



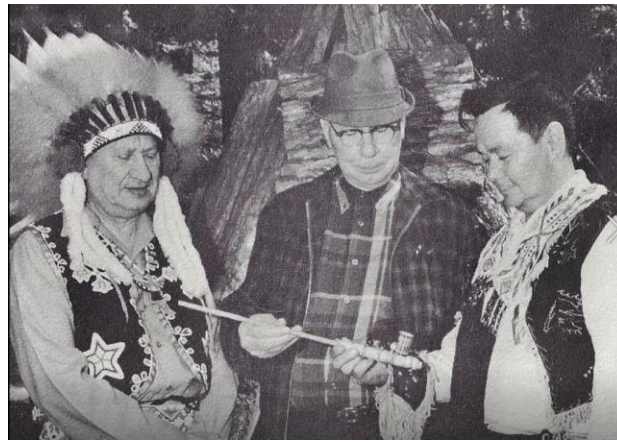
# Gordon Bubolz

AND THE BUBOLZ 10

2022 inductee to the  
Wisconsin Conservation  
Hall of Fame

Visit all 10 natural areas this insurance  
executive helped to preserve





# GORDON A. BUBOLZ 1905-1990

Insurance Executive – Community Leader – Father  
Wisconsin State Senator – Church Leader – Conservationist

Gordon A. Bubolz was a man of contrasts. An insurance company CEO and Republican state senator, he also was an outspoken critic of industrial waste being dumped into the Fox River by paper companies, the leading employers in northeast Wisconsin's Fox Cities. He was an avid conservationist and advocate of preserving special places for public use. In the Wisconsin Senate, he worked on the foundations of the Department of Natural Resources, regional planning and water quality protections. His most visible accomplishment was assisting in the acquisition of 10 natural areas, working through a nonprofit he created called Natural Areas Preservation Inc. (NAPI). That work was recognized by his induction in 2022 into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame. The "Bubolz 10" are listed here. Visit all 10 and you will see the extent to which this conservative businessman made nature accessible to all.

# THE BUBOLZ 10

4 nature centers, 3 wildlife areas,  
2 county parks, 1 state park

- |   |                                     |    |                                   |
|---|-------------------------------------|----|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Gordon A. Bubolz<br>Nature Preserve | 6  | Mukwa Marsh<br>Wildlife Area      |
| 2 | Fallen Timbers<br>Env. Educ. Center | 7  | Waukau Creek<br>Nature Preserve   |
| 3 | Mosquito Hill<br>Nature Center      | 8  | Hayman Falls<br>County Park       |
| 4 | Woodland Dunes<br>Nature Center     | 9  | Mount Morris Hills<br>County Park |
| 5 | Hobbs Woods<br>Nature Area          | 10 | High Cliff<br>State Park          |



## THE BUBOLZ 10

# #1 Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve

The namesake of Gordon Bubolz is a 775-acre nature center near Appleton. NAPI bought 488 acres of this important lowland cedar woods for \$33,000 in 1971. NAPI members wanted to name it for Gordon, but knew he'd object. The Executive Committee removed him as chairman temporarily and made him leave the room until after they voted to name it the Gordon A. Bubolz Nature Preserve. A new building constructed in 2015 adds revenue as a wedding and meeting venue. It has 8.5 miles of trails.



4815 N. Lynndale Drive  
Take Co A north from  
Appleton.

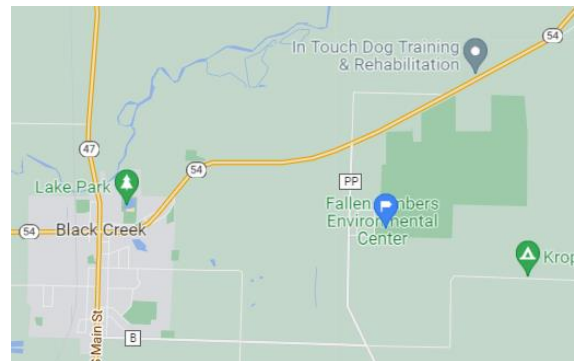




THE BUBOLZ 10

# #2 Fallen Timbers Nature Center

Fallen Timbers Environmental Education Center is a 440-acre nature center between Black Creek and Seymour. It is owned by six school districts and primarily used by area school groups. It was acquired for \$60,000 in 1975, mostly from Fort Howard Paper Co. with assistance from Bubolz. Boardwalks help visitors hike through wet areas on the way to exploring ponds and a native prairie.



