Form 1100-001
(R 2/07)

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Item No. 3.B.4

SUBJECT: Naming the Zeloski Marsh Unit and management units within the Lake Mills Wildlife Area

FOR: APRIL **BOARD MEETING**

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Tom Hauge, Director, Bureau of Wildlife Management

SUMMARY:

Madison Audubon Society gifted 1,461 acres to the Department in 2006. The property has been referred to as the Zeloski Marsh Unit of the Lake Mills Wildlife Area. The majority of the wetland and prairie restoration was completed in September 2006.

The Department, working with Madison Audubon Society, proposes to name the Zeloski Marsh Unit after Felix and Dennis Zeloski families and to name 15 management units to recognize individuals with "Wisconsin Roots" who have made outstanding contributions to natural resources management. All of the individuals being honored have a connection to south central Wisconsin.

Dennis and Betty Zeloski sold a 2,700 acre farm to Pheasants Forever that is now the Jefferson Marsh Wildlife Area and a 1,496 acre farm west of Lake Mills to Madison Audubon Society.

Conservationists to be recognized include John and Connie Gates, Jim and Pat Hale, Art and Betty Hawkins, Joe Hickey, Ruth Hine, Dick and Janice Hunt, Larry and Helen Jahn, Robert and Marie McCabe, Max and Betty Partch, Clay Schoenfeld, Arlie William and Margaret Schorger, Walter and Trudi Scott, John Roberts and Beatrice Smith, Les Woerpel, and Jim and Elizabeth Zimmerman.

Informational signage will be developed to recognize the people. A dedication of the property is planned for June 14, 2007.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve naming of the Zeloski Marsh unit and management units within the Lake Mills Wildlife Area.

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

No	☑	Fiscal Estimate Required	Yes	☐	Attached
No	☑	Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required	Yes	☐	Attached
No	☐	Background Memo	Yes	☑	Attached

APPROVED:

Thomas M. Hauge — Date 3/30/07
Bureau Director,

Laurie Osterndorf — Date 3/30/07
Administrator,

Scott Hassett — Date 4/2/07
Secretary, Scott Hassett

cc: Laurie J. Ross - AD/5
WM/6 - 8 copies
Lloyd Eagan - SCR
Mark Aquino - SCR
Eric Lobner - SCR
Doug Fendry - SCR
Laurie Osterndorf - AD/5
Steve Miller - LF/6
Kate Fitzgerald - LF/6
Charlie Kilian - Lake Mills

STAFF REVIEW - DNR BOARD AGENDA ITEM

REMINDER

Have the following questions been answered under the summary section of this form?

- -Why is the rule needed?
- -What are the significant changes?
- -What are the key issues/controversies?
- -What was the last action of the Board?

LIST OF ATTACHED REFERENCE MATERIAL REQUIRED FOR RULE PROPOSALS:

Hearing authorization:

Background Memo (if needed)*
Fiscal Estimate
Environmental Assessment (if needed)
Rule

Final adoption:

Background Memo (if needed)*
Response Summary
Fiscal Estimate
Environmental Assessment (if needed)
Rule

* If all the questions listed in the REMINDER section above can be adequately summarized on the Green Sheet (and a second sheet if needed), the Background Memo may be omitted.

Unit	Reviewer	Date	Comments
Environmental Analysis and Review			
Management and Budget			
Legal Services -Program Attorney -Carol Turner			
Other (if applicable)			

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

State of Wisconsin

DATE: March 28, 2007

TO: Natural Resources Board

FROM: Scott Hassett

SUBJECT: Naming Zeloski Marsh Unit and Management Units within the Lake Mills Wildlife Area

A dedication is being held at the Lake Mills Wildlife Area for 1,461 acres that was gifted to the Department by the Madison Audubon Society in 2006. Part of the dedication will involve naming the Zeloski Marsh Unit and management units within the Lake Mills Wildlife Area.

Zeloski Marsh Unit of the Lake Mills Wildlife Area
The Zeloski Marsh Unit is being named to recognize the Felix and Dennis Zeloski families. Felix began farming at the Jefferson Marsh and the London Marsh in the 1940's. In Jefferson County they grew potatoes, mint, carrots, onions, soybeans, and corn. Zeloskis also run a large farm in Eagle River where they specialize in growing certified seed potatoes.

