

LeRoy Joseph Lintereur
1920-1995



Life Summary

LeRoy Joseph Lintereur was born on November 22, 1920, in Two Rivers, Wisconsin. His mother was of German background with a family that spoke mostly German, and his father of French Canadian background whose family spoke mostly French. Four more children followed: Ruth was born in 1922, Maryon in 1926, Donald in 1927, and Bernice in 1929. They grew up with lively discussions on politics, books they had read, and themes in history.

As a boy, LeRoy was introduced to hunting by his father with all the outdoor benefits related to that sport: wildlife identification, tracking, habitat recognition, animal behavior, and hunting ethics. His father would often tell stories of Canada's woods and wilderness, and how similar it was to northern Wisconsin. His grandmother lived in Coleman, Wisconsin, and further elaborated on these stories for LeRoy.

Learning to read was a catalyst for seeking books on the lives of scientists, especially Pasteur and Fabre, and for exploring more information on the things he observed day to day. He read Thoreau, and learned about Linneaus and Latreille along with taxonomy. He found this information in libraries in Green Bay and Two Rivers, and libraries became a part of his weekly ritual that lasted a lifetime.

Despite dropping out of high school late in his sophomore year, struggling in the industrial work force, working as a hired hand on a farm, and serving in the army during World War II, his learning drive remained strong. He wanted to be a student at a university, so he enrolled a year at St. Norbert's in DePere, then transferred to the UW-Madison where he completed his degree in four years.

His outdoor employment dream became reality in 1952 when he was hired by the Wisconsin Conservation Department in Burlington, Wisconsin. By that time, his skills in biology and ecology were ready to dominate the tasks required of a game manager: explaining complex regulations, program policies, and highly controversial doe shooting proposals to an angry buck-oriented public as well as acquiring and managing crucial wildlife habitat. Eventually his career efforts would be focused in northeastern Wisconsin.

As his career unfolded, LeRoy found his niche in the community by immersing himself in sharing his vast knowledge with anyone who had an interest. He taught classes, gave seminars, led field tours, was a founder of a local Audubon Society, contributed information on specimens collected to museums, herbariums, and surveys, and kept a type-written journal almost daily for over 30 years on his natural history observations and personal reflections.

Those exposed to LeRoy and his teachings would tout his exemplary ecological knowledge and focus as worthy of the highest praise. A passage from LeRoy's poignant article entitled, *We Are All Epigeans*, demonstrates his profound understanding of the natural world:

Nature is not something out there, remote in the Rockies or deep in the Amazon rain forest. She is rather our continuous and ever present ambient, vitally present, or fading, in ever flourishing or splintered woodlot, in every green or ruined marsh or stream, lake, and river. There is no hierarchy of value here, nor is one segment of ultimately more value than the other—not when you consider life as a continuum circling the globe. They and we all are one. She is within us, stamped in our brains, and on our hands, swirling about wherever we may be. Here's the system that brought us into being, and has always in the past and present sustained us. Our future is her future.

Think of it—if we could grasp this most elemental of facts what it would mean to assure a quality of live for ourselves, and generations to come.

LeRoy worked for the Department of Natural Resources for 30 years. During that time, he dedicated his life to learning about, and caring for the natural world around him. He acquired critical habitat for wildlife and rare plant communities, and educated the public about its purpose and proper care. He led countless tours, delivered numerous lectures, and wrote a weekly newspaper column during his entire career to share his extensive knowledge about “his friends,” the flora and fauna of Wisconsin.

LeRoy was selected to provide expert testimony in a county wetlands violation case (Just vs. Marinette County) that was to not only to become a

career highlight for him, but a state and nationally recognized conservation hallmark. Under rigorous cross-examination over days of testimony, LeRoy flawlessly identified wetland vegetation crucial to Marinette County's ordinance prohibiting wetland destruction. Ultimately, the wetland case was ruled on by the Wisconsin Supreme Court, and the county's enforcement action is upheld. It has provided the basis for wetland protection in Wisconsin ever since, despite numerous court challenges.

