

# THE CAPITAL TIMES

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MADISON, Wis., Tuesday, June 28, 1977

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## Nature Conservancy's Olson

AFTER ALMOST 18 years as chairman of the enterprising Nature Conservancy of Wisconsin, Paul J. Olson, the only leader the group ever had, has stepped down. Elected to replace him is Fanny T. Taylor, also of Madison.

The changing of the guard at the Nature Conservancy's recent annual meeting was conducted in a fitting surrounding — John Muir Memorial Park in Marquette county. The spot is dedicated to honoring Muir, one of the nation's earliest environmentalists and conservationists.

Olson is a retired Madison school principal whose boundless energy has enlisted him in scores of crusades, most of them concerned with protecting the environment.

None of them have been of more importance to Wisconsin than his work with the Nature Conservancy. The group is generally rated as one of the most effective groups in the nation, with a membership that is nearing 2,000. Under Olson's stewardship, more than \$2 million has been raised to buy and preserve endangered areas.



Paul Olson

Nature Conservancy holdings, aimed at preserving environmental treasures for future generations, dot the state map like a bolt of polka dot material. They range from the 1,000-acre Baraboo Hills holdings and the Summerton Bog in Central Wisconsin to a pint-sized Gasser Sand Barren in Sauk county and scores of others — 62 projects in all.

Madisonians have played a large role in the Conservancy's varied campaigns — many of them infected by the Olson contagion. They include Grant Cotnam, Joseph Hickey, Eugene Roark, Hugh Iltis, Emily Early, Peg Watrous, Russ Morris, Mary Jane Goodrich, Don Kind-schi and Fan Taylor, to name a few.