

THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

Meeting of October 7, 2015 held at New Glarus Hotel, New Glarus.

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

48 people were in attendance. The cost was \$16 for a plated meal of house salad, rolls, weinerschnitzel, rosti, spatzlie, Swiss green beans, coffee, tea, milk, and ice cream.

A moment of silence was observed for friends and family who have passed and for our troops.

The September minutes were read and approved.

Financial Report

Paid \$696.00 to New Glarus Hotel for meals, tax and gratuity (out of cash collected at the door.) Guest speaker's meal was comped.

Opening balance on October 1 for Savings is \$223.45 and Checking is \$678.42.
Dividend on Savings account October was \$.02.

Activity on Checking account:

DEPOSITS: \$60.00 proceeds from lunch. \$5.00 in the memorial donation jar.

EXPENDITURES: \$75.00 donation to NRF in memory of Gene Roark; \$54.61 to Office Depot for copies and postage stamps to mail holiday party announcement to non-email members

Closing balance on November 1 for Savings is \$223.47 and Checking is \$613.81.

Guests and New Members

Holly Kuusinen was introduced by Randy Jurewicz. Holly joined the DNR in 1985 as Public Information Officer for Bureau of Endangered Resources, the tax check-off was beginning and she was involved in introducing and promoting that. Holly left DNR to work for US Forest Service in 1990 as a media specialist. She has a tree farm in Shawano County.

Guest speaker Dr. David Clausen of Amery (veterinarian and former chair of Natural Resources Board), Dave's wife Sue Clausen, and Trish Stocking, wife of the late Jonathan Ela (former member of Natural Resources Board.)

"Frank-n-Miller Report:"

Ed Frank reported that the last month has not been great news. Health insurance open enrollment is going on through October. If you want back in, now is the time. There are workshops to help people decide what plans are best for them. Go to the ETF website.

Old Business:

President Steffes reported low attendance in September, looking for insight as to why. Time of year, location? Group thought time of year might be reason.

New Business:

Bruce Braun talked about the kayak trip Ruth Oppedahl is making down the Wisconsin River. He displayed a t-shirt that is being sold to raise funds for Natural Resources Foundation; he brought additional shirts which are available for sale (\$20) at the meeting. You can also go to the NRF website to buy a shirt or make a donation.

Holiday party is December 2 and sign up will be online in mid-October for electronic registration. A flyer will be sent USPS to those members without e-mail access.

Deaths and Illnesses:

Retired Poynette Conservation Warden Steve Schlimgen passed away on September 7.

Marty Beil, longtime labor leader, died on October 2.

Rube Reddeman recently had a heart attack and surgery.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Cliff Germain – 92, Jim Miller – 79, Jerry Dorscheid - 78, Mike Lutz – 64, Laurel Steffes – 65

Trips:

Ron Semmann took a cruise on the Danube River throughout eastern Europe. He mentioned Prague as a highlight of the 480 mile trip.

Dan Fields was in Scotland with a WPR tour. They had a great itinerary, nice weather and spent several days at a music festival in Edinburgh.

Floyd Statz made a trip to Mt. Rushmore and the Crazy Horse Monument, part of a Roads Scholar tour.

Bob Manwell canoed the Boundary Waters.

Gen Bancroft was in Yellowstone National Park for the Roosevelt Rendezvous, a 6 day educational retreat. The week includes park tours, lots of wildlife viewing and they stay in cabins at Roosevelt Lodge. Barb Wolf also visited Yellowstone as well as Craters of the Moon in Idaho and Dinosaur National Monument in Utah.

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.

After a short break, ARC president Laurel Steffes introduced Dr. David Clausen of Amery. Dr. Clausen is a former member and Chair of the Natural Resources Board. As a veterinarian and a hunter, he is keenly interested in many aspects of Chronic Wasting Disease. Steffes said that she first heard Clausen's presentation at a meeting of Outdoor Communicators, and asked him to provide this information to the ARC members. In his presentation accompanied by slides documenting research statistics, Clausen discussed how CWD has, and may in the future, impact Wisconsin's wild deer herd, as well as human health and economics of agriculture. Scientists are examining what evidence there is on disease transmission to other species and how the prions may persist in soil and be taken up by vegetation, becoming part of and passing throughout the food chain. Clausen said that he is always updating this presentation as more research findings are made available.