



## *Retirement Resolution*

Rick L. Koch, Conservation Warden, retired from the Department of Natural Resources on June 5, 2008 after more than 29 years of service to the people and natural resources of the State of Wisconsin.

Rick began his law enforcement career as a police officer in Watertown and the City of Milwaukee. In October of 1979, Rick left the Milwaukee Police Department to accept a position as a Conservation Warden for the State of Wisconsin. His training stations included Sparta, Rice Lake, Appleton, Madison and Milwaukee before being permanently stationed at Laona in Forest County in May of 1980. Rick served his entire career in Forest County.

Throughout his career Rick focused on protecting the resources of Forest County and the State of Wisconsin. For about 10 years of his career Rick was involved in the department's covert operations. Working under-cover he was able to make cases that otherwise would have been impossible to make. Rick's work in this area resulted in several large poaching cases made and prosecuted.

Rick worked extensively with the young people in Laona and the Forest County area. Very few students at the Laona school did not have Rick as a substitute teacher, basketball coach or instructor at a DNR recreational safety course. In 1998 Rick received the Edward A. Manthei Award for excellence in the fields of hunter, boating, snowmobile and ATV safety. Many of Rick's early students were in his classes a second time, years later, with their sons and daughters.

Rick was a Field Training Officer as well as being involved in the hiring process as a member of the interview panel for recruit wardens. Rick spent time at the academy assisting with the recruit training as well as recruit training at the regional level.

In 2005 Rick was selected as the Northern Region Enforcement and Science Division Employee of the Year.

During the 28 years Rick was the Warden in Laona he tried to balance enforcement with education. Rick went to work every day with the belief that the public deserved respect, honesty and fairness from law enforcement.

**WHEREAS**, Rick L. Koch 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 May 2008 meeting at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, recognizes such faithful service with due respect and gratitude, and hereby makes this commendation a part of its official records.

*Natural Resources Board*

Christine Thomas, CHAIR