



Dorothy & Jacque Vallier  
1910-2013 & 1912-1996

*'Each time I come here, I marvel at the children's faces and their excitement. This is the magic of Schlitz Audubon Nature Center – being able to touch the lives of so many young people. Through nature, we are nurturing tomorrow's conservationists. It is my dream come true.'*

–Dorothy Vallier

Dorothy and Jacque Vallier were giving spirits who shared a delight for nature, making them a team of conservation philanthropists among Wisconsin's most notable. Their generous contributions to the preservation of Wisconsin's natural resources and to increase awareness of the state's natural history will continue to benefit Wisconsin for years to come.

Dorothy and Jacque's reverence for nature took shape early in their lives. In his youth, Jacque worked as a cook's helper, or "bull cook" in a relic of a logging camp in the Wisconsin northwoods. According to a story in Wisconsin Trails magazine published in December of 1989, it was there that he "captured a love of wild things, and of wilderness that never left."

Meanwhile, Dorothy spent summers of her youth at her grandfather, Schlitz Brewery Founder Henry Uihlein's Milwaukee River home. There, the beauty surrounding her piqued her interest in nature, and led her to become involved in the Audubon Society, in which she served as a junior member and during her adulthood on the National Board of Directors.

Dorothy and Jacque's early enchantment with the natural world never left them, and with it, both gained the determination and creativity as well as the means to be able to make great advances in Wisconsin conservation. Each was a generous contributor to nature preservation before they married: Dorothy worked in prairie chicken preservation, eventually helping to found the still-active Society of Tympanuchus Cupido Pinnatus (prairie chickens), Jacque created a logging camp replica at Keshena Falls, which he donated to the Menominee Indian Tribe. And when the two became a pair, they combined their efforts and personalities to give magnificently to the state of Wisconsin. One of their most remarkable efforts was the donation of 960 acres of forestland, known as Treehaven, to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Dorothy and her first husband, Gordon Kummer, started Treehaven as a 600-acre tree farm in 1954, and worked with a company called Trees for Tomorrow to manage the land, eventually preserving 1,200 acres of mixed hardwood forest between Tomahawk and Rhinelander. Dorothy and Gordon, with the help of Trees for Tomorrow and its chief forester Bill Sylvester, planted nearly 140,000 trees on Treehaven.

After Kummer's death, and Dorothy's marriage to Jacque, in 1977 the Valliers contacted Sylvester, who had moved on to become a forestry specialist on the natural resources faculty at UW-SP, to make plans to donate Treehaven to the university. The land came to host one of the nation's leading natural resources education and professional development facilities, cherished by people who visit from all over Wisconsin.

The Valliers also joined forces to create the Schlitz Audubon Center. The land where the center is located is where Dorothy's devotion to nature began: the place of her grandfather's summer home in the Milwaukee area. Dorothy was determined beginning in the 1960s to thwart the Schlitz Foundation's plans to develop the region, proposing as an alternative that the land remain pristine and be used as an Audubon Society nature center. The Schlitz foundation rejected Dorothy's plan but she pressed on, revisiting the foundation every year to reiterate her proposal, eventually gathering local residents to support her cause.

Finally, in 1971, the Schlitz Foundation acquiesced, considering the National Audubon Society's sanction of the center as well as a \$1 million contribution from Dorothy and Jacque. The Schlitz Audubon Center opened in 1974, and continues to educate children about nature in a huge and gorgeous campus, containing woods, meadows, ravines, bluffs, and Lake Michigan shoreline. The Center hosts more children than any other Wisconsin Nature Center and more than any other Audubon center in the United States.

In 2003, the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center honored Dorothy Vallier by creating an environmentally sustainable building in her name, the Dorothy K. Vallier Environmental Learning Center. Upon a visit to the new facility, Dorothy Vallier remarked, "Each time I come here, I marvel at the children's faces and their excitement. This is the magic of Schlitz Audubon Nature Center being able to touch the lives of so many young people. Through nature, we are nurturing tomorrow's conservationists. It is my dream come true."

Adding to the Valliers' huge donations of land and money to Wisconsin conservation causes is their donation of a collection of pressed glass goblets to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, and

their endowment of the Dorothy and Jacque D. Vallier Chair of Ecology in the UW-SP College of Natural Resources.

Undeniably, the Valliers made enduring contributions to the state of Wisconsin before they became partners, as did Dorothy's first husband, Gordon Kummer. But the Valliers' legacies will live on together – they were groundbreaking in their generosity to Wisconsin conservation, and it was together that they left their most dramatic impact on the state's resources and people. In his article for Wisconsin Trails, Tom Davis concluded, "(The Valliers) are owed a great debt. If people emulate their work and their ideals, it will be, for the Valliers, payment in full."

## DOROTHY VALLIER

1910-2013

### ORGANIZATIONS, ACTIVITIES, CHARITABLE WORK

Junior Audubon member.

Audubon Board of Directors.

Began a nearly 1200-acre tree farm with her first husband, Gordon Kummer, which became known as Treehaven.

With Gordon Kummer, purchased 60-acre parcel of prairie chicken habitat for preservation.

Helped to found the Society of Tympanuchus Cupido Pinnatus (Prairie Chickens), a conservation organization that is still working to preserve the Wisconsin prairie chicken population.

With Jacque, donated Treehaven property to create a natural resources camp for the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

With Jacque, donated collection of pressed-glass goblets to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

With Jacque, funded the Dorothy and Jacques Vallier Chair of Ecology in the College of Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

With Jacque, founded and provided funding for the Schlitz Audubon Center, Milwaukee, 1971.

### HONORS

Dorothy K. Vallier Environmental Center named in her honor. She continues to serve on the center's Board of Directors, as Director Active Emeritus

JACQUE VALLIER

1912-1996

EDUCATION: Majored in botany at UW-Madison, earned Master's Degree from the University of Iowa.

CAREER

Taught biology, Washington High School, Milwaukee, for 40 years.

Botanist, director at the Wisconsin Audubon Camp at Sarona in 1955.

ACTIVITIES, CHARITABLE WORK

Founded Menominee Logging Camp Museum, Keshena Falls, 1972.

Donated large collection of early Great Lakes States logging photographs to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Donated collection of hundreds of books on natural history to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

With Dorothy, donated their Treehaven property to create a natural resources camp for the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

With Dorothy, donated collection of pressed-glass goblets to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

With Dorothy, funded the Dorothy and Jacque Vallier Chair of Ecology in the College of Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

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