



Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame  
Schmeckle Reserve  
2419 North Point Drive  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

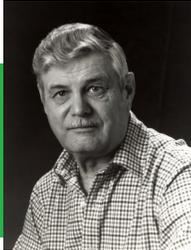
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STEVENS POINT, WI  
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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



Scott Craven



Don L. Johnson



Aroline Schmitt

The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Induction Ceremony  
**Saturday, April 13, 2019**  
at The SentryWorld Atrium, Stevens Point

## Renew Your Affiliate Membership

If you made a donation last year, you are an Affiliate Member of the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame. 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 Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame. Think about it, and plan on giving your support every year.

Become part of Wisconsin's conservation history by contributing to the  
**Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame** 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 whose foresight preserved the environment.

**My tax-deductable donation is enclosed:**

- Sponsor (\$25)
- Supporting (\$50)
- Sustaining(\$100)
- Patron (\$500)
- Benefactor (\$1000 or more)

**Thank you!**

**I would like to become a Wisconsin 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**  
**Schmeckle Reserve**  
**2419 North Point Drive**  
**Stevens Point, WI 54481**



# The Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame

Celebrating, Advancing & Sharing Wisconsin's Conservation Legacy

# LEGACY

Spring 2019 Newsletter

Volume 25, Issue 1

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Legacy

It's an honor taking on the role of President of the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame. WCHF Inductees have significantly contributed to conservation programs, projects, public understanding, and conservation ethics within the State of Wisconsin and the nation.

The Hall of Fame got its start 35 years ago, about the same time I was moving from the early education stage of my career into a 32-year stage of conservation-focused government service. I've now begun that evening career stage, retired but still active in other ways.



Michael John Jaeger

When I look back now over my early education phase (middle/high school and college), something fascinating jumps out at me. Viewing the Inductee plaques displayed at Schmeeckle, I see the names and faces of person after person who influenced me, both directly and

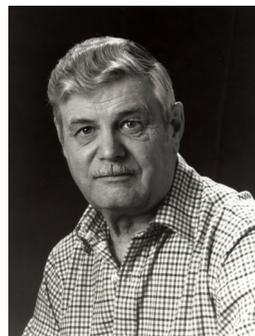
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## OUR NEWEST INDUCTEES

Induction Ceremony April 13, 2019 Stevens Point, Wisconsin



Scott Craven



Don L. Johnson



Aroline Schmitt

The Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame (WCHF) inductees this year include:

- **Scott Craven** a popular radio celebrity and UW-Madison Professor of Wildlife,
- **Don L. Johnson** a much-loved outdoors writer and Milwaukee Sentinel columnist, and
- **Aroline Schmitt** a pioneering woman, who overcoming many obstacles, was an early champion of forest conservation.

They will join the 96 already inducted into the Hall of Fame.

*See pages 6-8 to find out more about this year's inductees.*

The Induction Celebration this year will be held on Saturday afternoon, April 13th, in the beautiful sunny Atrium at SentryWorld in Stevens Point. All are invited.

**12:30 p.m. Reception**

**2:00 p.m. Induction Ceremony**

**4:30 p.m. Dinner**

The Reception and Ceremony are free. Reservations for the Dinner (\$25) can be made:

Online using Eventbrite:

<http://bit.ly/WCHF2019Registration> or

By calling 715-346-4992, the WCHF and Schmeeckle Reserve Visitor Center.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Executive Committee Members:

**Michael John Jaeger (President)**  
Wisconsin Society for Ornithology

**Joseph Passineau (Past President & Exe. Sec.)**  
Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education

**Donna VanBuecken (Vice President)**  
Wild Ones Natural Landscapers Ltd. - Fox Valley Area Chapter

**Jerry Knuth (Secretary)**  
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

**Steven Levine (Treasurer)**  
Soil & Water Conservation Society - Wisconsin Chapter

**Amanda Bell (at Large)**  
American Water Resources Association - WI Section

**Patrick Durkin (at Large)**  
Wisconsin Outdoor Communicators Association

**Ed Harvey (at Large)**  
Wisconsin Conservation Congress

**Gina Miresse (at Large)**  
Midwest Renewable Energy Association

**Mark Randall (at Large)**  
The Wildlife Society - Wisconsin Chapter

**Tom Rudolph (at Large)**  
Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association

### Other Directors:

**Stan Temple, Senior Fellow**  
Aldo Leopold Foundation

**Janet (Jan) Scalpone**  
Citizens Natural Resources Association

**Mark Redsten, President and CEO**  
Clean Wisconsin

**Greg Dahl, Vice-President**  
Dane County Conservation League

**Jeff Maletzke, State Chairman**  
Ducks Unlimited - Wisconsin Chapter

**Mike Carlson, Executive Director**  
Gathering Waters

**Mike Wollmer, Executive Director**  
Ice Age Trail Alliance

**Richard Beilfuss, President and CEO**  
International Crane Foundation

**Gerald Ernst**  
Izaak Walton League of America, Wisconsin Div.

**Kimberlee Wright, Executive Director**  
Midwest Environmental Advocates

**Don Gilbert**  
The Muskie Club Alliance of Wisconsin Inc

**Ruth Oppedahl, Executive Director**  
Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin

**John Bates**  
The Nature Conservancy of Wisconsin

**Rich Wentzel**  
The Sierra Club, John Muir Chapter

**Jan Harms**  
Society of American Foresters - Wisconsin Chapter

**Linn Beck, State Chairman**  
Trout Unlimited - Wisconsin Council

**Diane Lueck**  
UWSP College of Natural Resources

**Bob Juracka**  
Wisconsin Audubon Council

**Peggy Farrell, Director**  
Wisconsin BOW - Becoming an Outdoors-Woman

**Jan Severt, Executive Director**  
Wisconsin County Forests Association

**Tina Van Zile**  
Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council

**Tracy Hames, Exec. Director**  
Wisconsin Wetlands Association

**Steve and Lois Raether**  
Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association

### Board of Governors:

**Bill Berry**      **Alan Haney**      **Jane Wiley**  
**Tim Eisele**      **George Meyer**

From the President *continued from page 1*

indirectly, people who helped make me who I am today.

