

SUBJECT: Retirement Resolutions

FOR: APRIL 2012 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY / TITLE: Cathy Stepp, Secretary

SUMMARY:

The Department requests the following employees be recognized and commended for faithful and exemplary public service:

Employee	Years of Service
1. Stewart J. Smith	29
2. Daniel L. Thill	32

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Retirement Resolutions for April 2012

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

- | | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------|----------|
| No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Fiscal Estimate Required | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Background Memo | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |

APPROVED:

Bureau Director, n/a

Date

Administrator, n/a

Date

Secretary, Cathy Stepp

Date
4/12/12

cc: NRB Liaison
DNR Rules Coordinator

Retirement Resolution

Stewart J. Smith retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on April 2, 2012 after serving more than 29 years with the State of Wisconsin.

Stew was born and raised in Antigo, where he spent countless hours on the trout streams in Langlade County fishing with his father James Smith. Stew and his father were charter members of the Antigo Chapter of Trout Unlimited and based on that involvement, Stew has had the honor of presenting the James Smith Trout Unlimited Scholarship to aspiring UW Stevens Point Natural Resources students from the Antigo area. Stew was hired as a Fisheries LTE during the summer of 1979. He worked in this position, doing habitat work on area trout waters through 1984.

On January 7, 1985 Stew was hired as a Conservation Warden and worked with Field Training Wardens throughout the State of Wisconsin. Stew was assigned to the Wisconsin Rapids station in March of 1986 where he served his entire career.

Stew especially enjoyed working with "want to be" Wardens. This included ride-alongs, Deputy Wardens, Student Law Enforcement students from UW Stevens Point, Recruit Wardens and Interns. Stew trained numerous interns starting in the 1990s until his retirement, with most of the internships being a year long. Stew's former interns are working for various natural resource agencies and several are Wisconsin Conservation Wardens. Stew assisted the training section with Recruit Wardens in hands on scenario training held in Wood County, where Stew developed hunting scenarios that were used for several years. Stew served on numerous interview panels for the hiring of Conservation Wardens, Wildlife, Fisheries, Forestry, Water Regulation and Environmental personnel over the years.

Stew liked giving presentations at hundreds of recreational safety classes during his career. Stew helped certify thousands of successful graduates and talked about the safety and ethical aspects of hunting, trapping, boating, snowmobiling and ATVs. Stew was heavily involved in the Safety Instructor Appreciation Banquet that is held in Wood County every two years.

Stew worked with numerous outdoor organizations that sponsor Outdoor Youth and Learn to Hunt events. Groups included the Kiwanis, Ruffed Grouse Society, National Archery in the Schools Program, and the Nekoosa Walleye Days Kids fishing contest. Stew was part of the Sandhill Skills Center Learn to Hunt program from its inception 21 years ago.

In 1996, Stew received a Chief's award for the investigation and successful prosecution at trial of a complicated case involving a farmer that had been killing deer out of season. Stew was awarded the West Central Region Outstanding Public Education award in 2001, the Warden of the Year plaque from the Wisconsin Trappers Association in 2003, and the West Central Region Outstanding Investigation award in 2005.

WHEREAS, Stewart J. Smith has served the people of the State of Wisconsin faithfully and well in the performance of his duties and thus has earned the commendation due an exemplary public employee;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its April meeting at Madison, Wisconsin, recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, CHAIR

Retirement Resolution

Daniel L. Thill retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on March 2nd, 2012, with over 32 years of dedicated service to the people and the State of Wisconsin.

Dan started his career in October, 1979 at the Grantsburg Ranger Station in Burnett County as a Seasonal Natural Resource Assistant 1 (Forest Fire Control Assistant-Trainee).

On April 21st, and 22nd, 1980, Dan operated a tractor plow on both the Ekdall Church Fire in Burnett County and the Oak Lake Fire in Washburn County. These historic fires burned 4,654 and 11,418 acres respectively. These were only the second and third fires Dan operated a tractor plow on in his young career.

In November, 1980 his position changed from seasonal to permanent. In April of 1981 Dan's Trainee position was re-classed to Forest Fire Control Assistant 1. In August of 1981 Dan transferred to the Babcock Ranger Station in Wood County. After a brief time in Babcock, Dan accepted a promotion as a Forest Fire Control Assistant 2 and in February of 1982, transferred to the Webster Ranger Station in Burnett County.

In December of 1989, Dan transferred to a Ranger position on the Governor Knowles State Forest working out of the Grantsburg Ranger Station. Dan's position on the Governor Knowles State Forest was re-allocated in February of 1995 to Facility Repair Worker and again in February of 1998 to Ranger 1. Then in October of 2002, Dan accepted a promotion as a Natural Resource Property Supervisor, becoming the Superintendent of the Governor Knowles State Forest.

Over the years, Dan developed many positive relationships with various users and neighbors of the State Forest. These relationships have resulted in a number of land acquisitions, adding valuable acres to the State Forest. Dan has also worked hand in hand with the Equestrian Friends of the Governor Knowles State Forest resulting in a shared partnership creating the Trade River Equestrian Campground and many miles of associated trails.

Dan has proven his dedication to his work, handling a multitude of sometimes difficult situations. Dan's early career was noted by his work on a couple of the largest, most destructive and dangerous forest fires this State has experienced in the last 50 years. Then, near the end of Dan's career, his dedication was tested and proven once again when on the evening of July 1st 2011, a devastating straight line wind storm hit 6 counties in northwest Wisconsin, testing the resolve of all who live and work here. This storm obliterated the St. Croix Campground and many miles of hiking trails and set up hundreds of acres of wind damaged timber for salvage harvest.

So Dan, on behalf of the people you have served, your coworkers, the Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry and the State of Wisconsin, we thank you for your friendship and years of service and we wish you all the best in your retirement.

WHEREAS, Dan Thill has served the people of the State of Wisconsin faithfully and well in the performance of duties and has thus earned the commendation due an exemplary public employee;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Natural Resources Board at its April 2012 meeting at Madison, Wisconsin, recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Dan a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, CHAIR