

Women in Conservation

To The Journal: Meetings have been held during the last year with reference to the proposed wilderness area in the Flambeau river state forest. These included conservation commission meetings together with those which were called by Director Ernest Swift so that the issues might be discussed by individuals and representatives of various organizations interested.

It is heartening that finally there is prospect of a definite, well planned policy for the entire forest. Men have come and gone who have contributed their support to the Flambeau wilderness idea, which dates back to the days of the late Judge Owen.

However, when the idea is finally consummated, it will be due largely to the prolonged devotion of two of Wisconsin's outstanding women conservationists—Mrs. Edward La Budde and Mrs. Max Schmitt, both of Milwaukee. Through the years they have labored untiringly. Recently they organized Friends of the Flambeau, a group of interested men and women, and enlisted the aid of Sigurd Olson, eminent ecologist of the Superior-Quetico wilderness area.

Now at last there is the assurance that some of the natural grandeur of Wisconsin's yesteryears will be perpetuated for future generations. Yes, the fruits may be ours, but the seed idea has been nurtured through the years by these two fine conservationists. It is hoped that the history of the Flambeau wilderness area will be so written that proper credit will be given to their steadfastness of purpose despite many obstacles.

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