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Victim fights reform

A malpractice nightmare

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Hanson honored for career of environmental activism

Visitor center theater named in his honor

BY RICK OLIVO
Staff Writer

For half a century of untiring effort, Martin Hanson has dedicated himself to ensuring the preservation of some of the most special places and creatures of northern Wisconsin.

From donating over a thousand acres of lake-bordered family land to the University of Wisconsin, to setting the stage for the creation of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, to his continuing efforts to reintroduce coaster brook trout to Chequamegon Bay, Martin Hanson has had an impact on the environment of the north that is simply unmatched by any single person.

When a bull elk bugles in the forests of central Ashland County, it is partially because Martin Hanson worked to make it so. When trout spawn up the crystal clear waters of the Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge, some of the credit has to be given to Martin Hanson, who not only knew

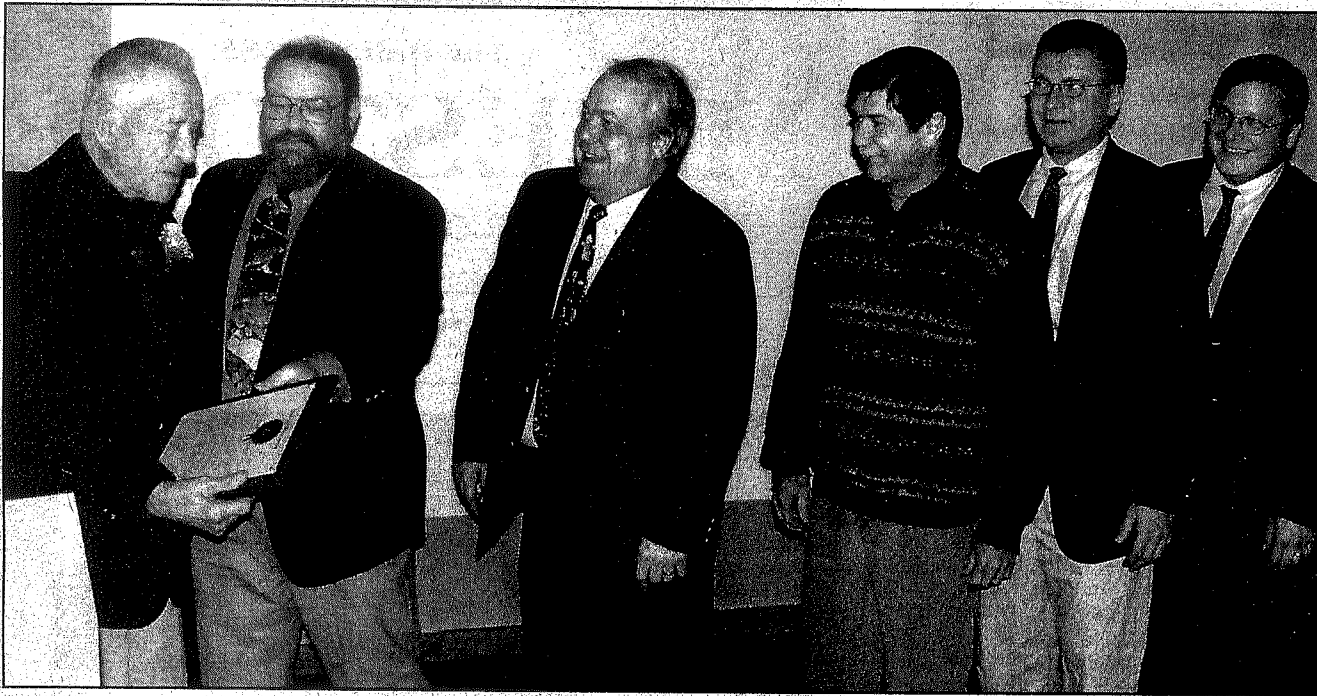
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Rick Olivo/Staff Photos

HANSON HONORED — For five decades, an advocate for the land, waters and creatures of northern Wisconsin, Martin Hanson was honored Saturday as the theater in the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center was named in his honor (Above). Hanson was joined by U.S. Forest Service representative Anne Archie as the plaque and a picture of Hanson were unveiled in ceremonies at the Center. Hanson was also honored (below) with a proclamation from Wisconsin Governor James Doyle recognizing his efforts.





