

Member Profiles

Gary Karl



Gary was born in Waukesha County, Pewaukee Township on a small dairy farm 75 years ago. Due to relocation of the Blue Mound Road, because of the Waukesha Airport runway expansion, the farm is no longer there. He went to a country grade school through the 8th grade, graduated and went on to Waukesha High School where he graduated in 1955. Gary worked at the Waukesha Motor Company for 1 1/2 years to save enough money to go on to Carroll University in Waukesha where he had a double major, biology and geography and graduated in 1960 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in the joint majors. He joined the US Army Reserve for a six year obligation, 6 months active duty at Ft Leonard Wood, Missouri, followed by weekly meetings and two active duty training at various forts in the United States for 5 1/2

years. In 1966 he was honorably discharged.

In January of 1961, he took a job as a quality control chemist at Dairyland Food Laboratory, a small company providing enzymes for the cheese making industry. In 1962 Gary took a position as a research chemist working on enzyme research for the Paul Lewis division of Charles Pfizer Company, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

In February 1963, he started with the State of Wisconsin Committee on Water Pollution as a Public Health Biologist being housed in the State Laboratory of Hygiene for 10 years. During this time period he worked on drainage basin pollution surveys collecting biological specimens, writing reports and testifying at pollution hearings held by the State Board of Health and Public Service Hearing Examiners in various courthouses located around the State. During this time period, point sources of pollution such as dairy plants, paper mills, sewerage treatment plants, woolen mills and various factories were being enforced to comply to orders issued. Gary was also on the three people involved in the early air program along with Doug Evans, Administrator and Gerry Bevington, field engineer in the mid 1960's. Gary worked on microscopic analyses of particulate filters collected in the field

and repair of the High volume samplers used to collect data on the roof tops and nearby areas of contamination fall out. In 1966 the Committee of Water pollution was merged with the Department of Resource Development (DRD). This lasted until 1968 when the DRD merged with the Resources under the Kellett bill. Department of Conservation to become the



Enjoying a hike in Ozaukee County Park

After the merger Gary became involved in administering the Aquatic Nuisance Program, i.e. issuing permits and scheduling on site supervision of lake plants and algae removal. During 1965-67 Gary worked on his Masters Degree in Zoology-Botany for the University of Wisconsin along with his thesis on Toxic Algae in Wisconsin Lakes. He obtained a Master's of Science degree in 1970. In 1974 he was moved from the Laboratory of Hygiene to the Pyare Square Building, 10th floor, where he acquired another permit program for nuisance birds, pocket gophers and other non protected nuisance small animals along with record keeping of pesticide use on nonfarm areas i.e. golf courses as an example.

During the late 1970's space needs in the Pyare Square Building required certain programs to be moved out of the building to tented space in the old Social Security Building. These programs included discharge permits, pesticide permits, Gary's non point source program and other small permit programs. Gary worked at the old SS building until the new GEF II building was ready to be move into.

From 1985-89, Gary was transferred to the non-point source program in charge of issuing grant monies to County Land Conservation Departments to build structures to prevent runoff of manure and soil conservation systems to keep soil from washing into waterways, streams, rivers and lakes. Gary was transferred to the Bureau of Grants and Aids with the portion of the non-point source program for granting project monies.

Gary retired in 1996 after 34 years of service, He has a big vegetable garden and has been in the McFarland Farmers Market for 18 years. He raises asparagus, rhubarb, dill, pickles, cucumbers, potatoes, squash, carrots, peas, beans, tomatoes, raspberries, peppers and various herbs.



The right tool for the right job!



Gary's garden in full bloom

This keeps him busy most of the summer, spring and fall. In winter he drives for RSVP in Dane County for people going to the doctor, dentist and other clinical appointments. Gary has been married to his wife Marion for 47 years.



Marion and Gary visiting their son in Baden, Switzerland

They have three children of which one lives in Wisconsin, one in Minnesota and in Switzerland. They enjoy visiting their children and playing cards with their grandsons. The fifth grandson was born in July 2012 in Switzerland.

Recent trips have taken the Karl's to Germany and Switzerland. They are looking forward to seeing baby Thomas during Easter of 2013.



Enjoying a boat tour on Lake Geneva, Switzerland