



NEWS RELEASE

Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame

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Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame News

Jay Reed, Bill Horvath, and Clifford Germain to be Recognized at WCHF's 30th Induction Celebration

Ceremonies Set for 10 a.m., Saturday, May 3, 2014 in Stevens Point

The Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame (WCHF) will celebrate its 30th Induction Ceremony by honoring three new leaders who have contributed much to Wisconsin's Conservation Legacy. This year's ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 3, at the Sentry Theater in Stevens Point. The public is invited.

The three new inductees include: (1) **Jay Reed**, a much loved, and sometimes feared, outdoor writer and Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel columnist, (2) **Clifford Germain**, the chief architect and spokesman for the Wisconsin Natural and Scientific Areas program, and (3) **Bill Horvath**, a land and water conservationist who helped create the WCHF while also working professionally to protect wildlife, forests, and recreational opportunities on private and public lands throughout the nation.

The Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame and Visitor Center, located at Schmeckle Reserve in Stevens Point, was established in 1985 to advance the conservation legacy of Wisconsin and to recognize individuals who have contributed significantly to it. WCHF is a cooperative venture of 20 state-wide conservation organizations. Individuals may be nominated for induction by member organizations or the public. Based on a set of criteria, nominees are selected for induction by the WCHF Board of Directors and an independent Board of Governors.

Quote by WCHF President

Joe Passineau, WCHF's new president, reflecting on the importance of the Hall of Fame said, "Starting in 1985 with John Muir and Aldo Leopold, two of Wisconsin's favorite sons, the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame now recognizes 83 men and women who have contributed to Wisconsin's Conservation Legacy. This year the Conservation Story, which is depicted in the WCHF Visitor Center and Gallery at Schmeckle Reserve, illustrates three key themes: (1) the "power of the pen" and persuasion in creating an informed and active citizenry, (2) the importance of research and preservation in protecting unique patches of nature, and (3) the success of conservation agencies and organizations in protecting places that, as Leopold said, would "remain forever natural, wild and free".

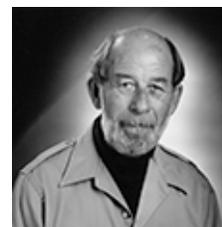
He added, "Fortunately two of the inductees this year, Cliff Germain and Bill Horvath, will be at the recognition ceremony on May 3rd to enjoy presentations by colleagues and friends (and, maybe, to defend themselves and the conservation story). The public is welcome. Join in the celebration and learn more about the fascinating history of conservation in Wisconsin. Make it part of the first weekend of fishing season by thanking those pioneering conservationists who helped save places for you to fish and recreate."

Induction Ceremony Details

The Induction Ceremony will begin at 10a.m. at the Sentry Theater in Stevens Point, located at the Sentry Insurance Headquarters, 1800 North Point Drive. (A 9 a.m. coffee reception will precede the program.) The 10 a.m. ceremony includes tributes by invited speakers and the presentation of recognition plaques which will be displayed in the WCHF Gallery in Schmeckle Reserve. A 12:00 luncheon at the Holiday Inn will conclude the day's activities. Luncheon reservations cost \$25, and can be made by calling 715-346-4992, the telephone number for the Schmeckle Reserve Visitor Center, where the WCHF is located.

Jay Reed

As an outdoor writer and columnist for the Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel for over 40 years, Jay Reed published thousands of articles on outdoor life, conservation and environmental issues, and natural resource policies. Known as the "old scribbler and river rat" by his Sunday readers, he enticed and cajoled them into a greater appreciation and respect for woods, water and wildlife through his folksy stories of the Northwoods, of dawn in the duck blind, and tromps down the trail with Thor, his canine companion. His ardent pleas for conservation targeted recreationists, landowners, resource managers, and



environmental organizations. His views on resource and environmental issues greatly influenced governors, the Natural Resource Board, DNR Secretaries, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress and the State Legislature. He earned their respect with his playful mind and his sharp pen. If they were not proactive in seeking his perspective, they just might find themselves and their policies lampooned in the Sunday paper. His book, “Thor and More,” published after his death with the help of his wife, Christine, continues to entertain and inspire readers with over 100 of his favorite, and often humorous, essays and columns. His articles, columns and book helped shape public opinion by creating an informed citizenry, a more responsive DNR, and a more open and accountable government in Wisconsin.

Bill Horvath

Bill Horvath’s love affair with nature as a boy was catapulted into resolve and action when he discovered his favorite fishing stream destroyed in the name of progress. For the rest of his life he fought to correct that injustice by trying to protect and ecologically restore waterways and wild spaces. For over 35 years he used his leadership and persuasive talents to advance soil and water conservation practices on millions of acres of agricultural, private and public lands. Horvath gained a national reputation as a “doer” while working for the Wisconsin Soil and Water Conservation Board, and as the Midwest Director of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). He promoted recreational use and sustainable forestry while serving on the Stevens Point City Council, the Wis. State Legislature, and later as the National Director of NACD’s Forestry Program. In Stevens Point, he spearheaded efforts to advance urban forestry, city and regional land use planning, and the creation of parks along the Wisconsin River. He assisted the WiDNR in developing its hunter safety program, the development of the group deer hunting law, and the passage of the Wisconsin Managed Forest Law (MFL). Recognizing the importance of outdoor recreation, he developed guidelines and sought legislative support for the “Recreational Lands Trespass Waiver Law” in Wisconsin and other states which eventually opened millions of acres of private forests, wetlands, and agricultural lands to sportsmen and other outdoor enthusiasts. With a lifelong interest in conservation and history, he led an effort in the early 1980s to create the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame, as a cooperative venture of 20 state-wide conservation organizations, to recognize those who have contributed significantly to Wisconsin’s Conservation Legacy. He served the organization for 21 years as its first executive secretary, before retiring from the WCHF Board in 2005.



Clifford Germain

Germain was the catalyst and chief architect of Wisconsin's nationally recognized State Natural and Scientific Areas Program, which today protects over 650 ecologically unique landscapes, comprising 350,000 acres scattered throughout the state. Starting in 1966 as the DNR's first ecologist, Germain advanced and applied the earlier research and work of several others already inducted into the Hall of Fame including Aldo Leopold, Joseph Hickey, and especially John Curtis (Curtis was just inducted last year in recognition of his work and book on Wisconsin's plant communities and for initiating the state's Scientific Areas Program). While directing the Wisconsin State Natural Areas Program, he was able to significantly expand the number of officially recognized SNAs; develop strategies to systematically identify, inventory, and analyze potential sites; gain state funding for land acquisition and management; and work with landowners and conservation organizations, such as The Nature Conservancy, to protect ecosystems on privately owned lands. He was also instrumental in founding the Natural Areas Association, a professional organization that continues to promote SNA programs nationally and worldwide. The innovative ecological mapping technique developed by Germain and his colleague, Francis Hole, helped to advance and revolutionize the study, management and protection of natural landscapes. Under his leadership the Wisconsin State Natural Areas Program evolved into the most successful statewide nature preserve system in the nation.



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