VISIONARIES IN WISCONSIN'S CONSERVATION HISTORY

by

Angela Cannon

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APPROVED BY THE GRADUATE COMMITTEE OF:

Dr. Michael Gross, Committee Chairman
Professor of Environmental Education/Interpretation

Dr. Christine Thomas
Professor of Natural Resources

Dr. Earl Spangenberg
Professor of Natural Resources and President of the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame.
ABSTRACT

Throughout American history, Wisconsin has pioneered new ideas and progressive steps toward the conservation of natural resources. For example; Wisconsin set precedent for the first rural zoning law, was the first state in the nation to ban the use of DDT, and has set standards for some of the most stringent groundwater and ozone layer protection legislation in the United States. These progressive programs and accomplishments have come about through the efforts of Wisconsin’s citizens - many of them leaders in the conservation and environmental movement. These individuals have demonstrated great wisdom, perseverance and vision regarding quality of life and quality of the environment in this state and the nation. This thesis examines the conservation history in the state with a separate compendium of significant dates and events. A contemporary definition for the term "conservation" was created by the researcher using responses from the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Board of Directors and Board of Governors in a modified Delphi-Panel survey. 18 short biographies on the Inductees in the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame located in Stevens Point, form the final accumulation of this research into Wisconsin's conservation and environmental history of the last 150 years. The visionaries included in these biographies give emphasis to the role of Wisconsin’s leadership in natural resource conservation issues facing the region, the nation and the world.
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"History means the warmth of human associations, that while great events may find their place in books and museums, it is the people themselves who really counted."

- Sigurd Olson

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CHAPTER ONE
Wisconsin Conservation History
Introduction and Importance of This Study

Introduction

The settlement of North America rushed forward in blind haste from almost the very moment the first brave, but unprepared pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock. The early Europeans came with ambition and dreams, and a belief that civilization meant conquering wilderness and all that was part of it. In the eyes of the settler, the abundant resources of the pristine continent were limitless, and the rightful harvest of the people. As territories were formed by a young government, the people perceived that it was their "manifest destiny" to settle the North American continent. The riches of the land were for anyone capable enough to tap them. Few people saw that wastefulness would lead to the resource depletion, extinction of species and environmental degradation which followed.

The settlement of Wisconsin showed no exception in the exploitation of natural resources. Wisconsin was, however, blessed with people who would help develop the ethics and methods for conservation in the years to come. These individuals came to Wisconsin with vision, and led the way for the conscientious use and preservation of the state's, and the nation's, natural treasures.

Stewart Udall, in his book, *The Quiet Crisis*, views our American history as "the story of man and his effect on the forests, plains, water and other natural resources of this land" (Udall, 1988). In the case of Wisconsin, our
history has been not only the story of our effect on natural resources, but on our progressive stewardship efforts as well. Walter E. Scott, former Assistant to the Director of the Wisconsin Conservation Department, observed that "Wisconsin has been both pioneer and leader in the conservation movement over this past century and more" (Scott, 1967).

Significant first steps in natural resource conservation include: the first rural zoning law in the United States passed by the Wisconsin State Legislature, the first pilot soil conservation demonstration in the United States, the first general college conservation curriculum (begun at UW-Stevens Point), the first bond issue for outdoor recreation, the first acid rain bill, the first ozone depletion protection act, and some of the most stringent groundwater legislation in the nation. Wisconsin's citizens have led the way in both conservation education and legislation. Conservation education legislation was first passed in this state in 1936. Over the next half century, Wisconsin has become a leader in environmental education.

Conservation practices in Wisconsin have been forged by professional and citizen leaders who have shown great foresight, wisdom, direction and perseverance. Wisconsin's citizens, land and wildlife have been the beneficiaries of their efforts.

The Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame was established in 1982 to commemorate those individuals who have made significant contributions to conservation programs, projects and public understanding in Wisconsin. The
Hall of Fame museum exists in the Schmeekle Reserve Visitor Center and serves a diverse group of people including area residents, University students and staff, school groups, overnight and traveling tourists, history buffs, families, and conservation-minded individuals.

Through recognition of the people and events which have helped move Wisconsin towards sound resource management, citizens today and tomorrow will be inspired to take positive conservation action. "Only an ever-widening concept and higher idea of conservation will enlist our finest impulses and move us to make the earth a better home both for ourselves and for those as yet unborn" (Udall, 1988).

In 1937, Walter Scott published a series of articles on "Wisconsin's Conservation History". Thirty years later he stated that "every month since then I have discovered new knowledge attesting to the need for more research to do justice to this subject" (Scott, 1967). Although bits and pieces of Wisconsin's conservation policy, legislative history and cultural history has been investigated, little in the way of a comprehensive conservation history has been computed.

Importance of This Study

The importance of this study is to make a contribution to the investigation Walter E. Scott attempted in the 1930s. It is also important to document the notable and progressive conservation history of Wisconsin, and the extraordinary citizens who led the movement not only in this state, but in the nation as well.
The result of this research will be a book documenting the visionaries in Wisconsin's conservation history of the last 150 years who have been inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame. It will also serve as a chronology of the conservation movement. This documentary will serve as a resource for the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame, and as a keepsake for visitors to reenforce the concepts stressed through exhibits, displays and plaques at the Schmeekle Reserve. The final project will be educational and enjoyable reading for adults seeking further information about the story of Wisconsin conservation history, and the individuals who helped make the natural resources and beauty of this state, what they are today.

Statement Of The Problem

This project will result in a book of brief biographies on the significant conservationists in Wisconsin history to serve as a resource for the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame (WCHF). The book will begin with pre-settlement Wisconsin, focusing on the significant natural resource issues confronted by early settlers. Emphasis will be on the conservation issues, actions and leadership demonstrated during the past 150 years. The introductory chapter will be
preceded by a chronological listing of significant events and legislation followed by the story of Wisconsin's conservation history. This history will be organized by three major Eras, the Progressive Era, the Conservation Era, and the Environmental Movement. Brief biographies will be on Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Inductees.

Subproblems:

1. The first subproblem will be to investigate the development of the term conservation, while finding a contemporary and working definition both for, and in part by, the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame. This investigation will be aided by Wisconsin Hall of Fame Boards of Directors and Governors, a literature review, and advice from environmental historians/philosophers.

2. The second subproblem will be to research the conservation leaders and major events in Wisconsin's conservation history selected or reviewed by the WCHF Boards. Interviewing selected contemporary leaders, affiliates and historians, as well a literature review, will be used.

3. The third subproblem is researching and writing biographies on the conservation leaders in Wisconsin with emphasis on their contributions to local
and nation-wide stewardship, through primary and secondary source investigations.

4. The fourth subproblem is to write a book on Wisconsin conservationists to be marketed by the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame located in the Schmeekle Reserve.

**Significance**

Very little has been written to document the conservation contributions made by Wisconsin citizens, and the pioneering contributions Wisconsin has made for the nation. It is of vital importance to record and remember the history of natural resource depletion, issues and accomplishments. According to former Wisconsin state governor Warren Knowles, "We look to our history so we can be briefed on unfolding events of the day." Wisconsin leaders have helped inspire environmentally sound practices and problem solving attitudes in individuals around this state and the nation.

A working definition for the word 'conservation' is needed to help guide the WCHF Board members through the induction process. Although "Standards for Induction" exist, if there is no agreed-upon meaning for the term conservation, "significant conservation contributions" cannot be fairly evaluated.
Delimitations:

This study will be limited to the biographies of Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Inductees. It will not attempt to record all natural resource legislation passed which affected Wisconsin conservation, but rather serve as a summary of major events and the individuals who were involved.

The objective of this study is not to compare the conservation history of Wisconsin with that of the nation.

The final product of this study will not be merely a compilation of biographical data and chronological time lines, but serve as a readable, leisure-time publication for the general public.

Definition of Terms:

Conservation. Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary defines conservation as "a careful preservation and protection of something" and especially as "planned management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, destruction or neglect." The first Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot, termed conservation as the wise use of resources for the benefit of the most people over the longest duration. This utilitarian philosophy was coined originally in the late 1800s and was a guiding philosophy throughout much of the 1900s.

There is much ambiguity in the use of this term because of the wide range of activities, practices and philosophies represented. Because of this,
"conservation" will be defined according to professional consensus and research conducted during work on this project.

**Contributions.** Contributions are those means by which individuals have aided in the sound management or protection of natural resources. Contributions include applied resource management, conservation education, conservation policy formation, legislation and public leadership, research in conservation literature and art, and environmental law enforcement (Aplin, 1988).

**Major Events.** Major events are those occurrences in conservation history which have led to or represent significant changes in natural resource policy, management or ethics.

**Natural Resources.** Natural Resources include the forests, soil, water, air, minerals, scenic beauty and wildlife of the state.

**Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame (WCHF).** The WCHF is housed in the Schmeekle Reserve and serves to permanently recognize those individuals who have significantly contributed to the resource management of the state, and serves also as an inspiration to Wisconsin citizens towards future resource conservation efforts.
Assumptions

The first assumption is that the need for this project has already been defined in the original WCHF master plan.

The second assumption is that significant conservation contributions and individuals can be defined by a literature review and through consensus with the WCHF Board of Directors and Board of Governors.

The third assumption is that the final product, the documentary book, will be of continued use to the WCHF and a benefit for visitors to the Hall of Fame.
CHAPTER II
LITERATURE REVIEW

Conservation History

Historic conservation and literary figures such as John Muir, Aldo Leopold and George Perkins Marsh have written eloquently about the philosophies behind conservation. The story of America’s conservation history however, has been the sole focus of only a small number of books. A few philosophers and historians have contributed their expertise to the history of natural resource issues in works such as Worster’s *The Ends of the Earth* (1988) and *Nature’s Economy: A History of Ecological Ideas*, (1985) Joesph M. Petulla’s *American Environmental History* (1977), and in the literary essay’s collected in *The American Environment: Readings in the History of Conservation* (1968). This last collection, edited by Roderick Nash, includes the writings by the great thinkers in the forefront of the development of the conservation movement in the nation. Visionaries such as Henry David Thoreau, George Perkins Marsh, Frederick Law Olmsted, Gifford Pinchot, Aldo Leopold and Rachel Carson write on national issues regarding values, quality of life, utilitarianism, wildlife preservation and management, and pollution. Nash traces the changes in American views towards wild land over time and the subsequent wilderness movement in *Wilderness and the American Mind* (1967 and 1982).

One of the most comprehensive works tracing the national conservation movement from settlement to today, is Stewart Udall’s *Quiet Crisis* (1988).
Udall, who served as Secretary of the Interior under John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, examines both the progress and set-backs that have occurred in the environmental movement. The second edition includes chapters on Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring" and the "Reagan Era" among others.

Various eras of environmental history have been researched in such books as Samuel Hays' *Conservation and the Gospel of Efficiency: The Progressive Conservation Movement, 1890-1920* (1959), and his *Beauty, Health and Permanence: Environmental Politics in the United States, 1955 - 1985* (1987). In his second book, Hays stresses that the conservation movement and the environmental movement did not stem from the same personal and social experiences, but rather that conservation has been concerned primarily with the use of resources, while environmentalism has focused on the quality of life (p 12). Furthermore, Hays proclaims that the Reagan Administration, for all of its challenge to and hampering of, the "Environmental Movement", actually worked to strengthen its permanence as a social movement, and its professionalism (Hays, 1987, pp 526;570).

W.A. Koelsch. These "quality of life" essays feature Marsh, Olmsted and Wisconsin's former university president and progressive leader, Charles Van Hise.

**Wisconsin's Conservation History**

Aplin (1986) and others state that Wisconsin has been a leader in the conservation movement in the nation. Leopold Historian, Curt Meine, credits Wisconsin with making "halting moves" for the nation in natural resource restoration during the early part of the century (1988, p238). Even today, Wisconsin often leads the way in progressive environmental efforts.

For instance, Wisconsin Act 266 (1986) is one of the strictest Acid Rain Acts in the nation. It mandates acid deposition monitoring and research for 10 years, and puts a cap on sulfur dioxide and nitric oxide emissions in the state. The state legislature passed the strictest groundwater law in the nation in 1983 and is on the forefront of Environmental Education in the nation with the passing of the 1990 Environmental Education Act. Wisconsin passed some of the most stringent mobile unit air conditioner legislation to protect the ozone layer in 1992, and leads the way in recycling legislation and solid waste with the 1990 Wisconsin Recycling Act - a law which systematically bans potentially toxic and persistent substances from landfills over the next 5 years (see appendix A "Chronology of Wisconsin's Environmental History").
Although research documents the progressive conservation movement and policy-making efforts which occurred in this state, little has been organized to create a complete history of the conservation and environmental movement in Wisconsin.

Former Assistant to the Conservation Department Director, Walter E. Scott, attempted a series of articles on "Wisconsin's Conservation History" in 1938. His articles were published in the Conservation Bulletin (a precursor to Wisconsin Natural Resources) and began with a summary of various natural resource events focusing primarily on wildlife and timber. His compendium of historic conservation events spanned the period from the 1800s through about 1917. Years later, he would attempt to complete what he had begun by narrowing his chronology to "100 years of Conservation Law and Enforcement". It was finally completed by Thomas Reitz in 1979 with the help of Scott's wife, Gertrude Scott, and published by the Department of Natural Resources.

In 1967, Scott presented "Conservation's First Century in Wisconsin: Landmark dates and people." at the Wisconsin Conservation Centennial Symposium. He expressed the overwhelming task in summarizing Wisconsin's Conservation history when he stated:

"There have been times during recent weeks when I have been tempted to follow John Muir's footsteps through the warmth of Florida and give up the idea of trying to present so difficult a subject as significant conservation events and the peoples responsible in one hundred years of Wisconsin's history." (Camp, 1967. p16)
The Symposium was sponsored by the State Historical Society, the University of Wisconsin Conservation Education Program and the Wisconsin Conservation and Resource Development Divisions. The symposium was held in celebration of progress since the publishing of the state's first Forestry Commission Report (Lapham, 1867) and to proclaim May 6, 1967, as Conservation Centennial Day.

Other presenters that day included former Governor Gaylord Nelson and Governor Warren P. Knowles. Knowles opened the symposium with a strong statement for the importance of understanding and educating about our conservation history. In his opening he proclaimed:

"I am impressed with the strong interrelationship between education, history and conservation. No one of these can thrive in Wisconsin without the other. Unless we are aware of what has been done, the credits as well as the debits, we are flying blind . . . We look to our history so we can be briefed on unfolding events of the day; so we can get background information on current problems; so we can, like future visitors to this room, be oriented with historic perspective." (Camp. 1967 p6-7)

Wisconsin's conservation history can be pieced together from Wisconsin history books, such as Nesbit's Wisconsin: A History (1973), specific resource topic books (such as those on "forest history", listed below) and through research in publications such as the Magazine of Wisconsin History.

Vernon Carstenson tells the trying story of early Wisconsin pioneers and government land policy in his book, Farms or Forests: Evolution of a State Land Policy for Northern Wisconsin 1850-1932 (1958). His account portrays the struggle for survival on homestead land, as well as the battle over a progressive
state forestry program. The history of Wisconsin's forestry involves a state supported program whose early success gained increasing opposition. State-supported forestry improvements were declared unconstitutional in 1915 by the State Supreme Court. *E.M. Griffith and the Early Years of a State Forestry Program* (1982) also documents the efforts in the early 1900s directed at a sound reforestation and forest management. Early accounts of Wisconsin's natural resource issues can be found in the first Conservation Commission Reports of 1908 and 1911. The Commissions reported on the state of natural resources and made recommendations for conservation. The second Commission of 1911, comprising individuals such as E.M. Griffith of the State Forestry Department, mineral resource specialist Henry C. Taylor Stone, and soil surveyor A. R. Whitson, made recommendations that were enacted into what was believed to be the most comprehensive law for the protection of natural resources in the nation ("Report of the State Conservation Commission 1912, p 3).

In 1967, former conservation warden and Conservation Department Director, Ernest Swift, published *Conservation Saga*. Although he made no attempt to document the entire conservation history of America he wrote an entertaining and philosophical account of it, with special emphasis on events in Wisconsin. Swift recreates the character of not only wild Wisconsin, but the lawless frontier spirit of earlier days in the northwoods and issues over the development of resource policy.
Probably no chapter in any book documents the state's conservation history more poetically and dramatically than Aldo Leopold's essay, "The Good Oak", in *A Sand County Almanac* (1949). With each event described in the chapter - from wetland drainage in central Wisconsin to the extinction of the passenger pigeon - the reader too must cry "Rest!" and "pause for breath," as the writer demands.

No conservation history review could be complete without an investigation of the resource policy process itself. Wisconsin's leadership has been, in part, due to the example of citizen boards and commissions involved in resource and land policy decisions. University of Wisconsin's Christine Thomas presents a history of the Natural Resources Board in a Ph.D. dissertation entitled "One Hundred Twenty Years of Citizen Involvement with the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board" (1991). Patricia Trainer examines the history of the Conservation Congress in a soon to be completed dissertation from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Thomas Huffman describes the political climate surrounding the conservation and environmental movements in his dissertation, "Protectors of Land and Water: The Political Culture of Conservation and the rise of Environmentalism in Wisconsin, 1958-1970" (1989).

The conservation history of the state can be unraveled further by reading about the people and organizations involved in the resource issues. Susan Flader's *Thinking Like a Mountain*, a biographical essay on Aldo Leopold (1973), not only portrays the life of a great conservationist, but of the movement itself. In Virginia Palmer's "Horicon: the marsh that lives again", both a restoration

The political climate surrounding natural resource and societal issues, such as quality of life and the common good, are only one way that potential conservationists are provoked. Education and life experiences are a major influence on determining who will make contributions to protecting and preserving the environment.

Sivek and Hungerford, (1989/90) researched three important factors that contribute to responsible behavior and attitudes towards the earth. These factors are; skills in environmental action strategies, an internal locus of control (the belief that you can make a difference) and positive outdoor experiences. It comes as no surprise that historians and biographers reveal early value shaping experiences in the outdoors in the conservationists they investigate. These significant events range from fishing and hunting adventures to appreciation of wildflowers and sunsets. (See Biographies of "Visionaries in Wisconsin’s Conservation History" included in Appendices.)
National conservation publications have made us increasingly aware of the importance of historic research to natural resource issues. The Forest History Society recently changed their Journal title from Forest History to "Forest and Conservation History."

The Forest History Society was established in 1942 as an educational institution. It is dedicated to "advancing historical understanding of human interactions with forest environments." Its editor, Alice Ingerson, remarks that historic scholarship in the natural resources is increasing. She goes on to say:

"Retrospective historical research seems our best hope of understanding how and why our conscious actions produce unintended effects . . . or how and why we remain unconscious of what later seem our obvious impacts on the world around us, as apparently the ancient Maya did." (Oct. 1990)

Another natural resources publication with a historic perspective is published by the American Society of Environmental History (ASEH). "Environmental History Review" (formerly, Environmental Review) gives scholars a place to submit their work and share ideas, and offers interested others a professional journal. The ASEH was founded in 1977 to promote the interdisciplinary study of past environmental change. The organization actively promotes environmental history study in all disciplines.

The Agricultural History Society publishes the "Agricultural History Journal", with research published on a variety of influences agricultural has had around the world. Agricultural practices and the utilization of land resources by
humans throughout history offers shocking insight into the rise and fall of civilizations, and the prospects for human survival today.

The importance of conservation history research is mentioned by all of these associations. These journals note that environmental problems caused by humans are not new, and that the study of environmental history has much to teach us. This can be furthered evidenced by the recent professional positions opening to environmental historians in environmental agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency.

**Documentaries on Conservationists**

Writings about individuals who spurred the conservation movement are found in various collected works, autobiographies, biographies and articles of historical research. A few companion books compliment the works of Henry David Thoreau, John Muir and Aldo Leopold. Just recently, Leopold historian and philosopher Baird Callicott, completed *A Companion to A Sand County Almanac* (1987).

Biographies on Wisconsin conservationists include Linnie Marsh Wolf's *Son of the Wilderness: The Life of John Muir* (1945); Wilson's *E.M. Griffith and the early story of Wisconsin forestry* (1982); Graham Hawks, "Increase A. Lapham, Wisconsin's First Scientist" (Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University of Wisconsin, 1960); Susan Fladder's *Thinking Like a Mountain*; and Curt Meine's *Aldo Leopold, his life and work* (1988). Autobiographies by
Wisconsin conservationists include John Muir's *The Story of My Boyhood and Youth* (1913), Ernest Swift's *A Conservation Saga* (1967); Sigurd Olson's *Open Horizons* (1979); and Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac* (1949).

A handful of Wisconsin's conservation leaders have been written about in feature articles. A few have been acknowledged in newspaper articles or organization flyers. Biographers have written more thoroughly about such renowned - and little known - conservationists as Increase A. Lapham, Sigurd Olson, and Wilhelmine LaBudde. These works include Christine Thomas's "A Conservation Activist of the 1930s - Mrs. Wilhelmine LaBudde" (1990); Milo Quaife's "Increase Allen Lapham, First Scholar of Wisconsin" (1917); the previously mentioned Fladder article on Leopold, "Thinking Like a Mountain," (1973) and several stories on Sigurd Olson, such as Frank Graham Jr.'s "Leave it to the Bourgeois - Sigurd Olson and His Wilderness Quest" (1980).

Unfortunately, the lives and contributions of a good many are only remembered by a nostalgic few. Some, like Pearl Pohl, Ernest Swift, Fred Schmeekle, Wilhelmine LaBudde and Increase Allen Lapham, can be researched in historical archives at Wisconsin universities and historical societies where their papers are kept. Other individuals can be investigated with the help of the organizations they were involved in, as the Izaak Walton League. It is the exceptional cases, like Aldo Leopold, Sigurd Olson, Ernest Swift, and John Muir, who have written documentations on their own lives, thoughts and contributions.
Arlie William Schorger wrote *A Tribute to Wisconsin Conservation Leaders* (1956) but his small book only included the brief biographies of four individuals in Wisconsin's history.

Nationally, a great many works have been written about Americans involved in the conservation movement such as Gifford Pinchot (*Gifford Pinchot: Forester-Politician*, by M. Nelson McGeary. Princeton University Press, Princeton, 1960), as well as our transcendentalist philosophers such as Henry David Thoreau (*The Shores of America: Thoreau's Inward Exploration*, by Sherman Paul, University of Illinois Press, Urbanna, Ill. 1959). Creating a bibliography on all of the individuals who have contributed to environmental protection is beyond the scope of this thesis. However, the importance other writers and political figures in history had on Wisconsin's visionaries should be stressed.

Conservators of Hope, The Horace M. Albright Lectures (1988), is a book transcribing twenty-five lectures on conservation topics in tribute to such national conservation and environmental leaders as Barry Commoner, David Brower, Stewart Udall, and Horace Albright.

**Historical Research**

Historical research is extpost-facto research. One cannot perform experiments on it, alter conditions to observe results, or put it in a test tube to examine it up close as it is happening. At least to this researcher's knowledge, the time machine has yet to be invented. Historical research however is analysis. It involves digging for facts, and making rational inferences.

Sherman Kent, Author of *Writing History* (1967), observes that one of the greatest advantages we human beings have, is the ability to store information and observations, record facts, and recall history. Similar to research in the natural sciences, historical research begins with gathering known facts, acquiring new information, and often forming hypotheses based on these facts (Sherman, 1967. p34). According to John Vincent, author of *Historical Research: An outline of theory and practice* (1929), historical research is a critical and systematic method (p19).

R.J. Shafer stresses in *A Guide to Historical Method* (1972), that history is its own discipline. Though not unique, it has been developed by scholars of the humanities and others over the past century. Its methods involve collecting facts
on past events, evaluating them, and putting meaning to those events. Historic study involves "huge numbers of interlocking variables." The evidence gathered by the researcher is more testimony than facts (Shafer, 1972 p3-4).

Paul Leedy in *Practical Research Planning Design* (1989), suggests that historical researchers need to get as close to the source as possible, using primary sources as much as possible (p125). This means documenting first-hand accounts of events through journals, interviews and original letters.

Vincent reminds us that historical research necessitates internal and external criticism. Externally, are the documents and sources genuine to begin with? Internally, if evidence is genuine, is it trustworthy? Does it speak the truth? (1929, p19). Or according to Leery; what exactly is the meaning? (1989, p127). The role then, of the historical researcher, is to determine authenticity, evaluate the facts, and interpret their meaning and story.

History scholar Paul Gagnon, states that the reason we study history is to gain judgement, and judgement is wisdom. In 1829, the Committee of Ten's Subcommittee on History (which included Woodrow Wilson) called the study of history the promotion of "the mental power we call judgement" (Gagnon, 1988, p43-44). The study of history then may be seen as a path towards wisdom.

Gagnon also says that the contribution of historical study to the individual is that of critical thinking:
"History constantly forces us back to reality, making us skeptical of quick judgments, cheap and easy answers, resounding slogans. It is the natural enemy of frivolity and abstraction, pushing us to demand evidence, to decide for ourselves the meanings of events, the sense or nonsense of ideas and men, to look behind words to reality" (1988, p21).

Furthermore, Gagnon believes that historic study allows us to reflect on what has been good or bad, foolish or wise. It offers perspective, which allows for the patience and the courage to stand by alternative views and values. Historian Diane Ravitch, in her article "The Precarious State of History" (1983), states that "history teaches the pursuit of truth and understanding" (p17).

The usefulness of historic research to contemporary natural resource issues cannot be overstated. According to Kent, historical research is an act of public service and results in new and original interpretations of past events (1967, pp 2&35). Sigurd Olson said "history means the warmth of human associations, that while great events may find their place in books and museums, it is the people themselves who really counted" (1979, p133). The stories of our conservation leaders are a trail of courage and inspiration, challenging all of us to follow.
CHAPTER III

Methods

As a biography writer for nominees to the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame (WCHF), the researcher conducted a literature search and created 29 biographies on nominees to the WCHF. A grant proposal was accepted by the Graduate Research Fund Committee to help fulfill the needs of this project. Subsequently, 13 additional investigations were conducted to create biographies on inductees to the WCHF for a final documentary book.

Because of the limited information available on many of these individuals, travel to primary and secondary sources in the state has been necessary. Resources have included historical archives at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, the Wisconsin State Historical Society Archives in Madison, and the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute in Ashland. Additional requests were made via phone or mail with many institutions such as the MacKenzie Environmental Learning Center, Trees for Tomorrow, and the Izaak Walton League Archives in Washington, D.C. Other investigations involved personal interviews with historians, and the friends, affiliates and family of inductees.
Primary Sources:

Primary source investigations are necessary in order to uncover facts about lesser known individuals and events involved in Wisconsin's conservation history. This is especially applicable in regard to more recent events. Information published about key figures and events in the state's conservation movement is scattered among a variety of sources, including archive files kept in a variety of places throughout the state and the nation.

Interviewing is a vital element to digging for facts about people and events. A preliminary review of interviewing techniques was conducted and practiced so that appropriate methods of questioning could be better applied. Tape recordings helped document personal interviews, but notes were taken in case of mechanical failure or other problems. Thank-you notes were sent in appreciation of time and assistance given. Practice is the true teacher of this method of information gathering.

Interviews were performed with family, friends and affiliates of nominees, both in person and by telephone. Other primary source information was collected via phone and mail from conservation agencies and organizations, such as the Izaak Walton League and The Wildlife Management Institute. University professors, Mr. Bill Horvath of the National Association of Conservation Districts, and Hall of Fame Executive Secretary, served as project guides and
resource people themselves. The Conservation Association Directory was also very helpful.

