

**Old World Wisconsin, Eagle, Wisconsin, Wisconsin Historical Society  
Dr. Tom Woods served as director of Old World Wisconsin through the 1990s.**

With ten ethnic farmsteads, a crossroads village, an African-American settlement, an Activity Area, and a restaurant and gift shop, Old World Wisconsin is one of the largest open-air museums in the United States. In 2000 there were sixty-nine historic structures on the museum grounds and 109 total structures on 576 acres. In addition to daily programs, the museum presented over forty special event days per year. While there, Dr. Woods directed the development of several new historic sites within Old World Wisconsin, including the Thomas General Store, the Caldwell Farmers Club Hall Activity Area, the Pleasant Ridge African-American Area, and added to and upgraded several other areas, particularly in the Crossroads Village. Other interpretive innovations implemented while Dr. Woods directed Old World Wisconsin, included Children's Days, a new orientation video, and several living history programs, including a Village Gossip Tour, several first-person characters, such as John Muir, Fighting Bob LaFollette, and a tax assessor. He also began an aggressive ecological restoration program for several remnant prairies and oak savannas and initiated two outdoor trail exhibits, the Aldo Leopold Environmental History Trail and the Richard E. Perrin Cultural History Trail. Dr. Woods created strong community bonds by creating several ethnic advisory committees, collaborative working relationships with Milwaukee African-American theatre groups, and he developed a very strong working relationship with the Friends of Old World Wisconsin.

**Old World Wisconsin's Aldo Leopold Environmental History Trail Wayside Exhibits**

"The trail we dedicate today is more than a nature trail, it is also a people trail. It ties nature and people together. It takes a historical approach to the interaction between people and nature. It is called the Environmental History Trail. It is a unique idea and **Tom Woods** is to be commended for coming up with it. . . . [This trail] gives us an ecological interpretation of history."

**Marlin Johnson**, Aldo Leopold Environmental History Trail Dedication Speaker, June 3, 2000

*Best of Milwaukee 2000*, Best New Nature Trail, from *Milwaukee Magazine* for the Aldo Leopold Environmental History Trail.

*Gold Award for Echoes from the Land: Stories from the Heartland*, from the Association of Commercial Video Producers for Old World Wisconsin orientation video, 1999.

*Governor's Award of Commendation for Pleasant Ridge African-American Exhibit* at Old World Wisconsin, 1998.



Dr. Woods with oxen Star and Swan, formerly from the Oliver H. Kelley Farm and the first team of oxen at Old World. Historic farmer Bryan Zaeske holds the plow in front of Old World Wisconsin's 1860s Schulz Farm, a Pomeranian farm depicting the 1860s period. The barn in the background has a thatched roof and *fachwerk*, or half-timbered construction. Like barns in Pomerania, it opened into a farm courtyard, rather than a pasture.