Felix and Dennis were leaders in the agricultural field. Both were selected for Honorary Life Members in the Potato Association of America. Dennis received an Honorary Recognition Award from the UW Madison for his lifetime work with vegetables and mint. The Zeloski Farms were awarded an Environmental Stewardship Award by the National Potato Council in 2002.

Dennis and Betty sold their 2,700-acre Jefferson Marsh farm to Pheasants Forever and their 1,500-acre Lake Mills Farm to Madison Audubon Society so the land could be restored to provide wildlife habitat and a place for the public to enjoy.

Management Units
The goal is to name management units after conservationists, especially local individuals, to recognize their efforts and provide future users with the history of people that made a difference in conservation in Wisconsin.

Prairie Units

1. Joe Hickey Prairie
2. Robert and Marie McCabe Prairie
3. Clay Schoenfeld Prairie
4. Walter and Trudi Scott Prairie and Savanna
5. John Robert (J. R.) and Beatrice Smith Prairie

Sedge Meadow Unit

1. Jim and Libby Zimmerman Sedge Meadow

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Wetland Units

1. John and Connie Gates Wetland
2. Jim and Pat Hale Wetland
3. Art and Betty Hawkins Wetland
4. Ruth Hine Wetland
5. Dick and Janice Hunt Wetland
6. Larry and Helen Jahn Wetland
7. Arlie William (A. W.) and Margaret Schorger Wetland
8. Les Woerpel Wetland

Tamarack – Native Wetland

1. Max and Betty Parch Tamaracks

John and Connie Gates

John and his wife Connie lived in Waunakee. He worked for the Wisconsin Conservation Department as a research biologist from 1962-1972. He authored and co-authored several publications concerning ducks, gray partridge, and pheasants. He received his Ph.D. in 1971 at UW-Madison under Dr. Joe Hickey for "*The Ecology of A Wisconsin Pheasant Population*". The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources used his 1970 research report, "*Recommendations for a scattered wetland program of pheasant habitat preservation in southeastern Wisconsin*" for many years as a guide for acquiring wetlands. John moved to Brookings, SD to teach at South Dakota State University.

Jim and Pat Hale

Jim and his wife Pat are longtime Madison residents and have been married for 60 years. Jim was a student of Aldo Leopold at UW-Madison and worked for many years with the Department of Natural Resources and worked as a wildlife researcher, administrator and first head of the Office of Endangered and Nongame Species (precursor to the Bureau of Endangered Resources). He authored many wildlife publications. Jim was on the Board and was also a longtime Friend of the UW-Madison Arboretum and contributed many articles to UW-Madison Arboretum publications.

Art and Betty Hawkins

Art obtained his MS degree under Professor Aldo Leopold with studies of several game birds, while managing the Faville Grove Experimental Wildlife area. Leopold's students gained farm and wildlife experience at Faville Grove. Art wrote "*A Wildlife History at Faville Grove, Wisconsin.*"

He studied wood ducks with Frank Bellrose and later Art was highly responsible for forming the Wood Duck Society. During his 35-year career with the Fish and Wildlife Service he helped lay the foundation for the waterfowl surveys and was the Mississippi Flyway Representative for many years.

Art married Elizabeth Tillotson on Faville Prairie State Natural Area. Betty was a grand-daughter of Stoughton Faville and was very interested in natural resources. Betty remembers hiking the railroad grade, now the bike trail through Zeloski Marsh, looking for a heron rookery when she was a student at Lake Mills High School.

Joe Hickey

Joe was born in New York in 1907. Dr. Hickey was a professor of Wildlife Ecology at UW-Madison for more than 30 years. He authored many publications on birds and wildlife ecology. Joe was a peer of Aldo Leopold and was instrumental in the publication of *A Sand County Almanac.*

He was an advisor and mentor to many graduate students and published many scientific articles on Wisconsin birds, including landmark data on the relationship between DDT and failure of raptor eggs to hatch because of DDT-damage to egg shells. His master's thesis was published as the classic book, *A Guide to Birdwatching.* He was also one of the founders of the Wisconsin Chapter and the first Secretary of The Nature Conservancy. Joe also served on the Madison Audubon Society's Board of Directors.