Rick Olivo/Staff photo

LEGISLATIVE RECOGNITION — Martin Hanson, left is joined by a number of Wisconsin lawmakers who presented him with a legislative proclamation honoring his efforts to protect the region's environment. They included, from second left, Representative Gary Sherman, State Senator Bob Jauch, Representative Dave Travis, State Senator Mark Meyer, Secretary of Tourism Kevin Shibiliski.

HANSON: Wisconsin lawmakers pay tribute to environmentalist

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the rightness of saving these special places, these special creatures, but had the dedication to make others share his vision.

In a long and fruitful career, Hanson has preferred to work quietly, without fanfare or self-promotion. But last Saturday, those who best know of his efforts celebrated his vision and perseverance, dedicating the theater at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in his honor.

The choice of the site was natural. Hanson was one of the early supporters of the Center, working hard behind the scenes to marshal state and federal funding to make the project a reality.

The event drew over a dozen local, state and federal political figures and their representatives to offer testimonials on Hanson's efforts.

Acting as master of ceremonies for the event was former state assembly member Barb Linton.

"Martin is a man who believes our existence is in the past as well as the future. For those of us who are here today, we are fortunate to have had the opportunity to learn from Martin's quiet and knowledgeable voice of the past and his wise counsel of vision for the future," she said. "Many people who are gathered here today are here to thank Martin for his generosity in sharing those truths with us."

Wisconsin Secretary of Tourism Kevin Shibiliski called Hanson "the epitome of the citizen conservationist."

"You are the person we can turn to define a life well lived on behalf of the environment," he said. "Your legacy is one that will be enjoyed by generation after generation," he said.

Shibiliski gave Hanson a proclamation from Governor Doyle.

Citing Hanson's achievements, also noting that he has also acted as a facilitator to numerous state and federal environmental agencies and elected leaders and had been nominated to the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame.

State Senator Bob Jauch said Martin's friends in the packed auditorium were at the event to

acknowledge his contributions and his friendship.

"More important than that, is to be surrounded by so many people who affirm the values of continuing to make Wisconsin the special place that it is. By acknowledging him we are affirming our responsibility to continue to make Wisconsin a greater and better place," he said. "The best way to honor Martin is to make sure we commit ourselves and contribute our energy to making sure that we protect those resources."

State Representative Gary Sherman was joined by Jauch, State Representative David Travis, State Senator Mike Meyer and Secretary Shibiliski in presenting proclamation of the Wisconsin Legislature commending Hanson for his many efforts on behalf of northern Wisconsin.

The legislators all took their turns in commending Hanson. They were joined by Marjorie Bunce of U.S. Senator Herb Kohl's staff, Karen Graff, of U.S. Senator Russ Feingold's staff, Pat Miller, former Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Superintendent, Mark Dryer of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Matt Dallman of the

Nature Conservancy, Dan Cervin of Trout Unlimited, Neil Paulson of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Dan Garner-Gebhardt of Congressman Dave Obey's staff.

Obey who could not attend the event because of congressional business in Washington D.C. sent videotaped comments.

"I am delighted you are honoring Martin Hanson today," Obey said. "It is absolutely the right thing to do."

Obey said he was sure Gaylord Nelson would tell the audience that there would be no Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.

"Without Martin there would be many fewer wild and scenic rivers in Wisconsin. I can tell you without Martin I would not have passed legislation adding Long Island to Apostle Island National Lakeshore. Without Martin, I would certainly not have gotten the funds for Whittlesey Creek preservation."

Obey also credited Martin for making the Visitor Center a reality.

