

SERGEI WILDE INDUCTION
INTO THE
CONSERVATION HALL OF FAME
April 16, 1994

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to reflect for a few minutes today on the career and life of Dr. Sergei Alexander Wilde. He was a close personal friend as well as a highly respected colleague during the 1960's and 1970's, so I consider it a great honor to have been asked to make a few remarks about Doc today.

Doc was, without question, the most interesting individual and the most "complete" professor I have had the pleasure of interacting with during my four decades at the University of Wisconsin. Professionally, he dominated the field of forest soil science for some 50 years. In fact, he has often been referred to as the "father of forest soil science"--an appropriate title given the fact that he was the first university professor in the United States to be hired as a forest soil scientist in the 1930's. And in the 1940's, 50's and 60's, virtually everyone who received a PhD in this emerging discipline received their doctoral training from Doc Wilde. As you will realize later when I show you a few slides, Doc instilled in his students a tremendous respect and appreciation for all our natural resources. He was a conservationist and an ecologist long before it was "politically correct" to be devoting one's attention to these endeavors.

Doc was also a "professor's professor" in the Old World definition of such a title because of his talents as a musician, an artist, a poet, a writer and historian, and as a linguist--he had both written and spoken command of seven languages; namely, Russian, German, French, Czech, Polish Italian and English.

Doc also had a zest for life that was almost boundless. He was variously engaged in hunting, fishing, boating, painting, singing and playing the piano or violin, playing chess and playing bridge. Moreover, he was the quintessential entertainer. When the spirit moved Doc--which was often--he sponsored dinner parties for friends and colleagues at his home that were truly memorable.

Now I would like to show you a few slides that will highlight some of Doc's activities, and then Art Peterson will follow up with

some additional observations of Doc" work as a scientist and a conservationist.

Slide no	Slide description
✓1	Trans-Amurian artillery(1915)
✓2	Graduate School, <u>Prague</u> (1925)
3	US For. Ser., Upper Mich.(1930)
✓4	Tree-fall, Barron Co.(early 1930"s)
✓5	Larissa, Gley & student(early 40's)
✓6	Sabbatical leave, Alaska 1958-59
✓7	Turino students, Italn. Alps, 1964
✓8	Student "field trip", Lake Sup.,1966
✓9	Student gathering, Minoqua, 1968
10	Wilde/Hole field trip, 1972
11	Wilde/Hole field trip, 1972
12	Wilde/Iyer, Lake Superior 1972
13	Nakoosa Edwards forest, 1975
✓14	Wilde home in Minoqua, mid-70's
✓15	Wilde home in Madison, late-70's
✓16	Resturant party, early 80's