This year we changed the name of the newsletter to Legacy. The new name and by-line concisely reflects our overall mission of “Celebrating, Advancing and Sharing Wisconsin’s Conservation Legacy.”

Celebrating: We celebrate the achievements of outstanding conservationists through our annual Induction Ceremony and Luncheon. Since 1985, we have inducted 96 leaders, representing all aspects of conservation. Collectively, their remarkable stories reflect the full and diverse history of Conservation in Wisconsin.

Advancing: We advance conservation through the combined efforts of our 31 member organizations and our affiliate members, and by advancing the initiatives of conservation leaders.

The Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Foundation (WCHF) inductees this year include a couple who have spent their lives as “Partners in Nature” protecting the natural heritage of Door County, a Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) who never retired, and an almost forgotten UW-Madison Wildlife Professor and philanthropist who contributed directly to Leopold’s Conservation Legacy.

Roy and Charlotte Lukes, George Meyer and Arlie (Bill) Schorger are this year’s inductees.

They will join the 92 other inductees to the Hall of Fame during a special ceremony on Saturday, April 14, 2018 at 10AM at the Sentry Insurance Theater in Stevens Point.

See pages 4-6 to find out more about this year’s inductees.

Come Join WCHF Blog

Did you know WCHF has a blog? It’s part of the WCHF website, and we use it to post current information about our Hall of Fame inductees, nominees and activities. If you want to know what’s going on at the Hall of Fame and want to get the latest news about our inductees and nominees when it happens, our blog is the place to go. We promise not to fill your inbox with junk (no spam), and will never share your information with anyone.

Go to wchf.org/news and click on the green “Sign Up for Updates” button.
already inducted into the WCHF. We also promote the Conservation Ethic through our visitor center, activities, and programs.

**Sharing:** We share the Conservation Legacy of Wisconsin through our outreach efforts and educational programs and facilities. These include our Website and Newsletter, our interpretive museum illustrating the conservation story of Wisconsin, and the remarkable stories of our 96 Inductees.

We invite you to become part of this “Legacy”! Support the WCHF as an Affiliate Member. Advance the efforts of other conservation organizations. Help us promote the WCHF Mission of Celebrating, Advancing and Sharing Wisconsin’s Conservation Legacy. We appreciate and depend on your support.

**WCHF Strategic Plan**

**Opportunities and Challenges:** When I became WCHF President four years ago, we created a “5 Year Plan of Work” to identify and prioritize efforts needed to advance WCHF and its mission. Since then we have made significant progress on key goals/activities (see 2016 and 2017 Newsletter). Given the many challenges facing us (no paid staff, limited funding and resources), we have accomplished much over the past 35 years. Still there is much more to do. Can you help?

**Specific Progress includes:**

**Nomination Process:** We are implementing a new Nomination Process, including detailed guidelines for submission, application forms, and use of an on-line submission. We are also reviewing prior nomination files and seeking to update biographies and nomination materials.

**Induction Ceremony and Luncheon:** We are developing a formal “Induction Ceremony Planning Guide” to better manage and orchestrate this year-long, multifaceted effort.

**Promoting Diversity:** The Board formally approved “Guidelines for Promoting Diversity” in 2017. We have made a concerted effort to promote diversity (a) within WCHF’s leadership and (b) through the Inductee nomination and selection process.

**Expanding Organizational (Voting) and Affiliate Membership:** Over the past 5 years we have, with Board approval, expanded our Organizational (Voting) Membership from 21 to 34 to strengthen WCHF and to better recognize the success and diversity of conservation efforts within Wisconsin. We have also increased the number of Affiliate Members.

**Fundraising and Fiscal Management:** Expanding the number of Organizational and Affiliate members has increased our revenue fiscally and optimized our resources, but we also need to increase our efforts in fundraising and grant writing. Can you help?

**Membership Services, Outreach and Education**

**WCHF Website:** Last year, we upgraded and expanded our Website to better communicate with members and share Wisconsin’s rich Conservation Legacy with the public.

**WCHF Newsletter:** Under the new name of Legacy, we have expanded the newsletter from four pages to ten pages, including full color, and improved readability.

**In Appreciation**

In closing, I would like to thank the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, and our Board of Governors for their continuing efforts and guidance. Their financial support, along with our Affiliate members’ support is essential. If you have suggestions, or are interested in helping us move forward, please contact me.

