

Charles Hatch Stoddard

Charles Hatch Stoddard, Northland College honors you this day as a distinguished public servant whose remarkable career has helped guide the transition from conservation and preservation of resources to multiple use and environmental protection.

A Milwaukee native, you received your bachelor's and master's degrees in forestry and forest economics from the University of Michigan, with additional graduate work at Princeton and the University of Wisconsin.

While still a first lieutenant in the South Pacific during the dwindling days of World War Two, you collected specimens and identified rainforest trees, including a new species now bearing the name *Mastixiodendron Stoddardii*.

After the war you held several forestry and conservation positions. In the presidential campaign of 1960, you became John F. Kennedy's natural resource advisor and, after the election, a policy advisor to Secretary of Interior Stewart Udall. In the early weeks of the new administration, you convinced Udall to persuade President Kennedy to deliver a major address to Congress on conservation issues -- drafted in large part, of course, by a bright young resource economist named Stoddard. The speech laid out Kennedy's positions and goals on environmental policy ranging from wilderness protection and wild rivers designation to public land management and pollution control.

In 1963, Secretary Udall appointed you director of the Bureau of Land Management -- the federal agency responsible for 270 million acres of public lands. In that position you laid the groundwork for integrated planning and prudent, multiple use of resources.

From the BLM you moved to Upper Midwest Regional Coordinator in Interior's Duluth office. Along the way, you found time to organize and chair the Northern Environmental Council. Never one to shy away from controversy when the environment is threatened, you successfully led the fight to end the dumping of taconite tailings into Lake Superior and pressed for a reduction in the size and scope of Project ELF.

Beginning in 1977, you served two years as president of the Wilderness Society, where you were instrumental in gaining support and ultimate passage of legislation creating the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. After that, for a number of years you served on the citizen's committee which advises the Wisconsin Public Intervener on environmental issues.

You have been a voice for sound planning and wise use of public resources, authoring five technical bulletins, 32 journal articles and two books.

And you, too, have practiced what you've preached. In the 1930s you purchased a 300-acre tract of burned-over forest and worn-out farmland. Under your active and watchful care, Wolf Springs Forest has become the envy of professional foresters and a textbook example of wise resource management.

For your life of dedication to the public good and your indomitable human spirit, Charles Hatch Stoddard, we honor you this day.

Given at Northland College, Ashland, Wisconsin, this twenty-seventh day of May in the year of our Lord, the nineteen hundred and ninetieth, and of Northland College, the ninety-eighth.

Robert Rue Parsonage
President
Northland College

