



**Wisconsin
Conservation
Hall of Fame**

Spring 2013

Volume 19, Issue 1

New Leaf

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame

www.wchf.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are fortunate to be able to once again have a slate of inductees that represents a wide spectrum of accomplishments. Each represents the very highest level of achievement in their professions, and the all have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of the Conservation Ideal in the State and in the Nation.

Much more reflective minds than mine have observed that Wisconsin is a breeding ground of conservationists. It isn't my place here to speculate why, but only to comment on the bewildering difficulty of choosing which individuals to recognize out of the huge field of highly qualified people who have been nominated for consideration. We owe a debt of gratitude to the Board of Governors who nominate a slate for consideration, and to the Board of Directors who make the final selection from that slate each year.

We lost another visionary late last year with the passing of Don Engleson, a long-time member of our Board of Governors, and a tireless worker in expanding and perfecting the field of Environmental Education. His energy and dedication served as an inspiration to his colleagues throughout his life, and his legacy promises a richer educational experience for all of us as we continue to learn to live with and in the world around us.

As we think about visionaries, it is not out of line to remind ourselves that our induction ceremony on the Saturday closest to April 22 each year is the Hall of Fame's own annual recognition of Earth Day. Founded under the leadership of Inductee Gaylord Nelson, Earth Day mobilized public concerns about pollution and environmental deterioration in the 70's. The movement brought political pressure to bear that resulted in legislation like the National Environmental Protection Act, and the Clean Water Act.

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Nina Bradley



John Curtis



David Engleson

Nina Bradley, John Curtis, David Engleson - Our Newest Inductees -

Ceremonies set April 20, 2013 in Stevens Point

The Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame inducts two researchers and an environmental educator who left indelible marks on the environment this year.

Nina Bradley, John Curtis and Dave Engleson are this year's inductees.

Nina Leopold Bradley, a lifelong naturalist and researcher, promoted the conservation philosophy of her father Aldo Leopold, and spent the last three decades of her life writing and lecturing about his land ethic while actively continuing his phenological research. She was central in envisioning the Aldo Leopold Legacy Center that opened in 2007. Nina served on the Board of the Aldo Leopold Foundation until her death in 2011.

John Thomas Curtis is arguably best known for his seminal book, *The Vegetation of Wisconsin: An Ordination of Plant Communities* (1959). This book assembled a remarkably complete picture of the state's plant communities and their relation to environmental variables. He became famous for the "continuum" concept of ecological gradients and which led to the recognition of the "tension zone" where climate, soil, and fire have created a dynamic transition.

David C. Engleson was appointed as the first Science and Conservation/Environmental Education Consultant for the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) in 1967. His most significant achievements involved bringing people together to harness diverse talents, and build coalitions for environmental education and conservation. Engleson is known by professionals in the field as "the father of environmental education in Wisconsin."

The trio will join 77 other inductees to the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame in ceremonies at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 20, at the Sentry Theater in Stevens Point. The public is invited.

Nina Leopold Bradley (1917-2011)

Born in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1917, Nina was the third of five children borne to Wisconsin Hall of Fame inductee Aldo Leopold and his wife Estella. Beginning in 1935, Nina spent many happy weekends with her family at the Leopold shack near Baraboo, participating in her father's restoration project along the Wisconsin River. A lifelong naturalist and researcher, she promoted the conservation philosophy of her father Aldo Leopold, and spent the last three decades of her life writing and lecturing about his land ethic while actively continuing his phenological research.

Nina graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and worked with her first husband, William Elder, in wildlife research in Wisconsin, Hawaii, and Botswana. She returned to Wisconsin in 1976 with her sec-

ond husband Charles Bradley and directed research on the Leopold Memorial Reserve. She was senior author of a 1999 study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences that analyzed phenological records begun by Aldo. Continued by her and Charles, this study demonstrated cli-

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Mark your calendars:

The 29th annual Induction Ceremony will be held Saturday, April 20, 2013 at Sentry Theater, Stevens Point. See you There!

Board of Directors representing member organizations

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Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association



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2013 Inductees (continued from page 1)

mate change was having a measurable impact on local ecosystems.

Nina and Charles initiated the Leopold Fellows program that enabled many graduate students to gather research data for their Masters and PhD theses. They built their home on the Reserve where they met with conservation scholars from around the world and gave inspirational lectures based on her father's insight. She was central in envisioning the Aldo Leopold Legacy Center that opened in 2007. The Center serves as the base of ongoing educational programs, a center for Leopold scholars, and the headquarters for the Foundation. She served on the Board until her death in 2011.

