

# **THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS**

Meeting of October 2, 2013 held at New Glarus Hotel, New Glarus

ARC Vice President Sheree Vande Brink called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

41 members and guests were in attendance. Members were charged \$15.00 for a plated meal which included salad, weinerschnitzel, rosti, spatzlie, Swiss green beans, rolls, coffee, tea, milk and ice cream.

A moment of silence was observed for friends and family who have passed and for our troops who are serving in harm's way.

The minutes of the September meeting were read and approved.

## Financial Report:

The opening balance for Savings is \$222.97 and Checking is \$1,424.48.

Dividend on Savings account for October was \$.02.

Paid to New Glarus Hotel for 41 meals, including tax and gratuity was \$553.50. Lunch for our guest speaker was covered by ARC.

Activity on Checking account:

DEPOSITS: Contribution to the ARC Treasury from lunch was \$46.50.

EXPENDITURES: Expenses for mailing of Holiday Party flyer - photocopies, envelopes and stamps - \$30.52

Closing balance for Savings is \$222.99 and Checking is \$979.29.

## Guests:

David Daniels attended his first meeting and was introduced by Tom Thoresen.

## "Frank-n-Miller Report":

Ed Frank reports that the three major indices are all up, good news. ETF projects 1.9-2.3% for Core and 3.3-3.7% for Variable.

He reminded everyone about the open enrollment for health care. It's Your Choice book is on the ETF website. Look it over, page 80 has information about leaving WRS and your eligibility to return. You can only get back in during the open enrollment period. New for 2014 is that additional consultation will be needed for some surgeries.

ETF Board meets on October 11 and they will be looking at Governor Walker's proposal for self-insurance to replace the 18 HMO's that the state uses for health care coverage.

## Old Business:

None.

## New Business

Announcement for the Holiday Party will go out on October 28. Rick Wojciak will send the sign up information electronically to all those with e-mail and Barb Wolf will mail flyers to those without.

Tim Lawhern's retirement party is November 9 at Milford Hills.

Guest Speaker: Bruce Braun, immediate past Chair of the Natural Resources Foundation Board of Directors, introduced guest speaker Ruth Oppedahl. Ruth Oppedahl is the Executive Director of NRF. She talked about the purpose of NRF, comparing it to a "friends group" for the DNR. NRF supports the DNR in mainly three ways:

- 1) They raise funds for the management of State Natural Areas. Last year, 18 programs in the Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation were supported.
- 2) NRF supports research for Endangered and Threatened species. Some of the success stories are the whooping crane and protection of jackpine habitat in Adams County for Kirtland's warblers.
- 3) Through their coordination of field trips throughout the state, NRF helps others to explore our natural resources and introduces people to the work of the DNR. In 2012, there were 130 field trips scheduled that ranged from easy to strenuous, lasted a few hours or all day, and many involved hands-on activities. ARC member Jim Leverage has led trips on Madison Lakes.

Ruth described several new initiatives being undertaken:

- Master Naturalist Program – similar to the program in 24 other states, UW Extension will offer the first class in spring 2013. See information on [WIMasternaturalist.org](http://WIMasternaturalist.org).
- Cherish Wisconsin Outdoors Fund – an endowment created to ensure the future enjoyment of our state's natural wonders by funding care of 1.5 million acres of public lands. The fund was created and unanimously approved by the legislature in 2012. It was approved by the NRB on September 25, 2013.
- Great Wisconsin Birdathon – raised more than \$20,000 through sponsorship of birding teams.

Ruth distributed copies of the NRF newsletter "Bridges" for everyone as well as brochures on the "Cherish Wisconsin Outdoors Fund."

She concluded by thanking ARC for all the contributions made to NRF as memorials to members. Many ARC members individually support the NRF, and Ruth mentioned that members receive priority sign up for field trips and the opportunity to go on group trips. Tours are planned for the Galapagos Islands and Costa Rica in 2014. Visit the NRF website at [www.wisconservation.org](http://www.wisconservation.org).

### Deaths and Illnesses

Former NRB member Herb Behnke is ill.

### Birthdays and anniversaries

Birthdays - Jim Miller, 77; Gerry Dorscheid, 76; Clark Amundsen, 73; Mike Lutz is Social Security eligible!

### Trips

Don Beghin participated in an Honor Flight on September 14. After a day in Washington, DC touring the war memorials, Don said they came home that night to the Dane County Airport and were welcomed by 5,000 people. It was a great experience.

Jim Miller was in Laughlin, Nevada. Kermit Traska took a cruise from Seattle, Washington to Alaska. Mike Lutz traveled to Yellowstone National Park, he met up with Sarah Shapiro Hurley and Tom Solin there.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.