



Wisconsin natural resources. Vol. 12, No. 4 July/August 1988

Madison, Wisconsin: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources,
July/August 1988

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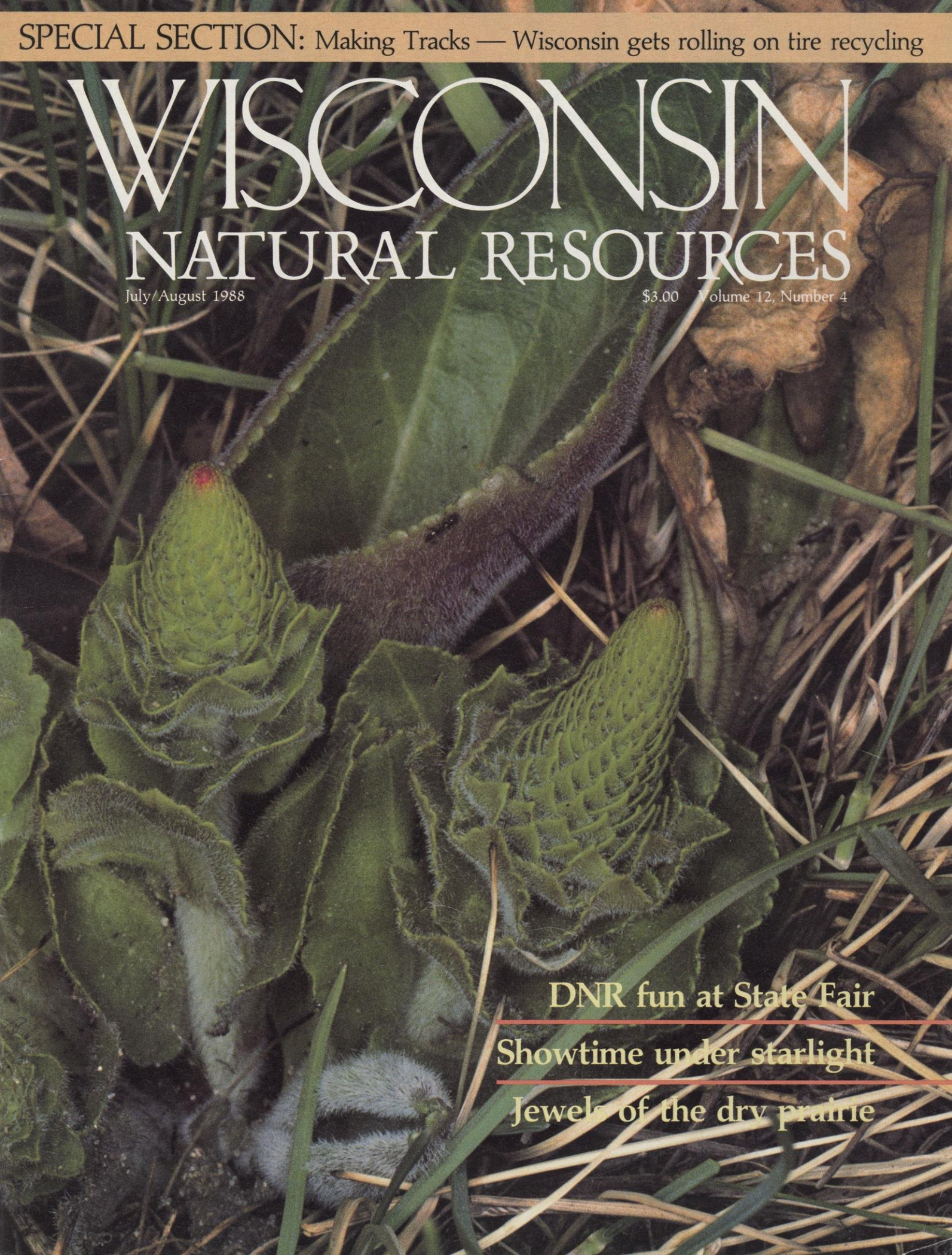
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SPECIAL SECTION: Making Tracks — Wisconsin gets rolling on tire recycling

WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES

July/August 1988

\$3.00 Volume 12, Number 4



DNR fun at State Fair
Showtime under starlight
Jewels of the dry prairie

12/05

Remembering and honoring "Mac"



"Mac," as old department employees knew him, never needed much prodding to swap stories.

"You know, I had a trapline when I was eight," he'd say, barely concealing a grin. "I'd trap some of the swamps for gophers, muskrats — and

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Photo courtesy of the Heritage Ensemble

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Photo by Robert Queen

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Visit us at State Fair.

*Photos by Jean B. Meyer
and Robert Queen*

(at left) Buffalo still roam the prairie at the DNR's MacKenzie Environmental Education Center in Poynette. Photo by Robert Wallen

(inset) The center's inspiration, Harley MacKenzie, as a young warden. DNR photo

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Jim Buchholz

Windswept dunes and water sparkle at this shoreland gem.

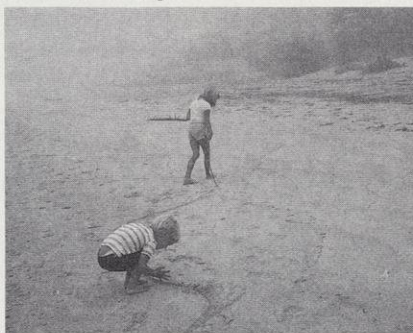


Photo by John Young

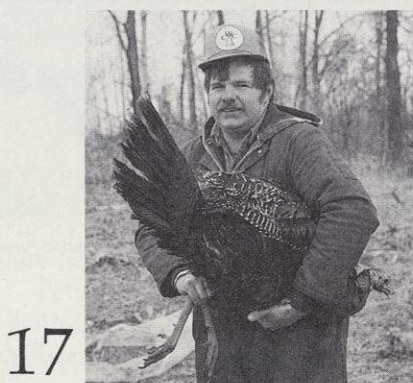


Photo courtesy of the Wisconsin Conservation Corps

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Photo by Thomas A. Meyer

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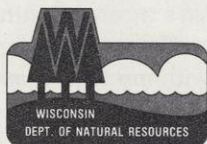
Special Section center

MAKING TRACKS —

Wisconsin gets rolling on tire recycling

FRONT COVER: Like a phoenix from the ashes, Kitten tails (*Besseyia bullii*) emerges from a burned bur oak opening.

Photo by Thomas A. Meyer



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Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine (USPS #34625000) is published bimonthly by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 101 S. Webster Street, Madison, WI 53702. The magazine is sustained through paid subscriptions. No tax monies or license monies are used. **Subscription rates** are: \$6.97 for one year, \$11.97 for two years, \$15.97 for three years. Second class postage at Madison, WI. **POSTMASTER** and readers: circulation, **subscription questions** and **address changes** should be sent to: *Wisconsin Natural Resources*, P.O. Box 7191, Madison, WI 53707.

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Showtime under starlight

In summer, history comes alive at Peninsula State Park, and all the wood's a stage.



Songs of freedom in the forest. The Heritage Ensemble rehearses *Sacred Fire of Liberty*, a musical, historical show performed for vacationing campers at state parks.

Photo by John Hansen

Mary Lock Albrecht

Deep in the Wisconsin woods, the strains of guitar and banjo drift among the red pines and sugar maples. Voices joined in harmony serenade the deer and fox with songs of miners, sailors and soldiers who lived long ago:

"Come all you good people
who live by the lakes

In a great northern region
your living to make,
From Detroit to Niagara
to the Sault St. Marie

We'll sing you a song
of the great inland seas."

So sings the Heritage Ensemble to vacationers gathered on quiet sum-

mer nights under the starlit canopy of Wisconsin's state parks. The sagas of Great Lakes sailors, Civil War heroes, farmers, loggers and voyageurs who shaped American history are presented to more than 15,000 park visitors each summer by the ensemble, a professional theater company sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Outreach.

"In an age when a survey reports that half of American students can't place the Civil War within 50 years and two-thirds don't recognize the name Joe McCarthy, we feel that educating people about history, using song and drama, is very important," says David Peterson, director of the ensemble and a professor with UW-Madison's Continuing Education in the Arts unit.

Using his experience in musical

theater, Peterson developed the Heritage Ensemble in 1970. The troupe grew out of the Wisconsin Idea Theatre, which UW-Extension professor and noted Wisconsin author Robert Gard established to promote regional drama.

Peterson's inspiration for outdoor dramatics came from one of Wisconsin's most delightful sites.

"I was camping in Door County with my family, and I got the idea to bring the ensemble to where the people are," he said. "Every night, 2,000 people camp in Peninsula State Park. . . It was a ready-made audience, and the park had a great amphitheater."

Over the years, his troupes have also performed in Governor Dodge State Park, Devil's Lake State Park and Mirror Lake State Park. This sum-

Mary Lock Albrecht has been a Communications Specialist with UW-Madison and UW-Extension for 10 years.

mer, the Heritage Ensemble will return to Peninsula Park with a program featuring two historical revues.

Peterson's "Doorfolk," described by the author as three short plays about fictional Door County characters, past and present, includes a story about a retired Great Lakes captain who inherits a summer hotel in Fish Creek complete with colorful guests and hilarious problems.

Company Manager Frederick Heide's "Ten Thousand Fathoms Down" portrays the era when great sailing ships roamed the seas in search of whales.



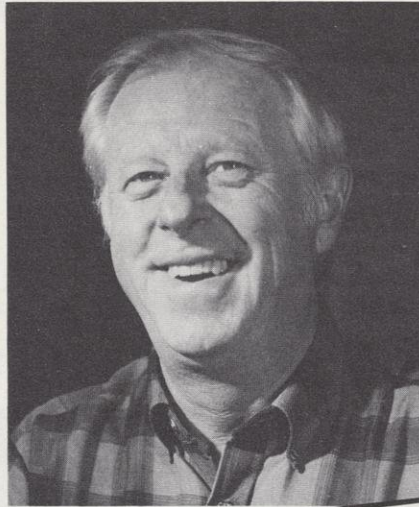
Heide's research for the review took him East to New Bedford and Nantucket Island, two renowned New England whaling towns in the 19th century.

"I visited bookstore after bookstore and found dusty books that hadn't been opened for years. That's how I discovered the background that went into the show. I also found books filled with the sea chanties we'll sing."

Heide's animated gestures paint a world filled with sailing ships, exotic South Sea islands and rough-and-tumble sailors. The show will include references to *Moby Dick* and have a slight environmental message.

"It won't be heavy-handed," he says, "but I do like to tie in a degree of social consciousness."

A psychology professor at the California School of Professional Psychology at Berkeley, Heide is a 13-year veteran with the ensemble — since his student days at UW-Green Bay. Since 1984, he has written one of the group's two shows each year.



Professor David C. Peterson
Photo by Susan Peterson

"We have such rapport with a repeat audience that we have to do two original shows each year," Peterson says, grinning. "That keeps us busy and on our toes, digging out new material."

Past shows delved into the Wild West, the Revolutionary War, Fox River history, a musical version of two of Carl Sandburg's Rootabaga stories for children, and the tales and lore of the Wisconsin lumberjacks.

Peterson also wrote shows celebrating the 150th anniversaries of Milwaukee and Dane counties, which were performed at local festivals.

