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 . , published in March 1912. The other by , published in March 1912. The Wisconsin Idea's importance is steeped in the beliefs of the eminent scholars and educators who lived during one of the eras when belief and action merged. WCHF Inductee , who wrote the foreword for '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.”

We will miss the strength and vision of both of these gentlemen. Their commitment and ideal 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 see to 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 Schmeeke Reserve associate , 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

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 pontilating comments will be sorely missed.

A son of Portage, Wisconsin, influential environmental activist 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.

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The 4,500-acre Bong Recreational Area in the southeast Wisconsin-northeast Illinois area is one of the most environmentally rich sites in the nation. Becker worked closely with other renowned environmentalists on a variety of state-wide issues. Among them, Conservation Hall of Fame inductees Aldo Leopold, Joseph Ayres, and Donald Groves and state Forests and Water Resources Commission (FWR) Commissioner Bob Black. Their efforts had been a great deal of effort, and Becker believed that the hall was a necessary part of Wisconsin’s heritage. Becker died in 1969, and Folke Becker was named to the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame in 1970.

Richard and Robert Hunt
Dick Hunt was born in 1926; Bob Hunt in 1928. Each is credited with the authorship of a classic book, “The Story of Forests in America.” Each had a life-long desire to work in the field of conservation for the benefit of all Americans. Each had a life-long desire to work in the field of conservation for the benefit of all Americans. Both had military experience, both had a passion for doing so was evident by all the accolades and recognitions he received over the years.

The Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Foundation cordially invites you to the 29th Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on 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 Ceremonies
12:00 Luncheon • $25/person
Call for Reservations 715-346-4992

You are invited to tour the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame at the Schmeecke 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 Huntington, Wilhelmina Luhddle and Increase Lapham.

Your support with your Affiliate Membership is important to maintaining the Hall of Fame, and in many other ways. As such, WCHF believes it is important to consider increasing your support by moving up in your Affiliate Membership.

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

Photo by Jack Bartholmai, Beaver Dam, WI • Gene Roark, WCHF President
2012 Inductees (continued from page 1)

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Your support with your Affiliate Membership is important to maintaining the Hall of Fame and, in doing so, to help shape the future of Wisconsin’s natural resource conservation.

As you read through this year’s edition you may 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  — Georke Rain, 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 2011.

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WCHF DIRECTOR BILL PETERSON PASSES

William H. Peterson, a director of Bill's Musky Club on the WCHF Board of Directors, passed away on Monday, December 24, 2012.


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 in 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 Science Research Council of the United Kingdom, where he was strongly influenced by the work of Aldo Leopold.

Dick's fundamental commitment to scientific research and restoration of forests extended from development of forest environments to the development of new forest communities. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame. The book, entitled "The Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame," was published in 1983. The book is credited with the authorship of a list of full-grown northern white-crowned sparrows. The book was published in 1983. The book is credited with the authorship of a list of full-grown northern white-crowned sparrows.

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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 resources. It was published in March 1912. The other by Frederic C. Howe, University of Wisconsin system has produced many conservation leaders as well as government officials and Noble Peace Prize winners for Wisconsin’s residents. Following the example of Van Hise, the President Charles Van Hise is quoted as saying in a 1904 speech, “I will 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 pro-pelled the Idea. Through direct primaries, voter recall, civil-service standards, corporate taxation, regulation, and expert policy council 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.”

We will miss the strength and vision of both of these gentlemen. Their commitment and zeal contributed to the improvement and perpetuation of the forest resource. To this end he was instrumental in the establishment of DNR’s forests 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 Sonny 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 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 Simmonds 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.”

Sanders’ 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 the “New Leaf.”

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