There is no better reflection of LeRoy's intense dedication to conservation, conservation education, and advanced learning than observing his family. His wife, Joyce, became very active with environmental organizations, and was a community political leader expressing conservation principles whenever the opportunity presented itself.

Son Greg earned a B.S. degree in horticulture and entomology, and has contributed to the state's knowledge of rare insects through records provided the DNR's Bureau of Endangered Resources. Son Philip, an engineering graduate, is now the Propulsion and Avionics Tests manager for Boeing Space systems. His son, Andrew, received his PhD, and is an environmental engineer. Son Dan has an immense interest in reptiles and amphibians. He maintains a large fish tank, well planned, and continues to build a library of Civil War history, atlases, and books dealing with prehistoric times. He has a passion for the political scene and a memory that would put the New York Times archives to shame when it comes to recalling political events. He continues to remain active in environmental issues and nation-wide politics.

Daughter Judith, became a science teacher, making her dad quite proud of her influence on young minds. She enjoyed a highly unusual opportunity with her dad when they taught Elderhostel classes together over a four-year period, the last occurring just before his death. Judith's son, Joseph, is a soil geomorphologist and, as an associate professor at UW-Eau Claire; he teaches Geography including Conservation of the Environment. Daughter Julie and her entire family of five were volunteers at Heritage Hill State Historic Park. Her son, Fred, is a ranger and assistant property manager at Hartman Creek State Park, and son Paul is an urban forester in South Carolina.

One of LeRoy's long-time friends, Dr. Wendel J. Johnson, married his daughter Judith, and is a professor of Biological Sciences-Emeritus at UW-Marinette. He teaches classes in anatomy, physiology, botany, zoology, and

ecology. His testimonial in the Appendix reflected not only on his numerous discussions and outings with LeRoy, but the many idea and information exchanges LeRoy had with other faculty members.

LeRoy Lintereur's entire life clearly has been devoted to learning about and protecting Wisconsin's natural resources as well as educating its citizens of the vital role it plays in all of our lives. He is most deserving of the honor of being enrolled in the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame.

Early Life

The family had intense discussions as the children grew up, often described as being "lively." One of the sibling's visiting friends once commented, "*Wow! I thought someone next door would call the police!*" To which LeRoy's mother replied, "*Oh, they're always like this.*"

At an early age, LeRoy became seriously interested in natural history, and the journals of Henry Thoreau. He read so much of his work, that when he quoted him, he did it on a first name basis. "*Henry said he didn't mind if nature made use of him without his knowledge to scatter seeds in his walk...*" (as someone looked back to note the clothes covered with dock burrs.)

LeRoy grew up near the West Twin River. His boyhood was full of experiences around the river and its marshes as well as along the shore of Lake Michigan. Using a skiff called *The Seaweed*, and at times setting off afoot in hip boots, he wandered the marshes creating a relationship with what would later become a career. He'd often hide in the bottom of the boat covered with the accouterments of the marsh, and make squeaking noises to attract wildlife close to his camera lens.

His favorite marsh was the backdrop of his home on 20th Street in Two Rivers, and rapidly became his study ground. He became acquainted with its rhythm, its heartbeat, and its importance as habitat for a multitude of components, later to become his favorite theme...biodiversity. Here started LeRoy's tutelage of wetlands and its composition...a discovery of minute organisms that captured his full attention, and lasted a lifetime.

LeRoy was a regular consumer at the Two Rivers Public Library, reading mostly natural history books. He often took his young children with him, showing them books on reptiles and amphibians. He was especially

enamored by biographies of scientists. The librarian once showed his daughter, Judith, a card containing several of LeRoy's withdrawals of Rene Vallery Radot's *Life of Louis Pasteur*, also *Great Men in Science*, with an interest in Cuvier and LaMarck. Some time later, the entries indicated he became fascinated with Charles Darwin.

LeRoy was immensely proud of his Grandmother Hereaux, who spoke nothing but French, although sometimes combined with a word or two of English. His grandmother resided in Gre' Bai, and he often visited her there. She introduced him to the natural history, history, and music sections at the Green Bay Library.