Some of the most interesting primary sources are the original diaries, journals, correspondences and other papers of a nominee or inductee. These materials have most often been kept in historical archives. Primary sources include personal interviews, or an oral history. First-hand testimonies offer great insight into the interpretation of events, and give the researcher a better feel for the people of that time, and the atmosphere surrounding the events they were involved in. Oral histories are harder to accomplish because of the lack of living individuals or their immediate family.

**Secondary Sources:**

Secondary source investigations consist of literature searches and reviews. This literature includes research reports on conservation history, past work of conservation leaders themselves, or editors and journalists of that time. Secondary sources include journal articles, newspapers, books, theses, organizational publications (such as the League Leader and Wisconsin Natural Resources publication), symposia and other reports.

Pertinent materials are collected through a review of the related literature, bibliographical collections, telephone inquiries, and pertinent papers. Interlibrary loan, computer searches and phone inquires to various organizations are often necessary to retrieve this information.
Defining Conservation:

A modified Delphi survey method was used with the Board of Governors and Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame to achieve consensus on a working and progressive definition for "conservation". This definition was created by and for the Hall of Fame, to serve the boards in future inductee evaluations. A mail ballot-type of survey instrument was developed and sent in October of 1991. The initial survey included examples of contemporary definitions from current environmental and conservation texts for review, authors included Susan Clutter (Exploitation, Conservation, Preservation, A Geographic Perspective on Natural Resource Use, 1990), G. Tyler Miller (Environmental Science, 1991), Gary Klee (Conservation of Natural Resources, 1990) and Dasmann’s (Environmental Conservation, 1984). The mail ballot portion of the instrument was an "agree" or "disagree" opinion poll on a definition created in view of contemporary and historic definitions (See Chapter IV and Appendix A for example).

The initial survey also included a conservation chronology outline for review and comment by interested board members. The chronology serves as a compendium of major events in Wisconsin’s conservation history, and as an outline in the first chapter in the book on the visionaries in Wisconsin’s Conservation History.

Survey results were evaluated and a second survey was initiated in January of 1992. This survey instrument was a shorter one page mail ballot with
an "agree" or "disagree" poll and room for comments. Results from this second survey were used to formulate the final definition for use by the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame. Survey results can be found in Chapter IV and the Appendix of this thesis.

The Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Board of Directors, and Board of Governors, offered the researcher insight into what are considered to be "significant contributions and events" in Wisconsin's conservation history through the survey, as well as through their inductee selection process. Literature reviews provide a broader view of significant events in the state's history.

Photos for the Documentary

A photograph search was conducted to provide visuals to complement biographies. Limited photographs were available from files of the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame. A search was conducted at the Wisconsin State Historical Archives in Madison and copy stand reproductions were made. Additional photos have been requested from living relatives, former organizations and other affiliates. Slides were taken of old photos and the original plaque sketches of Inductees made by the Hall of Fame artist.
CHAPTER IV

Conservation: definition and meaning

Creating a Working Paradigm for The Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame

(The definition resulting from the surveys conducted as part of this research project have not been fully accepted by the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Boards of Directors and Governors. The final definition is extrapolated by this researcher from a series of survey results and comments by the Hall of Fame Boards in attempt to create a working definition for the Hall of Fame. The final definition is only a suggestion for the Boards, to accept as is, or to use as the next step in their efforts to come to consensus.)

Conservation is a term that has as much variability in definition as it does professions who claim to practice it. Often, the word itself is defined and applied solely to fit the interests of the individual or group using it. Conservation is not a singly definable term. It is not defined as a balance on a scale between two extremes - exploitation and preservation. But we cannot determine if conservation is being practiced if we cannot define it for use.

For the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame, the ambivalence surrounding this term has created concern for board members in selecting inductees to the Hall of Fame. Without a solid working definition, it is difficult to evaluate leaders in the Conservation Movement. Standards for induction to the Hall of Fame have been set, but depend on the general understanding of what "conservation contributions to the state and nation" are. The Delphi process to
define conservation, conducted as part of this thesis project, was meant to aid the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame in their inductee selection process by eliminating some of the ambiguity about the meaning of the word "conservation". It will also serve the WCHF itself, in guiding future projects and programs for the inspiration of today's citizens.

Roots of the Word

Applied conservation has a history as a museum method. The first conservation efforts involved preserving specimens, alive or dead, in zoos and herbariums. President Theodore Roosevelt considered harvesting game in Africa "conservation" and brought back museum pieces for all to enjoy (Black, 1991). The nation's first forester, Gifford Pinchot, is most often credited with coining the term in relation to the country's natural resources. For Pinchot's followers, including President Roosevelt, conservation meant the wise use of natural resources for the greatest good of the greatest number of people. This was an appropriate definition for the progressive and social reform going on throughout the United States at the time.

Although Pinchot is most associated with the contemporary utilitarian conservation definition, he credited WJ McGee with its original formulation (Callicott, 1990). William John McGee, who went by "WJ", was a self-taught scientist who worked with Pinchot to help establish the Inland Waterways
Commission of 1907 under President Theodore Roosevelt. McGee argued that no citizen of a free country had the right to seize the common heritage of everyone else for himself. This was McGee's "Conservation Mentality" (Nash, 1968, p 43).

Pinchot had an opponent to his promotion of the utilitarian view of conservation. John Muir, Scottish born, but raised in Wisconsin, was a staunch advocate for the protection of natural areas in America. John Muir was most influenced by the transcendental philosophers, Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson. Muir saw value in nature in a romantic and religious sense. He believed that people going into the forest or field for aesthetic contemplation, healing and rest, put these resources to a far superior use than did those using nature for material gain (Fox, 1981). Furthermore, nature was the work of God and facilitated spiritual growth. For Muir and other wilderness proponents who would follow, humankind's highest virtue was the pursuit of spiritual matters. Conservation as Muir defined it must concern the preservation and protection of resources, not just for nature for her own sake, but for the spiritual enlightenment of people.

In a historic case that would affect the use of the word for generations, the proposed and eventual damming of the Hetch-Hetchy reservoir to supply water to the growing northern California and San Francisco area, was deemed a conservation development by Pinchot proponents - and many Californians needing water. This final determination came after a long and emotional battle between
John Muir and Gifford Pinchot. Muir contended that the preservation of Hetch-Hetchy would also constitute a conservation measure.

Wisconsin's leader in the Progressive Conservation reform movement, Charles Van Hise, had a view of conservation that was representative of the social reform of the time. Van Hise declared that the purpose of conservation was to keep resources abundant enough for free happy lives and to ease survival. The chief aim of conservation was to reduce the struggle for existence and give people the opportunity to develop higher intellectual and spiritual pursuits (Rosenkrantz et al, 1973).

President Roosevelt called together a conference of state governors at the White House, May 13-15, in 1908. The topic of the grand gathering was conservation and the conference spurred on the conservation movement in the nation. Wisconsin's Governor James O. Davidson was so inspired by the event, that upon return to the state he created the first conservation commission in the country (Wisconsin Conservation Commission, "Report of the State Conservation Commission" 1909). The Wisconsin state commission adopted the Pinchot view of conservation, and focused their efforts on water power and forest resources. In 1911, the new commission developed recommendations which were enacted into law by the Wisconsin Legislature (Wisconsin Conservation Commission, 1912). These progressive recommendations are the foundations of conservation in Wisconsin, if not the nation.
The Chapter 143 of Wisconsin Law, 1911, stated that it was unlawful "for any person, firm, or corporation, unreasonably to waste or maliciously to injure, destroy, or impair any natural resource within this state." In a more positive vein, "It is the purpose of this act to promote and secure the conservation of the natural resources within the state in the interests of the public welfare."

Conservation was defined as saving resources for people.

By the early 1900s, the resource exploitation and wastefulness of the past 60 years had taken a heavy toll. The Conservation Commission made recommendations covering minerals, waters, forests and agricultural land. Challenges facing future conservation commissions would expand to fish and wildlife, air quality and a wide spectrum of related environmental issues.

A Contemporary Definition for Conservation

Raymond Dasmann, author of Environmental Conservation (1984) refers to conservation as a viewpoint, where an individual's beliefs affect their actions (Sivek and Hungerford, 1990). This viewpoint acknowledges limits and creates the behavior of a responsible citizen of the planet, who influences others to maintain a suitable environment for all living things. Dasmann does not define conservation by itself, but rather as part of a progressive movement in "environmental conservation". He defines environmental conservation as "the use of the environment to sustain the greatest possible diversity of life while insuring
for humanity the physical basis for continued well-being." Dasmann believes that this definition recognizes that all things in an environment are tied together.

This combination of terms - environment and conservation - represents an effort to recognize not only the utilitarian view of resources, but a renewed understanding of ecology and the critical importance of biotic diversity. Even Muir's theological and philosophical belief in the preservation of nature for its own sake, is included in the idea of sustaining "the greatest possible diversity of life" without including any justification as to a purpose of diversity strictly for humans. Dasmann's environmental conservationist viewpoint is humanistic. The results of following his vision lead to a world of richness and abundance where "the full range of human hopes and dreams can be pursued" (1984).

Even more recently published definitions combine the "wise use" Pinchot definition with an understanding of ecology and subsequently, biotic diversity. Maybe we are reflecting John Muir's preservationist values, that conservation does indeed include preservation, and that wild places have their own intrinsic values above and beyond human needs. Hopefully we are incorporating Aldo Leopold's land ethics, that "the land is a fountain of energy, circuited through soil, water, plants and animals, whose upward flow is dependent upon a complexity of structure" (Leopold, 1949, p253). Are some discovering a value for the planet that does not include human beings as her only benefactor? Society is discovering that in order to continue to harvest natural resources, we must protect the entire system - its complexity and natural cycles. It is the ideas of these conservationists
- inductees to the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame - who eventually give meaning to the word "conservation".

Peter Black, 1991 President of the American Water Resources Association, thinks that conservation's meaning must first be defined in regard to the natural resources it is applied to, and then to the rate of use. Black states that conservation is applied to all natural resources and that natural resources are "simply defined as things that have utility and scarcity." (Black, Water Resources Bulletin, p iv.) He fuses these concepts of time and use, based on Ciriacy Wantrup's definition that conservation is use with regard to the future, to define conservation as "controlling use over time."

In a contemporary college text, Environmental Science, sustaining the Earth, 3rd edition (1991), editor G. Tyler Miller defines natural resources in very concrete terms as the "Area of the earth's solid surface, nutrients and minerals in the soil and deeper layers of the earth's crust, water, wild and domesticated plants and animals, air, and other resources produced by the earth's natural processes." In essence, natural resources are every natural physical thing on the planet in its raw form. On a finite planet, it seems generally agreed upon that all raw products of the earth have scarcity at least, and utility to some degree, whether or not humans have a full understanding of its use or importance. We learn daily

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1 Ciriacy S. V. Wantrup is the author of "Dollars and Sense in Conservation" published in 1951 by the California Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of California, Berkeley.
that what appears to be "without use" to humans, may be part of an intricate
system that connects to something we do need.

Miller (1991) defines conservation as "Use, management, and protection of
resources so that they are not degraded, depleted or wasted and are available on
a sustainable basis for use by present and future generations." Interestingly, the
first part of this definition corresponds significantly with the Wisconsin
Conservation Commission's 1911 conservation law. The definition includes two
main concepts - those of use and time. Miller goes further to include the
methods of conservation in his definition. These methods "included preservation,
balanced multiple use, reducing unnecessary waste, recycling, reuse and decreased
use of resources." Here, setting aside resources (protection and preservation) is
wedded to varying degrees of utilization.

Probably no other recent definition reflects the traditional McGee/Pinchot
school of thought better than that out of Exploitation, Conservation, Preservation,
A Geographic Perspective On Natural Resource Use (Clutter, et al, 1990). The
glossary describes conservation as "The wise use or careful management of
resources to attain the maximum possible social benefits from them." This
clarification of terms stresses management where the more classic definition of
greatest use for the greatest number over the longest time, may have left
management as a given.
The Modified Delphi-Panel Survey - Defining Conservation

Definition Survey I

A survey instrument was designed to create a working definition of conservation for the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame, (Appendix A). The survey method used was a slightly modified version of two survey research methods, the Delphi or Authorities Method and the Panel Research Method. The Delphi Method (named for the ancient Greek city where priestesses predicted the future of people) consists of a group of experts assembled to forecast an outcome from their ideas (Van Minden, 1987 p 158-9). The Panel Research Method is an "opinion poll" using a sample of respondents "selected and interviewed and then reinterviewed". The panel is a permanent representative sample in most cases and is most often used to study behavior (Kerlinger, 1964 p 397). The Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Board of Governors and Board of Directors served as the representative expert panel. The Board of Directors, and to some extent, the Board of Governors, consist of members of conservation organizations in the state.

A consensus poll of "agree" and "disagree" on the instrument definition was taken with both the Hall of Fame Boards of Governors and Directors. Room for comments was also provided and served as the components for consecutive survey instrument definitions.

The initial survey instrument was sent out to the 22 members of the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Board of Governors and Board of
Directors. The instrument included a letter from the researcher and the
President of the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame. The first survey included
contemporary definitions in print today, and the "Conservation Chronology",
compiled by this researcher, for comment if desired.

The instrument included an alternative definition based on contemporary
definitions of conservation text editors and current Hall of Fame inductees
themselves. The survey definition read as follows:

Conservation is responsible actions based on innate values about
humanity's interconnectedness with all life. These actions exemplify
environmentally sound behavior towards the preservation, restoration and
wise use of natural resources, ensuring a sustainable and biologically
diverse world for all life today and for generations to come.

Surveys were mailed out in October of 1991, and included a return-
addressed envelope. Comments and results are in the Appendix.

Definition Survey II

The second survey was resubmitted in late January of 1992 to 20 Board
Members (two board members included in the initial survey had resigned). The
second instrument was designed for ease and simplicity. It included the new
definition, "vote" and comments area on one side of the form, while the other side
folded into a self-addressed return form. The revision for the second survey read:

"Conservation is the wise use of natural resources. Through
protection and restoration of ecosystems, conservation strives to
ensure a sustainable, biologically diverse world for all life today and
generations to come."

Results

The initial survey yielded a 45% return with 70% of the respondents
disagreeing with the definition as written. A second survey was resubmitted based
on comments and suggestions made by the first modified Delphi group. Survey
two had a 70% response rate with 14 of 20 people returning the resubmitted
definition.

In the second survey, 11 individuals (56%) agreed with the revised
definition. Of those 11 responding, 40% strongly agreed and 15% agreed with
minor changes. One individual remained adamantly opposed to the word choices
and overall meaning of the revised definition.
Conclusion

Because of added suggestions made by the boards, an additional, third definition was created as a final merging of the ideas respondents contributed in the modified Delphi survey. Not every suggestion was incorporated into the definition because this would have involved circulating definitions "in perpetuity". It is the hope of this researcher that the progressive ideas of contemporary conservationists, of professionals in the field, and of conservation leaders of the state, have been merged into the best and most suitable definition for use by the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame. The final working definition developed for the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame, is written below:

"Conservation is the wise management of natural resources, as well as the protection and restoration of ecosystems, to achieve a sustainable and biologically diverse world today for this and future generations."


Ingerson, Alice. (1990, October). Forest and conservation history. 34(4).


Natural Resources Council of State Agencies. (1958). *Natural Resources of Wisconsin*. Wisconsin; Madison.


Thomas, Christine. (1991). One Hundred Twenty Years of Citizen Involvement with the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board. Environmental History Review. 15, Spring, pp61-81.


*Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine*. (1979, July/August). 100 years a warden. 3(4): pp 4-19.


# Appendix A

## DEFINITION SURVEY RESULTS

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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>x</td>
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<td>liked &quot;diversity&quot;, &quot;sustainability&quot; and &quot;interconnectiveness&quot;</td>
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<td>E</td>
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<td>x</td>
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<td>wise use, (not conservation?) strives to ... and substitute &quot;generations to come&quot; with &quot;relative perpetuity.&quot;</td>
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<td>you're getting closer</td>
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## APPENDIX B

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Bi
WISCONSIN'S CONSERVATION HISTORY

Wisconsin's conservation history is a reflection of the concern and vision people of the state had for their environment, for humanity and for the quality of life. The conservation movement is the story of the struggle between exploitation and sustainable yield of natural resources. The story of the struggle between the pursuit of wealth and "self-interest", versus the protection, preservation and restoration of resources and the people's "commons." Understanding the history of the conservation and environmental movements of the last century furthers our ability to become better stewards of the earth today, for the perpetuation of natural resources tomorrow. When looking at historic events in the state what we find are not merely reactive policies, new laws or miraculously restored ecosystems. What we find are people. And it is these individuals who made the difference.

The leaders involved in the conservation movement influenced the public mind and the political atmosphere. These individuals had the vision, and the courage, to stand up for the interests of the people of Wisconsin, and often the nation. Visionaries in Wisconsin's conservation history had something greater than self-interest, they had an ethic of higher regard for the good of the people, for the earth, and for future generations. But too often their foresight went unheeded until the day their predictions rang true. A sense of "duty to the state," and concern for
the natural treasures of the land - in citizens today - have roots anchored in Wisconsin's conservation and environmental movements of yesterday.

THE ERA OF EXPLOITATION: 1700 - 1899

THE INEXHAUSTIBLE HARVESTS

Fur and Minerals

Indians inhabited the Wisconsin region as far back as 8,000 to 10,000 years ago, or roughly following the last glacial retreat. For thousands of years, indigenous people lived in comparative balance with their environment. Their decedents today include the Fox, Sauk, Winnebago, Huron, Menominee and Ojibewa (also known as Chippewa and Anishanabe). Wisconsin has been a land of natural riches. From the land, Indians harvested game, maple sugar, wild rice, and in some areas even practiced agriculture. From numerous rivers, lakes and enormous freshwater inland seas came an abundance of fish. In the earth they found minerals like copper, iron ore, gold and silver.

Except for the occasional brave and devout missionary, and early French trappers, the Indians of this area knew little of white men even as the Declaration of Independence itself was signed in 1776. In less than fifty years all that would change. In less than 200 years more, the indigenous people, the wildlife, wilderness, prairies and landscape, would experience European efforts at creating "civilization."
This "Manifest Destiny" would bring a rapid acceleration from pioneer frontier to space age society.

The early development of Wisconsin was tied to the great northern forests which covered some 45% of the state. Two-hundred years before the raid on her forests, the romantic era of the fur-trader brought the first resource users to the area. The impact of French Voyageurs, English traders, and trappers on North America was slight, compared to what would come later. Had beaver felt hats - the fashion set by King Charles the II in England - not been replaced by silk hats as the fancy of Europe, this may not have been so.

Although the harvest of beavers didn’t completely end here, the era of the Voyageur faded into legend. Probably the Fur Trade Era’s greatest contribution was the establishment of trade routes and the expedition reports of westward land, forests, wildlife, riverways and indigenous peoples.

As the Fur Era faded, the Wisconsin-Illinois border region experienced a brief mining boom, beginning about 1830. The lands surrounding the settlement of Mineral Point were one of the first areas to be exploited. The early immigrants to this area, mostly Scots and Irishmen, were more eager for a "strike" than a place to call home. As with all money-making opportunities, the mining boom carried its own consortium of clever businessmen and land speculators to assist miners with spending their hard earned coin. The "boom-town" settlers had a great impact on the Indians of the area, primarily the Fox who had been mining the region for hundreds of years.
themselves. Conflict over land rights led to the famous Black Hawk Indian War and the removal to reservations which followed.

By the 1840s, the miners had scratched the top layers of the land with such determination, that most of the surface ore had been mined out. The Cornish people followed. They were experienced hard rock and shaft miners and were more adept in the techniques of deep mining. They also had the interesting habit of overwintering in underground mine holes. This characteristic gave rise to the name "badgers," a term that sticks with the state even today.

More efficient transportation through the Great Lakes brought an influx of immigrants to Wisconsin during the late territorial and early statehood days of the 1840s and 50s. Less dangerous and more speedy steamships replaced the hazardous and slow-going ocean style sailing ships. The steamers were known to have their own share of catastrophes as well, such as blowing-up or sinking in a storm (Nesbit, 1973, ch14). Ships docking in the small but growing western frontier town of Milwaukee in the late 1840s brought in hundreds of immigrants week after week. Wisconsin offered a chance at logging work and homesteading on the "stump farms" which resulted. Pioneers believed that if trees could grow on the land, then the land, in turn, would grow crops.

From farming's beginning in the 1840s, wheat became the choice cash crop for Wisconsin, and for several years Wisconsin was known as the "King Wheat" state in the nation. Plank roads of 3-inch oak strips were built from Lake Michigan ports westward to assist farmers with bringing their crops to market. There were never
enough roads of this kind, primarily because of their extensive cost, and wagon roads were an untimely way of carrying heavy loads to towns or ports before produce and wheat spoiled. "King Wheat" lost its status as Wisconsin's premier crop around 1871, when lack of roads, several severe winters, cinch bugs, and rust disease dethroned many an ambitious pioneer.

Logging Days - the 1800s

The first record of a sawmill in Wisconsin dates back to 1809. It was located near De Pere on the Fox River. The first sawmill on the Wisconsin River was built above the town of Portage in 1831. (NRCSA, 1958, p85). The Lumber Era, from the mid 1800s through 1900, exemplifies one of the most dramatic raids on our natural resources. It was a period rich in history and tall tales. Who can resist the awe-inspiring images of forests so huge they blocked out the sun? Or legends of superhuman lumberjacks? Not all of the tall tales were legends, and very little of the glamour was gold.

Land speculators bought forests with no intentions to replant, but rather to sell as farm land to hopeful settlers. Hardy men spent long winters in lumber camps up north, returning in the spring as timber was released downstream with the breaking ice. Meanwhile, frontier women were left at home to tend to livestock, split wood, chop through ice for water, feed and care for children and in general, fight a fierce battle to survive (Swift, 1967 p7).
When spring finally came, rivers choked with pine logs, the only timber that would float. Riverside mills collected sawed lumber in "cribs". These were lashed together in rafts and floated down Wisconsin's network of river highways, sometimes as far as St. Louis (Wisconsin Conservation Department, 1955). Rafts were guided along their course by quick-footed and fearless raft riders called "river rats". Often, log jams piled up at tight river bends, log upon log, hundreds of feet high. Here, another breed of daredevil took to risking life and limb to release the load. The timbers were headed for mills to supply lumber to a growing agricultural Midwest. The northern Wisconsin pioneer had the advantage of an ample supply of wood for fuel and tools compared to prairie settlers. Fertile soil was another matter.

THE AWAKENING YEARS: 1867-1899

Even though the New England states had witnessed the disappearance of much of their timber reserves, most people still believed that America's forest resources, especially those of the Great Lake States, were inexhaustible. In 1864, George P. Marsh published his book Man and Nature, further awakening the public to the oncoming threat of a timber shortage (Carstenson, 1958 p4-5). It was two years later that the state's first conservation commission was formed.

As early as 1867, a few far-sighted individuals grew concerned about the rapid deforestation occurring in the Great Lakes area. In response to concern for possible
"undesirable effects" of forest clearing on the land, the state Legislature created the Wisconsin Forestry Commission in 1867. Increase Allen Lapham was the state’s first and leading scientist. He sounded the alarm the commission’s report. This was the state’s first conservation commission. Lapham warned that at the current rate of harvesting, a wood scarcity would be felt.

The Forestry Commission consisted of Dr. Increase A. Lapham, J.G. Knapp of the State Historical Society, and H. Crocker, a railroad builder and owner. The committee researched and reported on forest depletion in northern Wisconsin. They were requested to investigate several specific issues. These included the effect of forest loss on climate, the use of forests as shelterbelts and whether or not the state should interpose its authority to cultivate trees. They also studied the best methods of growing and managing trees, and the prospect of finding wood substitutes in the state (Carstenson, 1958 p5).

The Forestry Commission’s final report was printed as a "Report on the Disastrous Effects of the Destruction of Forest Trees, Now Going On So Rapidly in the State Of Wisconsin" (Lapham, 1867). Although the report made many urgent warnings and recommendations, not much action was taken because of it. One related Legislative Act was passed a year later "to encourage the planting and growth of trees for the protection thereof." This included a tree growing incentive law offering tax exemptions for landowners to plant a forest-edge shelterbelt. The tax exemption would be valid until the trees reached 12 feet in height. This law stayed
on the statutes until 1905. No one had ever filed claim on this act (Carstenson, 1958 p10).

As early as the mid 1800s, it was generally accepted that forests were important to climate and the protection of watershed and soil. Back east, colonists had already established a direct relationship between forests, stream flow and water supply. Soil erosion concerns also rose steadily through the turn of the century on into the Dust Bowl Era of the 1930s. But still another sinister effect of land clearing practices was occurring in the mid 1800s, that of fire.

In 1871, smoke-filled skies and burning lines of fire were a common sight. Travelers detoured because of impassable roads. Ferries failed to port due to lack of visibility in smoke laden towns, and children played run and tag with ground fires (Pernin, 1971). The tragic Peshtigo Fire of 1871 claimed nearly 2,000 lives and burned over 2,400 square miles. Following this catastrophe the state Legislature outlawed the burning of marshes, fields and woodlots. The first forest fire law in Wisconsin had been enacted in 1817, when the state was still part of the Michigan Territory. It was readopted during the statehood act of 1836 under "Offenses Against Property." (WCD, 1955 p5). Stopping the burning of slash as a removal method was one way to help quench human-made fires, but not all fires were human caused. Lightning was the culprit of many large forest fires, and harder to control.

Vanishing game populations were gaining public and political attention by the late 1880s. During Wisconsin's first fifty years of settlement, great numbers of native
species had disappeared. By 1900, many native species had been completely extirpated from the state. Examples included the bison, the elk, the cougar, the pine martin, and the wild turkey. In the case of the passenger pigeon, over-harvesting and forest destruction led to extinction.

Early writings recall that flocks of pigeons once blackened the skies, and went on forever. One blind shot upward brought down hundreds of the birds. Pigeons were sold by the barrel-full to fine restaurants in Chicago and as far east as New York City. Fields of uncollected or half dead birds were left as pig fodder (Hough, 1976 and Schorger, 1982). Protective legislation for the pigeon came in 1877, their global extinction in the wild came in 1899.

The first Board of Fish Commissioners was created in 1874. This was the second citizen board commission to be created in the state. The three-man board was responsible for developing game policy for fish and making recommendations to the legislature. Two years later, the first State Fish Hatchery was established in Madison. The early years of fish management concentrated on stocking inland lakes to help support commercial fisheries. Not until the late 1960s did sport fishing take precedence over commercial interests.
THE PROGRESSIVE ERA IN THE CONSERVATION

MOVEMENT: 1899-1915

The "Progressive Era" was a period of reform in Wisconsin under the Governorship of Robert M. La Follette. This period of Republican administration made significant contributions to the early conservation movement in the state. Under La Follette's influence, a strong foundation for citizen boards developed and continued. The University took on the role as scientific advisor to the state and as an institution responsible to both public and state. In the cradle of the University the "Wisconsin Idea" formed. The education of the public went beyond the supportive walls of the school to meet citizens. Citizens, in turn, had the duty to return a debt of service to the state. This was the foundation of the Wisconsin Idea. Citizen responsibility to the state might range from government to community participation.

Wisconsin became a focus for the Progressive movement because of its concrete demonstration combining politics with the University and the State. The University still had a primary role to serve as a missionary for social redemption and higher learning (Hoevelor, 1976).

