

THANK YOU, GEORGE. I AM VERY PLEASED TO BE HERE THIS AFTERNOON TO DEDICATE THIS BOUNTIFUL PIECE OF LAND. I JUST FINISHED A BOAT TOUR OF THE PROPERTY'S FRONTAGE ALONG THE WOLF RIVER. ... WHAT A PRISTINE, BEAUTIFUL, WILD PLACE IT IS. LIKE GEORGE JUST TOLD YOU, THIS IS A SPECIAL PLACE FOR WILDLIFE.

I AM PROUD TO ADD THIS TO THE MORE THAN 200,000 ACRES OF LAND THAT I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF WISCONSIN FOR THEIR ENJOYMENT UNDER MY ADMINISTRATION. IT IS LAND LIKE THIS THAT MAKES WISCONSIN A SPECIAL PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY.

GEORGE POINTED OUT SOME IMPORTANT PARTNERS IN MAKING THIS POSSIBLE. I TOO WANT TO RECOGNIZE SOME OF YOUR LEGISLATORS WHO LENT THEIR SUPPORT TO THIS PURCHASE.

SENATORS ROBERT COWLES AND ROBERT WELCH, REPRESENTATIVE DEAN KAUFERT ARE HERE WITH US TODAY, AND SENATOR MIKE ELLIS, REPRESENTATIVE JUDY KLUSMAN, AND REPRESENTATIVE MARK GREEN WHO WERE UNABLE TO JOIN US. ALL WERE ACTIVE IN CONTACTING ME IN SUPPORT OF THIS PURCHASE.

JUST 10 MILES FROM HERE IS THE CITY OF APPLETON, A GROWING, THRIVING CITY. WE NEED CITIES AND THEIR WORKFORCES AND JOBS FOR OUR ECONOMY, BUT WE ALSO NEED PLACES LIKE THIS TO RECHARGE OUR BATTERIES, TO MAINTAIN THE DIVERSITY OF OUR PLANTS AND ANIMALS AND TO TEACH OUR CHILDREN THE RECREATIONAL HERITAGE OF WISCONSIN.

WE ARE LUCKY TO HAVE THE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR SUCH A PLACE SO CLOSE TO THE BUSTLING CITY.

I HAVE APPOINTED A BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE ON THE FUTURE OF THE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM TO TAKE A LOOK AT CONTINUING THE PROGRAM. LIKE YOU, I BELIEVE THE STATE'S NATURAL RESOURCES MUST BE PRESERVED AND PROTECTED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

ERVIN LASAGE KNOWS THAT. [COME ON UP HERE ERVIN...]

FOR MANY YEARS ERVIN HAS PROTECTED AND ENHANCED THE HABITAT OF WILDLIFE AND WATERFOWL ON THIS PROPERTY. ... HE KNEW IT WAS A SPECIAL PLACE FOR HIS CHILDREN TO COME AND LEARN ABOUT THE WAYS OF NATURE AND ENJOY HUNTING AND FISHING AS A FAMILY.

HE HAD THE FORESIGHT TO KEEP IT AS WE SEE IT AND NOT SUCCUMB TO THE PRESSURES TO DIVIDE IT INTO SMALL PARCELS JUST TO MAKE A BUCK.

ERVIN WAS A SMALL TOWN KID FROM WAUPACA. LIKE SO MANY OF US GATHERED HERE TODAY, AS A YOUNG MAN HE LOVED TO HUNT AND FISH. HE RECOGNIZED THE RICH POTENTIAL OF THIS LAND FOR HUNTING AND FISHING. BUT HE WENT FURTHER.

ERVIN CARED FOR THE LAND. HE INSTALLED DIKES FOR THE DUCKS AND GEESE TO GATHER AND NEST ON ... AND FOR THE WALLEYE SPAWN IN. ERV RIPAPPED THE SHORELINE TO PROTECT THE PRECIOUS SPAWNING BEDS OF THE LAKE STURGEON. ERV LASAGE WAS A COMMITTED CONSERVATIONIST.

AND THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE TODAY. I'D LIKE TO READ FROM THE CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION WE HAVE FOR MR. LASAGE.

**[READ FRAMED CERTIFICATE]
[HAND CERTIFICATED TO ERVIN]**

**AND WE HAVE A SPECIAL SURPRISE FOR ERVIN
TODAY...[TURN AND POINT TO THE BANNER] I HEREBY
DESIGNATE THIS PROPERTY THE ERVIN LASAGE UNIT OF
THE WOLF RIVER BOTTOMS.**

**ERV, THIS LEGACY WILL LIVE ON IN PERPETUITY FOR THE
ENJOYMENT OF SPORTS MEN AND WOMEN OF ALL AGES
TO APPRECIATE THE GREAT WONDERS OF THE NATURAL
WORLD.**

**THIS BEAUTIFUL PLACE, IN THIS GREAT STATE OF
WISCONSIN.**