Joe Passineau, WCHF President
jpassineau@uwsp.edu • 715-677-4047
The 2017 Induction Ceremony was extra special! It was Earth Day 2017. Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson started Earth Day in 1970 to focus world attention on the importance of Conservation and Environmental Quality. In 1986, he joined John Muir and Aldo Leopold, as WCHF’s third inductee. WCHF now recognizes 96 leaders who have contributed to the Spirit of Earth Day!

To kick off the Celebration, composer and musician Tom Allen, a close friend of Inductee Hugh Iltis, shared several of his compositions. The 2017 Ceremony was also special because it featured the Induction of two women in the same year: Christine Thomas and Milly Zantow. Both, in very different ways, have contributed greatly to Conservation in Wisconsin and nationally.

The speakers highlighted, often with photos and videos, the life stories and contributions to conservation of each of the Inductees. In addition to their presentations, recognition plaques were unveiled, and legislative citations were presented by state representative Katrina Shankland. Following the formal ceremony, friends and families of the inductees enjoyed a luncheon in the festive, sunlit Atrium of the nearby Sentry World.

Speakers for the Inductees included the following:

**Induction of Hugh Iltis:**
- Mary Jean Huston, Director, The Nature Conservancy of Wisconsin
- Dr. Theodore Cochrane, Senior Academic Curator Emeritus, Wisconsin State Herbarium, UW-Madison
- Dr. Michael Nee, Emeritus Curator, New York Botanical Garden and Research Associate, Missouri Botanical Garden
- Dr. José Antonio Vázquez-García, Instituto de Botánica, Departamento de Botánica y Zoología, Universidad de Guadalajara, Mexico
- Michael Iltis, Hugh Iltis’ son

**Induction of Christine Thomas:**
- Shannon Honl, daughter of Christine Thomas
- John Tomke, Chair of the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council; Conservation Committee of Boone and Crockett; and former President of Ducks Unlimited.
- Peter Peshek, Friend and Wisconsin Conservationist; former, Wisconsin Public Intervener’s Office

**Induction of Milly Zantow:**
- John Reindl, former, Wisconsin DNR Recycling Coordinator and Dane County Recycling Manager
- Liz Nevers, Friend and Sauk County UW Extension
- Jude Stevens, daughter-in-law of Milly Zantow

Additional photo highlights can be found on YouTube in the video segments of the induction ceremony or by going to the WCHF Website under News tab: wchf.org/videos
Door County naturalists, Roy and Charlotte Lukes, have spent their lifetimes protecting the natural beauty of the peninsula and sharing its magic through their teachings, writings, and personal charm. As “Partners in Nature” they built the Ridges Sanctuary into a center for conservation education, research and advocacy. They educated and inspired citizens of Door County and the State through their many research efforts, lectures and nature walks, books and newspaper columns. Although Roy has passed on, Charlotte has continued to write the weekly column “Door to Nature” for the Door County Pulse.

They also fought for Wisconsin conservation policy and funding for the protection of Door County’s natural areas and wetlands such as Toft Point Wilderness, Newport State Park, Whitefish Dunes, Mink River Estuary and Moonlight Bay. The region is now recognized as a Ramsar Treaty “Wetland of International Importance.”

As leaders in the field of conservation and environmental education, Roy and Charlotte taught classes and led hikes at the Ridges Sanctuary, the Clearing in Ellison Bay, Lawrence University in Appleton and other venues. As a renowned nature writer, naturalist, photographer, teacher and newspaper columnist, Roy inspired millions. His numerous newspaper articles and five books on nature, including Once Around the Sun: A Door County Journal, capture the seasonal joys of time spent outdoors. He was renowned for his gentle smile, encyclopedic knowledge and story-telling ability, which could enthrall both children and adults.

Charlotte, too, excelled as a naturalist, teacher and writer. In addition to her scientific work and publications on the mushrooms of Door County, she continues to teach classes, present programs and lead nature hikes throughout the region.

Spanning five decades, Roy and Charlotte wrote over 3000 newspaper columns for local papers.

Roy and Charlotte saw scientific research and the study of the natural world as a cornerstone to their work in conservation related education, policy and public leadership. Roy led much of the research effort at the Ridges focusing on its flora and fauna. He was an expert on the area’s orchids and birdlife. Charlotte’s research on the mushrooms of Door County, including the identification of over 600 species, has contributed to newspaper articles, publications, and the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay (UW-GB) Center for Biodiversity. They also promoted “citizen science” by getting volunteers involved in projects such as the Audubon Bird Count and the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology’s Wisconsin Bird Atlas.

In recognition of their lifelong collaboration, the couple received nearly thirty awards from numerous educational, literary, civic and environmental organizations. They jointly received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Gathering Waters Conservancy, multiple awards from the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology, the Nature Conservancy, and UW-GB Center for Biodiversity.