Maybe entering the evening of my life's career makes it easier to see, and appreciate, all the help I had in those early years. To appreciate all who taught me to know, and to love, and to understand the outdoors. And to appreciate how many important people taught my teachers and mentors. Many of them are proudly on display in Schmeckle.

I represent the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology on WCHF's Board of Directors. Eight past WSO Presidents are Hall of Fame Inductees. These eight include government wildlife managers, university researchers, private industry conservationists, and non-profit protectors of our resources. I'm proud that conservation in Wisconsin, including that focusing on birds, has steadily moved forward thanks to the ongoing efforts of many, many, devoted individuals, both professional and amateur.

## This Year's Inductees

This year's inductees are a diverse group, well described elsewhere in this newsletter. One of our Inductees this year, however, published a wonderful book, *Summer's Song & Other Essays*. The book is a collection of articles Don L. Johnson wrote for The Milwaukee Sentinel highlighting his enjoyment of the natural world. I was immediately hooked by a sentence on the first page of his preface: "I might have wearied of outdoor explorations decades ago if not for frequent discoveries which delighted my senses and further whetted my curiosity." That single sentence can readily be applied to my 50 plus years of wandering around exploring Wisconsin's natural resources, and is said much better than I have ever been able. The knowledge and perceptions of our Inductees have truly impressed me during my time on the Board of Directors.

## Transition Steps

I want to say a few words about Joe Passineau's incredible contributions to the WCHF. Joe has served on the Hall's Board of Directors for 32 years, representing the Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education. This included three years as WCHF Vice President and five years as President. His Board service continues with his new role of Executive Secretary.

This issue of the newsletter Legacy features an article by Joe, in which he highlights significant progress WCHF has made during his Presidency. I'll not repeat his comments here, other than to acknowledge the important growth in the organization that Joe helped facilitate. Thank you, Joe, from all of us.

The Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame has accomplished a lot in its first 35 years. We've done this primarily using the volunteer efforts of our Board members. There is more to be done, and many more deserving individuals to be recognized and honored.

The Executive Committee and the Board of Directors are concerned that relying on volunteers limits what can be done. This is a common limitation for many non-profit organizations. This year we're beginning a transition with a paid assistant. We're starting with the focus on helping with all the efforts needed to put together the Induction Ceremony, including assisting with the press release, the invitations, the annual newsletter, and all the little tasks that are needed to arrange for the facility.

Our hope is that we can build on this in future years to pay someone to handle all the specialized details of the ceremony and keeping WCHF afloat, while allowing our Board and Officer volunteers to tackle other projects and issues.

*Michael John Jaeger, WCHF President*



## Meet Our New President

### Michael John Jaeger

Michael John represents the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology on the WCHF Board of Directors. He joined the WSO Board in 2010, serving as Chairs of the Scholarships and Grants and the Conservation Committees. He recently completed two-year terms each as WSO Vice President and President. Michael John currently is the Editor of WSO's quarterly journal, *The Passenger Pigeon*.

Michael John lives in his hometown of Madison. He studied environmental studies and ornithology at the University of Wisconsin, with an early focus on marsh

birds and shorebirds. He retired after 33 years as a utility policy analyst at the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, where he occasionally got to use his birding background when evaluating environmental consequences of major construction proposals.

Michael John considers himself mostly a recreational birder, which helps him in his quest to "wander about and explore the countryside." Birds, while a lifelong focus, are not his only interest. He freely admits to spending many a day trout fishing.



Michael John cleaning Purple Martin houses.  
Photo Credit: Arlene Koziol

## WCHF: 35 Years and Counting

### Joe Passineau, Past President and Executive Secretary



It has been a good five years. But change is also good. It opens new doors and invites progress. As noted below, I am most proud of the progress made during my 5-year tenure as WCHF President. And this year, we celebrate our 35th Anniversary!

But first, I'd like to welcome Michael John Jaeger to the helm. He has the talents and the

courage to guide WCHF through current challenges and into new opportunities. I wish him the best on this new voyage.

I would also like to thank all those who have contributed to the success and prosperity of the WCHF, including the Executive Committee, the full Board of Directors and Board of Governors, and all our organizational and affiliate members. We need your support! I would also like to welcome Sunshine Buchholz as our first WCHF Administrative Assistant. Working together, we can grow and prosper.

As a sailor and world traveler, I look forward to new opportunities to share my love for nature and for Wisconsin's rich Conservation Legacy.

As the new Executive Secretary for WCHF, I look forward to helping the Board by reminding them of waters already charted

and by encouraging them to explore new opportunities for growth and prosperity.

In passing the torch, I wanted to share a vision of WCHF's importance, legacy and challenges, as well as the necessity of strategic planning for its future.