Martin has two great strengths. First he loves the land and the environment that sustains us and enriches our

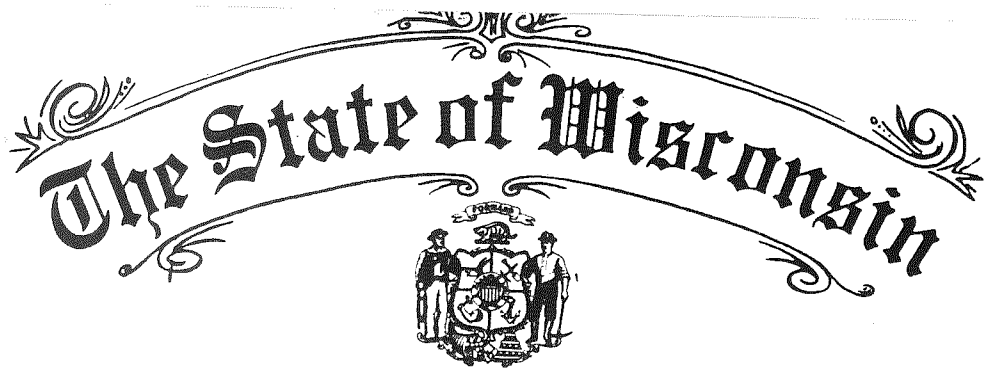
spirit. Second he knows how to work with reasonable people on all sides of these issues to bring opposites together, to find a way to work things out to accomplish a greater public good. He is a citizen in the finest sense of the word. To me he will always be northern Wisconsin's first citizen of the land."

"I certainly never expected this," Hanson said, when it was his turn to speak.

Hanson said his greatest experience was conducting President Kennedy on a helicopter tour of the Apostle Islands.

"We came in over Basswood Island, he looked down and he saw those sailboats; he was a sailor himself. I told him of all the places on the Great Lakes, the best sailing is here because you can always go to the lee side of the islands. He got that big Kennedy smile and then he understood," Hanson said.

In his half century of working for the environment of northern Wisconsin, that is perhaps Hanson's greatest gift; helping others to understand the grandeur of the northern Wisconsin he has worked so hard to preserve.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

A COMMENDATION

WHEREAS, Martin Hanson has been a true "citizen conservationist" in Northern Wisconsin for decades; and

WHEREAS, Martin Hanson and his family have donated over 1000 acres of Northern Wisconsin pristine wilderness and lakefront property to the University of Wisconsin for a natural resource area to be kept "forever wild"; and

WHEREAS, Martin Hanson was a driving force behind the successful re-introduction of elk into the Chequamegon National Forest and is currently working with Trout Unlimited, the Wisconsin DNR and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to re-introduce coaster brook trout into the Lake Superior ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, Martin Hanson played a key role in the establishment of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore and the Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge and the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center; and

WHEREAS, Martin Hanson has acted as an advisor and facilitator to numerous Wisconsin and national environmental agencies and elected leaders in regard to conservation issues affecting Northern Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Martin Hanson, whose volunteerism and dedication to the conservation of Northern Wisconsin has caused him to have been nominated to the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame to join such conservation luminaries as Aldo Leopold, John Muir and Sigurd Olson,

WHEREAS, Martin Hanson has dedicated his life to wild places and education of others about their virtue;

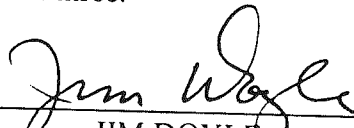
NOW, THEREFORE, I Jim Doyle, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby commend

MARTIN HANSON

and recognize him for his life long activism and commitment to conservation which have resulted in the betterment of Wisconsin's environment for current and future generations to enjoy.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Executive Privy Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this first day of February in the year two thousand three.