One of the most significant contributions of the Progressive Movement to Wisconsin's natural resource issues was its direct effect on the policy-making process. Resource policy decisions were increasingly directed by the citizen boards and commissions - the model of the progressive idea. Board members conducted
scientific investigations, studied issues and made recommendations to the Legislature. Citizen boards and commissions were typically made up of professors and political liaisons, including leading entrepreneurs of the day. This tradition is carried on today (Thomas, 1991).

For citizens in the state, and in the nation, the right to hunt was as inalienable as the freedom of speech, but unchecked wildlife exploitation had clearly left its mark. Governor Jeremiah M. Rusk appointed the state's first game wardens. The Office of the Chief Fish and Game Warden was established by the Legislature in 1890. The protection of deer herds and control over the sale and barter of game was a big concern.

In 1897 the first hunting licenses were required for deer hunters. During its third year as a law, 32,000 licenses were sold during a 20 day deer season (Scott, June 1937). The first law prohibiting the sale and barter of game birds and venison was enacted in 1903. Wildlife conservation was not the only seed to be sown during the awakening years of the Progressive Era. Concern for forest regeneration also took root.

In 1903 the Legislature created the 40,000 acre Forest Reserve and appointed a forestry commission to oversee it. The first commission disbanded and was changed to a State Board of Forestry in 1905. The State Board of Forestry was the first example of a citizen board directing activities of state resource employees in Wisconsin (Thomas, 1991 p70). But the Legislature did more than create a board to oversee forestry in the state, they appropriated the first money from the State
General Fund, some $10,000 dollars, to set aside an additional 194,000 acres. From here they proceeded to purchase other lands for the state forest reserves. More significantly, a position for the first State Forester was created. E. M. Griffith was hired.

Griffith was a technically trained forester who had worked under U.S. Forestry Division Chief, Gifford Pinchot. He was devoted to his profession, and ambitious about establishing a forestry program for the state. These attributes would eventually work both for and against him. Griffith's primary duties to Wisconsin were to appoint fire wardens for control of forest fires, and examine trust fund lands (the 40,000 acres). He hired F. B. Moody as his assistant forester and worked for over a decade establishing a sound forestry program under the cooperative support of Governor Robert M. La Follette (Wilson, 1982 p13). Griffith's forestry program included advanced fire protection methods, establishment of forest reserves, and the first state tree nursery in 1911.

Nationally, the word "conservation" gained popular use in 1907 and 1908. President Theodore Roosevelt had used the term during his conference for state governors in 1908. The theme of the conference was conservation of natural resources, and Wisconsin was represented here in strong force. Attending with
Governor James O. Davidson were; state forester E.M. Griffith, J.H. Stout\(^1\) and George A Whiting\(^2\). Representing the National Association of State Universities was Wisconsin University president, Charles R. Van Hise\(^3\). Wisconsin’s William Irving\(^4\) represented the National Lumber Manufacturers’ Association (Scott, 1938, p32).

President Roosevelt was leading the way for the progressive-conservation movement occurring in the country. He had been influenced by his own outdoor interests and two very significant individuals in the dawn of the conservation movement. One was Chief Forester Gifford Pinchot with his utilitarian views on natural resources. The other was naturalist John Muir, who advocated great reverence for nature and the preservation of wilderness.

The conference was so inspirational for Wisconsin’s Governor Davidson that he created the nation’s first Conservation Commission immediately following his return. The commission was made up of President C.R. Van Hise, H.P. Bird, Professor E.A. Birge, E.M. Griffith, William Irving, J.H. Stout and G.A. Whiting.

\(^1\) James Huff Stout succeeded his father in running the Knapp, Stout and Co., Lumber Company. He was a strong advocate for education and training and served as a state Republican Senator from 1895-1910.

\(^2\) G.A. Whiting was a pioneer paper manufacturer in the state of Wisconsin during the turn of the century.

\(^3\) Charles Van Hise was a gemologist who served several positions with the United States Geological Survey and a proponent of conservation. He served as the Madison State University President from 1903 until his death in 1918.

\(^4\) William S. Irving was the Sergeant-At-Arms Republican member of the State Assembly in 1907 and 1909.
Their first report was published the following year in 1909, and dealt primarily with water power, forests and soil. The State Park Board Commission also reported that year on "State Parks for Wisconsin."

A little more than a decade earlier, the legislature had established the 50,000 acre Northern State Park, the first example of forest preservation in the state. In 1900, a cooperative effort was made between Wisconsin and Minnesota to create Interstate Park, the beginning of a state park system in the state (Ahlgren, 1988).

In 1911, the second report of the Conservation Commission was strongly opposed to the serious neglect and waste of the state's natural resources. The report, presented to Governor Francis E. McGovern, became an official legislative document. In it the commission recommended that "the legislature pass an act making it unlawful unnecessarily or wilfully to waste a natural resource and providing proper penalties for violation of the same". Chapter 143, Laws of Wisconsin 1911, is probably the first comprehensive law for the protection of natural resources in the nation. (Wisconsin Conservation Commission 1912, p3).

Meanwhile, state forester Griffith began advanced fire control measures in the northern townships. It included the first aerial techniques for spotting fire, as well as building and manning fire towers. Griffith sought cooperation from timberland owners, settlers, and railroad companies whose steam powered locomotives, now replacing the river highways, were often the cause of many fires (Carstenson, 1958 p29).
His reforestation program included nurseries in Trout Lake and Tomahawk. Over 192,000 seedlings were planted at the state's first nursery in Trout Lake. Rangers labored with teams of horses to rework former logging roads and railroad grades, connecting and creating 100 miles of wagon roads in the area. Trout Lake was made the headquarters for the Forestry Program (WCD, 1955 p 11.).

Griffith stressed the importance of forests to the growing resort business, water power authorities, and the economics of Wisconsin. He reported on the potential of reforesting northern county lands where soil surveys had shown poor agricultural potential. Griffith and the Forestry Board's ideas where initially favored by the public. But by 1910, several northern counties declared an all out war on Griffith for proposing reforestation, rather than agricultural settlement, in their counties. As was tradition in the colonial states, settlers were certain progress meant that the plow would follow the axe.

By 1913, opposition to Griffith was growing and led to the end of all his efforts at a sound forestry program in the state. Northern county residents were not ready for the ideas of reforestation as an economic alternative. Accusations flew that the state forester was against the poor settler and in support of creating a playground for the rich from Chicago. Furthermore, locals didn't like the fact that their land had been unfavorably reported upon in the soil studies, even though many of these abandoned stump farms were tax delinquent already. To help resolve the controversy, a joint legislative committee was appointed by the Legislature in 1913 to investigate the forestry board reports.
The investigative committee was made up of senators, lawyers, farmers and politicians. They toured and talked with foresters in Wisconsin's northern counties and forest reserves in the eastern states. They attended hearings all over the north country, consulted with natural resource professionals, and listened objectively to the issues and debates on both sides.

When all was said and done, the committee made recommendations for forest-fire control, a severance tax to promote reforestation, and the consolidation of a conservation commission. Above all else, they agreed with the Forestry Board's original report and Griffith's proposals and measures for the forestry program. Their verdict on the legitimacy of the forestry program went unheeded.

In 1915, Governor Phillip consolidated the game and conservation commissions into one unit. This was not a totally new idea. Both the water power committee and the forestry board investigative committee had recommended the consolidation. A three-man paid commission replaced the seven-man commission and combined the park board, forestry board, commission of fisheries and the fish and game warden. W. E. Barber was in charge of fish and game, and under him, game wardens were renamed "conservation wardens". James Nevin was the fisheries commissioner and F. B. Moody (Griffith's first forestry assistant) represented forestry. Governor Phillips had different ideas on the role the state should play in forestry conservation matters. On the eve of his election he had spoken in Rhinelander, and stated that forestry "is a national question, and not one for the state to take up." (Carstenson, 1958. p56)
1915 was a milestone in the conservation policy arena. The Supreme Court ruled that state forestry was a Work of Internal Improvement. This meant that the Forestry Board could not take land contracts for eventual purchase on a time payment plan. The purchase plan was ruled as unconstitutional. To make matters worse, the requested forestry program appropriations for $600,000 for 20 years were cut down to $50,000 for the next five. This came as a great insult. The Forestry Board collapsed and a devastated Griffith left Wisconsin never to return again. Years later, older citizens would recall that they were voting to reinstate the same forest management ideas that Griffith had proposed earlier. Griffith proved to be a man ahead of his time.

The Progressive Era of reform ended here as well, but it left behind its own lasting contributions. These included the development of citizen boards and commission watchdogs, as well the "Wisconsin Idea" citizens still strive towards today (Thomas, 1991).

THE CONSERVATION ERA: 1905-1949

Conservation education

Conservation education had an early beginning in 1912, when Warden E. A. Cleasby spent his entire time speaking at schools and farmer's institutions. Other wardens devoted winter work time to teaching as well. The public reacted with such
enthusiasm that the conservation education school program was continued every year thereafter (Scott, 1937 p36). The Biannual Report of the Conservation Commission of 1918 stated that wildlife education was important and would - by its nature - entice students to learn. The Commission suggested that wildlife education become a permanent part of the curriculum (WCC, 1916 p60).

Conservation education had an early start in Wisconsin. In the progressive character of the state, Wisconsin was a leader in the conservation education movement which was becoming a national campaign in the country.

Nature Study had been a school subject for many years already. After the Victorian Era's curiosity with nature, conservation education took the subject one step further, examining the effects people had on natural systems. Conservation education examined the issues surrounding the utilization, protection and perpetuation of natural resources. State legislative mandates for Conservation Education in 1936, opened the path for its evolution into the field of Environmental Education we know today.

Wildlife for tomorrow

The first effort at elk reintroduction in the state began in 1913. Elk from Yellowstone Park were brought to the Wisconsin Game Farm in Trout Lake, where the state nursery and forestry headquarters were situated. The elk were part of the native and exotic species introduction movement in the state. Only two female elk
survived the transportation stress. Later, a bull elk was introduced with the optimism that, soon, a large elk herd would again grace the northland of Wisconsin. Today, the issue of establishing an elk herd in the northern Lake Superior area of the Chequamegon National Forest is still a topic of debate.

Improvements in the protection of rivers, fish and migratory birds were made in the years 1917 and 1918. Upland game birds, such as grouse and spruce hen, were protected. Controls were set in Wisconsin on illegal traffic in waterfowl. Year-round protection was given to kingfishers, bitterns, great blue herons, goshawks, snowy owls, wood ducks and woodcocks. The first black bear season was enacted, banning hunting from December through the next November. State hatcheries stocked 462 million fish and 501,000 young trees were shipped out of the state forest nurseries in Tomahawk and Trout Lake.

Rebirth of the state forestry program

A forestry program was re-established in 1921 with the founding of the Wisconsin Forestry Association. Previously, the Conservation Commission had the responsibility of overseeing valuable recreational and reforested land. A joint resolution for the adoption of a forestry amendment to the constitution was passed this year. The referendum carried with it an appropriation for forestry at a rate identical to what Griffith had requested in 1909. Two years later, the Supreme Court found the forestry amendment to be fully valid (Wilson, 1982, p62).
Wisconsin citizens demonstrated renewed support for the forestry program when, in 1924, the public voted two-to-one in favor of a State Forestry Program. Federal aid for forest fire control was expanded this year as well.

In 1925, the Legislature passed an act to permit the establishment of National Forests in Wisconsin. The Nicolet National Forest and the Chequamegon National Forest designations followed. These U.S. National Forests would not only supply ample timber and opportunities for wildlife viewing and sport, but serve as popular recreational areas year round.

Another of Griffith's earlier proposals enacted by the legislature in 1927 was the Forest Crop Tax Law. This law incorporated a 10 percent severance tax on timber harvested and gave tax incentive breaks for farmers to grow trees. The Forestry amendment was ratified again this year, and an interim committee on administration and taxation emerged from the 1927 legislature. Tax delinquent lands had increased steadily since 1921 in northern counties. By 1925, 17 northern counties were already experiencing shortages of timber acreage while only 6% of their agricultural land was supporting crops. Griffith's ideas were getting a second look as his earlier warnings began to come true. The passing of the Conservation Act and re-establishment of the Conservation Commission that year announced that the Conservation Era was well upon us at last.

The Conservation movement of the 1920s witnessed the development of soil erosion control demonstration projects out of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the formation of a state committee on water pollution, and the first land economic
survey performed in Bayfield County. The Forest Products Lab was created at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Aldo Leopold, who would make significant contributions to the field of game management and ecology, arrived there in 1924 after 15 years with the Forest Service in the southwest. By 1928 the Conservation Commission had established the Game Research Bureau.

Conservation activists and actions

Conservation battles were fought by a growing number of conservation organizations and citizen action groups. In 1922, the Izaak Walton League of the United States was formed as a lobbying group of concerned conservationists. That same year, Wisconsin’s first Izaak Walton League chapter was organized outside of Appleton.

The IKES, as they call themselves, are lobbyists that work on such issues as public hunting lands and stream education for clean-up efforts. The IKES have included such conservation leaders as A.D. Sutherland, Louis "Curley" Radke, and in later years, Wilhelmine La Budde, as members.

Throughout the 1920s, Curley Radke worked with the IKES for the protection and restoration of Horicon Marsh, formerly known as the Winnebago Marsh. The marsh had been drained repeatedly for agricultural land - a practice which had turned the former wildland into a wasteland. In 1929, with the tireless efforts of
Radke and others, Horicon Marsh won legislative protection. This land preservation effort was a significant achievement for conservationists in the state. It restored a former natural ecosystem, and provided wildlife breeding and migrating habitat.

Another significant political reform was going on. The conservation department was being reorganized, but not for the last time. Fred Zimmermen was elected governor, based to some degree on his promise to combine the game and resource management departments into one Conservation Department. The Legislature passed a bill, drafted in part by Aldo Leopold, to reorganize the Conservation Department in 1927. For the next 40 years, the department remained in that basic form (Thomas, 1991 p72).

The decade of the 1930s demonstrated that "troubled times" could go hand-in-hand with conservation and environmental improvement projects. The environmental degradation in the nation left little room for any other response. By this time, a second great raid on the forests of upper Wisconsin had left a bare and depleted landscape. Further south and west, the great dustbowl had shown that the immense prairie was a biome of great stability as a grassland - but not as agricultural fields. The tallgrass prairie's rich soils had formed over thousands of years, in a complex system of inter-relationships between the grasses, the soil microbes, the animals who ranged there naturally, and fire. Human agricultural practices in this arid plain proved to be unintelligent tinkering. Top soil literally blew away. In 1931,
The University of Wisconsin purchased land near La Crosse for soil conservation research work.

**The Civilian Conservation Corp**

In 1933, under Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Emergency Work Act, the Civilian Conservation Corp was formed to combat the serious resource neglect and degradation occurring throughout the nation, as well as to combat the neglect of human resources occurring in the great depression. The first CCC camps in Wisconsin were located in the Nicolet National Forest outside of Three Lakes in 1933 and two years later, in the Chequamegon National Forest. The National Forest reserves would aim to turn tax delinquent lands back into a multiple use and sustainable yield forest.

In the few short years of operation, the CCC left a living legacy that stand as tall forests today, and expertly crafted work of a past age. Men working in the army-style run camps spent approximately nine months to two years performing manual labor and gaining new skills. Projects included a variety of soil conservation projects, telephone pole work, trail making and park development. Almost everywhere in Wisconsin one can find stonework bridges, fabulous log built shelter buildings and trails designed to avoid high impact in their building and use. These conservation efforts were conducted primarily by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Workers in both the CCC and WPA were able to send money back home to families during this period of economic hard times as well (Ahlgren, 1988).
1933 marked the year that the Conservation Commission appointed a committee to investigate ways of getting more input from citizens in resource management issues. The committee was made up of Aldo Leopold, Harley MacKenzie - Chief of the Conservation Department, and Game Superintendent, William Grimmer. The committee’s recommendations led to the formation of the Conservation Congress. The Conservation Congress is an independent organization of citizens that serve as advisors to the Natural Resources Board, and in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources. It is unique in the nation (Thomas, 1991, p72).

Leopold published *Game Management* that same year, after a two year survey of the upper midwest game species populations. It was the first text of its kind. His innovative development of a new natural resource field set the foundation for conservation to grow into an even wider realm. Through his insights, we have gained a greater understanding of ecology, and of the world around us. Game Management was a relatively new concept in resource management. The importance of humans as part of the natural community was an idea long overdue for European settlers.

Public concern over natural resource issues supported continued efforts at natural resources education. In 1936, conservation education was mandated in Wisconsin schools for the first time. This act was lobbied for by groups such as the
Izaak Walton League, special teachers like Pearl Pohl who were using field lessons with their students, and conservation activists like Wilhemine LaBudde.

One decade later, the first and the largest Department of Conservation Education was begun at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. This was the first program of its kind in the country, and it began with the enthusiasm and dedication of professor Fred Schmeekle.

The first school forests in the nation began in Wisconsin, with the help of such activists as Paul Olson. These efforts led to the development of conservation education camps for teachers and students - such as Trees For Tomorrow and the MacKenzie Environmental Learning Center.

From conservation to "land ethics"

In the late 1940s, two national water pollution and river abatement bills - the Water Pollution Abatement Act of 1947 and the first Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1948 passed. The aid it included was significant in helping clean-up the state's increasingly polluted rivers. Concern about increased biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) in rivers because of paper mill and sewer discharge, led to a series of sewage treatment facility improvements.

The Wisconsin River has been known as one of the most worked rivers in the nation, with its multitude of paper mills, dams and water power facilities. Public
outcry for the protection of the few remaining wild rivers saved the Wolf River from a proposed power dam. This opened the corridor for eventual Wild and Scenic national park status soon to follow.

A Sand County Almanac, by Aldo Leopold, was published in 1949. The book included an essay entitled "Land Ethics". Leopold's Land Ethics stressed the significance of each and every organism in the land community - including people. Through Leopold's deep ecological understanding of the interrelationships of land communities, conservation thought progressed into ecological understanding. His "first rule of intelligent tinkering" was to save "all parts". The importance of biotic diversity to the health of the planet was brought to light.

A "wilderness core" policy was adopted by the Conservation Commission in 1953 in an effort to preserve the wild character of the Flambeau River State Forest. Up until this time, State Forests had been designated as "multiple use" (for example: recreation, wildlife management and forest management), but primarily as areas for timber production. By the mid 1950s, Wisconsin had an estimated 324 school and community forests totaling over 71,000 acres (NRCSA, 1956 p22).

THE ENVIRONMENTAL DECADES 1960-2000(?)

The 1960s brought the birth of the environmental movement. Environmental degradation, of both the most obvious and less visible kinds, was gaining media and
citizen attention. The young generation joined hands and lead the public outcry for social reform and environmental protection. Wisconsin already had a history of environmental concern, demonstrated by the development of citizen boards throughout the years, its dedicated commitment to the conservation movement and the obvious appreciation and protection of the land's natural beauty. Wisconsin's Governor and State Senator, Gaylord Nelson, would do much to push the environmental movement into the political arena.

Throughout the 1960s, many national environmental acts had direct impacts on the state, or were influenced by Wisconsin itself. The Wilderness Act was passed in 1964, the Water Quality Resources Act the next year and the Clean Waters Restoration Act the following year. Scientist, Rachel Carson, had published the now classic Silent Spring in 1960 to create awareness about the dangers of the pesticide DDT. Prior to 1970, environmental law suits were rare in the United States, but in 1968, DDT was on trial in Madison, Wisconsin.

The First State to ban DDT

The National Environmental Defense Fund came to the Wisconsin Citizen's Natural Resources Association (CNRA), at their urging, to help in banning the use of DDT in Milwaukee County. The CNRA petitioned the Department of Natural Resources (formerly the Wisconsin Conservation Department) to declare DDT "a highly toxic, persistent substance whose existence in the biosphere constituted pollution and which should be restricted so that it would not contaminate the

B27
environment" (Dunlap, 1978, p7). The trial resulted in revolutionary legislation. DDT was banned in Wisconsin in 1969, leading eventually to a ban throughout the nation. Historically, the term "ecosystem" was defined in this law suit for what was most likely than not, the first time used in court.

The trial gained drama and media attention, all adding to the momentum of the environmental movement. Environmentalism began to gain the professionalism and attention it needed. The postwar chemical revolution and continued environmental degradation on Earth was getting critical study.

The Creation of the Department of Natural Resources

1967 marked another historic year for conservation history in the state and the nation. The first environmental "super-agency" was created in Wisconsin. Wisconsin legislators combined two departments responsible for conservation and pollution - the Conservation Department and the Department of Resource Development to form the Department of Natural Resources. The merger was not without controversy, however. Governor Knowles’s reorganization commission, known as the "Kellett Commission" for its leader William Kellett, was the target of much backlash (Huffman, 1989).
The Kellett Commission and Governor Knowles hoped that a combined agency would develop a stronger "systems approach" to natural resource matters. The result would be better management, administrative efficiency and increased political responsiveness (Trainer, 1992 p8). The new super-agency would be served by one director and be overseen by a policy board. Opposition to the proposed bill came from the Wisconsin Conservation Department, the Conservation Congress, and conservation groups in the state.

Conservationists argued that conservation matters had more public support, while pollution issues involved so much controversy that the combination of the two departments would only hamper progress in conservation policy. The acclaimed "Red Coat Rebellion" resulted when opposers of the Kellett Reorganization Bill held rallies in front of the capital during February, with attendees all dressed in red hunting coats. The bill did eventually pass both houses, but even six years later, in 1973, conservation employees in the Department of Natural Resources outnumbered pollution control personnel ten to one (Trainer, 1992 p10).

Policy surrounding conservation issues were better received by the public than policy tied to environmental concerns. The force of the 1960s environmental movement pushed pollution abatement and environmental protection into the next decade.
The decade of the 70s began with a celebration of environmental awareness and action that the 1960s had achieved. Obviously, the passing of many pollution mitigation bills was not positive for everyone. Business and municipalities alike were forced to consider economics and the environment together for the first time. The environmental movement needed to promote the positive results, and keep the ball rolling. It should come as no surprise that the individual responsible for national Earth Day was a Wisconsin leader.

Former Governor Gaylord Nelson, a Wisconsin state senator, introduced the concept of Earth Day during a 1969 speech in Seattle, Washington. The nation was ready, and the political climate supportive. The end result was a national celebration promoting environmental protection - Earth Day, April 22, 1970. Dr. Thomas Huffman, historian on the environmental movement in Wisconsin, said that for "Gaylord Nelson personally, Earth Day was the culmination of an intellectual journey that began with the outdoor experiences of his northern Wisconsin childhood and became a political method during his years as Wisconsin's governor" (Huffman, 1989). Earth Day is still celebrated in schools, universities and communities all over the nation and in 141 countries all over the world.

In 1973-74, Wisconsin's Environmental Policy Act made Environmental Impact Statements a requirement. The Wisconsin Sewage Commission was created...
and for the first time in over a decade, sport fishing returned to Lake Michigan. The 1970s continued to make revolutionary headway to protect and restore the environment.

Another "first" for Wisconsin leadership in the environmental movement was its ban on the manufacturing and sale of PCB's in 1977. Following the United Nation's first Intergovernmental Conference on Environmental Education in Tblisi, Russia in 1977, Wisconsin began upgrading and updating conservation education. Environmental education centers were springing up throughout the state. The movement to get school children outdoors for hands-on education was renewed. Not only was outdoor education renewed, but environmental education would be brought into the classroom - and infused into class subjects.

By the end of the decade, the Department of Natural Resources had created the office of Endangered Species. Continued preservation efforts included the federal designation of the Wolf, St. Croix and Upper Nemakagan rivers in 1968, followed by Lower St. Croix river area as Wild and Scenic in 1972. Further preservation achievements were made in the Nicolet and Chequamegon National Forests with the designations of three wilderness areas in the late 70s and the consideration studies of five rivers in these National Forests for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The fight for environmental responsibility in the 80s and 90s
The political climate on environmental issues throughout the nation came to a slow grind during the 1980s. Under the Reagan and Bush Administrations, the evolutionary accomplishments of the Environmental Era took a backward slide. Once again, our wetlands, our endangered species and even our national refuges were in danger of exploitation.

Regardless of overwhelming obstacles, Wisconsin continued to pass exemplary environmental legislation. In 1983, Wisconsin passed the toughest groundwater legislation in the country. The most progressive acid rain legislation in the nation, Wisconsin Act 266, was passed here in 1986. It included a 10 year study on acid deposition and set emissions reductions standards. An impressive 50 percent reduction in sulfur emissions was reached in 1993.

1990 witnessed the passing of the Wisconsin Recycling and Solid Waste Law and the Environmental Education Act. The EE Act enabled Wisconsin to create and Environmental Education Board to oversee a grants program and the Center for Environmental Education at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Showing foresight in protection of the ozone layer, Wisconsin passed strict guidelines for mobil air conditioner maintenance in 1992. Wisconsin has led the nation with this ozone depletion law. Wisconsin may led the way again in contemporary environmental policy as environmentally literate students grow into environmentally responsible adults, capable of making sound decisions regarding resource policy affecting wildlife, water, air, the land community - and the individual.
1630 - Jean Nicolet lands at Green Bay to promote peace between the Winnebago and Huron peoples to establish friendly relations for the fur trade.

1820s - Wisconsin/Illinois lead region claims are staked by incoming settlers. Native tribes are forced out of the area.

1836 - Wisconsin becomes an official government territory.

1840s - Agricultural growth occurs in southern Wisconsin, wheat is the choice cash crop.

1844 - Increase Allen Lapham's "Wisconsin" is published. Encouraged immigration to the state and recorded early natural and cultural history.

1867 - Wisconsin Forestry Commission is created by the State Legislature.

1868 - Legislative Act to "encourage the planting and growth of trees for the protection thereof."

1870s - Wisconsin is dethroned as the King Wheat State due to several severe winters in a row, rust and smut disease, and topsoil erosion.

1871 - Peshtigo Forest Fire, one of the worst in the nation, kills thousands of people.

1872 - Legislature outlaws burning of marshes, fields and woodlots after tragic Peshtigo Fire.

1874 - First Board of Fish Commissioners. Game preservation efforts begun.
1876 - First State Fish Hatchery established in Madison. State board of Health was given responsibility over water supply and disposal for municipalities.

1878 - Legislature established 50,000 acre Northern State Park.

1883 - North West Agricultural Experiment Station started.

1885 - Governor appointed first state fish wardens.

1890 - Office of the Chief Fish and Game Warden established by the Legislature.

1894 - University of Wisconsin Agricultural Experimental Station report on wind erosion.

1891 - Forest Reserve Act is passed setting stage for the National Forests in Wisconsin and the nation.

1897 - First hunting licenses required of all deer hunters.

1898 - Filbert Roth's report on "Forestry Conditions of Northern Wisconsin is published.

1900 - First parkland acquisition by State at "Dalles of the St. Croix."

1903 - Legislature created the 40,000 acre Forest Reserve and the State Department of Forestry, with funds to appoint the first State Forester the following year.

Barter and sale of game birds and venison was prohibited to help protect depleted populations.

1904 - E.M. Griffith becomes Wisconsin's first State Forester.

1905 - State Board of Forestry established with Charles Van Hise as Chairperson. 194,000 additional acres added to the Forest Reserve.

1907 - Legislature created first State Park Board.

1908 - Governor Davidson appointed the Conservation Commission, the first of its kind in the country.
1909 - First State Park Commission submitted report on "State Parks for Wisconsin."