I discovered, however, that I had already outlined that vision in 2014 in my very first President's Column. Those words ring just as clearly today. They are found on Page 4 in *Passing the Torch - Part 1: A Vision for WCHF*.

I also wanted to highlight the truly remarkable progress we have made over the past five years in accomplishing many of the goals outlined in our Strategic Plan. These are highlighted on page 9 in *Passing the Torch - Part 2: The WCHF Strategic Plan*.

And finally, I look forward to more time to enjoy the beauty of nature, the love of family, and the joys of sailing!

## Meet Our New Administrative Assistant

### Sunshine Buchholz

Sunshine started with the WCHF this January and is assisting with the coordination of April's Induction Ceremony. Her experience with graphic design, website management and event planning has enabled WCHF to streamline its efforts and move production of the newsletter, invitations and programs in-house. As time allows she will take on other duties from the Executive Committee.

Sunshine has a master's degree in environmental education and interpretation

from UW-Stevens Point and worked for the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education for 10 years. She is currently the Volunteer Gift Shop Manager and Bird Area Coordinator at Schmeeckle Reserve.

Because she spends considerable time at Schmeeckle already, she sees her role with the WCHF as an ideal fit that provides the organization a liaison at the Visitor Center. Sunshine is inspired to find ways to connect youth with the WCHF and inspire a new generation of conservation heroes.



# WCHF Board of Directors Meetings

Following their very productive Annual Board Meeting in early November 2018, some of the Directors retired to the WCHF/Schmeeckle deck to socialize and enjoy the sunny fall day. The Board consists of one representative from each of our 34 Organizational Members.

At the annual meeting the Board selects the individuals who will be inducted during the spring Induction Ceremony. The Executive Committee and Board meetings cover business, policy and strategic planning issues which help guide the future direction of the WCHF (see Strategic Plan pg. 9).

The photo includes some of our Directors and all of our newly elected Executive Committee Officers (see list on pg. 2).



Front Row (l-r) Jerry Knuth, Gina Miresse, Amanda Bell, Pat Durkin, Marco Mascitti, Michael John Jaeger, Tom Rudolph.

Back Row (l-r) Gerald Ernst, Donna VanBuecken, Jan Harmes, Ruth Oppedahl, Steve & Lois Raether, Ty Carpenter (for Kim Wright), Ed Harvey, Mark Randall, Tracy Hames, Joe Passineau.

## Passing the Torch – Part 1: A Vision for WCHF

By Joe Passineau, *Past President and Executive Secretary*

*In 2014, as the new WCHF President, I used the Newsletter to share a vision for WCHF, along with key challenges facing it. That “President’s Column” is reprinted here (along with key progress notes in italics) as a reminder “of our legacy as an organization, of progress made, and of challenges and opportunities still ahead.”*

This spring, in a spirit of hope and renewal, we celebrate our 30th (now 35th) Anniversary and WCHF Induction Ceremony. We have much to celebrate as we commemorate three decades of work well done. Beginning in 1985 with John Muir and Aldo Leopold, two of Wisconsin’s favorite sons, the WCHF now recognizes 83 (now 99) men and women who have contributed greatly to Wisconsin’s Conservation Legacy.

### Our Successes

We indeed have many reasons to celebrate. In just 30 (now 35) years, the WCHF has grown from an “idealistic notion” of a few visionary individuals into a highly respected and successful organization. We have inducted over 80 (now almost 100) men and women into the Hall of Fame using a well-tuned nominating, reviewing,

and selection process. We now have a beautiful WCHF Visitor Center in Schmeeckle Reserve including a sunlit gallery housing our recognition plaques, a meeting room which is used by hundreds of organizations each year, and a wonderful interpretive museum illustrating the full story of conservation in Wisconsin. Each year, thousands of visitors learn about the WCHF, its inductees, and the full conservation story while also enjoying the beautiful landscapes and trails at Schmeeckle. We must also thank Schmeeckle Reserve and its staff for this wonderful, mutually beneficial partnership.

As a cooperative venture of 20 (now 34) statewide conservation organizations, the WCHF is the only Hall of Fame in the nation that focuses on the importance of conservation and those who have contributed significantly to it. This is, indeed, fitting since Wisconsin has historically been recognized for its environmental leadership—much of which is due to the leadership of those inducted into the Hall of Fame.

### New Challenges and Opportunities

While we have much to celebrate, we also have much to do as we chart new directions into the future. To prosper in

future decades, we will need to build upon our strengths and successes, be mindful of challenges and threats, and seize upon new opportunities.

As we begin our fourth decade, it is important that we plan strategically and that we reassess our mission, our bylaws and our operations. While the induction process will continue to recognize conservation leaders, we also need to find new and vibrant ways to tell the Wisconsin Conservation Story by expanding our educational and outreach efforts. Likewise, to fully achieve our mission, we need to find creative ways to grow financially, perhaps through new fundraising, partnerships, and other avenues.

As membership is the heartbeat of every successful organization, we may want to add new organizational members, expand our roster of affiliate members, and perhaps add a new category of membership called “Friends of WCHF”. To harness the talents and energy of all our members, we must also give them a representative voice in the organization and its decision-making process. As Officers and members of the Board, we have much to do as we embark on yet another decade.