For each show, performers dress up in period costumes and play guitars, banjos, tambourines, fiddles and harmonicas as well as a boudhran (a Scottish drum), a psaltery (an auto-harp-like instrument that's strummed or plucked) and a cabasa (a beaded gourd shaken for rhythms).

"We try to present the facts and information in a colorful way," Heide says. "Our revues are not complete plays. They consist of songs, narration, comedy and skits."

"There are certain moments, as a performer telling a tale, when I really feel transported to the past," he added.

Peterson and Heide are old hands at unearthing new material from collections in university libraries, ob-

scure historical libraries and bookstores.

"It's not as difficult as one might think," says Peterson. "In the 1920s, the Library of Congress began a huge collection of American folk songs to save these musical treasures for posterity. This collection is available to the public."

Heide says the Civil War period, for instance, offers a tremendous selection of musical material. "The piano had just become affordable for the common home, so everyone was writing songs. There literally are thousands of songs."

On the other hand, music of the Mississippi River boatmen was tough to locate. "Much of this music was sung by black stevedores. It's a sad fact that no one cared what blacks were



The troupe tackles a wide range of historical events and literary figures. Here, Fred Alley plays songwriter/activist Woody Guthrie in *America's Minstrel*. Photo by John Hansen





A sweet strum and a stroll, complete with costumes, through our cultural past. The ensemble revives Mark Twain's *Mississippi*. Photo by Ron Rockow

singing then. Consequently, some wonderful songs were not written down and are lost."

Heide recalls another magic moment when modern audiences were treated to music that had remained silent for decades.

"The ensemble sang a Navajo song as part of a dramatic piece about the Sioux Chief Sitting Bull. The audience wept because the music was so moving."

The shows highlight historically accurate comedy, too.

"Surprisingly, much of the humor is a bit gruesome for today's audiences, so we tend to tone it down," Peterson says. Here's a sample from the lumberjack show:

A lumberjack drowns in a log drive, and the surviving loggers choose a spokesperson to convey the terrible news to the lumberjack's wife. The woodsman knocks on her door. A woman answers. "Does the Widow Smith live here?" The woman responds: "I'm Mrs. Smith, and I'm no widow." The man replies: "I'll bet you 10 bucks you are!"

A good time for all

"I feel proud that we can do this for the audience," Heide says. "People don't often get to sit under the trees to hear music, to laugh and learn

about their shared heritage."

How much do audiences enjoy the Heritage Ensemble?

"Last summer, a woman of about 23 came up to me and said she had been listening to our songs since she was eight years old. Her family would play our cassette tapes in the car on family vacations," Heide said, beaming. "Someone else told me our tapes were more popular in his home than Elvis."



Hamming up wry humor from *Out of the West*. Photo by John Hansen

Tom Blackwood, superintendent of Peninsula State Park, attests to the shows' popularity.

"To many of Peninsula Park's returning summer guests, the Heritage Ensemble has become as much a part of their visits as the trees, trails and beaches. It adds excitement and variety to their vacations. Each year, we

at the park look forward to the new and ever-improving programs. We are proud to be part of this cooperative effort."

Peterson agrees: "We have a majestic setting at Peninsula Park. The theater is surrounded by towering pines. In fact, one tree comes up right through the side of the stage. It's very fitting to perform folk music in this natural environment that invokes the past."

Taking the show on the road

Children who miss the Heritage Ensemble performances in state parks may see them on the school circuit from January to April. The troupe travels to about 200 schools in Wisconsin and Illinois each year offering two to three shows a day during the school week.

"We're happy to bring living history to school kids around the state," says Tim McNurlen, long-time ensemble member and frequent school tour director. "Teachers build a complete history module around our show, so the children really understand what our music and stories are about. Last year, one show concentrated on the Revolutionary War, and the performers were given crayon drawings of battle scenes by children after several shows."

"It's a tiring schedule, but everyone involved loves the job," Peterson adds, "and so do I. It's a unique opportunity to bring the wonderful music and heritage of Wisconsin, the region and the nation to vacationers and students. As one newspaper reviewer put it several years ago, 'History was never more fun.'" ■

Cassette tapes of the Heritage Ensemble shows are available from David Peterson, 719 Lowell Hall, 610 Langdon St., Madison, WI 53703; (608) 263-3369.

Cream Puffs AND CONSERVATION

The DNR exhibit is a green oasis of fun at Wisconsin State Fair. Come visit us August 4-14.



Photos by Jean B. Meyer and Robert Queen

Where else can you crunch a sweet ear of roasted corn as Coho salmon cruise by at eye level? Where can tinsel-

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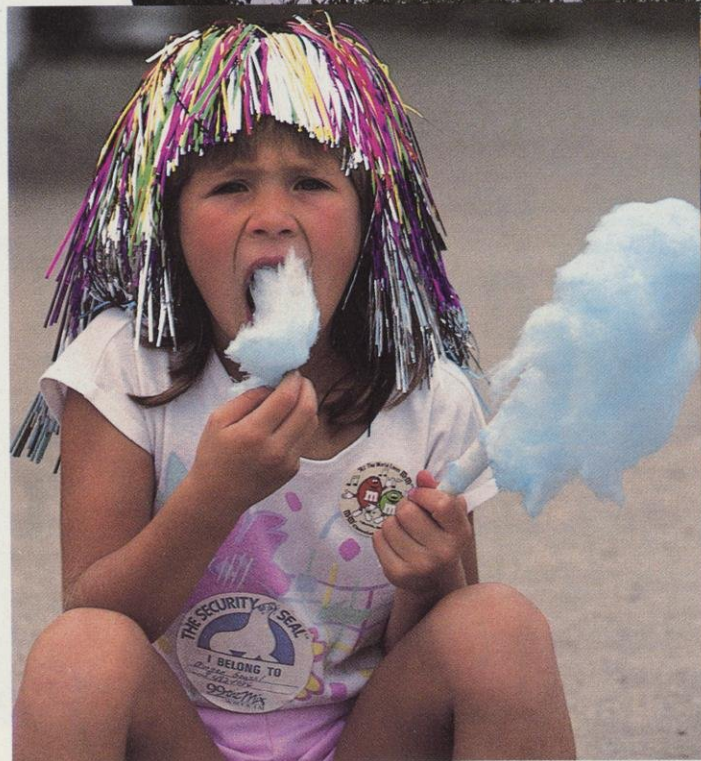
Respite from the roaring crowd at State Fair.



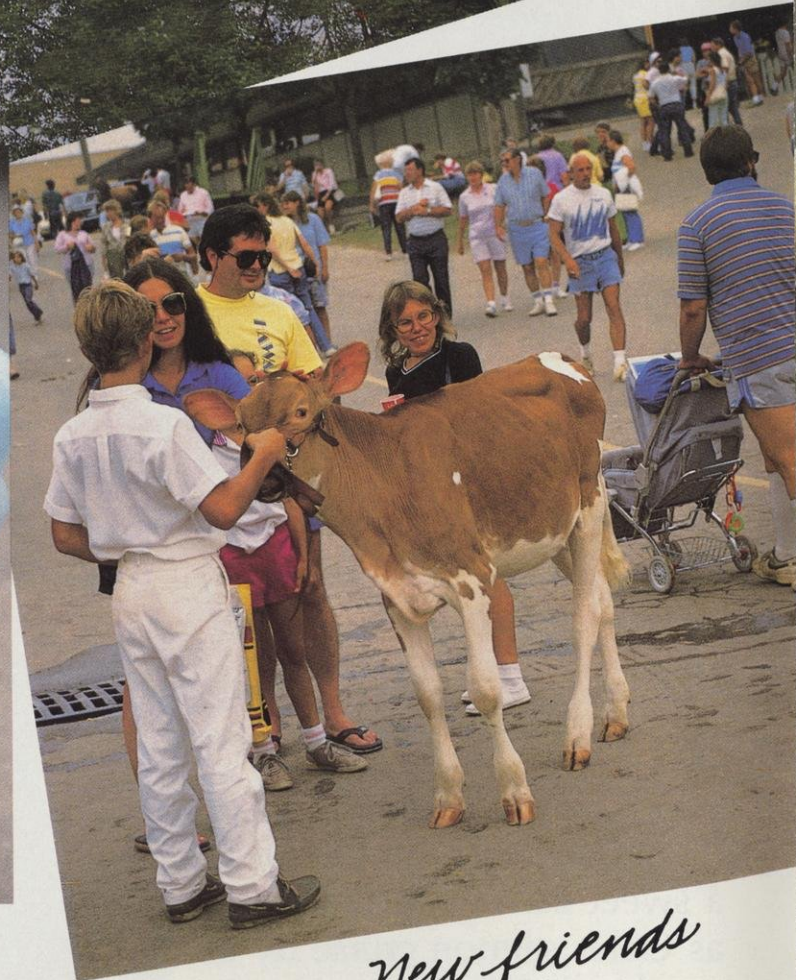
*Peering out over
our cool lagoon.*



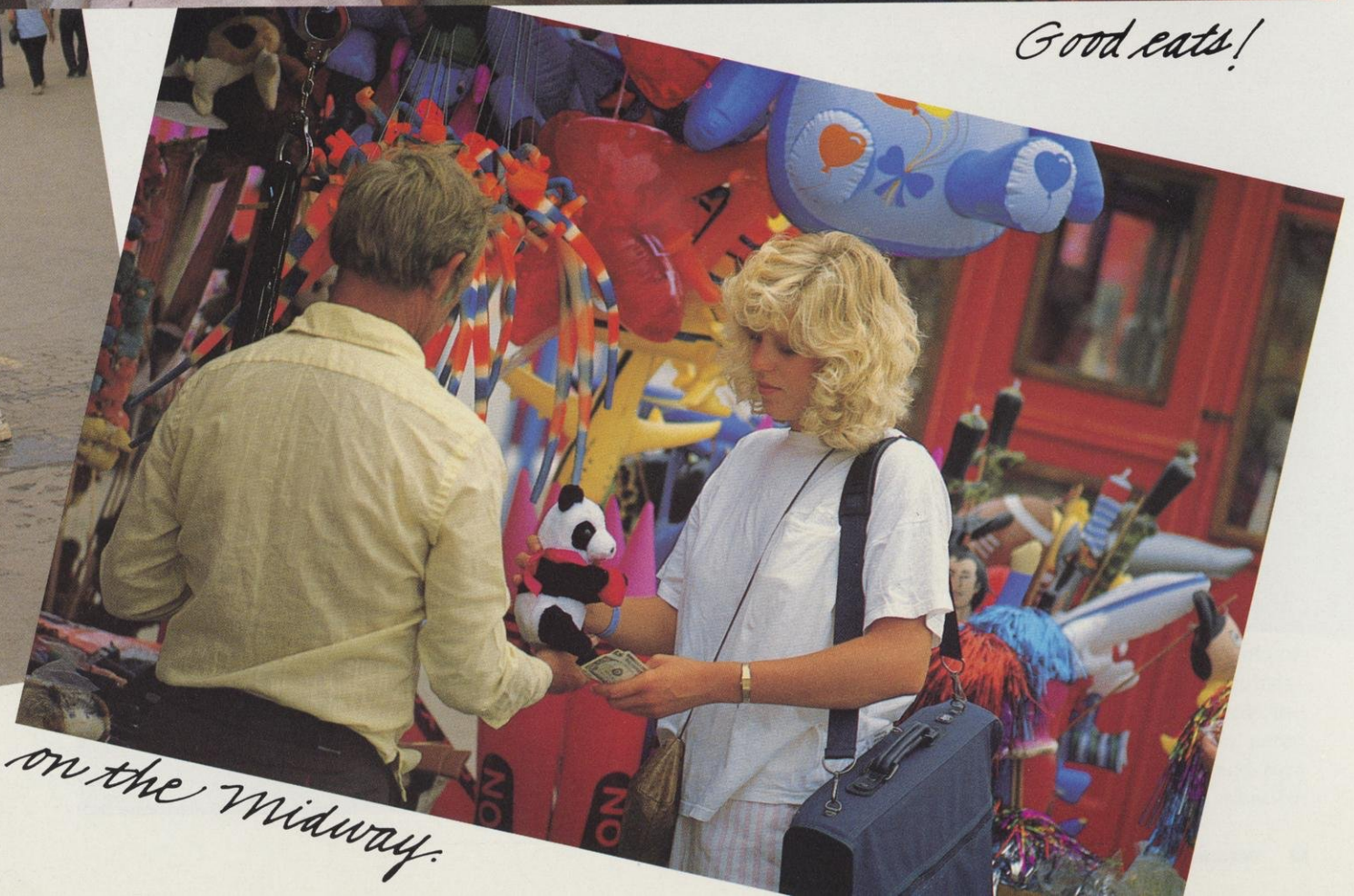
Good eats!



