

THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

Meeting of October 6, 2021 held at Chalet Landhaus, New Glarus

ARC President Laurel Steffes called the meeting to order at 12:40 pm.

25 people were in attendance. The cost of the meal was \$20.00 for plated weinerschnitzel and green beans, rosti and spatzlie served family style, along with house salad, rolls, beverages and ice cream sundae. The cost included tax, gratuity and a contribution to ARC's treasury.

A moment of silence was observed for friends and family who have passed and for our troops who are serving in harm's way.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Dick Steffes reported a balance for Savings of \$1,069 and Checking \$656.

Recent Expenses:

ARC comped meal for our guest speaker.

\$75 donation to Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin in memory of member Ruth Ann Anderson.

Laurel acknowledged those who contributed to the fundraiser, that allowed ARC to get back "in the black" and continue making donations to NRF.

New Members:

Linda Hanefeld and Mike Vollrath are attending their second meeting and introduced themselves.

Linda started her career with DNR as an LTE for Solid Waste in 1981, she also worked in wastewater for the city of Platteville, returning to DNR full time in 1990. She worked as a wastewater specialist in Northern Region, as a Solid and Hazardous Waste specialist in SCR, and as a hydrogeologist in SCR. She retired in 2017 as the Remediation and Redevelopment supervisor in SCR.

Mike also retired in 2017 with 26.5 years of service. He began working for DNR as the first permanent hire in the Animal Waste section. He worked in a variety of positions and locations notably in Central Office with Wastewater, and in Dodgeville with the small scale animal waste industry. Mike's position at retirement was as Wastewater supervisor in Eau Claire.

Linda and Mike were unanimously voted in. Welcome to the group!

"Frank-n-Miller Report:"

No one present to give a formal report but check ETF website for updates.

Old Business:

Laurel recapped the reason we are now using an online sign-up for the monthly meetings, as there were questions about the cancelation of last month's meeting. Many of the restaurants that Linda Netzer contracts with require a minimum number of guests or they will charge a hefty rental fee to have a private room. In the case of Chalet Landhaus and Maple Tree, they are not normally even open for lunch so appropriate staff must be scheduled and food specially prepared. Our experience using this system so far is that we are getting very close to the exact number of attendees even though a few people may drop out or a few extra show up. So no one should feel that they can't attend if they decide at the last minute, or want to bring along a guest. (Likewise, if you did sign up to come and must cancel, you won't be charged.)

After the deadline date for sign-up, Rick will send out notification letting you know that the meeting is on, or if we didn't meet the minimum, that the meeting is canceled. We will continue to use a reservation system **with payment required** for the picnic and holiday party as those are catered events.

New Business:

Check the NEWS NOW and What's New sections of the ARC website for posting about legislative issues, obituaries, DNR press releases, stories of interest. Other DNR retiree groups in the state have been submitting items/photos which are also posted there. Some of those items: October 12 webinar on Safe Drinking Water, CWD info, Wildlife survey result. Laurel's President's letter also contains lots of interesting information and updates.

Legislative update:

The Wolf hunt and conflict between DNR and legislature is a big issue. Laurel asked if members would be interested to have former wolf biologist Adrien Wydeven attend if he were available. Group would like to have him make a presentation.

Deaths and Illnesses:

Ruth Ann Anderson, formerly with Human Resources, passed away August 30.
Denny Leith, who was the forestry supervisor for Northern Highlands, passed away September 17.
Steve Schram, fisheries biologist for Lake Superior fishery passed away August 2.
Paul Willihnganz retired Human Resources employee for 35 years passed away July 25.

LaVonne O'Malley (wife of Dave O'Malley) is recovering from surgery.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Jim Miller turns 85, Gerry Dorsheid is 84.

Jon and Beverly Warren celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary. Congrats!

Trips:

Rick Wojciak and Mary Jean Huston were in Estes Park Colorado recently. They also went to nearby Rocky Mountain National Park where Rick said the crowds were incredible. He said hiking on the trails was like an Everest climb where people are closely roped together!

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm, program followed.

Laurel Steffes introduced Bette Duff who gave an interesting presentation with personal insights about her work as a research assistant to Rachel Carson in the 1950's while she (Carson) was gathering information for the publication of *Silent Spring*.

The presentation was recorded and is available if you were unable to be at the meeting.