

## Laurence R. Jahn

Laurence R. Jahn was born in Jefferson, Wisconsin, in 1926, and spent his formative years on the family farm where his appreciation of the land and its resources kindled a lifelong commitment to the conservation of wild living resources. He received academic training at the University of Wisconsin, in a wildlife management/ecology program that had been founded in 1939 by the father of modern wildlife management, Aldo Leopold. Jahn earned his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from that program in 1949, 1958, and 1965, respectively.

Dr. Jahn began his professional career as a waterfowl biologist for the Wisconsin Conservation Department (now, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources) in 1949. Within a decade, the research of Dr. Jahn and his colleagues set the templet for strategies for managing waterfowl, particularly Canada geese, in Wisconsin and throughout the Mississippi Valley. In 1959 he joined the Wildlife Management Institute as Field Representative for the North Central States, where he quickly established a reputation for expeditious and knowledgeable handling of conservation issues and resource management matters throughout the Midwest. His dedicated efforts carried him to Washington, D.C. in 1970, as the Institute's Director of Conservation. He was appointed vice-president of the Wildlife Management Institute in 1971 and currently serves as president.

Dr. Jahn has been called "one of the most influential people on the Washington scene in support of sound land and water management programs and practices." His accomplishments however, have occurred on both the political and scientific fronts. Among the numerous technical and popular papers authored by Dr. Jahn, one finds a diverse array of topics including waterfowl management, nongame wildlife, habitat management, wildlife refuges, wilderness, wetlands, marshes, estuaries, groundwater resources, riparian issues, water use and management, soil conservation, public and private land management, open space, recreation access, trespass and liability, and conservation law. His contributions to waterfowl and wetland management are widely recognized for their scientific rigor, excellence in reporting and positive impact on the resource.

His most notable achievements however, have been his counsel on natural resource management agencies, professional societies, Congress, and the national administration.

Dr. Jahn has held numerous prestigious posts in professional and natural resources organizations and societies, including serving as president of The Wildlife Society; chairman of the National Watershed Congress; executive member of the National Research Council board on Agriculture; chairman of the Natural Resource Council of America; chairman of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Environmental Advisory Board; chairman of Conservation/Wildlife Advisory Council for the U.S. Senate

Agricultural Subcommittee on Soil and Water Conservation; Board of Directors member on the Alliance for Environmental Education; and chairman of the Fish and Wildlife Task Force of the National Academy of Sciences.

Also, Dr. Jahn has served on numerous boards or advisory committees of the Office of Technology Assessment, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Soil Conservation Society of America, and U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Interior and State.

Dr. Jahn's list of awards span four decades or more. Some of his awards include a certificate of merit from Fergus Falls Area Save the Wetlands in 1953, for contributions to waterfowl and wetland conservation programs in Minnesota and the United States and his publication, "Duck and coot ecology and management in Wisconsin." In 1966 he received a commendation award from the Soil Conservation Society of America for assistance in planning and completing the booklet "Land planning principles for land use in Wisconsin." In 1971 he earned the distinction of Elected Fellow of the American Association For the Advancement of Science and in 1984, he was honored by being the first recipient of the Trippensee-McPherson Award, which was given by The Wildlife Society to mark Dr. Jahn's exceptional achievements in wildlife conservation. In 1989, he received the Wildlife Society's most prestigious award, the Aldo Leopold Medal "for distinguished

service to wildlife conservation."

He has been remarked by his colleagues as being "a bold, innovative thinker and doer", "the archetypical professional" and as unmatched in his use of "tenacity, charm and political savvy to further wildlife causes."

He is a dedicated conservationist and outdoorsman, who particularly enjoys taking photographs and "reading" the landscape in his leisure time.

Sources:

Marquis Who's Who in America. "Laurence R. Jahn". 46th ed. 1989.

The Wildlife Society. News Release: "Laurence R. Jahn wins 1989 Aldo Leopold Award". 21 March 1989.

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