Special treats!



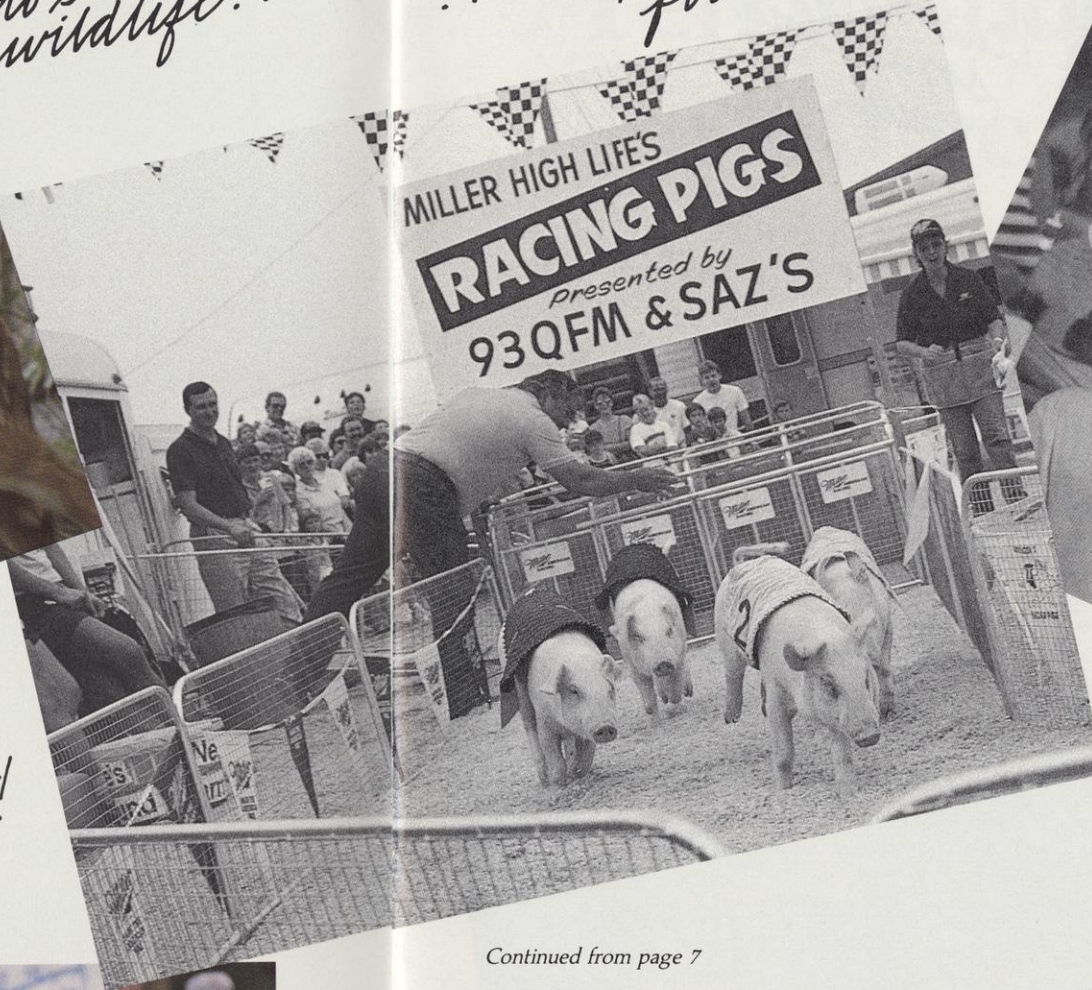
New friends



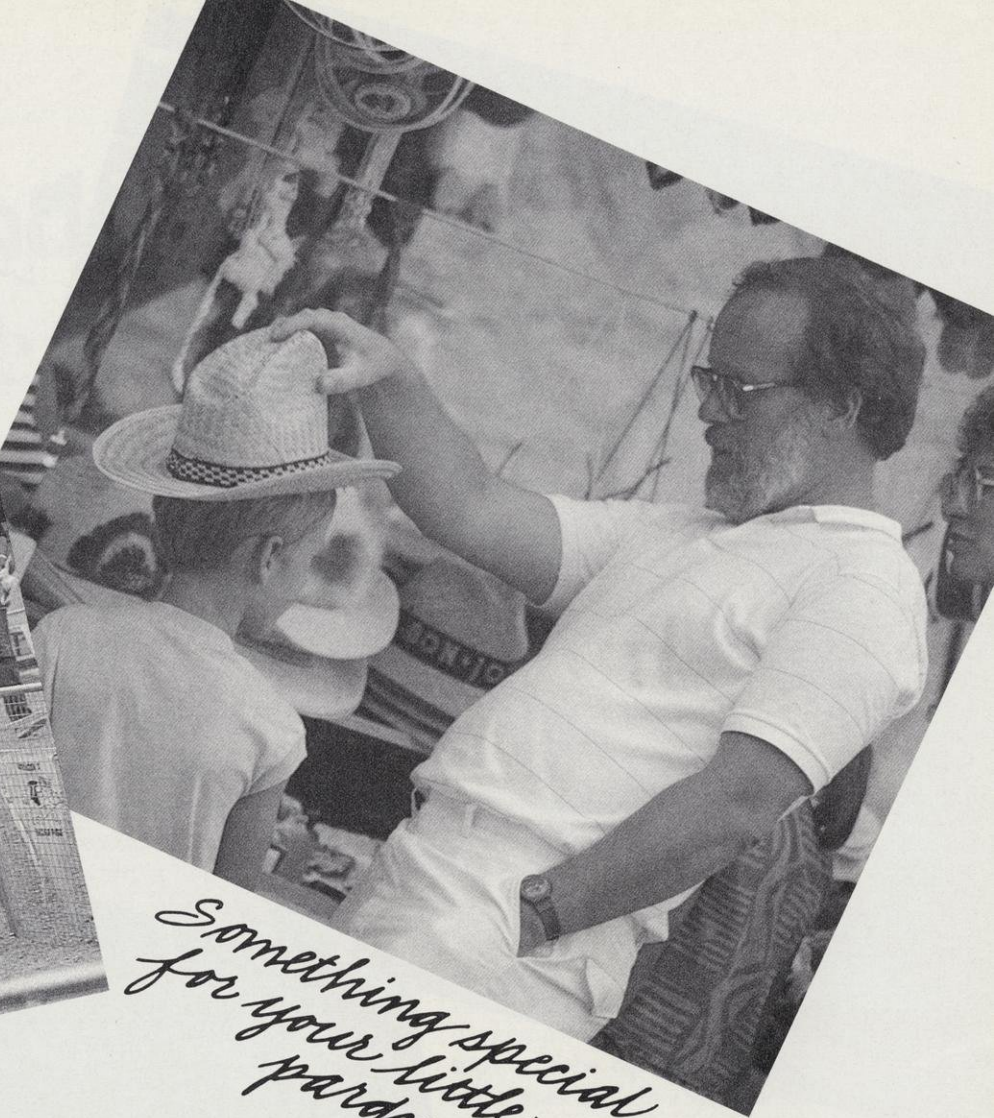
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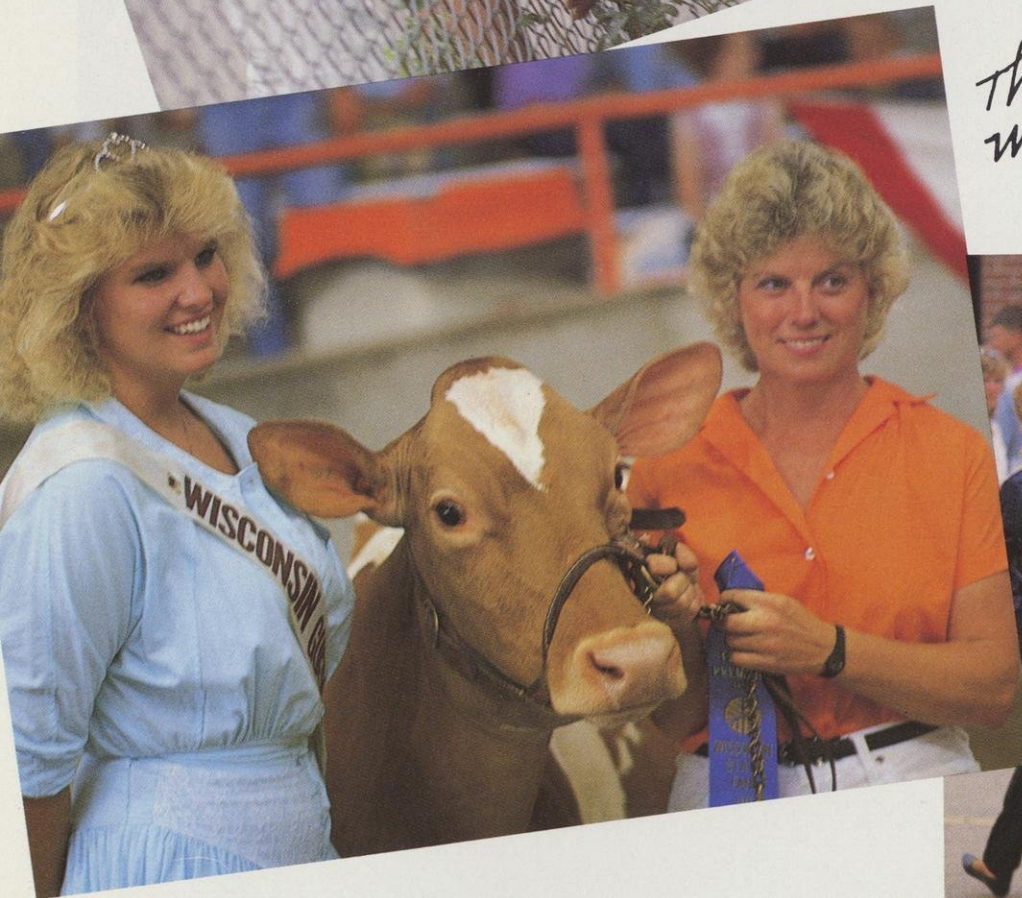
*a chance
to see
wildlife...*



