

# UWSP Leadership in Wisconsin Water Management: Past, Present, and Future

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College of Natural Resources

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point



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University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

# Who Am I?



Ph.D. Zoology 2001



U.S. Geological Survey  
Wisconsin Cooperative Fishery Research Unit

2002-2012  
2012-Present

Assistant Unit Leader  
Unit Leader



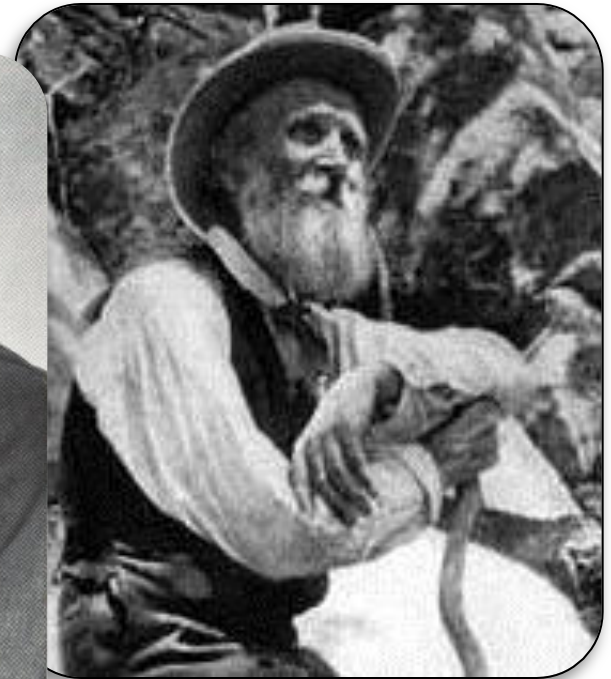
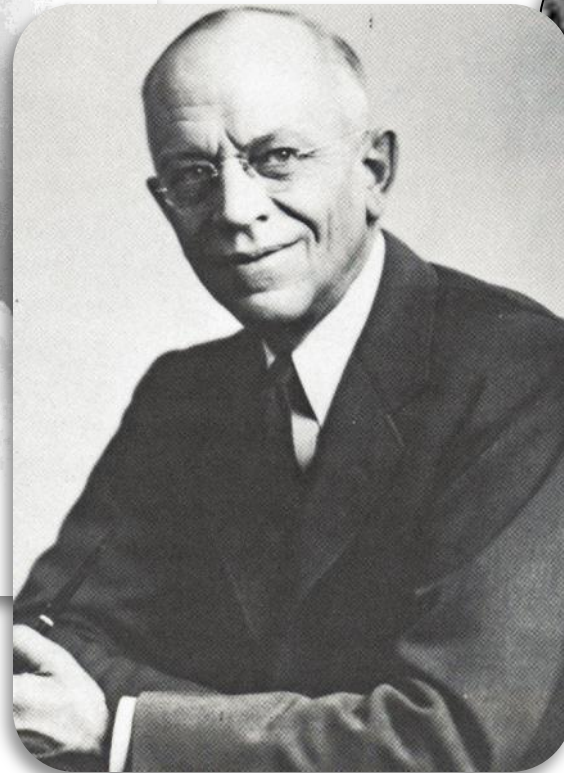


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- Conservation is part of our culture and heritage





# CNR History – The Early Days

- 1907 – Ag course initiated
- 1923 – Fred Schmeckle hired
- 1935 – Wilhelmine LaBudde
- 1946 – Nation's 1<sup>st</sup> Conservation Education major



# Fred Schmeeckle

- Need for conservation in curriculum:
- “The destruction of forests, pollution of water, and misuse of wildlife areas are factors that started me thinking something should be done to educate people in the wise use of resources.”
- Ultimately led to the first conservation major in the country!
  - Focused on conservation and education.



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# Fred Schmeeckle

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- “America needs to bring conservation education to its masses and the schools of our country are the best places where such should be taught. The learner must be brought in contact with real problems both in and out of school and appreciations and attitudes developed that a good citizen should possess as a worthy member of society.” – Fred Schmeeckle.
- The intercept of environmental literacy, education, and leadership.

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# CNR History – The Early Days

- 1951 – Conservation Curriculum expands
- 1963 – 6 week summer camp training
- 1969 – Enrollment surpassed 900



# Age of Water

- Mid 1960's
- Dual threat
  - Water
  - Fisheries
- Paul Baxter
- Jack Heaton
- Irv Korth



# CNR and the Present: Water Resources and Leadership

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- Strive to be an “Engaged” Institution
- Engaged institutions are:
  - “...responsive, respectful of its partners’ needs, accessible and relatively neutral while successfully integrating institutional service into research and teaching and finding sufficient resources for the effort...” —1999 Kellogg Commission.





