



Wisconsin
Conservation
Hall of Fame

Spring 2015

Volume 21, Issue 1

New Leaf

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame

www.wchf.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Another Good Year

The past year, my first as President, has been a good and productive year for the WCHF. In May we celebrated our 30th Anniversary by honoring three new inductees (Clifford Germain, William Horvath and Jay Reed) and by recognizing the many individuals and organizations that make up the WCHF family. As noted below, we also made progress by focusing on our future and seizing new opportunities.

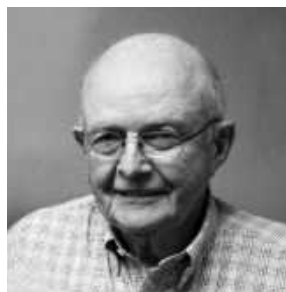
The Year of the Citizen Conservationist

On May 2nd, we will induct three new conservationists into the Hall of Fame: Eugene Roark, David Ladd, and Ronald Koshoshek. Their contributions and accomplishments are clearly described in our feature articles in this newsletter. As a group, the inductees exemplify well the term "Citizen Conservationist". They have all gone beyond their professional work to contribute to the success of civic conservation organizations, to advance resource and public policy, and to protect and ecologically restore natural lands for the benefit of citizens statewide. As you likely know, Gene Roark also played a pivotal role in the WCHF by serving as president and vice-president for many years. Congratulations to all.

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Ronald Koshoshek



David Ladd



Eugene Roark

Ronald Koshoshek, David Ladd and Eugene Roark – Our Newest Inductees –

Ceremonies set May 2, 2015 in Stevens Point

Ronald Koshoshek –

Born in Eau Claire, where he spent many hours learning to fish the area's streams and creeks, Ron Koshoshek received his Masters from Fordham University in New York in 1962 and his PhD in 1966. In 1969, he secured a position at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire teaching Philosophy, Ethics and Jurisprudence where he continued teaching until he retired as Professor Emeritus in 1999.

Motivated first by the evidence of environmental degradation encountered in the streams and rivers that he fished, the professor began to develop what was to become a parallel career in conservation.

Concerned with the decline in area streams, Koshoshek founded the Ojiblean Chapter of Trout Unlimited in 1972 to begin educating riparian landowners, and to give voice to the waters and fish that had none. Under Ron's leadership, the group (later renamed the Clear Water Chapter of Trout Unlimited) began working on a habitat restoration of McCann Creek. Clearly there was no future in stream restoration if the state continued to ignore the damage done by unchecked erosion at road construction, logging and mining sites. Recognizing this, in 1976 Ron recruited a group of citizens to co-sign a petition for a contested case hearing, which was ruled in favor of the petitioners. Henceforth, he said, all counties and towns would be required to get a permit from the WDNR before starting construction of a project that crossed a public waterway.

Subsequently, after a long fight, the permit requirement was superceded by a bill requiring a handbook of best practices for

erosion control during road construction.

The bill was signed into law in 1978. A year later this same approach was adopted by Minnesota as well.

This erosion control case in Marathon County set the pattern Koshoshek would follow in succeeding cases, both as a citizen advocate and as a public servant -- assist a group of concerned citizens, advise them well on the relevant laws and science, and assist them to bring the force of law to the problem, or more frequently, to find satisfactory compromise outside of legal action.

Another case was the Lowes Creek agreement which was signed in August of 1983 between the City of Eau Claire, Town of Washington, Lowes Creek Watershed Protection Association, WI Public Intervenor and Trout Unlimited, Inc. The agreement provided a framework for allowing development in an environmentally sound manner.

Later as Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee, Ron was instrumental in helping the Town of Casey develop and defend an ordinance designed to put controls on the

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**Mark your calendars:
The 31st annual Induction
Ceremony will be held
Saturday, May 2, 2015
At Sentry Theater,
Stevens Point.
See You There!!**

Board of Directors

representing member
organizations

Executive Committee Members

Joseph Passineau (President)
Wisconsin Association for
Environmental Education

Eugene Roark (Past President)
Dane County Conservation League

Jan Harms (Vice President)
Wisconsin Society of American Foresters

Earl Spangenberg (Exec. Secretary)
American Water Resources Association

Brenda Lackey (Treasurer)
UW-SP College of Natural Resources

Steven Levine (Exec. Comm. at Large)
Soil and Water Conservation Society –
Wisconsin Chapter