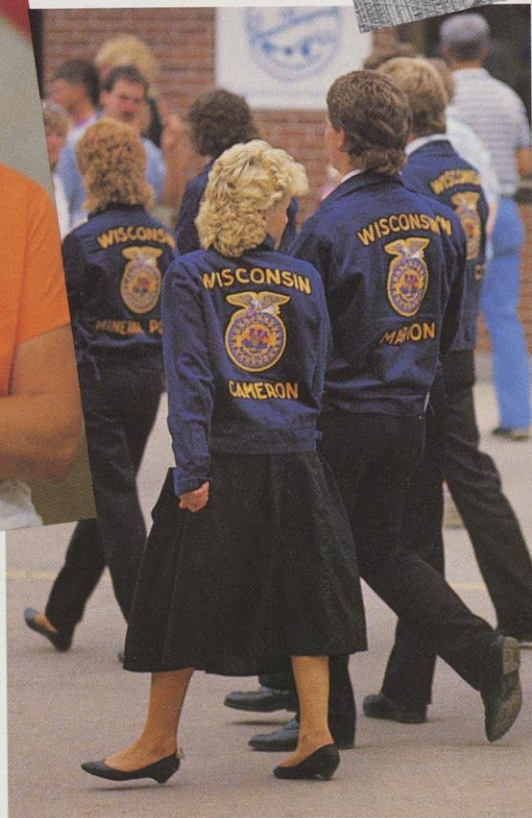
*... or pigs racing
for Oreos.*



*Something special
for your little
pardner.*



*Three
winners!*



*A farming
celebration we can
all enjoy.*

Continued from page 7

topped tots learn Smokey Bear's middle name? (The) What park can you casually stroll with your family, coming face to face with raptors and recyclers, wetlands and wildlife, lunkers and laughter?

Why it's the DNR fairgrounds at Wisconsin State Fair Park. We're gearing up for 10 days of fun in early August, and you're invited to join us.

State Fair, from August 4-14 this year, is a bustling extravaganza filled with prize-winning farm animals, live musical entertainment, carnival rides, yummy food, neat trinkets and a festive atmosphere... the perfect summer outing for a hot date or a family trip.

Many visitors who get their fill of cream puffs, racing pigs, carny rides and hot music search for a quiet corner to cool down. I'll let you in on their secret: They head for the DNR exhibit near Gate Four.

The Department of Natural Re-

sources exhibit is a park within the park — a 2.4-acre oasis where you can leave the hot pavement behind, stroll tree-lined walks, lounge on a park bench, listen to the quiet trickle of a trout stream and relax. We hope you'll also be curious when you walk through the front door because we've prepared a mixed bag of exhibits and talks to entertain and interest you in conservation, environment and the outdoors.

Here, your kids can get nose to nose with large aquariums of Wisconsin fish. They can get a short fire safety lesson from Smokey The Bear.

Several exhibits are designed to help you teach your kids about the environment in the wilds of Wisconsin and in your own back yard. Big photos will help you show them the natural treasures in our state parks. They can learn about different kinds of trees grown in Wisconsin. You can teach them to be careful around

household chemicals. You may even see a deer fawn peeking through the underbrush.

Other displays and models will show visitors how wetlands keep shorelands from flooding, how air toxicants move through urban and rural regions, why you should check to "get the lead out" of your drinking water, and what kinds of sporting equipment promote safe outdoor recreation.

Our shows every half hour in the Aldo Leopold Theater should entice young and old. The theater is a covered, shaded amphitheater with benches where you will hear about Wisconsin weather lore, champion trees, edible wild foods, fish filleting and cooking, wild prairies, and lots of interesting animals — bluebirds, trumpeter swans, pine martens, insects, opossums, lake sturgeon, peregrine falcons, frogs, snakes and turtles. You might even learn how to



Learning something new.

enjoying an old-fashioned sales pitch!



hoot like an owl and howl like a wolf! Talks are presented between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. The DNR exhibit is open from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. each day of the fair.

We've cooked up two special treats for you this year. Each day from 10 a.m. until noon at the DNR State Fair exhibit, volunteers can help you make a special, free souvenir you can take home. It's called "gyotaku" or Japanese fish rubbings. Visitors

who bring in plain-colored cloth like tee shirts, handkerchiefs or dish towels can have a bright imprint of a Wisconsin panfish printed on their cloth. It's an ancient artform the Japanese used to record their catches and decorate their homes. Fish prints are an unusual reminder of the natural beauty in nature. Second, we'll hold a special scavenger hunt on Friday, August 12 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Everyone who answers clues scattered around

the DNR exhibit areas will win a nifty button about watching wildlife.

So plan on joining the party in August. Bundle up the baby, pack in the kids, cuddle with your sweetie, pick up grandma and grandpa and come meet us at the fair. ■

Terry Andrae State Park: a 60 year celebration

"It was a cold, dry, blue and crystal December day (1923). As we drove lakeward, we got a sweeping view of the shoreland so full of poetic interest that we halted in wonder. The colors of the scene — blue and silver, beyond the tawny dunes with their ragged fringes of almost black juniper — held me to become deeply, almost psychologically possessive."

— Mrs. Terry Elsbeth Andrae

Jim Buchholz

Little did Mrs. Andrae imagine that the shoreland she described more than a half century ago would become one of Wisconsin's most beautiful and popular state parks. The long sandy beach, windswept dunes, pine forests and river marshlands are preserved here for everyone to enjoy.

Terry Andrae State Park and its companion park to the north, J.M. Kohler State Park, are just south of Sheboygan along the Lake Michigan shore. Kohler-Andrae attracts over a quarter million visitors each year. Some come to camp in the park's 105 modern, shaded campsites or to rough it in the sunnier group camp. Some stroll barefoot along nearly two miles of sandy beach, explore the sand dunes or enjoy a refreshing dip in the icy lake waters. Visitors can learn about the park's wildlife and history through displays and programs at the park nature center, or they can just strike out on their own along one of the park trails.

Hikers occasionally find flint, arrowhead or pottery fragments — relics of the ancient people who lived, hunted and fished in the park area as early as 1500 B.C. Native Americans, including the Chippewa, Menominee, Potawatomi and Sauk, inhabited the region until 1877.

The westward settlement era brought East Coast Yankees who

fished Lake Michigan's nearshore waters early in the 19th century. They netted lake trout, whitefish, herring and chubs, lifting hooped pound nets by hand into small skiffs. Out on choppy Lake Michigan waters, the

work was rugged and dangerous. Many fishermen drowned trying to make a living where anglers today fish for fun.

By midcentury, a large influx of German and Dutch settlers migrated into the region. The long trip from Europe across the Atlantic was often dangerous, but the short Great Lakes trip could be equally hazardous and sometimes fatal. In 1847, the steamer *Phoenix*, carrying 250 Dutch immigrants, caught fire just offshore from Sheboygan. At least 180 men, women and children perished in the holocaust within sight of their destination.

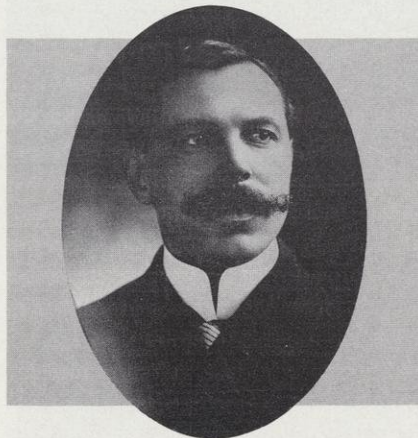
Among the more than 50 ships that sank near the Kohler-Andrae area was an 87-foot schooner, the *Challenge*. She was built at Manitowoc in 1852, the premier centerboard clipper of her time. In 1910, she sank adjacent to the present parks after 58 years of Great Lakes service, and 72 years after that a section of her keel washed ashore. It's now on display outside the park nature center. Scuba divers can explore the old shipwrecks in clear, inviting waters.

The founding of Terry Andrae State Park

Frank Theodore (Terry) Andrae and his wife Elsbeth Hasse Andrae bought 112 acres along Lake Michi-

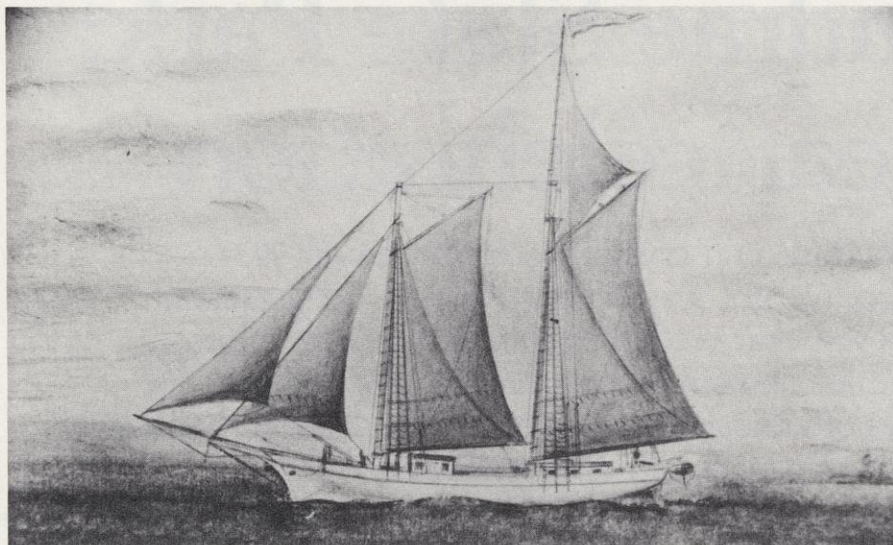


Elsbeth Hasse Andrae.
Portrait from the state park collection



Frank Theodore "Terry" Andrae.
Portrait from the state park collection

Jim Buchholz is park superintendent of Kohler-Andrae state parks.



The Challenge foundered offshore from the park. Now skin divers explore these old shipwrecks.
Illustration courtesy of the Marine Collection, the Milwaukee Public Museum

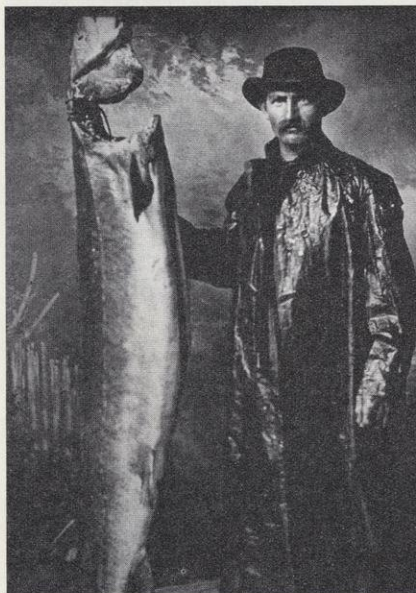
gan when waterfront property was selling for about a dollar a foot in 1924. The city-bred couple spent many happy days at their sand dunes country retreat. They built a summer home, nicknamed "Henriette Lodge," overlooking the lake. Mrs. Andrae, daughter of a botanist, had a strong interest in horticulture. She hired several private foresters at considerable expense to reforest the property.