As a young boy, he observed regularly the habits of a local man, Tough Leonard, who had a stable with two horses and a wagon that picked up the town's garbage. He used a sleigh for his collection chores in the winter. The splendid team of horses created a sense of paradise for LeRoy, and he could easily envision making their charge his life's work.

LeRoy liked hunting with his father at an early age. He also had a great appreciation for his relationship with his father, and the skill and companionship that came with hunting and working with bird dogs. In an interview on his retirement years later, he explained that he came from a society that rated a man by his skill as a hunter. He then freely confessed that he purposely hid his fondness for spiders and butterflies for fear it would appear unmanly.

School Days

LeRoy attended St. Luke's Grade School and became very interested in Latin. This interest led to a fascination with Latin scientific names and that they meant something. All students started the day with Mass, and by the middle school years, he began to study and note the Latin names of insects, and then Latin reached far beyond St. Luke's Church. Most students knew Latin prayers, but LeRoy also had an appreciation for Carolus Linnaeus and his binomial nomenclature and studied that more intently.

His first paying job was delivering the *Two Rivers Reporter* on a weekly paper route. He squirreled his meager earnings away early for the purpose of one day buying a microscope. He had an intense interest in science, and what better way to look at the tiny components of the world than through a microscope. Alas! This goal was not achieved until he was 68 years old!

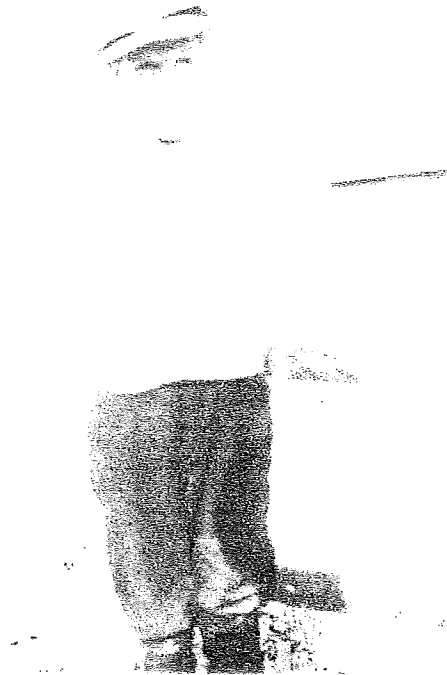


Figure 1 LeRoy as a young, happy boy

In a late-in-life interview, LeRoy said he thought he had “...*the area’s flora and fauna sewed up*” by the age of 12.

He attended Washington High School for a while, but soon decided it was a waste of his time and made the decision to quit school late in his sophomore year. Some thought his mother needed his financial help or they would lose the house. Others just concluded school was boring for him, and he wanted to explore new avenues. He expressed an interest in joining the Monastery, but his father strongly discouraged it.

Life Changes

After dropping out of high school, LeRoy went to work as a hired hand in Mishicot where he fulfilled his early dream of handling a team of horses used for plowing, removing logs, and maintaining roads. It also afforded him the chance to explore and think about the woods. He referred to this work period as “pre-mechanization agriculture.”

At a factory named Mirro Aluminum Goods (called “The Goods”), he worked at a variety of jobs, the last being what he described as inspecting pans that were “defective,” smacking them with a hammer, and throwing them in a bin.

With the country at war in 1940, The Goods closed because the government seized their metal, and LeRoy went back to work on the farm after a failed attempt to join the army. He went back to The Goods when they reopened in 1941, working there from October to December before they closed again. From January to May 1942, LeRoy was idle for the only time in his life. In a later interview, LeRoy said he was an accomplished amateur entomologist and ornithologist by this time period.

LeRoy tried to join the army again on May 19, 1942, and this time was successful, entering the service at Fort Sheridan in Illinois. He spent three months at Fort Warren in Wyoming before being transferred to Gainesville, Texas. He became part of an ordinance unit, and was initially an assistant (likely a corporal) of his unit. Within a year, he was in charge with a rank of sergeant, and strangely volunteered to live in a tar shack located next to the ammunition dump where he supervised the men under his command.



