



People, Places, Things

ORGANIZATIONS ARE MORE THAN THE issues they represent. They are the traditions that hold us together; the people who carry us forward from decade to decade; the places and things that create memories and form friendships. This final chapter pays tribute to these people, places and things.

The people are officers, councilors, advisors and other members—people with passion, energy and wisdom, many of whom are no longer with us. Some are leaders, some are followers—all held CNRA together from the post-War years to the 21st century. Our memories of these people, both anecdotal and documented from the archives, barely do justice to the breadth and scope of their contributions.

The places are the locales throughout Wisconsin where we hold quarterly Council Meetings and Annual Meetings. They are often the most beautiful spots in Wisconsin. In these places, at homes of members and in public areas, we share the camaraderie of food, enjoy each others oddities, tell stories of our lives and make lasting friendships.

The things are traditions that are uniquely CNRA's: the Silver Acorn award, a coveted acknowledgement given to outstanding Wisconsin conservationists; a newsletter called The CNRA Report; and a set of publications produced over the years in our efforts to educate and sway both legislators and the general public.

Those of us in CNRA will recognize these people, places and things. They are our past, our present and our future.



Honoring Special Conservationists: The Silver Acorn Award

THE SILVER ACORN IS CNRA'S special award for outstanding effort and achievement in conservation work. The first Silver Acorn was given to Mrs. Aldo Leopold in 1951 to honor Aldo Leopold posthumously. Mrs. Leopold received a silver brooch, but subsequent awards have been fashioned either as a brooch or a tie clasp. The design, an acorn with an oak leaf, originated from "the good oak" of Leopold's A Sand County Almanac. Fred Ott recalls Owen Gromme sketching the design on a napkin for use as CNRA's logo.



Over the years there has been an on-going debate about who should receive the award: members only, or any deserving conservationist. The original intent was members only, with other conservationists to be recognized with a "Conservation Citation Certificate." For the most part, only members have received the award, while the few non-members so honored automatically became "Life Members" with all other Silver Acorn recipients.

When awarded the Silver Acorn, all recipients were praised for their outstanding contributions to the conservation movement and most were commended for their work in CNRA. In addition, specific activities were cited. *The descriptions here reflect the specific activities stated at the time the award was given, even though we are aware that many recipients continued to make significant contributions to the conservation movement later in their lives.*

Mrs. Aldo Leopold in front of The Shack near the Wisconsin River. Mrs. Leopold accepted the first Silver Acorn award for Aldo Leopold posthumously at CNRA's second annual meeting in September 1952.

Aldo Leopold 1951, Madison. Author of *A Sand County Almanac*. CNRA found its “motto, code and way of thinking” in the writings of Aldo Leopold, a visionary and pioneer in the conservation movement. Presented posthumously to Mrs. Estella Leopold.

Fred Luening 1953, Milwaukee. Retired Milwaukee Journal editor. A supportive voice in educating the public on nature and conservation issues through newspaper editorials.

Wallace Grange 1955, Babcock. Charter member and three-time CNRA president, Wisconsin’s first Superintendent of Game Management, owner and operator of 10,000 acre Sandhill Game Farm near Babcock, author of *Those of the Forest*, *The Way of Game Abundance*, *Wisconsin Grouse Problems* and numerous articles on game management and other phases of resource use.



Dixie Larkin 1955, Milwaukee. CNRA advisor, leader in the successful campaign to establish the Wisconsin Audubon Camp near Sarona; strong advocate of wise resource use in Wisconsin.

Wilhelmine LaBudde 1956, Milwaukee and Elkhart Lake. CNRA advisor, first woman member of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, served on many conservation boards, active in preserving Horicon Marsh, establishing environmental education in Wisconsin schools, highway beautification programs and state land acquisitions. Presented posthumously to Sybil LaBudde.



Wm. J.P. Aberg 1961, Madison attorney. Charter member and CNRA vice president, Wisconsin Conservation Commissioner (1939-51), co-authored the Conservation Act of 1921, involved in Horicon Marsh restoration, Wisconsin National Forest establishment, Forest Crop Law, and many policies followed by Conservation Commission.



William Aberg (left) receiving the Silver Acorn award from Ernest Swift.

Aroline Schmitt 1961, Wauwatosa. Charter member and CNRA president, leader in Wisconsin conservation movement with a national interest in forestry and wilderness, member of various state and local conservation boards.

Herbert L. Stoddard 1961, Thomasville, Ga. Charter member, one of the first wildlife researchers in the U.S., pioneered forest management by fire burns; author of *The Bobwhite Quail*.

E.M. Dahlberg 1961, Ladysmith teacher. Charter member and past CNRA vice-president, secretary and advisor, served on the Wisconsin Conservation Commission, author of *Conservation of Renewable Resources*, strong proponent of conservation education and protection of Flambeau Wilderness and similar areas.



Owen Gromme, 1963, Milwaukee. Curator of birds and mammals at the Milwaukee Public Museum. CNRA charter member and advisor; writer, artist and conservationist; author of *Birds of Wisconsin*, a major contribution to the conservation field.

Jesse T. Walker, 1964, Baraboo City Clerk. Former CNRA president; active in Sauk County Federation of Conservation Clubs and Wisconsin Conservation Congress; militant defender of trees on State Highway 30, trout streams and all things “natural, wild and free.” Presented posthumously to Mrs. Walker.



Walter E. Scott 1964, Madison. Charter member and CNRA advisor. Writer, speaker, naturalist; 30 years with the Wisconsin Department of Conservation; co-founder and former editor of the *Wisconsin Academy Review* and the *Passenger Pigeon*; co-founder of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology.



Harold and Carla Kruse, 1965, Loganville. Organic farmers. Harold, former CNRA president and advisor; Carla, charter member, CNRA secretary and editor; set up demonstration areas of good conservation practices, including stream restoration; active and vocal members of a dozen conservation organizations; moving force behind Honey Creek and Baraboo Hills Natural Areas projects.



Carla and Harold Kruse (Isthmus photo)



Fred Ott, 1968, Milwaukee. Charter member, former CNRA treasurer. Leading fundraiser for DDT hearings and other conservation issues, strong supporter of preserving natural areas and protecting endangered species.

Lorrie Otto, 1971.

Milwaukee. CNRA advisor, primary force in initiating DDT hearings in Madison and continued presence throughout the hearings; leader in movement to protect and restore natural areas and native plant communities; active in local conservation issues.