Mark Randall (Exec. Comm. at Large)
Wildlife Society – Wisconsin Chapter

Donna VanBuecken (Exec. Comm. at Large)
Wild Ones Natural Landscapers, Ltd

Jan Scalpone (Exec. Comm. at Large)
Citizen Natural Resources Association

Other Directors

Gerald Ernst
Izaak Walton League – Wisconsin Division

Mike Wollmer
Ice Age Trail Alliance

Don Gilbert
The Musky Club Alliance

Position Open
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Rich Wentzel
The Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter

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Don Goers
Wisconsin Bow Hunters Association

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Tom Rudolph
Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation
Association

Tom Muench
Wisconsin Outdoor Communicators Association

David Verhage
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

James Rivers
Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association

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Bill Berry
Tim Eisele
Bob Ellingson
Alan Haney
George Meyer



www.wchf.org 715-346-4992
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New Inductees *(continued from page 1)*

application of pesticides in the Township. As a result cities and towns across the country are now able to regulate pesticide use within their jurisdictions based on local concerns and considerations.

Ron was central to the development of the Wisconsin Towns Association's on-line package of 'tools' that towns across the state could use to develop licensing ordinances. He continues to be in constant demand as a speaker and consultant to towns and planning committees across the region. The demand for his leadership and expertise shows no signs of letting up.

Recognizing the threat to air quality of crystalline silica dust produced by frac sand mining, Ron undertook to initiate a citizen petition requesting the WDNR to promulgate rules to regulate crystalline silica emissions. The silica dust petition, submitted in November 2011, failed to move the WDNR, however, it provides a 35 page roadmap for future action. Once again, Ron is at the helm of a path breaking initiative. This is the first step in what promises to be a long process of citizen activism that will face regulatory hurdles, technical challenges, and a reexamination of the application of the Public Trust Doctrine itself.

David Ladd –

Dave Ladd was born and raised on a farm near Dodgeville, Wisconsin where his father instilled the idea of respect and responsibility for the conservation of land and wildlife. To teach this same respect and responsibility for the conservation of land and wildlife, Dave taught Hunter Safety classes through the WDNR for 20 years and over 1,000 students.

In 1972, Dave founded Walnut Hollow, Inc. a woodcraft manufacturing company based in Dodgeville. Walnut Hollow uses 3-1/2 million board feet of pine and basswood lumber per year. Such a volume of timber takes many trees and Dave insisted that the company could be environmentally friendly while using such a high amount of lumber.

Looking for a way to use the waste product from his business, Ladd installed a Dust Waste Collection System to keep the waste product from landfills and to create an environmentally safe space for the employees.

Dave has been instrumental in starting a number of organizations as well as being active in many more. In the late 1970s, he helped to establish the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association as an action oriented group to educate and inform legislators and the public. In 1998, Dave and other local concerned conservationists developed an organization called the Iowa County Recreation and Prairie Restoration Project which cleaned up 438 acres of county land so U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service could plant

rare wildflowers. He later was a founding member of the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter of Trout Unlimited in Southwest Wisconsin.

Because walnut trees were the main product for Walnut Hollow, at its inception Ladd joined the Wisconsin Chapter of the Walnut Council. He served as its first President and remained as a board member for several years, receiving the Appreciation Award.

In service to the State, Governor Tommy Thompson appointed Dave as Vice Chair of the Knowles-Nelson Blue Ribbon Task Force on Wisconsin Stewardship Program in 1999. Dave was elected to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress as District 9's representative for forty years and served as an elected member on the Executive Committee for 20+ years. He also served on the Legislative Council Study Group on Conservation Law Enforcement which recommended changes in conservation enforcement.

Ladd has received many awards over the years: 2000, the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council's Distinguished Service Award for his efforts to develop the Urban Forestry Program in Dodgeville. 2002, the Wisconsin Chapter of Soil and Water Conservation Society's Outstanding Achievement award for Shaping Wisconsin Natural Resource Conservation Policy and Pheasants Forever for Habitat Cooperation. 2003 and 2004, Gathering Waters Conservancy's Conservationist of the Year and in 2007, Conservationist Lifetime Achievement Award.

In 2006, Walnut Hollow received the John Brogan Award which is WDNR's highest form of environmental recognition. WDNR Secretary Scott Hassett said, "The Brogan Award recognizes consistent, high-quality work in protecting Wisconsin's environment. Walnut Hollow showed their commitment to protecting our resources through their work. Wisconsin is better off for their efforts and it's our honor to recognize them."