# Engaged Institutions

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- Three key characteristics:
  - 1) Must be responsive to the needs of current and future students.
  - 2) Bring research and engagement into curriculum with practical opportunities.
  - 3) Put knowledge and expertise to work on problems its communities face.

—1999 Kellogg Commission.

# Engaged University

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- Sloss perspective –
  - An academic institution that *foundationally demands* and *actively exhibits* community outreach, learning services, and sharing institutional strengths to serve the greater societal good.
  - Engagement is not a *choice* of 21<sup>st</sup> century academic institutions, but an indigenous *responsibility*. It is an action mission not a passive goal.

# CNR as an Engaged Institution

- Foundation of engagement?
  - ✓ Mission: “To provide education, research, and outreach in integrated natural resources management, environmental education, and paper science and engineering.”
  - ✓ University-wide success; Partnership for Thriving Communities
- Actively exhibits community outreach, learning services, and sharing of institutional strengths for greater societal good?
  - ✓ Diversity of programs and documented excellence of College.
  - ✓ Wide variety of applied learning and community involvement.





# Outreach and Extension

- Over 20 centers and programs
- Opportunities for students



# UW-Extension and UWSP



University of Wisconsin  
**Stevens Point**

**UW**  
**Extension**  
University of Wisconsin–Extension

## Key Centers:

- Center for Watershed Science and Education
- Center for Land Use Education
- UW-Extension Lakes
  
- Leadership, Training, Education, and Support

# UWSP Fisheries and Water Resources

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## Capacity

- 10 faculty, 6+ staff
- Recognized expertise in watershed management, fisheries management, habitat management, groundwater, water chemistry, conservation genetics, and aquatic toxicology.
- >250 majors

## Mission

- Train and mentor the next generation of aquatic and natural resources leaders.
- Emphasize collaboration and integration with public and private groups.



# Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management

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- Capacity
    - 12+ faculty and staff
  - Preeminent National Program
  - Multiple Centers
  - >300 majors
- Majors
    - Envir. Ed/Interpretation
    - NR Social and Policy Sciences
    - Wildland Fire Science
    - Land Use Planning
    - NR Law Enforcement
    - Youth Programming and Camp Management





# A Bright Future

- State-of-the-art....
  - Facilities
  - Technology
  - Equipment





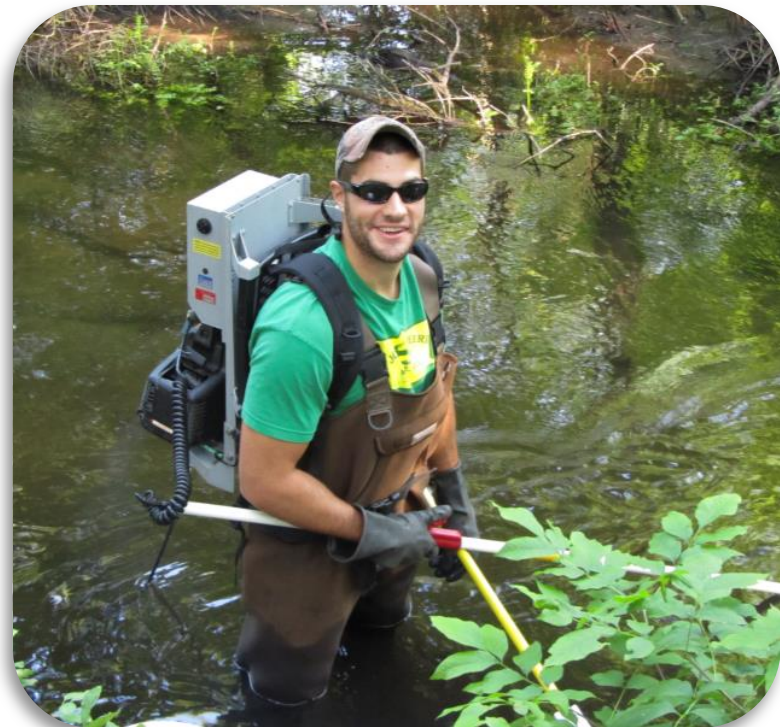
# Beyond the Classroom

- Emphasis on hands-on field experiences
- Extensive internship program



# How will UWSP stay a leader in the future?

- By staying true to our foundational mission and ethic to ensure we are an 'Engaged' University.



# Into the future...

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- Mission stability with adaptive approaches.
  - Intentional contradiction highlighting:
    - Sustain current success
    - Adapt to recognized needs
  - Responsiveness dictates ultimate changes
  - Stay true to the *Wisconsin Idea, CNR and UWSP missions*
    - Be a critical, constructive part of our ever growing and diverse WI communities.

# Immediate Challenges

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- Technological advancements

- "At today's rate of change, we will achieve an amount of [technological] progress equivalent to that of the whole 20th century in 14 years, then as the acceleration continues, in 7 years. The progress in the 21st century will be about 1,000 times greater than that in the 20th century, which was no slouch in terms of change," (Kurzweil, 2003).



