

## Six Decades of Action

*For CNRA's 60th anniversary we look back at our major accomplishments. Founded on the principles of Aldo Leopold, CNRA was Wisconsin's first state conservation organization. Its early accomplishments laid the foundation for today's environmental organizations. Cooperating with these groups allows CNRA to continue to impact a broad array of issues.*

### 1950s

- Worked to establish Wisconsin's first wilderness and scientific area in the Flambeau State Forest
- Developed a roadside vegetation policy to guide installation of electricity in rural areas
- Held a conference on dangers of chemical sprays
- Sued governmental agencies to prevent hunting in Horicon Marsh
- Helped preserve the Menominee old growth forest
- Lobbied for early conservation legislation

### 1960s

- Published scientific data on negative effects of chemicals on the environment
- Initiated action to ban DDT in Wisconsin, subsequently banned throughout the U.S.
- Supported establishment of the Wolf River National Scenic Riverway

### 1970s

- Played a key role in saving the Kickapoo River Valley from damming and development
- Developed a plan to control pollution in the Wisconsin River
- Sued governmental agencies to prevent dewatering of Horicon Marsh
- Sought a restraining order to stop WDNR from poisoning fish in the Tomorrow-Waupaca River
- Developed guidelines for Wisconsin's environmental education program

### 1980s

- Published guidelines leading to stronger state wetland legislation
- Funded International Crane Foundation's first crane count
- Supported creation of Marsh Haven Nature Center
- Served as founding member of the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame (WCHF)

### 1990s

- Participated in long-range planning for Horicon Marsh and surrounding area
- Established and served on the Horicon Marsh Area Coalition
- Initiated and served on WDOT's Roadside Vegetation Management Committee to develop policies for native plants, herbicides and mowing
- Published "Wisconsin's Natural Roadside"
- Supported establishment of prairie nurseries
- Funded outdoor natural areas in schoolyards

### 2000s

- Published "CNRA - The First 50 Years"
- Instituted a small grants program for worthy conservation organizations and causes
- Contributed the remaining 700 prints of Owen Gromme's "Requiem Horicon Marsh" to support the Horicon Marsh International Education Center
- Fought to protect Horicon Marsh's periphery from wind turbines and other non-compatible land uses
- Established a Web site to continue long-term educational efforts to inform the public about important environmental issues and places
- Created an improved design for WCHF gallery
- Supported induction of Lorrie Otto and George Becker into WCHF

## 2011 – Into the Next Decade

*During the last decade CNRA lost many of its long-time leaders: Lorrie Otto, Fred Ott, Katherine and Russell Rill, John Thomson, Harold and Carla Kruse, Ethel Princl, Cy Kabat, and George Becker. We continue to pay tribute to their work. Our treasury remains about \$20,000, mostly dues and interest from a fund derived from sale of Owen Gromme's print "Requiem Horicon Marsh." These funds provide donations, small grants, and outreach efforts to support conservation issues of our founders and present members.*

**Donations.** CNRA promotes activism with annual donations to numerous environmental organizations with goals similar to ours.

**Grant Program.** This year CNRA helped fund five projects with small grants:

**\$500 – Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited**

protection of Mecan River watershed

**\$200 - Driftless Area Land Conservancy**

**\$1000 - Wild Ones** oak savanna restoration

**\$500 - Winnebago Lakes Council** photography conservation education project

**\$320 – Prairie Biotic Research** (carryover from previous \$1000 grant for Wisconsin prairie)

**Education and Outreach.** CNRA maintains a Web site, sends an annual report to members, and invites speakers to its annual meetings. Featured in 2010 were Elward Engle, retired DNR specialist, and the Mecan River water monitoring team.