Eugene Roark –

Born on March 25, 1931 Gene Roark was a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison in a new program of conservation journalism. In 1960 Gene started to work in information and tourism for the then Wisconsin Conservation Department. He was Director of Tourism for the WDNR from 1970 to 1975.

Aldo Leopold's philosophy of the land ethic has had a profound influence on Gene's ideas on the environment. The *Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold was, and is, an inspirational book for Gene. Because of his interest in the natural world, Gene joined the Madison Audubon Society as a teenager in the 1940s and has been a

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30th Anniversary Celebration and Induction Ceremony

Our 30th Anniversary Celebration and Induction Ceremony held last spring at the Sentry Theater in Stevens Point was a resounding success. Friends and family of the three inductees, Clifford Germain, William Horvath and Jay Reed, enjoyed the festive reception, the induction presentations, and a luncheon at the Holiday Inn. We were especially fortunate to have two of the inductees, Clifford Germain and William Horvath, present to accept their award and to enjoy the tributes of colleagues and the unveiling of the recognition plaques. Legislative citations were also presented to the inductees by state representative, Katrina Shankland.

As part of the celebration, newly elected WCHF President, Joe Passineau, thanked everyone who had contributed to the success of the WCHF, and formally recognized our 23 member organizations, the Board of Directors, and the Board of Governors. Photo highlights of the day are below. You can also see more photos and view video segments of the event on www.YouTube.WCHF Induction 2014.

Speakers for the inductees included the following:

Induction of Clifford E. Germain

Signe Holtz, Director (retired), DNR Bureau of Endangered Resources, WI DNR
 Paul Matthiae, Chief (retired), Wisconsin State Natural Areas Program, WI DNR
 Thomas Meyer, Conservation Biologist, Wisconsin State Natural Area Program, WI DNR

Induction of William J. Horvath

Bill Berry, Writer, Columnist and WCHF Biographer
 Don Last, Professor (retired), College of Natural Resources, UW-Stevens Point
 Ron Zimmerman, Director, Schmeckle Reserve, UW-Stevens Point

Induction of Jay Reed

Christine Thomas, Dean, College of Natural Resources, UW-Stevens Point
 George Stanley, Managing Editor, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
 James Addis, Administrator (retired), DNR Division of Resource Management



WCHF Induction Reception at Sentry Theater



Speaker Introductions by President Joe Passineau



Germain, Passineau, and Horvath at WCHF Gallery



Gene Roark presented Certificate of Appreciation



Clifford Germain with DNR Delegation



Recognition of Board of Directors and Governors



Jay Reed presentation by Chris Thomas



Shankland and Horvath with Legislative Citation

31st Annual Induction Ceremony

The Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Foundation
Cordially invites you to the 31st Annual Hall of Fame Induction honoring

Ronald Koshoshek, David Ladd and Eugene Roark

Saturday, May 2, 2015 – 10:00 a.m. CDT

At Sentry Insurance Theater • 1800 N. Point Dr., Stevens Point, WI

PROGRAM 9:00 Coffee
10:00 Induction Ceremony
12:00 Luncheon - \$25/person High Court Restaurant
in the Sentry World Sports building.
Call for Reservations 715-246-4992

You are invited to tour the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame
at the Schmeckle Reserve Visitor's Center following the luncheon.

NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE AND DIGITAL
PHOTOS CONTACT:**

**Joe Passineau
jpassine@uwsp.edu
715-677-4047**

*This news release is also
available on the web at
www.wchf.org*

Peter John Oberhauser Passes

Long time Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame board member Pete Oberhauser passed away on September 27th, 2014. Born on May 19th, 1932 in Mason City, Iowa, he grew up in Minneapolis, Minnesota. After earning a degree at the University of Minnesota School of Veterinary Medicine in 1956, he practiced as a veterinarian in Berlin and Clintonville, Wisconsin until his retirement in 1985. Pete was active in the community as a member of the Berlin and Clintonville School Boards for over 20 years. He continued to volunteer in the schools, teaching Junior Great Books and sharing his love of the environment with elementary school children. He and his wife Sanny established the Natural World for Kids fund to support environmental experiences for local youth. He was passionate about the environment. He volunteered at Navarino Nature Center and served on the Wisconsin Board of The Nature Conservancy for many years.

Pete expressed his artistic talent through creating bronze sculptures of family members and nature which he shared with his community at schools and libraries. Peter and Sanny traveled the world with friends and family, enjoying adventures in places such as New Zealand, Switzerland, and Botswana. They also explored the outdoors through canoeing, hiking and biking around Wisconsin. Pete was an avid and accomplished golfer. He loved playing Bridge and other games with family and friends.

