

Wallace Grange Memorial

A MEMORIAL WAS dedicated recently at the state DNR's Sandhill Wildlife Demonstration Area in honor of Wallace B. Grange, a pioneer ecologist who converted more than 9,000 acres of abandoned wasteland into prime wildlife habitat in southwestern Wood County.

Grange was Wisconsin's first superintendent of game. He also held a top post with the U.S. Biological Survey before he returned to Wisconsin and established a game farm on smouldering, tax-delinquent land in 1937. He and his wife, Hazel, sold the property to the state in 1961, on the condition that it would be used for research and education, and that a large part of the area would remain a waterfowl refuge for 50 years. Sandhill has since become a conservation showplace, as well as the setting for some of the most meaningful wildlife research programs in the nation.

Grange also was the author of "Those of the Forest," a widely-acclaimed nature book, as well as more technical books on "The Way to Game Abundance," and "Wisconsin Grouse Problems." He died in June, 1988, at the age of 81.

Don Johnson, editor-at-large for the *Wisconsin Outdoor Journal*, was the main speaker at the ceremony, which was attended by about 100,



Ned Norton, superintendent at the DNR's Sandhill Wildlife Demonstration Area, visited with Hazel Grange at the dedication of a memorial for her husband. Now widely recognized as a pioneer in the field, Grange was one of the most controversial conservationists of his time. The Granges established the 9,000-acre wildlife area in Wood County in 1937 and sold it to the state in 1962.

including Grange's widow.

The marker overlooks one of the scenic flowages on the property, and is located along the 14-mile-long "Trumpeter Trail" maintained for

sightseers.

A Wallace Grange biography, describing the early days at Sandhill, appeared in the February-March issue of this magazine.

Tips From a Commercial Venison Processor

IT SEEMS STRANGE that hundreds of deer hunters will spend so much time, energy, and money to get themselves a nice deer, only to allow their prize to be ruined due to improper dressing.

One common problem is that most hunters allow their deer to hang too long before getting it to the processor. Most large venison processors have so many deer come in that they have to work on a

first-come first-serve basis, and a deer that has hung outside for a week may hang in a refrigeration cooler for a few more days before seeing the cutting table.

One step in field dressing that is often neglected is a quick rinse of the intestinal cavity after gutting. By removing digestive juices or waste that may have spilled in the cavity, spoilage can be slowed.

Another step to slow spoilage is to

make sure that *all* the deer's organs have been removed. It seems so simple, but often deer come to the processor with heart, lungs or anus still attached to the carcass.

Right after the deer has been properly field dressed, the best thing the hunter can do for himself is remove the tenderloins from the carcass interior. After a deer has hung for a while, it's the tenderloins that dry to something resembling tire rubber, so take them home right away and cook them up as a celebration of a successful hunt.

— Ed Myers