Ruth Hine

Ruth, in 1952, was one of the first women to receive a Ph.D. in natural sciences at the UW-Madison. The Wisconsin Conservation Department hired her where she worked for 36 years as a wildlife researcher, editor of many WI DNR technical publications, and initiator of the frog and toad surveys.

Ruth served as a role model for women who wanted to enter the area of wildlife research, wildlife and endangered resources management. She was also very active in environmental education at Bethel Horizons Nature Center in Dodgeville.

Dick and Janice Hunt

Richard (Dick) grew up in McFarland and received his Masters in Wildlife under Joe Hickey at UW-Madison. He was hired in 1952 to work at Horicon Marsh where he studied waterfowl for 36 years. Dick authored and co-authored many publications including "*Duck and Coot Ecology and Management in Wisconsin*" that was co-authored by Larry Jahn. Dick's research was instrumental in helping understand the importance of waterfowl in Wisconsin.

Dick was also active in the Citizens Natural Resource Association. The Hunts live in Horicon and Dick maintains an active interest in nature resources.

Larry and Helen Jahn

Laurence (Larry) grew up on a dairy farm near Jefferson Wisconsin. His first job was waterfowl biologist at Horicon Marsh with Dick Hunt. He authored or co-authored 14 state reports on research relating to management of ducks and geese. The work of Jahn and his colleagues is credited with setting the standard for waterfowl management practices in the Mississippi Valley.

In 1959, Larry joined the Wildlife Management Institute as a field representative and spent many years in Washington D. C. where he was nicknamed "Our Man in Washington". He served as President and Chairman of the Board for the Wildlife Management Institute. During this tenure with the Institute he was credited with playing a major role in development of conservation provisions in the 1985 Farm Bill such as the Conservation Reserve Program. He also is credited with protecting and promoting the expansion of the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units located at universities across the county.

Robert and Marie McCabe

Bob grew up in Milwaukee and attended Carroll College. Bob ended up in Madison as a graduate student under Aldo Leopold. As a grad student he spent time at Faville Grove with Art Hawkins. He spent nearly all his career at the UW-Madison where his received his PhD in 1949 after studying ring-necked pheasants. Bob served as Arboretum biologist for two years and in the Department of Wildlife Ecology for the next 39 years; 27 as Department Chairman. Under his leadership, the department grew from 2 to 10 members and broadened in scope from game management to wildlife ecology.

Bob also was a member of the Department of Interior's committee on the use of lead shot and a Department of Interior consultant on the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

He authored over 100 publications from flycatchers to flowers and also wrote "*Aldo Leopold: The Professor*". Marie was an English major at Carroll College and she edited all of Bob's writings and helped turn him into a good writer. She also donated the original manuscripts of *A Sand County Almanac* (which Bob saved from the wastebasket) to the Special Collections Department at UW-Madison Memorial Library.

Max and Betty Partch

Max grew up near Betty Tillotson (Hawkins) at Faville Grove in Lake Mills and was the son of a preacher. Max was a former student of Aldo Leopold and majored in Botany. He studied the soil moisture relationship to plants at Faville Prairie State Natural area for his Ph.D. Dissertation and after retirement wrote "*The Distribution of Plants on the Faville Prairie from records in the 1940's to 1970's*".

Max was a Botany Professor at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota for 30 years. Max and Betty acquired and later donated Partch Woods Scientific and Natural Area to the Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas Program. Max studied this maple-basswood forest for over 27 years. The Partch's established the Partch Endowment Fund at St. Cloud State for students who major in biology and the study of native plants and communities.