Bringing family together to share their home along the Embarrass River brought him great joy. He was proud that the love of nature was shared by four generations of the Oberhauser family. While Pete and Sanny have passed their love of nature and learning to two generations of their family, they felt the sharing flowed in both directions. Sanny puts it best at the end of a poem she wrote in 2010:

I am a citizen scientist I monitor our milkweed
for Monarch eggs and larvae
This is something beyond my Mother's ken
I learned it from my daughter.

See also "For Oberhausers, Nature is a Family Affair" <http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/wisconsin/explore/oberhausers-family-profile.xml>

Reprinted in part from Eberhardt & Stevenson Funeral Home & Crematory <http://www.eberhardtstevenson.com/notices/Peter-Oberhauser>

Richard Allen "Dick" Hunt Passes

2012 Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame inductee Richard Allen "Dick" Hunt passed away Thursday, Oct. 23, 2014. Dick, who often said his life's motto was "let me live in a house by the side of the road and be a friend to man," was known for his never-ending smile, positive good humor, strong Christian faith and willingness to help others.

Dick was born Dec. 23, 1926, in Edgerton, to Roy and Clara Hunt. He grew up in the Madison area, and was the 1936 and 1939 Dane County Marble Champion. He graduated from Madison East High School and then served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Upon his return from war Dick attended UW-Madison where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in wildlife management.

Following graduation Dick began his 36-year career as a waterfowl research biologist with the WDNR at Horicon Marsh.

He married the love of his life, Janis Krueger, on Sept. 12, 1953. They raised four children and made their home in Horicon for more than 50 years. Dick was a member of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church for 61 years, where he was a deacon, helped in the early planning stages of the current church, and volunteered at the food pantry.

Dick was highly respected by his colleagues for his far-sighted, straight-forward and rigorous approach to preserving Wisconsin's natural

resources. Considered one of North America's top waterfowl researchers, he contributed to protecting, promoting and managing Wisconsin's migratory birds and their wetland habitat for more than 60 years. His work led to the development of one of the finest state wetland and waterfowl conservation programs in the country. Honors received during his career include The Wildlife Society's Wisconsin Award and the Mississippi Flyway Council Conservation Award. Dick often marveled at how lucky he was to have a job he loved.

Dick was an avid outdoorsman, renowned for his skilled aim and knowledge of everything that swam, flew, crawled, walked or ran. He especially enjoyed the many years of hunting and fishing with his brother Bob.

In retirement, Dick was active in many conservation groups and loved traveling the backroads of the state with Janis, always on the lookout for wildlife and a spot for a picnic lunch. He was a dedicated walker, voracious reader and engaging conversationalist.

Reprinted in part from WiscNews. http://www.wiscnews.com/news/local/obituaries/article_56ada729-d70e-5ceb-9425-203b2f9b4bea.html

From the President *(continued from page 1)*

Recognizing Our Friends

At last year's 30th Anniversary Celebration (see photo story), we recognized all those who helped to create and grow the WCHF, including our member organizations, their representatives serving on our Board of Directors, the Board of Governors, and those who, as officers on the Executive Committee, carry out the work of the organization. This year, I would like to especially recognize two of our Board Members. Peter Oberhauser, a long-time representative of The Nature Conservancy, passed away last fall after a long and productive life. Milo Harpstead has decided to retire from the Board and the Executive Committee after an impressive 30 years of serving as the representative of the Soil and Water Conservation Society!! We will certainly miss both of these great friends.

Challenges and Opportunities

In last year's column "Thirty Years and Counting" I said that, although we have achieved much during our first thirty years, we still have much to do if we wish to address the challenges facing the organization and to seize the opportunities which abound. Over the past year we have made progress on both fronts. Our 30th Anniversary Celebration helped to rekindle our sense of purpose and reunite us in our efforts. Since then, the Executive Committee and the full Board of Directors have discussed these challenges and opportunities, and started planning strategically by developing a "Five Year Plan of Work" which prioritizes important tasks and actions.

While the Nomination and Induction Process remains our top priority, Working Committees have been formed to (a) identify and selectively invite new organizational members, (b) expand our roster of affiliate members, and (c) find creative ways to grow financially, and work collaboratively with partners, so we can strengthen the Foundation and achieve its mission.

Last year we decided to expand our educational and outreach efforts by telling the WCHF Conservation Story in a new way. We videotaped the entire 30th Anniversary Celebration and posted it on the Internet/YouTube. You can go to www.YouTube.WCHF Induction 2014 to see segments of last year's 30th Celebration and the Induction of Clifford Germain, William Horvath and Jay Reed. We plan to do the same this year.

