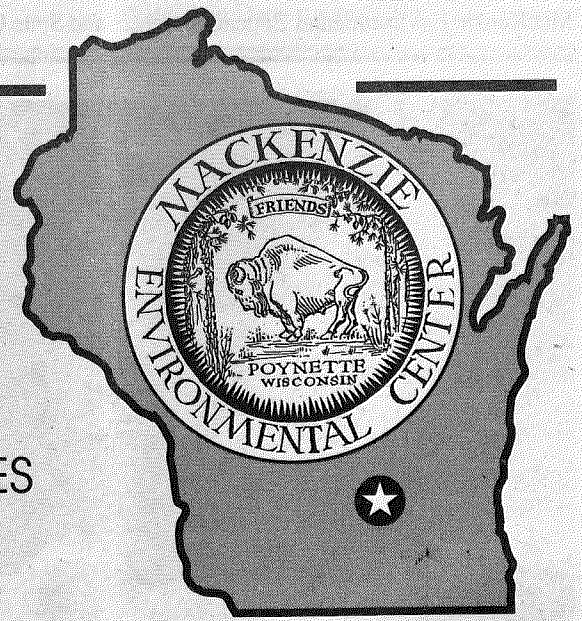


MacKenzie Environmental Education Center and State Game Farm Visitor

OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

62 YEARS — 1934-1996



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources • MacKenzie Environmental Education Center • W7303 Co Hwy CS • Poynette, WI 53955-9690



Conifer Trail 2—a black topped accessible trail.

♿ ACCESSIBLE AREAS ♿

Two of the self-guiding trails at MacKenzie Center are accessible to disabled and elderly visitors or parents with children in strollers. They are shorter, more level black top versions of the regular trails that go by the same name.

Pines provide a cathedral-like canopy for about one-half of the 2,200 foot, 11 stop Conifer Trail 2. The pine-scented hushed atmosphere of this trail makes it a favorite for many. The disabled portion of the Wildlife Trail intertwines with the regular trail. Information that corresponds with the trail stops is incorporated into the regular Wildlife Trail guide book. After passing along the edge of a planted prairie this trail enters a wooded brushy area. Demonstration bird feeders of different styles, nest boxes, and a

salt block are some of the interesting features along this trail. Both trails are edged with a wood curb and have handrails where necessary. Benches are provided at each stop. The accessible self-guiding stops on these two trails have posts with yellow numbers. These trails intersect and in some portions coincide with other trails. Remember to use the correct trail guide and stay on the trail you started on. Don't be confused by the white numbered posts you will see along parts of the trail.

The Wildlife Exhibit and the Conservation Museum are also accessible. Black top trails are used throughout the Wildlife Exhibit area and a separate parking lot closer to the exhibit is provided. The picnic area and office have accessible rest rooms.

WELCOME TO AN ADVENTURE IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

In 1934 the state began to purchase land and build facilities at Poynette for the rearing and study of pheasants and other animals. The facility attracted many visitors who were curious about and wanted to learn more about conservation. Since that time these facilities have been open to the public for learning and enjoyment. In 1961 the Department transferred the educational responsibilities to the Bureau of Information and Education. The MacKenzie Center has continued and expanded upon the ear-

lier work of the Game Farm. Whether you are eight or eighty, whether you stay for a few hours or at the Resident Center for a few days, it is our hope that you will take from here a better understanding of your place in the environment and an increased awareness of the need to manage and protect.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact a member of the staff. They are here to help you make the most of your visit.

OUR MISSION

In May of 1983, the Natural Resources Board adopted an education policy for the Department of Natural Resources and incorporated this policy in to the Administrative Code as NR 1.70. In doing so they recognized the need for planned and coordinated education efforts within the department and reaffirmed the role that the MacKenzie Environmental Center should play. Our mission is:

"To provide environmental educational opportunities for youth and adults so they may appreciate and understand Wisconsin's natural resources, their problems, protection and management; and that they may have the knowledge and skills to act as environmentally-aware, responsible and committed Wisconsin citizens."

