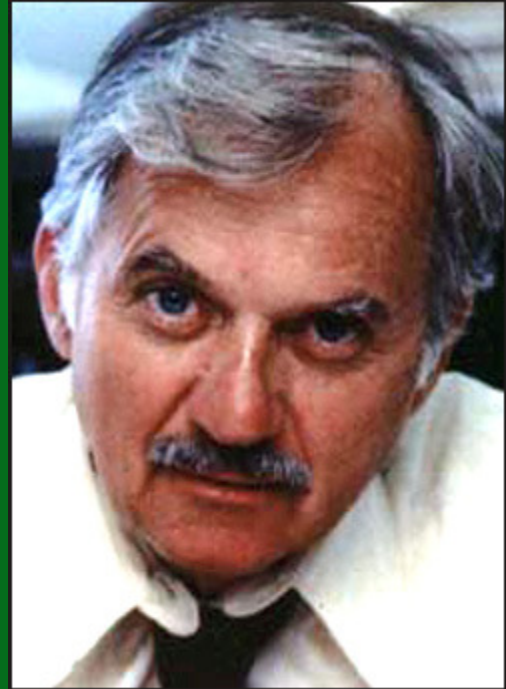


Stan Kmiotek

Stan Kmiotek retired from the Department of Natural Resources on February 25, 1982, after 31 years with WDNR Fish Management that included 2 years as an Aquatic Biologist in Madison, 5 years as an Area Biologist in Spooner, 8 years as an Assistant Supervisor of Fish Management, stationed in Woodruff, and supervising staff in the 12 counties in Northeast Area, and 17 years as a Planner and a Fish Staff Specialist in Madison.



On May 21, 1982, Stan was presented with the Gold Trout Award, by the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited, for "meritorious service to the Cold Water Fisheries Program 1950-1982". The plaque hangs in the Kmiotek family room along with a large painting of a trout given by DNR friends.

Stan played trumpet in high school, graduated second in his class, enlisted in the Army Air Corps, and was in France when WWII ended. Back in Milwaukee, Stan fly-fished and decided he wanted to be a veterinarian.



He enrolled at Iowa State College, in the Zoology Department, fly-fished in Lake LaVerne on campus, attended dance/parties, played chess, and enjoyed his classes. GI-students hitched rides on weekends to Des Moines (cars were not allowed on campus)

and headed for the Tromar Ballroom. One night Stan danced with Margaret who was there with her five roommates. Stan's smile captured Margaret's heart and has never let go for over 60 years. They were married August 28, 1949, lived in Des Moines. Stan drove his car daily to the ISC campus and graduated in May of 1950. That summer Stan worked for the Iowa Conservation Dept.

One Saturday, he drove to Madison to take the Aquatic Biology test, later returned for the orals, and was hired to



Lake Winnebago Creel Check
1952

work in Madison. Two years later, Stan was promoted to Area Biologist in the NW District in Spooner. Stephanie and Michael were born in the Shell Lake Hospital. Seven years later, Stan was promoted to Assistant Supervisor of Fish Management in the NE District in Woodruff. They camped and fished in the Brule River State Forest.

He hunted with a bow and arrow, fly-fished the Brule, sang in a barber shop quartet, in a church choir, played his

guitar with a group, and played chess and bridge. Linda, their third child, was born in the Woodruff Hospital. Stan took another test and was asked Stan to work on a project in Madison.

Stan's new title was Fish Staff Specialist. The family moved to Madison and purchased a home in the University Hill

Farms neighborhood, where Stan was able to walk to the WCD headquarters. Moves to the Pyare Square building and downtown followed. Stan was in charge of arranging and promoting contests for trout stamp artists. Funds from the sale of the trout stamps were for trout stream improvement projects. Tom Rost's painting was chosen to be on the first stamp (1978) and Martin R. Murk's painting was chosen to be on the second stamp (1979). Both Tom and Martin gave their original paintings to Stan. Both paintings hang in a special place in the Kmiotek family room Stan also researched and published a book entitled *Wisconsin Trout Streams*.

In retirement, Stan and Margaret have toured England, Scotland and Ireland. A highlight of the trip was walking with a River Keeper along the Test River where fly-fishing began in the 1600s. Stan has played chess, every other Thursday, for 30 years with an Iowa State College friend. He played guitar in a six-person bluegrass band that met in the Kmiotek's family room at 5:30 p.m. every Tuesday for 20 years.

Along with 12 other musicians, Stan & Margaret helped



organize the Southern Wisconsin Blue-grass Music Association, Inc. Margaret was the newsletter editor for 20 years. Every September, they attended the IBMA conference in Owensboro, Kentucky, where Stan often played bluegrass music with musicians from other countries.

Stan has fly-fished with friends and skied at Cascade and Keystone, Colorado. They have enjoyed Elderhostel outings in Wyoming, Colorado, Montana, and Georgia.

Stan rock climbed at one Elderhostel and was filmed by Japanese Crew to show Japan how old people played. The Kmiotek's have traveled with friends on cruises, on tours to Las Vegas, Arizona, New Mexico, New Orleans, Alaska, to Canada, California, West Virginia, Florida and the eastern United States. Stan and Margaret were members of the Rose Society. They still grow roses, have a flower garden, feed the birds, and photograph birds and butterflies. They celebrated their 50th anniversary in Hawaii, where Stan went parasailing.







Stan still plays the guitar nearly everyday . . .

. . . . and still enjoys tying flies with the help of Buffy by his side.



Stan and Margaret continue to exercise, three times a week, at UW-Health and afterward meet friends for coffee at Panara's.