# From Blizzard to Sunshine: Highlights of the 2018 Induction Celebration



Roy and Charlotte Lukes



George Meyer



Arlie (Bill) Schorger

In a bizarre twist of weather, last year's April 14th Induction Ceremony at the Sentry Theater was cancelled due to the worst blizzard of the winter. We then scrambled to reschedule in early May.

On May 5th, in a flood of summer sunshine, the Induction Celebration was held in a new venue: the beautiful sunlit Atrium at the SentryWorld. It could not have been better. We held the event, for the first time in the

afternoon, allowing for an easy morning drive, a relaxed festive event, and plenty of time to return home. Following great reviews, we decided to repeat the venue and afternoon time for the 2019 Celebration!

The 2018 Induction highlighted the lifelong achievements of (1) Roy and Charlotte Lukes, (2) George Meyer, and (3) Arlie (Bill) Schorger. Charlotte Lukes and George Meyer were present to accept the recognition plaques from President Joe Passineau and the legislative citations from State Representative Katrina Shankland. A commemorative issue of the new Legacy Newsletter, which featured the inductees and activities of the WCHF, was given to each attendee.

The speakers captured well, often with photos and videos, the life stories and contributions of each Inductee. Joe Passineau, serving as master of ceremonies, highlighted the importance of WCHF's overall mission of "Celebrating, Advancing and Sharing Wisconsin's Conservation Legacy." After the ceremony, friends and families enjoyed a festive dinner in the sunlit Atrium.

## Speakers for the Inductees included the following:

### Induction of Roy and Charlotte Lukes

- Vicki Medland, Assistant Director, Cofrin Center for Biodiversity, UW-Green Bay
- Tim Byers, Program Manager (retired), Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education, UW-Stevens Point (via video)
- Beth Bartoli, Naturalist, Newport State Park (unable to attend on rescheduled date)

### Induction of George Meyer

- Ron Semmann, Past Deputy Secretary-WDNR; Co-founder – WI Natural Resources Foundation
- Jerry Knuth, Current Board Member and Past President of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
- Molly O'Grady, Founding Member and Past President, WI Conservation Leadership Corps (via video)

### Induction of Arlie Schorger

- Stanley Temple, Prof. Emeritus, Dept. of Forest & Wildlife Ecology, UW-Madison; Sr. Fellow, Aldo Leopold Foundation
- Mike Mossman, Forest Community Ecologist (retired), Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Michael John Jaeger, President, Wisconsin Society for Ornithology (WSO)



George Meyer receives plaque from President Joe Passineau



George Meyer with family during the reception



Induction Ceremony in Atrium at SentryWorld



Charlotte Lukes and President Joe Passineau share their love of books



Schorger speakers: Mike Mossman, Stanley Temple and Michael John Jaeger



Stanley Temple speaking about Arlie Schorger



Charlotte Lukes with speaker Vicki Medland

A slideshow/photo album and YouTube segments of the full event can be seen on the WCHF Website: [wchf.org/videos](http://wchf.org/videos).

# SCOTT CRAVEN (1948 - )



Photo Credit: Candee Craven

Scott Craven is an ambassador for Wisconsin's wildlife, with a gift of sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm for Wisconsin's natural resources. As a popular UW-Madison Wildlife Professor, he reached hundreds of thousands through his UW-Extension presentations, publications, and programs on wildlife, natural resources and the land ethic.

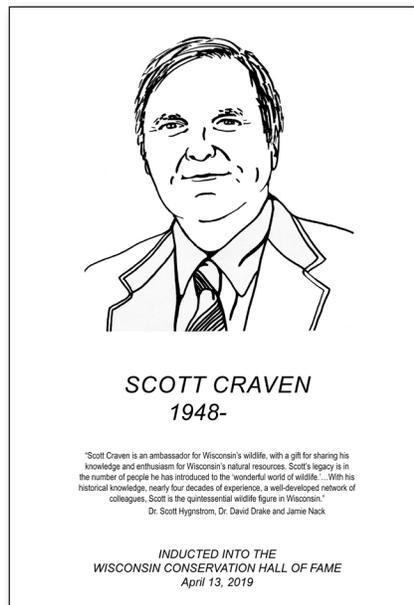
He also found a niche in public education through public radio and other prominent media outlets. As a gifted speaker, he has a unique way of captivating his audience with facts, stories and humor.

Scott provided service and leadership to hundreds of agencies and organizations and thousands of private home and land owners through his selfless contributions of time and effort. As a leader in Wildlife Damage Management, he helped educate the public on ways to attract wildlife and how to thoughtfully deal with nuisance wildlife and wildlife damage.

Craven was born in Manchester, New Hampshire in 1948. After receiving his B.S. degree in Zoology in 1970, he taught high school biology for two years. His time in Wisconsin started in 1972 as a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the Department of Wildlife Ecology. Finding a niche, his association with UW-Madison has continued for more than 40 years as a Professor, UW-Extension Wildlife and 4-H Specialist, and Department Chair.

He was an advisor and mentor to hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students through classes, internships and independent study projects. He also advanced Youth Education in Wisconsin through his 4-H leadership efforts and his Hunter Education and Shooting Sports programs.

As one of Wisconsin's most influential Extension Specialists, he used a variety of tools to reach Wisconsin citizens and to further the Wisconsin Idea, including UW-Extension bulletins, public lectures and workshops, and mass media, including newspaper, television and public radio programs. He was also a prolific author, writing or co-authoring over 60 technical, 30 popular and 25 peer-reviewed research publications.