Mr. Andrae was president of Andrae Auto Supply in Milwaukee. His father, Julius, had founded the Andrae Electric Company, one of the first electrical and telephone contracting firms in the country. Andrae Electric had introduced incandescent lighting to Milwaukee in 1897. Terry, as the younger Andrae was known to his friends, was also a nationally recognized bicyclist during the 1880s and early '90s — famous for his high-wheel exploits. Deeply interested in developing safety bikes, he helped design and construct the old-time tandem, triplet and quad wheels, which were familiar sights over 80 years ago.

After her husband's death in 1927, Elsbeth Andrae decided to donate the entire 112-acre estate to the people of Wisconsin in his memory:

"So, one day, the year after his death, out in the sand fields where we

were getting things in shape for sale while I was mulling over various ideas for a vivid, appropriate sort of memorial — one with life and continuity — it came to me with that clear logic of the out-of-doors reflec-



Courageous fishermen braved foul weather in small boats just off the Sheboygan coast to catch unusual prizes like this lake sturgeon.

tions — 'Why *this* is the memorial to him.' Nothing could be more suitable, I felt, for one who was quite a passionately loyal Wisconsinian, jealous champion of the charms of Wisconsin roads and genial neighbor to the folk

of his native state."

On December 5, 1928, their property became Terry Andrae State Park.

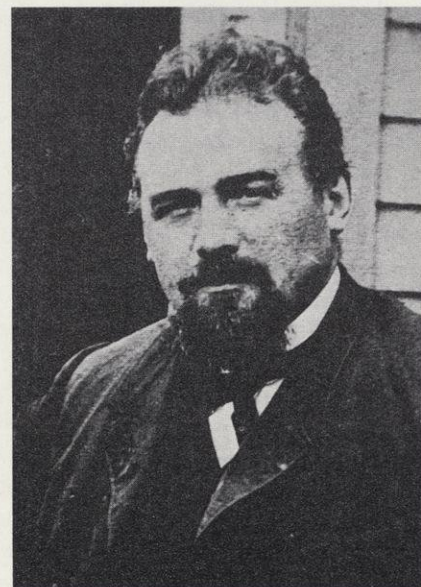
The Kohler complement

In the years following the Andrae donation, park use expanded dramatically statewide. As the nation grew more industrialized, most families owned automobiles and countryside touring became a tradition. The need for more state parks was felt especially near urban areas.

In 1966, two generations after the Andrae donation, the Kohler Company of Kohler, WI donated 280 acres in memorial to their founder John Michael Kohler. Just north of Terry Andrae State Park, J.M. Kohler State Park also contains river marshlands, pine forests, sand dunes and another mile of beach front.

Mr. Kohler's many contributions to the Sheboygan area include social and cultural centers, the Sheboygan Humane Society and the Friendship House orphanage. His descendants still own and operate the Kohler Company, now the nation's largest plumbing manufacturer and the leading industry in Sheboygan County.

John Michael Kohler.
Photo courtesy of the Kohler Company





Naturalists and volunteers encourage visitors to take a close look at nature on Kohler-Andrae trails, at the Sanderling Nature Center, at outdoor talks and along the windswept beaches.

Photo from the state park collection

The family continues its generous assistance and involvement in the community.

With state purchase of additional surrounding lands, the combined acreage of J.M. Kohler and Terry Andrae state parks is 760 acres.

While Kohler-Andrae is best known for attractive camping facilities and sandy beaches, it also supports a wide array of wildlife: 33 types of mammals and more than 150 bird species live in the park or fly along the Lake Michigan migration corridor. During the spring and fall, diving ducks in rafts of up to 5,000 birds cluster just offshore.

More than 400 plant species grow in the park, many only on the dunes.



Terry Andrae, the celebrated bicyclist, would have enjoyed touring the park that bears his name. Photo from the state park collection

The Kohler Dunes Natural Area has several examples of unique dune vegetation, some of which are threatened species.

Interpretive and volunteer programs

To help visitors understand and enjoy Kohler-Andrae's wealth of nature, a park naturalist is on duty during the summer months. Regularly scheduled hikes as well as movies, sing-alongs, guest speakers and other programs at the outdoor amphitheater or Sanderling Nature Center enrich the visitors' experience. The center also contains historical and interpretive displays, a video tape player, computer games and several hands-on displays for



Enjoying sculpted sands and wispy shore grasses at the Kohler Dunes Natural Area.

Photo by Jim Buchholz

children of all ages. The building is often staffed by local volunteers who donate their time and talents.

The Friends of Kohler-Andrae Association, a nonprofit parks support group, hopes to raise funds through membership dues, donations and selling outdoor books, pamphlets, guides and other items to parks visitors. Proceeds will further the interpretive, recreational, educational and visitor service programs.

Campground hosts volunteer to camp in the parks for a month or more at a time, assisting fellow campers, giving out park information and doing light maintenance. Another group, the N-E-I-G-H-bors of Kohler-Andrae, made up of local horseback riders, is building several miles of combination bridle/hiking trails, including a parking area, at no cost to the public.

Renewed commitment

Terry Andrae State Park will celebrate its 60th anniversary with a special open house on Sunday, October 9, 1988. In addition to free park admission, historical displays and guided hikes, there will be a photo contest and an old-time high-wheel "Penny-Farthing" type bicycle demonstration.

This anniversary year, however, is as much a time to look towards the future as reflect on the past. The Kohler-Andrae master plan, a detailed 10-year blueprint for future parks development and management, debuts this year. The plan focuses on preserving and protecting this unique and interesting shoreland in its natural state. It considers acquiring additional property, constructing a new visitor information station, improv-

ing the hiking trails and picnic areas, and building more campsites.

For all the proposed changes, some things remain the same. As Mrs. Andrae wrote about 60 years ago: "Public parks have inestimable psychologic value in a way we do not ordinarily estimate. They are social correctives. They serve to stabilize."

Terry Andrae left his sand dune estate to tend to business in Milwaukee on August 13, 1927. He planned to return by the weekend. Mrs. Andrae stayed behind to prepare a large picnic for 50 or so guests at their summer home. That night, Terry Andrae passed away in his sleep. It is said that his last words to his wife before leaving their lakeshore property were: "To me this is the loveliest place in the world."

And a million visitors would attest it still is. ■

Resource management with a mission

The Wisconsin Conservation Corps builds skills, confidence and a better outdoors.



Each year WCC offers hundreds of young Wisconsin men and women paying jobs, outdoor experiences and new skills. Here, a crew member learns to safely use a chain saw while carving out the Boyceville Rifle Range in Dunn County.

WCC photo

Dawn L. Jones

By 9 a.m., Ben Bedward and Todd Butteris are hip-deep in the Blue River, a Class II trout stream near Boscobel in Grant County. Wearing heavy waders and carrying nets, they

Dawn L. Jones edited publications for the Wisconsin Conservation Corps and is currently a science writer and a graduate student in the UW-Madison Journalism program.

trudge upstream through the mud, pulling the four-foot mini-boat and gasoline powered generator behind them. They aren't out fishing — this is a job.

Ben, 22, and Todd, 21, work for the Wisconsin Conservation Corps (WCC), a state agency that puts young men and women to work on conservation projects throughout the

state. Ben, Todd and six other corps members on their crew are helping the Department of Natural Resources evaluate the effects of changing fishing regulations on the size of brown trout populations. Today's stream sampling goes hand in hand with the habitat work to maintain and improve Wisconsin's trout streams. Corps members have spent many hours



Teamwork deepens and rechannels trout waters on Tichigan Creek, a DNR-sponsored WCC project at Bong Recreation Area in southeastern Wisconsin. WCC photo

brushing stream banks, installing half logs and constructing other structures to rebuild trout streams.

"Todd, keep your tip up in the water like so," department Fisheries Manager Roger Kerr reminds him.

"There. . . there's a trout right in front of you!"

Kerr knows how to shock a stream; he's been doing it 20 years and has shocked this stretch of Blue River 12 times.

"I haven't tripped over every rock yet, but almost."

The electrical current held just under the water's surface safely stuns fish. Floating belly-up to the surface, the fish remain motionless for a few seconds to a few minutes, long enough for Ben and Todd to identify the brown trout, scoop them into their nets and then into a storage tub.

Every 500 feet or so, they stop, move to the bank, measure the browns, clip a fin (as a marker) and gently return the trout to the water.



WCC built this eye-catching, meandering trail at Blackhawk Island Natural Area in south central Juneau County. Visitors used to slog through wet soils, dampening their sneakers and trampling rare plants in Spring Gulch. Now, everyone is happy.

Photo by Dave Chesky

A few days later, the same stream section is shocked again. By calculating the percent of clipped fish recovered, Kerr can more accurately estimate the stream's brown trout population.

The Boscobel crew is one of 36 current WCC crews. Each year, nearly 300 young people employed by WCC work on as many as 36 year-round projects throughout the state, from Boscobel to Iron County to Green Bay.

Like the federal Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) of the 1930s, the WCC has a dual purpose: to meet conservation and unemployment needs. The CCC gave hundreds of thousands of young men a chance to work when the Depression was at its worst and helped replant the nation's ravaged forests at the same time.

In its first five years, the WCC has employed about 2,000 young people and worked with Wisconsin communities on conservation projects like planting trees to building park

benches, refurbishing low-income houses, building shelters and clearing cross-country ski trails.

WCC depends on cooperation between state and local agencies to get jobs done.

"Projects are proposed by individual sponsors like the Department of Natural Resources," said Dave O'Malley, projects coordinator for WCC.

"We work with several other state agencies, city, county and tribal governments, the federal government, conservation organizations and other not for profit groups," O'Malley continued.