JIM DOYLE

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SERVING BAYFIELD COUNTY

Hanson honored at Great Lakes Center

Hanson's environmental efforts
praised by many who were at
auditorium dedication

By Eric Hjerstedt Sharp
Journal Staff Reporter

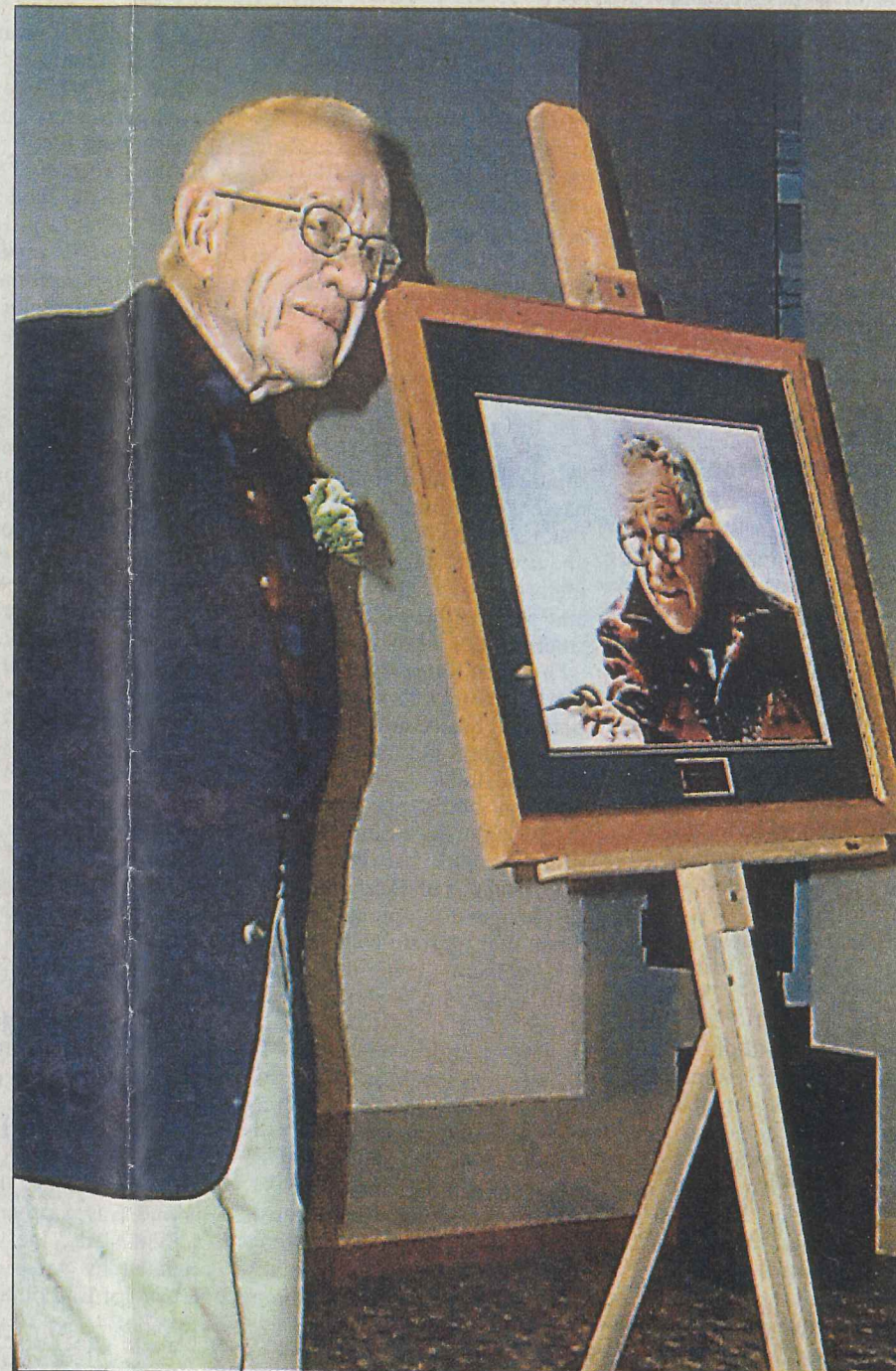
ASHLAND — Martin Hanson — who has joined the regarded ranks of Wisconsin-born conservationists Sigurd Olson, John Muir and Aldo Leopold — was further honored Saturday when politicians, friends and fellow environmentalists gathered to dedicate the theater at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in his name.