Your Affiliate and Organizational Memberships are important to our fiscal health. Thank you for your continued support. I appreciate your interest in the WCHF and look forward, as President, to another productive year. Hope to see you on May 2nd.

If you have ideas or are interested in helping us move forward, please contact me.

-Joe Passineau, WCHF President
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New Inductees *(continued from page 2)*

newsletter for several years and was a board member.

Over his lifetime, Gene has been instrumental in establishing a number of organizations. One of the founding members of the Wisconsin Chapter of The Nature Conservancy in 1960, he has served as a board member, board chairman at various times, and as an active emeritus trustee. He was also one of the founding members of the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin in March 2001, Gene is one of only a few members that have been on the board of directors since its inception. Gene's longtime interest in protecting forests and wetlands in Wisconsin as well as his personal concerns with the impacts of invasive plants have made him a valuable board member and tireless advocate for controlling invasive plants to preserve Wisconsin's natural areas.

Gene has been on the Board of the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame since 1990, served as president from 2007 to 2013. He has received recognition of meritorious service from many of these organizations.

The list of organizations in which he has played an important role or which he supports is long and reveals a wide and passionate concern for numerous conservation matters. Further, it is important to note that he has not only supported these organizations through his leadership but also through his activities.

A member since 1992, Gene has been a leader at Natural Heritage Land Trust which serves South Central Wisconsin.

He has been a member of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology since at least the 1950's. He served on the board. He edited their publication, *The Passenger Pigeon* for several years. He joined Dane County Conservation League in the 1950's and has served as a board member, president, chairman of the tree and shrub distribution program. He wrote the group's newsletter for several years. He belongs to the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association (WWOA) and has had an extensive period of activity with Bad Axe chapter of WWOA from its beginning. These are just some examples of his many affiliations with conservation related organizations.

Gene knows people. His experience with the legislative process and personal relationship with legislators and agency administrators has helped provide a voice for many conservation related organizations in the legislature and state agencies. He continues to use his many contacts in the forestry community and in state government to help advocate for public funding and good public policy related to natural resource conservation at statewide conservation meetings and one-on-one with legislators and agency staff.

He has led by example. A conservation easement with the Natural Heritage Land Trust was placed on 20 acres he owned along Lake Wisconsin in Columbia County in 2004 to protect the land and approximately 3500 feet of shoreline from development. The WDNR was especially anxious to preserve

the shoreline, which is probably the largest undisturbed acreage on Lake Wisconsin.

In 1973 Gene and his wife purchased 120 acres of old farmland and woods in northern Richland County with the goal of increasing diversity on this property. The family has planted thousands of trees and maintained the property through timber sales and regular deer hunting by family and friends, planting prairie grasses and native forbs in open areas to recreate presettlement plant communities. Yet the largest and most valuable trees remain.

Gene has dedicated his personal life and public service to the land and its resources by advancing the Conservation Idea. He has played a critical role in connecting various conservation interests from hunting and forestry to natural areas and parks. Wisconsin's natural landscape would look vastly different without Gene's conservation leadership.

Bio information for all inductees prepared in part by a biography provided by Walnut Hollow, Inc., a biography authored by James Hare and Becky Glass, and from information provided by Nancy Pozek (WWOA), Cate Harrington (TNC), Kelly Kearns, (WDNR), and Jim Welsh (NHLT).



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Mark your calendars:

The 31st annual Induction Ceremony will be held
Saturday, May 2, 2015 at Sentry Theater, Stevens Point.

Renew Your Affiliate Membership

If you made a donation last year – you are an Affiliate Member of the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame. Continue your membership by donating again this year.

- Your Affiliate Membership is important!
- Affiliate memberships make up half of our annual budget.

Your membership means that you can take pride in supporting the important educational and recognition program of the Hall of Fame. Think about it - and plan on giving the Hall of Fame your support every year.

Become part of Wisconsin's conservation history by contributing to the **Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Foundation** with your membership.

Help commemorate those who labored in years past to ensure the future of Wisconsin's abundant and diverse natural resources. Keep alive the ideas of those whose foresight preserved our environment.

My tax-deductible donation is enclosed:

- Sponsor (\$25)
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Thank you!

I would like to become a Conservation Hall of Fame Affiliate Member

Name (individual/group) _____

Mailing address _____

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Please enclose check (see membership levels at left) and mail to:
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