This time ‘round I’d like to discuss two things with you. First – this year’s induction ceremony; then – the idea of “Affiliate Membership”

The Induction Ceremony this year will be April 21st at the Sentry Theater in Stevens Point. We are going to recognize three people with diverse backgrounds to exemplify the variety of individual talents and interests that have combined to strengthen and extend the conservation ideal in the state and in the nation.

Russell W. Peterson, Guido Rahr, Sr., and Henry Reuss stand as different strands working together to form part of a strong rope supporting the idea of conservation. Russell Peterson’s career in public service is the type of activity that supported and enhanced the contributions of private philanthropists like Guido Rahr, Sr., while the vision and legislative perspicacity of Henry Reuss showed the way to opening doors to help public servants and private activists bring about important results in the conservation area. Each of these people brought a unique contribution to the development and growth of the conservation ideal, and, while they certainly didn’t work in the same area, their individual efforts, taken together have made a better environment.

The same observation is true of all of the inductees in the Hall of Fame. They have all been different, have all worked in different arenas, and have brought different tools to the job, but together, the patchwork of ideas and ideals has formed a fabric which over the long run will make the environment we leave behind, somehow healthier than the one into which we entered.

It is the goal of the Hall of Fame Foundation that we help people understand what others have done, in order to know what they can do to help forward the conservation ideal.

Now – “Affiliate Members” - The Hall of Fame Foundation is an organization of organizations. The member organizations are listed elsewhere in this newsletter. However, from the beginning we encouraged individual donations from persons who wanted to support the organization.

As of last year, we have recognized donors as Affiliate Members. Nothing has changed for the foundation president

Earl Spangenberg

Russell W. Peterson, Guido Rahr, Sr., and Henry Reuss – Our Newest Inductees

Ceremonies set April 21, 2007 in Stevens Point

Russell W. Peterson, Guido Rahr, Sr and Henry Reuss are the 2007 inductees into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame.

The trio will join 57 other distinguished inductees to the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame in ceremonies at 10AM Saturday, April 21, 2007 at the Sentry Theater in Stevens Point.

Born in Portage, Peterson graduated with a PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1942. Having moved to Delaware, he became its governor in 1969. From there he moved into national politics playing very large roles in developing our national environmental policy.

Rahr was the philanthropist of the group. Graduating from Yale University, he joined the family business and played prominent roles in the success of the Rahr Malting Co in Manitowoc. He was appointed to the State Conservation Commission in 1951 and established the Rahr Foundations in the 1950s.

Born in 1912, Reuss received his law degree from Harvard in 1936 and became Wisconsin’s 5th Congressional District U.S. Representative in 1954. He was known in Congress for his grasp of economics and international finance, and gained prominence for his involvement in sponsoring legislation such as the United States Peace Corps, and numerous environmental conservation issues such as the National Scenic Trail.

“Russell W. Peterson, Guido Rahr, Sr and Henry Reuss stand as different strands working together to form part of a strong rope supporting the idea of conservation and we are pleased to be able to honor them,” said Earl Spangenberg, president of the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Board of Directors. “Their conservation work spans more than half a century and is still present today. All of our past inductees would certainly be proud of their accomplishments.”

Russell Wilber Peterson, having earned a doctorate in chemistry, took a position with the DuPont chemical company. For over 26 years Peterson held prominent jobs in research, manufacturing and sales, and finally in corporate management, becoming an executive.

As governor of Delaware, one of his major accomplishments was to lead the effort to adopt a Coastal Zone Act. This sweeping legislation prohibited all new development of heavy industry in a two-mile wide, 115-mile-long zone that covered the shores of Delaware Bay, the Atlantic coast and bays on the leeward side of Delaware’s barrier islands in the south.

From 1973 to 1976 Peterson served as chair of the President’s Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) he was instrumental in assuring that the Environmental Impact Statement process was implemented, fending off efforts in the Nixon and Ford administrations to prevent implementation of the process. In 1974 Peterson, as chair of CEQ, organized and co-chaired a federal task force to study the claim that chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) used in aerosol sprays and as refrigerants were a threat to the ozone

Mark your calendars:
The 24th annual Induction Ceremony will be held Saturday, April 21, 2007 at Sentry Theater, Stevens Point. See you There!
President’s ponderings (continued from page 1)

donors – their support and benefits remain the same. The change is aimed at strengthening the ties between the Foundation and our individual supporters. The Board of Directors is working toward giving Affiliate Members a “place at the table” so to speak, and at the next meeting in November the Board will consider a formula for Affiliate Member participation in Board deliberations.

If you have some ideas that can help in the Board deliberations, please let us know. We look forward to hearing from you, and we look forward to seeing you at the Induction on April 21st.

2007 Inductees (continued from page 1)

layer. When the task force’s report was issued, Peterson called for regulations outlawing the use of CFCs in aerosol sprays and for research to find substitutes for use in refrigerants. Twelve months later, the world community adopted a timetable for phasing out production of CFCs.

His work at CEQ was lauded by many, including former Staff Director Steven Jellinek, who said: “...your courage, your eloquence and your determination to keep the big picture in view provided both inspiration and motivation to the broader environmental community across the nation.”

As president of the National Audubon Society from 1979 to 1985, Peterson led efforts to expand Audubon’s scientific and educational capabilities. He strengthened the group’s work on influencing environmental decisions and broadened its wildlife protection program.

As chairman of the Center on the Long-Term Biological Consequences of Nuclear War, Peterson worked with Carl Sagan, Paul Ehrlich and Peter Raven to recruit prominent scientists around the world to inform world leaders and the public about the environmental threat of nuclear weapons.

