

NOMINATION OF MISS PEARL L. POHL  
FOR THE 1976 WISCONSIN ACADEMY CITATION  
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delivered by Cyril Kabat  
at  
Wisconsin Academy Annual Meeting--  
May 8, 1976  
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Nothing gives me greater satisfaction than making a statement at this citation.

First, a few philosophical remarks:

As far back as 1908 when most of today's environmental activities were yet to be born, Miss Pearl L. Pohl began her career of teaching, leading, organizing, crusading and championing the cause of protecting and wisely using Wisconsin's natural resources. Her efforts and accomplishments spanned the eras of conservation, ecology and Earth Day and entered today's period of environmental awareness. Her record of performance will not be found in famous books on the shelves of hallowed libraries but the impact of her efforts will remain deeply etched in Wisconsin's struggle to preserve and deliver to posterity some of its natural legacy.

While what Pearl L. Pohl did is of great significance, it is how she did it that alone warrants an Academy Citation.

Anyone who was fortunate enough to have helped with her promotions knows what this means. Let me illustrate with just one type of experience. One of Pearl L. Pohl's efforts was to organize the annual conference of the Young Wisconsin Conservationists (YWC). This meant getting many people to assist with and participate in the program. For

example, on a Saturday night about 10 p.m., my phone rang. The caller was Pearl L. Pohl. "Can you help me out," she asked. "I need a speaker or a judge for the conference next week." Few people turned down these requests because they knew their importance and few regretted that they accepted the invitations.

Her formal teaching career began in 1908 and terminated in 1953. For this effort she was cited by the Wisconsin Division of the IWL in 1949 for work in conservation with children 8-14 years of age. She pioneered in getting youngsters outdoors, to learn and participate in such activities as conservation practices on farms and in the Kettle Moraine State Forest. Here she taught that conservation was a way of life.

During and after her teaching career, she was a participant and leader in many conservation groups. Here are a few examples of these efforts:

She spearheaded an Anti-Litter Program.

For this purpose she organized assistance from the Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs and Garden Clubs. This effort led to the appointment of the Keep Wisconsin Clean and Beautiful Committee by Governor Walter Kohler.

She was most active in the development of a Wisconsin Council for Conservation Education.

She developed the Young Wisconsin Conservationists program for promoting leadership of high school students. She chaired this program from its inception in 1956 to recent years.

She organized the La Budde Memorial Chapter of the Wisconsin IWL.

This is the only women's chapter of the League in Wisconsin.

She served as its president for many years.

She was an activist in many natural resource preservation battles.

These included:

The Flambeau River State Forest

Namekagon River

Improvement of the Milwaukee River

Wild Rivers Legislation

Regional Planning

Pesticide Use Control

Watershed Management

Retirement from her formal teaching career in 1953 provided more time for dedication to preserving and stressing the importance of natural resources.

She continued to be active in all of the programs cited previously and many more. In 1970 at the age of 80, she directed a drive to establish the Environmental Education Council of Greater Milwaukee and became its vice president.

She was always charitable, magnanimous and to the point in her dealings with people. Let me illustrate with one example. I was invited to speak at one of the meetings she arranged. After the meeting, she thanked me. I didn't feel that I had done well, so I started to say it could have been better. She looked over her shoulder and said, "I have already thanked you; don't ask for sympathy."

Need I say more--ever though there is much more to say. No one could give as much for so little remuneration--no big dollar prizes or royalties on books--the best we can say now is--Thank You So Much.