W4531 Robin Rd,  
near Seymour.



THE BUBOLZ 10

# #3 Mosquito Hill Nature Center

Nearly half of the existing county-owned nature preserve near New London was purchased in 1975 with help from Gordon Bubolz and NAPI. More than 40 years ago, a 238-acre tract was being offered for sale for \$25,000. After county highway officials appraised it at \$14,000, NAPI kicked in the remaining \$11,000 and Outagamie County acquired the land in 1975. The Outagamie County park has grown to 441 acres and includes trails through upland and lowland woods, native prairie, many animal mounts and a small observatory.



N3830 Rogers Rd  
New London



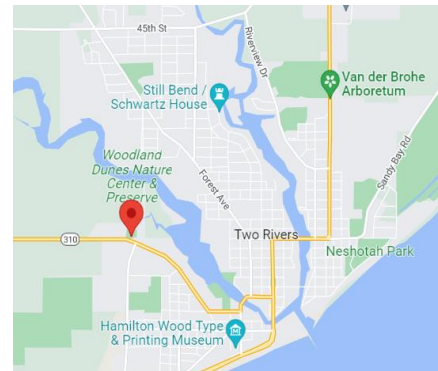
## THE BUBOLZ 10

# #4 Woodland Dunes Nature Center

Local advocates worked with NAPI to acquire the first 40 acres of this preserve in Two Rivers in 1974 at a cost of \$6,000. None was more influential than the late Bernie Brouchoud, an avid birder who became the nature center's first executive director. Bubolz retained Brouchoud by putting him on the payroll of the insurance company he ran. Brouchoud said that as Bubolz sat at kitchen tables negotiating land acquisition for the nature center, he never argued with a farmer's price for his land, as long as it wasn't truly outrageous.



Woodland Dunes comprises more than 1,300 acres, including 387 acres of the Woodland Dunes State Natural Area.



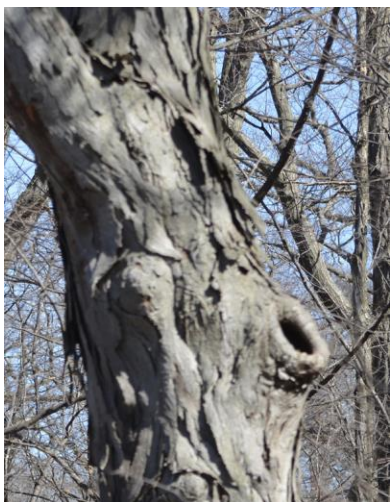
3000 Hawthorne Ave.  
Two Rivers



## THE BUBOLZ 10

# #5 Hobbs Woods Nature Area

In the 1970s, NAPI and the Winnebago County Conservation Club raised \$14,000 of the \$55,000 purchase price for 50 acres along Parsons Creek, with Fond du Lac County covering the balance. The property features a trout stream through a climax



hardwood forest, plus trails for hiking and cross-country skiing. You can walk along the stream or along the top of the ravines. Towering oaks fill the woods. Many others have submitted to wind or rot and cover the forest floor.



N4197 Hickory Road,  
Fond du Lac







THE BUBOLZ 10

# #6 Mukwa Wildlife Area

This marshy waterfowl hunting area outside of New London was created with help from Bubolz and NAPI. The Wisconsin Conservation Commission acquired it in 1964 to develop a waterfowl impoundment, but prohibitive costs and flood implications for the city of New London prevented the project from moving forward. The state-owned wildlife area now features 1,300 acres, including the 171-acre Mukwa Marsh. The area is also a popular spot for viewing sturgeon spawning in early spring in the Wolf River.



County Hwy X  
west of New  
London



## THE BUBOLZ 10

# #7 Waukau Creek Nature Preserve

This walleye spawning grounds on Rush Creek near Omro connects Rush Lake with the upper Fox River through steep-walled ravines. NAPI bought the land and gave it to Winnebago County. A 50-acre park was dedicated in 1975, with Bubolz in attendance. There are now 64 acres with trails and ravines down to Rush Creek;