George Becker, 1973. Fish biologist, Professor UW-Stevens Point. CNRA president, former advisor, founder of CNRA's Wisconsin River Restoration Committee, chief author of CNRA's special report *Stream of a Thousand Isles*, leader in



George and Sylvia Becker

efforts to halt bureaucratic use of poison to manage game fish.

Fred and Fran Hamerstrom, 1973, Plainfield. Wildlife biologists. CNRA advisors, followers of the tenets of Aldo Leopold; pioneers in efforts to preserve land for and study habits of prairie chickens.

Ruth Hine, 1974, Madison. Editor and Publications Manager for Wisconsin DNR. CNRA advisor, author of broad array of articles and reports to educate citizens and public officials about important conservation issues.

Kurt Remus, 1977, Milwaukee. CNRA advisor, strongly opposed to dewatering of Horicon Marsh and hazing of geese by DNR and USFWS, dedicated to bringing truth of these efforts to the general public; active in numerous conservation organizations.

Bertha I. Pearson, 1978, Wausau. CNRA treasurer, a leader in the fight to ban DDT in Wisconsin; a tireless worker with a broad scope of environmental interests.



Bertha Pearson receiving the Silver Acorn from President Al Berkman

Millie Zantrow, 1981, Baraboo. CNRA member, founder and operator of drop-off center and recycling plant for paper, glass, metals and plastics, with innovative approaches to developing and marketing new products from recycled plastics.

Carol Luetkens, 1982, Madison. Executive Secretary of Madison Audubon Society. CNRA member, co-author of Wisconsin's first bottle bill, active in issues pertaining to wetland preservation, pesticide control and land preservation.

Katherine D. Rill, 1984, Oshkosh botanist. CNRA president, former secretary, author of *The Flora of Winnebago County*, participant in state's Natural Areas Inventory, active in The Nature Conservancy and Audubon Society; strong proponent of land preservation, native vegetation

and clean water and air.



Katherine Rill, shown here with Nina Leopold Bradley, holding a replica of the CNRA gavel made from Aldo Leopold's "Good Oak" by Phil Sander in 1952.

Jan Scalpone, 1996.

Oshkosh. Regional planner. CNRA president, editor of CNRA's publication

Managing Wisconsin Roadsides, leader in formation of the Horicon Marsh Area Coalition (HMAC),



active in local land use planning issues.

Leonie Vrtilek, 1997, Fond du Lac. Former CNRA vice president, longtime Council member, dedicated proponent of preservation of Horicon Marsh as a wildlife refuge, author of Horicon



Marsh "Goose Report" covering a broad array of environmental issues presented quarterly to the CNRA Council.

George Archibald

2000, Baraboo. CNRA member, co-founder and long-time director of the International Crane

Foundation; initiated ultra-

lite flights for sandhill cranes as a forerunner for reintroducing whooping cranes to Wisconsin; internationally recognized leader in research, education, fundraising and promotion of cooperative arrangements to protect cranes and preserve wetland habitat throughout the world.

Olive Thomson,

2001, Mt. Horeb botanist. CNRA advisor; developed Prairie Heritage Trail along CTH JG south of Mt. Horeb; active in The Nature Conservancy; served on numerous state and local conservation boards and committees;

strong proponent of land preservation, natural roadsides and native landscaping.





Owen Gromme in his studio



Fred and Fran Hamerstrom receiving their Silver Acorn awards



Lorrie Otto in her garden

Silver Acorns and the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame

TEN RECIPIENTS OF THE SILVER Acorn award have been inducted to the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame, established in 1984 in Stevens Point:

- *Aldo Leopold*
- *Wallace Grange*
- *Wilhelmine LaBudde*
- *Owen Gromme*
- *Walter Scott*
- *Fred and Fran Hamerstrom*
- *William J.P. Aberg*
- *E.M. Dahlberg*
- *Lorrie Otto*

That's 25 percent of all Hall of Fame inductees, an excellent record for CNRA, an organization that averages about 250 members statewide, with fewer than 20 actively participating on the Council at any given time. It's not surprising, however, because criteria for induction to the Hall of Fame are similar to those we use for awarding the Silver Acorn. The Conservation Hall of Fame, like CNRA, recognizes their recipients as visionaries who, through their actions, philosophies and legislative involvement, have worked to protect the environment and quality of life in Wisconsin.

Communicating the Message: CNRA's Reports and Publications

CNRA'S FOUNDERS RECOGNIZED how critical it was for a conservation organization to communicate with members and publish information for legislators and the general public. Among their first discussions was what to name their newsletter. Not until 1954, however, did they initiate their own newsletter: *The CNRA Report*. Prior to that they participated in *The Wisconsin Conservationist*, a monthly newspaper sponsored by the Wisconsin Federation of Conservation Organizations, and edited by Richard Hemp, secretary of CNRA for a brief time. Fourteen issues of *The Wisconsin Conservationist* were published before it was abandoned. CNRA funded its final eight months, featuring extensive articles under a column called "News from CNRA."

Although *The CNRA Report* was not initiated until 1954, almost from the moment of organization, Wallace Grange began publishing detailed legislative reports and educational bulletins, many 12 to 15 pages long. These included position papers on the Flambeau Wilderness Area, public vs. private rights, and the warden's pay controversy.

The Council intended *The CNRA Report* to be published quarterly, but publication over the years has ranged from bi-monthly to annually to not at all during some years. It has also taken on different

formats at various times. Early on it was a mimeographed booklet of 12 to 15 pages with a cream cardboard cover. The first issue was a position paper against hunting on the Horicon Refuge written by Wallace Grange. The second issue was on the Wisconsin Audubon Camp.

After a few years with no reports, in the 1960s *The CNRA Report* was reinstated and edited by Carla Kruse as a legal-sized newsletter of four to eight pages with the masthead featuring a hemlock seedling growing from a stump. The newsletter covered CNRA actions, important statewide conservation activities, and legislative reviews, with occasional special editions on relevant topics, such as DDT or the Kickapoo.

The 1970s format was primarily letters from the presidents: sometimes called "President's Briefs" or "Message From the President," or a variance on that theme. Legislative reports continued to be published intermittently until the late seventies, when this information became more readily available from other sources. For a short time in the seventies, also, we printed two issues of *The Horicon Honker* in an effort to gain support and raise funds during the Goose Wars.

