

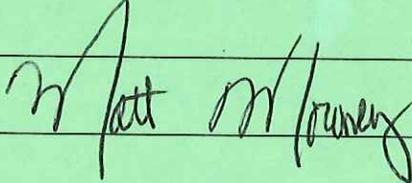
**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Board Agenda Item**

SUBJECT: Retirement resolutions**FOR:** OCTOBER 2012 Board meeting**TO BE PRESENTED BY:** Secretary Stepp

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

Employee	Years of Service
1. David R. Christenson	35
2. Ronald S. Zalewski	28

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board adopt the retirement resolution for October 2012.

Approved by	Signature	Date
, Bureau Director N/A		
, Administrator N/A		
Cathy Stepp, Secretary		10/3/12

cc: Board Liaison - AD/8

Retirement Resolution

David "Dave" R Christenson retired from the Department of Natural Resources on March 11, 2011 with 35+ years of dedicated service to the State of Wisconsin.

In the spring of 1975, Dave graduated from the University of Wisconsin-- River Falls with a bachelor degree in Scientific Land Management. Fresh out of college, on June 2, 1975 he was hired in a Seasonal position at Nekoosa as a Natural Resources Assistant 1 -- Fire Control Equipment Operator. In his first year there, as a Fire Control Equipment Operator he worked on the historic New Miner Fire, a 3,000+ acre fire in Juneau County plowing fire-line using a T6 tractor.

In July, 1976 he promoted to Fire Control Dispatcher at Hayward and found his niche as a skilled communicator in the critical fire dispatcher role. In October of 1978 he moved to Woodruff serving in a similar position as the Woodruff Area Dispatcher. In 1987 his position was reallocated to the title of Fire Control Dispatcher II, and in 2000 reclassified to Fire Control Dispatcher 3.

Dave spent the next 33 years until his retirement as the "Voice of 'Radio Free' Woodruff." Despite working in northern Wisconsin, Dave's reputation grew over the years statewide, as the "go-to-guy" because of his fire program knowledge, computer skills, and a willingness to help anyone who would ask.

He helped guide Wisconsin's fire program through his many contributions over three decades. Some of his more notable contributions were:

- *Developed the first electronic fire reporting system in MS Access; which was used from 2000 thru 2004.
- *Assisted with the development of the web based fire reporting system currently in use.
- *Responsible for dispatching all State of Wisconsin employees to out-of state incidents from 2000 to his retirement.
- *A member of the National Fire Danger Rating System national cadre that conducts a national level advanced fire danger rating course at the National Advanced Fire Research Institute [NAFRI] in Tucson, AZ from 2000 to his retirement.

Awards include:

1987 North Central District Outstanding Employee Award
2001 Division of Forestry Support Award
2006-2007 Northern Region Forestry Division Outstanding Service Award

Along with Dave's many contributions to the fire program, he will always be known as someone who would never say, "No" to help a fellow employee, the public, or a friend. His wealth of experience, his knowledge of the fire program, and of course his friendship on the job will surely be missed.

WHEREAS, Dave Christenson 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 October 2012 meeting at Madison, Wisconsin, recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Dave a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, CHAIR

Retirement Resolution

Ronald S. Zalewski retired from the Department of Natural Resources on July 24, 2012 with 28+ years of service to the State of Wisconsin. Ron was initially hired as an LTE Forester for the Department and worked on the Forest Inventory crew in 1982. He was then hired to the permanent position of Forester-Ranger on July 23, 1984 and was assigned to Poynette, WI. Ron learned many of the duties and responsibilities of fire suppression, pre-suppression, prevention and private forestry assistance while stationed at Poynette.

On April 11, 1986 Ron transferred to the Forester-Ranger position in Necedah where he gained further expertise in fire suppression, pre-suppression and prescribed burning. Ron became a Wisconsin Certified Law Enforcement Officer in 1986 and was the Top Law Enforcement Officer for his class. He maintained his Forest Ranger credentials throughout his career. Ron was highly respected for his thorough fire investigation skills. In May 1991 Ron promoted to the Work Unit Supervisor at Nekoosa/Wisconsin Rapids where he supervised and transferred his experience to Forester-Rangers, Foresters, and Technicians in the program areas of fire, private forestry assistance, and public forest management.

As the Department re-organized, Ron took a voluntary demotion in January 1997 to his old Forester-Ranger position at Nekoosa. Then in September 1998 Ron transferred to the Summit Lake Forester-Ranger position where he worked until his retirement in 2012.

Over his career Ron was the Incident Commander on more than 600 fires in Wisconsin including over 20 fires that were 40 acres in size and on three fires over 100 acres in size. Ron was one of the pioneer's in utilization of the Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) in the aerial suppression of forest fires in Wisconsin. Ron has been a champion for fire prevention efforts and work with local communities in the development of fire preparedness plans and structural pre-suppression efforts with fire departments and Emergency Fire Wardens. Fire prevention was another passion for Ron as he conducted more than 500 youth prevention programs, appeared 7 times at the State Fair and served on or as an advisor to the DNR Fire Prevention Specialist Committee for more than 20 years. In addition to his fire management accomplishments, Ron has been very active in assisting numerous private landowners in the MFL program and on timber sale establishment on State-owned and County forests.

Ron has been a stalwart proponent of physical fitness for fire fighters and for safety during actions in both wildland and structural suppression efforts. He researched and presented information to DNR management and staff regarding statutory protections and benefits for forest fire fighters related to smoke related exposures and illnesses. He continues to strive for the greatest protections for fire fighters and overall employee health.

In addition to all his serious workload efforts as a Department Forester, Ron has been an advocate of employee camaraderie, teamwork and support. He has shared his professional and personal experiences to further the abilities and experiences of his co-workers and the local community.

WHEREAS, Ron Zalewski 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 October meeting at Madison, Wisconsin, recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, wishes Ron a healthy, happy and rewarding retirement, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, CHAIR