



Stewardship: a fund for the future. [Supplement, Vol. 14, No. 1] [February 1990]

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STEWARDSHIP: A FUND FOR THE FUTURE

Welcome to the last decade of the 20th century. A lot is going to happen in Wisconsin during this 10-year period: The sun, for instance, will rise over the shores of Lake Michigan and set behind the bluffs of the Mississippi River 3,652 times. The forces of wind and rain will wear down the quartzite cliffs surrounding Devil's Lake approximately .000032 of an inch. And you'll have more miles of bike trails to ride, cleaner rivers to canoe, pleasanter cities to inhabit, better opportunities for fishing and hunting, and more thriving plant and animal species with which to share this small corner of Earth.

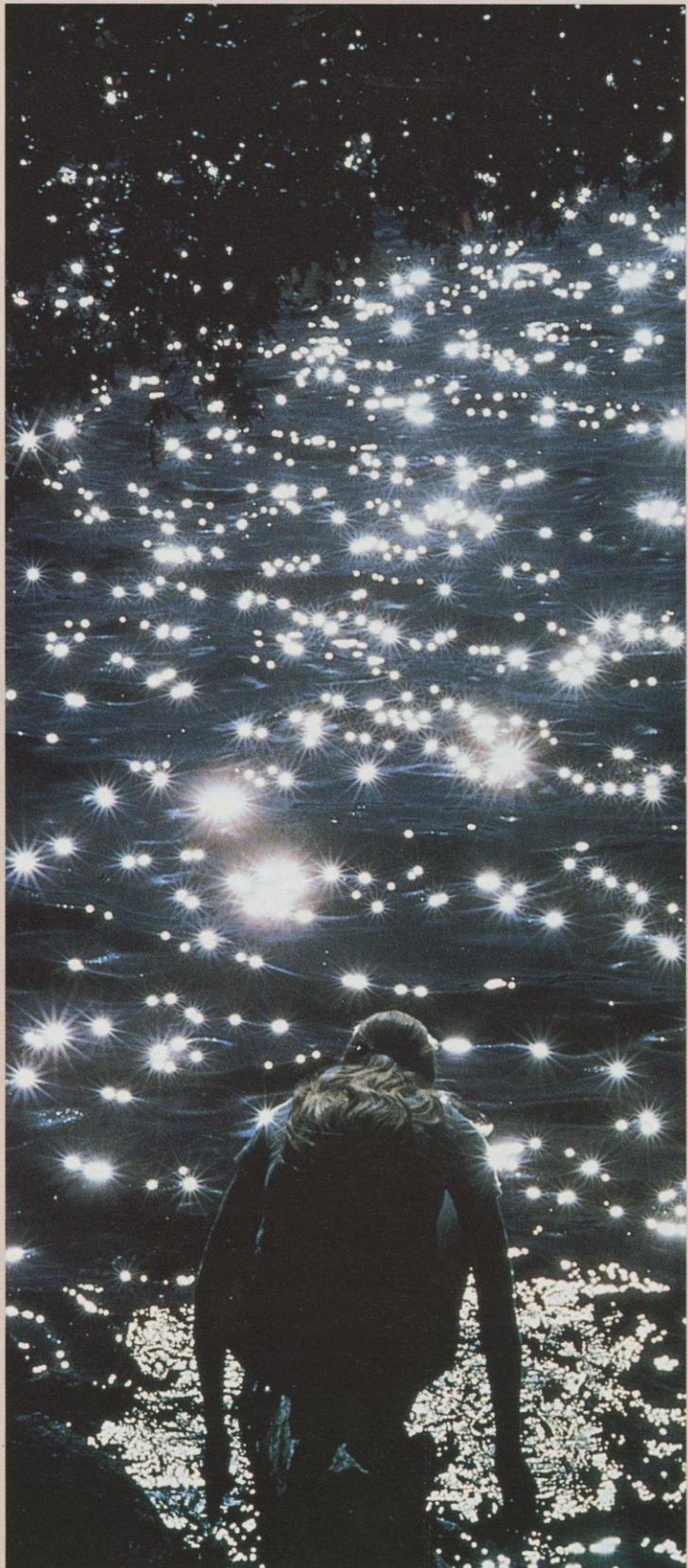
The first two events will occur without human assistance. The last five, however, require a commitment of time, effort and money. To that end, the 1989 Wisconsin Legislature created the Stewardship Program — a 10-year, \$250 million fund that will make the 1990s a landmark decade for conservation.

