



**Wisconsin
Conservation
Hall of Fame**

Spring 2012

Volume 18, Issue 1

New Leaf

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame

www.wchf.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year has brought us the loss of one of our Board Members and one of our Inductees.

Bill Peterson, Board Member for Bill's Musky Club was a charter member of the Hall of Fame Foundation. His support in establishing Board procedures was critical to the development of the Hall of Fame. His acerbic wit and penetrating comments will be sorely missed.

A son of Portage, Wisconsin, influential environmental activist Russell Peterson (no relation to Bill) was inducted in 2007. Peterson's courage and insight were important in molding national environmental policies in the 1970's, which continue to be important today.

You will find more detailed comments on their lives and contributions elsewhere in *New Leaf*.

We will miss the strength and vision of both of these gentlemen. Their commitment and zeal contributed to the foundation which helped to build the Hall of Fame and the Conservation Ideal in the state and in the nation.

Our mission for the Hall of Fame is to take the inspiration which these men, and other individuals recognized in the Hall of Fame, have provided for us, and use it to bring the light of the past to focus on the potentials for the future.

Seeing the past as a way to vision the future is the idea driving an important documentary that has been added to the Hall of Fame. The program describes the rehabilitation of the Horicon Marsh. Developed by Schmeckle Reserve associate Elise Kahl, the program explores not only the Horicon Marsh story from wetland to drained wetland and back to wetland, but also the larger picture of the

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Phil H. Sander



Nils Folke Becker



Richard and Robert Hunt

Phil H. Sander, Nils Folke Becker, Richard and Robert Hunt – Our Newest Inductees Ceremonies set April 21, 2012 in Stevens Point

The Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame this year inducts a researcher, an industrialist and a pair of citizen conservationists who left indelible marks on the environment.

Phil H. Sander, Nils Folke Becker, and Richard and Robert Hunt are this year's inductees.

Sanders earned his living for 47 years as an industrialist, but throughout his working years, his interests ranged from archeology, history, community affairs, and service to youth. He was known as a "citizen conservationist," a leader who worked in other professions but whose passion for conservation motivated him to dedicate much of his life to the cause.

Becker directed his life toward improving the efficiency of paper making and the improvement and perpetuation of the forest resource. To this end he was instrumental in the establishment of Trees for Tomorrow (Trees). During his tenure on the Wisconsin Forestry Advisory Council, he helped shape the forestry program for the remainder of the 20th century.

The Hunt brothers spent their professional careers in wildlife and fisheries management. Together they performed 69 years of extraordinarily productive work with the Wisconsin Conservation Department and its successor the Department of Natural Resources.

The quartet will join 73 other distinguished inductees to the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame in ceremonies at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 21, 2012 at the Sentry Theater in Stevens Point.

Following are biographical sketches of the inductees:

Phil H. Sander 1906 - 2006

Phil H. Sander was born in Kenosha in 1906 and is one from a very short list of environmentalists to survive into his or her 100th year of life. Devotion to natural areas was apparent from his early childhood when he explored the forests and wetlands along the Lake Michigan shoreline. He earned his living for 47 years as an industrialist in Kenosha with the Simmons Company and with American Motors. Throughout his working years, his interests ranged from archeology, history, community affairs, and service to youth. Upon presenting Phil Sander the Honorary Doctorate of Public Service in 1995, Carthage College in Kenosha summarized his accomplishments as "six decades of ardent promotion of conservation and environmental protection."

Sander's noteworthy achievements are

overwhelming. Among the tracts of land that he played a major role in preserving is the Chiwaukee Prairie, in Kenosha County, an area of wetland and adjacent uplands along the Des Plaines River preserved in the Des Plaines Wetlands Conservancy. Also, the repurposed jet fighter base which became

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***Mark your calendars:
The 28th annual Induction
Ceremony will be held
Saturday, April 21, 2012
at Sentry Theater,
Stevens Point.
See you There!***

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- Wisconsin Wildlife Federation**
- Paul Lochner**
Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association



www.wchf.org 715-346-4992
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2012 Inductees (continued from page 1)

the 4,500 acre Bong Recreational Area in the southeast Wisconsin-northeast Illinois area.

Sander worked closely with other renowned environmentalists on a variety of statewide causes. Among them, Conservation Hall of Fame inductees Aldo Leopold, Joseph Hickey, Walter Scott, and Owen Gromme.

His archeological interest led to the discovery and mapping of buried forest along Lake Michigan. His report and maps led others to the discovery of a full-grown northern woolly mammoth.

The sixteen awards listed in his resume range from a Golden Honor Badge from the Boy Scouts of America to the Honorary Doctorate of Public Service from Carthage College. Sander was a "citizen conservationist," a leader who worked in other professions but whose passion for conservation motivated him to dedicate much of his life to the cause.