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

In case of an emergency contact one of the staff or call for assistance as indicated below:

Fire, Rescue, and Sheriff Emergency number—911

Hospital (Portage)—1-742-4131

Local Clinic—635-4343

**Columbia County Conservation Wardens—635-7858
635-4490
1-742-3169**

CONSERVATION MUSEUM

Smokey Bear greets you as you enter this museum. Over 20 exhibits await your study and enjoyment. The exhibits range from mounted wildlife to displays on ecological concepts and environmental concerns. Exhibits are changed or up-dated periodically.

SAVE THIS NEWSPAPER

We hope you'll find this brochure a valuable aid during your visit. Please don't waste it by throwing it away. Take it with you for future reference or pass it on to another friend or visitor. If you must discard it, please use a container or take it home and recycle it.

RING-NECKED PHEASANT

The pheasants we see in Wisconsin originated in China: thus the name "Chinese Ring-necked Pheasants." Romans carried the birds from the Orient to their Empire. Pheasants were brought to the British isles from the Roman Empire probably at the time of Julius Caesar.

Attempts to stock the pheasants in the New World began at least as early as 1730. Numerous attempts to establish the bird followed but none were successful until 1882. In 1882 Judge Owen Denny, Consul General for the U.S. in Shanghai, shipped birds to the U.S. and had them

GENERAL INFORMATION

Wildlife Exhibit and Museum Visiting Hours—8:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily except from mid-October to the first weekend in May when the exhibits and museums are closed on weekends. Closed winter holidays.

Grounds—Dawn to dusk daily except as posted.

**Office—Main Office 608-635-4498
Resident Center Office 608-635-7311**

Main Office open 7:45-11:45 a.m. and 12:30-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Closed weekends and holidays.

Rest Rooms and Drinking Water—These are located in the main office building and at the picnic area. Both are accessible. Water is also available in the wildlife exhibit. The picnic area rest rooms are closed in winter.

Camping—Camping facilities are not available at the center. Jamieson Park, two miles west of Poynette on highway CS allows camping. There are also several private campgrounds in the area and state parks within a 30 minute drive.

Collecting—Collecting items such as flowers, cones or seeds is not permitted. Students may collect single leaves for class projects.

Snowmobiles and ATVs—Snowmobiling, ATVs or mini bikes are not permitted on the MacKenzie Center grounds.

Bicycles—Bicycles are permitted only on public paved roads and in parking lots. They are not permitted on trails, service roads or in exhibit areas.

Animals—Pets must be leashed and are permitted only in designated walking areas at the picnic grounds and near the main parking lot. There are no horse trails on the grounds.

Gift Shops—There are no gift shops on the grounds. Patches and postcards are available in the office during regular hours.



PHONE NUMBERS AT THE GAME FARM

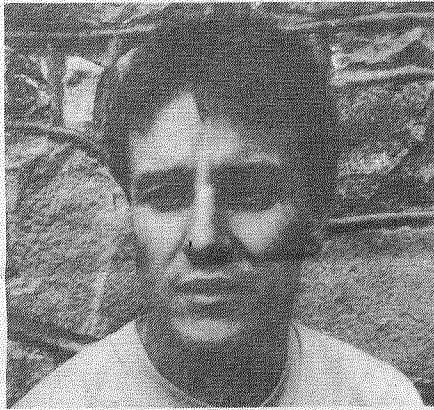
Game Farm—635-4490

Conservation Warden—
635-4496

Fish Manager for Columbia and
Sauk Counties—635-4989

Fire Control and Forest Ranger —
635-4497

Wildlife Manager for Columbia
County—635-4496



Don Bates, Game Farm Director

HISTORY OF THE STATE GAME FARM AND MACKENZIE CENTER

1994 marked the 60th year of operation for the Game Farm and education programs at Poynette. It all began in 1934 when H. W. MacKenzie (Wisconsin Conservation Department Director—1933-1942) discontinued several small scattered game farms and moved operations to Poynette. Here the Wisconsin Conservation Commission established the State Experimental Game and Fur Farm as its general game division headquarters. Much of the construction was done with the assistance of WPA labor. From chicken coops and cluck hens used to incubate and raise pheasants, the farm grew to become what was called by many the greatest game farm in the world.