Clay Schoenfeld

Clay grew up in Lake Mills and was the son of a preacher. He belonged to a high school conservation club and won an essay contest, which Leopold judged. Clay majored in Journalism with a minor in Wildlife Management. He had a long and distinguished career at the University of Madison. He was the coordinator of the University's Conservation Education Program and his students have gone on to work in natural resources information and education fields across the Country. His journalism background provided a foundation for teaching and writing. Clay wrote for the State Journal for 10 years. He was involved in ecology issues, as he said long before they were known as ecology. He was the founding executive editor of "*The Journal of Environmental Education*". Clay authored, co-authored, or was the editor on many books including "*Canada Goose Management: Current Continental Problems*", "*Down Wisconsin Sideroads*", "*Everybody's Ecology; A Field Guide to Pleasure and Perception in the Out-of-Doors*", "*Interpreting Environmental Issues*", "*Outlines of Environmental Education*", "*Wildlife Management in Wilderness*", and "*Wisconsin*".

A.W. and Margaret Schorger

Arlie William (A. W.) studied as a chemist and arrived in Madison in 1909 to work at the Forest Products Laboratory. He became President of Burgess Cellulose Company where he held many patents. During his business years A. W. studied wildlife, wrote articles such as "*The Mammals of Dane County, Wisconsin*", and was a "wildlife historian". He read every page of every newspaper published in Wisconsin before 1900 and wrote 15 species accounts of wildlife in early Wisconsin.

A. W. retired from business at the age of 66 years old and became Professor of Wildlife Management at the UW-Madison. He published "*The Passenger Pigeon: its natural history and extinction*" and "*The Wild Turkey: its history and domestication*"

He also served on the Wisconsin Conservation Commission, the Executive Council of the Wilson Ornithological Society; and the Board of Directors of the National Audubon Society.

Walter and Trudi Scott

Walter spent nearly 40 years with the Wisconsin Department of Conservation and the Department of Natural Resources. In his career he was a warden, game management supervisor and administrator. He supported wildlife research, watershed management, conservation education, and worked on acquisition of Horicon Marsh.

Walter delivered more than 2,000 talks and wrote speeches for other officials. He authored hundreds of articles on natural resource conservation. He and Trudi accumulated a large natural history library that was later donated to other libraries.

Walter founded the "Passenger Pigeon" the journal of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology and also spent 30 years measuring and recording Wisconsin's biggest trees. He and Trudi lived at Hickory Hill, a historic property in Madison that was visited by the state's best-known conservationists.

J. R. and Beatrice Smith

John Robert (J. R.) grew up in Superior and his interest in prairies goes back to the 1930's when he hunted sharp-tailed grouse in Douglas County.

J. R. began work with the Wisconsin Conservation Department in 1940 and was involved with Wildlife Management until he retired in 1974. His highest priority was land acquisition and he initiated formal real estate training for field personnel. J. R. was at the helm in the late 1950's and early 1960's when Wisconsin became a national leader in deer management and research.

The Smiths purchased a worn-out farm in Marquette County and in 1966 they began fourteen years of experimenting with growing prairie plants from seed. They established the first prairie nursery in Wisconsin, appropriately named the "Prairie Nursery". They published "*The Prairie Garden" – 70 Native Plants You Can Grow in Town or Country"* and this book along with their work stimulated interest in landowners to plant prairie.