For over 30 years, Nina was the central promoter and spokesperson for the conservation philosophy and wisdom of her father. More than anyone else, it was Nina who was asked to speak on the Leopold Legacy at meetings and banquets. It was through Nina, in no small way, that the work and contributions of Aldo Leopold became more widely recognized and appreciated. The power and wisdom of Leopold's words need no interpretation, but as one who witnessed and participated in the birthing of Sand County Almanac, Nina could speak of that wisdom with great passion, insight, and understanding. Through her words, she would inspire countless others. Through Nina Leopold Bradley, Aldo Leopold's work has been continued and greatly expanded.

John Thomas Curtis (1913-1961)

John Curtis was born in Waukesha, Wisconsin in 1913. He received an A.B. from Carroll College in 1934 and a Ph.D in botany from the UW-Madison in 1937. He remained on the faculty at UW-Madison for his entire career. He was recognized as a Guggenheim Fellow in 1942 and in 1951. He was interested in the preservation of natural ecosystems, and was chairman of the Wisconsin State Board for Preservation of Scientific Areas, precursor to the state Natural Areas Commission, from 1952-1955. Wisconsin now has over 300 state natural areas.

John Curtis is arguably best known for his seminal book, *The Vegetation of Wisconsin: An Ordination of Plant Communities* (1959). This book assembled a remarkably complete picture of the state's plant communities and their relation to environmental variables. In addition to detailed descriptions and interpretations of the natural communities of Wisconsin, this book presents convincing support for the idea that plant species respond in separate and continuous ways to underlying gradients in environmental conditions. Curtis became famous for this "continuum" concept of ecological gradients. His work also established the nature of the prairie-forest border and the recognition of the "tension zone" where climate, soil, and fire have created a dynamic transition.

At UW-Madison Curtis was instrumental in the development of the Arboretum that was begun by Aldo Leopold. Building on the goal of restoring representative natural communities, he championed the concept of community restoration rather than collections of species as is more typical of arboretums. Curtis did much to shift the focus of ecological research from species (autecology) to communities (synecology). The sub-discipline of restoration ecology has largely grown from Curtis' early work on community ecology. Among his specific contributions, his research on prescribed fire as a tool

to restore prairie is now widely employed in ecological management.

Through his analysis, John Curtis elucidated the ecology of Wisconsin. Because of this work, more is known about Wisconsin's ecology than any other state. In doing so, he developed and promoted community ecology and many of the methods for investigating natural communities that remain in use. Curtis' work had a profound influence on the science of Ecology, and on the management and protection of natural areas in Wisconsin.

David C. Engleson (1928 - 2012)

David Engleson was born in Beloit, Wisconsin in 1928. He graduated from UW-Madison in 1954 with a B.S. degree in Natural Science in the School of Education. While teaching science in southern Wisconsin he completed an M.S. degree from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He took additional science courses from Purdue University, U of Minnesota, Michigan Tech at Houghton, and Wayne State in Detroit.

In 1967, based on his exemplary work as a science teacher/coordinator and his leadership in the Wisconsin Council for Conservation Education, Engleson was appointed as the first Science and Conservation/Environmental Education Consultant for the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), a position he held until his retirement in 1991.

His most significant achievements as the DPI Consultant for environmental education involved bringing people together to harness diverse talents, and build coalitions for environmental education and conservation. For over 30 years he promoted environmental education statewide, nationally and globally.

Engleson served as the first Executive Director of the Wisconsin Environmental Education Council and helped produce the 1974 Wisconsin State Plan for Environmental Education. Over the next 40 years, he and his environmental education colleagues, worked hard to implement, with remarkable success, the basic tenets of this plan in an effort to ensure that the environment education advances he championed during his career would continue into the next century.

As Environmental Education Consultant for DPI for nearly three decades, Engleson helped shape the policies of three Wisconsin governors, state legislature, state agencies, and local school boards. He worked within DPI to bring environmental education to every school district, teacher, and child in the state through his efforts to update Administrative Rules for teacher training and certification. Through the development of in-service teacher workshops he wrote the book *Department of Education Guide to Curriculum Planning in Environmental Education*. Engleson is known by professionals in the field as "the father of environmental education in Wisconsin." His influence on environmental conservation has extended internationally.

The biographies for the 2013 inductees were developed from work by Wisconsin Hall of Fame Director Milo Harpstead and biographers Alan Haney, Donald Waller, and Joseph Pasineau.

From the President *(continued from page 1)*

As the decades have passed, the passion and vision of the Earth Day movement has become international. Global conferences and activities as well as national efforts are raising international awareness beyond pollution to recycling, clean energy, climate change, and the many other concerns involved with achieving and maintaining a healthy global environment.