1911 - First State Tree Nursery started at Trout Lake.

First 11 Forest Rangers appointed.

Wisconsin Law passed "making it unlawful . . . to waste a natural resource. -" Chapter 143. This is believed to be first comprehensive natural resource legislation in the country.

1914 - Game Wardens begin educational work with schools, farmers' institutions and the public on conservation.

1915 - Collapse of the Forestry Program.

Consolidation of Game and Conservation Commissions into one department. The state conservation commission came about as result of the 1911 legislative report.

1917 - Legislature made it illegal to throw any manufacturing refuse or any substance harmful to fish life into streams.

1918 - Passage of Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and controls set in Wisconsin on illegal traffic in waterfowl.

1921 - Wisconsin Forestry Association founded to support a progressive forestry program.

1922 - Izzak Walton League of America founded and Wisconsin Division started at Appleton.

Erosion control engineering progressed under Otto Zeasman.

1924 - Public votes two to one in favor of a constitutional amendment to permit a State Forestry program. Federal aid for forest fire control expanded.

1925 - Legislature passed initial act to permit establishment of National Forests in Wisconsin.

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First Chief Warden of the Conservation Department - Harley Mackenzie.

1927 - Legislature passed "Conservation Act" and established the Conservation Commission in its basic form.

State committee on Water pollution created by Legislature.

First meeting of the Wisconsin Conservation Commission.

Forest Crop Tax Law passed and forestry amendment ratified again.

First land economic survey made (Bayfield County).

1928 - Game Research Bureau established by the Conservation Commission.

1929 - Legislature broadened county zoning law to authorize rural zoning for forestry, recreation, and agriculture.

Horicon Marsh protected by Legislation as a state wildlife refuge, thanks to the efforts of "Curly" Radke, the Izaak Walton League and others.

1931 - UW purchases land near La Crosse for soil conservation research work.

First State Regional Planning Committee formed for zoning river valleys.

First watershed project legislation in the nation passed in WI as the "Coon Valley Project."

First contract with a farmer for comprehensive erosion control signed in 1933.

1932 - First wind erosion research study produced as a joint effort by UW-Departments.

1933 - First Civilian Conservation Corp camps in Wisconsin are located near Eagle River and Three Lakes.
Aldo Leopold publishes "Game Management" 11 years after coming to Wisconsin. One year later the University of Wisconsin-Madison creates the Department of Game Management for him - the first in the nation.

First research study, "Erosion in Wisconsin", on history of land use and soil erosion from runoff in Vernon, Co.

First rural zoning ordinance in the nation adopted by Oneida County, it becomes a model for the state and nation.

1934 - Conservation Congress established in Wisconsin.

1936 - Conservation Education mandated in the state with the efforts of Pearl Pohl, Wilhelmine La Budde and others.

1944 - Trees for Tomorrow founded by Mully Taylor, becomes the first conservation education program facility in the state.

1946 - Timber Producer's Association's first Lake States Logging Conference.

   Department of Conservation Education at the University of Wisconsin - Steven's Point was begun under the influence of Fred Schmeekle. It was the first in the country.

1946 - First Soil Conservation Society of America WI Chapter formed.

1947 - Ernie Swift becomes the Director of the Wisconsin Conservation Department.

   Virgil Jacob Muench is active in the Water Pollution Abatement Act and the opposition of a dam proposed on the Wolf River in 1950.

1948 - First Federal water pollution control act passed with aids to the state.

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1949 - Wisconsin Federation of Conservation Clubs is organized largely by Richard Hemp and Les Woerpel. They also helped found the Natural Resources Committee of State Agencies.

Wallace Grange's "The Way to Game Abundance" is published.

Aldo Leopold's "A Sand County Almanac" is published.

Ruth Hine becomes the first woman biologist to work for the Wisconsin Conservation Department.

1951 - First Scientific Natural Areas created by the State Board for Preservation of Scientific Areas.

1953 - Conservation Commission adopted a "wilderness core" policy for managing the Flambeau River State Forest.


1959 - Citizen's Natural Resources Association of Wisconsin organized.

George W. Mead Wildlife Area donated by his son through the efforts of Les Woerpel and others.

1960 - Wisconsin Chapter of the Nature Conservancy founded by E. Roark, Joe Hickey and Hugh Iltis. It's first chairperson for 18 years is Paul Olson.

1961 - Outdoor Recreation Act Program (ORAP) created by the Legislature.

Department of Resource Development is created to perform state-wide planning of all activities, including outdoor recreation and natural resources use. ORAP helped fund The DNR's purchase of Wallace Grange's Sandhill Game Farm near Babcock.

1964 - Wild Rivers conference at Madison promoted by the Izaak Walton League and the Sierra Club.
Wilderness Act passed - Wisconsin National Forests designate wilderness areas in coming years.

1965 - Water Quality Resources Act passed.

1966 - Clean Waters Restoration Act passed.

1968 - National Wild and Scenic River Areas Act designating the St. Croix-Namekagon areas and creating review for other state rivers.

1969 - Wisconsin becomes the first state in the nation to ban the use of DDT.


Federal Environmental Protection Agency created.

1971 - Wisconsin Conservation Department becomes the Dept. of Natural Resources.

Wisconsin Environmental Task Force is appointed by the Governor to assist and help guide natural resource preservation efforts.


Lower St. Croix River designated as a Wild and Scenic River Area.

1973 - Environmental Policy Act in Wisconsin makes Environmental Impact Statements required.

Wisconsin Sewage Commission created and sport fisheries returns to Lake Michigan after a decade.

Solid Waste Recycling Authority (SWRA) Established as result of the Solid Waste Recycling Act, Ch. 308. Between 1967-78 the State Legislature enacted 5 Solid Waste laws.

1974 - DNR Inland Lakes Renewal Project.
$1,000,000 authorized for state waterfowl production areas.

Safe Water Drinking Act passed with strong support from the League of Women Voters under Ruth Clusen’s leadership.

Coastal Zone Management Program includes preservation of Great Lakes shorelines.

1975 - Wisconsin Water Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES permits).

Wisconsin State Environmental Education Plan completed and presented to the Governor and state Legislature.

Power Plant Siting Bill requires power plants to consider environmental factors.


Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) authorizes EPA to assist states with waste issues. Under this mandate the SWRA becomes a regulatory agency.

DNR establishes Hunter Ethics Committee to develop guidelines for Wisconsin Hunters.

1977 - (Federal) Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act.

PCB’s manufacturing and sale prohibited in the state making Wisconsin one of the first states to do so.

1978 - $1.8 Million spent on Wisconsin Air Pollution Control Program, millions spent on Wisconsin Water Pollution Control, and $887,000 spent on Wisconsin Solid Waste Program.

Mackenzie Environmental Learning Center created from the former Poynette Wildlife Conservation Youth Camp.
Wisconsin Endangered Species Law Amendments and office of Endangered Species established by the DNR.

1979 - Regulation passed on use and application of pesticides. Standards set for training applicators and pesticide registration required.

1982 - Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame established by 17 state-wide conservation organizations.

1983 - Wisconsin establishes the strongest groundwater legislation in the nation.

1986 - Wisconsin Act 266 mandates the most progressive acid rain legislation in the nation. A 10 year study and emissions caps on industrial discharge are included.

1989 - Central Sands Wind Erosion Control Project. Wisconsin pilots the first conservation credit program on wind erosion control.

1990 - Environmental Education Act creates an Environmental Education Board, a grants program for EE and a Center for EE at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point.


1991 - WI-Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society publishes "Fully Integrated Agricultural Land Use Management (FIALUM)".

1992 - Wisconsin passes one of the most progressive bills for protection of the earth's ozone layer. State law requires strict guidelines for mobil air conditioner unit maintenance.
VISIONARIES IN WISCONSIN’S CONSERVATION HISTORY

INTRODUCTION

Throughout history, Wisconsin has been influenced by the political eras reflecting the conscious thought of the time, and the Old World views brought over by immigrants to the state. For immigrants, what had already occurred in the New England states held less account in the wild frontier of the Wisconsin Territory. Here a new land was envisioned with new circumstances. For the eager settler, the speculator and politically minded alike, the state was fresh and open for opportunity. Concern for the natural resources of Wisconsin was fought by people who had made Wisconsin their home.

The plight of the state’s natural resources set the stage for raising social consciousness and concern for living standards. Citizen involvement has been a foundation for resource policy in the state for over 130 years. This has been accomplished through participation in special interest groups, citizen boards and commissions overseeing state agencies. There has been only one period, from 1915-1927, when this was not the case (Thomas, 1991).

It has been the people drawn to Wisconsin who most contributed to the state’s success as a pioneer in the conservation and environmental movements. These leaders had the courage to express visionary ideas through their action, philosophies or legislative involvement. Their accomplishments have made ripples throughout the nation.
The visionaries in Wisconsin's conservation history have demonstrated great wisdom and dedication to the natural resources of the state. They have taught us that conservation includes not only utilitarian concepts, but preservation of life for its own sake. In the words of Pearl Pohl, "we have a good earth... let us use it intelligently." Our environment and quality of life is better today because of their loving and intelligent stewardship. Through them we are reminded to care for the earth and all life today, to leave a better place for the children tomorrow.

The following 18 biographies are about the conservation contributions made by some remarkable Wisconsin state citizens. These people have been formally inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame through a two Board review process. Any person or organization can nominate someone to the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame.

The visionaries in Wisconsin's conservation history have demonstrated exceptional leadership in the protection of our natural resources, as well as in the development of environmental programs, policy and public understanding.

Through their inspiration, may we all gain courage to take up the challenge of personal responsibility to our state, our nation and the planet.
VISIONARIES IN WISCONSIN'S
CONSERVATION HISTORY

CONSERVATION FOUNDERS

The Roots of Conservation

1830s-1930s
INCREASE ALLEN LAPHAM

(1811 - 1875)

inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame - 1992

"There is a feeling in the heart of many that it is not right to live exclusively for ourselves, or for the present time - that it is right to look a little to the interests of those who shall come after us."

In 1836, Wisconsin officially became a United States government territory. Just three days before this declaration, a young civil engineer by trade, and naturalist by heart, came to Milwaukee with the westward-moving settlement of North America.

With a personal drive for scientific inquiry, boundless energy and much foresight, Increase Allen Lapham developed the foundation for conservation in Wisconsin. According to Walter Scott, former Conservation Department Director, "Lapham was the father of Wisconsin's conservation movement." (Scott, 1967)
Without his record of the natural history of Wisconsin, much of the state's pristine environment and original biotic diversity would be left to conjecture.

Lapham worked with his father and brother surveying and building canals in Kentucky, New York and Ohio. He started work as a rodman on the Erie Canal at the age of fourteen. His main opportunities for schooling came during bad weather or other circumstances when canal work was halted. What Lapham lacked in institutionalized learning, he made up for with an investigative mind and an insatiable curiosity about the world around him. He kept notebooks recording every bird, flower and odd-looking stone. He often searched under logs and rocks for shells. Lapham was not only fascinated with nature's treasures, - he also recorded water levels and weather conditions, a habit that eventually led him to develop the first storm warning system for the Great Lakes.

In his early years, with access to only a few scientific books and a strong desire for self study, Lapham began to correspond with scientists about the puzzles he tried to solve. He published his first scientific paper with maps and illustrations, titled "Notice of the Louisville and Shippingsport Canal and the Geology of the Vicinity" in the American Journal of Science. The year was 1828, and Lapham was sixteen. During this time, he also received drawing instruction from Victor Audubon, son of the ornithologist.

When Lapham came to Milwaukee, hardly a dozen homes were in the settlement. He came to make a permanent home for himself, working as a surveyor and civil engineer while he pursued his interests in natural history and science.
Lapham made the earliest important contributions to understanding the geology, mineralogy, archeology and meteorology in Wisconsin. He made records of the effigy mounds and spoke out for their preservation. He published information on the trees, plants, shells and rocks of Wisconsin. He wrote the first scientific paper published in Wisconsin titled, "Catalogue of plants and shells found in the vicinity of Milwaukee, on the west side of Lake Michigan." He also wrote an unpublished catalog of grasses of the United States. Lapham began an herbarium which later became the property of the University of Wisconsin in Madison. His collection preserves over 1500 species of plants.

It was Lapham’s strong desire to preserve a record of pre-settlement Wisconsin species before they became extirpated from the state. In 1844 he published a book which influenced many settlers to come to Wisconsin. His book, "Wisconsin," was sold in Germany as well and encouraged emigration to Wisconsin.

As early as 1833, Lapham was interested in crop rotation and supplying cities with running water. In 1855 he attempted to get the Legislature to authorize a natural history survey "before any more of the native species become extinct."

His environmental concerns included soil, fish, weather prediction, and forest conservation. Lapham sought to discover new relationships in nature and the laws of nature. He understood the importance of forests to soil, watersheds and climate at an early time in our ecological understanding. He advocated preservation and the replanting of forests. "The time is not far distant when," he said, "owing to the
increase of population and the increased demands from the neighboring states of Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota, a scarcity will begin to be felt."

Lapham foresaw the devastation of Wisconsin forests fifty years before it became a citizen concern. He knew the resource was limited and understood then that resource renewal would require state legislated help - a procedure that eventually came out of crisis. He advocated that it was the duty of all farmers and landholders to plant trees, an idea he believed would create honor and respect in the eyes of future generations.

In 1867, Lapham was senior author of a report in cooperation with J. Knapp of the University of Wisconsin, and H. Crocker, a railroad owner, on the rapid destruction of forest trees. The paper was published later that year and titled "Report on the disastrous effects of the destruction of forest trees, now going on so rapidly in the state of Wisconsin." Even though the paper documented forest depletion and its effects on the watersheds, wood supply and climate of the state, almost no specific recommendations were made. One piece of related legislation passed the following year - a tree growing incentive with tax exemptions for farmers planting tree shelterbelts.

Lapham became the Wisconsin State Chief Geologist under state governor Washburn in 1873. He conducted and reported on a two-year survey of the geology of the state. Although his survey was of great value scientifically, it stirred up an angry senator whose mineral lands had been unfavorably reported. The
disagreement caused the entire report to fall under question. In 1875, Governor Taylor removed Lapham from his position. This was Lapham's last important service to the state.

Lapham received an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Amherst College in 1860 for his scientific contributions. Besides his science and resource interests, Lapham was involved in establishing Milwaukee's first high school, the Milwaukee Female Seminary (now Milwaukee-Downer College), and was active as a commissioner on the State Historical Society's constitutional development. Professor Easton of Beloit College described Lapham as a quiet and modest man and a genial companion, both honest and sincere. He was said to have been active and enthusiastic all of his life. Lapham had a "quiet persistence to accomplish great things" and "[his] work was for the benefit of a wider territory than the state of Wisconsin, and for a longer period than his 64 years."

Although Lapham came to Wisconsin during a time of resource abundance, he had the foresight to not only anticipate the effects of harvest gluttony, but to record the state's wild treasures, and speak out for their conservation. This, during a period when the word itself was little known. Lapham contributed much information about Wisconsin's native flora, and the development of the natural resources of the state. Had we listened a bit more clearly back then we may have preserved and conserved more of the natural ecosystems, cultural heritage, and biodiversity of the state.
Possibly a few more wild prairie flowers and grasses would grace the southern tier of Wisconsin, possibly a few more forests would be standing today, already on second or third harvests - or reaching a natural state of climatic succession. Lapham believed that "the man who plants a forest can enjoy its grandeur and beauty in all subsequent time," his statements and records are of timeless value to all of us.

SOURCES:


JOHN MUIR
(1838-1914)

inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame in 1985

"One is constantly reminded of the infinite lavishness of Nature . . . We learn that no particle of her is ever wasted or worn out, she is always flowing from use to use, beauty to yet higher beauty."

In Dunbar, Scotland, a young boy and his younger brother sat happily recounting the adventurous stories of American wilderness they had read about in their schoolbooks. In their minds they played out hunts in vast forests, and panning for gold in mountain streams. The year was 1849, and today their father had announced the family would move to America.

John Muir's father, Daniel initially intended to move the family to Canada. But upon hearing of less dense forests in western America, and good wheat farming in Wisconsin, he settled there instead. What became the Muir family homestead was a 1/4 section of land in a sunny opening with a small lake, near Kingston in central Wisconsin. For John, the native landscape was as free as he was in heart. Here, lessons came not from harsh schoolmasters, but from Nature. Muir would recall in later life that this education was "not whipped but charmed into us." (Bade, 1924). And in a personal account of pioneer life on a

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5 Nature is in capitol in this biography out of respect for the reverence Muir felt towards nature, and the similar case he often gave it himself.

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Wisconsin farm he reminisced on "this sudden plash[sic] into pure wildness - baptism in Nature's warm heart - how utterly happy it made us!" (Bade, p 39).

... John's formative years were shrouded in a deep, ecstatic love for Nature, but his boyhood was also a harsh and trying one. It is no secret that Daniel Muir was a severe man as well as being pious and fanatical in his religious convictions. John, being the eldest son, took much of the brunt of his father's relentless drive to keep the Devil at bay, and tame the landscape. Homesteading in the Wisconsin wilderness was a difficult task for anyone, John's work responsibilities on the farm were so extensive - at such an early age - they stunted his growth. The beatings and preachings he received in reprimand of his wild ways, fortunately for us all, failed to break his spirit.

Because of strict rules at home, John pursued his interest in reading and poetry in secret. When offered the option of free time between bedtime and predawn, John took to getting up at 1 a.m. to work on his imaginative "whittlings".

It was John's carved inventions and contraptions that eventually led him away from the farm. One of his first pieces was a working clock shaped like a scythe with the words "all flesh is grass" carved below. Neighbors urged John to continue his work, and take it to show at the State Fair. This adventure led him to employment in Madison and the opportunity to attend the University of Wisconsin. John Muir, himself a reverent man, slowly adjusted to the shocking and worldly ways of his peers. He regarded his university experience as a gift from heaven, and it certainly must have been a new world to him.

B52
Muir's dorm room became a showplace for his whittling hobby of Rube Goldberg-type inventions. His peers and professors found humor and admiration in his work of "genius". This, combined with his unique charm, endeared John to all who made his acquaintance.

According to Muir's biographer and "literary executor", William Bade, a significant turning point in Muir's career occurred at the University in the spring of 1863. On a fateful day, a friend showed him a locust blossom up close. He was so entranced by the intricate and perfect beauty of this flower, that he began to trade his medical interests for botany. (Bade, p 95, 1924). After this, Muir began making the first of many botanical and geological excursions, or "trampings". He and his friends explored and identified plants in the Wisconsin River and Dells vicinities. Muir's awareness about Nature grew, as did the depth of spirituality he had always had in reverence to God's creation.

Shortly after finishing school, Muir set off on his first extensive rambling. Eager to discover more wilderness, he wandered Canada, collecting plants, searching "the wilds", meeting lovely "flower people", and kind-hearted rural folk as well. Nature was his cathedral and its miracles, his effervescence. In the true Muir spirit, he "roughed it" in travel with an earned loaf of bread or pocketful of oats, tea and matches. The wilds provided all that was needed to fulfill body and soul. This initial wandering would become characteristic of his future explorations.

After a four year tramping through Canada, Muir pursued a work-a-day career in the city of Indianapolis. His ingenuity as a machinist in the early days of
the industrial revolution made him an authority of sorts on machines and their efficiency. But the internal conflict between his yearn for wilderness and sense of responsibility was settled in a potentially blinding mishap late one day at work. Said Muir "God has to nearly kill us sometimes, to teach us lessons." (Wolf, 1945 p 105). Happy to have his eyesight intact, he left Indianapolis in 1867 by foot for the Gulf Coast. He decided it was time to keep a journal with his botanical collection and notes. On the inside cover of his journal he wrote "John Muir, Earth-Planet, Universe." Once focused on being true to himself, he understood that the rambling, botanical record-keeping and journal writing would launch his greatest purpose. The prominent philosopher and preservationist named John Muir was born.

From the 1860s-70s, Muir explored Florida’s Keys and Gulf; the Yosemite, Tulumne, Mt. Whitney, the northern and southern Sierra, the Wasatch Range of Utah, the valley of the Great Salt Lake, and the Santa Cruz Mountains. Throughout his journeys he used his keen scientific mind to analyze the story of the landscape, and his soul to interpret the miracles of God’s handiwork and beauty.

In one instance of the shy Muir’s "coming out", he proclaimed that the canyons of Yosemite Valley were carved by the forces of glaciers over a million years. His arguments regarding the creation of the majestic valley were so convincing the California paper published his ideas.

Dr. Josiah Whitney, a State Geologist and author of The Yosemite Guidebook, who had previously denounced the glacial theory, rebuked Muir by calling him "a mere sheepherder" and "an ignoramus" (Wolf, p 133). With the
support of professors in Geology, and leading scientists of the day, Muir would prove correct in the end.

Muir took odd jobs in Yosemite, first as a sheepherder - a job he denounced because of the effect of "these hoofed locusts" on the environment - then as a sawyer for a resort. Here he gained fame as a naturalist and guide for the Valley. He was much sought after by the elite crowd, primarily for his passionate interpretation of Nature and wilderness. With urging from friends, he began to publish a series of articles about his travels, and was requested to write on Yosemite for the eastern magazine *Century*. His work inspired strong reactions from the public back east to preserve the area as a National Park.

Among the people Muir was to invoke and inspire to the holiness of the Yosemite and the giant old sequoia trees, were transcendentalist Ralph Waldo Emerson, Mrs. Therese Yelverton, President Theodore Roosevelt and at the height of his political activism, President William H. Taft. Over time Muir became known as the prophet of the sequoia and the voice of the wilderness. He would give public speeches, lobby in Congress, and write letters and articles in their behalf.

Muir's voice also included his extensive writings on wilderness and his wanderings. His books were, and still are, recognized throughout the world. Muir's interpretations reflected the rapture he felt in Nature, and his overwhelming hunger to experience all of her phenomena - even to cling to the top of a pine during a dangerous wind storm.
Muir was adored by many women during his life, from his doting sister Sarah, to the sophisticated women he guided in the Yosemite Valley. Through the years, several women friends and admirers kept correspondence with him, but Muir never set his heart on any woman. Eventually however, he met Louie Wanda Strenzel, the daughter of an expatriate Pole. The two were devoted to one another, a fact easily seen in the letters published in such books as *The Life and Letters of John Muir* (Bade, 1924). After his marriage, Muir took up farming his own vineyards and orchards outside the San Francisco Bay area. Profits from the vineyard afforded him the means to continue his travels in order to see "all of the wild places" during his life. Two daughters, Wanda and Helen were born.

Muir's writing for *Century* magazine propelled not only his writing career, but preservation and conservation efforts in California, and the nation. The final successful passing of the Yosemite National Park bill occurred in 1891 with his influence. In an effort to continue to protect the California wilderness, Muir and a group of conservation-minded friends formed the Sierra Club in 1892. Muir served as its president until his death.

With the Sierra Club, Muir worked for the establishment of the forest reserves, resulting in the Forest Reserve Act of 1891. Its original intention was to protect America's last remaining great forests. President Harrison immediately set aside 15 forest reserves. Muir published his first book, *The Mountains of California* in 1894.
Muir served as an unofficial advisor on an investigation of western public lands with a National Academy of Sciences Committee. The outcome was President Cleveland's addition of 21 million acres to the Forest Reserve System in 13 separate reserves. President Roosevelt was greatly inspired by the well-spoken and reverent Muir after requesting his guidance on a camping trip through the Yosemite Valley. Muir was a major inspiration in Roosevelt's national conservation campaign which included setting aside the Petrified Forest and Grand Canyon National Monuments. In 1908, a tract of *Sequoia sempervierens*, Muir's most sacred of trees, were set aside in his honor as the Muir Woods National Monument in Marin County.

Over the coming years, Muir would travel extensively in America and abroad. His contributions as a proponent of wilderness and conservation included his essays from the vivid journals he kept on his trips. Muir's first book, *Our National Parks* was published in 1901, then *Stickeen* and *My First Summer in the Sierras*, both in 1911, *The Yosemite* in 1912, and *The Story of My Boyhood and Youth* in 1913. Four additional manuscripts were collected and published after Muir's death. These were; *Travels in Alaska* (1915), *Thousand-Mile Walk to the Gulf* (1916), *The Cruise of the Corwin* (1917), and *Steep Trails* (1918).

For over a decade Muir fought a fierce debate against a proposal to dam the Hetch Hetchy Valley in the Yosemite National Park. The reservoir would supply water and power to San Francisco, a growing city that had recently experienced a tragic earthquake and fire without enough water to combat it. Muir believed the destruction of Hetch- Hetchy Valley was sacrilege, and he spent his last energies on
this battle. But the Hetch Hetchy Dam legislation was passed and the dam was built. His final year was spent completing the manuscript of *Travels in Alaska*. John Muir died on Christmas Eve of 1914. Many said he died of a broken heart over Hetch-Hetchy.

Frank Buske, in his introduction to *Wilderness Essays* (1980) titled "It is still the morning of creation" called Muir a "quintessential romantic frontier figure. . . ." Single-minded, he did not hesitate to challenge the accepted authorities and the explanations regarding the wilderness he loved: he formulated his own theories and carefully searched out the evidence. American has always loved its rebels . . ." (p. xxiii).

Linnie Marsh Wolf writes in her biography, *Son of the Wilderness* (1945) that Muir had set the torch aflame for others to follow. After the passing of the Hetch Hetchy Dam, Enos Mills, a rising naturalist and guide in the National Parks, was already taking the lead in his own campaign to protect the parks. "And there were others strong and in their prime - Stephen T. Mather, Robert Underwood Johnson, C. Hart Merriam, John C. Merriam, J. Horace McFarland, William E. Colby. . . . There were thousands of young men and women for whom he had blazed the way. . . . These would be the future defenders of nature against the onslaughts of commercialism." (Wolf, 1945 p342).

Muir's writing and successful efforts to preserve the nation's most exalting places are lasting contributions to the world. He has encouraged a sense of reverence for Nature to many who have encountered his contributions. His life is
an inspiration for us to defend the treasures of the nation. John Muir was one of the first of two individuals to be inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame in 1985.

Sources:


Additional Quotes:

"The whole wilderness in unity and interrelation is above and familiar . . . the very stones seem talkative, sympathetic, brotherly . . No particle is ever wasted or worn out, but is eternally flowing from use to use."

"Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves."

"Filled . . our pulses bound, and we are warmed and quickened into sympathy with everything, taken back into the heart of nature, whence we came. We feel the life and motion about us, and the universal beauty: . . . everywhere, everywhere, beauty and life, and glad rejoicing action."

-Wilderness Essays
"The Alaska Trip" p 46.
THE CONSERVATIONISTS

The Birth of Conservation
"Soil conservation is important enough to deserve attention in its own sphere as of growing importance for permanent agriculture. It is a farm problem intimately associated with general welfare, and ought to be treated as such." (Zeasman, 1975)

When Otto Zeasman was two years old, he and his family sailed across the Atlantic Ocean to Ellis Island. The year was 1888, and his family had left Kiev, in the Ukraine of Russia, to begin a new life in the United States. That same year the Zeasman family settled in Eastern Marathon County in Wisconsin. Zeasman spent the rest of his life in Wisconsin, making significant contributions to the development of soil erosion control and watershed management in the state. His efforts would earn him the name "Mr. Soil Conservation".