The logo of the hemlock seedling growing from a stump was used again in the mid-80s when Jan Scalpone and Katherine Rill reinstated *The CNRA Report* as a standard-sized publication of four to six pages issued annually, usually in February. This newsletter concentrated specifically on CNRA activities and pending legislation relating to these

activities. It included a column that summarized information from the Horicon Marsh report—an extensive report on environmental issues at the marsh and throughout the state that Leonie Vrtilek has prepared for Council meetings since the late 1970s. In 1994 *The CNRA Report* became *The Annual Report*, a comprehensive one-page list of all CNRA activities during the year. This report is

presented at the Annual Meeting and mailed to all CNRA members in February.

Over the years, CNRA has also published the following special reports for educational and lobbying purposes. These range from a speech by Wallace Grange at our first annual meeting to a compilation of articles from a special CNRA conference to original research and writing by CNRA members.

Publications

Our Philosophy in These Times. Wallace Grange. Citizens Natural Resources Association of Wisconsin. October 20, 1951. 16 pp.

A speech given by Wallace Grange, CNRA president, at CNRA's first annual meeting in Stevens Point. From today's perspective it is both radical and reactionary. Radical when he states we are part of nature and must keep in touch with nature; that as we get more civilized we erroneously move away from nature; that we must be aware of the illusions of science, progress and security and must recognize that much of the world is unknowable. We must be willing to make judgments based on feelings backed by logic and remember that "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." Reactionary when he goes on at length against rural zoning, often interjecting "you may not agree with me." But finally wonderful, with a story of a little red fox both wild and domesticated that touches the heart. "So much of nature is gone, friends! So much of it is gone! . . . We in CNRA have work to do."

Menominee Report. Phebe Jewell Nichols, James G. Frechett, *et alia*, with an introduction by Harold Kruse, CNRA president. A CNRA Special Report, 1956. 59 pp.

A collection of papers describing the history, forest resources, social services and effects and problems of termination of the Menominee Indian Reservation. The report was intended to provide a better understanding and greater appreciation for the Menominees to be used as a basis for judging proposed legislation relating to termination. It addressed CNRA's contention that the tribe needed to be integrated into Wisconsin's political and economic system without endangering the future of their rich natural resources or disrupting their way of life.

Poison Sprays . . . A Second Look. John F. Dahlberg, editor. A CNRA Report, February 1958. 25 pp.

A compilation of articles, public testimony and other evidence about the dangers of insecticides. Dahlberg's commentary is a precursor to CNRA's later foray into the DDT hearings. In the introduction he states, "During years to come we are almost certain to hear more about the use of insecticides, and CNRA members will want to be among the informed." His collection leaves one with the overwhelming sense that scientists, businessmen, the medical profession and conservation groups were becoming increasingly alarmed about the growing use of chemical poisons throughout the nation. John Dahlberg was CNRA Treasurer. Harold Kruse was president.

Pesticides – A Special Review. J.W. Apple, Joseph J. Hickey, Grant Cottam, et. alia. CNRA Special Report, 1967. 47 pp.

Transactions of the Citizens Conference on Pesticides sponsored by CNRA and the Department of Botany, UW-Madison on April 16, 1966 with an introduction by Roy O. Gromme, CNRA president. Seven scientists from UW-Madison presented papers at this interdisciplinary conference in their special areas of expertise. Presenters came from the departments of Wildlife Ecology, Botany, Entomology, Chemistry, Zoology, Medical Genetics and Neurology. Topics range from narrow research results on the effects of DDT on certain bird populations to the broad impacts of chemicals on entire ecosystems.

Stream of a Thousand Isles – The Wisconsin River: Its History and a Plan for Restoration. CNRA Special Report, 1972. 33 pp.

A collection of papers, petitions, and resolutions mostly written by George Becker on the deterioration of the Wisconsin River and what should be done to restore it. The papers address the river's history, current status, and clean up through a proposed Wisconsin River Sanitary Authority. The petitions and resolutions are those sent by CNRA's Wisconsin River Restoration Committee to various public entities requesting action against paper companies discharging wastes into the river and coal plants emitting mercury into the air. George Becker, a fish biologist, chaired the Restoration Committee and became CNRA president in 1972, following Al Berkman.

A Plan for the Restoration of the Wisconsin River. George Becker and John R. Holland. A CNRA Report. September 1972. 39 pp.

A master plan to clean up the Wisconsin River by eliminating in planned stages all discharge of municipal wastes into the river and its tributaries. The report provides background information, describes the problem and presents a solution. It offers a creative approach to a difficult problem using the best technology of the time. George Becker was a fish biologist and John Holland an industrial engineer. CNRA president at the time was Al Berkman.

A Guide to Protecting Wisconsin Wetlands. James T. Harris and Ronald T. Sauey. UW-Extension/Madison. January 1980. 36 pp.

A comprehensive report on regulations, acquisition programs, management and citizen action skills related to the status of wetlands in Wisconsin through December, 1979. Line drawings by Elizabeth Hollister. The guide was written at a time when new wetland legislation was being introduced almost daily. The issues were complex and controversial. The booklet was intended to provide basic information for citizens concerned about wetland protection. Funded by CNRA, it was almost not published because UW-Extension wanted to omit the final section on what it considered controversial citizen action skills. Ron Sauey, then president of CNRA, insisted the chapter be included. At the time the booklet was written, Jim Harris was a Project Associate in Wetlands Education with the Environmental Resources Unit, UW-Extension, Madison, and a CNRA member. Ron was co-founder of the International Crane Foundation (ICF). Today Jim is President and CEO of ICF.

Managing Wisconsin's Roadsides. Citizens Natural Resources Association of Wisconsin, Inc. Jan Scalpone, editor. March, 1991. 32 pp.

A comprehensive overview of natural roadsides in Wisconsin, including their history, present day roadside policies, guidelines for planting and managing right-of-ways, and a vision for the future. Illustrated by David Kopitzke and others. CNRA members who are experts in the field wrote most of the articles. In addition, Dane County's first highway botanist from 1974 to 1977, Victoria A. Nuzzo, tells the county's experience with natural roadsides and WDOT's Chief Highway Maintenance Engineer, Ted Stephenson, gives the state's perspective. Included are the results of a 1986 CNRA survey of county highway commissioners. Below: illustration by David Kopitzke.



Remembering People and Places

Leonie Vrtillek says celebrating CNRA's 50th anniversary is like opening a book which holds a favorite story for each one of us.

