

NEWS RELEASE

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2023 WISCONSIN CONSERVATION HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES ANNOUNCED Michael Dombeck, Mark Martin and Susan Foote-Martin, and Byron Herbert Shaw

The Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame (WCHF) Foundation, Inc., is pleased to announce the April 2023 Induction of Michael Dombeck, Mark Martin and Susan Foote-Martin, and Byron H. Shaw. "This year we especially celebrate each inductee's capability for vision, persistence, and teamwork. These notable individuals have positively impacted a variety of resources and communities, both in Wisconsin and around the nation," said 2023 WCHF Foundation President Marco Mascitti. Each of these individuals will be inducted into the WCHF on April 25, 2023, in live ceremonies held virtually and free for the public to attend. For more information visit: <https://wchf.org/2023-induction-events/>

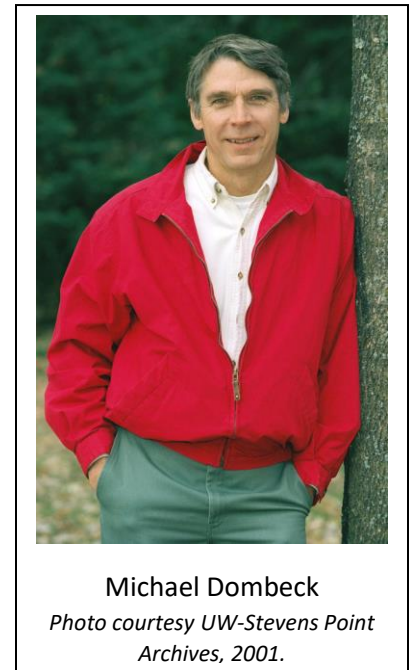
INDUCTEE BIOS

MICHAEL DOMBECK (1948 -)

*Conservation is nothing if not about choices—
choices left for future generations.*

–Michael Dombeck

Michael Dombeck is one of the most respected and renowned contemporary conservationists. From rural Wisconsin to the national scene and back home again to teach and mentor others, Dombeck's influence as a leader and conservationist is far-reaching. He dedicated a quarter of a century to managing federal lands and natural resources with an impact on nearly 500 million acres of public lands. Dombeck is the only person to date to lead America's two largest land management agencies—the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service. He is most recognized for forging partnerships and crafting policies that integrated economics, science, and watershed protection to manage federal lands in the long-term public interest. Following his federal service, Dombeck brought his experience back to the classroom to share with students, early-career scientists, and a variety of national and local conservation organizations.



Dombeck grew up wandering the woods, lakes, and streams of rural Sawyer County where his parents owned a small country store. This exposed him to diverse members of the Moose Lake area east of Hayward, Wisconsin. Raised in the traditions of hunting, fishing, and trapping, he spent countless hours of his youth immersed in outdoor pursuits. By age 15, he began taking tourists fishing and later earned the nickname "Musky Mike." His love of the outdoors, fish and fishing led him to pursue

undergraduate and master's degrees in biology and teaching from UW-Stevens Point and zoology from University of Minnesota. In 1984, he earned a PhD in Fisheries Biology from Iowa State University. His ground-breaking research on spawning habitat and early life history of Wisconsin's state fish, the muskellunge, remains relevant and valuable.

Dombeck began his federal service in 1978 as a Fisheries Technician with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and gradually worked up the ranks to become a primary architect for integrating aquatic and fisheries protection and recreation policies on management of the 193 million acres of national forests across the United States. In 1989, Dr. Dombeck's career took him to the Department of Interior where he once again climbed the ranks to become Science Advisor and later Acting Director of the Bureau of Land Management. In this role, he created a long-term vision for advancing ecosystem management, watershed protection, and watershed restoration. Always with an eye toward people and their roles, his weekly letter to employees ended with "thank you for what you do for the health of the land."

In 1997, Dombeck returned to the USFS as Chief where he led the development of a national resource agenda for the agency focusing on watershed health and restoration, recreation, sustainable forest management, and a long-term forest roads policy including the controversial Roadless Rule in 2001 which protected 58 million acres of the most remote national forest lands from road building and other development.

After returning to Wisconsin from Washington, D.C., Dombeck took his experiences to the classroom as University of Wisconsin System Fellow and Professor of Global Conservation at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point from 2001 to 2010. Dr. Dombeck also served as the Executive Director of the David Smith Post-Doctoral Conservation Research Fellowship Program (2005 – 2021) training and mentoring nearly 100 post-doctoral, early-career scientists in conservation. The fellowship program emphasized leadership, creativity, and the power of positive working relationships.