Otto Zeasman's father died when he was five, and by the time he was twelve he was working full-time during the summer at a lumber mill and strawberry farm. He quit school after the eighth grade to work at a general store. If not for an encouraging teacher and supportive young friends, Otto Zeasman may never have returned to school. He went on to finish school, studying at Wayland Academy in Beaver Dam to finish his high school diploma. Following this he attended the University of Rochester in New York, and the University of Wisconsin in Madison.
While attending the University of Wisconsin, Zeasman became interested in soil erosion issues after attending a series of lectures by University President, Charles Van Hise. Zeasman learned about soil formation in forests and prairie. But Wisconsin, it was believed, didn't have the erosion problems of the south because of diversified crops and good use of crop rotation (Zeasman, 1975).

After earning a B.S. degree in 1914, he took a job with the university as an assistant instructor in soils, and a specialist in land drainage. Part of his job responsibilities was helping farmers install tile land drainage systems. From 1917-1918 he was the Green Lake County Agricultural Agent, developing a cow testing association and an alfalfa production method. His alfalfa growing methods became widely used on Wisconsin's sandy soil regions.

In 1919, he returned to the University of Wisconsin to continue his drainage work as Assistant Professor of Agricultural Engineering. In 1921 he split this position with a half-time position as Assistant Professor of Soils. One year later, reports came in that "ditches (gullies) were destroying good level land, cutting away some bridges and filling others." Zeasman went to investigate with the County Agent from Buffalo county. The situation was shocking. "I saw gullies, 20'-50' deep and up to over a quarter mile long," said Zeasman "bridges were in some places cut away and in other places buried by earth from the advancing gullies" (Zeasman, 1975).

Back at the university, Professor Zeasman, or "Zeas", as he was affectionately called by friends, delved into gully control and soil conservation study. This was a time when few people realized the serious problems soil erosion was causing the
country. Zeasman would dedicate his life to the issues involving soil loss in Wisconsin.

Buffalo County became his first serious study area. Here, gullies of 20-50 feet in depth were common. With few guidelines to follow, Zeasman began implementing new ideas for erosion control systems which included diversion terracing, crop rotations, and gully control. His methods became known to many as the "whole farm" or watershed approach, a method still employed today. His structural designs in gully control gained national attention.

Zneasman became the Assistant State Drainage Engineer and the Associate Professor of Soils and Agricultural Engineering at the University in 1930. When the Civilian Conservation Corp, known as the CCC, was implemented under the presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt in the wake of the Great Depression, Zeasman was called to assist. From 1933-1935, Zeasman supervised soil conservation projects for nine CCC camps in western Wisconsin.

During this time Zeasman also pioneered a watershed demonstration project. The University of Wisconsin had purchased land near La Crosse for the purpose of soil conservation research work in 1931. Under Professor Zeasman, The Coon Valley Project site became known as the United States Department of Agriculture’s Number 1 Watershed Demonstration project in the nation. As a result of Zeasman’s work, Wisconsin became the first state in the nation to pass watershed project legislation. The first contract with a farmer for comprehensive erosion control was signed in 1933.
From 1936 until 1956, Zeasman held joint appointment for USDA-Soil Conservation Service and the University Extension. He provided leadership to all 71 soil and water conservation districts in Wisconsin. He helped convince farmers of the need for conservation farming, and demonstrated new practices to minimize soil erosion. In 1951 he introduced the concept of air tours. This innovative idea provided landowners the opportunity to inspect erosion damage and improvement methods from a different perspective. Zeasman was considered a personal friend and wise counsellor by many of the farm families who came to know him. He retired in 1956, but this didn't end his work to preserve Wisconsin land.

Beginning in 1961, Zeasman spent four years as a technical consultant to the legislative committee rewriting Wisconsin's drainage statutes. In his later years, he urged young scholars in soil conservation that more intensive soil erosion practices were necessary. But Otto sobered them to the fact that their projects would lack support until humankind's imminent survival made soil issues critical in timing.

Otto Zeasman was honored by the State Soil Conservation Committee of Wisconsin in 1954 with an award of merit for his foresighted contributions to soil erosion control in the state and the nation.

There is a prologue written for Zeasman, given during one of his awards of honor. It sums up a character that students and friends of him knew:

This is the tale of Otto the Tiler - Otto, the Soil Saver Turbulent, tempestuous, tireless Otto.

Up and down this State went Otto
Pleading, cussing, cajoling, snarling.
"Look," he'd shout in indignation
See that wash, that wasted top soil.

Contour! Terrace! Save that dirt!
Damn it all you have no sense.

Otherwise you'd surely see it -
Know it pays to practice conservation."

Always strode he like a giant,
Fearless, snorting, ever defiant.

His lusty stories became tradition.
His politics were narrow and seditious.

In all he seemed a blustering, fiery teacher
But those who knew him, knew this well -
The bluster was an outer-shell

That hid a soft and sympathetic heart.
When blustering Otto but played a part.

Witness now the Trial of Otto
Turbulent, tempestuous, individualistic Otto.

Sources:


"Memorial Resolution of the University of Wisconsin Faculty on the Death of Emeritus Professor Otto R. Zeasman." 1976.
ERNEST FREMONT SWIFT
1897-1968

inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame - 1986

(Much of this biography has been paraphrased from Swift's book, "Conservation Saga," published by the National Wildlife Federation in 1967).

"First teach the child... that bread comes from the soil and not from the store; teach him that fat cities do not thrive on a lean country-side."

Ernie Swift was raised with the fading but not forgotten tales of wild frontier and Indian battles; memories of wide open prairie and sky; the last buffalo hunts. He came from the Minnesota prairie as a young boy to homestead on a sandy stump farm in northern Wisconsin.

Swift's conservation career began in the 1920's, an era of lawlessness, ravaged land, and corrupt sportsmanship. He saw the first replanting of the forest, the development of resource management in the state and the country, and a north country business transformation to tourism and recreation. Throughout his warden and Conservation Department career, Swift lived and worked by the new conservation ethic begun by Gifford Pinchot and others.

By the time Swift was 22 years old, he had already served in the U.S. Army in Missouri, North and South Carolina and as a Sergeant with the 48th Infantry Machine Gun Company in Newport News, Virginia. In 1926, at the age of 28, he took a civil service exam and was selected as a conservation warden and forest...
ranger in Forest County. Here he began a lifetime of dedication to conservation in Wisconsin.

Being a conservation warden in the late 1920s was often a dangerous and lonely occupation. These were the days of prohibition and subsequent rum-running, a time of illegal trapping and hunting. Swift said in his book, *A Conservation Saga*, most folks had little appreciation for the warden or the ranger. In the words of one backcountry woodsman, "I'd buy me a tin bill and peck slop before I'd hire out as a game warden" (Swift, 1967, p. 12).

A warden had to be a very knowledgeable woodsman. Swift said "No one knew where I was going, and if I got on the trail of an illegal hunter or trapper, I was never sure myself where I would end up. In the spring there was canoe work for fish spearers and illegal trappers, and in the fall more camping out for trappers and headlighters." Swift believed such an education was vital, and the only form of training at the time. Most important, the lessons of ecology were all around you, if only you took the time to really observe.

Swift knew game wardens lost their lives upholding conservation laws. He was not without some close calls himself. In one of his own stories - while working one day, he followed three fishermen to a secluded stream where fishing was prohibited. There the men were fly-fishing, right in front of a posted sign saying "REFUGE - No Fishing". Swift approached the men, informing them of their violation. During his confrontation, one of them pulled a gun on him. Undaunted, Swift asked to see their fishing permits. Only one, Frank McErlean, a well known
gangster from Chicago, was able to produce a license. Swift confiscated the fish and ordered all three of them to appear in court the following morning. As it turned out, the three men were members of a Chicago gang on vacation in the northwoods. A short time later, Swift arrested one of the "gang" for poaching. The daring Swift made enemies that day and became the target of a Chicago assassination squad, or so the story goes.

On a fateful evening, a black Packard glided to a stop in front of Swift's home in Hayward. The "bump squad" sent to "knock him off", found the house empty. Swift had been tipped off ahead of time and was hiding a safe distance away. This story inspired a television show called "Open Season" hosted by Jack Webb and directed by William Conrad. Actor James Best played the part of Ernie Swift.

In 1928, Swift was made Supervisor of the state's Law Enforcement Program out of Sawyer County. As Supervisor, he handled forest fire cases, game surveys and wildlife damage complaints. He specialized in fur bootleggers in the northern counties. In 1930 he received the first Haskell Noyes Conservation Award for his outstanding service as a Conservation Warden.

Swift moved quickly up the ranks as a conservation officer. In 1935 he was transferred to the main office in Madison as Supervisor of Fur Farms. Besides handling confiscated furs, he conducted surveys on fur-bearing animals in the wild, on licensed fur farms and on shooting preserves. Later that same year, he was made Deputy Conservation Director. Here he drafted all game management and forestry regulations passed by a newly appointed Wisconsin Conservation Commission.
As Assistant Director in 1943, Swift gained the responsibility of supervising state forests, several tree nurseries, and state parks. He began a forest fire protection program on 12,000,000 acres. He promoted the involvement of professional foresters working with farmers, private industry and county forests.

Swift was named Conservation Director in 1947, under a six-member paid Conservation Congress. Because of Swift's leadership, Wisconsin became one of the first states to bring biologists into the Conservation Department. He also began a professional and personal relationship with a well known wildlife ecologist at the University of Wisconsin - Madison, Aldo Leopold. The two made remarkable contributions to the efforts of the Conservation Commission and the conservation movement.

Swift's involvements with resource policy committees and councils grew through the 1950s. He gave his time and talents to the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, the American Fisheries Society, the Society of American Foresters and the National Waterfowl Council, to name a few. Swift was the recipient of over 20 conservation awards during his life, including the Aldo Leopold Award in 1959.

In 1954, Swift became the Assistant Director to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington, D.C. Here he thought he could make great contributions, but after only 18 months, he quit the position out of frustration with the bureaucracy. The following year he became the Executive Director of the National Wildlife Federation - the nation's largest private conservation organization. After resigning
in 1960, he continued to serve the Federation as a conservation advisor and forestry liaison officer until his death.

Swift never even completed a semester of college. He left the University of Minnesota because of illness in 1919. For several years he worked in real estate, wood products and as a guide. Throughout his professional career he educated himself in forestry practice, wildlife research and conservation policy. In the field, nature became his guide and teacher. He thought carefully about conservation, he said, "People become conservationists in relation to their ability to become philosophers." Swift was not just learning a profession, but creating it. According to former State Governor and U.S. Senator, Gaylord Nelson, Ernie Swift "helped to turn conservation into a science."

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HARLEY W. MACKENZIE

(1999-1979)

inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame - 1988

"There is one thing that is very certain... we cannot upset to too great an extent the works of the Almighty and expect to continue to have the natural resources that we originally had when this earth was first created."

-Excerpt delivered to the Georgia Wildlife Federation, Nov. 3, 1938.

Harley MacKenzie has been called a legend, a prophet, the strong arm in the woods, and even a "good square-jawed fellow." All of these names, when attached to his own, are prefixed with the word "conservationist." MacKenzie, Poynette Wisconsin's native son, pioneered state fish and game wardening during its early rough and unruly years. He eventually became the first Chief Conservation Warden of the state and the Director of the Conservation Department (today known as the Department of Natural Resources). But the contributions Mackenzie made are more than tales of daring adventure, they are memorials still standing and serving the citizens of the state today.

In 1910, MacKenzie worked as a seasonal warden outside the cities of Wausau, Tomah and Mather. He left the job in the spring of 1911 to pursue his dreams as a professional baseball player. For several years he played ball for the Giants of Lodi, and the Milwaukee Tigers. But in 1917, he returned to the field of
conservation as a full-time warden for the Wisconsin Conservation Department. He eventually received permanent assignment in the still wild country surrounding Antigo.

His supervisor warned him about the dangerous "Kaintucks" - eastern mountain people who sought refuge from the law for bootlegging liquor in the Great Lake's north country. In the early 1920s, during a time when a warden was sometimes viewed as lower than an outlaw, MacKenzie was treated 19 times for head injuries during his stay in Antigo. He almost lost his life on at least one occasion - when a poaching fisherman, wanted for failure to appear in court, took an axe to his head. His number of close calls included a bootlegger's wife who dropped a large rock on his head while he scurried down a well to find what he believed to be poached venison - not illegal liquor! (View Magazine, 1974).

Not all of his legal clashes were so unpleasant, some were exciting or even humorous. His favorite story was about Big Red, the Silent Witness. While on duty one day in 1921 he spotted a large red hound that was running deer - a situation giving a warden then, as today, the right to shoot the dog on sight. But Mackenzie followed the dog and discovered it was herding deer towards several hunters in a deer stand. Not only was hunting with dogs illegal, but they were hunting out of season as well!

MacKenzie arrested all of them for poaching and using the dog, but in court they all denied ever having seen the dog before. When MacKenzie unleashed the dog in the courtroom, Big Red ran happily right to his owner on the witness stand.
When the owner still denied knowing the dog he was asked to leave the stand and sit back down. The dog followed behind the man’s heels back to his seat and proceeded to lay at his feet. The judge closed the case right then and there. The poachers received fines for illegally hunting with a dog as well as for lying under oath.

In 1925, after a long day patrolling near Crandon, he waiting after dark for calm waters to paddle his confiscated loot back to camp. When he finally reached his night’s rest, MacKenzie was greeted by the then Conservation Commissioner, Elmer Hall. Hall had papers making him chief game warden for the state. "Mac", as he became known to his friends, became a tough leader, but fiercely devoted to the wardens he called "his men." For years he fought for a bill to give state wardens the pension due them for their years in the life-threatening job of being a "Bush Cop".

When the bill was finally signed by Governor Phillip LaFollette in 1929, it was time to relieve older wardens and promote the "new look" of younger wardens. MacKenzie backed up his trainees whenever they were honestly working to follow the law, whether or not others in politics requested leniency for important people. Bribery was not an uncommon event in the early days of wardening. While serving as chief of game wardens, Mac did much to professionalize his force. He established physical and professional qualifications. In 1929 he wrote the first warden’s manual. In 1930, after an inspiring visit to Canada, he helped secure the
first official conservation warden uniforms and started the Conservation Warden Efficiency Award.

MacKenzie became Director of the Conservation Department in 1934. He led the Department during one of the most rapid periods of conservation improvements in the state's history. This same year, he worked to create an advisory body to the Board of Natural Resources. This advisory group became the Conservation Congress and still helps guide natural resource policy making in the state today. He also merged the game operations in Fish Creek, Moon Lake and Waupun into one state Conservation Center and Game Farm in Poynette in 1934. This would eventually become the MacKenzie Environmental Center.

As Conservation Department Director he wrote articles regularly for the Wisconsin Conservation Bulletin, which was started shortly after he took over. He implemented the Sportsman's License in Wisconsin, helped to establish ranger stations for fire control, promoted conservation education, encouraged the development of fish hatcheries, hired the first biologists for the Department and encouraged the first federal aid projects for wildlife research and management.

MacKenzie left the Conservation Department in 1942 because of fierce accusations against him from lawmakers. Among the many unproved charges was one claiming he was a bootlegger during the Prohibition Era.

Besides the center in Poynette, Mac left living memorials including an arboretum of over 300 native and exotic tree species around the center. He also worked for state acquisition of the Horicon Marsh and the Northern Kettle Moraine.
Many acquisitions occurred during the Great Depression - when budgets were thin. At one time he had over 45 field stations under count, including a fish hatchery at Spooner.

The Poynette Conservation Center and Game Farm was dedicated in MacKenzie's honor in 1971, both for his leadership in conservation causes and his efforts to promote conservation education. Back in the 1930s, the "game farm" consisted of chicken coops, for the rearing of chuckkar and Hungarian partridge, turkey, wood ducks, raccoon, fox and mink. Today it is primarily dedicated to increasing public knowledge about birds, mammals, habitat and human interrelationships. The center offers museums exhibits on logging and wildlife, nature trails suitable for the elderly and handicapped, classrooms, agricultural demonstration areas, an arboretum and overnight facilities. The center promotes environmental education for all ages, and welcomes over 100,000 visitors a year. While still living, Mac devoted time visiting with the public at the Center in Poynette. Here he could be found spinning tales of his life as a semi-pro baseball pitcher, of the wild early days of game wardening, or childhood remembrances as a boy trapper. Said MacKenzie, "Why I had a trap line when I was 8, I trapped the swamps around here for muskrats and gophers, and I used to come to school smellin' like a rat, too." Mac eventually went on to manage his father's real estate and insurance business, but he never steered far from his interests in the conservation movement.
Mackenzie's public service over the years included county boards, the state planning board and geographic board. He served as the Second President of the Association of the Midwest Game Committee and was an active member of the Executive Committee for the International Association of Game, Fish, and Conservation Commissioners. Following his retirement, he received numerous honors from state conservation groups and organizations, including the Wisconsin Outdoor Communicator's Association, and the Natural Resources Board.

Mackenzie is remembered by conservation officers today as the father of the "game warden" and strong arm of the former Conservation Department. The MacKenzie Environmental Center is a memorial to one of the first environmentalists in the state, and founder of the educational facility. All in all, it seems the stories and legends surrounding the man named Mac will continue to be spun through the ages.

SOURCES:


DAVID CLARK EVEREST
(1883-1955)

inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame - 1991

"If we restore the lumber growth to this state - such factors as soil erosion, game and fish, water power, underground storage of water and every other thing involved in the health and well being of the people will be perpetuated."

At the time of Everest's death in 1955, American Forests Magazine printed that D.C. Everest of Wausau, Wisconsin, was one of the key men responsible for the growth of the forestry industry both in Wisconsin and the nation. Everest made his first major conservation contribution to forestry in 1925. He presented a program outlining several key elements needed to restore the forests of the state from the fire, neglect and over-harvesting which had devastated the forest resources of Wisconsin's northwoods during the second major harvest in the early 1900s.

Everest proposed to establish a statewide system of forest fire protection and to permit timber growing without taxation. His efforts resulted in the Forest Crop Law of 1927. He also supported a program of reforestation of state lands with the re-establishment of state run tree nurseries.

Everest's programs were not always popular with northern citizens. Many people objected to expenditure of state funds for these purposes, but Everest's
convincing argument and strong commitment helped persuade the Legislative Committee studying forestry problems to endorse each of his recommendations.

Everest was chairman and chief mover of the first commercial forestry conference held in Milwaukee in 1928. In his opening remarks, he made what was considered the first use of the term "multiple users of forests". Here he outlined his vision for a strong forest based industry founded upon the protection and restoration of the forests of Wisconsin.

Everest joined the Marathon Corporation as a general manager in 1909. Through his foresight and initiative, Marathon grew from a small firm to one of the largest paper and pulp products corporations in North America. He served as a trustee of the Institute of Paper Chemistry at Appleton from 1929 until his death in 1955. He also served two terms as President of the American Paper and Pulp Association.

The American Forestry Association presented Mr. Everest with its "Distinguished Service Award" in 1949 in recognition of his work toward the conservation of forest resources. He was active in the AFA and was elected president in 1951. Everest served on their Board of Directors from 1952 until 1955. He was involved in many conservation organizations during his life, including the conservation education program at Trees for Tomorrow.

In 1948, Everest was appointed as a charter member of the Wisconsin Forestry Advisory Council to the Wisconsin Conservation Commission. He served with distinction from 1948-1955. During his tenure, he was instrumental in
formulating several recommendations to the Commission. Of special note are: the purchase by the Wisconsin Conservation Department for the remaining land commission holdings in the Flambeau River State Forest, establishment of a cooperative program of forestry research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and expansion of the Conservation Department’s role in farm forestry and watershed management.

Everest was called upon to chair the Wisconsin Silver Anniversary Forestry Conference held in Milwaukee in 1953. The conference made recommendations which set the stage for the next two decades of forestry program direction. Their report reflected Everest’s stated positions and values about the forest industry and conservation.

The published report of the July 1967 Conservation Centennial Symposium states "D.C. Everest of the Marathon Corporation, whose total contributions to Wisconsin Conservation Programs - especially those related to forestry - may never be fully known... he was a real leader in the conservation movement." D.C. Everest was recognized by the Wisconsin Conservation Commission for his contributions to conservation in 1955. He is named in Walter Scott’s listing of one hundred outstanding Wisconsin conservationists. He was inducted into the Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame in 1987, three years before his Conservation Hall of Fame induction.
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Wilhelmine Diefenthaler Labudde
(1880-1955)

inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame - 1990

(This biography has been reprinted in most part, from "A Conservation Activist of the 1930s - Mrs. Wilhelmine LaBudde, Proceedings of the Fifteenth Annual Forest History Association of Wisconsin, Inc. by Dr. Christine Thomas).

"We may continue indefinitely to spend huge sums for reforestation, fish hatcheries, game refuges and deputies, but unless the masses are taught the reasons for these expenditures and the need for conserving and perpetuating our resources, both from a material and spiritual standpoint, the rank and file will go merrily on, blind to the need of beauty in their lives and dead to the love of nature that surrounds them on all sides."

Wilhemine LaBudde was a persuasive conservation activist during a time when few women were taken seriously in either the political arena or the natural resources fields. But there were few conservation matters during 30s, 40s, and 50s, that she wasn't involved in. From the early 1930s until her death in 1955, she was an inspiration to other women in the conservation movement.

Her first legislative appearance was met with patronizing laughter by the legislature. Always able to use her charm, determination and wit, Policy-makers in the state and nation began to realize that Mrs. LaBudde would not be chided or brushed-off. She soon gained respect for herself, and the issues she championed.

LaBudde's conservation interests ranged from reforestation, to preservation of old growth forests, to environmental education for children of all ages. She spoke and wrote eloquently on the importance of protecting our Country's natural
resources for people today, as well as for future generations. She was deeply concerned with creating the right attitude about God's creations and the value of natural areas. As a member of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, she helped shape state wildlife policy.

The small town of Elkhart Lake was the birth place and eventual life-long summer residence of Wilhelmine Diefenthaler LaBudde. Both her parents shared in her enjoyment of wildflowers and birds, and encouraged her love of music. It was here at Elkhart Lake that the young Minnie, as she was called by friends, met her future husband - the neighboring Edward LaBudde. Wilhelmine studied to be a concert singer at Grafton Hall in Fon Du Lac. A few years after graduation, in 1907, she married her childhood sweetheart, Edward.

Edward established the LaBudde Feed and Grain Company in Milwaukee, where the young couple moved. She still spent each summer at her beloved Pine Point in Elkhart Lake, raising two daughters and a son to share in her joy of nature. As her children grew and went off to college, Mrs. LaBudde devoted increasingly more and more of her time to conservation matters. By the end of the 30s, she would be spending all of her free time involved in the growing Conservation Movement.

Mrs. LaBudde began her conservation work through the Women's Fortnightly Club. This led to her leadership with the Milwaukee County Federation of Women's Clubs during the 1920s. She became active with the Izaak Walton League, rallying with "Curley" Radke and the League for the protection and restoration of the
Horicon Marsh. In 1928, the 3,100 acre Horicon National Wildlife Refuge was established as a breeding place for wetland species, and a migration stop for thousands of Canada Geese.

As an IKER, Mrs. LaBudde fought to establish a sanctuary for owls and hawks along Lake Michigan near Sheboygan. She also served as chairman of Indian Affairs for the Wisconsin Chapter. LaBudde was so influential and successful with the League and women’s groups, that the first and only all-woman’s Izaak Walton League LaBudde Memorial Chapter was created in her honor.

In 1930, Mrs. LaBudde became the conservation chair for the Federation of Women’s Clubs, a position she worked at tirelessly for over a decade. It was in this position that she worked on a variety of forestry issues. Among her accomplishments, she organized tree planting activities, promoted Arbor day, had bird house building contests for school children, and pursued the founding of school forests.

LaBudde also served as U.S. Forest Service liaison to the women’s federation clubs during this time. Under her influence and organization, the George Washington Memorial Forest in the Argonne unit of Oneida County was replanted in a bicentennial dedication ceremony. Today this area is within the Nicolet National Forest. The event had several purposes, as noted in a Federation pamphlet published by the Kiwanis Club. The restoration effort was intended to not only plant trees, but conservation in the minds of children. It was also meant to highlight the importance of conservation contributions to be made by women.
The bicentennial dedication sparked other tree planting activities throughout the state. Acquiring money for seedlings was no easy task at this time of economic depression, the women made a great effort to collect enough donations to replant this forest. LaBudde emphasized that the continued care and restoration of natural resources was a patriotic duty for all citizens. She said, "forests are the backbone of any nation, . . . any country that strips itself of them becomes economically impoverished." Due in part to these and other forestry efforts, Mrs. LaBudde was named Vice President of the American Forestry Association. She joined the fight to keep the Forest Service as part of the Department of Agriculture and out of the Department of the Interior.

LaBudde was a key individual in arousing the public to oppose the destruction of one of the few tracts of virgin forest left in the Great Lakes area. Her involvement in this heated debate led to the successful preservation of old growth hemlock in the Porcupine Mountains near Ontonagon, Michigan. She was also a proponent of selective thinning, and lobbied to make selective cutting compulsory in the nation.

One of LaBudde's less successful, but memorable ventures was an attempt to promote thinned trees for Christmas. She created a plan to have federal foresters tag silvicultural "thinning" trees for Christmas tree sales. Club women, and others, were encouraged to buy only these tagged trees. But the general public was not impressed with the quality or beauty of these thinnings - decorated or not!
In 1935, the General Federation of Women's Clubs awarded Mrs. LaBudde for outstanding conservation contributions. Years later, she would remark in honest modesty, "I do not feel that I have ever accomplished an outstanding piece of work in the past entirely alone - we Conservationists band together..."

Throughout the 1930s, Mrs. LaBudde promoted conservation. She pushed for a state Legislative mandate for conservation education in all public schools. LaBudde believed that this type of education, at an early age, created a "constructive foundation for life." Five years before conservation education was mandated by the Legislature, she was promoting its attributes as a training method for the cherishment of nature's gifts.

"Our schools should teach an appreciation of the inherent wealth of one's country," she said, "and what it means to the economic life of the nation, and most important of all, what this appreciation means to the spiritual life of a people." LaBudde organized conservation and wildlife events, presented conservation programs over the radio for children, and worked to establish school forests. Mrs. LaBudde is remembered by the Izaak Walton League and others as a prime leader in the eventual passage of the 1936 conservation education mandate.

Mrs. LaBudde was not opposed to hunting and trapping - she even owned a fur coat or two herself, for awhile. But as her own awareness of conservation and game management grew, she became concerned about the treatment of wildlife and the harvesting methods involved. She wrote Aldo Leopold, then a Professor of Game Management at the University of Wisconsin, supporting an anti steel-trap law.
Professor Leopold agreed with the abuse of the trap, but urged that enforcement was unlikely. Not one to give up on an issue she believed in strongly, she persisted. In 1937, the Wisconsin legislature passed two humane trap bills.

In another instance, she protested a proposed varmint hunt by the Milwaukee Gun Club. Her success here was based on past achievements in facilitating the women's clubs work in protecting hawks, owls, and her cherished great blue herons. She reminded the hunters of the importance of predator species to rodent control. In support of kingfishers and snapping turtles, said LaBudde, "they feed on scavengers which eat fish eggs." Obviously, her educational efforts were not limited to children and she was clever and tenacious.

In 1937, Mrs. LaBudde became the first woman to serve on the Wisconsin Conservation Congress. Throughout her life she contributed her knowledge, talents and time to conservation organizations such as the League of Women Voters, the National Wildlife Federation, the Wisconsin Conservation Education Association, Friends of the Land, the Women's Fortnightly Club, the Milwaukee County Conservation Alliance, the Citizens Natural Resources Association, the Wisconsin Conservation League, the Women's Conservation League and as an honorary member of a conservation group known as The Blue Ox.