Stories of battles fought together passionately, some won, some lost. Friends come alive again who left us years ago. We think of funny moments and laughter shared. And we might ask ourselves what has held us together so long besides our common interests. Because there is no doubt that we always enjoy coming together, enjoy working together, and like being friends.

Leonie and others have so many memories of people and places, we can tell only a few here. Let's begin with food. Food has a way of bonding people. Annual meetings are one or two day events and usually include a picnic or a banquet. Quarterly Council meetings generally begin in the morning, have a noon break for a potluck lunch, and then resume in the afternoon until about 3 p.m. People bring their favorites for lunch and everyone counts on them.

Long- time members still talk about the picnic lunches we used to have at annual meetings. **Carla and Harold Kruse** would bring bags of fresh vegetables from their organic farm and a wonderful array of cheeses; **Katherine Rill** would see to the main dish, drinks and dessert and make sure everyone had at least one fork. When we didn't have picnics, we had lunches and dinners at interesting restaurants.

At Council meetings, potluck lunches were often an adventure. **Cy Kabat** always made sorrel soup. **Tula Erskine** experimented on us; we often

had to ask, "What's that?" **Ron Sauey** was a gourmet cook. He would surprise us with unusual dishes. Years ago we looked forward to meals at **Gerald and Gladys Scott's** house with lots of fresh vegetables and berries from their garden.

At Council meetings nowadays we all depend on **Fred Ott** to bring rolls and sandwich meat. If everyone else brings dessert, we know we'll always have something substantial to eat when Fred is not riding trains to some exotic place or visiting his daughter Riki in Alaska. The Kruses still bring something from their farm: one of their best dishes is potato salad from an assortment of colored potatoes.

Everyone loves Leonie's lemon cake, which she never bakes except for CNRA. Twenty-five years of lemon cakes. We usually have brownies, too, from **Lisa Zeman**. And **Lorrie Otto** makes delectable fruit pies.

Louise Coumbe's tradition is a vegetable plate with dip. **Olive Thomson** knows we enjoy her wonderful casseroles. **Zaiga Maassen** and **Katherine Rill** concoct delicious salads. **Jan Scalpone** doesn't cook, but she and the "boys"—**David Kopitzke**, **Don Vorpahl**, **Chuck Sturm**, **Richard Barloga** and **Lynn Hanson**—fill in with "store-bought" that always seems to disappear. **Ann Henschel** always picks out delicious dessert selections—usually from a local bakery. **Sally Fogelberg** threatens to bring lutefisk and leftse—she hasn't yet. We wait expectantly to see what interesting thing **Carol Hale** will bring. And **Kira Henschel**, busy as she is with her own business, a daughter, exchange students, two cats and a dog, often surprises us with an exotic dish. We don't

Leonie's Recipe for CNRA Lemon Cake

Cake:

1 Pillsbury Moist Supreme Yellow Cake Mix
1 3 oz. package of lemon Jello
4 large eggs
3/4 cup melted UNSALTED butter (1 1/2 sticks)
3/4 cup cold water

Glaze:

Grated rind of two large lemons
Juice of 2 lemons and one orange
3/4 lb. powdered sugar (more if necessary)

Butter (use unsalted butter) and flour a
13 x 9 1/2 x 2" pan

In a medium-sized bowl, combine cake mix, Jello, eggs, melted butter and water and beat with electric mixer for 3 –4 minutes. Bake in a preheated oven at 350° F about 35 minutes (depends on oven) until golden in color and stick comes out clean.

While the cake is baking, make the glaze:
Mix juice, lemon rind and powdered sugar using a wire whisk to stir well until smooth and of the consistency of unwhipped whipping cream.

Immediately after removing cake from oven, take meat fork and prick holes all over the cake, all the way down. Then slowly pour the glaze over the entire surface of the cake, filling the holes and covering the cake, also along the edges. (You might not use all of the glaze, depends on how much juice you had).

Let stand for a few hours or overnight.
Cut into squares.

Secret ingredient, absolutely necessary for success: an old, slightly beat-up former Teflon baking pan (quite scratched up), with a history of being used for 25 years of CNRA lemon cake!

—Leonie Vrtilek

expect the children who come to the meetings to eat the “strange new foods,” but **Loris Henschel**, **Kristine Maassen** and **Rachel Zeman** sometimes astonish us with their willingness to try different dishes.

When CNRA members sit around and reminisce, they often tell stories related to food. Apparently **Walter Scott** loved mashed potato sandwiches. **George Becker** tells a number of stories about **Fran Hamerstrom's** cooking. In later years Fran published a wildlife cookbook, but when she was active in CNRA, it seemed it was the Hamerstroms' company and visitors that members enjoyed; the food definitely took second place. People seemed to have known that about Fran, so they brought simple dishes to be sure they didn't outshine her cooking. In a letter **Joe Mills** sent to **Carl “Butz” Hayssen Jr.** in 1959 announcing a Wildlife Committee meeting at the Hamerstroms', Joe said he was taking hot baked beans. He suggested that Carl bring a bowl of Jell-O.



The Hamerstroms

Don Vorpahl and
David Kopitzke

Louise Coumbe



Fred Ott and his carload of Milwaukeeans have been known to be more than an hour late for meetings in Oshkosh because of his fondness for breakfast with pecan rolls at Schreiner's in Fond du Lac. Fred Ott is also noted for getting lost. **Mo Vrtilek** tells the story about Fred being late and calling on the phone to ask directions. Mo asked him where he was. Answered Fred: "How the hell do I know? YOU tell me." Mo smiles when he talks about **Tula Erskine**. Tula smoked a pipe, drove a huge checkered cab as her personal automobile, and was an expert on mushrooms. To get a tour of her beautiful wildflower garden was an unforgettable treat.

Leonie Vrtilek remembers **Clara Sodke**, membership chair in the 1970s, as a gentle lady who gave her whole heart to the sometimes-thankless task. When Clara retired from the membership job, Leonie's suggestion to give her something nice in appreciation for her work was initially rejected because the group didn't want to start a precedent. Leonie won out; the group gave her a silver plate with all of their signatures etched in it—all, except Leonie's, who happened to be on her annual trek to Switzerland at the time.



Leonie Vrtilek, Russ Rill (standing with birthday cake), and Fred Ott. After the business, the pleasure of good food and good company.