Joe Pye weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*) a wetland plant, from the Winnebago Lakes Council photography conservation education project:  
<http://winnebago photography.blogspot.com/>

- Photo by Andrew Sabai

## THE CNRA COUNCIL: *Who we are*

**Louise Coumbe**, *Oshkosh*, is a retired teacher who helped develop the school district's outdoor education program.

**Zaiga Freivalds**, *T. Algoma*, works for AmeriCorps as a naturalist for several environmental and school groups.

**Dick Hunt**, *Horicon*, is a retired DNR wetlands research supervisor who remains actively involved in marsh issues.

**Jack Kaspar**, *Oshkosh*, is a retired UWO biology professor with special expertise in spiders and Wisconsin birds.

**Cathy Kaspar**, *Oshkosh*, volunteers as a bird bander and is a docent at the Paine Art Center and Gardens.

**David Kopitzke**, *Richland Center*, is an artist, botanist, lecturer in biological sciences at UW Richland and board member of the Driftless Area Land Conservancy.

**Jim O'Brien**, *Middleton*, is a retired UW Madison Japanese literature and language professor, former Middleton city alderman and member of several land trust boards.

**Lisa Geer Pearson**, *Albany*, is a landscape architect for the WI. Dept. of Admin. with expertise in sustainable design.

**Jan Scalpone**, *Oshkosh*, is a retired planner and active on several conservation boards in Oshkosh and Vilas County.

**Chuck Sturm**, *West Bend*, CEO of Charles Sturm Associates, generously donates his services as treasurer.

**Donna VanBuecken**, *Appleton*, is Ex. Dir. of Wild Ones Natural Landscapers, Inc. with 53 chapters nationwide.

**Don Vorpahl**, *Appleton and Waushara County*, is retired from Lawrence University and a landscape designer who faithfully monitors the Mecan River at his River House.

**Lynn Vorpahl**, *Appleton and Waushara County*, is a retired nurse who promotes conservation issues and natural areas.

**Leonie Vrtilek**, *Fond du Lac*, has spent 50 years keeping CNRA informed about issues related to Horicon Marsh.

**CNRA Advisors** who regularly participate in Council meetings are Richard Barloga, *Milwaukee area biologist and naturalist*; Carol Hale, *Milwaukee activist*; Rumi O'Brien, *Middleton artist, quilter, gardener*; and Olive Thomson, *Mt. Horeb botanist*...

Contact us: 608-239-8375

[www.wisconsin-cnra.org](http://www.wisconsin-cnra.org)

## AFFILIATIONS

We encourage CNRA members to support these organizations with missions similar to ours:

- Aldo Leopold Foundation
- Bat Conservation International
- Citizens for Scenic Wisconsin
- Driftless Area Land Conservancy
- Friends of Horicon Marsh
- Friends of Pheasant Branch
- International Crane Foundation
- Marsh Haven Nature Center
- River Alliance of Wisconsin
- Rock River Coalition
- The Prairie Enthusiasts
- 1000 Friends of Wisconsin
- Wild Ones Natural Landscapers
- Winnebago Lakes Council
- Wisconsin Acad. of Sciences, Arts and Letters
- Wisconsin Wetlands Association
- Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame

## THE CNRA COUNCIL

President – *Lisa Geer*

Vice-President – *Jan Scalpone*

Secretary – *Zaiga Freivalds*

Treasurer – *Chuck Sturm*

Membership – *Louise Coumbe*

Councilors – *Dick Hunt, Jack Kaspar, Cathy Kaspar, David Kopitzke, Jim O'Brien, Donna Van Buecken, Don Vorpahl, Lynn Vorpahl, Leonie Vrtilek*

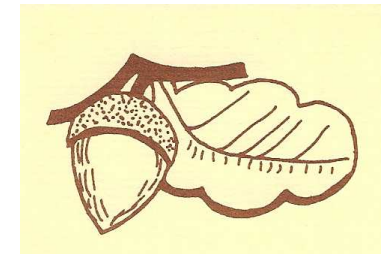


CNRA grants helped fund native prairie surrounding the WILD Center, Neenah, national headquarters of Wild Ones Natural Landscapers

-Photo by  
*Donna Van Buecken*

# CNRA ANNUAL REPORT

*60th Anniversary*  
1951 - 2011



**Citizens Natural Resources  
Association  
of Wisconsin**

*For the preservation, management and  
restoration of Wisconsin's natural resources*