When Scott began his career, wildlife damage control/management was not recognized as a key issue. His sustained work in this new area helped to educate the public and to build support for his programs while also cementing his reputation as a leader in the field, both in Wisconsin and nationally.

Scott also helped private landowners improve wildlife habitat on their property and developed, in

*“Scott Craven is an ambassador for Wisconsin’s wildlife, with a gift for sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm for Wisconsin’s natural resources. Scott’s legacy is in the number of people he has introduced to the ‘wonderful world of wildlife.’ ...With his historical knowledge, nearly four decades of experience, a well-developed network of colleagues, Scott is the quintessential wildlife figure in Wisconsin.”*

— Dr. Scott Hygnstrom,  
Dr. David Drake  
and Jamie Nack

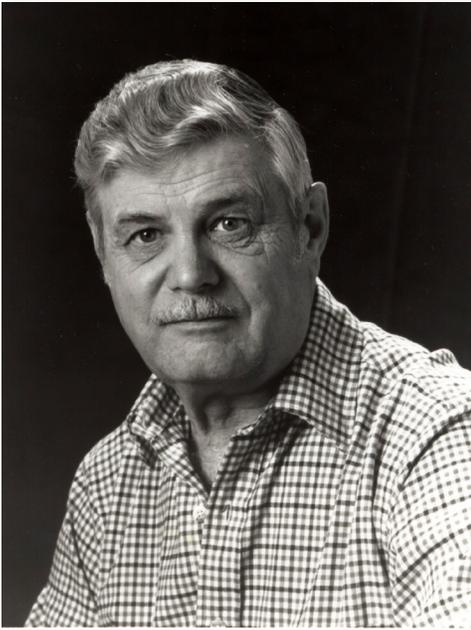
1994, the very successful Wisconsin Coverts Project, reaching landowners who together manage over 500,000 acres statewide.

Since his retirement he has continued to be a committed conservationist and prolific ambassador for wildlife through lecturing and writing, leading field trips, serving on advisory committees and non-profit organization boards and his regular ever-popular guest appearances on public radio.

Known and respected in virtually every corner of Wisconsin, Scott Craven has received prestigious awards for his contributions to conservation from many organizations, agencies, and universities, including the Pound Award from the University of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Award from the Wildlife Society, and the 2017 Youth Development Hall of Fame Award from Wisconsin 4-H.



# DON L. JOHNSON (1927 - 2006)



Credit for Photos: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

For a period spanning more than four decades, Don L. Johnson was one of Wisconsin's best-known outdoor writers and columnists. He wrote extensively about hunting and fishing in Wisconsin, first for the Eau Claire Leader and Telegram and then for the Milwaukee Sentinel.

Johnson also tackled complex public policy issues affecting Wisconsin's natural resources including wildlife management, preservation of wildlands, and the regulation of environmental pollution. He became a major educator of the public during a critical period in the development of conservation advocacy and government regulatory policy.

As a pioneer in environmental journalism, Johnson was responsible for groundbreaking and influential reporting on issues as diverse as the environmental impact of DDT and other chlorinated hydrocarbons, mercury pollution in state waterways, and the harm done to waterfowl by use of lead shot. His work helped Wisconsin become the first state to ban DDT. Weathering threats from industry and those who disagreed, his coverage of controversial issues contributed to positive changes in public policy, with longer-term benefits to Wisconsin's natural heritage.

His love of nature and the outdoors started during his boyhood on family farms in Buffalo and Dodge counties.

He joined the U.S. Navy in 1944 at the age of 16 and saw combat service in the Pacific. With an interest in conservation, he attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison and encountered a number of Wisconsin conservation pioneers, including Aldo Leopold, and began writing outdoor articles as a 20-year-old freelancer in 1947. He received his degree in journalism and biology in 1951 and started work at the Eau Claire Leader and Telegram (1951-1962) and then for the Milwaukee Sentinel (1962-1984).

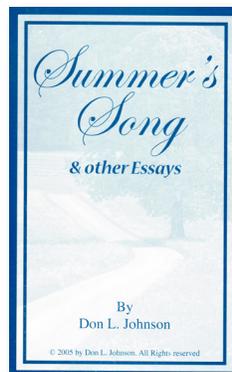
In addition to his work with newspapers, Johnson was widely published as a freelance writer in many outdoor-oriented publications. He wrote a series of short nature essays in the Sentinel which were published in book form in 2005 as *Summer's Song & Other Essays*.

*"Don L. Johnson was one of Wisconsin's most talented outdoor writers and conservationists... His work, as a tenacious investigative reporter and as an extraordinary painter of life outside, still matters to anyone who appreciates the outdoors, wildlife and the environment."*

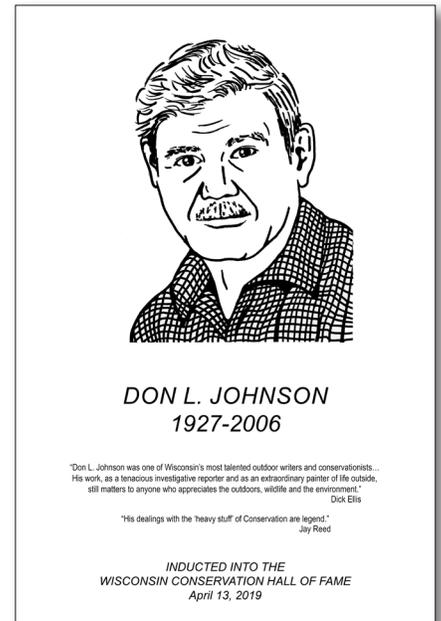
— Dick Ellis

*"His dealings with the 'heavy stuff' of Conservation are legend."*

— Jay Reed



Johnson excelled as a conservation minded and classically trained journalist. He was an accomplished photographer, tenacious investigative reporter and much-loved columnist.