Delhi Road off County Hwy. K near Waukau in Winnebago County





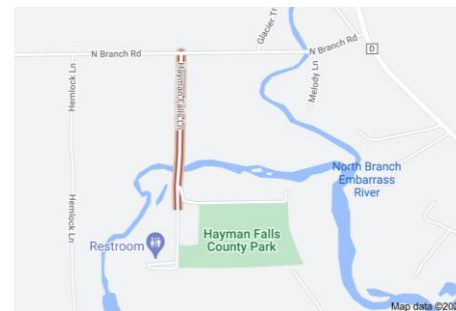
THE BUBOLZ 10

# #8 Hayman Falls County Park

A series of rapids tumble through this 54-acre parcel on the Embarrass River near the Shawano County community of Caroline. When Wisconsin Electric Power Co. offered to donate the property to Shawano County, some County Board members objected to the risk of owning a "waterfall." Bubolz got WEPCO to kick in extra cash to cover any potential claims and the board agreed to accept the gift. The abandoned hydroelectric dam left by the power company has since been removed. The American Whitewater Association says the waterfall is a half-mile rapids, usually rated at Class III, depending on water level.



N4386 Hayman Falls Lane  
Near Caroline in Shawano County

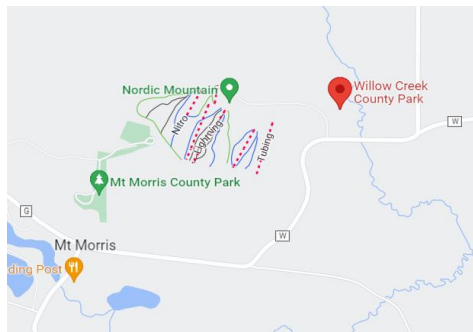




## THE BUBOLZ 10

# #9 Mount Morris Hills County Park

At 383 acres, this wooded park accounts for more than half the county park land in Waushara County. It was acquired in the early 1960s through the efforts of a local group known as Mount Morris Hills Inc., aided by Bubolz, who at the time was chairman of the Wolf River Basin Regional Planning Commission. Supporters hoped it would eventually become a state park but instead it has retained county status. Overlooks on the trails offer beautiful vistas of the surrounding farmland. The elevation reaches 1,135



with a climb of 78 feet. Not mountainous, but enough to increase your heartrate. Or you can drive there.



N3876 Co. G, Wild Rose.

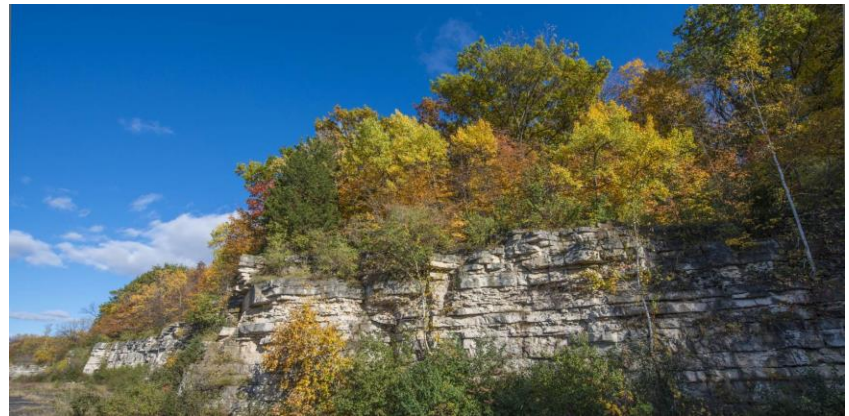


THE BUBOLZ 10

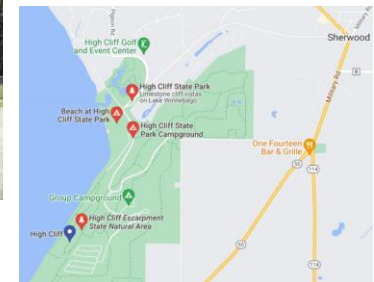
#10

# High Cliff State Park

Bubolz led a private effort in the mid-1950s to acquire 288 acres on the north shore of Lake Winnebago after a limestone mining operation there closed. When state officials said they didn't have money to acquire the lakefront land, Bubolz argued the future park was part of the Kettle Moraine and therefore eligible for funding from a trust fund designated for that novel geologic area. His argument won out and the state made the purchase, including 10,000 feet of shoreline, from Western Cement and Lime Co. for \$245,000 in 1956. High Cliff State Park opened in 1957. The park has since grown to 1,187 acres with a campground, harbor, effigy mounds, observation tower and 16 miles of trails.



N7630 State Park Road,  
Sherwood



A Sandhill Enterprises production  
by David Horst

