

THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

Meeting of May 6, 2015 held at New Glarus Hotel

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

48 people were in attendance. The cost of the meal was \$16.00 for rolls, salad, weinerschnitzel, rosti, spatzlie, Swiss green beans, coffee, tea, milk, and ice cream with chocolate/caramel topping. (Accommodation made by NGH for a couple of members with dietary restrictions. Baked fish, same cost as other meal.)

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

Paid \$696.00 to New Glarus Hotel for meals, tax and gratuity (from cash collected.) ARC paid for guest speaker's meal.

Opening balance on May 1 for Savings is \$223.35 and Checking is \$243.82.
Dividend on Savings account in May is \$.02.

Activity on Checking account for May:
DEPOSITS: \$56.00 proceeds from lunch, \$4.00 new member dues, \$26.00 cash in the donation jar.
EXPENDITURES: \$0

Balance on June 1 for Savings is \$223.37 and Checking is \$329.82.

Guests/New Members

Sue Bangert and Mike Hammers attended their second meeting and were voted in as members. Welcome!!

Tom Thoresen introduced Bill Horns. Bill retired in 2014 from his position as Great Lakes Fishery Specialist, after a 22 year career with DNR. Bill he had also worked earlier for the Illinois Natural History Survey.

"Frank-n-Miller Report"

Ed Frank said that there hasn't been a whole lot of activity in the Market. Annuitants should read about the proposed changes to health care. It's hard to tell how it affects you since every situation is different. Governor's Budget asked for lower health care costs, but it isn't really a reduction, more like cost shifting. In 2018, Obama health care system calls for tax on "Cadillac" health care plans. Having state self-insurance will avoid that tax.

Jim Miller said that the branch of state government dealing with income projections stated no increases for several years. Question asked about life insurance paying for health insurance? Yes, possible but it's not going to be "dollar for dollar." If you are thinking about it, go to ETF website for further information.

New Business

Discussion what is currently going with Budget impacts to DNR. If proposed cuts go through, staffing levels at DNR will be lowest since 1995. Stewardship spending moratorium is not likely to pass, but look for new standards. NRB authority should be maintained. There are rumors about changes to recycling law and the NR Magazine.

Congratulations to Eugene Roark who was inducted into the Conservation Hall of Fame! Gene, a journalist, began his tenure with DNR as a communications specialist. He is credited with starting the Wisconsin chapter of The Nature Conservancy in 1960, and Invasive Plant Association of Wisconsin in

2001, and Gene made significant contributions through his involvement with 54 conservation organizations serving in a variety of leadership roles.

Tom Thoresen will be honored by the League of Conservation Voters for his 10 years of work with that organization with a Conservation in Action award. The presentation is on June 2.

Dean Twedt gave a presentation on Ingeborg Sidwell.

Birthdays

In the month of May, Rudy Nigl celebrated his 82nd birthday, Don Beghin is 88, Gary Karl turns 78 and Kermit Traska is 67.

Trips

Kermit and Beth Traska cruised the western coast of Mexico, Sally Kefer sailed in the British Virgin Islands with family, and Tom and Kim Thoresen spent time on the beautiful beaches of Aruba.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.

A presentation by Ruth Oppedahl, Executive Director of the Natural Resources Foundation, followed. She talked about the Cherish Wisconsin Outdoors Fund. Created in partnership between the NRF and the Wisconsin DNR, the Fund provides permanent support to care for our State Natural Areas, State Parks, State Wildlife Areas, and State Fisheries. Ruth gave an update on the what projects the Fund is supporting and the amount committed thus far.