

## **Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame 2017 News**

### **WCHF Announces 2017 Inductees - Christine Thomas, Hugh Iltis, and Milly Zantow to be Inducted on Earth Day, April 22nd**

#### **Public is Invited**

**Saturday, April 22, 2017**

#### **Sentry Theater in Stevens Point**

**Program:** 9:00 Coffee reception (free)  
10:00 Induction Ceremony (free)  
12:30 Luncheon – (\$25/person)

Reservations may be made on Eventbrite at <http://bit.ly/WCHF2017> or by calling Schmeckle Reserve at 715-346-4992.

See Full News Release online at url:  
<http://bit.ly/2njrx3A>



---

**NEWS RELEASE (2) March 15, 2017**

#### **Contacts:**

1. Joe Passineau, WCHF President  
Email: [jpassine@uwsp.edu](mailto:jpassine@uwsp.edu)  
Phone: 715-677-4047

#### **Notes:**

1. This release could be shortened for an informational brief or used, as is, for a longer feature story (published prior to the event or after its completion).
2. For Digital Copy and Photos contact: Joe Passineau at [jpassine@uwsp.edu](mailto:jpassine@uwsp.edu)

---

### **Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame - 2017 News**

The Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame (WCHF) will honor three new leaders who have contributed much to Wisconsin's Conservation Legacy. This year's ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22nd, at the Sentry Theater in Stevens Point. The public is invited.

The Inductees this year reflect the important role of conservation organizations, universities, agencies and industry. It will also recognize the significant contribution of women to conservation in Wisconsin and nationally. This year, WCHF will recognize two women in the same year: Christine Thomas and Milly Zantow.

**Christine Thomas (1951- )** Dean of the College of Natural Resources at UWSP since 2005, Christine Thomas has advanced natural resource policy, management and education throughout her career. She has served on the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board for 11 years; and in leadership and advisory positions with national conservation organizations and governmental agencies. In 1991 she founded the Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) program, now offered nationally, to promote the involvement of women in outdoor activities and conservation efforts.

**Hugh Iltis (1925-2016)** A distinguished scientist, teacher, environmentalist and passionate advocate for conservation, Hugh Iltis served as Professor of Botany at UW-Madison and Director of the UW Herbarium. In the 1960s, he co-founded the Nature Conservancy in Wisconsin, joined fellow citizen activists to ban DDT, and promoted all aspects of environmental quality. He is recognized internationally for his efforts to protect biosphere reserves in Mexico and South America and the discovery of rare plant species.

**Milly Zantow (1923-2014).** With tenacity and enthusiasm, Milly Zantow, helped launch the Recycling Revolution in Wisconsin and the nation. In 1979 she co-founded the E-Z Recycling Center in Sauk County, one of the first in the nation. Working with communities, lawmakers, and the plastics industry, she helped invent the "Recycling Triangle," a system now used globally to identify different plastics. She also contributed to the 1990 Wisconsin Recycling Law, EPA's recycling policies, and helped set up recycling programs nationally and internationally.

***(See full biographies and photos of Inductees below)***

#### **Induction Ceremony Details**

The Induction Ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 22, at Sentry Theater in Stevens Point. A coffee reception at 9 a.m. will precede the Ceremony. The Luncheon is at 12:30 p.m. at the nearby Sentry World Center. The Induction Ceremony and Coffee Reception are free and open to the public. The Ceremony includes tributes by invited speakers and presentation of recognition plaques which will be displayed in the WCHF Visitor Center in Schmeckle Reserve.

Reservations for lunch (\$25 per person) may be made online with Eventbrite at <http://bit.ly/WCHF2017> or by calling Schmeckle Reserve at 715-346-4992.

***(Continued on page 2)***

*(continued, WCHF 2017 News Release, page 2)*

### **The Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame**

The Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame and Visitor Center is located at Schmeckle Reserve in Stevens Point. It was established in 1985 to advance the conservation legacy of Wisconsin and now recognizes 91 leaders who have contributed significantly to it.

Individuals may be nominated for induction by member organizations or by 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.

The WCHF and Schmeckle Visitor Center includes (a) a sunlit gallery displaying recognition plaques of the inductees, (b) a meeting/classroom used free of charge by hundreds of civic organizations each year, and (c) an interpretive display museum illustrating the full story of conservation in Wisconsin. Each year thousands of visitors also enjoy the beautiful landscapes, hiking trails, educational programs and gift shop at Schmeckle Reserve.

WCHF is a cooperative venture of 30 state-wide conservation organizations. WCHF depends on the generous support of member organizations, affiliate members, grants and donations. See [www.wCHF.org](http://www.wCHF.org) for membership information. Or to join WCHF, simply use the online Eventbrite Ticket option: <http://bit.ly/WCHF2017>

### **Quotes by WCHF President**

Reflecting on this year's ceremony, WCHF President, Joe Passineau, said: "This year is unique. The Induction Ceremony is on Earth Day. What a great way to celebrate the many advances since the First Earth Day was started in 1970 by Senator Gaylord Nelson, one of our first inductees."

"It is also special because this year we will be inducting two women in the same year: Christine Thomas and Milly Zantow. Both, in their own unique way, have contributed greatly to conservation in Wisconsin and nationally."