“Rarely does Nature fail to produce some thrilling experiences for those who take to the out-of-doors, are eager to learn, and are willing to be patient and observant. Door County ... is an ideal classroom for such experiences.”

“All of us who are interested in the natural environment are faced with the same responsibility. We must learn about the world around us and take care of it.”

— Roy and Charlotte Lukes, Once Around the Sun: A Door County Journal
For his leadership and contributions to conservation, he has received many awards and recognitions. He was appointed a Visiting Professor at Lawrence University in Appleton from 2002 to 2004 teaching courses in environmental policy and law; he has served in leadership roles in the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the Environmental Council of the States; and he serves as a member of the WCHF Board of Governors.

As a highly respected and influential Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), George Meyer was instrumental in creating and advancing major conservation and environmental policies affecting all of Wisconsin’s natural resources.

His appreciation and respect for the land and its resources began as a youth while growing up on the family farm in New Holstein, Wisconsin. After receiving his B.A. degree in Economics from St. Norbert College and his Law degree from University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1972, he joined the WDNR and eventually advanced to the agency’s top leadership position.

As Staff Attorney (1972-1980), as Enforcement Division Administrator (1980-1993) and as Secretary of the WDNR (1993-2002), Meyer worked on many of the most challenging, and often controversial, policy issues affecting the State including: wildlife management, hunting regulations and chronic wasting disease; parks and outdoor recreation; land use and urban planning; air and water quality; wetland and shoreline protection; urban and agricultural run-off; clean-up and redevelopment of toxically contaminated lands; and the negotiation and implementation of Treaty Rights held by Wisconsin’s Ojibwe Tribes.

During his 30 year career with the WDNR, he often served as the agency’s chief spokesperson with the media and at public, court and legislative hearings. He was respected by all he worked with for his calm demeanor, knowledge of the issues, science-based viewpoint and judgment.

After retiring from the WDNR in 2002, Meyer has continued to advance conservation by serving as the first Executive Director of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF), a citizen conservation organization promoting sound resource management through the educational and advocacy programs of 200 affiliated conservation clubs. With his organizing abilities and persuasive talents, he continues to mobilize citizens to fight for Wisconsin’s Conservation Legacy. He has also championed WWF’s conservation education initiatives including its partnership with the Wisconsin Green School Network, the rescue and revitalization of the MacKenzie Education Center in Poyntette and the creation of the Wisconsin Conservation Leadership Corps (CLC), focusing on college and high school students, to assist in the development of future conservation leaders.

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George Meyer has championed, among other conservation education initiatives the rescue and revitalization of the MacKenzie Education Center in Poyntette, Wisconsin.

"George Meyer is a tireless advocate for Natural Resources in our state and nation. His talent is in effectively mobilizing people to act on behalf of the resources, and navigating the political system in ways that get things done. Wisconsin could not ask for a better Steward of her land, water, soil, and wildlife.”
— Wisconsin Conservation Leadership Corps
As a man of many talents, insatiable curiosity and boundless energy, Arlie Schorger excelled in multiple careers as a chemist, inventor, businessman and wildlife conservationist. His career in chemistry, focusing on cellulose and wood, resulted in 41 patents that enriched him and his companies, and fueled his philanthropic interests in conservation.

In conservation circles, he is most well known for his work as a nature historian and for his life histories of Wisconsin’s wildlife and man’s impact on them. His 1955 award winning book The Passenger Pigeon: Its Natural History and Extinction and his 1966 book The Wild Turkey: Its History and Domestication are classics and helped advance a global concern for wildlife management, biodiversity and the new field of conservation biology.

As a co-founder of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, he played a leading role in telling the story of the Passenger Pigeon and wrote the famous inscription for the 1947 Passenger Pigeon Monument at Wyalusing State Park, the first monument dedicated to the demise of an extinct species.

Schorger had a lifelong interest in nature since his childhood in Ohio, and pursued his interest in wildlife research and writing for most of his adult life. After retiring from a long career in chemistry and business, he was able to focus full time on his avocation. In 1951 he became a Professor of Wildlife Management at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW-M) and devoted the rest of his life to his research and writing on wildlife and conservation.

In addition to his major books, he was a prolific author of over 250 journal articles, book chapters and reports, and kept a lifelong journal of natural history observations and insights. Working in an era before copy machines and computers, he was renowned for his encyclopedic memory and for his ability to sift through, hand copy, digest and synthesize mountains of obscure facts, reports and books to extract insights, patterns and new understandings about wildlife.