Figure 2 Sergeant LeRoy Lintereur

His isolated living conditions afforded him the opportunity to intensify his reading, and observe wildlife in the area (mostly birds). The area also served as a German P.O.W. camp, and LeRoy was assigned an interpreter named Kurt Schleissen to help with the communications. Kurt and LeRoy had great philosophical discussions during this time, and it greatly improved LeRoy's German speaking ability. LeRoy's commanding officer once commented that he had heard of birdwatchers, but had never met one before LeRoy came on the scene!

His daily journal entries continued throughout his service time, and made note of rattlesnakes living under the shack, an adopted dog being snake bitten, many bird species being documented, and his longing for home. He returned to Two Rivers after the war in January 1946.

College Years

LeRoy attempted to enter Cornell University to study ornithology, but was not accepted because he hadn't completed high school. In 1948, seeking an alternative strategy, he entered St. Norbert's College in DePere where a high school diploma was not required. After attending classes for just one year, he then successfully transferred to the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

As an interesting aside, LeRoy became a college roommate of Dr. George Becker, long-time ichthyology professor at UWSP, author of *Fishes of Wisconsin*, and a Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame inductee. One can only speculate that they had many intellectual discussions about Wisconsin fauna late into the night. He retained the friendship his entire life, and Dr. Becker recalled late in life that LeRoy Lintereur was as accomplished as any naturalist he had ever known.

LeRoy's intended major was biology and wildlife ecology. He especially enjoyed comparative anatomy, ornithology, and botany. Dr. Norman C. Fassett was one of his instructors, and LeRoy maintained a lifetime friendship with him as well. That relationship would not only greatly expand his knowledge of wetland plants, but also proved to be a vital ingredient to his expertise to be displayed in a court of law years later.

In September 1949, LeRoy married Joyce Copeskey. She was a timekeeper at The Goods, and he was charmed by her ability to maintain a sweet disposition despite the crude and mean comments people made at that place.

In making small talk, LeRoy expressed an interest in butterfly collecting, to which Joyce replied, *"Then you'd like to become an entomologist?"* Not only did that comment assure LeRoy that she was on the same "page" as he was, but no doubt was the only time someone said the word "entomologist" at the Goods!

The new couple moved into one of the Badger Village housing units near Baraboo to start their lives together. Twin daughters, Julie and Judith, were born the following June putting a strain on their meager earnings, and interrupted LeRoy's daily studies with diaper changing duty. He took this all in stride, however, and completed his undergraduate work on time.

He graduated with a degree in zoology and an extensive background in botany in June of 1952. Joyce presented him with the graduation gift of a son, Daniel. Two other sons would join the family later: Gregory in 1954, and Philip in 1959.



Figure 3 LeRoy and Joyce in later years

Conservation Career

The summer after graduation, LeRoy worked as an employee at Badger Ordinance Plant in the Nitroglycerin division. He desperately wanted to become a part of the Wisconsin Conservation Department, and got his wish when he was hired as a conservation aid (standard entry level at the time) in September 1952.

His voracious appetite for reading and study had him consuming a book or two a week, a habit that continued for most of his life. What made the practice highly unusual was that he took extensive notes as he read, and meticulously filed them. He would often review the files to refresh his memory of facts, and correct information filed when new facts were discovered.

For a while, the family lived at a fish hatchery near Burlington. LeRoy's daughter, Judith, recalled they had a pet skunk named Euclid, just one of the many critters the family was exposed to during LeRoy's early career. She also recalled that she and her sister pushed doll buggies once containing an unusual passenger. When asked by visitors what they had in the buggies, they replied, "Lumbricus," and the visitors thought it was cute that twins were making up language. In fact, it was earthworms being given a ride!

In those early days, LeRoy's duties involved many physically demanding tasks including fencing, posting public hunting grounds, releasing pheasants, mowing trails, litter pickup, parking lot maintenance, and a variety of tasks assigned to him. Because of his extensive knowledge in plant identification, he was often called upon to present conservation programs at several area schools.