Stewardship is rooted in recommendations for protecting environmentally sensitive areas, acquiring recreational lands and maintaining state recreational opportunities. A special legislative committee that reviewed the Department of Natural Resources' progress toward these goals concurred: It was time to take on new challenges and find new ways to involve local governments, conservation groups and rural landowners in the management of Wisconsin's land resources. Why? Because the job is too big and too important for one state agency to handle alone. Moreover, it was time to expand ORAP — the Outdoor Recreation Action Program first started in 1961, which provided much of the state's funding for parks and recreation.

The Stewardship Program is funded through general obligation borrowing: The state of Wisconsin sells bonds to investors now to raise money, then pays back the debt with taxes collected over the next 20 years. That way, the cost is spread out over time and can be shared with future users of public lands and outdoor facilities.

Ambitious and comprehensive, Stewardship covers nine major areas. In each, there's a place for you to help preserve and enhance Wisconsin land for the 1990s and beyond.

Thanks to Stewardship, we can look forward with anticipation to a cleaner, healthier environment.



CHRIS MATTISON

TRAIRS

From Elroy to Sparta, along the Mississippi and across the Military Ridge, Wisconsin has led the nation in building recreational trails for bicycling, hiking, horse riding, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. Stewardship provides \$1 million annually to plan and develop new trails and maintain existing routes; the goal is to enhance the statewide system of trails and link existing trails where possible. Conservation groups and town and county governments are welcome to participate in every phase of trail development and construction. An additional \$500,000 per year will help Wisconsin blaze its portion of the Ice Age Trail, a National Scenic Trail that will extend 1,000 miles from Interstate State Park in St. Croix Falls to Potawatomi State Park in Sturgeon Bay when complete.



P. NORTON

Bike or hike, ski or snowmobile -- you can do it all on Wisconsin's extensive system of trails!



HABITAT RESTORATION AREAS

There are two things a growing human population demands: space to live and food to eat. Wildlife and fish have the same requirements. To satisfy our needs, thousands of acres of prairie and wetlands have been intensively farmed or developed for housing, commerce and industry. In the name of progress, we've destroyed the habitat of many other species.

To correct past errors, \$1.5 million will be used from Stewardship each year to restore wetlands and grasslands throughout the state. The Department of Natural Resources will establish regional habitat restoration areas and encourage private landowners or non-profit organizations that maintain the land for a property owner to adopt land management practices favorable to wildlife. DNR may share the costs of establishing grass cover for nesting, removing drain tiles to recreate wetlands and other improvements. Part of the money will be used to purchase easements — the rights to specific, limited uses on privately owned land. If a landowner wishes to donate an easement for wildlife habitat and the gift is accepted, the Department of Natural Resources will spend an amount equal to the property's value to restore habitat in the same region.

NEAL NIEMUTH

Improving habitat for bitterns and other birds and wildlife is one of the goals of the Stewardship Program.

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

What makes a trip to one of Wisconsin's 72 state parks or forests so enjoyable? The spectacular scenery ranks first, of course. Easy-access boat launches, clean campsites and beaches, attractive outdoor pavilions, marsh boardwalks, stream bridges and informative nature centers run a close second. Stewardship allocates \$3.5 million each year to the Department of Natural Resources to maintain and upgrade existing parks and other properties. Some of the money will be used to add new amenities — camp showers, paved roads, electrical hook-ups and the like — in selected parks and recreation areas.



Outdoor recreation is important, whether it's kayaking on whitewater or conquering a jungle gym.



Stewardship grants can be used to make the outdoors accessible to everyone.