Leonie also tells a story about **Kurt Remus** who worked with her during the Goose Wars. Kurt was instrumental in getting CNRA's financial support for telemetry in DNR goose research and used to go flying over the area with DNR personnel to follow radio signals from geese fitted with radio collars. Once they got a reading from a house in Kekoskee. They landed, knocked on the door, and asked the man who answered if he had a goose in the house. The man said, "A goose? Of course not," clearly thinking they meant a live goose. They explained about the radio collar. "Oh that," he said, "I shot a goose and the thing is on the mantel!" And there it was.



Jolly and Fred Ott, Jolly with her trademark hairdo, Fred with Silver Acorn

Jolly Ott was membership chair for so long, most of us remember her well. Jolly wore her hair with a bun on top, a velvet ribbon around it, and always looked preppy in pleated skirts and knee socks. She brought her knitting or crocheting to the meeting, and often took charge of the kitchen, admonishing everyone to "wash your hands." Every member meant something to Jolly. She wrote personal notes in most peoples' dues notices. She

was often very matter of fact. Once, when we were meeting in Madison in the Academy conference room, Fred was doing some “blustering.” Jolly threw up her hands and said in exasperation, “Oh, that Fred. You can’t live with him and you can’t live without him.”

Katherine Rill says she never knew **Albert Fuller** from CNRA, (he was our second president and curator of botany at the Milwaukee Public Museum) but as a kid growing up she would bring plants to him to identify. Despite the fact that she was a kid and would have accepted any answer, Fuller always took a careful, scientific approach in his response. **George Becker** tells a story about Katherine when she taught biology in Clintonville at the same time he was principal there. The kids thought Mrs. Rill was “cool” because she killed a rat right in the classroom and made a study skin of it.

Sylvia Becker sometimes took minutes at a meeting. Here’s a quote: “For laughs, George read a letter from Senator Roselip telling CNRA not to worry so much about environmental matters; just to trust in our legislators and things will come out all rosy.” Right!

Russell Rill remembers a favorite old beat-up hat **Don Kindschi** left in the Rill’s car and wanted returned. Don could have bought hundreds of new hats with the generous contributions he made to CNRA. He sold blocks of Gromme’s Horicon print and more than once matched CNRA’s donation for a cause, including adding \$1,000 to CNRA’s \$1500 to hire a wetlands coordinator at a time when there was a critical need for wetland lobbying in Madison. Russ also remembers **Reggie Richie’s** wife cutting up a fish Reggie caught at their cottage on Lake Wisconsin. It was so brown and smelly inside Reggie had little trouble convincing CNRA to join his water pollution clean-up campaign.



Jim Zimmerman

Quite a few people tell stories about **Jim Zimmerman**. Jim could spend two hours talking about six square inches of ground. He had trouble focusing his camera, so he attached a frame crafted from a coat hanger, and judging by the distance he held it from a plant, would know the plant was in focus.

Ethel Princl, our treasurer for 20 years, still keeps in touch with some of us. Ethel knew CNRA’s Constitution verbatim, and kept the Council on the straight and narrow for all those years. **Roy Gromme** also followed the Constitution to the letter. When Roy was president, **Russ Rill** spent a lot of time seeing the sights with his two kids while Kay attended council meetings at which only officers, councilors and advisors were invited. Now any member is considered an advisor and can come to Council meetings and vote.

Stories about **Owen Gromme** abound. Owen was a founder of CNRA and we hear his voice almost as often as we hear **Fred Ott’s** when we read the minutes and listen to people’s stories. Leonie says Owen told her, “If I had to start all over again, I would do everything exactly the same way. I would choose the same work, the same friends, marry the same woman, live in the same area because I could make no better choices.”

Owen may have been content with his choices, but he had a temper. When things happened in wildlife management he considered wrong, he would get angry, red in the face and speak his mind. But he never held a grudge. And he knew how to be a good host. Once, at a meeting at his house, one member who sometimes tried everyone’s patience by going on and on, was doing just that. **Mo Vrtilek**, helping **Anne Gromme** dry

dishes in the kitchen, was listening but got so impatient with the monolog he burst into the living room, towel in hand, with a face almost as red as one Owen sometimes had, and declared, "Enough is enough! It's high time for discussion." It worked like a charm. Dead silence. Afterwards, Owen gave Mo an affectionate pat and thanked him, saying he could hardly keep from doing that himself, but being the host, he could not.

Places

People enjoyed going to Owen Gromme's house in **Briggsville**. They could wander into his studio, where often there was a partially finished painting on an easel. From his window they could see across the street to a couple of ponds. Ducks and geese on these ponds were sometimes his models. The group would walk around the ponds and Owen would point out something or other that had inspired a particular painting.

Owen's wasn't the only interesting place for quarterly Council meetings. During the first years, the Council often met at Wallace Grange's **Sandhill Game Farm** near **Babcock**. Wallace would invite his crane **Silver** to attend the meetings. The group also met often at the Hamerstroms' outside **Plainfield**, where **Ambrose**, the owl, would fly around. We still talk about the meeting at Ron Sauey's farmhouse in **Baraboo** where, except for the path from the front door to the living room, there were containers of Polyphemus Moth cocoons everywhere. Some people saw barn owls for the first time at Ron's; he raised them in a silo next to his house as a DNR project.



The library at the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo was a good spot for this publication's resource committee to meet. From left to right: Harold Kruse, Fred Ott, Lorrie Otto, Louise Rich, and Carla Kruse.



CNRA members have always enjoyed visiting Aldo Leopold's shack near the Wisconsin River.



John Thomson, center, leading a tour of the Thomson's grounds in Mount Horeb with (from left) Mo Vrtilek, Tula Erskine, Gerald Scott, Lorrie Otto, and Gladys Scott.



A tractor tour of Thomson's Prairie led by The Nature Conservancy staff. CNRA members seated (from left): Louise Coumbe, John Thomson, Leonie Vrtilek, Kristine Maassen, Zaiga Maassen, Lisa Zeman, and Rachel Zeman (standing).

Louise Coumbe, Kay Rill, Jan Scalpone, Fred Ott and Loris Henschel listen as Bob Ahrenhoerster describes the Kettle Moraine landscape. Pasque flowers abound.



Lorrie Otto, Carol Hale and Lynn Hanson, enjoying a sunny afternoon break.



Members liked traveling to different parts of the state for Council meetings. That was one advantage of not having an administrative office in Madison or Milwaukee as the founders wanted. The closest CNRA got to institutions were early meetings at the **Milwaukee Public Museum** and periodic meetings over several decades at the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, in **Madison**, hosted in recent years by John and Olive Thomson.