His superior technical qualifications were soon recognized, and he was promoted to Assistant Area Game Manager just two years later. He was reassigned to Wausau in 1956, and finally to Marinette in 1958. He was promoted to Area Game Manager when he was at Marinette, and was in charge of wildlife programs and staff in Marinette, Oconto, Shawano, Florence, and Menomonee counties. He remained at that location until his retirement in 1983.

LeRoy's life as a game manager was incredibly interesting for his family. Daughter Judith recalled the following story to illustrate the point:

Once, as an overnight event, we had gunnysacks in our basement. So, after a brief departure from the house by the parents, we decided to enter the basement and untie one of the bags. Turkeys! Live! Terrible to get back into the bag, like toothpaste going back into the tube. This "untying" event was revealed years later, as were others of our ancillary scenes from Dad's work.

Son Philip shared his sister's views of their early life with the following:

Growing up with my father was everything but ordinary. It was a childhood full of mystery and discovery. My father, by his own incentives, taught all of us how interesting natural history is and, from taking a small drop of pond water to would investigate the one-celled animals, to climbing the highest peaks in the Rockies to look for Rosy Finches and Willow Ptarmigans, made my childhood extremely fascinating and rewarding.

Son Greg often accompanied his father into the field on deer and coyote surveys for the Department, as well as mourning dove, ruffed grouse, and American woodcock counts. Greg recalls family outings when he was four years old along the Wausaukee River in Marinette County, and remembers his father catching fox snakes and teaching the family how to handle snakes.

His natural enthusiasm and reverence for plants and animals rubbed off on us. I loved going into the woods with him, especially Carney Bog, about 40 miles north of Marinette. Dad played a significant role in setting it aside as a Scientific and Natural Area because he discovered a colony of ramshead orchids.

Greg recalls several trips to the Upper Peninsula, and to the fields, forests, and wetlands of northeastern Wisconsin. He fondly remembers woodland outings in May to find red-backed salamanders under old hemlock logs, and recalls observing his father on his knees with a hand lens to identify plants during camping trips, rattling off scientific names with immense joy.

One of my great memories occurred at the Peshtigo Harbor Wildlife Area when I was 15 years old. We had gone there to catch the spring bird migration, and we both had binoculars. Dad pointed out the different birds to me; that's when I saw my first rose-breasted grosbeak amid the drab, early spring foliage. And that's when everything began to click for me. I can't say enough about my dad for what he taught me, and the great love for natural history he passed on to us.

Career Highlights

The Area Game Manager's responsibilities were many and varied, and required the skills of a biologist, ecologist, botanist, sociologist, policeman, real estate broker, land appraiser, administrator, supervisor, farmer, surveyor, engineer, educator, and politician. LeRoy handled the tasks with ease and without accolades.

While his supervisory role with the agency required more office work dealing with reports, budgeting, invoice processing, personnel matters, and a myriad of endless, time specific tasks assigned to him by the district office in Green Bay, and the central office in Madison, LeRoy managed to keep a hand in field activities, and committed countless after work hours and unpaid weekends to deliver lectures, lead tours, and educate individuals to the wonderful natural world he knew so well.



Figure 3 LeRoy points out a browse line in the Eagle Creek deer-yard

LeRoy's transition into DNR's highly technical planning era produced a

humorous story still being told in the agency today. A meeting of all LeRoy's district peers was being held, and complex, new plans were to be discussed. The lead planner showed everyone the first budget printouts, which, at that time, were on an accordion-style, pin-drive paper. As the group was looking over their printouts, the lead planner noticed LeRoy's puzzled look and a fanfold of papers in his hand. He inquired, "*LeRoy, do you understand it?*" LeRoy replied, "*Understand it? I can't even fold it.*"

For game managers, the controversial world of deer management was a constant challenge. No wildlife program produced more psychological stress than the one establishing hunting regulations for white-tailed deer. LeRoy endured numerous public hearings, informational meetings, hate mail, and angry telephone calls over much of his career, but never once lost his objectivity or his calm, professional demeanor.