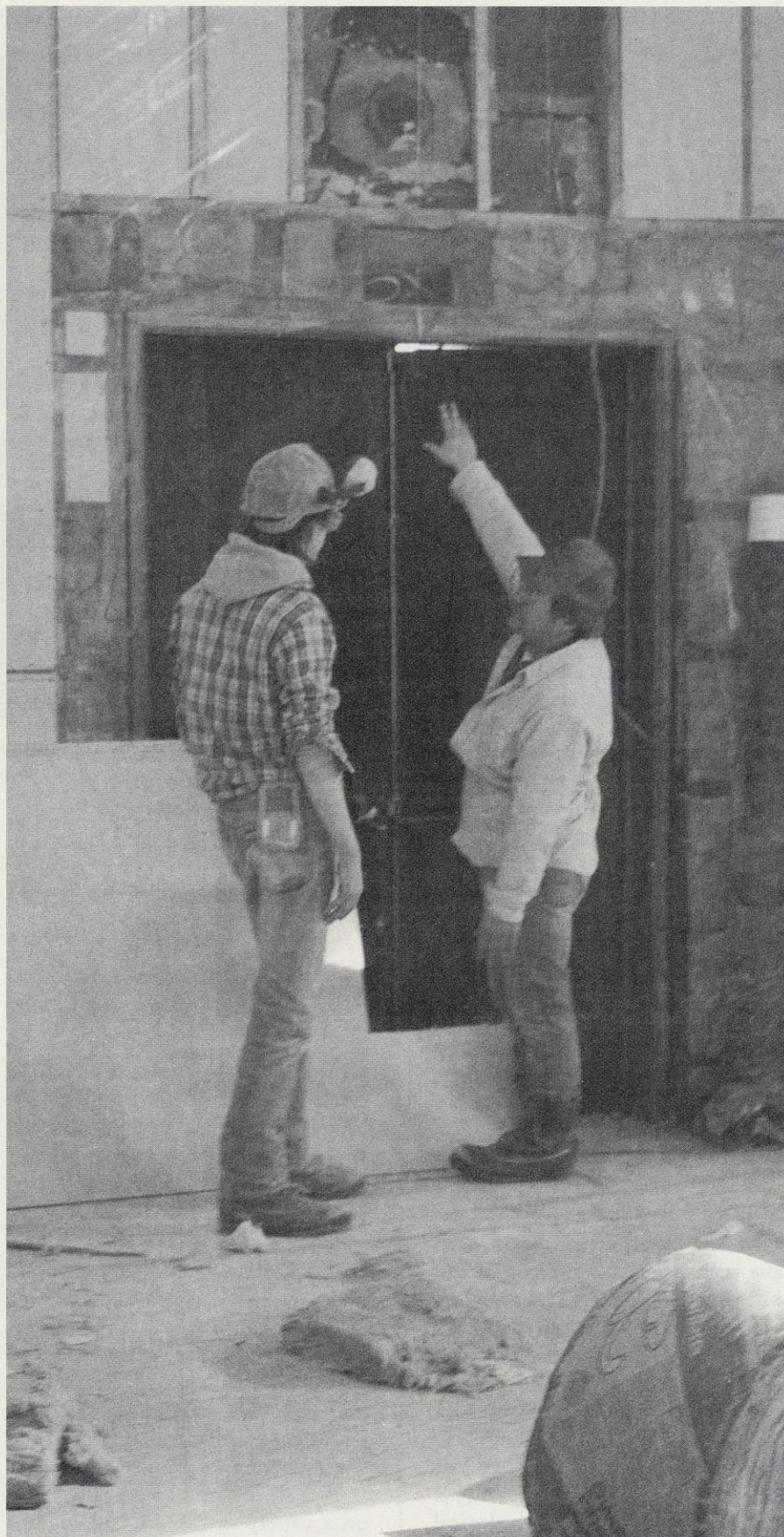
"Sponsors provide work materials, equipment, transportation to and from the work site, safety equipment and training programs such as natural resources management, safety and first aid training," he added. "In return, WCC provides 100 percent of corps member wages along with additional safety equipment (like hardhats) and administrative support."

Who can work for WCC?

Applicants must be between 18 and 25 and unemployed. WCC pays them \$3.35 per hour for 40 hours work each week.

"But Corps members earn a lot more," says WCC Field Support Specialist George Riggan. "At the end of the year, they can successfully compete for jobs because they've learned basic work skills."

Executive Director Bill Brakken explained further. "Corps members tell me the program works for them because they develop basic skills like getting to work on time and working in a situation that demands teamwork, learn technical skills like carpentry and operating power equipment, and get self-confidence from taking pride in their accomplishments. We truly challenge them. They work hard — sometimes harder than they ever have in their lives — and when they're done, there's usually a product they can look at and



Conservation takes many forms. WCC crews insulated and weatherproofed the Ashland Youth Center in a popular community project.

Photo by Bob Nelson



Todd Butteris (left) and Ben Bedward sample trout on the Blue River. The Wisconsin Conservation Corps teaches workers how to use the tools of conservation trades. Photo by the author

say, 'Well, I did that,' and that makes them pretty proud."

Our supervisors get additional training, Brakken continued.

"The crew leaders develop strong camaraderie and a strong sense of mission in the agency. When you have that — when crew leaders know they're there to help corps members develop and to provide good service to communities in the process — I think that makes a big difference."

Kinds of work

By law, all WCC projects must have lasting benefit for a large sector of the public. Since WCC receives far more proposals than it can accommodate, the agency only chooses projects that will provide public service and valuable learning experiences for corps members.

WCC projects must conserve natural resources, promote recreational development or preserve historical structures. Many projects combine work in forestry, wildlife, fisheries,

parks, trails, erosion control, restoring historical structures and many other areas of natural resources management.



Some conservation projects rely on WCC crews year after year. Since 1983, 11 WCC crews have worked along the Ice Age Trail — the 1,000-mile trail tracing the southern edge of Wisconsin's last glaciers. Corps members have designed and cleared new portions of trail and built bridges and shelters along existing sections.

A crew in Iron County is working on a variety of fish and wildlife and forestry projects for the Iron County Forestry Department including build-

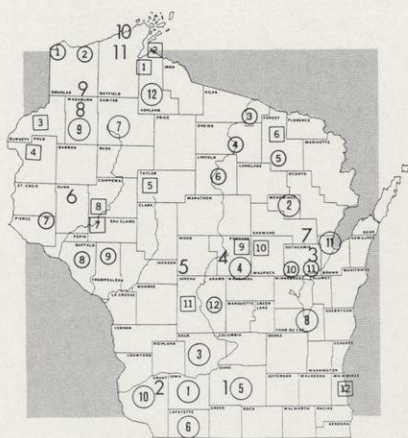
ing fish cribs, trapping bears and improving timber stands by cutting down old and diseased trees.

Many of these projects have been coordinated with the Department of Natural Resources at Mercer, which has provided technical guidance and support. Local ruffed grouse populations will benefit from aspen regeneration work at the county forest and habitat improvements on 100 acres owned by the Chippewa Flambeau Improvement Corporation adjacent to the Turtle-Flambeau flowage.

Corps service is limited to one year to move members into the job market and make room for other unemployed young people.

When corps members finish their year of service, they can choose a service completion bonus — either a \$500 cash voucher or a \$1,500 scholarship voucher.

Encouraging greater use of the scholarship option and increasing the long-term career development training opportunities for corps members are Brakken's next goals for WCC:



Wisconsin Conservation Corps projects provide lasting conservation benefits to communities across the state. If your organization or community is interested in sponsoring a project that helps unemployed young adults learn job skills, contact WCC. Ask for Dave O'Malley, Projects Coordinator, Wisconsin Conservation Corps, 30 W. Mifflin Street, Suite 406, Madison, WI 53703; (608) 266-7730.

"Sure we teach a lot of important things. However, until they learn how to look for jobs effectively, until corps members plan their futures, we can't kid anyone. We have to say: 'Listen, this can serve as only part of your experience.'"

Ben has been a corps member since last October and has worked with the Department of Natural Resources in Boscobel trapping wild turkeys and cutting down diseased trees at the Boscobel State Nursery. His one-year corps stint ends soon, and he's started to plan for his future.

"I'd like to learn about engineering — diesel mechanics — and then go to school after that."

Todd has been with the corps for four days, and the stream shocking project is his first. Like his crew members, Todd joined WCC because he needed a job. After a year and a half in the Navy, he came home to Grant County to find that jobs were scarce.

"At first, I just needed a job, but now I like it too," Todd says. "I always wondered how they counted fish in rivers and stuff, and now I know."


After WCC service, Todd wants to go back to school and learn more about conservation. "[WCC has] helped me get my headstart by helping me get one foot in the door." ■



Tough projects aren't reserved for the men. Female corps members cut brush in a snowy Douglas County tract.

Photo by Bob Nelson

Jewels OF THE DRY PRAIRIE



Hard work can keep wildflowers flourishing
in pockets of the Kettle Moraine.

Ronald C. Kurowski

A few rocky slopes in the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest shelter remnants of a secluded community that's fast disappearing in southeastern Wisconsin. The community is called the dry prairie. You'd think these prairie pockets, protected from the plow and urban developers, would remain cloistered and preserved forever, but that's not the case. Paradoxically, human intervention that destroyed many dry prairies is now the key to saving these remainders of our natural heritage.

The Kettle Moraine is a 120-mile glacial ridge that formed as a narrow corridor between two gigantic lobes of the Wisconsin Glacier approximately 10,000 years ago. Its hilly terrain with steep slopes and poor soils kept people from cultivating this area. Many native prairie plants survived along the moraine.

Even in presettlement times, these prairies were never extensive here. An estimated 105,000 acres of dry prairie bloomed in Wisconsin before settlers arrived; possibly more in the Kettle Moraine than in any other area of our state. Now, fewer than 200

acres survive in quarter-acre to five-acre patches on the south and southwest slopes of glacial hillsides; a few on the flat, sandy outwash plains.

More by accident than by plan, some dry prairies survived while others disappeared. Dry prairies only thrived on the steep, gravelly, glaciated slopes that faced the full sun. Frequent fires kept woodier plants from invading these sites. Human activities like homesteading, plowing and gravel mining were tough on other parts of the moraines, but steep slopes and poor soils drove out farmers, who searched for more productive sites. Even grazing, which was very extensive throughout the Kettle Moraine region before the state forest was established, did not alter all these dry prairie areas.

Picking and protecting choice prairies

Merely setting land aside doesn't make it blossom. The greatest threat to dry prairies today comes from the encroaching forest. Although the very dry environment in these prairie sites has slowed down forest invasion, in the absence of brush control, woody plants would eventually colo-

nize these sites too: moving in, shading and ultimately replacing the sun-loving prairie plants. A comparison of aerial photographs from 1940 and 1986 shows 75 percent of some dry prairies have been replaced by woodier vegetation.

Help for the remaining acres may be on the horizon. Within the last several years, the naturalist program at the Kettle Moraine and DNR's Bureau of Endangered Resources have been identifying the best dry prairies to include and manage as state natural areas. To date, 15 sites have been chosen within the Southern Kettle Moraine. One of the smaller, quarter-acre sites includes at least 53 plant species.

It would be impossible to effectively and economically manage every site, so only the best areas will be selected. Already, park personnel and volunteers, particularly the Boy Scouts, have treated some sites with a prescribed burn and brush removal.

It's truly amazing that anything can grow on these steep, rocky

Ronald C. Kurowski is DNR's naturalist stationed at the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest in Eagle.

(opposite, above)
Beautiful wildflower displays splash color in prairie pockets at the hottest time of the year.
Photo by the author

(opposite, bottom)
Bird's-foot violet (*Viola pedata*) is a common dry prairie species.
Photo by Thomas A. Meyer



slopes. In many places, the topsoil is less than two inches deep. Many limestone rocks and other glacial outcroppings protrude through the grasses and wildflowers. Since the land slopes south and southwest, the plants face intense afternoon summer sun and drying westerly winds.

To thrive in this harsh environment, prairie plants, like desert plants, adapt to limit water evaporation. Pasque flower, longhair hawkweed, hoary puccoon, green milkweed, silky aster and others are covered with tiny hairs. The hairs form dead air space around the plants to retard evaporation. Harebell and rock sandwort have very narrow leaves to reduce surface area and water loss. Many prairie plants developed extensive, deep and fibrous root systems that can reach water in the soil that would not be available to most plants. Little bluestem grass, common to these prairies, has fibrous roots that can reach six feet deep. False boneset, only three feet high, sends down roots that can reach depths of 15 feet! The prickly pear cactus, only recently rediscovered in the Kettle Moraine, grows in flat, sandy areas and on gravelly hillsides thanks to enlarged, above-ground stems that store water.