LOCAL PARK AIDS

Wisconsin's state parks are swell, but sometimes you'd rather play in your own backyard. To keep the swingsets swinging, the pools heated, the baseball diamonds sparkling and the merry-go-rounds merrily going around, Stewardship sets aside \$2.25 million every year for local governments to develop and improve community parks and acquire additional land for recreation. Up to 50 percent of the cost will be paid by the state with the remaining part paid by the municipality.

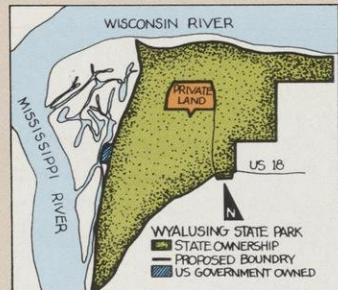
URBAN GREEN SPACE

Wisconsin municipalities will get a little closer to nature with a little help from Stewardship. Cities and counties will find \$750,000 earmarked yearly to purchase open, undeveloped land or buy rights to open lands within their boundaries. The grants cover 50 percent of property costs to protect scenic or ecological sites from development or to keep an expanse of open space near an urban area. Downtown green thumbs take note: The grants can be used to acquire land for noncommercial gardens to be tilled, planted, weeded and harvested by urban residents.

GENERAL LAND ACQUISITION

When a state park (or forest, hunting ground or recreation area) is planned, a map showing the desired borders for the whole project is drawn. Often, not all of the land proposed for the project is up for sale. The Department of Natural Resources purchases the property available within the mapped boundaries, then buys additional parcels to fill out the borders as they come on the market.

Over 250,000 acres of land within established DNR parks and other recreation areas are still privately owned. Stewardship offers \$8.6 million annually for the purchase of these lands. To provide for future needs, 20 percent of the general acquisition funds will be spent on new con-



servation and recreation projects.

To encourage people who own parcels within the boundaries of a state park, forest or recreation area to donate their property, Stewardship requires the Department of Natural Resources to match the dollar value of the donated land. That money must be used to acquire land within the boundaries of the same project for which the land was donated.

NATURAL AREAS

The Wisconsin landscape has experienced dramatic changes in the 150 years since intensive settlement began; only scattered remnants remain of the plant and animal communities that developed following the melting of the glaciers 12,000 years ago. These small but precious natural areas are often the last refuge for rare and endangered species and may contain unique geological or archaeological features. Wisconsin conservationists have worked for four decades to protect the sites for posterity.

Stewardship provides \$1.5 annually to DNR's Natural Areas Program to purchase land or water with special scientific or educational value. An additional \$500,000 will supplement the Wisconsin Natural Heritage Area Match Grant Program: Private donations of land, easements or funds to the Natural Areas Program are matched dollar-for-dollar by the Department of Natural Resources to encourage property owners to preserve choice natural areas.



ROBERT QUEEN

Irreplaceable natural areas receive an extra measure of protection under the Stewardship Program.

STREAMBANK PROTECTION

The desire to improve and protect water quality in state lakes and streams led legislators to commit \$1 million from Stewardship every year for the Department of Natural Resources to acquire easements along streambanks. The easements (at least 66 feet wide on either side of the stream wherever possible) will serve as filters and buffers, preventing agricultural or urban runoff from muddying the waters and ruining fish habitat. DNR can pay the cost of fencing necessary to protect streams on which easements have been acquired.

If a landowner chooses to donate an easement, so much the better — the Department of Natural Resources then is required to spend funds equal to the dollar value of the donated property for streambank protection on the same stream.

LOWER WISCONSIN RIVERWAY

Stewardship guarantees future generations will have the chance to explore the quiet backwaters and delight in the scenic bluffs along the 92-mile stretch of the Wisconsin River running from Prairie du Sac to Prairie du Chien: \$2 million will be spent each year to buy land on the banks for recreation, wildlife and fishery management and to protect the river's beautiful vistas.

Join the Stew Crew!

The Stewardship Program covers a lot of ground because there's a lot of ground to cover: As you just read, there are natural areas to be saved, prime wildlife and fish habitat to be restored, better parks to build, cities in need of breathing room . . .