Throughout his career, LeRoy was especially active in promoting protection and preservation of wetlands. He was also instrumental in getting the state to focus on northeastern Wisconsin when at a time much attention was being directed to the southern part of the state.

Grounded in this profound interest of the natural world, he worked to create an awareness of Green Bay west shore marshes located in Marinette and Oconto counties, and to establish a state land acquisition project to protect them. His actions prevented the destruction of this estuary-like wetland system that is one of the most extensive in the Great Lakes.

LeRoy's efforts to protect critical habitat led to establishment of a 90-acre Seagull Bar Wildlife Area in 1959, and a 1,300-acre Lake Noquebay Wildlife Area in 1960. But the crown jewel of his habitat protection efforts was put in place when the Green Bay West Shores project was formally established by the DNR in 1962 with a land acquisition goal of 13,933 acres. Other land buying efforts by LeRoy included key tracts in older projects including Amberg Wildlife Area (1,190 acres), Miscauno Wildlife Area (682 acres), and Town Corner Wildlife Area (905 acres).

As noted by son Greg, LeRoy's expertise and keen interest in protecting fragile plant communities extended into Michigan when he learned of a rare bog was threatened by development. Informing the public about it through the news media, getting the local Audubon chapter involved, and leading

tours there on his own time during many weekends eventually paid off when the Michigan established a formal project there, entitled the Carney Bog State Natural Area.

Precedent Setting Wetland Case

LeRoy was one of five members of a committee that drafted the Marinette County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance Number 24 in 1967. LeRoy was instrumental in having wetlands defined in this ordinance as an "Area where groundwater is at or near the surface much of the year and where any segment of plant cover is deemed an aquatic according to N. C. Fassett's *Manual of Aquatic Plants*."

Lintereur was especially concerned about having a strong biological basis for determining a wetlands classification. Having had Fassett as a professor, LeRoy felt that Fassett's work was especially relevant for defining wetlands on a biological basis. This was an especially broad classification for defining wetlands and greatly increased areas over which the Marinette County and the Department of Natural Resources could extend protection.

The Marinette County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance was soon put to a test when Donald and Kathryn Just of Porterfield, Wisconsin filled in wetlands along Lake Noquebay. The Justs were charged by Marinette County for violation of the zoning ordinance. In turn, the Justs filed a counter suit that stated that their lands were not wetlands and that the ordinance was unconstitutional.

LeRoy was the major expert witness to determine the wetland status of the Just property. Without verification that the property affected was, in fact, entirely comprised of wetland components, the county's case would be lost. James E. Murphy, the attorney representing Marinette County, said that the testimony of Lintereur was critical to the success of the case.

During the testimony, LeRoy described in great detail the nature and distribution of aquatic plants on the Just property. Upon cross-examination by the defense, he was forced to identify plants presented in obscure photos of the property, and LeRoy readily rose to the challenge. Despite intense questioning, he vigorously stuck to his scientific principles in assessing the biological basis for determining the wetlands.

The case for the county was upheld by the district court, and the Just family

appealed the verdict to the Wisconsin Supreme Court where LeRoy's unwavering expert testimony was again crucial to the decision-making process. In 1972, Chief Justice E. Harold Hollow ruled that the shoreland zoning ordinance of Marinette County was constitutional. He further stated that the prohibition of the filling of wetlands was also considered constitutional and was not judged to be a public take-over of private property without compensation.

Why was this case significant to the resource and public rights and interests? The court stated: *An owner of land has no absolute and unlimited right to change the essential natural character of his land so as to use it for a purpose for which it was unsuited in its natural state and which it injures the rights of others (the public). Wetlands contiguous to navigable waters (shoreline wetlands) are unique and special natural resources.*

The outcome of this court action established precedent-setting case law for Wisconsin, and ultimately preserved tens of thousands of wetland acres in the state. It continues to protect more threatened wetlands each year.