Because the Hall of Fame exists to honor people for what they have done, it may seem like we are looking too much to the past. Our annual recognition of achievement in conservation, however, does not look to the past as much as it recognizes the achievements as a way of providing a clear vision of the needs and possibilities of the future. Maintaining a connection with Earth Day helps us keep on track.

As you will see elsewhere in New Leaf, the Hall of Fame Foundation has been the fortunate recipient of a significant gift from the Estate of Richard Marrs. Gifts like this are very much appreciated. We will think of it as "seed money" for future development.

Your Affiliate Membership, is important to our continued good health. The Board of Directors appreciates your interest in the Hall of Fame, and we welcome your further support. I look forward to seeing you on April 20.

WCHF Governor Dave Engleson Passes

David Engleson passed away, at the age of 84, peacefully on Friday, August 10, 2011.

Dave was born on May 9, 1928, to Albert and Lucille Engleson. After graduating from Beloit High School in 1946, he served in the U.S. Navy. In 1950, he married Marguerite (Peg) Resler. The couple had four children, Richard, Catherine (Sean), Christine and Michael (Kari).

Dave Engleson, as a member of the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame (WCHF) Board of Governors for many years, brought his impressive knowledge of "Who's Who in Conservation and Wisconsin" to help us induct great conservation leaders into the WCHF. The Board of Governors serves as an independent panel of scholars/historians which recommends nominees for induction to the WCHF Board, which is composed of representatives of the member organizations.

As an Environmental Education Consultant for the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) for nearly three decades, he helped shape the policies of three governors, state legislature, state agencies, and local school boards. With his warm, gentle, engaging and enthusiastic personality, Engleson had a remarkable ability to bring people together, harness diverse talents, and build coalitions of

support for environmental education and conservation.

With persistence and dedication, he perfected his "Can Do" philosophy by using the committee approach, organizing conferences, developing plans, creating and leading organizations, developing teacher training programs, drafting and lobbying for legislation, writing and editing newsletters, books, and journals articles, and promoting environmental education statewide, nationally and globally.

He led and promoted the causes of many environmental education organizations including Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education (WAEE), Correctional Education Association (CEA), and North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) and contributed greatly to such Wisconsin conservation organizations as the Ice Age Trail Foundation, Nature Conservancy, and Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame. David also served on the Sierra Club Advisory Council of the Sigurd Olson Institute in Ashland.

It is, however, as a lifetime educator that he has had his greatest impact. For nearly 40 years, he touched the lives of thousands of students, teachers, and aspiring environmental educators, and his influence on environmental conservation extended internationally.

WCHF RECEIVES GENEROUS GIFT

The Hall of Fame Foundation expresses its grateful appreciation to the estate of Richard D. Marrs for its generous gift of support. His name has been added to the honor roll of donors in the Hall of Fame gallery.

The Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Foundation cordially invites you to the 29th Annual Hall of Fame Induction honoring

Nina Bradley, John Curtis, and David Engleson

Saturday, April 20, 2013 – 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.

NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE CONTACT:**

**Earl Spangenberg
PHONE: 715/341-4127**

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

www.wchf.org

*For digital photos, contact:
Donna VanBuecken at
wchfresource@newbc.rr.com*



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Every Day is Earth Day

In retrospect, the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970, marks the beginning of the modern environmental movement in the United States. It was the precursor of the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts. In 1990, Earth Day went global, making people worldwide realize that we all have to work at protecting our environment.

It is hard to imagine that at one time it was acceptable for a chemical company to dispose of toxic chemicals at Love Canal, chemicals that eventually leached into homes, a school and a park. Or that at one time Lake Erie was dying and that the other Great Lakes were threatened by pollution from the steel plants, oil refineries, paper mills, and city sewage plants, which for the previous hundred years had been dumping into the world's largest fresh water system. Or that it was thought perfectly safe for homeowners to pour toxic chemicals on their lawns and yards and then let their kids and pets play in them.

Earth Day came about at a time when people were becoming more aware of environmental concerns. Individuals came together and made a difference for the environment. At that time Lorrie Otto was instrumental in the banning of DDT, first in Wisconsin in 1969 and in the nation in 1972. Then, in 1977, nine people in Milwaukee, Wisconsin attended a natural landscaping workshop led by Lorrie Otto. Lorrie was intent upon "healing the Earth one yard at a time" from the damage caused by DDT. These nine people created Wild Ones Natural Landscapers, and based on Lorrie's philosophy, began teaching others about using native plants and natural landscaping.... Lorrie was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1999.

Today, we can do our part to not only celebrate Earth Day, but to make every day Earth Day. – Tim Lewis, President Wild Ones Natural Landscapers Ltd

Reprinted from Vol 26, No 2 *Wild Ones Journal*.
www.wildones.org

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:

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

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