In spite of all this adversity, many plants do quite well here, and some of the Kettle Moraine's most beautiful wildflower displays brighten these dry hillsides at the hottest times of the year.

Common dry prairie plant species include little bluestem grass, side oats grama grass, pasque flower, rock sandwort, silky aster, bird's foot violet, prairie violet, shooting star (*Dodecatheon meadia*), hoary puccoon and gray goldenrod.

The pasque flower, our earliest bloomer (except skunk cabbage), thrives in this environment. It has bloomed as early as March 20 in the Kettle Moraine; more typically around the middle of April. Pasque flower is more common on western

False wild indigo (*Baptisia leucophaea*) is more common in wetter, mesic prairies, but it's equally at home on drier range.

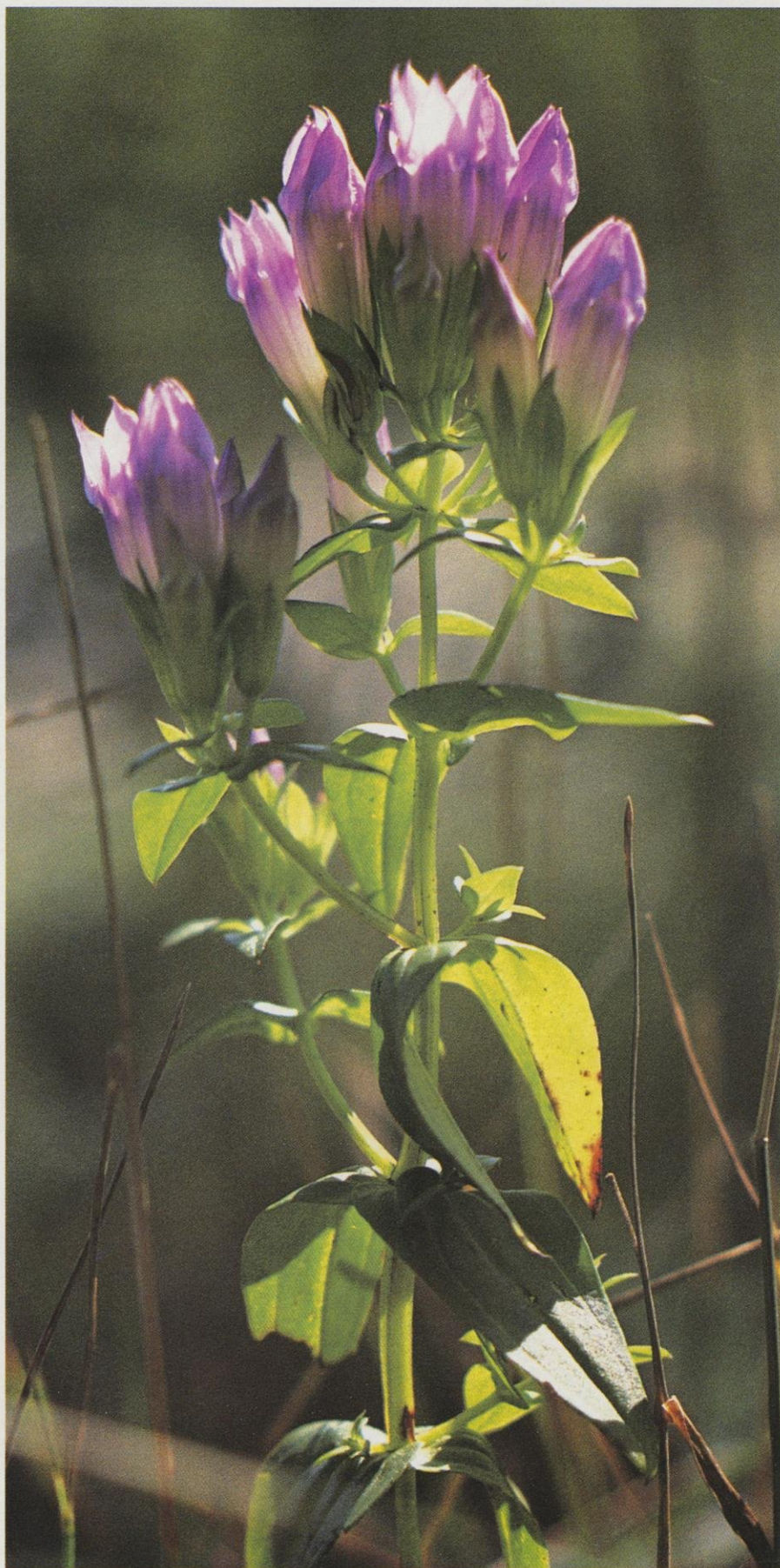
Photo by Robert H. Read

U.S. prairies and the Rockies. Its populations have declined considerably during the last 20 years. Without preserves, it could be extirpated from our region. Quite a contrast from the 1930s observation of the late Dr. Albert Fuller, former curator of botany for the Milwaukee Museum, who called the Kettle Moraine region "the principal home of the pasque flower in Wisconsin."

Like people, many of our dry prairie patches have similar composition, but each has its own personality and its own rich mix of plant species. That's why it is important to preserve a number of these sites, not just the biggest or the best. One prairie called Bird's Foot Violet Hill is so covered with these tiny purple violets in the first week of May that it's nearly impossible not to step on them. Bald Bluff, our biggest and most diverse dry prairie, displays thousands of beautiful blazing stars in late August. Other prairies only a short distance away contain less than a handful of blazing stars. Still another dry prairie packs more butterfly weed in its one acre than we'll find in the rest of the Kettle Moraine. Pockets of dry prairies preserve prickly pear cactus, milk vetch, downy gentian, goat's rue, wild indigo, stiff gentian and green milkweed.

On ridgetop and hillside prairies, some bur oak openings are home to the rare kitten tails and white camass. Prior to settlement, oak openings were the dominant plant community of the Kettle Moraine. Today, they are one of our rarest plant communities.

In retrospect, it's unfortunate that more of the Kettle Moraine's unique plants and animals were not spared 100 years of human settlement. That should double our resolve to work diligently at preserving these few remaining living treasures, these unique dry places in a developing world. ■



Dry prairies preserve the stiff gentian (*Gentiana quinquefolia*). Photo by the author

Continued from page 1

I used to come to school smellin' like a rat, too."

He had some serious times, too. In fact, Harley MacKenzie was an early environmentalist. In 1920, as a fledgling conservation warden, MacKenzie threatened a Wisconsin paper mill with a lawsuit if the firm didn't limit waste discharges he thought caused a massive fish kill. His grit forced the mill to clean up its act.

MacKenzie, a Wisconsin native, died in 1979 at the age of 91, following 30-plus years of state public service, a career that influenced resource management in Wisconsin and helped make our state a U.S. leader in resource preservation. That dedication was honored this past April when MacKenzie was inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame, a memorial whose honorees include John Muir.

A fitting tribute but, truth be told, not MacKenzie's first. In 1971, the Conservation Education Center near Poynette was renamed the MacKenzie Environmental Center to recognize MacKenzie for founding, building and nurturing the State Experimental Game and Fur Farm of which the center was an offshoot. Also, MacKenzie's been honored for years by Poynette residents. He's a native son and served his community as a Park Board member, village president and member of the Columbia County Board.

MacKenzie was a likeable, outdoorsy young man who gave his parents presents like trees — dozens of them — most of which he planted. MacKenzie loved trees. During his career, he helped launch the state forestry mill tax. He bought and begged trees from across the United States to plant in the hills around the game farm. On retiring, MacKenzie listed 500-plus species of trees and shrubs on the grounds — more than any other arboretum west of Boston at that time.

MacKenzie began his career as a seasonal warden for northern Wisconsin in 1910, then climbed the

ladder:

- First Chief Warden of the state Conservation Department, 1925 to 1934. He set high standards for the Wisconsin warden force, promoting professional qualifications and a retirement system.

- Director of the Conservation Department, 1934 to 1942. He helped found the Conservation Congress as an advisory council to the Conservation Commission (Natural Resources Board's predecessor). He merged several game operations into one state conservation center and game farm (Poynette). Under his leadership, the state created ranger stations and focused department energy on controlling fires. The state acquired the Northern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest and Horicon marshlands, in part due to MacKenzie's efforts. He pushed conservation education and began the first federal aid projects for wildlife research and management.

MacKenzie built *esprit de corps* too, writing "Take me back to old Wisconsin," a song adopted by the Conservation Commission as the official tune of the commission and department. MacKenzie proved himself a versatile writer, penning the first state warden manual in 1929 and pieces for the *Wisconsin Conservation Bulletin* for six years.

After retiring in 1942, MacKenzie could often be found strolling the grounds of his cherished Poynette game farm. Today, visitors to the MacKenzie Environmental Education Center form their own bonds with the grounds, viewing Wisconsin animals, hiking (two of the seven nature trails are accessible to disabled people), exploring an arboretum and climbing a real fire tower. By reservation, student groups are welcomed, and a resident center can be used for overnight class visits; workshops are also regularly scheduled for teachers. Drop-in day visitors, including tourists, are welcomed year-round. For more information, contact the MacKenzie Environmental Education Center, W7303, Cty Hwy CS, Poynette, WI 53955; (608) 635-4498. ■

—Richard Mulhern, editorial assistant



Illustration by Jeanne Gomoll

Run, walk or roll for wildlife

Here's a chance for family and friends to put a little muscle behind their love for wildlife.

A competitive fun run is slated for Saturday, October 8 at Potawatomi State Park, Sturgeon Bay. Ten- and five-kilometer races in men's and women's divisions are planned, with proceeds going to DNR's Endangered Resources program. The program protects and manages Wisconsin's endangered plants and animals, nongame wildlife, rare habitats and natural areas.

Age divisions are 19 and younger, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, and 60 and older. Wheelchair users can compete in the 10-kilometer event. All finishers will receive a commemorative T-shirt — 10-K winners will receive trophies; 5-K winners will receive ribbons.

Entry fees are \$8 for those registering by October 1; \$10 for later registrants. For more information, call Arnie Lindauer: (414) 743-8869. Registration forms may be obtained by writing: DNR, ER/4, Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.

Readers Write



I enjoyed the well-written, interesting and to the point "Lucky Lake Onalaska" article in the March/April issue. Such cooperation between the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Transportation is so important as we strive to develop transportation facilities that are compatible with and enhance the environment.

Ronald R. Fiedler
Secretary of Transportation
State of Wisconsin

Page 25 of the May/June WNR shows a "newfangled water rake" to remove lake weeds by hand. Where can I get one?

John Kuehne, Mt. Prospect, IL

The aqua weed cutter is available, for a price, through the Handy Marketing Company, 4394 Airwest St., S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49508; telephone (616) 698-8335.

Congratulations! You publish a terrific magazine, and today I wanted you to know how much I — and my 60 piano students — enjoy it.