Peterson was also president of the International Council for Bird Preservation, and has served as a principal officer in three international environmental organizations and as an ongoing participant in numerous activities of the United Nations.

The League of Conservation Voters gave Peterson its Lifetime Achievement Award in 1995 and said this of him: “Ever the scientist and always the humanitarian, you have woven these twin passions into a lifetime of dedication to protecting this earth. Whatever the job, whatever the administration, you have put the environment ahead of politics, supporting pro-environmentalists wherever you have found them.”

The National Wildlife Federation gave Peterson its Conservationist of the Year Award in 1994. The Federation’s president and chief executive officer, Jay Hair, saluted Peterson’s “remarkable, unstinting, courageous and insightful contribution to environmental protection around the world.”

The Wilderness Society bestowed its highest honor, The Robert Marshall Award, on Peterson in 1984. The group said of Peterson: “Renaissance man – scientist, scholar, statesman, educator, public servant, author, esteemed colleague: yours has been an extraordinary and profound contribution towards protecting and enhancing the environment of our nation and our world, following in your own words, a ‘one world’ vision – so essential to the preservation of this fragile planet.”

Former President Jimmy Carter reflected on Peterson’s career in a speech at the University of Delaware in 1993: “Every time something wonderful has happened when I was president and since then in the field of environmental quality in this country or on a global basis, Russ Peterson has been intimately involved in it.”
The Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Foundation was established to encourage the growth and practice of a conservation ethic as a legacy for the people of the state. The Foundation is a non-profit organization composed of 24 Wisconsin conservation-related organizations.

A number of progressive steps toward the conservation of natural resources have originated in Wisconsin through the continuing efforts of leaders in the conservation field. The Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame has been established to permanently recognize these individuals, in order to encourage citizens to involve themselves in efforts to manage resources effectively, and to encourage continued education about conservation issues.

Since it was founded in 1985, the Hall of Fame has recognized fifty-seven conservation leaders in many fields, and has provided consolidated information at a central reference site.

The Hall of Fame supports a museum display and recognition gallery at the Visitor Center in the Schmeeckle Reserve in Stevens Point. We maintain a web site (http://www.wchf.org) where biographical information about the inductees and their contributions is available. Each year, we recognize one or more native or adopted Wisconsinites for their contributions to the conservation ideal. The recognition takes place at an Induction Ceremony where tributes are given to the individuals, and where a plaque and legislative recognition are unveiled. The plaques go on permanent display in the recognition gallery of the Hall of Fame.

The annual payment from member organizations to the membership dues, rather than a donation. The Hall of Fame does solicit donations from interested individuals, but the business of the organization is run by the Board of Directors, composed of representatives of the member organizations.

Reuss wrote legislation to create a federal reserve of the Ice Age Trail area. The bill became law in 1964. In 1980, Congress designated the trail a National Scenic Trail, on a par with the Appalachian Trail and other National Scenic Trails. Reuss served on the trail foundation board and wrote a booklet about it, called "On the Trail of the Ice Age.

Reuss was interested in sustainable city life. He founded the City-based Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame. In particular:

- Support for the annual recognition ceremony (including the gallery plaques)
- Commission biographies of candidates for nomination for induction
- Maintain the web site
- Pay for production and mailing of news releases, invitations, and an annual newsletter to members
- Pay the necessary incorporation fees to the state each year

Each member organization is represented on the Board of Directors of the Foundation. Individual members of a member organization are eligible to receive the annual newsletter. Those interested in receiving a newsletter should contact their Board member to have their names added to the newsletter mailing list.
Wisconsin Conservation
Hall of Fame Foundation
Schmeeckle Reserve-UW-SP
Stevens Point, WI 54481

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Member Organization Profiles

Wild Ones Natural Landscapers Ltd (Wild Ones) Wild Ones is a national not-for-profit organization with a mission to educate and share information with members and community, and to promote environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities. They serve as a resource for private individuals, schools, commercial property owners, and community decision makers as they move toward ethical choices in land use and in the redefinition of current guidelines and ordinances affecting our landscape. The Fox Valley Area Chapter which takes in the Outagamie, Winnebago and surrounding counties area serves as their representative to the Hall of Fame.

They are delighted to be able to announce that Wild Ones national will soon have a permanent facility located on the west shore of Little Lake Butte des Morts. A capital campaign is currently on-going and they hope to be moved into the Wild Ones EcoCenter by summer 2007. For more information about this project go to http://www.for-wild.org/chapters/Watsnew/index.html#061025

Wisconsin Outdoor Communicators Association (WOCA) WOCA is a non-profit group whose members are freelance writers, photographers, newspaper and magazine staffs, publishers, editors and radio and television reporters, public speakers, and outdoor staff and hosts. WOCA’s objectives are: to provide a forum for the exchange of information and ideas among its members; to stimulate improvements in the craft of outdoor writing; to promote wise use of the environment; and to foster natural resources education. WOCA normally holds one meeting a year. WOCA also publishes a newsletter, The WOCA Record.

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.

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

Name (individual/group) ______________________________________________________

Mailing address ____________________________________________________________

E-mail ____________________________________________________________________

My tax-deductible donation is enclosed:

☐ Sponsor ($25)
☐ Supporting ($50)
☐ Sustaining ($100)
☐ Patron ($500)
☐ Benefactor ($1,000 or more)

Thank you!

Please enclose check (see membership levels at left) and mail to:
Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Foundation Inc.
Schmeeckle Reserve - UW-SP
Stevens Point, WI 54481