During World War II, LaBudde furthered women's contributions to the conservation movement. Because of the war effort, the army style CCC camps were left abandoned. This included nurseries, plantations, fire towers and recreational developments. LaBudde sent a resolution from the Milwaukee Women's Club to the
Chief of the Forest Service explaining the potential of women in conservation during the War. There were definite possibilities for young women in the Forest Service, he wrote back "to render real service" in everything from plantation management to timber stand improvement, insect control, forest fire control and operation of recreational areas, among many others jobs.

LaBudde continued her conservation involvements up until her death in 1955, at the age of 74. In 1967, the Izaak Walton League honored her in their Hall of Fame for devoting over a quarter of a century of leadership in the forefront of the conservation movement.

Below is a poetic oath Wilhelmine LaBudde wrote for the Women's Conservation League of American Incorporated. It is a fitting example of the philosophy she lived by.

"We know that providence showered this continent with an over-abundance of all things necessary for a rich and full life.

Therefore, we pledge ourselves to express our gratitude to the Creator, the source of all good, by doing everything we can to help conserve and perpetuate His handiwork.

"We know that in the past, and up to the present day, ruthless exploitation and waste have devastated, and in some instances, annihilated certain valuable Natural Resources.

Therefore, we will raise our voices in protest whenever danger threatens so these remaining treasurers may be used with care and discretion, because upon their perpetuation depends the life of a free and untrampled America.

We know that we owe certain obligations to prosperity and to those who will come after us.
Therefore, we will consistently preach the Gospel of Conservation. We will hold aloft the Torch of Good Precepts, and finally hand it down to the next generation with the admonition that the Light must never be allowed to fail in order that each succeeding generation - even those who will live in the far off, dim and distant future - may be assured of some of the blessings which we of this generation are enjoying now.

This is Our Creed - a part of our religion."

Sources:


Further Quotes:

LaBudde:

"Leave the woods and parks as beautiful as you find them. Help preserve the wild flowers and trees. Leave a clean camp and a dead fire and so help to keep your country "America the Beautiful."
"Like winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them. Now we face the question whether a still higher 'standard of living' is worth its cost in things natural, wild, and free."

"That land is a community is the basic concept of ecology, but that land is to be loved and respected is an extension of ethics."

Aldo Leopold is the founder of the profession of Wildlife Management, and of a philosophy to go with it. Leopold was one of the first conservationist to challenge our view of the land. He challenged our concept of humanity as Earth's beneficiaries or even stewards. Leopold began an awakening of land ethics and ecological understanding in the thoughts of not only scientists, but of every citizen. His collection of essays, including "Land Ethics", in A Sand County Almanac, (1949) have become the Bible of conservation ethics.

His efforts in forest preservation led to the establishment of the first constitutionally protected wilderness area. As a result, he also helped found the Wilderness Society. His contributions have left a philosophy which still challenges us today, and the rare gift of wilderness for future generations.

Rand Aldo Leopold (his first name was never used) was born January 11, 1887 to Clara Starker and Carl Leopold. Come spring, a red oak sapling was planted
in his name in front of the house. His father ran the Leopold Desk Company, famous for its quality and fine work. Their home was a large estate overlooking the Mississippi bottomlands. Here, Aldo Leopold discovered a love for birds and nature study.

Aldo Leopold learned to hunt under his father's guidance. Mr. Leopold instilled in him hunting ethics, such as not shooting spring migratory waterfowl headed for summer breeding grounds.

Leopold's late summers were spent on Marquette Island in Lake Superior exploring, running, and playing "Daniel Boone." The wilderness quality of Lake Superior and her Islands were a treasured retreat for a growing child. Summer explorations and hunts with his father helped shape Leopold's values towards nature.

Leopold was sent to Lawranceville prep school in New Jersey in 1904. At this time, Gifford Pinchot, the nation's first Chief Forester, had begun to raise the field of forestry to a real profession. The outdoor-loving Leopold was drawn to the new specialty like a magnet. In 1905 he attended Yale University which had the most advanced forestry program in the nation.

Throughout Leopold's education, he and his mother kept frequent and often eloquent, correspondence. He was a serious student, but also dedicated to his often daily "tromps" through area woods and fields. His letters were filled with field observations of the birds and plants he encountered on these hikes.

His first appointment after Yale was with the Apache National Forest in Arizona in 1909. He later reflected on this experience calling himself a "tenderfoot"
(Callicott, p 283) as a mounted forest ranger. It seemed his greenhorn sense of judgement was not always appreciated by his crew, or his supervisors back at the station. Regardless, Leopold moved up quickly in the ranks of the Forest Service. In 1911, at the age of twenty-five, Leopold became the Forest Supervisor of the Carson National Forest in northern New Mexico.

Here he met and married Estella Berger. Estella was one of several daughters of a prominent Spanish land grant family in the area. Not long after the marriage, Leopold was caught in severe weather in the mountains and acquired a serious illness. Diagnosed with acute nephritis, he spent eighteen long months in recuperation. He occupied himself with a great amount of time reading, observing nature and just thinking. Among the books he read were naturalists such as Thoreau, and explorers like Lewis and Clark.

Returning to the U.S. Forest Service, he realized that the vigorous field life of a forest supervisor could result in a deadly reoccurrence. Leopold turned to his primary interest in game management. He gained national recognition for his efforts and leadership in protecting game populations in New Mexico.

Leopold was concerned about the use of rangeland for livestock, and the neglect given to watersheds, soils, forests and wildlife. He was a strong advocate for predator control - especially in the elimination of wolves. He would later write that at the time, most people believed fewer wolves meant more deer, and that no wolves meant "a hunter's paradise." Leopold's growing understanding of land and wildlife would eventually change this view.
In the southwest, Leopold would continue to pursue game conservation among his other Forest Service duties. He also founded and wrote for the game conservation movement’s publication *The Pine Cone*, and in 1917 received the gold medal of W. T. Hornaday’s Permanent Wildlife Protection Fund.

Leopold made a lasting contribution with America’s public land when he helped create a system of U.S. Forest Service national roadless wilderness area designations. He helped in the preservation of over a half-million acres in the Gila National Forest, the first designated wilderness area.

Leopold received many job offers over the ensuing years. He was always reluctant to leave the Southwest, to uproot his family or alter his career goals. But in 1924 he took a position where he thought he could achieve his professional objectives in game management.

He accepted the assistant directorship position with the U.S. Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin. He was promised that he would soon be the director. There was support in Washington to bring more cooperation between the Forest Products laboratory and actual field research. The idea was to improve forestry management overall. The potential for making a contribution here was appealing enough for him to move his family and leave their beloved Southwest. The move was especially hard on his wife Estella.

Leopold spent four frustrating years in a desk job waiting for a directorship that never opened. He wanted to inspire research in more than wood utilization and products.
Although his disappointment grew with the Forest Products Lab, he found another outlet for his conservation interest with the newly formed Izaak Walton League. The professional and energetic organization utilized Leopold's talents to help draft a bill that eventually became the Wisconsin Conservation Act of 1927. The IKES, and Leopold, hoped that his background in forestry and interest in game management would make him a prime candidate for a position on the new commission. The new governor, however, did not oblige and Leopold spent many more frustrating years trying to cooperate with an agency he helped create.

In 1928, Leopold decided to leave the Forest Products Laboratory and pursue his wildlife interests. With funding from a grant under the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturer's Institute, Leopold began a 2-year game survey in the upper Midwest. No wildlife survey of this kind had ever been performed. The result of his findings included a Report on a Game Survey of the North Central States, published in 1931, and a series of lectures on game management at the University of Wisconsin.

His decision to venture forth on his own, in a profession yet to be established, opened new opportunities for Leopold. He became a leading expert on the subject. He was asked to serve as chairman and chief draftsman on a committee responsible for developing American game policy. Under Leopold, game policy would focus on natural game production - not on reserves or game farms. More significantly, it would involve conducting research on habitat as part of the overall management approach. The publication of his Game Management (Scribners) in 1933, established
a new science and a new profession. Aldo Leopold became renowned as the father of wildlife management. The text is still widely used in college classrooms.

This same year, a position was created for Leopold in the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Wisconsin. A Department of Wildlife Management was established by the University in 1939. Grant funding for this position, and research, was no small feat during these harsh years of economic depression. According to Susan Fladder, a Leopold historian; this research money was viewed as justifiable in light of the potential contributions to land utilization.

Professor Leopold, known affectionately as "the professor" by his students, dedicated his life to training the first generation of wildlife professionals. Leopold cherished his professorship. He also served as Research Director for the UW Arboretum, and joined with Robert Marshall and others to found the Wilderness Society.

Throughout the Leopold family’s time in the Madison area, they searched for a weekend and summer get-away. Eventually they found an abandoned farm along the Wisconsin River in the central state area. "The Shack", a reconstructed chicken house, was their cottage. Leopold and the entire family spent many refreshing vacations and weekends together on the farm. Leopold worked to understand and restore the health of the land.

The call to service during World War II left Leopold with few graduate students. During this time, Leopold put into print the conservation ethics he had been thinking about all his life. His most famous essays were published and included
"Odyssey", "Great Possessions", and "Thinking Like a Mountain." Leopold's "Land Ethics" equated ecological thinking with land health. "Health," he said, "is the capacity of the land for self-renewal. Conservation is our effort to understand and preserve this capacity." "Land," he said, is "a fountain of energy flowing through a circuit of soils, plants and animals." Most important, man [humankind] is an integral part of this land community, and not separate from it. His concept of land ethics further involved the idea of sustainable development. According to Leopold philosopher Baird Callicott, his ethics speak to harmony with nature, an idea now talked about as "sustainable development."

Leopold sought a publisher for his collection of essays. A Sand County Almanac was accepted by Oxford Press in 1948. One week later, he died of a heart attack while helping neighbors fight a grass fire that threatened his farm. We are left to guess at what further contributions would have been made by this great man. He had just been appointed Advisor on Conservation to the United Nations.

Almost a half century later, his philosophical writings on land ethics and humankind's place in the land community remain poignant and provocative. Leopold brought the science of ecology to fruition. Years later, the significance of his philosophy has set the stage for new discussions about biotic diversity and sustainable development.

His collected works in A Sand County Almanac have become required reading for natural resources majors, and students in other disciplines, all over the country - and for good reason.
Leopold's basic land ethic is clear and strong. Says Leopold, "Conservation is getting nowhere because it is incompatible with our Abrahamic concept of land. We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect." Few people who read this book ever look at the land in the same way again. Aldo Leopold was one of two individuals first inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame.

Sources:
Callicott, Baird. (1992, March 31). Discussion at the College of Natural Resources. Stevens Point; Wisconsin.


PEARL LOUISE POHL  
(1887-1982)  

inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame - 1991  

"We have a good earth - let us use it intelligently."

Pearl Pohl was raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin where she graduated from West Division High School in 1906. She chose elementary education as her career, and completed a teaching degree at the Milwaukee Normal School two years later.

Pohl's long career as a school teacher lasted from 1908 until her retirement in 1953. During this time, she combined her skill as an educator with her dedication as a conservationist. The combined subjects of teaching and conservation became life-long pursuits of Pohl's. She was one of the foremost advocates of conservation education in public schools in Wisconsin. Pohl saw the need for environmental education in the public schools long before it became "fashionable". According to a League Leader publication dated 1972, she "was among an early group of conservationists who worked successfully on getting legislation passed which made environmental education mandatory in Wisconsin Schools - and this in 1936!"

Pohl was a pioneer in more current methods of getting students out-of-doors. Her approach included all day trips to farms to study soil conservation, observe forest fire fighting demonstrations, plant trees, work on cleanup projects and other conservation activities. In addition, Pohl involved her sixth grade students in writing letters to Congress reflecting their concern about environmental issues. Her students
also role played panel discussions on resource issues. The foresight in Pohl's methods of "environmental education" are documented today in Wisconsin's state mandated Environmental Education objectives to move students from appreciation, knowledge and skills up through citizen participation.

According to the Wisconsin Conservation Department's former Assistant Director, Walter Scott, Pohl "believed that conservation was a way of life and that it was not difficult to secure interest from young people in these problems if they were explained with both illustrated lectures and field contacts." Pohl retired from teaching in 1953, but she put her valuable leadership abilities and dedication to the environment to use throughout her life. She was a conservation leader for nearly half a century.

At Pohl's 1976 Wisconsin Academy Citation, it was said "she was always charitable, magnanimous, and to the point in her dealing with people." She was remembered as faithful, appreciative, well organized and always helpful. Former president of the Milwaukee Izaak Walton League, Mr. Dahl, referred to Pohl's work as "a reflection of her deep love for the environment and all its creatures."

Pohl's dedication and efforts benefitted a variety of environmental causes. She fought to preserve the Flambeau River State Forest and the Namekagon River. She took an active interest in helping with the Menominee Indian Reservation problems. Her involvement in other conservation projects included efforts to keep portions of Wisconsin rivers under Wild and Scenic River designation, particularly the Namekagon and the Wolf. The struggle to save the Indiana Dunes National
Lakeshore, and numerous reforestation projects where some of her favorite causes.
Pohl's other conservation interests included watershed management and fisheries.

In 1952, Pohl became president of the Milwaukee Chapter of the Wisconsin Izaak Walton League Association, and afterward served many years as its secretary. In 1960 she organized the LaBudde Memorial Ladies Chapter of the League in honor of conservation activist, Wilhelmine LaBudde. It was the only women's Izaak Walton League chapter ever in existence in Wisconsin.

With the sponsorship of the League, Pohl founded the Young Wisconsin Conservationists Association. She chaired this group until the 1970s. Pohl was named to Governor Kohler's Committee to Keep Wisconsin Clean and Beautiful in 1956. The committee's efforts resulted in an effective statewide anti-litter campaign as well as new anti-litter legislation.

Pohl was skillful in soliciting help for her many causes, such as organizing the annual conference of Young Wisconsin Conservationists. Few refused her requests. She had the ability to persuade others about the importance of her causes. Her personal contacts left people of all ages with unforgettable impressions as to the things in life that really counted: the forests, running rivers, and the opportunity to visit unique natural areas.

Pohl was actively involved wherever conservation and environmental issues were at stake. She participated and supported the Soil Conservation Society of America, she was a member of the Citizens Natural Resources Association, and the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters. Other associations benefitting
from Pohl's leadership include: Wisconsin Citizen's Committee for the Moraine National Park, Trees for Tomorrow, the Environmental Education Council of Greater Milwaukee, and the Milwaukee Chapter's Educational Council, for which she served as Chairperson.

Pohl was the founding member of the Wisconsin Council for Conservation Education, which in 1965, helped to sponsor the Governor's Conference of Forestry and Forest Recreation Land Use. In 1970, at the age of 80, she directed a drive to establish the Environmental Education Council of Greater Milwaukee and became its vice president.

The many honors she received on behalf of her conservation education efforts create an extensive list. Most notable among them are: the 1948 Izaak Walton League Award for Accomplishment in Conservation Education, the Milwaukee County Conservation Alliance in 1951, the Izaak Walton League Braughton Conservation Award in 1959, a citation of merit from Governor Warren Knowles in 1965, a recognition award for distinguished service to the state of Wisconsin by the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, and in 1976, a Wisconsin Academy Citation.

In 1965, Walter Scott said of Pohl, "her enthusiasm has encouraged others to follow her good direction, and conservation in Wisconsin and the nation both have moved forward as a result of her efforts." A League Leader Publication of 1972 saluted Miss Pohl and remarked that "Pohl has made truly astounding advances in
the area of environmental education. And when it comes to furthering sound environmental practices, Miss Pohl has spared nothing of her time or fortune.

In a nomination speech given by Cyril Kabat at the 1976 Wisconsin Academy Annual Meeting and Citation, he stated that "as far back as 1908 when most of today's environmental activities were yet to be born, Miss Pearl L. Pohl began her career of teaching, leading, organizing, crusading, and championing the cause of protecting and wisely using Wisconsin's natural resources. Her efforts and accomplishments spanned the eras of conservation, ecology and Earth Day, and entered today's period of environmental awareness. Her record of performance will not be found in famous books on the shelves of hallowed libraries, but the impact of her efforts will remain deeply etched in Wisconsin's struggle to preserve and deliver to posterity some of its natural legacy."

Pohl wrote in a letter to the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letter the year of her nomination - "the opportunity for me to participate in the restoration of the natural resources of Wisconsin has been a reward." Pearl Pohl never married or raised a family of her own, but her affect on hundreds of Wisconsin children will be felt through the years. Her greatest gift to Wisconsin's environment is the time she devoted to instilling love and appreciation for nature in the citizens of tomorrow.

Sources:


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Wisconsin Historical Society Archives. Madison, Wisconsin.

#M85-584, Wisconsin Historical Society Archives. Madison, Wisconsin.
"By saving any wilderness, what you are really saving is the human spirit."

"The power of wonder and the unknown are intangibles we must cherish if we are to comprehend our problems." (Open Horizons, 1979 p 223). This was the philosophy of Sigurd Olson, the intangibles he spoke of were the peace and enlightenment wilderness provided. For Olson, the greatest justification for wilderness preservation was its contribution to humankind's spiritual and intellectual growth. The word "wilderness" itself, rolled off the tongue in a breath of mysticism, creating the deep rooted and heart-felt images for which we have no explanations. Wilderness was part of humankind's instinctual history - an understanding and sense based on a millennium of collected knowledge. Through it, came harmony - and moments of pure thinking - a "sunburst" of clarity and connection he spent a lifetime recapturing and eventually writing about.

Olson is probably best remembered as the avid conservationist who led the way in the preservation of what is now known as the Boundary Waters Wilderness Canoe Area in the Quetico-Superior National Forest of northern Minnesota. He is also an internationally acclaimed interpretive writer - the author of The Singing Wilderness, Reflections from the North Country, Open Horizons, and Listening Point, including others. To paddlers of the north country, he is remembered as the
Burgeois, the name given the leader of the voyageur brigade. He was a teacher, wilderness philosopher, ecologist for the Izaak Walton League, and Consultant to the Director of the National Park Service on Wildlife and Wilderness. He served as President of the National Parks Association and President of the Wilderness Society. His titles go on, and proudly so, including "husband and father" he was also an eloquent activist, an explorer, and a wilderness guide.

Son of a Baptist Minister, he was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1899, but raised in the northernmost city of Wisconsin. One of his earliest recollections is of a maple grove on a sunny autumn day with his mother. As the wind blew, a course of colored leaves swirled around them. They ran and ran, until they sank to the earth in laughter and leaves. For Olson, this was a first moment in a boyhood, and a lifetime, filled with childlike wonder and awareness.

Olson spent the first five years of life moving to remote Wisconsin towns, including the Death's Door area of Door County, and eventually settled in Ashland, Wisconsin in 1905 on a small homestead. Those were pioneering days, when wolves and lynx still roamed their territory. Ashland was an active shipping port and railway town and the almost entirely cut-over land was seeing its first generation of poplar and birch regrowth. Thickets of alder and hazel filled the wet areas, and occasionally a forgotten haven of cathedral white pine and hemlock served as the only reminder of the once great old forest.

Sigurd Olson graduated from Ashland High School in 1916 and attended Northland College for two years. He decided on a professional path for himself two
years later. His father stressed that the only three occupations befitting a man were farming, teaching and the ministry. Young Olson wanted to combine his love of the land with teaching, so he headed to the University of Wisconsin-Madison to pursue a degree in teaching and agriculture.

The summer of 1919 was spent in northern Wisconsin with the U.S. Geological Survey. Wilderness life as a field geologist beckoned. On returning to Madison, he completed his studies in geology. His most heartfelt longing was back north. Upon graduation, he secured an agriculture and sciences teaching position in the small, northern Mesabi Iron Range town of Nashwauk, Minnesota.

In Olson's first year of teaching he developed and put to practice his ideas about environmental education, practically abandoning the classroom for the field. He sought to bring to life the geological history of the iron range his students grew up in. Said Olson, "Slides, dissections, and books were vital, but only in reference to the living world," (Open Horizons, p70). It was his belief from the start, that direct observation was just as important as laboratory experiments, and should be taught together. It was also during his first year in Minnesota, that he became obsessively curious about some endless chains of lakes in the remote northern country.

A local trapper named Al Kennedy filled Olson's adventurous mind with tales of the Quetico-Superior, an area of wild lakes and rivers. Here the legendary voyageur's had travelled the highways of water transporting pelts and furs. From the tiny town of Ely, Minn., a person could paddle north all the way to Hudson Bay, or
northwest to Athabasca and the Arctic Coast. In the summer, Olson headed out to explore the un-mapped canoe country with three friends.

The rhythmic dip of the paddles, the endless horizons, the colors of sky and water and dusk left a strong impression upon him. But it was the song and "siren" of the northwoods that enchanted him totally. Olson knew then that he would never return to the Mesabi Range. He was smitten for life.

Another love was filling Olson's heart. He married his Northland College friend's sister, Elizabeth Uhrenholdt, that same summer of 1921. Elizabeth was also a great lover of the outdoors, and for their honeymoon, Sigurd Olson introduced her to the wild canoe country on a three-week paddle in the Quetico-Superior.

Determined to spend his life in the midst of wilderness, Olson pursued graduate work in geology, a subject he thought would help him secure work in the Ely area. Although he found the science of geology fascinating, he soon decided that a career in ore extraction and marketing, although important to the nation's economy, conflicted with his personal values (Open Horizons, 141-142).

With his heart set on Ely, Olson soon secured a position as the head of the Ely Junior College's Biology Department (now known as Vermillion Community College). It was a fortunate blessing for him, for Elizabeth (expecting their first child), and for those who enjoy the Boundary Waters Wilderness Canoe Area today. In 1922 the young couple moved to Ely to stay.

While teaching at the Junior College, Olson continued to pursue his graduate degree and worked as a canoe guide during the summer. He eventually obtained a
masters degree from the University of Illinois in plant and animal ecology. It seems
only natural his thesis would be entwined in the wilderness landscape he loved. It
was one of the first studies on the northern timber wolf, and resulted in a publication
titled *A Study in Predatory Relationship With Particular Reference to the Wolf*
(*Scientific Monthly* 1938, p 323-326). His work enhanced our understanding of this
mysterious creature and led to further studies by wolf expert L. David Mech, on Isle
Royale in Michigan (Keller, 1979).

Throughout the 1920s, Olson worked to gain the respect of the local guides,
creating his own crude, but workable maps of the endless lakes region. He made
many explorations himself, sometimes with Elizabeth or other friends. It was also
a time of expanding his personal philosophy and values. He read the works of poets,
naturalists, philosophers and explorers. He contemplated the writings of Muir,
Thoreau, John Burroughs and Emerson, among many. Said Olson, "contacts with
other minds introduced me to a new world, driving a wedge into a rift that would
widen and make me think more like the poets and philosophers than a hunter and
a woodsman" (*Open Horizons*, 1979). The strong ties he felt with these great
thinkers became more and more evident in his own philosophy.

He himself took up writing to fill a void, and to put the significance of his
own experiences into order. He thought to complement his teaching through writing.
To search deeper. To see more clearly (*Open Horizons*, p 178-180). His first pieces
came as great effort - scribbles in notebooks recording his trips. But an invitation
to write an article in the Milwaukee Journal spurred him on. His early work

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appeared in regional publications and small outdoor magazines. Given practice and maturity, his writing came to full flower.

The conservationist and preservationist soul of Olson was also budding. Although he once believed in poisoning foxes to increase small game populations for hunters, like himself, he developed a great understanding of ecology through observation. In *The Hidden Forest*, he said "Only by looking closely can we begin to understand and appreciate the intimate interrelationships of all living things to one another and to the earth."

Shortly after Olson moved to Ely, the U.S. Forest Service announced plans for a road building program in the Superior National Forest. The local chambers of commerce so supported this effort that they promoted the "Road to Every Lake" slogan for the future of the tourist trade. It was hoped by many that this wilderness region would become a nationally known resort area and mecca for fishermen.

A long battle to protect the lakes country was fought by Sigurd Olson and his guide friends, but their arguments for preservation fell on deaf ears in the local area. Most residents did not understand why anyone wouldn't welcome development, or why anyone would want to leave an area so inaccessible. For hundreds of years, Americans altered the landscape for "civilization" as they settled westward across the continent. With each secured settlement, a pioneering way of life faded out. But somehow, this region had been spared. It basically remained in the same pristine state as when the voyaguer and Indian paddled the chain of lakes. Those who loved
the wilderness felt strongly about its preservation. Olson took up the fight, gaining support from the many urban-dwellers, and others he had guided in the region.

With pressure mounting, the battle gained increasing drama and attention. It became an international issue because Canada was part of this wilderness lake country. One summer, Olson had the fortunate opportunity to guide Will Dalg, the founder and president of the newly formed Izaak Walton League. With them was a Superior National Forest Ranger. Around a campfire in the wilderness country a pledge was made. The Izaak Walton League would join in the fight for the preservation of this unique wilderness lakes country.

After seven long years, the Forest Service renounced its plan for road development and created the Superior Primitive Area. According to Olson, the political battle created strong friends for wilderness throughout the country. It also offered wilderness supporters the experience they would need in the coming years. Protection for the region evolved issue after issue, and the tireless Olson contested them all.

Before the Superior Primitive Area had even been fully established, another battle emerged. A powerful lumber baron proposed building seven dams - a massive project that would involve flooding streams, islands and beaches on both sides of the border. Olson became a prime leader of an international conservation group that would form the Quetico-Superior Council. When the International Joint Commission conducted hearings on the issue, Sigurd Olson was unanimously selected and funded to attend in behalf of the Council. He was limited to a 10-minute slot
of time. Olson could have approached his speech in many ways, but he chose to simply describe the canoe country, and the trips he'd taken there. As he wove his images and feelings about the region, the audience was so enthralled they allowed him to continue for 45 minutes.

The dam issue was officially ended in 1934 when Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Peace Memorial Forest - known today as the Boundary Waters Wilderness Canoe Area. Olson would continue to wage a battle for the preservation of the region, writing his wilderness messages, speaking before special interest groups and Congress for the next 5 decades.

These battles included airplane use in and over the Primitive Area, taconite and copper mining development, wetland drainage and snowmobile use. Nationally he worked on issues ranging from Alaska lands protection to acid rain. Through all the causes, and all the struggles, his wife Elizabeth claimed that his restraint gained him respect from even those in disagreement. They never had a threatening letter or phone call (Sig O. papers).

Olson did not limit his explorations to the Quetico-Superior lakes. He journeyed wilderness routes from Hudson Bay to the Arctic. He also traveled abroad, an experience which renewed his conviction to the preservation of the pristine. He spoke in defense of the Grand Canyon, publicized threats to the Potomac River and served as a president of the Wilderness Society. His final success came with the passing of the Wilderness Act in 1964. The Peace Memorial Forest
of the Quetico-Superior was reclassified as the first Designated Wilderness Area under this 1964 Act and became the Boundary Waters Wilderness Canoe Area.

Olson left us not only one of the northcountry's last vestiges of pristine land, but his vivid memories and thought-provoking philosophies. His first book, *The Singing Wilderness* was finally published with the help of friend, Rachel Carson, in 1956. *The Singing Wilderness* won the National Library Association's One of Ten Best Books award that same year. This success was followed by others, including; *Listening Point, The Lonely Land, Runes of the North, Open Horizons, The Hidden Forest,* and *Reflections from the North Country.* His interpretive writings offer readers reflections on wilderness and humankind.