Nils Folke Becker 1891 - 1961

Folke Becker was born in Sweden in 1891 and was educated in Scandinavia and Germany. His father was a well known paper engineer. He came to the US in 1914, became a citizen in 1919 and called northern Wisconsin his home for the rest of his life. Early on, Becker directed his life toward improving the efficiency of paper making and the improvement and perpetuation of the forest resource. To this end he was instrumental in the establishment of Trees for Tomorrow (Trees) in 1944 where a multitude of students are instilled with the conservation ethic to this day. Becker worked closely with "Mully" Taylor, the long-time director of "Trees", and established the first logger's apprenticeship training Program.

Becker joined the Rhinelander Paper Co. in 1926 as mill superintendent and served as president of the company from 1935 till his retirement in 1954. During his early years with the company he was a proponent of the Forest Crop Law for public funding of forestry and the County Forest program. In the 1950s, Becker pressed the Conservation Department to establish the position of forest entomologist to support reforestation.

After his retirement, Folke Becker was appointed to the Wisconsin Forestry Advisory Council where he served until 1961. During his tenure on this committee, he helped to shape the forestry program for the remainder of

the 20th century. This included the establishment of a center for forestry and watershed research in the Coulee Region. In his obituary, the Rhinelander Daily News stated that "Folke Becker went beyond the expected and helped Wisconsin into a new era, one that saw the reforestation of much of the state and careful management of the resource for many different uses."

Richard and Robert Hunt

Dick Hunt was born in 1926; Bob Hunt in 1933. They grew up in the small town of McFarland on Lake Waubesa, near Madison. The lake, river and associated wetlands, together with their interest in hunting and fishing oriented the Hunt brothers towards their professional careers in wildlife and fisheries management. Both had military experience, both received college degrees at the UW-Madison where they were strongly influenced by the successors of Aldo Leopold. Dick zeroed in on the management of upland game and waterfowl while Bob's zeal was for trout management. Together they performed 69 years of extraordinarily productive work with the Wisconsin Conservation Department and its successor the Department of Natural Resources.

Each is credited with the authorship of a long list of professional publications, and they are the recipients of many awards, nationally and internationally. Dick Hunt's fundamental commitment of wildlife conservation led to the development of one of the finest wetland and waterfowl conservation programs in the country. Bob Hunt's innovative wild trout research continues to have significant impact on fisheries policies not only in Wisconsin, but nationally and internationally. He has served as consultant and trainer to state, national and international agencies and organizations.

The Hunt Brothers contributions have been summarized as follows: "Thanks to Dick's efforts, more than anyone else's, Canada geese, once scarce in Wisconsin, now abound. Thanks to Bob's efforts, more than anyone else's, Wisconsin's wild trout, once diminishing in streams devastated by habitat damage and contaminated with hatchery fish, now thrive. Those improved resources enhance the quality of life for the people of Wisconsin and for the visitors to its fields, marshes and streams."



The Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Foundation cordially invites you to the 28th Annual Hall of Fame Induction honoring

Phil H. Sander, Nils Folke Becker, Richard & Robert Hunt

Saturday, April 21, 2012 – 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 Buffet Luncheon - \$25/person
Call for Reservations 715-346-4992

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

From the President *(continued from page 1)*



Conservation Ideal in Wisconsin and the Nation by reflecting on the lives and contributions of five of our inductees, Louis “Curley” Radke, Pearl Phohl, Paul Husting, Wilhelmina LaBudde and Increase Lapham.

Your support with your Affiliate Membership is important to maintaining the Hall of Fame, and in enhancing its programs. As you read this issue of *New Leaf*, consider increasing your support by moving a step up in your Affiliate Membership.

I look forward to seeing you at the 2012 Induction Ceremony on April 21.

Photo by Jack Bartholmai, Beaver Dam, WI

– Gene Roark, WCHF President



WCHF INDUCTEE RUSSELL PETERSON PASSES

Inducted into the Wisconsin Hall of Fame in 2007, Russell Wilbur Peterson, age 94, passed away on February 21, 2011.

Russell Wilbur Peterson, a research scientist before becoming a champion of environmentalism as governor of Delaware, a White House adviser and president of the National Audubon Society, was born on October 3, 1916 in Portage, Wisconsin. After completing his Ph.D. in chemistry in 1942 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Peterson moved to Delaware to begin work for the DuPont Company. Over his 26 years with DuPont, Peterson rose steadily through the research, manufacturing, and sales ranks.

In 1968, Peterson was elected governor of Delaware. Over the course of his four-year administration, Peterson built a strong record of accomplishments including passage of the Coastal Zone Act of 1971, which bans heavy industrial development from Delaware’s coastline.

Peterson began a career on the national and international scene in 1973, as an advocate for environmental protection and wildlife preservation. He worked with Nelson Rockefeller to establish the National Commission on Critical Choices for Americans. He was then appointed chair of the President’s Council on Environmental Quality under Presidents Nixon and Ford where he served for three years and helped to implement the recently passed National Environmental Policy Act. In 1978, Peterson was appointed head of the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment to advise Congress on the long-term economic, environmental, and social impacts of technological innovations.