# We Must Innovate While Leading



# Immediate Challenges

## Bridging the Gap

- Integration and Coordination
  - Improve interdisciplinary cooperation
    - We are a collection of individuals under the auspices of a central, unified mission. Make it a priority for this to be more functional and beneficial for the good of our students and communities.
    - Outreach, extension, and research is a common theme of all disciplines not a point of contention!



# Immediate Challenges

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- Restrictive funding in a hyperpolitical environment
  - Ensure message is clear from communities that our engagement is beneficial.
  - Stay as relatively neutral on contentious issues as possible. Hard to identify an issue that is not politicized.
    - Develop decision-making rules.
    - Stay with peer-reviewed science and findings.
    - Show rigor in all we do and attempt.
  - Lead by example.

# Water Resources Specific Future Challenges...

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- Key Variable
  - Climate Change
- Cycle of challenges...
  - Supply vs. Demand
  - Invasive Species
  - Development
  - Land Use Practices
  - Pollution
  - Objective vs. Subjective Data Interpretation



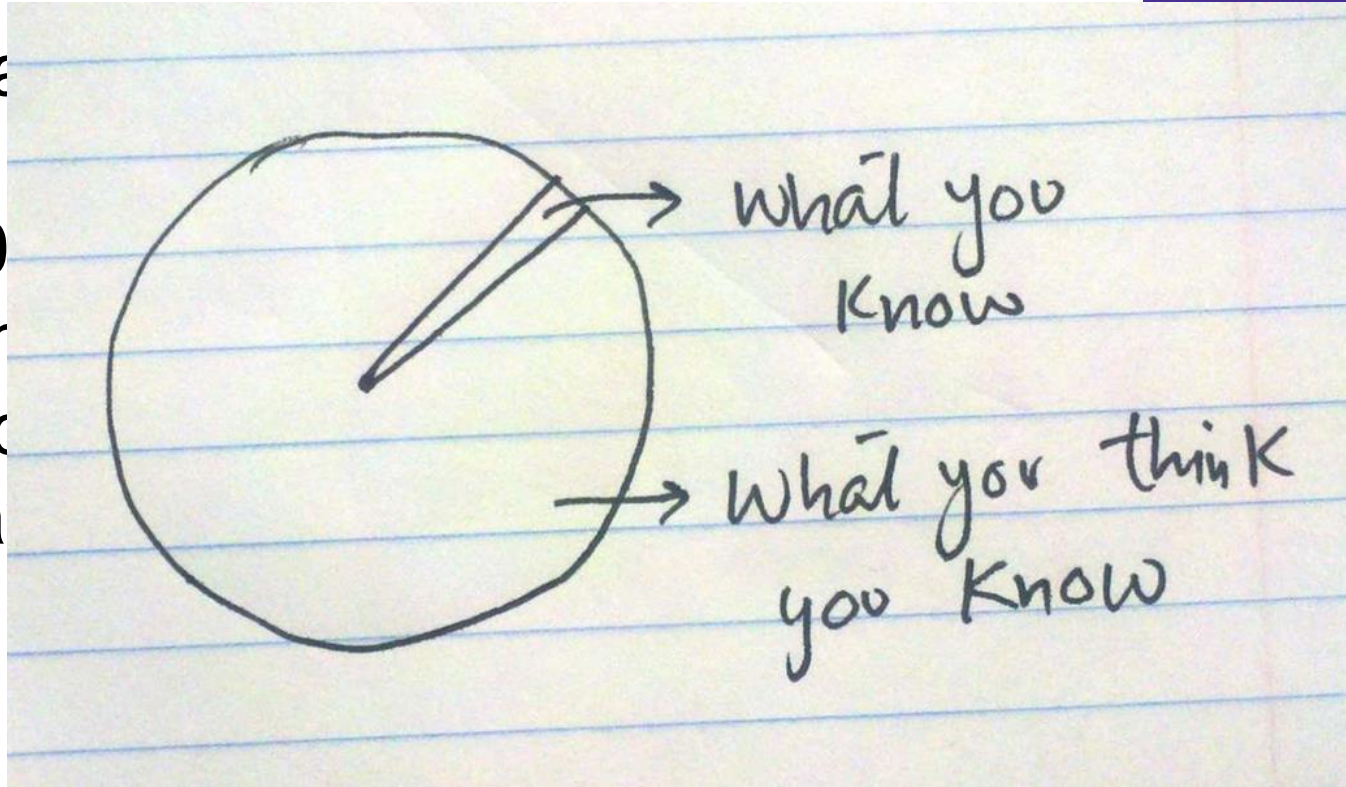
# Leadership...

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- “Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.” —John F. Kennedy.
- “Leaders are not born. They are made. They are made just like anything else...through hard work. That's the price we have to pay to achieve that goal or any goal.” —Vince Lombardi.

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# Contact Information

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