Johnson was also an avid outdoorsman and was involved in public education pertaining to outdoor-related activities, promoted a wide variety of outdoor sports, conducted workshops and clinics, and helped design Wisconsin's first hunter safety program. Through his writings and service, he also advanced the efforts and mission of many conservation-oriented organizations, including the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame.

For his service and exemplary writing, he received many honors from conservation, environmental and outdoor organizations, including the Gordon MacQuarrie Award, and other awards from the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board, the EPA, and the Outdoor Writers Association of America.

# AROLINE SCHMITT (1904 - 1995)



Photo Credit: Maxine Schmitt Roberts

As a citizen conservationist, Aroline Schmitt is a good example of how women have been instrumental in leading conservation crusades in Wisconsin and the nation. During the 1940 to the 1960s, she advanced the principles and practice of sustainable forestry, organized and led new conservation organizations, and worked hand-in-hand with many other conservation leaders. Despite health challenges, she fought with tenacity and charisma to advance major conservation policies affecting Wisconsin's natural heritage.

She became a passionate champion for "Forest Conservation" at both the State and national level. Without formal training in forestry, she began her conservation work during World War II in what was then a man's world, surveying and cruising timber lands for the US Forest Service in Alaska and the west. She continued in various roles with the Forest Service until 1961. She promoted the principles of sustainable forestry and timber management, before the practice was known by that name. She always prodded politicians, conservationists and industrial foresters to adopt good forestry practices.

Working with Gifford Pinchot (former Director of the U.S. Forest Service) and others, she also helped organize and served as Executive Secretary for a national conservation organization called "Forests" that advocated for wise forestry practices.

Her Wisconsin conservation efforts occurred from the 1930s to the 1960s. A frequent speaker and advocate for strong resource policy, she was a prolific letter writer and traveled around Wisconsin to participate in important meetings and legislative hearings. She worked arm-in-arm with conservation luminaries including Aldo Leopold, William Aberg, and Wilhelmine La Budde.

She also helped to organize and lead the Citizens Natural Resources Association and the conservation programs of the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation.

Schmitt played a pivotal role in protecting the Flambeau State Forest and its old growth hemlock-hardwood forests, and in the transfer of forested lands to the Wisconsin Conservation Commission (now WDNR). She also helped protect the Menominee Tribal Forest by lobbying for the rights of the Menominee Indians during a tense battle over termination of the tribe's reservation status in the 1950s and 60s, and served as a consultant to the tribe until 1971.

*"Every day is Arbor Day for Mrs. Max J. Schmitt."*

— *Christian Science Monitor, 1947*

*"Mrs. Schmitt has called up senators and Representatives and governors and alternately pleaded, threatened and heckled. They all respect her. They all know she is a citizen who just asks for the opportunity to give more to her community than she takes from it. That's why they listen to her."*

— *Gordon MacQuarrie*

Schmitt also helped establish several conservation facilities in Wisconsin, including the Trees for Tomorrow program in Eagle River, a Forest Service Camp at Trout Lake, and the Northern Forest Research Center in Rhineland.

She produced a tremendous collection of correspondence including speeches, legislative testimony, letters to the editor, and personal letters with key conservation officials, both nationally

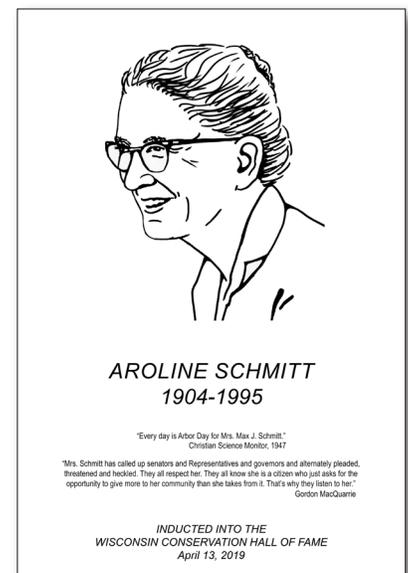
and in Wisconsin. Her collected papers, now housed in the Wisconsin Historical Society Archive, are a goldmine of information on Wisconsin conservation issues from the 1940s to the 1960s.

She was recognized for her exemplary conservation work by, among others, the Citizens Natural Resources Association (Silver Acorn Award 1961), the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation (1956), and the Izaak Walton League (Broughton Award 1950).

For many years, due to persistent health problems, she fought her conservation battles from her bed and home office. With tenacity and dedication, she continued to influence conservation policy through her telephone calls, writings, and personal charisma.

Aroline Schmitt's love for Wisconsin's forests had deep family roots. Aroline was born into a wealthy family in Jamestown, New York, in 1904. Her grandfather, however, was a Wisconsin lumberman, who joined in the raid on Wisconsin's timber in the 1800s, before the family moved east. Her mother was a botanist and passed on her love for nature and forests to her daughter.