LeRoy and the Community

LeRoy's natural desire and inclination to learn everything he could find available about the world he lived in continued throughout his life. In retirement, he studied Egyptology, Greek, paleontology, music and religion. He bought a recorder and learned to play it. And, he finally realized the life-long dream of owning his own microscope; it was a beauty!

Incredibly, he continued to read and study, and wrote reviews of everything he read for his extensive files. He became an active member of *The Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters*, and submitted many historical writings about the flora and fauna of northeastern Wisconsin in their quarterly publication, *The Wisconsin Academy Review*.

He is remembered for his ceaseless efforts to share his knowledge and love of the outdoors with other people. He did this by leading numerous field trips to bogs, jackpine forests, woods and marshes. He introduced themes and ideas along with the biota itself to his followers. He sometimes passed the objects of his attention around to the group. Many people looked through his pocket magnifier at the eyes of a spider, the contents of a pitcher plant or the culms on sedges. He captivated people with his enthusiasm and knowledge, and everyone learned something.

He brought the natural world inside, too. He made numerous presentations to schools, women's clubs, Rotary, sportsmen's groups, and nature organizations. He taught a yearly class at The Clearing, a folkschool for nature, art, and the humanities located north of Ellison Bay in Door County, introducing a new theme each year containing reading assignments and discussions. He was a frequent guest speaker at UW-Marquette, addressing botany, environmental science, zoology, and ecology. He also taught a class there during the 1970s.

LeRoy's long-time office-mate, fisheries biologist Tom Thuemler, recalled many conversations with LeRoy, and watched in amazement as his wildlife counterpart informed and educated people on natural resources. Tom offered this observation about LeRoy's ability to captivate an audience:

LeRoy was a true naturalist. He could talk knowledgeably about almost any area of natural history in which you had an interest. On one hand, he would explain the difference between a sedge and a grass; then he would delve into the taxonomy of the Great Lakes whitefishes; or tell you about different Lepidoptera. He always felt that you were on the same level that he was when it came to these various issues in the environment and, of course, we never were.



Figure 4 LeRoy (center in hat) at what he did best

LeRoy contributed extensively to the UW-Marquette herbarium and other collections there, and did the same thing for other campuses and museums as well. He worked to develop a nature trail on campus, and was an instructor for many Elderhostel classes. He was a continual protector of Carney Bog in Upper Michigan, and worked with botanists from both Wisconsin and Michigan to compile plant inventory lists of a number of unique sites.

He worked with botanists throughout Wisconsin and Michigan to survey and protect fragile wetlands, especially Oconto Marsh and Peshtigo Harbor within the Green Bay West Shores project. His concerns about wetland losses and expertise about its value were expressed in letters to editors, as a guest writer, and as interviews for *The Milwaukee Journal*, *Green Bay Press Gazette*, and other publications such as *New Month* and a variety of newsletters.

LeRoy was instrumental in organizing the White Pine Chapter of the Audubon Society (later re-named Chappee Rapids Audubon Society after an historical trading post in the area), which is a Michigan and Wisconsin organization based in Marinette. Its purpose is to conserve, appreciate, and protect wildlife and the environment. He attended their meetings regularly, gave frequent lectures, and led tours to various northeastern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan areas containing unique flora and fauna.

He was truly interested in people. His open acceptance created an aura where people always felt freely to talk and ask about any topic. As good as he was in front of a group, he was even more inspiring in one-on-one discussions, always questioning, clarifying and encouraging.

LeRoy wrote a weekly column for the Marinette paper from 1968 to 1985 tallying more than 700 articles on the natural history of northeastern Wisconsin seasoned with ecological themes and personal observations...a charming and educational read for the volumes of people who read them. He infused the theme of biodiversity and poured it into his readers, bringing many before unnoticed or hidden creatures into a spotlight. A few examples demonstrate his writing style, and the depth of his thinking:

15 Nov 1969

First, a refresher on Greek history. Diogenes was a philosopher who

beat the housing problem by living in a tub, set for himself the almost impossible task of finding an honest man, and among other things, believed himself a brother to the animal. Whether he would be flattered to know that a chimney-building crayfish has his name is a rather useless speculation, but the only creature to bear the name Diogenes is just that - a sure enough crab, armed with pincers, stalked eyes and full armor. Just as the Diogenes of old peered up at the world from the bottom of a tub, so does our own, rather indifferently, I'm sure, from his watery pad through the mud chimney up at the blue sky.