The financial resources are here now, but money can't buy the effort required to make Stewardship work. That's why it's time for you to join the "Stew Crew."

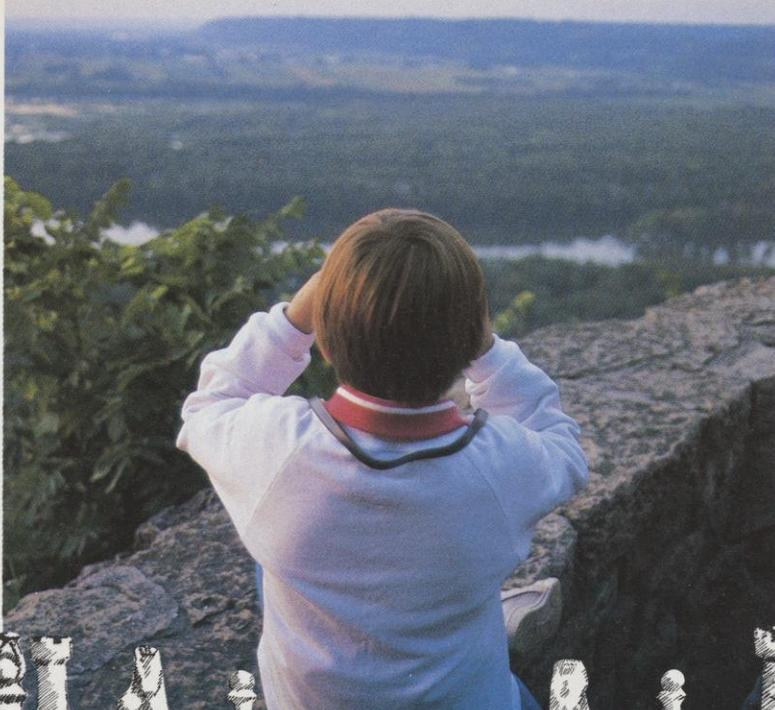
Who's on the crew? Your friends, your neighbors, your colleagues — anybody with an interest in preserving and enjoying Wisconsin's natural resources who belongs to a nonprofit conservation or recreation group. The Legislature has authorized the Department of Natural Resources to award Stewardship grants to qualifying organizations for acquiring and managing land in six of the nine categories detailed here (general land acquisition, property development and Lower Wisconsin Riverway excepted).

The Stewardship Program is new, but the stewardship ethic is a venerable Wisconsin tradition. From early Indian

tribes to pioneering conservationist Aldo Leopold to the thousands of state residents actively involved in protecting natural resources today, the concept that people must care for the land has always been strong here. The Stewardship Program will carry that tradition into the next century.

To find out how your organization can participate, write:
Stewardship Program
Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Property Management
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

For information on conservation groups, write:
Citizen Involvement Program
Conservation-Environmental Network
Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Information and Education
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707



ROBERT QUEEN

A move forward

DNR anticipates tomorrow's resource challenges



A chessboard: The base for one of the oldest, most challenging games devised by humanity. The board represents the Earth; its four corners, the four seasons.

Chess pieces representing people, property and animals move across the board according to a player's plan — a strategy combining prior knowledge, fact and intuition. Strategy is the

essence of chess; without it, a player founders on the whims of chance.

A good strategy is not a rigid pattern of rote moves, but a flexible framework for action, allowing quick response to unforeseen problems. The Department of Natural Resources is guided by such a strategy in its efforts on behalf of the small square of Earth's chessboard called Wisconsin.

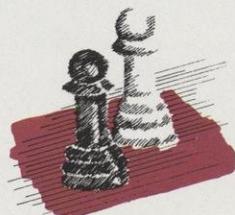
The challenge at hand is no game, of course: It's the very real need to safeguard

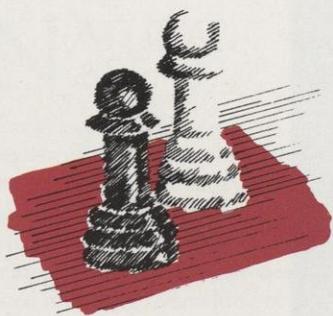
the resources that make life possible, now and for the future.