“Arlie William (Bill) Schorger, accomplished chemist, businessman and polymath, devoted the second half of his life and his accumulated wealth to natural history studies and conservation. Author of the definitive book on the Passenger Pigeon’s extinction, he admonished us to ‘hold onto that which we have, lest we shall never see the like again.’”

— Stanley Temple

A little known fact is that Schorger also helped launch the wildlife career and Conservation Legacy of Aldo Leopold. When Leopold left the USDA Forest Service to pursue his new career as a wildlife consultant, Schorger helped persuade UW-M to hire Leopold – an up-and-coming wildlife conservationist – to a faculty position in 1933. And, again, in 1938 he helped to persuade the University to retain Leopold by offering to create the world’s first academic department devoted to the new field of wildlife management. Without Bill Schorger and his friends, Wisconsin’s tie to the Leopold Conservation Legacy may have slipped away.

Schorger was also known for his public service, philanthropy and leadership in other key conservation organizations such as the American Ornithologist’s Union and the National Audubon Society. He served on the Wisconsin State Conservation Commission (now the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Board) and as President of the Wisconsin Academy of Science, Art and Letters.

Using his patent royalties and business investments, he contributed to many conservation, literary and civic programs. A lover of books, he donated his extensive personal library to the University and its Wildlife Department. He received many honors for his achievements and contributions from a variety of conservation organizations, civic groups and universities.
We are saddened to report that WCHF Executive Secretary Earl Spangenberg died Tuesday, September 18, 2017.

Earl served in the United States Air Force where he met his wife, Lillian Carlson. Upon his honorable discharge, they moved to Fort Collins, Colorado where he received a doctorate from Colorado State University. Earl and his family arrived in Stevens Point, Wisconsin in 1971 where he taught hydrology and forestry at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point (UW-SP).

While at UW-SP, he started the first student chapter of the American Water Resource Association (AWRA). He guided the student chapter to create, market and sell groundwater models used all over the country to help organizations recognize the importance of water and how to protect it. He became the national editor for the AWRA Impact magazine and remained so upon his retirement. He also served as the advisor for the Alpha Xi chapter of the natural resources honorary society, Xi Sigma Pi.

A good organizer and editor, he was instrumental in developing conferences and workshops, presenting papers and posters, editing conference proceedings and organizational newsletters, and authoring and publishing lecture outlines/texts and videos, all to share his watershed expertise with students, colleagues, community and beyond.

Before retiring from UW-SP, he was the teacher, mentor, professional resource and guide to thousands of students and future hydrologists.

He is survived by his wife, Lillian, his two children Eric (Kristie) Spangenberg and Sarah (Lance) Reeve and their four grandchildren Nathan, Josie, Jacob, and Jamie. His love and caring for his family will always be remembered and cherished.

A memorial fund has been created to recognize Earl’s many contributions to WCHF. Please send donations to:

**Earl Spangenberg Memorial**
Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame
Schmeeckle Reserve UW-SP
2419 North Point Drive
Stevens Point, WI  54481

Obituary can be found at: http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/stevenspointjournal/obituary.aspx?pid=186706145
WCHF Receives C.D. Besadny Conservation Grant

This past year, WCHF received a C.D. Besadny Conservation grant for $1,000 through the Natural Resources Foundation (NWF) for the purpose of expanding the WCHF website. The actual award was delivered by NWF Board member Bill Lunney to the WCHF Board at their annual meeting on November 4, 2018.

Bill said, “for over thirty years NWF has worked to preserve our state’s most vulnerable public resources – our land, our water, our endangered species as well as providing conservation education to thousands. Nature holds the key to our aesthetic, intellectual, cognitive and even spiritual satisfaction as well as physical and mental health. So we are all in this together.”

“The Natural Resources Foundation is pleased to present the Besadny grant award to the Conservation Hall of Fame. The grant to the Hall of Fame will help with website design and upgrades. The committee felt its importance mirrors the evolving methods of getting one’s message across many venues and commended the Board and staff for taking those steps. It will help the Hall of Fame do its important work even more effectively by getting the message out to larger more diverse audiences.”

“We look forward to working closely with the Hall of Fame to preserve Wisconsin’s Conservation Legacy for the future.”

The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin is a new voting member of WCHF. Executive Director Ruth Oppedahl serves on the WCHF Board of Directors.

Thank you Natural Resources Foundation. Congratulations to WCHF.