I would especially like to thank you for the best ever article. Dave Leshuk's creative, exciting and enthusiastic writing about one of our greatest naturalists, John Muir, deserves a special award.

With such quality reading, the magazine gets loaned out to my students time and again.

Betty Hansen
Racine, WI

I have read with interest the March/April story about sugaring in Wisconsin and would like to know where I could get some taps for trees. I have permission to tap about 100 trees that are about 150 years old. They were tapped about 50 years ago but not since.

Bob Townsend
Janesville, WI

You may want to contact Wisconsin's Mr. Maple, Lynn Reynolds. Featured in the story as a leader in the sugaring industry, he can be reached at the Reynolds' Sugar Bush, Maple Road, Aniwa, WI 54408; telephone (715) 449-2057.

The photo by Enoch Reindahl on page 11 of the May/June issue is not of a piping plover but rather an upland plover. The pose is characteristic of the bird as it lands on a stump or fencepost; after a few seconds it usually folds down its wings.

When I was growing up in the '30s and '40s in southeast Outagamie County, I observed many of this species. Now, I live in Stevens Point, and I have regularly observed these birds in southwest Portage County.

John F. Weiler
Stevens Point, WI

Indeed, the bird is not *Charadrius melodus*, commonly known as the piping plover, but rather *Bartramia longicauda*. However, birders' common names for their quarry are almost as flighty as the birds themselves. The American Ornithologist's Union now lists this species

NEXT ISSUE:

Wisconsin Butterflies
Pheasants
State Tree Nurseries

as upland sandpiper, not upland plover.

Now, take a closer look at the nestlings pictured on the May/June back cover. They are not great egrets, *Casmerodius albus*, as identified there, but are probably Least bitterns, *Ixobrychus exilis*.

These identification problems are reminiscent of walking through the woods with a European forester: "A big oak," I observe. "What's that?" he questions. "A big oak," I repeat. "Oh," he nods disappointingly, "I thought you said the American name."

I am a freshman in high school and am very interested in photography. The January/February photography article was very useful in helping me select a camera. I enjoy WNR wildlife photos, especially those in the watchable wildlife issue. My compliments to WNR photographers.

Kim Ellis, Patch Grove, WI

Thank you. Now, hit us with your best shots! Many WNR photographers are just like you, interested people with cameras. WNR primarily uses black and white prints or transparencies.

The last few years, I have noticed an alarming population depletion of various bird species. The chipping sparrow has not nested in the cedar for two years. Also in that time, no brown thrasher has been imitating other birds from a perch high in the maple. The catbird didn't return last year, and I haven't seen the goldfinches, which love the Chinese elm seeds, all this year. I have noticed fewer indigo bunting, kingbird and many others. My friends agree that they see fewer birds than in former years, except for English sparrows and starlings. If Rachel Carson's Silent Spring has not arrived, the season is at least considerably subdued.

Chuck Gruentzel, Gillett, WI

I just received my first two issues of WNR. I'm impressed! This is a magazine my whole family can enjoy.

After watching robins build and rebuild nests on our window ledge for several years, my eight-year-old son especially liked the "Beloved statesman" article.

Mary A. Lind
Princeton, WI

We enjoy hearing from you. . .

Please address your cards, letters, manuscripts, art and photos to: Wisconsin Natural Resources, Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.

Fisherwomen

A summary of responses to WNR's women and fishing opinionnaire.

THANK YOU! Nearly 500 women from all around Wisconsin and a few from elsewhere — women who fish and a few who don't, but whose lives are nonetheless affected by fishing — responded to the "women and fishing" opinionnaire that WNR published last summer. Your comments were often heartwarming, sometimes humorous and always thought provoking.

Who are you?

You're mostly in your 30s and 40s, working, married with children — and active.

Some of you didn't want to be too specific about your age — like the woman who is "over 40, under 50." Yet, almost one-fifth of the respondents fit into this age category. More than half of you are 30 to 50. The remainder was split between those younger than 30 (20 percent) and those over 50 (28 percent). From the 14-year-old who's working part-time as a baby sitter to the part-time working woman in her mid-70s, respondents employed for pay outnumbered those who aren't by more than two to one.

Three-quarters of you are married. About 10 percent had been married, but are now separated, divorced or widowed. Almost two-thirds of you have children — two-thirds, that is, if we count the woman who listed her "big dog" as a child, or the woman who filled in "husband" in the blank for "children over 17."

Most of you said that you fish for the chance to experience nature up close and to enjoy the social aspects of the sport, but there were a few for whom "catching the BIG ONE" out-

stripped all other reasons to wet a line.

Generally, you learned how to fish when you were a child, usually with the help of a father, grandfather, brother, uncle, husband or friend. Many of you commented that you learned to fish as a child and your angling education continues through adulthood.

Many of you who have enjoyed fishing for years are interested in teaching others about the joys of angling. Your names have been passed on to Tammy Peterson, DNR's Aquatic Education Coordinator.

Overwhelmingly, you strongly disagreed with the statement that "fishing is a man's sport!"

Here are some of the comments you made about the sport you're hooked on:

On creature comforts: "One problem with women and fishing is the lack of *bathroom facilities* — especially in mixed company!"

"[We need] good outhouses at popular fishing spots and boat landings."

"Perhaps a lot of women have been turned off by fishing because they have been expected to go out in miserable weather and/or before dawn. Most may also find it tedious to sit in a boat for long hours when there is no action."

On decisionmaking while fishing: "I had a chance to really think and made some of my hardest decisions [while fishing]. All of those decisions turned out to be the best ones I have ever made."

"If all goes well, I'll soon be a resident of your state. During the last 10 years, I've spent 500 hours per year fishing in Wisconsin."

On druthers: "While I appreciate the need for and benefit of accessible urban fishing sites, they don't fulfill my need for solitude and quiet."

"I would like to see water-skiing controlled at the fishing times of the day."

On family: "My parents took me and my brothers and sisters (eight of us) fishing at a very young age."

"[When we fished] my father and mother were both in the boat even though Mom was deathly afraid of boats as she could not swim."

"My parents knew it was true love when I showed him all the closely guarded secret family trout fishing spots."

On your favorite fish: "I especially enjoy muskie encounters."

"Walleyes are much more fun."

"Brookies in a tiny, almost hidden stream."

On gearing up: "As for fishing equipment, I still use a folding cane pole, and I'll put that up against any fly rod or what have you. It's hard to teach an old lady new tricks, especially when she does okay with the old ones."

"There're some big bucks to be spent by us fishing women that the manufacturers aren't capitalizing on. I get excited just finding long underwear with flowers." At least one entrepreneur wants to cash in; she's: "gathering statistics on Wisconsin consumers and what women look for in sport shops."

On going it alone: "When I go fishing, I get my own tackle ready, get my own bait, load my boat on my truck by myself, pick out the fishing spot by myself, put the boat in by myself, bait my own hooks, land my own fish. I'm very cautious, though,

about meeting people while out fishing alone."

"Being female and alone, you're putting yourself in a vulnerable situation out there with just a fishing rod and a few lures."

On fishing heirlooms: "My mother and I enjoy trout fishing and eagerly await opening day in May. She will be 81 years young this spring and has never missed the season's opening, that I can recall."

"I am curious to go through my deceased grandmother's tacklebox and try out her rods."

On being in the fishes' world: "I'm a bit of a fanatic when it comes to SCUBA diving. I'd rather be underwater with the fish than on top [of the water]. I'd rather photograph a fish."

On license fees and regulations: "Fishing is a sport for people with time on their hands, but children and older people can fish for free while those of us in our working years have to pay for a license even if we seldom use it."

"People should be able to fish from their own shoreline without a license. After all, we pay a lot of property taxes."

"I would like to see DNR obtain more tax funding, so that it would not have to rely so heavily on license fees."

"Simplify them."

On motherly views: "It was easier having a baby than bringing in that muskie."

"My biggest fishing thrill was watching my teen-age son carefully release the first muskie he ever caught because it was an inch under size. He didn't even suggest keeping it."

On being your father's daughter: "Trout fishing was my dad's passion, and he wanted me to learn. My dad and I still fish as often as we can, 30 years later."

"I feel badly that my dad took me fishing only three times in my whole life, while he took my brothers (what seems like) hundreds of times. This in spite of the fact that I begged to go too!"

On rest and relaxation: "I'm a nervous person, but when I go fishing I forget I ever had a problem, relax and fully enjoy life."

"Fishing is feeling all there is to feel on a good day, but even the stormy ones are fun."

"If I didn't get wet, dirty, hot, sweaty or cold, I didn't have fun."

On sibling revelries: "My grandmother and her three sisters (in their seventies) still take fishing and camping trips as a group!"

"I have two sisters, who are in their 60s. For several years now, we have gone on a three-day fishing trip up north in late fall. We rent a cabin and dine out after fishing all day. For three days, *no* cooking, telephones, alarm clocks, nagging husbands or football games."

On social riffs: "Fishing is more fun when you're with people of the same capability as you are."

"It's hard to find other couples where the woman is an avid outdoorsperson along with her husband."

"Of all the women I know (co-workers, friends, neighbors, church associates), only *two* besides myself do any fishing at all."

"Went to Conservation Congress public hearings and women's comments seemed to be ignored. We need some women on those citizen advisory boards."

On spouses: "My husband cut out the opinionnaire for me to complete."

"I wasn't interested in fishing at all until I was married. Now I love to fish with my husband."

"As my husband will tell you, I'm his best fishing pal."

"The 17-footer was a bare hull, and my husband custom built the interior to serve our very personal fishing and casting requirements, based on our 45 years of fishing experience together."

"My husband stays out in the boat *too* long and ignores the bugs, which I can tolerate for just so long."

"When I married, my husband had never fished. My wedding present to him was a rod and reel, and our honeymoon was spent [fishing] on a little

island in Canada's Lake of the Woods."

"His enthusiasm and participation and general conversation regarding sport fishing is more than enough for the two of us."

"My husband isn't much of a fisherman, but I fish every day."

On fishing stories: "During our dating years, my husband and I spent many a date fishing. On one such fishing trip, he offered to change baits for me. Not paying a lot of attention to what he had done, I threw out the bait and reeled in my line to find an engagement ring attached carefully to a swivel hook!"

"I enjoyed catching fish so much that I acquired the name 'Rod Hog!' As a matter of fact, three weeks after hysterectomy surgery, I went out and caught a 21-pound lake trout!"

"A 12-year-old grandchild and I were fishing panfish when I hooked a muskie. It swallowed my bluegill. We had it on 8-pound test line for 45 minutes. During this time my 5- and 7-year-old grandchildren were following the muskie in a paddle boat. (They could see the bobber on the line under the water.) It looked like a circus on the lake. I lost the fish."

On being a pro angler: "My father operated a resort along with a guiding service for many years. At the tender age of 12, I began guiding fishermen on my own. I guided every summer, which enabled me to pay the greatest share of my college expenses."

"I have been giving seminars and talks on fishing, and many of these are for women."

On tips for angling: "My mom always hums a tune while she's fishing. I've come upon her, after fishing with no luck myself, and there she is just humming away, with two or three nice brook trout in her basket."

"Fish love music, especially Country and Western."

Women of all ages share the thrill of the catch and some quiet conversation.

Photo by Donald F. Faust

