

Eric Thompson

Eric grew up in Evansville, Wisconsin, with his parents, Roger and Lillie, and sister Rhonda. He graduated from Evansville High School in 1966. Evansville was a nice place to grow up. Eric still sees many of his high school classmates on a regular basis. They seem more like brothers and sisters, as they gather informally in retirement, on a quarterly basis, for what they call “Walk & Talks”. One amusing rule the group has is that each person is allowed to talk about their health, but only for a maximum of 2 minutes.



Eric attended the UW-Madison and graduated in 1970 with a Bachelor’s degree in Economics and a Master of Science degree in Water Resources Management in 1974. After graduate school, Eric worked for Midwest Research Institute in Kansas City, MO, preparing Environmental Impact Statements on a contract basis primarily for Federal agencies.

Eric began his career with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in 1976 as a Planning Analyst in the Department’s Southern District. He worked on water quality planning for the Rock River Basin under the direction of Gloria McCutcheon. One memorable experience, while at Southern District in the late 1970’s, was being temporarily reassigned along with other Environmental Quality staff to assist with the goose Avian Cholera outbreak at Horicon Marsh.

In 1980, Eric transferred to the Department’s Central Office becoming a Planning Analyst for the Bureau of Solid Waste Management under the direction of Bob Krill, and later Paul Didier.



Eric enjoying his early DNR years
circa 1982

Eric transferred, in 1984, to the position of Budget & Management Analyst in the DNR Bureau of Management & Budget working under the direction of Joe Polasek. In 1994, Eric was reclassified to Budget & Policy Analyst – Senior. From 1994 until his retirement in 2008, at various times Eric had the budget assignment for the Divisions of Enforcement, Lands, and Forestry, preparing biennial budgets, and related policy and budget issues. He enjoyed working with program staff, preparing the fiscal aspects of issues such as CWD and Stewardship funding. Eric retired on April 30, 2008.

Eric currently lives in McFarland, where he has lived for 10 years. He has two sons, Casey, 36, and Clint, 33 who both live in Madison, and Eric is able to get together frequently with them and enjoy activities. They attended the 2011 Rose Bowl together.



Eric with Clint,(left), and Casey at the 2011 Rose Bowl.

Eric enjoys retirement, pursuing a number of hobbies. Being a runner most of his adult life, he continues to exercise as often as he can. He's happy to have had the opportunity to run the Boston Marathon twice, the New York City Marathon once, as well as many local races and fun runs. He has ran in the Madison CrazyLegs Run 27 times. While his running has waned during retirement, he still enjoys jogging a few miles as often as he can. Eric enjoys participating with the other retirees of the Madison Bike and Bowl Team once a week, biking in the summer and bowling in the winter. Of course the highlight each week being lunch!



Summer
2010

Eric also enjoys golfing, and likes to join his golf buddies in golf outings several times a week.



Bridges Golf
November 28, 2010



Foster Invitational Golf Outing.
April, 2013

He continues to serve as his DNR Golf League teams captain. While he enjoys playing a variety of golf courses, he is a member of Evansville Country Club where he learned to play the game.

Eric enjoys travel, and has participated in recent trips with the Wisconsin Alumni Association including a trip on the Columbia River, tracing the Lewis & Clark expedition, and an October 2013 trip to the Italian Amalfi Coast.



Captain Eric



Kayaking, Palouse River.



Salmon River rafting trip in Idaho.

He is an avid Badger fan with season tickets to both football and men's basketball, and enjoys following the Badgers on out of town trips.

Eric also enjoys lounging at the UW Memorial Union Terrace, and listening to music at the many outdoor music venues in Madison.