

NEWS RELEASE

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Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame 2005 inductees are conservation stars

Harold 'Bud' Jordahl, Walter Kuhlmann, Ced Vig installed April 9

Harold "Bud" Jordahl, Walter Kuhlmann and Cedric Vig are the 2005 inductees into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame in Stevens Point.

The trio will be inducted in ceremonies at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 9, 2005, at the Sentry Theater in Stevens Point. They join 51 other inductees in the Hall of Fame.

Jordahl, 78, Madison, is a longtime state conservation leader whose work stretches back to the days when Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson was Wisconsin's governor. The late Kuhlmann was a Cross Plains attorney and environmental advocate. Vig, 92, Rhinelander is an educator and writer whose goal has been to enlighten people about nature.

"These three men have all done a great deal for the cause of conservation in Wisconsin, and their accomplishments stretch back several decades," said William Horvath, executive secretary of the Hall of Fame. "From Vig's role in developing a statewide conservation curriculum, to Jordahl's efforts to help create Wisconsin's Outdoor Recreation Act Program (ORAP) and Kuhlmann's efforts to incorporate sustainability and protection of species diversity into public policy, their accomplishments are many. A full accounting would literally fill a book."

Jordahl has made a mark with work on the inside of government, as an educator at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and as an organizer of conservation groups. His efforts continue to this day. He started as a Wisconsin conservation warden in the 1950s. He later joined the Department of Resource Development in 1960, beginning a rich association with then Gov. Gaylord Nelson. He worked with Nelson to develop ORAP, a major vehicle for enhancement and preservation of multi-use public lands in Wisconsin. He worked with U.S. Sen. Nelson in later years on efforts to create the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.

Jordahl joined UW-Madison's Department of Urban and Regional Planning in 1965 and served on the faculty until 1988, earning professor emeritus status. Appointed to the Natural Resources Board in 1972, he served as chair for two years. He helped to found Wisconsin's statewide land trust, Gathering Waters, and 1,000 Friends of Wisconsin, a group that advocates wise land use.

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Kuhlmann is credited with pioneering the incorporation of conservation biology into the practice of law. He led efforts to require the U.S. Forest Service to incorporate biodiversity as part of management plans for Wisconsin's Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. He also led Wisconsin efforts to pass one of the first laws in the country recognizing conservation biology on state-owned lands.

Kuhlmann provided countless hours of pro bono legal assistance to state organizations such as the Sierra Club, the Wisconsin Audubon Council and the Wisconsin Forest Conservation Task Force. He was also among founders of 1,000 Friends of Wisconsin. He served on 17 separate Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources advisory bodies. He helped craft a presidential executive order on an international biodiversity treaty and assisted in drafting a plan for grizzly bear reintroduction in the Northern Rockies.

At age 92, Vig continues to write weekly nature columns that appear in state newspapers and regularly teaches nature courses. A longtime school superintendent in Rhinelander, he has written a weekly column for the Rhinelander Daily News and other state newspapers for 44 years. His "Wisconsin Woodsmoke" column also appears in the New Richmond News and the Phillips Bee. He also writes a regular column for the Trees for Tomorrow newsletter, which circulates nationally. Vig frequently leads nature appreciation classes at Nicolet College in Rhinelander and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Treehaven environmental station near Rhinelander.

During his career as an educator, Vig helped to establish a statewide conservation curriculum for K-12 schools as a member of the Department of Public Instruction Curriculum Committee. The outdoor learning center he established in the Rhinelander School Forest was later named for him, and he is beloved in the Rhinelander community.

Tributes to the inductees will be given at 10 a.m. at Sentry Theater, located at the Sentry Insurance Headquarters, 1800 North Point Drive. A 9 a.m. coffee will precede the program. A luncheon at noon in The Restaurant of Sentry Insurance Headquarters concludes the day's activities. Luncheon reservations cost \$10 and can be made by calling 715-346-4992, the telephone number for the Schmeckle Reserve Visitors Center, where the Conservation Hall of Fame is located. Reservations can also be made by calling Bill Horvath, Conservation Hall of Fame executive secretary, at 715-341-4021.

Located at Schmeckle Reserve in Stevens Point, the Conservation Hall of Fame includes interactive displays and information on Wisconsin's conservation history and conservation leaders. Its purpose is to educate and inspire people with information about how resource conservation in Wisconsin has shaped our environment and our lives. The surrounding nature reserve has extensive walking trails and is a link in the Stevens Point area's 25-mile Green Circle Trail. **More information on Wisconsin's Conservation Hall of Fame is on the Web at www.wchf.org.**