

THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

Meeting of May 7, 2014 held at New Glarus Hotel, New Glarus

ARC Vice President Laurel Steffes called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

52 people were in attendance. The cost of the meal was \$15.00 for rolls, salad, weinerschnitzel, rosti, spatzlie, Swiss green beans, coffee, tea, milk, and ice cream with chocolate topping.

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 April minutes were read and approved.

Financial Report

Opening balance for Savings is \$223.11 and Checking is \$625.62.

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

\$728.00 to New Glarus Hotel for meals, tax and gratuity (paid out of cash collected at the door.)

Activity on Checking account:

DEPOSITS: \$36.00 proceeds from lunch (meal for our guest speaker was paid from cash collected.)

EXPENDITURES: *will be updated with April activity*

Closing balance for Savings is \$223.13 and Checking is \$XX

Guests

Program speaker Mark Cupp.

"Frank-n-Miller Report"

Ed Frank reports that the market is essentially flat right now. He wanted to give folks a chance to vent on the reports regarding compensation given to retirement fund managers. He reiterated that there are approximately 185,000 annuitants in the system and the compensation is in line with what other fund managers earn. Questions were asked about the way returns are calculated, e.g., when there is a 13% return in Core, why is the increase only 4%? Smoothing/averaging over 5 years so there are no drastic ups and downs explains some of that.

Don't forget, May 19 for COA meeting at American Family HQ on the east side of Madison. Go to COA website (link on ARC website) to register.

Old Business

Cliff Germain was inducted into the Conservation Hall of Fame on May 3.

New Business

Duane Dupor took first place in his age group (leading the second place finisher in his group by more than 6 minutes) at the 8K Crazy Legs Classic, on April 26 in Madison. He showed off the plaque that he was presented with for his feat. Congrats!

Rick Wojciak has bike trail passes for sale. Friends of the Badger State Trail get a cut of the proceeds if you buy from Rick.

Barb Wolf has raffle tickets for the Access Ability Wisconsin fundraiser. The event at Oregon Sportsman's Club, and raffle drawing takes place on June 21.

The annual ARC Picnic is July 9 at Lakeview Park in Middleton. Online registration will go live May 8. Paper copies of the announcement are available for those without Internet access.

Kermit Traska talked about Ingeborg Sidwell and what her role was in the formation of the current state retirement system that we all benefit from.

Deaths and Illnesses

Howard Wenzel, a fisheries employee who worked for the WCD/DNR for 45 years, died on April 13.

Dean Morgan passed away on April 16. Dean was a Forestry Technician at the Wisconsin Dells Ranger Station.

Susan Gilchrist, environmental education researcher for DNR for 20 years, passed away on April 19.

Paul Peeters, retired from fisheries program in Sturgeon Bay, passed away on April 25.

Ruth Williamson was recently diagnosed with cancer. If anyone who remembers working with her in the Bureau of Law Enforcement over the years would like to send Ruth a card/note her address is 3689 Old Military Road, Cross Plains, WI 53528.

Birthdays

Rudy Nigl is celebrating #81, and Don Beghin turns 87 this month.

Meeting adjourned at 1:18 pm. Program followed immediately.

Presenter Mark Cupp was introduced by Jerry Dorscheid, a member of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway Board:

Mark Cupp is a native of Richland Center who now resides in Muscoda. As a legislative aide, he was deeply involved in the sometimes contentious work that led to the creation of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway 25 years ago. He was hired its first Executive Director and continues to serve in that capacity. He also is the Chair of the Land & Water Conservation Board, a statewide board addressing farmland preservation, soil erosion and water quality issues; President of Cultural Landscape Legacies, Inc., and many other conservation organizations. Mark has received numerous awards including the River Alliance of Wisconsin River Champion Award, Department of Natural Resources Friends of Forestry Award, and DNR Partnership Award. During his tenure at the Riverway Board, Mark developed a standardized color chart that assured preservation of the viewscape, initiated maintenance of Indian mounds and much more to preserve this outstanding resource at our doorstep. Mark has become a scholar of Riverway history, from the times of the effigy mounds builders to Father Marquette's journeys on his way to the Mississippi River, to statehood to the present day.

Mark shared details of past and current challenges (frac sand mining for one) to preservation of the Riverway, talked about the the work of Riverway Board and the Friends of the LWSR, and he provided some beautiful slides of the Riverway in every season. If you haven't taken advantage of this 92 mile long Wisconsin treasure, pick up a paddle and make it a point to take a trip this summer! See the LWSR website for information about the events celebrating the 25th anniversary of the creation of the Riverway. lwr.state.wi.us