



**Wisconsin  
Conservation  
Hall of Fame**

Winter/Spring 2006

Volume 13, Issue 1

# New Leaf

*Semiannual newsletter of the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame*

## **PONDERINGS from your foundation president**

We have a fine slate of inductees for 2006. The biographies elsewhere in this issue will give you an idea of the quality and diversity of the experience of the people we'll be recognizing.

Last year was a year of change for the Hall of Fame.

Bill Horvath, our Executive Secretary resigned. He has been the heart of operations for the Hall of Fame

since the beginning, and it will be difficult to fill his shoes. The Board has stepped in, and we will soldier on as best we can.

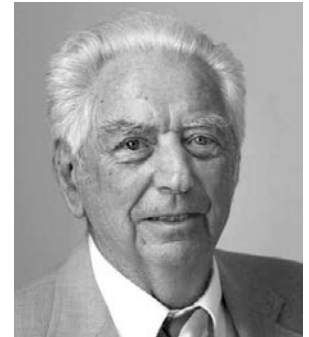
We marked another more sad change with the death late last year of Bill Murphy. Bill was a founding officer of the Hall of Fame Board. He played an important role in the growth and development of the Hall of Fame. His insights, historical memory and acerbic wit will be missed at the Board of Directors meetings.

Looking forward, the 2006 induction is shaping up to be an exciting event. We have some fine speakers lined up to present testi-

*(Continued on page 2)*



Earl Spangenberg



The 2006 inductees into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame are (from left) George Archibald, Wakelin "Ranger Mac" McNeel and Daniel Trainer.

## **Archibald, McNeel, Trainer are stellar inductees**

**Ceremonies set April 22, 2006 in Stevens Point**

George Archibald, Wakelin "Ranger Mac" McNeel and Daniel Trainer are the 2006 inductees into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame.

The trio will join 54 other distinguished inductees to the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame in ceremonies at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 22, 2006, at the Sentry Theater in Stevens Point.

Archibald, 59, is a co-founder and chairman of the board of the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo. His efforts to save rare crane populations have taken him around the world and earned him recognition as Wisconsin's international conservation ambassador.

McNeel, a native of the Wisconsin Dells area, was best known for his conservation education radio program "Afield With Ranger Mac," which was broadcast to Wisconsin school

children on the Wisconsin Public Radio Network from 1933-54. The program reached an estimated 700,000 young listeners over that period and earned a Peabody Award in 1942 for the outstanding educational program in the U.S.

Trainer, 79, Stevens Point, has been active on a variety of conservation fronts. He served as dean of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point College of Resources from 1971-87, a period that saw the college grow to become the largest undergrad-

*(Continued on page 3)*

**Mark your calendars:  
The 23rd annual Induction  
Ceremony will be held  
Saturday, April 22, 2006  
at Sentry Theater,  
Stevens Point.  
See you There!**

## Board of Directors representing member organizations

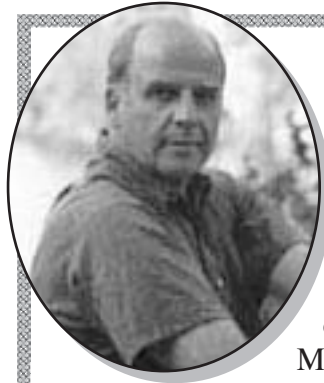
- Earl Spangenberg** (President)  
American Water Resources Association
- Eugene M. Roark** (Vice-President)  
Dane County Conservation League
- Bill Buckley** (Secretary)  
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation  
(Represented by Laura Huber)
- Peter Muto** (Treasurer)  
The Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter
- Joseph Passineau** (Exec. Comm. at Large)  
Wisconsin Association for  
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- Mark Randall** (Exec. Comm. at Large)  
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- Milo Harpstead**  
Soil and Water Conservation Society –  
Wisconsin Chapter
- Don Gilbert**  
The Musky Club Alliance
- Peter J. Oberhauser**  
The Nature Conservancy – Wisconsin  
Chapter
- Alan Haney**  
Wisconsin Audubon Society
- Don Goers**  
Wisconsin Bow Hunters Association
- Tom Muench**  
Wisconsin Outdoor  
Communicators Association
- Paul Lochner**  
Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association
- Roy Kubisiak**  
Wisconsin Conservation Wardens  
Association
- Dan O'Connell, Plan. & Zoning**  
Wisconsin Association of  
Land Conservation Employees
- James C. Cahill**  
Wisconsin Conservation Congress
- Tom Rudolph**  
Wisconsin Land and  
Water Conservation Association



## President's ponderings *(continued from page 1)*

monials. We hope to see a large audience gathered to honor our inductees in person. Once again, we will be following the induction ceremony with a buffet luncheon. Formal announcements and invitations will come out soon.

We hope you will join us on Earth Day, April 22 to honor our 2006 inductees. If you can't be with us, please join us in thought.



## *Gaylord Nelson* 1916-2005

Former Senator from Wisconsin, Gaylord Nelson, died July 3, 2005, at age 89. Always a staunch advocate for the environment, in 1965, following the tremendous effort Lorrie Otto and numerous other Midwestern citizens made to gather evidence against the use of DDT, Nelson introduced the first legislation to ban DDT (dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane) in the United States. In 1969 Senator Nelson became the political impetus behind a growing notion of Earth Day. His energy prompted 20 million people to participate in the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970. Twenty-five years later, Nelson received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, for that and his lifelong work on behalf of the environment. President Bill Clinton's proclamation read: "As the father of Earth Day, he is grandfather of all that grew out of that event: the Environmental Protection Act, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act. "

During his tenure, he authored laws that protected America's finest wild and scenic rivers, sponsored legislation to preserve the 2,000 mile Appalachian Trail in the eastern United States and the National Trail Systems Act which became law in 1968. He wrote the bill that banned the use of phosphates in laundry detergents. He authored or co-authored new, stronger federal laws on air and water pollution and toxic substances in the 1960s and 1970s. He wrote the bill that created the Environmental Education Act, assuring that generations of children in America would learn the importance of protecting the environment.