WCHF Receives Grant From We Energies

WCHF Treasurer Steve Levine has received a check in the amount of $1000 from We Energies Foundation as a grant to be used in support of the development of a touchscreen computer exhibit in the Hall of Fame at the Schmeeckle Reserve Visitor Center.

A touchscreen computer would provide visitors the opportunity to learn more about each inductee in the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame, along with the WCHF organization itself. The most effective interpretation provides layers of information from which visitors can choose based on their interests.

A touchscreen computer is an ideal tool for providing this information in a compact and interactive way. Visitors would scroll through a list of inductee names, and then select an inductee about which they would like to discover more. This would reveal a webpage that includes a summary of the inductee, a link to the more comprehensive biography sheet, and a photo (or photos) which help to personalize the experience. The kiosk unit would be connected to the Internet, providing a direct connection to the web-based content, which makes it easy to update information from anywhere.

We are hoping to develop this in time for 2019’s Induction ceremony visitors to use. Stay tuned for progress reports as we are able to obtain additional funding. For more information about the proposed exhibit, go to the WCHF Blog https://wchf.org/wchf-receives-grant-fromwe-energies.

Thank you We Energies Foundation. Congratulations to WCHF.
Welcome to New Organizational Members

Much of the success of the WCHF can be attributed to the founding 16 Organizational Members who created the Foundation 33 years ago and their representatives on the Board of Directors. To recognize the contributions of other conservation organizations, and to strengthen the WCHF, the Board of Directors last year invited a number of organizations to become Voting members. Each excels in its focus on Conservation.

Please join with me in welcoming three of our newest Partners — Voting member organizations Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, Becoming an Outdoors-Woman and Trout Unlimited. They will strengthen the Hall of Fame by helping us to better represent the diversity of conservation efforts in Wisconsin.

Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin

At the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin we believe nature has inherent value and people have the ability to make a difference. We are the bridge connecting people who care with projects in need of support that benefit Wisconsin’s lands and waters, wildlife and environmental education initiatives.

We work to protect Wisconsin’s natural heritage by supporting critical conservation work through our grant programs. We offer opportunities for people to experience Wisconsin’s outdoors through our Field Trip program. We provide a means for people to help protect Wisconsin’s lands, waters and wildlife through charitable giving and the Wisconsin Conservation Endowment. Since 1986 the Foundation has contributed nearly $7 million to conservation efforts across the state of Wisconsin.

Wisconsin BOW - Becoming an Outdoors-Woman

Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) is a non-profit, educational program that teaches outdoor skills to adult women. BOW workshops are held in 38 states and 6 Canadian provinces. Weekend long workshops offer more than 20 different classes to choose from including topics equally balanced between hunting and shooting, fishing, and nonharvest activities like camping, canoeing, bird watching, backpacking and many others.

BOW classes are taught by patient, enthusiastic instructors in a safe and supportive atmosphere. The learning experience is hands on and geared toward beginners. No experience or equipment is required. BOW participants span in age from 18-80+.

Trout Unlimited

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited (WTU) is the largest cold water conservation organization in Wisconsin. The organization’s approximately 5000 members make up 21 chapters that cover the entire geographic area of Wisconsin. The WTU mission is to preserve existing cold water habitat by lobbying and advocating for good conservation legislation and best management practices. The mission also includes restoring degraded habitat by planning and financing a variety of habitat improvement technique.

The organization is also heavily involved in educating the next generation of conservation minded youth. Holding summer camps, raising trout in classrooms and teaching the next generation to get outdoors and enjoy our cold water resources are all used by individual chapters to accomplish the education component of the mission.
Continue your membership by donating again this year.
Your membership means that you can take pride in supporting the important educational and recognition program of the Hall of Fame.
Think about it - and plan on giving the Hall of Fame your support every year.

Renew Your Affiliate Membership

The 34th Annual Induction Ceremony
Saturday, April 14, 2018
at Sentry Theater, Stevens Point.

Become part of Wisconsin’s conservation history by contributing to the 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 of those foresight preserved our environment

My tax-deductible donation is enclosed:
[ ] Sponsor ($25)
[ ] Supporting ($50)
[ ] Sustaining ($100)
[ ] Patron ($500)
[ ] Benefactor ($1000 or more)

I would like to become a Conservation Hall of Fame Affiliate Member.
Name (individual/group): ________________________________
Mailing Address: ________________________________________
E-mail: ________________________________________________

Please enclose check (see membership levels at left) and mail to:
Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Foundation Inc.
Schmeckle Reserve – UW-SP
2419 N. Point Drive, Stevens Point, WI 54481

Thank you!