6 Dec 1969

(Writing about wooly bear caterpillars)

And, in closing, how about a wooly bear story? Once, on a freezing day in December, I pick one off this same dike [Peshtigo]. He had been moving from one place to another when the cold overtook him, and there he was curled up, solid and lifeless as a pebble. I dropped him into my coat pocket thinking he'd made a nice specimen. Well, anyway, on the way home I stopped in the library. Suddenly, I froze, there was something creeping on me, the wooly bear, advancing purposefully around my neck welcoming the new day, eager to begin life anew.

Awards

LeRoy was a charter member of the Chappée Rapids Audubon Society, and spent countless hours guiding the organization, and educating its membership through lectures and tours. In honor of his many contributions to the organization and the environment, the chapter created the LeRoy Lintereur Environmental Achievement Award that is awarded annually to individuals producing outstanding conservation contributions.

Because of his years of community service including his countless efforts to educate and inform its citizens of Wisconsin's flora and fauna, and because of the countless tours he led in the area, a hiking trail was named for him at Harmony Hardwoods Memorial Forest in Marinette County. Additionally, a marker was placed in his name near the Seagull Bar Natural Area because it was one of LeRoy's favorite haunts, and because he facilitated changing its classification from wildlife area to state natural area. The marker's text written by LeRoy's daughter, Judith, was as follows:

Every plant, every creature here was given fond and honorable recognition of LeRoy J. Lintereur, a retired wildlife manager and avid naturalist. LeRoy reminded us we are all epigeans. There is no wall between man and the environment. We are one. In that spirit, seek out the natural communities surrounding you, keeping them alive for the generations to come.

To honor his lifetime of conservation dedication, the Wisconsin Chapter of *The Wildlife Society* awarded him its Award of Excellence in 1991 for his exceptional contributions to the conservation of Wisconsin's wildlife resources. The nomination document letter by Steven Miller, then Director of the Bureau of Wildlife Management, stated, "...it was his persistence at teaching, explaining, and re-teaching again that finally endeared him with the residents of Marinette County."

Life's Conclusion

LeRoy's view of the natural world passed on to the many organizations and individuals that he spoke or wrote to can be summed up nicely with the following quote from *A World in a Leaf* reprinted in the August 1993 issue of the *Wisconsin Natural Resources* magazine:

I think spiders portray the concept of a niche, a place to live, to perfection. Any wild community is made up of a multitude of them. A deer may take up an entire woods or a bird several acres. Then there are those animals that live in a mushroom, or under a stone, or prowl about in a bit of rotting log. The sum total of these makes up a woods or marsh or a field, all of them dependent ultimately on each other. It has been said that there are sermons in stones. Indeed there are, and also in rotten wood, decaying mushrooms and in rolled up leaves.

Daughter's Note

Judith Johnson reflected on her father's life with the following thoughts:

It is cliché to say we live in the north because we appreciate the seasons. This dissolves and gains strength in the writings and energy applied to the accomplishments of LeRoy Lintereur.

Every creature he described is sculpted into an unforgettable figure, every ecological theme becomes a life style easily emulated, and each day is a

veritable gift. The gift of Northeastern Wisconsin, its vibrant themes and holdings, is evident and prominent. On Wisconsin! Stand up Badgers, fight! For all that is here, easily accessible, and with wonder and lessons that can go on to enable us to be truly wonders of our planet.

Dad wrote: Weather today promises to be fair, and will remain so for most of the week. Leaves are coming down, how a season does fade away.

These are the last lines of LeRoy Lintereur's journal entry of October 8, 1995. He suffered a heart attack and died on October 9, 1995, but his writings ring like a bell bringing us home to the importance of the natural world.



Figure 5 There is no wall between man and the environment. We are one.