On January 13, 1982, Sigurd Olson went early to his writing shack on Wilson Street near his Ely home. Later that morning he and Elizabeth went out for a snowshoeing hike. Elizabeth returned home early, but Sigurd never did. He died un-expectantly that day. On the typewriter his last words read, "A new adventure is coming up and I know it will be a good one" (Mclean, 1982).

Over the course of his lifetime, Olson received many awards and honors for his conservation contributions. He was inducted into the Izaak Walton League Hall of Fame, received the Horace Albright Medal, honorary Doctorates of Science from Northland College, Hamline College, Carleton College, and Macalester College. The Environmental Institute at Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin is founded and named for him. Its primary goal is to raise awareness and concern about the
northcountry and Lake Superior region - to save a better place for a diversity of creatures - especially the wilderness soul searchers of tomorrow.

SOURCES:


BWCA Wilderness News. (1982, March). A new adventure is coming up, and I am sure it will be a good one. p3.


MELVIN N. "MULLY" TAYLOR
(1903-1984)

inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame - 1992

"People can accomplish great things when they work together. Trees For Tomorrow captured the imagination of the people. We were a catalyst."

Trees For Tomorrow Natural Resources Education Center in Eagle River, Wisconsin has a number of innovative environmental "firsts" on its list of achievements. "Trees", as its often abbreviated, became the first program to offer conservation workshops for teachers when it was established in the winter of 1944. It was the first public natural resources education center in the Midwest. Under the guidance of its Executive Director of 31 years, Trees For Tomorrow established 42 of Wisconsin's 345 school forests, a system unique in the United States. That provident founder and leader of "Trees" was Mully Taylor.

Taylor was born in 1903 in Merrill, Wisconsin as the son of a river log driver. His high school years were extra busy with work at a planing mill seven days a week. Following school, an urge for adventure and travel led Mully west by train, where he took on construction jobs and eventually worked as a seaman off the coast of Alaska. With work experience, and funds gained during his travels, he attended the University of Idaho. He worked at the Chicago City News Bureau after college followed by employment as a reporter and ad salesman for the Merrill Herald.

During World War II, the Merrill Herald assigned him to publicize the "Pulpwood Goes to War" campaign. The "Round-up" event which resulted was so
successful that the campaign committee decided to continue its efforts. The new
group, with Taylor's vision and enthusiasm, formed Trees for Tomorrow, Inc. Nine
paper mills gave their backing while a former U.S. Forest Service Civilian
Conservation Corp camp in Eagle River was set up as their headquarters.

With Taylor's leadership, Trees For Tomorrow has helped 12,000 private
landowners manage 370,000 acres since its opening in 1944. More than 23 million
seedlings have been planted. At the time of Taylor's death in 1984, it was estimated
that Trees had served over 125,000 students, teachers, bankers, printers, publishers
and foresters. Heading into the 21st Century, the numbers continue to grow.

Through Taylor's innovation, foresters became educators and were put face-to-face with the public for the first time. He taught foresters to "sell" conservation
and added a new dimension to their responsibilities. Taylor's conservation educators
worked with the public and schools alike.

Taylor organized "Trees, Inc." to assist owners of small woodland tracts with
their forest management. He set up a tree planting organization and developed
management plans for nearly 400,000 acres of forest land. He established the field
for private consulting foresters, the Department of Natural Resources University
Extension foresters and the Tree Farm Movement. Most importantly, he brought
business and industry people together with state-wide civic and social organizations
to discuss natural resource issues. He also got these resource industries in-touch
with schools, and the resource consumers of tomorrow. Taylor spoke for the rights
and privileges of everyone in regard to Wisconsin's natural resources.
Taylor helped develop the field of Environmental Education as we know it today, using a "hands-on" approach. Beginning in the late 1940s with teachers, and later with their students, education took place in the outdoors, amidst the resources themselves. Experiencing the environment first hand for several days at a time allowed for a better understanding of the issues surrounding management. In all the lessons, conservation was the underlying theme.

Dan Satran Sr. of the News Review wrote of Mully and his wife Wilhelmine Mead Taylor, that "In addition to the planting of trees through their efforts, they planted in the hearts of many young men and women who attended workshops at Trees For Tomorrow, a seed of love for the forests and northern Wisconsin." Current "Trees" director, Henry Haskell said of Mully that "more than anyone, Mully guided conservation thought and practice in Wisconsin. He fired-up Wisconsin residents with the idea that planting tree seedlings was the way to rebuild the state’s natural resources, so vital to its economy." It is said that Taylor helped Wisconsin citizens become some of the most literate in the Nation about natural resources.

Taylor’s contributions have been recognized by three governors, the Legislature, the U.S. Forest Service, the Society of American Foresters, women’s clubs, Future Farmers of America and 4-H. He was named Wisconsin Conservation Educator of the Year in 1966. In recognition of his pioneering contributions to the field of conservation education, the Forest History Association of Wisconsin gave him its Distinguished Service Award in 1983. Mully and his wife died in a tragic house fire in 1984.
Sources:

FRED J. SCHMEECKLE
(1893-1967)

inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame - 1990

"Conservation is not a term that is understood well enough by most people. It should be called resource education... Development of the right attitude is more important than laws and law enforcement in the promotion of conservation of our natural resources."

When Fred Schmeeckle retired from the Wisconsin State College in 1959, he was best known as the father of the University's Conservation Education Program. Now known as the College of Natural Resources, it has become the first and the largest resource management program of its kind in the nation.

Schmeeckle's ambition for the conservation program was that environmental problems weren't only for resource professionals, but for lawyers, farmers, teachers and business people. Basic conservation knowledge was important for all citizens. Throughout his life, Schmeeckle would sell holistic conservation attitudes, in a happy spirited way, to a public that still had little awareness of the issues. Schmeeckle was regarded as a visionary by his peers, and with good reason.

Fred Schmeeckle was born on a farm in Eustis, Nebraska in 1893 to a family of German immigrants. He was an outdoor enthusiast from early on, and continued to pursue his interests in fishing, canoeing and other outdoor activities throughout his life. It is said that he had as much enthusiasm for teaching, as he did for fly-
fishing. He joined the Izaak Walton League as a young adult and ultimately became a leader.

Fred received his diploma from the State Teachers College in Kearney, Nebraska in 1911. He pursued a teaching career in the area and eventually became a school superintendent. During World War I he served as an army scout and sniper in French Argonne and St. Mihiel. When Fred returned to the States, he enrolled in the graduate program at the University of Minnesota. He earned a M.S. in 1923 and began teaching agriculture and science at the Stevens Point Normal School (now the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point).

Fred was immediately interested in expanding the agriculture curriculum to include more conservation issues. He was concerned about wildlife populations, hunting, fishing and the environment as a whole. The conservation movement had yet to fully unfurl. In looking back at his foresight, Schmeekle would recall "that destruction of forests, pollution of water and misuse of wildlife [were] factors that started me thinking that something should be done to educate people in the wise use of our resources" (UWSP, 1967).

Schmeekle wanted his students to experience resource management practices firsthand. He was zealous enough to bring pupils into the field whenever opportunity allowed. One of his first, and most memorable accomplishments, was acquiring a bus for field trips. So much red tape was in the way of funding the vehicle, that he finally floated the loan himself.
Schmeeckle urged a broad approach to conservation education. He believed that problems of soils, waters, wildlife and trees were inseparable concepts - they had to be considered together for environmental balance. He was an early thinker for the science of ecology. He also pushed for the integration of a conservation education curriculum throughout the grade and high school years. He spent much time and energy developing conservation education curriculums for students of all ages. In 1937, he initiated and supervised the establishment of the Boston School Forest in Plover. A conservation education program at Boston School Forest is active today.

Twelve years after Schmeeckle came to Stevens Point, he became a major proponent of a bill in the Wisconsin Legislature requiring public schools to incorporate conservation courses. The conservation education mandate was passed in Wisconsin in 1936.

Schmeeckle married Beatrice Lehr in 1939, and they lived in the stone and log house he built primarily himself. Schmeeckle loved carpentry and woodworking, and he started his own small tree nursery. Throughout his life he offered his personal interest in landscape design as a consultant to friends and family. The teacher, husband and entrepreneur was also a father of two children, Wilma and Donald.

During the late 1940s, Fred became the originator and head of the Department of Conservation Education at the Stevens Point State Teacher's College (now UWSP). This was the first program of its kind in the nation, and the first
college to turn out teachers certified in conservation education. In 1945 he was chosen as a member of the National Education Committee on Conservation to formulate national policy making conservation a vital part of school programs.

Schmeeckle was not only devoted to conservation and education, but to his students. He is remembered for his "open door" policy to students, who were referred to as "Fred's boys."

Schmeeckle was also concerned about public recreational areas. In 1950, as the first Chairman and long-time member of the Portage County Parks Board, he became the chief proponent for developing the county park systems of DuBay, Lake Emily, and Collins Lake.

Schmeeckle continued to argue for an interdisciplinary approach to conservation education in the public schools into the 1950s. This is still an issue today, though under a different name - environmental education. From 1950-59 he served as Director of Eagle River Workshop for Teacher Summer Sessions at Trees For Tomorrow. He was a dedicated instructor, and primary founder, of "Trees."

In 1952, Fred worked as the summer Director of a Conservation Workshop at Montana University. With his knowledge and experience at the forefront of the conservation education field, he became one of Wisconsin's most requested speakers. In light of his knowledge, good humor and ability with people, he was requested to speak at numerous engagements. He accepted sixty-four speaking dates in one year alone. He was cited and quoted in various local and state newspapers at least that many times.
In 1956, Schmeeckle initiated the Trout Stream Improvement Program, a four-week course for High School freshman and sophomores to earn credit in conservation. Fred saw his program as another benefit to the environment and to students. Not only was conservation education enhancing the curriculum, but this was a good way to keep youth "off the streets."

Schmeeckle retired with Emeritus title after thirty-six years with the Wisconsin State College at Stevens Point (now UWSP). He received the national award from the Conservation Education Association jointly with President Hanson the year of his retirement. But his dedication to the field of conservation education did not end here. He continued developing conservation projects at Trees For Tomorrow in Eagle River, Wisconsin. He also devoted much of his time to building a library there named in his honor.

The director at Schmeeckle Reserve, a wildlife area and visitor center dedicated in his name, recalls that "Fred, according to his students, was a bit of a philosopher, a bit of a prophet. And, above all, he was a shining example of what he espoused about conservation ethics and teaching." Letters of indebtedness and sincere appreciation honored him upon his retirement.

Fred died in 1967, after surviving a heart attack mid-way through his career in the late 1940s. The following year, the Fred Schmeeckle Memorial Trail was established at Trees for Tomorrow. Schmeekle's contributions have given hundreds of young men and woman the training needed to handle the conservation issues we
face today. Schmeekle taught those who came to know him much more than conservation. A letter from a former student read:

Dear Fred,

As your retirement day draws near, my thoughts ramble back to a "Prof", who before the war, talked to us in a sincere and quiet tone about the gifts of which we were stewards...I watched that "Prof" in the halls, in the chemistry laboratory, and around the campus wondering just what made him tick so merrily with such complete faith in the resource education."

Schmeekle had more than faith in conservation education, he had great persistence. If not for his determination, the College of Natural Resources would not exist today. He fought for it. He challenged the legislature in 1951 when they cut the budget for the Teachers College. He floated the bank loan for the field trip bus himself when he couldn’t get the support. He taught his lessons with actions and words.

One of his most memorable stories, an example of his own persistence, is the tale of the two frogs. "Two frogs fall into a bucket of cream and are struggling about. One gives up and drowns. The other keeps swimming and swimming ’til the cream turned to butter and he’s saved!"

Schmeekle’s memorials include the Schmeekle Reserve and Visitor Center which serves over 80,000 visitors and over 36,000 class hours, a library for students and teachers, and the largest College of Natural Resources in the country. His
awards include the C.E. Broughton Award for Outstanding Work in Conservation Education in Wisconsin (1947), and one of the most prestigious conservation awards in the nation - the Nash Motors Corporation National Conservation Award (1954).

Sources:


CONSERVATION ACTIVISTS

The Dawn Of Environmentalism
"If we have the honesty and courage to examine all the basic causes for environmental deterioration and the pollution problems as they already exist, we must conclude that we must change our course or be engulfed by the waves of our own environmental irresponsibility."

These were the words Virgil Muench wrote to Governor Patrick Lucey in 1970, during his final months as an activist who brought the Conservation and Environmental Movements together in Wisconsin. For over 30 years, Muench worked as a lawyer defending rivers and water rights, and fighting pollution. He served as a long-time president for the Izaak Walton League and eventually the National Director, as well as a founder of the Brown County Conservation Alliance.

Muench is remembered by many as an activist with little personal ambition or self-conceit. The "sermons" he gave were on behalf of the environment and Wisconsin citizens. He spoke with power at public hearings, conferences, and meetings to large groups, but just as emphatically to a small group of friends or strangers.

Born in Algoma, Wisconsin, in 1904 to Joseph and Anna Muench, Virgil learned about the value of clean water and a conservation ethic at an early age. Said Muench, "I was entranced by the sound of the waves... My father was a commercial fisherman and by instinct a conservationist. Permits were available to take lake trout during spawning, but father said this was wrong - like cutting down the tree to get
the apples. Dad was a responsible individual." (Outdoor American, 1971. p11). This ethic of responsibility to the environment would be a guiding force in Muench's thoughts and actions throughout his life.

Muench received a law degree from Marquette University Law School in 1927. He practiced law in Manitowoc until 1938, and then moved to Green Bay where he continued his work until 1953. In 1948, Muench became involved in the pollution problems threatening the Fox River. He was involved both professionally - as a lawyer - and as a concerned citizen member of the Brown County Chapter of the IKES. For the IKES he drafted a petition to the Governor requesting a hearing by the Committee on Water Pollution. The petition was signed by 2000 people. Muench’s primary environmental concerns over the next three decades would be for rivers and water pollution abatement.

One of his most famous cases occurred in 1949 while he was acting President of the Wisconsin Division of the Izaak Walton League. Muench won a lawsuit in a landmark decision by the State Supreme Court to stop the damming of the Namekagon River. The principal issue was the question of public rights regarding the rivers and streams of the state. The result established the concept of public domain in the waters of the state in Muench vs. Public Service Comm. (261 Wis. 492, 1951). This decision not only blocked a hydroelectric dam on one of the nations last wild rivers, but enabled the river’s future protective designation as a National Wild and Scenic River several years later.
In 1950, Muench fought another proposed dam, this time on the Wolf River. Through researching the Army Corp of Engineers original river report of 1932, Muench found that the cost of building a dam was prohibitive compared with the income the power would supply (Green Bay Press-Gazette, Sept 11, 1950). When poor irrigation practices were threatening the Wolf and Oconto rivers he took up the call here as well. His river protection efforts stopped the draw-down that was endangering fish and other life. Eventually, the Wolf River also received legislative protection.

When the Fox, Oconto and Peshtigo Rivers were again threatened in 1967 with a "minimum standards allowable" classification, Muench championed the environmental implications of such a legal description. At a hearing on the proposed classification, he asked "what kind of a standard is a minimum standard for a river flowing through the heart of a city which would jeopardize the health of any human unfortunate enough to be immersed in it? And what are we condoning with such minimum standards? Aren't we condoning all the untreated septic tank wastes which have been and are now pouring into these waterways?" (Nov 16, 1967). Muench fought against the idea that development and progress could grow unchecked. He argued intelligently that although every city and good business person "wants all the benefits of this so-called progress... nobody wants to pay for it." He contended that pollution abatement was a "civic and moral responsibility."

Muench was an early voice in limiting development for a quality environment. He argued for years that the initial cost of environmental protection and remediation
was not too great to avoid the expense or irreversibility of human-made catastrophe. He disagreed with the opposition’s claim that pollution abatement and environmental protection would cost jobs. He proclaimed this as being "oversimplified" and "instilling fear in the public mind."

Muench proposed that the ensuing natural resource destruction would cost much more in the end. "It will take billions of dollars to fight a successful war against pollution." he said. "It has always been difficult to find the necessary funds. But funds are always available for sports arenas, questionable government pork barrel expenditures, dams, miliary projects, flights to the moon and personal self indulgence. So the funds are really there. All we need to do is to make up our minds to make a few sacrifices in less important areas, and they will be available." (p4 Jan 9, 1970). The growing cost of environmental protection, he believed, would continue to rise. Either we would have to spend enough on clean-up to reverse the trend or be destroyed by it (OA p 11).

Through all of Muench's fights, he remained optimistic about people and industry's ability to make sound choices. He believed that the state of polluted waterways wasn't due to public indifference, but ignorance. Always diplomatic but uncompromising, he stated that the paper industry was important to the economy and welfare of the state and her citizens. "No one expects the paper industry to do the impossible" he said, "some mills have made great strides in treating their wastes. But the record also shows that some mills made only what can be called token efforts."
Muench spoke that a corporate entity did not need clean air to breathe or clean water to drink. "As an entity it does not concern itself with aesthetic or environmental problems," Muench believed therefore, that the people must. He preached that technology should not lose its role as a servant and become our master.

Major front-line water resource issues were not the only conservation causes Muench became committed to. He loved birds and was a member of the National Audubon Society and the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology. In 1953, Muench was appointed National Director of the Izaak Walton League, a position he graciously accepted and hoped "would be of service." In 1957 he was appointed a member of the Great Lakes Water Commission, and became a member of the State Water Resources Committee of the Joint Legislative Committee that same year.

The sense of responsibility Muench felt for the state and environment is evidenced by over thirty years of personal political actions. But Muench also aimed to impart this philosophy to others. He said that "since time is of the essence, we need a thoroughly informed and dedicated citizenry to play its part in saving the environment." A way to achieve this dedicated citizenry was through conservation education. The prime objective in conservation education was developing within the student an ecological "ethical conscience" as Aldo Leopold proposed in his Land Ethics.

Muench said "the right to earn more also imposes upon the student the duty not to befoul the air and water, not to destroy the soils and environment, not to
unbalance the ecological pattern of nature." He spoke that in order to save the environment we must instill "a deep feeling of responsibility and duty". This duty was not solely to the earth, but to humankind and the future of the planet.

**Sources:**


"When sick at heart from contemplating the frightful destructive power of modern science, go forth under the open sky and listen to nature's teachings. You may find solace and inspiration to solve mankind's destructive teachings."

In the early 1920s, the Fond du Lac River was so polluted with scrap animal parts from a local tannery that residents of its namesake city closed their windows on hot summer evenings because of the stench. An area lawyer wrote the tannery company and told them they would have to stop polluting the river or he would force them to do so with a court order. The tannery complied by connecting with the municipal sewage treatment plant. The attention gained from this action led to the citation of several other industrial polluters along the river.

For years the river's health had been sorely neglected. Because of citizen action, children again fish for white bass in what had been a dead river. The lawyer and conservation activist involved in this restoration effort was Alfred D. Sutherland. This was the first of a lifetime of legal actions he took to protect and preserve Wisconsin's natural resources.

A.D. Sutherland was raised on a farm in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, in 1891. Like many nature enthusiasts, his childhood was filled with outdoor experiences, creating a sense of wonder that would last a lifetime. In his own words, "it was an experience to find the nest of every kind of bird on the farm." (Sutherland, 1968,
Growing up in Wisconsin, he fished for trout on the Peshtigo, Thunder, Rat, Otter, Evergreen, Wolf, north and south branches of the Pike, Pine, Popple, Woods Creek, Bad River, Prairie, Plover, White and Pine Rivers, probably to name a few! As his outdoor interests grew, he became a hunter as well and owned several good bird dogs at different times. In his later years, he held his attentive listeners with tales of abundant fish and fowl in turn-of-the-century Wisconsin.

Sutherland attended Ripon College, graduating in 1913, and went on to complete a law degree in 1917 from Harvard Law School. During involvement with his hometown river, Sutherland was Director, Vice President, President and finally, National Counselor for the local Chamber of Commerce. He became inspired about the importance of the Izaac Walton League's conservation goals and began to work on issues as a League member. Sutherland was one of the fifty-four Founders of the League. He eventually served as president of the state division of the Izaac Walton League. After his retirement, he was made an Honorary President of the League.

Following his first conservation achievement with river clean-up in the 1920s, Sutherland embarked on another project he viewed as having "lasting importance to thousands of people." With funds raised through League chapter members to buy land, he helped convince the county board to protect Calumet Harbor bordering Caldron Falls on the Peshtigo River. Sutherland pleaded that the Roaring Rapids here on the Peshtigo not become another lost treasure of beauty to the state. He and the League also encouraged its designation as a public recreation area. As a
gift, the Goodman Lumber Company bought enough land to secure the rapids, and the area is known today as Goodman Park.

During this time, Sutherland was actively involved with other issues. He assisted Curley Radke and the League in protecting Horicon Marsh. He was a proponent with State Division League leader, Ray Zillmer, in the purchase of the Kettle Moraine lands which became the Kettle Moraine State Forest.

In 1941, as state president of the League, Sutherland grew concerned with the increase of "no trespassing" signs and lack of recreational areas in southern Wisconsin. The League proposed a bill to earmark a 50 cents tax on hunting licenses for the purchase and maintenance of hunting grounds. The bill was passed unanimously and became the first public hunting grounds program in the United States.

In 1948-49, as State Division League President, Sutherland and League members committed themselves to the issue of polluted waters in the state. Nearly all public waters in the state were unfit for public use. Ironically, a law, passed in 1913 as part of the fish and game law, made it a criminal offense to put into public waters any refuse deleterious to plant or fish life. Enforcement was up to the Conservation Commission, and although people who caught more fish than the law allowed were fined, nothing was being done about polluters who killed thousands of fish.

Sutherland drafted a bill which provided for a committee of experts to be employed to locate polluters. Its director would conduct public hearings regarding
all aspects of a cited violation, including engineering and financial barriers. The bill empowered the new agency with setting time limits for an offender to comply. The bill was met with much resistance.

Opponents claimed that the bill would force factories to close and leave thousands unemployed. A noted authority on water law ridiculed the bill and said whoever wrote it had no conception of the word pollution. Sutherland's reply was that he wrote the bill, and that "the definition of pollution is copied from the statute and you wrote this definition." As Sutherland put it later, "I turned to him and thought he would have a stroke!" (You and Your Izaak Walton League).

Sutherland continued to fight for the water bill. He began by calling political lobbying groups and organizing a letter writing campaign involving four hundred conservation clubs in Wisconsin and all the Izaac Walton League chapters. Letter writers contacted their state senators, assembly persons and the governor. One month later, those who first opposed the bill were now in favor of it, and the bill passed unanimously.

Nationally, Sutherland's bill was recommended by the Interior Department and sent to all state agencies. Fifteen years later, in 1965, the Supreme Court ruled to uphold an 1898 law which made it a criminal offense for any industry to discharge refuse in navigable waterways. Sutherland spoke on this matter at the national convention of the Izaac Walton League in Milwaukee in 1967.

During the 1950s, the destruction of free flowing rivers by dam development became a primary issue for the Izaac Walton League. The League's state president,
V.J. Muench, fished with Sutherland for trout in these streams. Of special concern was the proposed damming of the Namekogan River.

With the legal advice of Sutherland, Muench challenged the issue in a Supreme Court case that was known as "V.J. Muench, President of the State Division of the Izaac Walton League vs. Public Service Commission of Wisconsin." Sutherland was aware that a law which gave county boards the power to approve the construction of dams. He argued for the case and submitted briefs on the question of public rights and the constitutionality of the county board law. After many hearings, the dam permit was denied on the grounds that the public's rights outweighed private interests.

Sutherland played a major role in another League issue known as the "soil bank program". Sutherland called the government surplus purchase of farm products and their overuse of land a misuse of soil. After World War II, surplus crop production continued. Sutherland noted that "As land owners knew they would get a guaranteed price, they proceeded to cultivate all available areas and the top soil was blown away." He saw how yearly cultivation on once-productive agricultural land in Wyoming turned fields into gravel beds. He also noted the soil erosion problems caused by clearcutting in the east. As soil erosion became a national concern, the League, under Sutherland, made the Soil Bank Program one of its national goals.

Sutherland became chairperson of the resolutions committee on the nationwide misuse of soil. The committee concluded that if sixty million acres were taken out of production there would be no surplus. Estimated payments to
landowners would save about three billion dollars a year as well as preserve and restore soil. The soil bank provided that acres taken out of production would be planted with grass and trees while landowners were paid a production price per acre. A bill was drafted and introduced to carry out the soil bank program. It received fierce opposition - as was expected. Fertilizer producers and farm machinery manufacturers were the most adamant against the bill. Lobbyists said it would produce bankruptcy and unemployment. With the help of League chapters, the soil bill finally passed rewritten as 30 million acres. Acreage was eventually increased to the original 60 million over time.

Sutherland was a strong advocate for the League and its mission throughout his life. He held that the position of the Izaac Walton League which was "fair play in all matters pertaining to conservation in Wisconsin, and a no-partisan administration of conservation affairs". But the political side of conservation wasn't his only interest in the outdoors.

Sutherland loved the outdoors, enjoyed fishing and hunting, and just contemplating nature. Wrote Sutherland, "communing with nature focuses thinking on her methods and constructive ideas for the future of mankind. He who seeks the outdoors as a refuge from the dilemma of mankind, finds she has a voice of gladness and a smile of eloquence and beauty. Nature glides into his darker musing with a mild and healing sympathy."
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PAUL OLSON
(1909-)

inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame - 1989

"Where some Foundations invest in land for conservation purposes, we plan to invest in people for conservation purposes."

In the early 1950s, Paul Olson, a new principle at Midvale Elementary School, was asked to do something "conservation oriented" with students over the summer. Olson began an ambitious "Work Learn" program for high school students in 1953, with the support of the Madison Board of Education and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. For four to six hours a day, students worked on conservation projects and received school credit. The Work-Learn Program became one of the first of its kind in the nation. Today, Wisconsin's Youth Conservation Camps stand as a direct reminder of this original program.

Paul Olson's lifetime of conservation achievements include not only the "Work-Learn" program which inspired the Wisconsin Youth Conservation Camps, and the Madison School Forest. He is also remembered for saving the nearly extinct prairie chicken from extirpation in the state. His firm belief in habitat preservation for species protection led him to help found Wisconsin's first Nature Conservancy Chapter.

This remarkable man also had a physical handicap since childhood. Paul Olson was born in Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin in 1909, and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a Masters in Education in 1952. He taught science at
West Junior High School in Madison from 1930-1949. In 1936 he married Alice Dybdahl and eventually raised a family of four. Olson taught at Randall elementary school until 1951, when he took on a position as principal of Midvale Elementary School. Education was Olson’s paid profession, his conservation consciousness and contributions were his gifts to Wisconsin.

During the first few years of the Work-Learn program in the early 1950s, Olson’s students dealt primarily with stream improvement projects such as bank deflectors and trout stream fencing as well as graveling cattle crossings. A needed school forest was created in 1958 after Olson helped the Madison Board of Education acquire 300 acres of primarily virgin oak forest. Olson oversaw the deeded land as manager of the school forest. Two years later, Work-Learn students began a timber stand improvement cut under the supervision of state Department of Natural Resources foresters. Students cut by hand, skidded and sawed lumber, and built the first shelter house on the school forest.