People remember meetings at Reginald Richie's cottage on **Lake Wisconsin** and at Kurt Remus' cabin up north. We've been to **Stevens Point** at the Beckers', to **Wausau** at the Princls' and the Berkman's', to **Loganville** on the Kruses' farm, to Pine Lake in **Chenequa** at the Otts' summer place, and to **Richland Center** when David Kopitzke had his prairie nursery. Other prairies nurseries we've visited when they were in full bloom are Joyce Power's near **Mt. Horeb** and Neil Diboll's in **Westfield**

Lately, Council meetings follow a seasonal pattern. In January, we meet at Jan Scalpone's or at the Maassens in **Oshkosh**—a central location. In April, Fred Ott sometimes opens his **Rosendale** hunting cabin where we can see migrating birds on the pond, or Bob Ahrenhoerster in **North Lake** invites us to see pasque flowers, or Ann Henschel shares her porch overlooking the lake in **Oconomowoc**.

In July, we usually go to **Bayside** to see Lorrie Otto's native gardens in full bloom, or to **Mount Horeb** where John and Olive Thomson have rock and wildflower gardens, ripe raspberry bushes and a beautiful prairie. July 2001 was an exception. We wanted to see Don Vorpahl's new house in the woods on the **Mecan River** in Waushara County.

In late September or early October, we hold our annual meetings, lately at the **International Crane Foundation** (ICF) in **Baraboo**, in conjunction with its annual meetings so we can enjoy their special field trips and programs.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Annual meetings have always been the highlight of CNRA's year. It is a time when members have an opportunity to meet each other, hear about CNRA's activities and participate in programs and field trips aimed at issues of interest. We elect officers, often honor a Silver Acorn recipient and take action related to current Council activities. In 50 years of annual meetings, members recall only one that was cancelled for lack of registrants.

For annual meetings, we have traveled the state, listened to renowned speakers, and toured some of the most beautiful areas in Wisconsin. We have been north to **Sarona** to visit the **Audubon Camp** and south to **Palmyra** to explore the **Kettle Moraine**. We have been west to **La Crosse** to tour the **McGilvray Bottoms** and east to **Door County** to walk the dunes at **Whitefish Bay**. We have trampled through the **Menominee** virgin forest,



canoeed the **Kickapoo River**, and placed a marker at what remains of the Good Oak on the **Leopold Preserve**. We have also taken slide tours to unusual places: Roy Gromme took us to India, Gerald Scott to diverse bird habitats and Lorrie Otto along Wisconsin's roadsides.

Our celebrations have taken us to **Madison** for the 25th anniversary of the DDT hearings, to **Marsh Haven Nature Center** to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the end of the Goose Wars, and to the **International Crane Foundation** to share in its 25th anniversary program. This year, in 2001, we return to Wallace Grange's **Sandhill Game Farm** in **Babcock** to welcome the flocks of cranes. Twice we have met in Frank Lloyd Wright buildings: at the Peterson House in **Mirror Lake State Park** and at the **Spring Green** restaurant overlooking the Wisconsin River. Beautiful places we remember are the **Baraboo Hills**, the **East Bluff of Devil's Lake**, and **Rib Mountain** in **Wausau** in fall color.

In all of these places, we have looked, listened and talked. We have talked about rivers, wetlands, forests, land preservation, groundwater, pesticides, environmental education, acid rain, energy, zoning, waste disposal, birds, wildflowers, roadsides and whatever else was a pressing issue at the time. Somewhere in the talk we develop strategies for action and give direction to the Council for the coming year. When the weekend is over we go home to reflect on what we have seen or heard, wait a few months for the membership chair to send us a dues notice, pay our dues, and, come next September, are ready again to see and learn new things, rehash old things, and enjoy the company of friends. We've been doing it this way for 50 years. Not a bad way to spend a fall weekend in Wisconsin. ■

Devil's Lake from the East Bluff (photo by Ronald Rich)

Remembering Ron Sauey

by Leonie Vrtilek

REMEMBERING RON SAUEY, HIS GIFT FOR connecting spontaneously with people of every age and walk of life, is one of the things we might think of first. He had that special talent of making friends and keeping them for a lifetime. Ron was also a creative writer and a stimulating speaker. CNRA was fortunate to have him as a member and two-term president.

It was Ron's high school biology teacher, Gerald Scott, a long-time CNRA member, who had a significant influence on Ron's career choice of ornithology. With his thesis on Siberian cranes, Ron earned a doctorate at Cornell University.

We remember Ron as an expert gourmet cook. We remember the old farmhouse he made his very personal home and center for all his friends. We remember him taking us on hikes to show us where shooting stars and lady slippers grew, binoculars always ready to identify birds. We remember listening to his crane stories as he and George Archibald step by step were realizing their dream of the International Crane Foundation (ICF) to save cranes worldwide. We remember his coming to us for help with small ICF projects, creating a link with ICF that CNRA still honors today.

When Ron died in January 1987 of a massive cerebral hemorrhage at the age of 38, friends from all over the country and abroad manifested their sorrow and feelings of great loss in an overwhelming way. Fifteen years have passed since, but the memory of Ron's infectious smile and the twinkle in his eyes are very much alive.



REFLECTIONS — Ethel Princ

ETHEL PRINCL WAS CNRA TREASURER from 1970 to 1991. She lives in Wausau and continues to ask for minutes and treasurer's reports from CNRA Council meetings. When Ethel retired from being treasurer, she turned over the books in impeccable order to Charles M. Sturm, who has his own accounting firm and continues Ethel's tradition of excellence.

Treasured Memories

AS ALL ACTIVE ORGANIZATIONS need money to carry on their projects, so it is with CNRA. I became treasurer in 1970. CNRA was involved at the time with the ban on DDT. This project involved thousands and thousands of dollars. Keeping track of all donations, contributions and grants was a momentous job, plus paying all expenses. Lawyers, research scientists and a multitude of other bills needed to be paid. Many people were concerned about DDT and with the help of other organizations, DDT was finally banned.

Because of our involvement with this project, the IRS must have just discovered CNRA. I received a notice as treasurer that CNRA had not filed Form 990, the income tax form for non-profit organizations, for several years. Being a new member and new treasurer I had no idea what had happened. After much correspondence with other members and an accounting firm in Wausau, I filed the form and the IRS was satisfied. I made sure that every year I was treasurer this form was filed.