During his lifetime, Nelson was also presented with the United Nations Environment Programme's Only One World Award (1992), and he received the Ansel Adams Conservation Award (1990), which is bestowed upon a federal official who has shown exceptional commitment to the cause of conservation and the fostering of an American land ethic. With his death, environmentalists have lost a great champion.

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*Inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame in 1986, Go to <http://www.wchf.org/bio/Nelson.html> for more information about Gaylord Nelson.*

## 2006 Inductees *(continued from page 1)*

uate natural resources program in the U.S.

“This is truly one of the finest set of inductees we’ve ever been privileged to honor,” said Earl Spangenberg, president of the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Board of Directors. “Their conservation work spans more than half a century and continues to this day. The first two inductees to the Hall of Fame – Aldo Leopold and John Muir – would certainly be proud of the accomplishments of these three men.”

Archibald, a native of New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, Canada, co-founded the ICF in 1973 as the world center for the study and preservation of cranes. He and Ron Sauey, a colleague from Cornell University, started the foundation in a horse barn owned by Sauey’s parents. The center has since moved to sprawling grounds just outside of Baraboo. The ICF’s scope of activities includes work in 45 different countries. Its research center annually hosts crane researchers from around the world. Archibald has traveled extensively on behalf of cranes and conservation, often to hotspots of international tension. “In international affairs, it’s important to focus on matters of mutual interest, rather than conflict. Cranes are really good ambassadors for habitat and international good will,” Archibald said.

People from all walks of life recognize Archibald as the man who danced with a crane. He successfully bred, through the use of artificial insemination, a human imprinted whooping crane named Tex by imitating the courtship dancing and behavior of a male crane. The “offspring” was the

celebrated whooping crane named Gee Whiz, which produced seven offspring of the extremely rare cranes of his own.

McNeel, who was a forester and educator, is credited with revolutionizing conservation education in Wisconsin. “Afield With Ranger Mac” was broadcast weekly to K-12 school children. McNeel frequently drew from his own memories of exploring nature as a child to weave lyrical tales with conservation education messages. He is also credited with helping to establish Camp Upham Woods environmental education camp near Wisconsin Dells. He died in 1958.

Trainer is the son of a game warden and a native of Princeton. He earned a reputation as an international expert on animal diseases while serving on the veterinary faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He went on to UW-Stevens Point in 1971. In his time as dean, the College of Natural Resources grew from about 500 students to 1,600. “In many ways, my impact on the environment was through the students. We prepared them to go out and work on the front lines,” he said.

Trainer was also a member of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board from 1980-86. While on the board, he was especially interested in land purchases for preservation. He was a founder of Intra-State Recycling, a pioneering volunteer recycling group in Portage County. He was also a member of the founding committee for the 24-mile Green Circle Trail in the Stevens Point area and helped to found the Plover River Alliance.

Tributes to the inductees will be given at 10 a.m. at Sentry Theater,

located at the Sentry Insurance Headquarters, 1800 North Point Drive. A 9 a.m. coffee will precede the program. A luncheon at noon in The Restaurant of Sentry Insurance Headquarters concludes the day’s activities. Luncheon reservations cost \$10 and can be made by calling 715-346-4992, the telephone number for the Schmeckle Reserve Visitors Center, where the Conservation Hall of Fame is located.

The new inductees bring to 57 the number of people memorialized in the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame. Located at Schmeckle Reserve in Stevens Point, it includes interactive displays and information on Wisconsin’s conservation history and conservation leaders. Its purpose is to educate and inspire people with information about how resource conservation has shaped our environment and our lives. The surrounding nature reserve has extensive walking trails and is a link in the Stevens Point area’s 25-mile Green Circle Trail. More information on Wisconsin’s Conservation Hall of Fame is on the Web at [www.wchf.org](http://www.wchf.org).

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE CONTACT:**

***Earl Spangenberg***  
**PHONE: 715/341-5127**

*This press release also  
available on the web at  
[www.wchf.org](http://www.wchf.org)*

*For digital photos, contact:  
Donna VanBuecken at  
[dvbaccentnl@new.rr.com](mailto:dvbaccentnl@new.rr.com)*



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## ***— Take a look at our new look! —***

**www.wchf.org** We've spruced up the layout and we're working toward making the website more user friendly. We could use some help, though. If you have an inclination toward working on the Internet and would like to lend a hand, we'd be delighted to hear from you. Please e-mail me at [dvbaccentnl@new.rr.com](mailto:dvbaccentnl@new.rr.com) or call at 920-749-7807 to volunteer your services. We'd like to expand the information articles about the various inductees, so we're looking for links to existing sites and new material that isn't already on the website. We're also looking for

someone to help us put this new information on the website. So don't hesitate -- contact me right now.

We'd also like to start a new webmenu item entitled "Wisconsin Environmental Firsts." For example, Wisconsin was the first state to ban DDT. Wisconsin was the first state to actively breed captive cranes. Can you think of other examples which we could include on the website? Again, please e-mail me at [dvbaccentnl@new.rr.com](mailto:dvbaccentnl@new.rr.com) or call at 920-749-7807 with your firsts. -- Donna VanBuecken

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.*

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**Thank you!**