Trained as a nurse, Aroline moved to Milwaukee in the 1920s to work for a doctor. Her husband, Max Schmitt, worked as a blueprint maker, while also fully supporting her passion for conservation. They lived with their two children in Wauwatosa. In the 1960s, she left Wisconsin for western states to be with family, but she left behind an important conservation legacy.



# Passing the Torch – Part 2: The WCHF Strategic Plan

By Joe Passineau, *Past President and Executive Secretary*

When I became WCHF President five 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. Given the many challenges facing us (no paid staff, limited funding and resources), we have accomplished much over the past 5 years. Still there is much more to do. Can you help?

## Specific Progress includes:

### Membership, Outreach & Education.

**WCHF Website:** Over the past two years, 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 expanded the newsletter from 4 pages to 12 pages, included full color and improved readability.

**Induction Ceremony.** We developed an “Induction Ceremony Planning and Publicity Guide” to better manage this year-long effort. We use an integrated Publicity Campaign including news releases, mailed invitations, our website, and an online Eventbrite registration site. We also share photos and videos of the Induction Ceremony on YouTube and our Website.

**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.

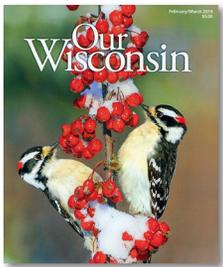
**Nomination Process.** We are implementing a new Nomination Process, including detailed guidelines for submission, application forms and use of an online nomination format. We are also updating nomination files and biographies previously submitted.

**Expand Organizational and Affiliate Membership.** Over the past five years, we have increased our Organizational Membership from 21 to 34 organizations to strengthen WCHF and recognize the work of other conservation organizations. We have also increased the number of Affiliate Members.

**Fundraising and Fiscal Management.** To expand revenue and optimize resources, we increased the number of Affiliate and Organizational Members (and raised dues from \$100 to \$150). We also applied for and received numerous grants to help expand our educational goals. The financial need, however, is still there. Can you help?

**Administrative Assistant Hired.** This year we employed an Administrative Assistant, our first paid staff, to help the organization. For the past 35 years we had depended solely on the volunteer efforts of Board members.

## Our Wisconsin Magazine Features WCHF



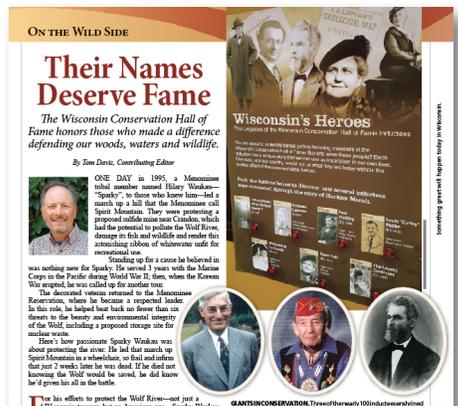
*Our Wisconsin* magazine is packed with upbeat stories about the places, people and events that make Wisconsin unique. It’s colorful, conversational and

filled with entertaining reading cover to cover. What could be better than all that?

The April-May issue of *Our Wisconsin* magazine features the WCHF! Outdoors Writer, Tom Davis highlights the contributions of Menominee tribesman

Hillary “Sparky” Waukau, conservation pioneer Increase Lapham, Ice Age Trail founder Ray Zillmer and others. With avid appreciation for Wisconsin conservation history, Davis visited the WCHF to gather inspiration for the article. His knowledge about the Inductees and their contributions, including some he had met, bring depth to his writing.

Get a copy of *Our Wisconsin* from the news stand or order from their website: [www.ourwisconsinmag.com](http://www.ourwisconsinmag.com). We will post access to this article on the WCHF blog when it becomes available. <https://wchf.org/news/>



## Past WCHF Treasurer Peter Muto has Died

It is with sad heart we post the news that Peter Muto has passed away. We were fortunate to have had Peter as a member of the WCHF Board of Directors and of the Executive Committee for many years, most recently serving as WCHF Treasurer. Joe Passineau, WCHF Executive Secretary, noted “Peter was always enthusiastic and actively promoting the WCHF.”

Peter worked as a Professor in Chemistry at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls until his retirement in 1988. He was a WWII veteran, retiring from the Wisconsin National Guard in 1984 as a Lieutenant Colonel. Peter organized the River Falls Recycling Center, and planted 25,000 tree seedlings for which a tree was dedicated to him at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls at his retirement. He loved gardening.

“Peter was loved by everyone due to his caring, generous, and compassionate nature. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Helen.” Peter’s obituary can be found at <https://bakkenyoung.com/peter-muto-05-14-2018/>



Peter Muto

# Additional Funds Received for Touchscreen Computer Exhibit

Our thanks go out to several Wisconsin contributors for their assistance in developing the Touchscreen Computer Exhibit in the Hall of Fame at the Schmeeckle Reserve Visitor Center. In addition to \$1,000 WCHF received from We Energies Foundation this past spring, we also received a \$1,000 C.D. Besadny Conservation grant through the Natural Resources Foundation and \$250 in “seed money” from Thrivent Financial. As a grassroots organization accomplishing its mission with limited financial resources, a program such as this is not something we could afford with our limited budget.

We are pleased to say the Touchscreen Computer Exhibit is now complete and will provide visitors the opportunity to learn more about each inductee in the Hall of Fame, along with the WCHF organization itself. Our special thanks go out to Jim Buchholz, Schmeeckle Reserve Director, and Donna VanBuecken, WCHF Vice President, for all the volunteer hours they put in getting this exhibit up and running.