A strategy, or strategic plan, begins with a mission, a statement of purpose. A chess grandmaster's mission may be to wrest the title from a long-time adversary. In the case of the Department of Natural Resources, the mission is to protect and enhance the wildlife, fish, forests, land, air and waters of the state; to provide all Wisconsin citizens with a clean environment and a full range of outdoor opportunities; and to ensure future

generations will be considered in decisions made today.

Ambitious goals? Certainly ... but not unattainable! After a realistic review of strengths and weaknesses, a strategy to guide DNR employees emerged. It has five basic points.





Sharing responsibility

Because the job of protecting, managing and enhancing Wisconsin's natural resources is too big to do alone, the Department of Natural Resources seeks the assistance of the people it serves, from children to major corporations.

A family recycling its waste, an angler honoring bag and size limits, a farmer planting grass cover for wildlife ... these are just a few of the ways individual citizens make a difference in the quality of the outdoors. Teachers using DNR Project WILD materials have helped

to introduce thousands of children to the joys of nature — a lesson kids will carry all their lives.

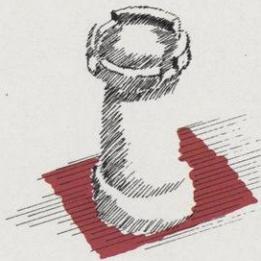
Hundreds of organizations are part of the Conservation Environmental Network, a clearinghouse for the exchange of information set up by the Department of Natural Resources. The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, the Sierra Club and other groups in the network spend time, effort and funds on projects that complement DNR's mission.

Each piece on a chessboard has one purpose: To support the other pieces as all strive toward a common goal. Similarly, we all have a role to play as stewards of our natural heritage.



Learning to recycle waste is a valuable lesson for these youngsters, who will grow up in a world of scarcer resources. By using natural resources wisely and producing less waste now, we set an important example for future generations.

ROBERT QUEEN



Preventing problems

Techniques to gain advantage are part of any strategy, whether they're used during a chess game or as a means to protect the environment.

The Department of Natural Resources competes against time: A wetland drained in a matter of weeks takes years to restore. Toxic sediments settling in a harbor over several decades cannot be swept away in an afternoon. An endangered species suffers a lengthy, costly convalescence while it is nursed back to health.

To thwart the clock, part of DNR's strategic plan is to

change attitudes, decisions and policies so problems won't occur at all.

Businesses, for instance, are encouraged to prevent pollution by using manufacturing processes that produce less waste. Paper companies can use a new, cleaner method of pulping hardwood to save time, materials, energy and money. By practicing good field management, farmers stop precious soil from eroding into streams and destroying fish habitat. Citizens who insist upon sensible, controlled development in their communities can do a lot to sidetrack future difficulties such as groundwater pollution and soil loss.

Simply reacting to resource problems gives time a big advantage. Acting to prevent them puts time on our side.



Interdisciplinary management

A chess grandmaster doesn't play the whole game with just one piece; such a strategy would ensure defeat. The knights, bishops, rooks, pawns and the king and queen are a team.

What makes a team strong? A diversity of skills coupled with a common purpose. To enhance the strength of the DNR team, the agency seeks to bring together people who can combine their knowledge for the benefit of all.

DNR's Division for Environmental Quality, for in-



Cleaning up contaminated river sediments is more than a one-person job. Researchers, environmental engineers, water-quality technicians, fish and wildlife biologists, state legislators, local government officials and citizens must work together to tackle problems without boundaries. ROBERT QUEEN

stance, set up an interdisciplinary technological team for pesticide management, drawing on employees from around the state with backgrounds in forestry, wildlife, fisheries, research, technical applications, and water resources; representatives from the Audubon Society and the Public Intervenor's Office were also part of the team. The team developed guidelines for the use and disposal of pesticides.

Just like the rivers they are sworn to protect, DNR employees attempt to move

fluidly, combining and recombining talent and a willingness to work hard as they address the issues at hand while anticipating what's coming around the corner.