The experimental game and fur farm served as a base for propagation and stocking of exotic and native upland game birds and fur bearing animals in Wisconsin. Other state-wide game management programs such as public hunting grounds, wildlife refuges, winter feeding, and contact with cooperating conservation clubs were also centered here. The game farm itself served as a place for wildlife management educa-

H. W. MACKENZIE

Harley W. MacKenzie, known to his friends and admirers as "Mac," was a towering force in Wisconsin conservation for many years. He started in 1910 as a conservation warden, became Chief Warden in 1925 and held the post of Director of the Wisconsin Conservation Department from 1934-1942.

Mac was director during a time of very tight budgets, yet under his leadership, a significant expansion in state forest and wildlife areas took place, including the creation of the Horicon Marsh Wildlife



Area. The Conservation Congress and the State Game Farm at Poynette were established during his directorship. The Conservation Congress and the State Game Farm at Poynette were established during his directorship.

THE RESIDENT CENTER

The MacKenzie Resident Center provides a live-in facility, staff and field equipment for environmental education programs in an outdoor setting. Elementary, secondary, college students, and other organized environmental interest groups may request use of the center's overnight facility.

Facilities include two bunkhouses that sleep a total of 80, (40 each (20/side)) and a main lodge containing a kitchen, dining room, and classrooms. The heated bunkhouses have showers and rest rooms.

On site program planning is required for each group scheduled to use the Resident Center. At these sessions the Center's staff helps group leaders prepare for a worth while and educational trip by assisting in planning program and selecting activities. Operational guides, educational activity guides and worksheets are given out at this planning session.

We try to plan programs that emphasize hands on learning in the out-of-doors. Staff, college students and other DNR. personnel are available to assist groups with programs in resource management, environmental areas and nature studies. Some groups conduct their own pro-

gram with minimal help from MacKenzie staff while others request additional assistance.

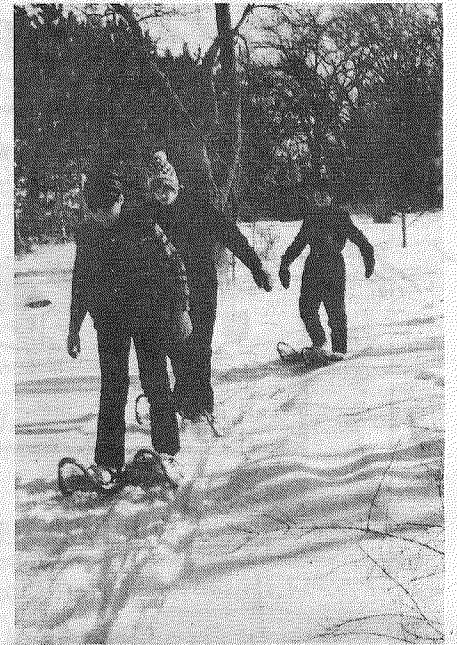
Group supervision and evening programs are the responsibility of the group leaders. One adult is required for every 10 students. An adult from the visiting group must accompany every instructional group.

Meals The Center provides a fully equipped kitchen and a dining room that will seat up to 100. Food preparation and serving utensils, dishwashing equipment and cleaning supplies are provided. Groups may do their own cooking and food purchasing, hire a cook, or contract a caterer.

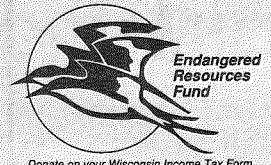
Eligibility is limited to organized groups from Wisconsin that are primarily studying the environment or resource management. Groups must be fifth grade age or older.

Reservation forms may be obtained from the Resident Center program coordinator. They may not be submitted more than one school year in advance. There is a reservation fee and reservations may be subject to additional restrictions.

Rates: Call for rates. 608-635-7311 or 608-635-4498



Students learning to snowshoe.



Donate on your Wisconsin Income Tax Form

STATE GAME FARM PHEASANT PRODUCTION FACILITIES

The State Game Farm at Poynette has produced pheasants for stocking since its inception in 1934. Originally the birds produced at Poynette were used to introduce pheasants into suitable habitat to establish wild populations as well as to provide hunting opportunity through put-take hunting. With wild pheasants well established in the 1950's, the role of the game farm shifted primarily to providing pheasants for fall

release onto many public hunting grounds throughout the state and to provide pheasant chicks to cooperating conservation clubs who would raise them and release them on private land for hunting. While recent "wild" pheasant release programs have been initiated, the primary role of the Poynette Game Farm continues to be providing pheasant hunting opportunity through fall releases of pheasants on areas open for public hunting.

