

## Barb Wolf

Barbara Wolf retired from the Department of Natural Resources in December of 2012 after 31 years as a conservation warden. Barb was born in Waukegan, Illinois - yes, she is originally a flatlander. However, she points out Waukegan is rather close to Wisconsin and it isn't the really flat part! She grew up in the city, but often visited her grandparents' nearby farm where she had her own chickens and ducks, and escaped to the wilds of Lake County with her Girl Scout troop. As a child, she knew there were essentially three parts to Wisconsin - Milwaukee, the Dells, and Up North.



Graduating with a B.S. from UW-Milwaukee in 1978, she got the bug for a career in outdoor work by volunteering to mist net birds, age deer and taking every field trip her major in biology offered. Earning credits for hiking in the Smokies didn't seem like school at all! A few years of LTE jobs, food service, used car sales and a failed attempt as a nuclear physicist later, in 1980 Barb was hired by the Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Law Enforcement.

Barb with one of her feathered friends  
1965

After a recruit warden period that included basic law enforcement training at Fort McCoy, and working with field training officers Jerry Meronk, Gary Gurske, Todd Wipperman, John Glennon and Jack Daniel, Barb was assigned to the field station in Kenosha County where she worked for 6 years. That is way back when the biggest problem on Lake Michigan was extremely high water levels!



Barb practices her skinning techniques at Clark Amundsen's  
"fur school" in Park Falls  
1980

She transferred to Wisconsin's "West Coast" and worked three years in Lacrosse County, before taking a promotion to the South Central Region's safety education specialist position located in the Fitchburg office. Best parts of the job included working with the volunteer instructors, the municipal patrols, and participating in public relations events that dealt with safety on the trails and the water.



Barb and Smokey work  
DNR exhibit at State Fair Park  
1982

Barb was involved with a group that developed the first iteration of the Department safety program database, and training of Front Line staff when the program went live. Barb was happy to have been able to attend the Women in Resource Management conference the Department held in 1986. What an inspiring way to bring employees together. She was a member of the DNR's first Diversity Council. In 2000, Barb succeeded John Glennon as the Madison LE Team Supervisor, and later as the South Central Reg-

ional 1982 Warden for an eleven county area. She found it a most interesting career and can't even start to name all of the people who made it so by learning from their expertise!

As one of the more recent retirees, Barb hasn't gotten the hang of any extended and exotic trips so far, but has indulged her enjoyment of downhill skiing more frequently and managed several out west ski vacations.



Barb with her mother Amanda  
Opatija, Croatia, 2009



Barb with her fiancé, Mike, skiing in Utah  
2011



Barb has been regularly competing with six year old Golden Retriever Zora in agility trials. Though her older dog Milo was enrolled in many dog training classes, he was always on the edge of expulsion. (Barb said had he been a human boy, she's sure she would know every juvenile judge in the local court system.)



Barb and her two poochies, Milo and Zora  
2011



Barb and Zora at Agility Training  
2011

Barb was a founding member of Dogs On Call, a therapy dog organization that she has been involved in for 12 years. Besides visiting with residents at assisted living facilities and hospitals, the therapy dog group gives dog bite prevention lessons to children. Since retirement, Barb has been a presenter at a number of schools in Dane and surrounding counties.

She also keeps busy as a volunteer Hunter Education instructor, continues to teach Professional Communications at the recruit academy and has a part time job as an agility instructor. And if that isn't enough, she has a couple of quilting projects to finish, and wants to get her tamburitza (Croatian folk instrument) out of mothballs one of these days!



Spring turkey hunting is a favorite pursuit