Joining the guest of honor in the Martin Hanson Theater was Wisconsin's newly-appointed Secretary of Tourism, Kevin Shibilski, who said Wisconsin residents and Northlanders are in debt to Hanson.

"You are the epitome of the citizen conservationist, Martin," Shibilski said. "You are it. You live for wild things. One-hundred years from now those who enjoy the bugling of bull elk (in Wisconsin) can thank you."

Shibilski was referring to Hanson's leadership in helping to re-introduce elk into the Clam Lake area during the early 1990s. Prior to the re-introduction, wildlife biologists considered the Bayfield Peninsula as a possible habitat for the elk, but opted for Clam Lake.

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See HANSON



Martin Hanson was honored over the weekend for his effort to protect the environment with his named being affixed to the Northern Great Lakes Visitors Center auditorium. (Staff photo by Eric Hjerstedt Sharp)

Hanson

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Hanson, who lives in the Chequamegon National Forest near Mellen, was also instrumental in the last 50 years in lobbying for conservation issues that include helping to establish Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge. He was instrumental in securing "Wild and Scenic" status for the Saint Croix River. A video producer and film maker, Hanson has produced over 50 educational and natural history video tapes.

Hanson is presently working on restoring coaster brook trout habitat in the Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge at the head of Chequamegon Bay, just north of the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. He and his family donated over 1,000 acres of Northern Wisconsin wilderness and lake country property to the University of Wisconsin.

At Saturday's ceremony, Hanson related a story of when he escorted President John Kennedy on an airplane tour of the islands prior to the island's designation as a national park. According to Hanson, Kennedy's eyes lit up, and he "smiled that Kennedy smile" when he looked down and saw sailboats on the leeward side

of Basswood Island.

Former State Rep. Barbara Linton was the master of ceremonies.

"Today we gather together as friends of one person, Martin Hanson. Martin Hanson is a visionary," Linton said.

State Sen. Robert Jauch attended the event and addressed the full-theater.

"Martin Hanson is to the environment what Mr. Rogers is to Public Television. And we're his neighborhood," Jauch said.

"It is the water and the resources that define Wisconsin. We dedicate this (theater) because of the contributions you have made in our lives."

Marjorie Bunce of U.S. Sen. Herb Kohl's office referred to Hanson "as a great citizen conservationist." "You are truly deserving of this recognition," Bunce said.

Other speakers at the event included: Joe Barabe, former mayor of Mellen, State Sen. Mark Meyer, State Sen. Gary Sherman, State Rep. David Travis, Karen Graff of U.S. Sen. Feingold's staff, Pat Miller, former Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Superintendent, Mark Dryer, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Matt Dallman of The Nature Conservancy, Dan Cervin of Trout Unlimited, Bayfield County Superintendent Neil Paulson of Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Don Garner-Gerhardt of U.S. Congressman David Obey's staff.

Martin Hanson Theater Dedication



February 1, 2003

3:00 P.M.

**Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center
Ashland, WI**

Sponsored by the Friends of The Center

*Mellen Center
for Culture*

Speakers

Joe Barabe, Historian, Former Mayor of Mellen

Kevin Shibilski, Secretary of Tourism

State Senator Robert Jauch

State Senator Mark Meyer

State Representative Gary Sherman

State Representative David Travis

Marjorie Bunce, Senator Kohl's Staff

Karen Graff, Senator Feingold's Staff

Pat Miller, Former Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Superintendent

Mark Dryer, US Fish & Wildlife Service

Matt Dallman, The Nature Conservancy

Dan Cervin, Trout Unlimited

Neil Paulson, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Don Garner-Gerhardt, Congressman Obey's Staff

Big Top Chautauqua Members

Warren Nelson, Don Pavel, Jack Gunderson,

Bruce Burnside, Bruce Bowers, Tom Mitchell

Dedication Program

Master of Ceremonies—Barb Linton

Dedication Opening—Big Top Chautauqua

Speakers

Theater Dedication—Anne Archie, US Forest Service

Martin Hanson

Dedication Closing—Big Top Chautauqua

Refreshments in Center's Main Hall

