

# **Thomas G. Coon**

## **Director MSU Extension**

Dr. Thomas Coon is Director of Michigan State University Extension and Professor in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University. He is responsible for providing leadership to an organization that has over 1,200 staff and faculty both on campus and in each of Michigan's 83 counties and an annual budget of over \$84 million. MSUE provides research-based education programs designed to address community, family and industry needs in five broad program areas (agriculture, natural resources, families, youth and community/economic development).

In previous administrative assignments, Dr. Coon has served as Associate Dean for Graduate and International Programs in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and as Associate Department Chairperson and Acting Chairperson in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at MSU.

Dr. Coon's expertise is in aquatic ecology and aquatic ecosystem management. He has taught a variety of courses on aquatic ecology, fish biology, and natural resource management over 25 years of university level teaching and has advised hundreds of undergraduate students in Fisheries and Wildlife curricula. He has developed an applied research program that is focused on fish population responses to environmental change. His work has addressed a variety of species ranging from freshwater mussels to tropical fish and aquatic ecosystems ranging from small headwater trout streams to the North American Great Lakes. His research has been funded by state, federal and international agencies, and he has mentored 19 graduate students as major advisor and dozens more as a committee member.

Dr. Coon has been recognized for his dedication to teaching and mentoring with Distinguished Faculty and Advising Awards from the University of Missouri School of Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife and the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. He is a member of the American Fisheries Society, has served on the Governing Board of that organization, and received the Distinguished Service Award from the Society in 1998.

Dr. Coon earned the B.A. in Biology from Luther College in 1976, and the M.S. and Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of California-Davis in 1978 and 1982, respectively.