Later CNRA was concerned with the dewatering of Horicon Marsh. Money and lots of it was needed. So Owen Gromme stepped in to help. He painted a picture of geese flying back to a dry marsh. He sold the picture, donated the money to CNRA, and had 2000 prints made for CNRA to sell. Many were sold. I again had to record all the sales and expenses, which required the financial reports to be quite detailed, sometimes six or seven pages. The CNRA Council voted to open up a separate account called the Horicon Defense Fund. There were many donations in addition to the print sales. My accounting background helped in setting up these new accounts: checking, savings and investments, and still keep the membership account intact.

Then, of course, the government had to step in again. The Wisconsin Department of Revenue wanted CNRA to collect and pay sales taxes. We had to file for a number and then file the appropriate forms. Because of our non-profit status, it took a great deal of time and lots of correspondence, but I finally had the situation resolved.

I enjoyed the treasurer's job even with all the problems, but because of my health I retired as treasurer in 1991. That was one of the hardest things I ever had to do. After more than 20 years as treasurer, it became part of me and hard to let go. CNRA is still part of me. I'm sure CNRA will continue to be an organization that many people will remember as having a similar impact on their lives.

Leading the Way: Presidents and other Notables

WHAT'S KEPT CNRA GOING FOR 50 YEARS? Often it was an issue. Sometimes it was the momentum of having to finish something we started. Other times it was habit. But more often than not, it was the people. Just when it seemed there were too many disagreements to be resolved, or no one to take a leadership role, or no issue to fire everyone up, a new president or someone else would step in with an idea, an issue, a willingness to move forward, and we would again become a viable organization having an impact on important conservation questions of the day.

THE 50s

Almost from the beginning we debated whether we should continue. After the organizational meeting in Milwaukee, the negative attitude of Isaak Walton League members, who didn't think Wisconsin needed another conservation organization, generated a barrage of questions among the founders. Would this negative attitude affect people's willingness to join the organization? Apparently not, because several Isaak Walton League officers and many others joined CNRA. Would the fact that CNRA was a militant organization keep people from signing on? Some people, yes. A group of university professors who participated in early meetings resigned as advisors because of CNRA's stance on an issue. Would disagreements in philosophy among officers make it impossible for people to work together? Not

quite. An issue about Wardens' pay almost dissolved the organization in its first year. In 1954 whether or not the Mead Reservoir should be constructed saw an exchange of vitriolic letters between **Fred Ott**, **Owen Gromme** and **Wallace Grange** that raised questions about the role of hunters, public versus private property, and the rights of individual officers to speak publicly on issues. Only personal friendships and the willingness to communicate in depth held the organization together during those times.

Walter Scott, **Wallace Grange**, **Albert Fuller**, and **Jesse Walker** were strong leaders who carried CNRA through those first volatile but rewarding years. They had something to say about every important piece of conservation legislation of the time. They took on such issues as salvaging the Flambeau Wilderness, hunting on the Horicon federal refuge, saving habitat for sharp tail grouse, and proper roadside management. They fully supported Dixie Larkin's successful efforts to establish a Wisconsin Audubon Camp and joined in the fight to prevent a power dam on the Namekagon River.

Aroline Schmidt added her voice to early issues and encouraged **Harold Kruse** when he became president in 1955 to take on preservation of the Menominee Forest after the federal Termination Act of 1954. But lack of interest in the late 1950s finds **Aroline**, then president, scolding members for not showing up at meetings. After a meeting in which only three people attended, she urged the organization to disband. Where was a president to be found?

CNRA Presidents

Wallace Grange	1950–51	Elgis ("Al") Berkman	1971–72
Albert Fuller	1951–52	George Becker	1972–74
Jesse T. Walker	1952–53	Marguerite Baumgartner	1974–75
Wallace Grange	1953–55	Frederick Ott	1975–78
Harold Kruse	1955–58	Ronald Sauey	1978–81
Aroline Schmitt	1958–61	Katherine D. Rill	1981–84
Thomas J. Stavrum	1961–63	Lorrie Otto	1984–87
Joseph Mills	1963–64	David Kopitzke	1987–91
Roy O. Gromme	1964–67	Jan Scalpone	1991–98
Frederick Baumgartner	1967–71	Kira Henschel	1998—

THE 60S

Tom Stravum stepped in and carried CNRA forward another year. That year four people were awarded Silver Acorns and four people, including **Sigurd Olson**, received conservation citations. More than 200 people attended CNRA's annual meeting. But other activity was limited. **Joe Mills** took his turn as president and CNRA continued for another year.

Then the **Kruses** became active again. **Carla Kruse** reinstated *The CNRA Report*, and Harold renewed CNRA's interest in roadsides, watershed issues and preservation of the Menominee old growth forest. **Roy Gromme** followed as president in 1964 and suddenly the DDT hearings were upon



Passing the gavel: Roy Gromme presenting the CNRA gavel to incoming president Frederick M. Baumgartner of Stevens Point.

us. **Lorrie Otto, Fred Ott, Orie Loucks, Joe Hickey, and Hugh Iltis** made their presence known. Before the ruling came in, the legislature responded to the public outcry and banned DDT in the state.

Fred Baumgartner was president during the DDT hearings. But after the DDT hearings, we find **Lorrie Otto** writing to **George Becker** berating his thoughts that CNRA is a defunct organization. "There's still a

fighting spirit among us," she said. **Baumgartner** set new goals for CNRA, and with his contacts, was able to regenerate CNRA's efforts to have an impact on legislative issues.

THE 70S

Al Berkman continued these efforts, and gave full support to **George Becker** who formed the Wisconsin River Restoration Committee and wrote a plan to clean up the Wisconsin River. **Reginald Richie's** Water Pollution Fund generated a new crop of members.

George Becker was elected president in 1972. During his watch, CNRA took a stance against proliferation of nuclear generating plants, against poisoning streams to control rough fish, against further pollution of the Wisconsin River, and against constructing a dam at LaFarge to flood the Kickapoo Valley. **Ron Rich** and **Jim Zimmerman** led the fight to stop the dam. **Marguerite Baumgartner's** presidency in 1974 protested spraying of the national forests. Council meetings were 28 strong when she was president. The Council felt the loss when the **Baumgartners** left Wisconsin after they retired.

