Comments from a Farmer-Naturalist's Viewpoint Plus Other Sketches From Past and Present* (2008) is a collection of writings generated by Harold as an activist for CNRA's causes, the Baraboo Hills and other conservation issues of the past 60 years. The book was edited and published by his daughter Gretchen. CNRA contributed \$1000 toward publication costs.

Ethel Princl (1912-2009) was CNRA's treasurer from 1970 to 1991. Ethel managed CNRA's finances throughout the DDT hearings and Horicon Marsh lawsuits and set up a bookkeeping system we continue to use today. Read about Ethel's years as treasurer on CNRA's Web site.

Russell Rill (1921- 2009) was one of the six signers in 1968 of CNRA's petition requesting the administrative hearing that led to the banning of DDT in Wisconsin. For more than 50 years he was a CNRA advisor, attending Council meetings with his wife Katherine. In honor of the Rills, memorial funds were donated to Sullivan's Woods, an outdoor education site for the Oshkosh Area School District.

John Thomson (1916-2009), botanist, author, UW-Madison professor, environmentalist, was a long time advisor for CNRA. Over the years John and Olive hosted wonderful CNRA meetings at their Mt. Horeb property. CNRA contributed a memorial gift of \$1000 in John's honor to The Prairie Enthusiasts to help manage the 160 acre Schurch-Thomson Prairie in southern Wisconsin. Read more about John's contributions on CNRA's Web site.

THE CNRA COUNCIL: *Who we are*

Louise Coumbe, *Oshkosh*, is a retired teacher who chairs the Friends of Sullivan's Woods, a group managing the school district's outdoor environmental education program.

Zaiga Freivalds, *T. Algoma*, works as a naturalist for Bubolz Nature Center in Appleton

Lisa Geer, Albany, is a landscape architect for the WI Dept of Administration with expertise in sustainable design.

Dick Hunt, *Horicon* is a retired DNR wetlands research supervisor who remains actively involved in marsh issues.

Jack Kaspar, *Oshkosh*, is a retired UWO biology professor with special expertise in spiders and Wisconsin birds.

David Kopitzke, *Richland Center*, is an artist, botanist, lecturer in biological sciences at UW Richland and board member of the Driftless Area Land Conservancy.

Jim O'Brien, *Middleton*, is a retired UW Madison Japanese literature and language professor, former Middleton city alderman and president of the Friends of Pheasant Branch.

Lorrie Otto, *Bellingham, WA*, nationally recognized as the "godmother of natural landscaping," is a Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame inductee and environmental educator noted for her native gardens and anti-lawn stance.

Jan Scalpone, *Oshkosh*, is a retired planner from East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission and active on several lake boards in Oshkosh and Vilas County.

Chuck Sturm, *West Bend*, CEO of Charles Sturm Associates, generously donates his services as treasurer.

Donna VanBuecken, *Appleton*, is Ex. Dir. of Wild Ones Natural Landscapers, Inc. with 50 chapters nationwide.

Don Vorpahl, *Appleton*, is retired from Lawrence University and a landscape designer who faithfully monitors the Mekan River at his River House in Waushara County.

Leonie Vrtilek, *Fond du Lac*, has spent 40 years keeping CNRA informed about issues related to Horicon Marsh.

CNRA Advisors who regularly participate in Council meetings are Richard Barloga, *Milwaukee botanist*, Cathy Kaspar, *Oshkosh environmentalist*, Carol Hale, *Milwaukee activist*, Rumi O'Brien, *Middleton artist, quilter, gardener*, Olive Thomson, *Mt. Horeb botanist*, and Lynn Vorpahl, *Appleton/Waushara County conservationist*.

WI CONSERVATION HALL OF FAME

CNRA continues its support, promoting the future induction of George Becker, Cy Kabat, Harold and Carla Kruse, John and Olive Thomson and Fred Ott.

AFFILIATIONS

We encourage CNRA members to support these organizations with missions similar to ours:

- Aldo Leopold Foundation
- Bat Conservation International
- Citizens for Scenic Wisconsin
- Driftless Area Land Conservancy
- Friends of Horicon Marsh
- Friends of Pheasant Branch
- International Crane Foundation
- Marsh Haven Nature Center
- River Alliance of Wisconsin
- Rock River Coalition
- The Prairie Enthusiasts
- 1000 Friends of Wisconsin
- Wild Ones Natural Landscapers
- Winnebago Lakes Council
- Wisconsin Acad. of Sciences, Arts and Letters
- Wisconsin Wetlands Association
- Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame

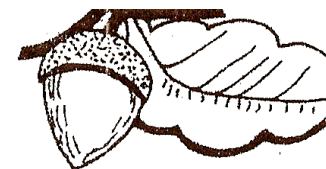
THE CNRA COUNCIL

President – *Lisa Geer*
Vice-President – *Jan Scalpone*
Secretary – *Zaiga Freivalds*
Treasurer – *Chuck Sturm*
Membership – *Louise Coumbe*
Councilors – *Lorrie Otto, Leonie Vrtilek, David Kopitzke, Jim O'Brien, Don Vorpahl, Dick Hunt, Donna Van Buecken and Jack Kaspar*

Contact us: 608-239-8375
www.wisconsin-cnra.org

CNRA ANNUAL REPORT

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Citizens Natural
Resources Association
of Wisconsin

1951 - 2009

For the preservation, management and restoration of Wisconsin's natural resources