

## NEWS ITEMS FOR WEBSITE

### FEBRUARY 2016

#### Mac MacKenzie in Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine

An article in the February 2016 *Wisconsin Natural Resources* magazine is about Chief Conservation Warden Harley “Mac” MacKenzie and how he helped to tame the wilds of Wisconsin’s Northwoods. <http://dnr.wi.gov/wnrmag/2016/02/back.pdf> MacKenzie was inducted in 1988. <http://wchf.org/inductees/mackenzie.html>

### DECEMBER 2015

#### Cliff Germain in the News

Cliff Germain was featured in the December 2015 *Wisconsin Natural Resources* magazine. Entitled “The forefather of the State Natural Areas System,” it gives the reader a wonderful perspective on Cliff’s mission to save unique and pristine natural areas. <http://dnr.wi.gov/wnrmag/2015/12/germain.pdf> Germain was inducted into WCHF in 2014. [http://wchf.org/inductees/clifford\\_germain.html](http://wchf.org/inductees/clifford_germain.html)

### OCTOBER 2015

#### **Eugene M Roark Passes** [http://wchf.org/inductees/eugene\\_roark.html](http://wchf.org/inductees/eugene_roark.html)

Long-time WCHF Board member and 2015 inductee into the Hall of Fame, Eugene M Roark passed away on Saturday, October 24, 2015. After a tour of duty with the US Army as a First Lieutenant, Eugene received his Masters in Conservation Journalism. He worked for the WDNR for many years in several capacities and later for the State Department of Tourism.

He and his wife, Sally, and their family were life-long conservationists and proud of their Wisconsin heritage. Gene was involved with as many as 100 conservation organizations over the years and was a dedicated and hard-working volunteer for all of them. He was most proud of his efforts to help establish The Nature Conservancy in Wisconsin in 1960 where he served on the Board of Trustees for 24 years. Because of his efforts in many worthwhile causes, Gene received a number of awards for his service over the years.

WCHF President Joe Passineau wrote: “He was a great friend and a champion of conservation. He contributed much to the WCHF and to many other organizations. We will all miss his gentle, persuasive, and effective leadership. It was good that we could honor him at last year’s WCHF Induction Ceremony.”

### JULY 2015

#### **2015 Inductee David Ladd Honored by Natural Resources Foundation**

[http://wchf.org/inductees/david\\_ladd.html](http://wchf.org/inductees/david_ladd.html)

Since David Ladd could not attend the WCHF Induction Ceremony, the Natural Resources

Foundation of Wisconsin hosted a special reception in Dodgeville on Friday, July 10, 2015 to honor him.

Executive Director Ruth Oppedahl welcomed Dave's family and friends by saying "Dave's been with us since the beginning, so nearly 30 years. The work he has done is really something special that I think we could all learn from."

Friends and colleagues who spoke at the ceremony included Ron Semmann, Foundation Board member; Jim McCaulley, Wisconsin Conservation Congress member and Iowa County Conservationist; and Mike Foy, Wildlife Biologist for the WDNR. They all agreed that Dave "has a true commitment to helping people become better citizens and conservationists."

CAPTION FOR PHOTO:

Speakers at the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin reception for Dave Ladd included (L-R) Jim McCaulley, Dave Ladd, Ron Semmann and Ruth Oppedahl

JULY 2015

DDT Wars dedicated to Lorrie Otto

Charles F. Wurster dedicated his book *DDT Wars* to Lorrie Otto, "who did her best to protect life on Earth. The book subtitled "Rescuing Our National Bird, Preventing Cancer, and Creating the environmental Defense Fund" is a good perspective on the start of environmental public interest law and the early struggle to ban DDT. Otto was inducted in 1999.

<http://wchf.org/inductees/otto.html>

APRIL 2015

Banning DDT - how citizen activists in Wisconsin led the way  
by author Bill Berry

Book Review by Donna VanBuecken, Executive Director Wild Ones Natural Landscapers Ltd

Banning DDT - how citizen activists in Wisconsin led the way  
Longtime WCHF member Bill Berry has written an excellent historical account of what the band of Wisconsin activists known as Citizens Natural Resources Association of Wisconsin (CNRA) went through to accomplish the banning of DDT.

Although Wisconsin was not the first state to ban DDT, it was through Lorrie Otto's and CNRA's efforts that the hearings took place that brought to the national public's attention the harm this chemical was causing to the United States environment. This little band of citizen activists brought the misuse of this chemical to the national stage, which led to the first Earth Day, the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and eventually the banning nationally of DDT.

Through Bill's description of the events that led up to the banning of DDT in Wisconsin, (and the generous sprinkling of photos) one realizes how important birds were to the sequence of events. Starting with Rachel Carson's expressed concerns in *Silent Spring* and moving on to Joseph Hickey's study of thinning peregrine falcons eggs, and finally to Lorrie's dropping off 28 dead

robins at her local municipal office of Bayside, a suburb of Milwaukee, birds were the harbingers of nature gone wrong. This was citizen science in action – garden club ladies, hunters and fishers, bird-watchers, university professors and scientists, newspaper reporters and columnists, traditional conservationists from all over the USA drawing attention to the harm DDT was causing.

Reflecting on what is now left of this fight – just boxes of paper – Bill wrote “But that would not do justice to the Wisconsin DDT story and the people who made it happen. Their efforts raised awareness about a whole range of ecological issues and provided a real-life test of the concepts that are wrapped into Aldo Leopold’s land ethic.”

“Reflecting on the story she covered from start to finish, Whitney Gould put it this way, ‘The DDT chapter was one chapter in a long book that is still being written on whether we can learn to live peacefully on this Earth.’” Whitney was a young reporter put on the story by Editor Elliott Maraniss of the Madison Capital Times.

Many of the names mentioned in Bill’s book have subsequently been inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame or have been nominated. For bios on the various inductees go to <http://wchf.org/inductees.html>

Bill has been a reporter and editor of several daily newspapers and continues to work as a columnist for the Capital Times in Madison, Wisconsin, writing about conservation and private lands.