He added: "Although conservation has historically been championed by men, the WCHF now recognizes 12 women as inductees. We would also like to recognize the efforts of other segments of society, which represent the full diversity of Wisconsin. If you know of others deserving recognition, send nominations to the WCHF."

"Share Earth Day with us. Come to the Induction Ceremony and learn more about the fascinating Story of Conservation in Wisconsin."

## **2017 WCHF Inductee Biographies**



### **Christine Thomas (1951 --)**

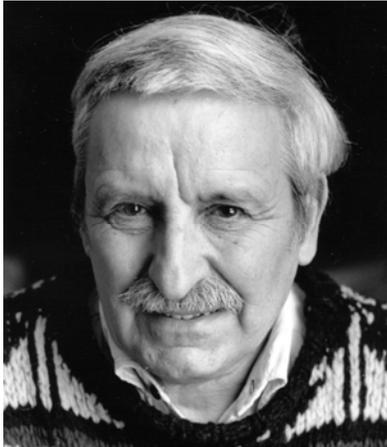
Christine Thomas has promoted the cause of conservation in Wisconsin and the nation through her contributions to higher education, research, natural resource policy, and the advancement of citizen participation in Wisconsin's rich conservation heritage.

Recognized for her teaching and administrative talents, Christine Thomas has served since 2005 as the Dean of the College of Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP), one of the largest colleges of its kind in the nation. Throughout her career Thomas has focused on the importance of access to well managed public lands. As member of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board for 11 years (Chair for 3 years), she advanced environmental and natural resource policy affecting outdoor recreation, water and habitat protection and the management of Wisconsin's wildlife, forests, and parks.

At the national level, she has served on the boards and councils of many conservation organizations and governmental agencies, including the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the U.S. Interior and U.S. Agriculture Department's Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council. She currently serves on the board of Ducks Unlimited.

Her statewide and national leadership has inspired women studying and working in the conservation profession. To promote the involvement of women in outdoor activities and conservation efforts, in 1991 she helped found the Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) program, an educational outreach program at UWSP teaching outdoor skills in Wisconsin and many other states. In recognition of her leadership and contributions to conservation, she has received numerous awards from state and national conservation organizations.

(Continued on page 3)  
(continued, WCHF 2017 News Release, page 3)



### **Hugh Iltis (1925 -2016)**

Hugh Iltis was a distinguished scientist, teacher, environmentalist and passionate spokesperson for conservation. Born in Czechoslovakia in 1925, Hugh emigrated to the United States as a teenager with his family weeks before the Nazis invaded the country. After completing his graduate studies, in 1955 he joined the UW-Madison Botany Department and for many years served as Director of the UW Herbarium.

In 1960 he co-founded The Nature Conservancy in Wisconsin and championed its efforts to protect natural areas by serving on its Board, providing technical and scientific advice on acquisitions, and working with landowners to protect some of Wisconsin's most unique ecosystems, including the Baraboo Hills and Chiwaukee Prairie. In the 1960s he joined fellow citizen activists to ban the use of DDT in Wisconsin and the nation. He also worked with many other national conservation organizations to protect natural areas and promote environmental quality.

Nationally and globally, Iltis is best known for his work as UW Herbarium Director, his efforts to protect biosphere reserves in Mexico and South America, and his plant studies, including the discovery in Mexico of *Zea diploperennis*, a perennial wild relative of corn, now being used for plant breeding. Iltis received numerous awards for his contributions to conservation including The Nature Conservancy's highest honor – the Golden Oak Leaf Award, and a Presidential Award from the Republic of Mexico for his role in establishing the Sierra de Manantlan Biosphere Reserve.



(Photo: Schreiner, Wis. State Journal)

### **Milly Zantow (1923-2014)**

With tenacity, enthusiasm, and a few good ideas, Milly Zantow, a grandmother and citizen activist from North Freedom, helped launch the recycling revolution in Wisconsin and the nation. From the E-Z Recycling Center that she and friends founded in 1979 in Sauk County, she proved that recycling was not only environmentally sound, but also practical and cost effective. Inspired by a 1978 trip to Japan, a nation that was already recycling consumer waste, she urged local governments and plastic industries in the USA to start recycling programs and to find markets for waste resources.

Working with communities, lawmakers and industry, she helped develop a simple system to identify different plastics with a number code inside a triangle, a system that was adopted in 1988 by the Society of Plastic Industry and is now used worldwide. Recognized for her foresight and determination, Zantow was also a major contributor to the framing of the 1990 Wisconsin Recycling Law which required municipalities to collect plastic, metal, paper, and glass to keep them out of landfills. This law was seen, at the time, as the most comprehensive state recycling program in the nation.

She also provided advice on setting up recycling programs to municipalities all over the country and internationally. She received awards and recognition for her pioneering work in recycling and for her many contributions as a community volunteer. The conservation legacy of Milly Zantow and other recycling advocates continues, day by day, as citizens recycle their waste, as schools teach the 3Rs of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, and as municipalities, businesses and industries cooperate to recycle and conserve Wisconsin's natural resources.

**End of WCHF 2017 News Release**

Contact [jpassine@uwsp.edu](mailto:jpassine@uwsp.edu) for digital photos of inductees.