## Kiosk Opens New Window to WCHF

The most effective interpretation for visitors provides layers of information from which they can choose based on their interests. A touchscreen computer is an ideal tool for providing this information in a compact and interactive way. Visitors scroll through a list of inductee names, and then select an inductee about whom they would like to discover more. This reveals a webpage that includes a summary of the inductee, a link to the more comprehensive biography sheet, and a photo(s) which helps to personalize the experience.

The kiosk unit is connected to the Internet, providing a direct connection to the web-based content, which makes it easy to update information from anywhere. If you haven't already had the opportunity to try it out, please plan to do so at your earliest convenience.



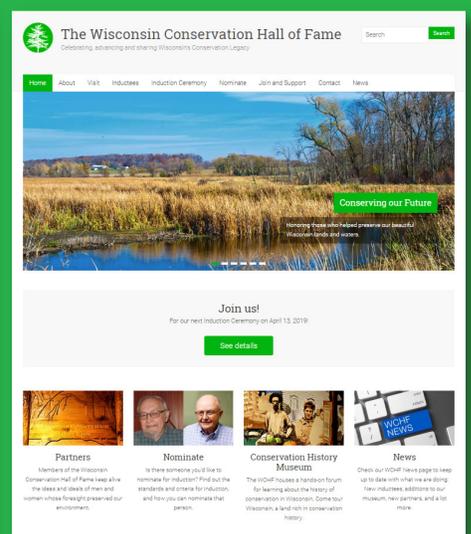
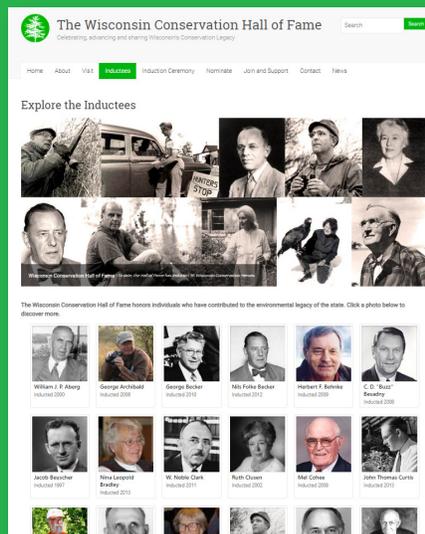
WCHF Board members standing in the Hall of Fame Gallery with the Touchscreen Computer Exhibit.

# Have You Seen Our WCHF Website Changes?

Visit the [WCHF.org](http://WCHF.org) website to learn more about our mission, our partners, and our 99 conservation heroes.

You can also sign-up to receive our Blog by email for updates and highlights from the WCHF and its partner organizations. (See [wchf.org/news](http://wchf.org/news)).

There's a wealth of information about the WCHF and its inductees at your fingertips. Recent updates include a new look for the Inductees webpage which makes it easier to identify specific inductees. Also, easier access to the photos and videos of past induction ceremonies which recreates the experience for conservation enthusiasts everywhere.



## Welcome to New Organizational Members

Much of the success of the WCHF can be attributed to our original Organizational Members who created the Foundation 35 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 welcome three of our newest Partners: Wisconsin County Forests Association, Midwest Renewable Energy Association and Wisconsin Wetlands Association. They will strengthen the Hall of Fame by helping us to better represent the diversity of conservation efforts in Wisconsin.



### Wisconsin County Forests Association

**Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA)** represents the forestry interests of 29 counties with lands enrolled under Wisconsin's County Forest Law. Our member counties manage nearly 2.4 million acres of forest lands, the largest public ownership in Wisconsin. Our mission statement: WCFA provides leadership uniting the interests of the world's largest county forest program while ensuring long-term forest health and sustainability.

Wisconsin County Forests provide tremendous landscape scale conservation opportunities for countless species of flora and fauna. They also protect thousands of miles of creeks, streams, rivers, and shoreline along thousands of lakes. For more information visit [wisconsincountyforests.com](http://wisconsincountyforests.com)



### Midwest Renewable Energy Association

**The Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA)** promotes renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable living through education and demonstration. Together with partners around the Midwest, MREA works to expand renewable energy adoption through innovative programs, solar group buys, renewable energy training, and educational events. In particular, initiatives focus on the development of robust markets for renewables and a history of success in public engagement and inspiring positive energy and climate action.

Founded in 1990, the MREA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization supported by 2,300+ individual and business members. The MREA is hosting its 30th Anniversary Energy Fair this June 21 - 23, 2019 at their headquarters in Custer, Wisconsin. For more information, visit [midwestrenew.org](http://midwestrenew.org) or [TheEnergyFair.org](http://TheEnergyFair.org).



### Wisconsin Wetlands Association

Wisconsin Wetlands Association is a non-partisan, science-based organization dedicated to the protection, restoration, and enjoyment of wetlands.

Wetlands are some of our most valuable ecosystems, but they're also some of the most vulnerable. To protect these valuable resources, we work with anyone who needs help caring for wetlands. Our membership is a diverse community of wetland supporters; scientists, landowners, hunters, nature enthusiasts, decision makers, farmers, paddlers, restoration specialists, and more.

Through our collaborative, science-based work, we continue to help people and communities protect, care for, and enjoy Wisconsin's wetlands. We envision a state where our wetlands are healthy and plentiful, support ecological and societal needs, and where citizens care for, appreciate, and interact with these natural resources.