In 1961, Olson’s summer students created their own camp to accommodate 60-70 students at a time. Outbuildings included a kitchen and mess hall, bunk houses, a classroom building and other outbuildings. Guided nature trails were created with specific points of interest for education purposes. Today, The School Forest is utilized for nature study by Madison teachers in the spring and fall, with an estimated 10,000 students attending the facility each year.

Olson was a strong advocate of Aldo Leopold’s land ethics, he hoped that students attending The School Forest would have "stirrings of an ecological
conscience." He was an optimist about the potential of American youth, and boasted of their abilities to do conservation work. A large rocky peak was added to the School Forest area in 1965 and pronounced "Paul's Peak on Mt. Olson" by the Board of Education.

In 1958, Olson and two friends went to Portage County to observe the spectacular mating dance of a nearly extinct native grouse. Olson was captivated by the prairie chicken and its predicament. He saw that the only way to save this species was to preserve its habitat, so he began a mission to acquire property for the prairie chicken. Olson obtained $200 dollars from the Dane County Conservation League of which he was secretary and "begged nickels and dimes" for the rest. It took nearly a year to raise enough money to buy the first 40 acres.

When he found more land for sale he convinced a friend to purchase the adjoining acres. He began soliciting funds on the radio. In a leap of fate, a conservation-minded millionaire contacted Olson with an interest in helping preserve habitat for the prairie chicken. After that, Olson said "the money just kept rolling in."

By 1984, Olson had acquired 5,000 acres of land in the Buena Vista Marsh with funds he had raised himself. The land was, and still is, leased to the DNR for management of the prairie chicken. Olson also paved the way for the Milwaukee based prairie chicken preservation society - *Tymanuchus Cupedo Compestres*, to obtain additional acreage in the area. Currently, the Buena Vista Marsh habitat is estimated to be between 11,000 and 12,000 acres.
Ray Anderson, Professor of Wildlife at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, said that "Paul Olson was a key figure in leading the charge to save the prairie chicken from extinction in Wisconsin. His foresight, public relations skill, and dedicated personal effort was instrumental in supporting necessary research, obtaining land, and establishing management practices that provided security for this native grouse species."

Fran and Frederick Hammerstrom, renowned prairie chicken research biologists, wrote a brief but poignant statement in support of Olson's induction to the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame:

"Paul Olson will go down in history for dedication, persistence, and eloquence. His role in saving the Prairie Chicken from extirpation is one of his outstanding examples of brilliant and successful service to the State of Wisconsin and to the conservation movement. Generations will benefit from the efforts of this remarkable man." (letter, 3/19/88).

From 1960-1978, Olson became a founding member and first president of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, a fitting organization for his leading example in the importance of preserving habitat. Through his work with the Wisconsin Chapter, Olson raised nearly 2 million dollars and helped the Nature Conservancy acquire land of "spectacular personal value to the conservation movement." These land areas included the Chiwaukee Prairie, Baraboo Hills (Baxter Hollow), Toft Point in Door County and Ferry's Bluff.
Olson’s conservation efforts led him to involvements with many public committees and conservation organizations. In 1969 he was elected president of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Foundation. He was appointed to the Citizens Committee on Environment and Natural Resources by then Governor Lucey. He served as Secretary of the Dane County Conservation League for many years and President of the Prairie Chicken Foundation for 20 years.

In recognition of Olson’s conservation achievements, he received the American Motors Conservation Award in 1957 and was named the "Conservationist of the Year" by the Wisconsin Chapter of the National Wildlife Federation in 1967. His Work-Learn program earned him the Pacemaker Award from the National Education Association and Parade Magazine in 1965. In 1982, the DNR Board named 4,000 acres of the Central Wisconsin Wildlife Area the "Paul J. Olson Area."

Olson’s concern for Wisconsin’s resources, both human and environmental, compelled him to act on his visions with great heart. Not only are the state’s citizens fortunate in his successes, but each spring we are reminded of the potential our dreams can have, as Olson showed us. See for yourself. Visit the Buena Vista Marsh some spring. Sit very quietly in the darkness of early morning. As dawn’s breaking light sifts across the landscape, a male prairie chicken dances his affections, and his booming resonates for a long, long way.
SOURCES:


RICHARD A. HEMP
(1909-1989)

inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame - 1991

"I ask myself if I am going to leave the world in as good a shape as when I came into it and what I can do for future generations. What I would hope to do is achieve something for my children and yours, and all the others."

Richard Hemp, called "Dick" by his friends, was born in the town of Weston, Wisconsin. He attended Neillsville High School and Carthage College. At different times he owned and published the Iron County Miner in Hurley, and the Mosinee Times. He served as the postmaster for the town of Mosinee, where he settled with his wife Gertrude, from 1939 to 1972.

Dick Hemp was a man who stood up for what he believed in. He was concerned about the public and their views, especially regarding the natural resources of this state. He was an avid outdoor sportsman, but hunting and fishing were not just a hobby, they were a way of life. He did more than love the outdoors, he worked for its protection, on his own time, separate from his day-to-day career.

Hemp was elected to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress in 1943 and served as its chairman from 1948 to 1952. This period of time was one of major controversy in the management of the state's deer herd. A shocking and ugly deer starvation occurred in 1948, even with state and personal efforts at feeding the herds. In reaction to this event, Dick Hemp took an active lead with Leslie Woerpal of
Stevens Point to form the Wisconsin Federation of Conservation Clubs (whose title was later changed to the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation) in 1949.

Hemp served as the Federation's president in 1954 and '56 and was re-elected to the position of Executive Director in 1966 following Woerpal's "retirement". He also served on the National Wildlife Federation's Executive Board, and was elected editor of *WisConservation* by the Federation in 1974. He served on the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation's boards throughout his life.

Hemp's soft-spoken diplomatic abilities and clear thinking on resource policy issues was a force of great influence for the Federation and conservationists throughout the state. Said Dr. Trainer, former Dean of the College of Natural Resources at Stevens Point, "I was so certain of his ability to grasp the right course on many issues that I sometimes waited to see how Hemp was going to vote before I voted." He went on to reminisce admiringly that "Hemp was a man who accomplished much without a lot of 'to do', and had a way of getting things done." Les Woerpal, first president of the Federation, said that Hemp not only always made "just good plain sense", but had a "calming effect" regarding stressful issues.

For over five decades, Hemp worked devotedly on natural resource problems facing Wisconsin. His contributions ranged the gamut of issues the Conservation Congress and the Federation were involved in. Hemp helped champion them all. He took an active role in fighting to preserve the Little Eau Pleine River Flowage, including meeting with Consolidated Paper's former president Stanton Mead to negotiate cooperation with wildlife conservationists. He was actively involved in
almost every major environmental issue facing Wisconsin during the 50s, 60s and 70s, from public water rights, to wildlife management, from lamprey issues causing the decrease in lake trout fishing to conservation education causes. The era of merging conservation-environmental leadership in Wisconsin included a few big names; Sigurd Olson, Gaylord Nelson, Les Woerpal, Mully Taylor and Paul Olson. The name of Richard Hemp is among them.

The Milwaukee County Conservation Alliance honored Hemp in 1959 with their "Wisconsin's Outstanding Conservationist" award. He received similar honors from the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, the Waukesha County Conservation Alliance, the Marathon County Soil and Water Conservation Department, and the state Izaak Walton League. The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point awarded him their Conservationist Of The Year Award in 1983.

Robert A. Lachmund, the Corresponding Secretary of The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, remarked that "these are just a few of the awards Hemp has received. Dick Hemp earned all of them in a life-time devoted to conservation." He was one of few nonprofessional conservationists of the United States to receive the prestigious American Motors Conservation Award in 1969 (formerly, the Nash Conservation Award).

In 1989, in respect for Hemp's many years of service to conservation causes, the Natural Resources Board named state land along the Tomorrow River in Portage County "The Richard A. Hemp Fishery Area." This lasting remembrance is a tribute
to a man who devoted great time and effort towards preserving free flowing rivers.

His citizen leadership was a gentle voice for nature - with strong resonance.

Sources:


Lachmund, Robert A. Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. Letter to Dr. Daniel Trainer, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Undated.


There is an old warrior in Eagle River, Wisconsin. An eagle feather of honor is proudly hung in the living room. It was given to him by an Indian from Escanaba, Michigan - a warrior’s feather for another warrior. The protection and restoration of our natural resources were the battles fought, and won, by this modest man. Leslie S. Woerpel is a warrior of conservation.

The story of "Les" Woerpel is the story of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, and the story of Wisconsin’s conservation movement during the 40s, 50s, and 60s. These were pivotal times for resource management in the state, and the nation. Woerpel organized concerned citizens and a variety of conservation groups into a united cause. Bringing them together was just a beginning. Woerpel worked to encourage their actions. He had an inherent ability to spark discussion on resource policy issues. Combining scientific facts with environmental ethics in debates won him great respect in the conservation movement.

Woerpel’s German heritage included outdoor sportsmanship and debating skills. His son, Loren, still recalls dinner table lessons about reasoning and debate from Les’s father. He also remembers the hunting stories, as well as a few tall tales,
passed down from generation to generation. Les, as he was called by friends, graduated from High School in 1927 in Sun Prairie. His hobbies were fishing, hunting and playing music, but the lure of the new profession of forestry was his dream.

He applied to Montana University's forestry program with the idea of playing music to help fund his education. When a family crisis forced him to remain in Wisconsin, he obtained work with the American Telephone and Telegraph Company. Working for the natural resources of the state and the nation would become his second, and strictly volunteer, career.

AT&T sent Woerpel to work in North Dakota and Minnesota. The experiences with AT&T added to his respect and understanding of nature. Memories of late nights repairing transfer boxes in the "middle of nowhere" earned him a healthy respect for nature. While out west he also met and wed his wife, Lucille.

In 1941 he was transferred back to Stevens Point, Wisconsin. It was then he became active in the conservation movement, joining the Izaak Walton League and participating in the Conservation Congress. He also did volunteer work for the Conservation Department.

1941 was a year of fiery debate concerning deer management in Wisconsin. No one could agree on the population of deer in the state. Were their too many or too few? The resource managers believed it was a small population, and decided on a low harvest. Angry hunters took part in a massive illegal slaughter of hundreds
of deer. Most of the overkill was left in the woods to waste. Many viewed the event as an extirpation of a species and the end of deer hunting altogether in Wisconsin.

It only took several years, however, for the numbers of deer to bounce back. Conservationists grew concerned. The population seemed to be skyrocketing. In 1948, resource managers decided on a low harvest number again, regardless of the views of many outdoorspeople. Many people argued that management decisions were being based on politics rather than science. What became termed a "political fiasco" ended in ugly winter kills with hundreds of deer starving to death.

Conservationists in the state were furious. After the conservation commission meeting held in Eagle River, a group of concerned citizens gathered outside the building. Les Woerpel was also among them. He recalled that the group wanted "politics out of our conservation affairs as far as it was possible to do so."

Although the conservationists gathered that evening were sincere in their desire to improve the state of natural resource policy decisions in the Wisconsin, no immediate action was taken. Izaac Walton League chapters, busy with their own property and sportsmanship affairs, were not eager to take on such a big political battle. Woerpel took up the challenge of organizing various conservation special interest groups.

Woerpel's goal was to have scientific information form the basis of communication between all groups. Decisions regarding Conservation matters would be led by the citizens themselves. Woerpel contacted state and county conservation clubs and sportsman groups. He proposed that a Wisconsin Federation of
Conservation Clubs be formed, with a conviction to scientific foundation in resource decision-making.

The purpose of the Federation was to unite the Conservation Congress, the Conservation Department (now the Department of Natural Resources), and other conservation organizations for the betterment of conservation in the state. They would put an end to partisan interference by government. The first meeting, held in 1949, attracted over 100 delegates from across the state. The sentiment was that cooperation was necessary between the Soil Conservation Service, the College of Agriculture, Public Service, and other conservation groups, in order to save valuable conservation dollars and efforts.

Woerpel was nominated as the Federation's first president in 1951. When the Federation was renamed "The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation" in 1965, he served as the Executive Director. Deer management wasn't the only concern taken up in the fight for conservation principals. As a guiding force within the Federation, Woerpel led the groups efforts to investigate flooded lands, pheasant and trout restocking, the Petenwell Dam projects, the Castle Rock project and the Styles Flowage hearing, among many other conservation issues.

Woerpel served as editor of the Federation's "News and Views" publication for 22 years. People who were interested in the outdoors and conservation during the 50s, 60s, and early 70s remember this publication well. "News and Views" served as a source for facts and a forum for debates. It served as a medium for tough questions and at times, for a little humor. As editor, Woerpel wasn't afraid to take
on any individual or agency that wasn't managing resources to their best ability (Woerpel, 1990).

When the publication was retired in 1974, Woerpel was flooded with letters of appreciation and regret. Through the years "News and Views" was published, Woerpel received letters from Governors Nelson and Knowles, and from conservationists as far away as Washington state and Washington D.C. He was even honored by Richard Nixon for his leadership. The "News and Views" of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation didn't disappear when Woerpel retired as editor. The creation of *WisConservation* magazine followed.

Woerpel was involved in conservation on a national level through papers authored on pheasant management, pesticide use, water law and water rights. He was an avid proponent of the Wilderness Act, and the Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act. His efforts helped establish designated wilderness areas in Wisconsin's Chequamegon and Nicolet National Forests, and Michigan's Ottawa National Forest.

On the local level, his greatest conservation contributions include participation in prairie chicken restoration and the role he played in the formation of the George W. Mead Wildlife Area. Les Woerpel won't take credit for any single accomplishment. He firmly attests that great triumphs result from the efforts of many. Says Woerpel, "I only got behind the issues and pushed." He considers the protection of the Little Eau Pleine River Flowage, known as The Mead Wildlife Area, to be the Federation's "greatest contribution". It may never have happened without him.
Early in the formation of the Federation, the Little Eau Pleine River Flowage was threatened with a proposed impoundment and reservoir by the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Corporation, part of Consolidated Paper and Power. Woerpel, and the Federation, questioned the impact this dam would have on the wetland area, referred to then as "a swamp." The Federation was scorned by many for daring to question development and progress and such a large company!

A Federation committee was set up to look into the Little Eau Pleine issue. They decided that Dick Hemp, Ray Rheinschmidt and Leslie Woerpel visit with Mr. Stanton Mead, president of Consolidated Water Power and Paper Company of Wisconsin Rapids. Their objective was to encourage compromise on the differences between local sportsmen and the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company. Woerpel said they wanted to "try to convince him [Stanton Mead] that the marsh would be a far better memorial to his father if it were not flooded and named - 'The George Mead Wildlife Area', rather than the 'George Mead Reservoir'. The committee reminded Stanton Mead that the mud flats left at drawdown would be a very detrimental memorial to anyone. Said Woerpel, "we felt that Mr. George Mead deserved a better memorial than a decimated mud flat almost seven miles wide and close to 25,000 acres."

Staying true to his motto of "resource policy based on scientific fact", Woerpel asked if two area wildlife biologists, Fran and Frederick Hammerstrom, would conduct a survey of wildlife in the flowage. Results of the survey were circulated in the "News and Views". Hearings were held with conservationists urging the state to
purchase the land for a wildlife area. "Flooding" they said, "would be a great loss not only to the area, but to the state" (Woerpel, 1978).

Woerpel questioned the legality of the Wisconsin Valley's right at eminent domain. He started a petition. Eventually, his concern for public water rights was affirmed by the State Attorney General. After a nearly decade-long battle, the George Mead Wildlife Area, as it was coincidentally named, was designated to protect the Little Eau Pleine Flowage. Woerpel fought this battle through to its successful end.

With Woerpel leading the way, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation went on to involve themselves in numerous river protection issues, from problems of irrigation rights - to lake and stream pollution. The Federation had adopted a policy from the start that "the public rights were greater regarding riparian rights than were those of industry and agriculture." Over forty years later, Woerpel would write that the Federation's most persistent problem was still water. "Pollution has continued to be a major concern of the Federation," Woerpel cautioned us on the possible ramifications of ignoring water issues and rights. Under his influence, the Federation stayed in the forefront of the fight to perceive Wisconsin's public riparian water rights while promoting recreation and wildlife.

Woerpel's conservation concerns went beyond rivers, hunting and fishing. The combined efforts of Woerpel and the Federation led to the development of the Poynette Youth Study Camp for wildlife conservation education. Today it is known
as the MacKenzie Environmental Learning Center. He was also active in the reintroduction of the prairie chicken to Wisconsin in the Buena Vista Marsh.

Woerpel was an ambitious writer throughout his conservation "career". His experience as the editor of "News and Views", and his leadership with the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, helped him to write the exceptional 30-year historic account of the Federation. This major piece of work, titled "A History of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation", was published in WisConservation from 1976-1978. It is an impressive documentary on the conservation movement in the state. Woerpel continued to write for WisConservation through the 1980s.

Although Woerpel was selfless about taking credit for Federation accomplishments, he received a host of honorary awards for his personal efforts. In 1954 he received the Milwaukee County Conservation Alliance Award for outstanding contributions to conservation; the Conservationist Of The Year award from the Bill Cook Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of Stevens Point in 1974; and the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation's Conservationist Of The Year Award in 1976.

Woerpel received the Nash Conservation Award (now the American Motors Conservation Award) in 1957. He is one of only 10 non-professional conservationists in the country to receive this award. He is probably also one of few conservationists to have received a warrior's feather. Leslie Woerpel was inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame in 1990. Woerpel may very well be remembered as a warrior for conservation in Wisconsin.
Sources:


GAYLORD NELSON
(1916 - )

inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame - 1986

"The basic wealth of a nation is it's air, water, soil, forests, minerals, rivers, lakes, oceans, scenic beauty and wildlife habitats."

"Even conservation, if it does not heed necessary ecological balances, can harm the environment."

Clear Lake, Wisconsin offered a child all the wonders of nature. "To a boy, the trees seemed wondrously tall, the hills seemed very high, the waters seemed deep and pure and the wildlife seemed magically mysterious and plentiful." (Nelson, 1969, p8-9). These are the words of Gaylord Nelson, a man who would dedicate much of his political career to the natural resources of Wisconsin and the nation. As governor of Wisconsin and U.S. Senator, he was active in the preservation of scenic rivers and trails, the protection of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, and as the founder of Earth Day.

Nelson tells a story of fascination with the natural world around Clear Lake at an early age. When the turtles migrated to Mud Pond for spring egg-laying, he and a young friend conducted simple experiments. They curiously took a wood or snapping turtle from her pilgrimage and placed her facing the opposite direction a short distance away. Sometimes they would "hide" Mud Pond from view by placing the turtle behind a tree or large rock. In all cases, the turtle - like a magnet - would
regain its bearings and head directly back towards the pond! This basic instinct of nature created a lasting memory of wonder for him, and respect for nature.

Nelson took an active involvement in environmental improvement at a young age by planting trees around the town band shell. In the eighth grade he petitioned the Town Board to conduct tree planting on all the roads coming into Clear Lake.

Nelson received his B.A. degree from San Jose State College in California, and his L.L.B. degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School, in 1942. He served in the United States Army during World War II and began his law practice in Madison upon return in 1946. The following year he married Carrie Lee Dotson. His political career began in 1949 when he became a Democratic party leader. By 1958, less than a decade later, he was elected governor of Wisconsin.

Nelson considers his greatest conservation contribution as governor to be the initiation of ORAP - the Outdoor Recreation Acquisition Program. The purpose of the program was to purchase one million acres of recreation and wildlife areas. The program was funded through a penny-a-pack tax on cigarettes and was the first program of its kind in the nation. In 1991 the State Legislature passed a bond to continue funding ORAP. While governor, Nelson also grew concerned over the sale of county forests for development, he revised the County Forest Law to help protect these public forests.

When Nelson was elected as a Wisconsin State Senator in 1963, he was often leading the way in the new Environmental Movement. He worked as a proponent for environmental health, as a preservationist, and a humanist. He served on
numerous committees, including the Labor and Public Welfare Committee, the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs, and the Social Security Subcommittee. But his environmental efforts are, politically, his most courageous contributions.

During the 1960s he supported the Wilderness Act and other preservation efforts. One of his major preservation accomplishments was in getting the St. Croix River designated as a National Wild and Scenic River. He added the river onto the original National Wild and Scenic River Bill. This was the only river east of the Mississippi River to be included. Nelson brought other senators to paddle the river, and see it for themselves. As a result, Nelson was instrumental in getting both the Upper and Lower St. Croix Rivers, and the Namekagon River, designated as National Wild and Scenic Rivers. His struggles to preserve these, and other pristine areas, often required great persistence and patience. The most recent acquisition to protect the St. Croix River was made in 1972!

In the tradition of his Outdoor Recreation Acquisition Program, Nelson wrote legislation to preserve the 2,000-mile long Appalachian Trail. He later introduced legislation to create a nation-wide system of hiking trails including the Appalachian Trail. The Appalachian Trail bill became law in 1968.

In late 1969, Nelson wanted to emphasize that the Environmental Era wasn’t just a fad of the 1960s, but was a growing movement. He believed it was time to force the issue into the political dialogue of the country. Said Nelson "I wanted to get a demonstration so big that the politicians would have to pay attention to it." He
thought up "Earth Day" and announced its debut to be a nationwide celebration on April 22, 1970 - the spring equinox.

Earth Day was celebrated not only on university campuses, but in grade schools and cities all over the county. Nelson's greatest pride in this peaceful demonstration was the fact that the majority of the twenty-million people, ten-thousand grade schools, two-thousand colleges and one-thousand communities involved, organized themselves at the grass roots level. A decade later, nearly 1,000 events were held across the country to mark the tenth anniversary of Earth Day, including a White House ceremony President Jimmy Carter presided over. Two decades later, with Nelson serving as chairman of Earth Day USA, it was still celebrated nationwide, and in 141 countries around the world.

Nelson first visited the Apostle Islands in Lake Superior as a young boy. As an adult he realized that the Apostle Islands were a special area needing protection. Except for one of the larger islands publicly accessible by ferry, the remaining islands were still wild. The islands also possess a colorful cultural history involving the Ojibwa Indians, the French Voyaguers, and early missionaries. Nelson invited the former Secretary of the Interior, Steward Udall, to see the islands. Udall an avid conservationist himself, was an easy win. The rugged beauty of Superior and the Islands could speak for themselves, but Nelson carried their voice to the nation's Capitol.
For years he argued for the protection of the Apostle Islands and shore land nearby. In 1970, The Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Act was passed. The Act preserves a portion of the Lake Superior shoreline on the Bayfield Peninsula and 21 Apostle Islands within the National Park System.

Nelson's involvement in preserving Wisconsin's treasured places include the writing of 3 Wilderness Bills to designate semi-primitive wilderness areas in the Nicolet and Chequamegon National Forests. On the national front, he was an advocate of some of the most progressive environmental legislation in our history.

Nelson was the first person to introduce Legislation to mandate fuel efficiency standards in automobiles, control strip mining, ban the use of DDT, ban the use of 245T (agent orange), and ban the use of phosphates in detergents. His vision included proposals to faze out the internal combustion automobile engine by 1978, eliminate persistent toxic pesticides by 1972, and requiring that bottles, jars and cans be re-useable, not just recyclable.

He was a strong supporter of national air and water quality policy standards, replacing the U.S. mining law of 1872, and halting pollution in the Great Lakes and seas. Many of the ideas he proposed in the late 1960s have come to pass some 20 years later. Many more of his ideas are still considered too radical. His long list of conservation achievements also include Operation Mainstream, and Green Thumb, a program to employ senior citizens in conservation projects.

In looking to the future, Gaylord Nelson considers exponential population growth to be the greatest challenge. Says Nelson, "Indeed the population of the
United States already exceeds its carrying capacity - that is to say our current population is being sustained by continued erosion of our resource base. This is not a sustainable situation over the long term." But Nelson urges that this isn't the only major environmental problem we face. He believes that the lack of a "conservation ethic" in our culture is just as significant of an issue. "Had our society been guided by a conservation ethic," he says, "we would not have fallen into an endless number of avoidable costly environmental blunders. We would not have polluted ocean estuaries, rivers, lakes and the air."

Nelson was a prime player in getting the National Environmental Education Act passed in 1991. He views Environmental Education as a way to address the problems of pollution and overpopulation and a move towards a sustainable global economy. He adds that "If we don't ultimately raise a generation imbued with a strong conservation ethic, we won't have the political courage, insight, [and] understanding to make the decisions - the tough decisions - that have to be made."

He first introduced the idea of Environmental Education in the Environmental Quality Education Act back in 1969.

Nelson recognizes Environmentalism as more than a Movement, but an Era going strong, and gaining momentum. He believes that businesses today are reflecting the Environmental Movement in their products and policies. Back in the 1960s, Nelson professed that the most serious by-product of American progress was pollution. Said Nelson, "in a headlong search for plenty, we are learning that we are
ending up with less" (Nelson, 1969, p21). Today, the first generation of environmentalists are just beginning to enter into politics and business.

Wisconsin, he says, still has "all the environmental challenges of 20 years ago - and more. We ought to continue to expand and vigorously address all the environmental issues that exist if we want to preserve the integrity and beauty of Wisconsin. We've got to do a lot more than what were doing."

Nelson regards Wisconsin as a leader in the Conservation Movement, and in the field of Environmental Education. We are "a state with a long history of environmental concern and a long history of distinguished people actively concerned about the environment". Gaylord Nelson himself, has been one of these "distinguished people", and truly visionary in his efforts to protect not only Wisconsin's natural treasures, but the environment in the nation.

Gaylord Nelson has received numerous honors for his conservation contributions and environmental activism. Among them are the National Wildlife Federation Award, the Izaak Walton League of American Award, and in 1992, the United Nation's Environmental Protection "Only One Earth Award".

SOURCES:

Nelson, Gaylord. Undated vita summary. Received from The Wilderness Society. Washington, D.C.


Other Quotes:

"Our planet has only a thin veneer of soil that is supporting rapidly diminishing forest and a dwindling variety of animal species." (1969, p 9)

"Each year more and more species become extinct... Man in his arrogance, appears to think that he can escape joining that list." (1969, p9)

"We should, I believe, phase out the internal combustion automobile engine by 1978."

"A well-designed environmental education program will produce an informed and committed conservation generation that will provide the critical understanding and support for moving the nation to a sustainable economy."
CONCLUSION

The visionaries in Wisconsin’s conservation history are united by more than a timeline of significant events - or even similar concerns. They all held something within their hearts and minds that bound them with the tenuous glue that holds civilization to humanity. They had a vision that went beyond "self." Like gazers into a crystal ball, they had a view to tomorrow, and a passion for tomorrow’s children and tomorrow’s world.

These individuals, inductees into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame in Stevens Point, give emphasis to the role of Wisconsin’s leadership in the conservation and environmental movements of the last 150 years and more. The progressive steps led by Wisconsin and its citizens, have had effects on natural resource issues facing the region, the nation, and the world. From the scientific skills and early recordings of Increase Allen Lapham, to the poetic voice for nature from John Muir, and the women’s suffrage courage of Wilhelmine La Budde; from the philosophy and foresight of Aldo Leopold, to the environmental activism of Gaylord Nelson, we can all see something of ourselves.

For each WCHF Inductee, there are a hundred others who go nameless. Each visionary in Wisconsin’s conservation history, has the ability to offer inspiration to the many more who feel powerless in the face of such overwhelming odds. Inspiration to fight for, or discover, greater truths about the wonder of the world we live with. From each of these remarkable citizens, we gain a greater belief in the
salvation of humankind, and our ability to measure compassionately, the stewardship of the planet - our home - for ours and future generations.