In the late seventies we found ourselves in litigation against the DNR for hazing geese and dewatering Horicon Marsh. Although we lost two of our longtime members at that time—the **Hamerstrom**'s—who were employed by the DNR, we gained several hundred new members who supported our cause. **Owen Gromme** gave us the proceeds from his painting and prints of "Requiem—Horicon Marsh 1916, 1976" to fight the battle to protect Horicon Marsh, providing us with a source of income that continues to this day. Even when we lost the lawsuit, members **Leonie Vrtilek** and **Kurt Remus** successfully kept up the fight to protect the marsh.

Fred Ott's presidency saw us through the Goose Wars. Then **Ron Sauey** became president, at a time when wetland legislation was at a critical juncture. CNRA published a groundbreaking wetland report written by **Jim Harris** and **Ron Sauey** and helped fund a wetland coordinator position to lobby for new legislation. Ron's death in 1987 hit us all hard. He was the young one among us, attracting other young people to the organization.

THE 80s

Katherine Rill followed Ron as president, focusing on environmental education, zoning and land preservation issues. **Lorrie Otto** and **David Kopitzke**'s presidencies in the late 1980s revived CNRA's interest in natural roadsides. We recalled why we were founded: in protest of the hundreds of trees cut down on Highway 30 with no regard for citizens' views. We attracted numerous new members interested in natural landscaping. Publishing a roadside management booklet, sitting on WDOT's Roadside Vegetation Management Committee, and extensive member lobbying seems to have had an effect on roadside policies statewide.

THE 90s

Owen Gromme's death in 1991 gave the CNRA Council full control over the Horicon Defense Fund. Under **Jan Scalpone**'s presidency, CNRA developed a grant program which has awarded more than \$44,000 to conservation education, research and preservation projects in Wisconsin. Jan's interest in land use issues led CNRA to initiate organization of the Horicon Marsh Area Coalition (HMAC) to coordinate the multiple interests related to the Marsh. In 1998, **Kira Henschel** became president, renewing CNRA's interest in mining issues and leading CNRA into the 21st century.

The first 50 years. They've gone by in a blink. Just ask Fred.



Fred Ott—1951

Fred Ott —2001

Leaving a Legacy for the 21st Century

CNRA BEGAN BY INCORPORATING Aldo Leopold's love of nature into its pledge. For 50 years we have been guided by his philosophy, which puts forth the concept that we can never solve our conservation problems on a large scale until we as a people attain an ecological attitude towards our environment. Constant reminders of these ties are found in the CNRA acorn and oak leaf logo and the Silver Acorn award, symbols of the "Good Oak," an ancient tree felled by lightning in the mid-1940s. Often mentioned in A Sand County Almanac, the tree's history dating back to the Civil War is revealed as Leopold saws through the annual rings to make firewood.



The CNRA gavel and a shorebird carved by Phil Sander from a split log of Aldo Leopold's "Good Oak" are permanent reminders of our Wisconsin land ethic.

To honor these ties, Phil Sander carved a gavel from a piece of the "Good Oak." On loan to the UW-Stevens Point Museum of Natural History for 20 years, the gavel inscribed to CNRA was recently gifted to the Museum to augment its Leopold exhibit. A replica

of the gavel commemorating Bertha Pearson is passed on to each incumbent CNRA president. CNRA has also recognized Leopold's contributions with a plaque marking the site of the "Good Oak" on the Leopold Preserve.

Perhaps more important than these physical reminders is the legacy of land ethics and love of nature that CNRA members pass on to their children through active stewardship and respect for the earth and all its inhabitants.

CARVING THE "GOOD OAK" GAVEL

IFIRST MET LEOPOLD IN THE late 1940s when I attended the Sportsmen's Conservation Congress in Madison. . . . He served with the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology and helped work out the wording for a plaque for the passenger pigeon monument I designed that now overlooks the Mississippi River at Wyalusing. I had some interesting talks with Leopold and visited him at his shack – remembering how we exchanged tobacco and smoked our pipes while we sat and talked about the history of the area. It was the first time I heard the word ecology.

About 1952–1953, CNRA presented the Silver Acorn award to Mrs. Estella Leopold on behalf of her husband, Aldo. We had our lunch at the shack and William Aberg made the presentation. As we walked on the trail to the shack with Walter Scott and Owen Gromme, I asked if they knew where the good oak stump was located. Gromme found the old stump just to the left of the trail.

While we were enjoying the outdoor lunch, I asked Mrs. Leopold if I could have a split log from the good oak and she kindly consented. The following year Alvin Throne was chairman of our Annual Meeting in Lake Delton and I presented him with the oak gavel that I had made from that good oak log.

—Phil Sander, Kenosha, letter to George Becker, 1976

FRED OTT — Imprints

Riki's up there saving Alaska. When I asked what made her so interested in nature, she said it was when I took her out on the lawn and showed her the robins shivering from DDT. "You led me there, picked up a robin and put it in my hand. The bird had spasms and died. Then you said, 'Look what we're doing to our fellow creatures.' I was 17 years old and decided to study how to fix that."

So what's happening in CNRA isn't going to end today, tomorrow or the next day. We've imprinted our kids. They'll do things we never imagined.



Preamble to the CNRA Constitution, 1951

We, as citizens of Wisconsin, interested in the practical conservation of the state's natural resources, hereby pledge ourselves to work together for their preservation, wise use or restoration as the situation may require, and each sign this pledge with a determination to make our united weight and effort felt in those matters and projects affecting management of our land and the communities of soil, waters, fauna and flora of which we are a part,

Pledge:

(to be signed by all members as a requirement for membership)

Realizing that there are forces at work in Wisconsin which tend to emphasize only the economic values of natural resources under a philosophy of resource use which evidently is based upon a shortsighted, immediate policy at the expense of sound long-term use; and

Being aware of the fact that legislators, public officials, and others in position of responsibility cannot know the people's wishes in resource use problems unless such wishes are expressed clearly by the spokesperson of recognized groups of well defined policy and purpose; and

Believing that a militant statewide organization is needed to actively consolidate the feelings and beliefs of thousands of citizens and to promote immediate, direct action relating to specific conservation problems; and

Feeling the intrinsic value of things natural, wild and free, a love and respect for the land, a partnership with the living community of the outdoors, and that the American Way of Life can be maintained only through the preservation and wise use of those natural resources which have made that way of life possible;

I therefore pledge myself to work with the Citizens Natural Resources Association of Wisconsin for the preservation, management, and restoration of Wisconsin's natural resources, and to support the sentiments expressed in the association's Preamble and Constitution in every reasonable manner within my power.



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