Techniques for raising the pheasants have changed over the years. Initially, small brooding "coops" with cluck hens were used for incubating and brooding pheasants. These were replaced by electric incubators and brooding houses. As the chicks grew they were moved to larger rearing fields. Leather rails were placed on the pheasants to prevent them from flying out of the open topped pens. Wire tops were placed on the pens in the 50's and the birds were able to fly without escaping. Since then the wire tops have been replaced by lighter weight nylon netting. These operations were very labor intensive and sanitation/isolation of the different flocks was difficult.

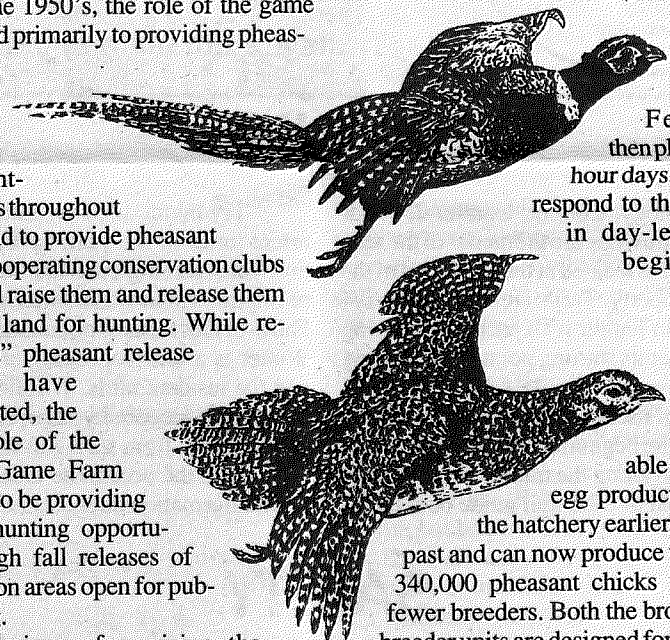
While the original hatchery unit and electric incubators are still used today, the rest of the game farm has been modernized. Two large controlled-environment brooding units have replaced the 260 small brooder house system. Pheasants are taken to these units at one day of age (6000 birds at a time) where they will spend the first 6 weeks of their life before being moved to the outdoor range fields. Two persons can perform normal caretaker duties on 40,000 birds in the units, compared to 10 persons required in the old system. Two controlled-environment breeder units capable of housing over 7000 adult birds enable the farm to control

production and better utilize the breeder flock. About 1/2 of the breeder flock is kept outside under normal lighting and will lay eggs from mid March through June (Pheasants only lay in the spring in response to the increasing length of day). The rest of the flock is moved indoors in December, held

on 8 hour days until early February, then placed on 14 hour days. The birds respond to the increase in day-length and begin laying eggs 2 weeks later. The Game Farm is able to control egg production to fill the hatchery earlier than in the past and can now produce the needed 340,000 pheasant chicks with 4000 fewer breeders. Both the brooding and breeder units are designed for efficiency (automatic feeding, watering, lighting, and ventilation) and sanitation which reduces stress and improves flock health. The farm presently has 109 covered outside range fields where the pheasants are raised from 6 weeks of age to release in the fall. Stocking takes place from the week prior to the pheasant season opening and runs to early December.

Today the Game Farm provides 40,000 adult pheasants for release onto 74 public hunting grounds in 36 counties. Most of the pheasants harvested on public lands are stocked birds from Poynette. The farm also provides 62,000 day-old rooster chicks to 75 cooperating conservation clubs in 35 counties. These clubs raise the birds and release them on private lands open to public hunting. About 50,000 pheasants are stocked each year by the day-old chick clubs. The 90,000 pheasants released under the two programs provide significant user days of pheasant hunting recreation.

Fisheries and Wildlife Management, Fire Control/Forestry, and the Conservation Warden also have offices at the State Game Farm. The production operations at the Game Farm are closed to the public for security and disease control reasons.



**MacKenzie
ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION CENTER**



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Poyette, Wisconsin