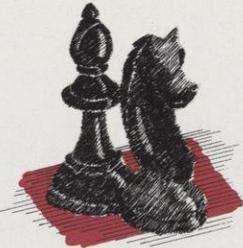


Progressive work climate

Methodical, meticulous? A bold risk-taker? A chess player may be one ... or both ... or neither! DNR

There's only one way to prevent another "silent spring": Speak up! Your opinions and observations can help shape public policy on environmental issues. DNR Secretary C.D. "Buzz" Besadny (top, right) listens while a Wisconsin farmer discusses pesticide application and contour cropping.

(bottom) A Beaver Dam resident shares her views on the condition of a local lake with the Natural Resources Board.



JEAN B. MEYER



DNR PHOTO

employees are no different; each has a distinctive way of working and will be most effective in situations where that style can be freely expressed.

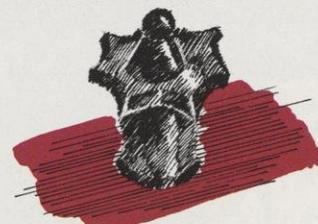
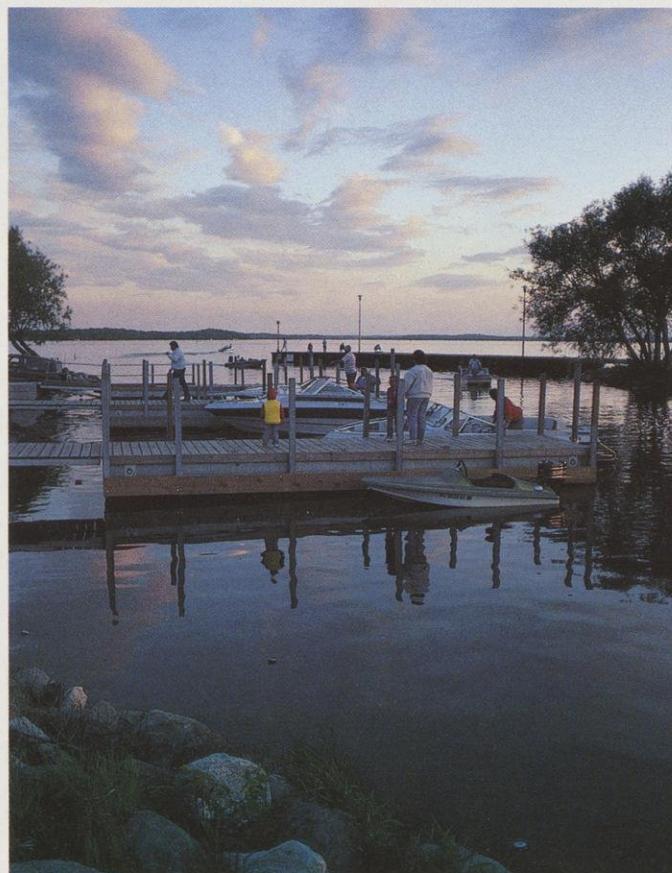
Part of the DNR's strategy is to give employees the support they need, from the

right computer software for analyzing water quality data to the assurance that no idea will be rejected without careful consideration.

Employees are encouraged to think creatively and challenge assumptions; it's the only way to develop efficient solutions that will waste less and do more to protect Wisconsin's natural resources.



Each time we make a move with our natural resources, we must ask: "What are the consequences of this action?" The future is our guide as we protect endangered species, restore the land and provide better public access to Wisconsin waters.



Thinking long range

In a chess match, it's common for the players to think ahead five, 10 or even 20 moves while considering the possible countermoves.

Looking forward is the key to the Department of Natural Resources' strategy. More than any other state agency, the DNR must think about the next generation instead of the next fiscal quarter. Our actions today will have consequences in the next century; they will affect our grandchildren's grandchildren.

This strategic plan is a

broad framework not only for the thoughts and actions of DNR employees, but for every Wisconsin resident as well. It's a means to keep us out of check today while we strive to make tomorrow better.

It's our move.



Sponsored by the DNR Management Team. For more information, contact Mark Stokstad, (608) 267-2442.