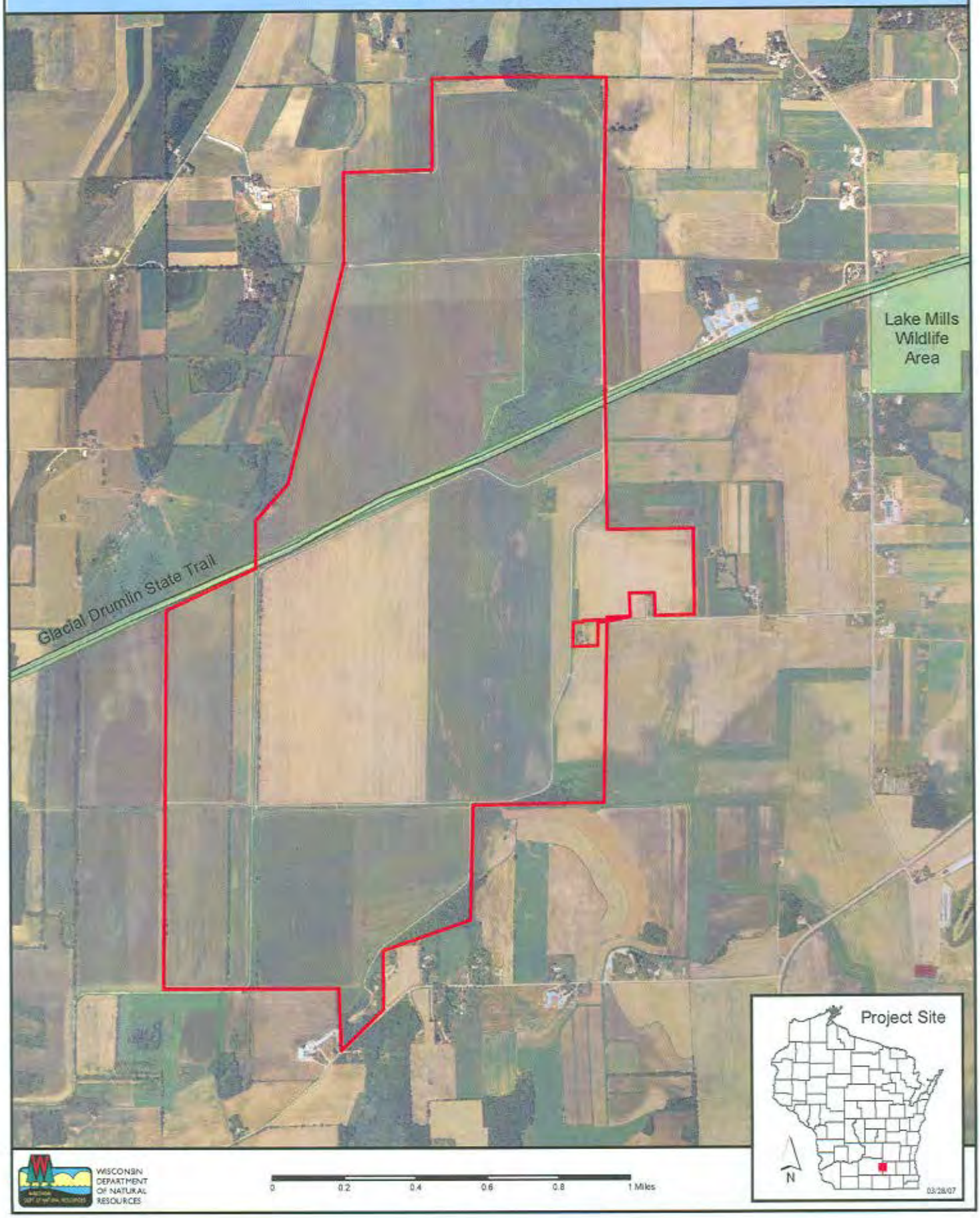
Les Woerpel

A native of Sun Prairie, Woerpel lived in Stevens Point for many years. He made a living working for AT&T but his heart was in conservation. He was the prime mover in bringing 29 organizations together to form the Wis. Federation of Conservation Clubs in 1949. He was elected its first president, and later became executive director of the group, which became the Wisconsin Chapter of the National Wildlife Federation. Under Woerpel's leadership, the federated clubs opposed a proposal to allow counties to set their own deer seasons. He promoted preservation of prairie chicken habitat, fought use of trout streams for irrigation and successfully battled creation of a reservoir on the Little Eau Pleine River (which would have flooded what now is the 28,000-acre Mead Wildlife Area).

Jim and Libby Zimmerman

Jim "Zim" moved to Madison early in his life and remained in his house on the west side of Madison until he passed away. Jim and Libby were naturalists, environmental activists, educators and interested in everything related to the natural resources and Jim was one of the most-knowledgeable naturalists in Wisconsin. Jim was also very active with the UW-Madison Arboretum.

Many students enjoyed spending all-day field trips with Jim and Libby. They were the experts on Wisconsin sedges, loved to hike in the wetlands, and were major founders of the Wisconsin Wetland Association. They wrote many articles from columns in the Wisconsin State Journal to scientific publications. Libby is also an excellent wildlife artist and her work was displayed at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Museum in Wausau.

Lake Mills Wildlife Area-Zeloski Marsh Unit

Jefferson County, Wisconsin