Becoming president of the National Audubon Society in 1979, his leadership reflected his philosophy of using citizen action and holistic thinking to help humanity live in harmony with the natural environment. He promoted a science and public policy emphasis, and moved Audubon into such international issues as population growth and energy during his six year tenure.

He served as founding Chairman of the Board of The Global Tomorrow Coalition – an affiliation of 115 organizations concerned with population, resources and environment which held its inaugural meeting on May 21, 1981. He served as a director of Population Action International, the World Wildlife Fund, and the Alliance to Save Energy. He was vice-president of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, president of the International Council for Bird Preservation, and president of the Better World Society. He also served as Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Solar Energy Research Institute of the US Department of Energy.

Peterson also spent terms as a visiting professor at Dartmouth College, Carleton College and the University of Wisconsin-Madison during the late 1980s. During the last two decades he served as a co-chair of the Governor’s Task Force on the Future of the Christina and Brandywine Rivers and then as a board member of the Riverfront Development Corporation. Here Peterson promoted and helped bring to fruition his concept of a revitalized urban shoreline in Wilmington, Delaware which today encompasses the 250-acre Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge.

Russ received many awards during his long career, including 15 honorary doctorates. In 1999, Russ published an autobiography, describing his fascinating life and career. The book, entitled *Rebel with a Conscience*, was published by the University of Delaware Press.

WCHF DIRECTOR BILL PETERSON PASSES

William H. Peterson, representative for Bill’s Musky Club on the WCHF Board of Directors since the Foundation was established passed away on January 25, 2012.

Bill born June 13, 1928, in Chicago, Illinois began college at Central State Teacher’s College, Stevens Point, in 1947, receiving a degree in Conservation in 1951.

In 1953, following his military service, Bill moved back to Wisconsin Rapids, and joined the Wisconsin Conservation Department as a Forest Ranger. The Ranger program was new at that time, and Bill was the second Ranger hired by the state. He was assigned to Portage County, and moved to Stevens Point in 1954. He worked as a Forest Ranger for 33 years, retiring May 16, 1986. For many years, Bill taught Fire School in Tomahawk to new recruits entering into the DNR firefighter line of work. Bill was deputized by the Portage County Sheriff’s Department, and had Warden Credentials. His stories of those times were many and always interesting.

After retirement, Bill was a County Board Supervisor from 1987 to 2010. Bill was also involved with many committees for the County, and served as chairman for the Portage County Parks for a number of years. He was very dedicated to serving the people, and his passion for doing so was evident by all the accolades and recognitions he received over the years. He was instrumental in setting up many land purchases by the State of Wisconsin; the Turtle Flambeau Flowage in Iron County, being one of the many projects that he worked on.

Bill was a member of Bill’s Musky Club, 12 Apostles Musky Club, Isaac Walton League, Elks Club No. 641 and American Legion Post 6.

NEWS RELEASE

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*This news release is also
available on the web at*

www.wchf.org

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The Wisconsin Idea Centennial

2012 marks the 100th anniversary of the “Wisconsin Idea” – an idea that emphasizes a political dimension as well as the university’s service to the State. The Idea was published in two major books of that era. One was titled *The Wisconsin Idea* by author Charles McCarthy, published in March 1912. The other by Frederic C. Howe, *Wisconsin: An Experiment in Democracy*, published a month later.

The Wisconsin Idea’s importance is steeped in the beliefs of the eminent scholars and educators who lived during one of the eras when the Idea was particularly strong. WCHF Inductee former UW President Charles Van Hise is quoted as saying in a 1904 speech, “I shall never be content until the beneficent influence of the University reaches every home in the state.” The Wisconsin Idea helped lead to state funding of the UW Extension system which was set up to serve people across the state, and the development of a state university system to help keep the promise of access and affordability to Wisconsin’s residents. Following the example of Van Hise, the University of Wisconsin system has produced many conservation leaders as well as government officials and Noble Peace Prize winners for

scientific research into the 21st century.

Robert M. (Fighting Bob) La Follette, who served as congressman, governor, and senator between the 1880s and 1920s also propelled the Idea. Through direct primaries, voter recall, civil-service standards, corporate taxation, regulation, and expert policy counsel from university scholars (rather than, say, corporate lobbyists)—a set of reforms together known as the Wisconsin Idea—La Follette sought to deal with what he called “the problems of vast financial power in private hands” on behalf of “the common man—the worker, the farmer.” (<http://chronicle.com/article/The-Wisconsin-Idea/126553/>)

Regardless of its origin, the Wisconsin Idea had the university playing a strong role in helping shape legislation. Theodore Roosevelt, who wrote the foreword for McCarthy’s book, was impressed by the way in which Wisconsin had achieved substantial improvements without resorting to sweeping experiments, declared that “all through the Union we need to learn the Wisconsin lesson of scientific popular self-help, and of patient care in radical legislation.” (<http://scifun.chem.wisc.edu/WisIdea/WisIdea.htm>)

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 and ideas of those who foresight preserved our environment.

My tax-deductible donation is enclosed:

- Sponsor (\$25)
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