Dombeck has authored, co-authored, and edited over 300 popular articles and scholarly publications including the books *Watershed Restoration: Principles and Practices*, *From Conquest to Conservation: Our Public Lands Legacy*, and *The Business of the Conservation Nonprofit*. Dombeck has earned numerous honors and awards for his achievements and leadership in natural resources including the highest award in career federal service, the Presidential Rank—Distinguished Executive Award. Throughout his career he remained focused on the critical importance of water, connecting people to nature, and keeping wild places wild.

MARK MARTIN (1949 -) & SUSAN FOOTE-MARTIN (1948 -)

To get started in conservation, find groups with like interests. Go on field trips. Learn from experts.

Most of all, volunteer, especially on efforts to preserve and restore habitat. If we all do our part, everything will be better in the long-term for people, plants, and animals.

—Mark Martin and Susan Foote-Martin



Mark Martin & Susan Foote-Martin

Photo by Arlene Koziol, 2022.

Mark Martin and Susan Foote-Martin have dedicated their whole lives to conservation—not just through their respective careers in natural resources, but through five decades of individual volunteer efforts that have had significant impacts on conservation in Wisconsin. Together, centered on their stewardship of Goose Pond, a nature sanctuary operated by the Madison Audubon Society in Columbia County, Mark and Susan have dedicated 90 combined years of service protecting, restoring, and managing mesic prairie habitat—the rarest prairie type of the rarest ecosystem in North

America. Probably not since Frederick and Frances Hamerstrom, inducted in 1996, has a couple done so much for wild places and wild things in Wisconsin.

Both grew up having plentiful outdoor experiences in their youth—Mark fishing and hunting with his family, Susan learning to identify birds from an Audubon field guide always left on the kitchen table. Being frequently immersed in nature near their homes, Mark's vacations to a relative's cottage and Susan's family farm fed their growing interests in natural resources. Mark grew up in Marshall and attended the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Mecan River Youth Conservation Camp in 1966 where he gained hands-on wildlife, fishery, and forestry experience and learned about careers in conservation. He graduated from UW-Stevens Point in 1971 with a degree in wildlife management, then worked for the DNR on wildlife research projects and on prairie restoration to improve wildlife cover. Susan grew up in Brookfield. She graduated from Waukesha Technical College in 1971 with degrees in business and marketing—education later showcased in creating the Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail. Her 30-year DNR career began in 1980 as Education Coordinator at MacKenzie Environmental Education Center in Poynette.

In 1978, Mark met Susan at an International Crane Count meeting. They married in 1979 and moved to Goose Pond Sanctuary in Arlington, where the Madison Audubon Society had recently selected Mark as Resident Manager.

In 1982, Cliff Germain (WCHF Inductee 2014), head of the DNR's Scientific Areas Program, hired Mark to assist with project establishment and management. Mark coordinated land purchases of over 30,000 acres for State Natural Areas (SNAs). Over his 41 years of public service in the DNR, Mark was very involved with many SNAs including Bailey's Harbor Boreal Forest and Wetlands, Chiwaukee Prairie, and Spread Eagle Barrens SNAs. He also took the lead

on improving public access at Ferry Bluff, helped establish a cordwalk at Kohler Park Dunes and stairway at Roche-A-Cri Mound SNAs. Together with land trust partners, Mark wrote grants generating over \$13 million for SNA land protection and management. He was especially adept at working with landowners to acquire/protect private lands, some of which were later donated as SNAs.

Following Susan's work at MacKenzie Environmental Education Center, she worked for DNR's Bureau of Endangered Resources (BER) where she created the Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail. This award-winning, web-based project features five full-color regional auto booklets that guide people to over 350 nature waypoints across Wisconsin. She also helped to design a new endangered species license plate (a badger) with proceeds returned to the BER.

Susan also helped establish Bird City Wisconsin, an idea that arose from seeing a bird sanctuary signpost in the Village of Elm Grove, a community near where she grew up. She presented the idea to the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative in 2003, and the rest is history as almost 100 communities in Wisconsin now boast this official recognition for meeting certain bird-friendly criteria. Bird City Wisconsin is now modeled across America.

Beginning in 2005, Susan worked with George Meyer (2018 WCHF Inductee) to seek federal funding for deserving state conservation projects. Their efforts resulted in securing \$10 million in federal funding for the State Wildlife Grants Program.

Susan is most proud of helping to save Wisconsin's cave bats from state extirpation. She assisted with their state-listing as "threatened" due to white-nose syndrome.

Until the Martins "retired" from the DNR in 2009 and 2011, they spent their free time turning Goose Pond into one of Wisconsin's most magical, inspiring, and preserved places. As resident managers of Goose Pond Sanctuary, Mark and Susan coordinate acquisitions and many land management, citizen science, and educational projects. Their friend-raising, fundraising, and grant-writing skills are evidenced by Goose Pond growing from 100 to 730 acres from 1979 to 2022 under their guidance.

Connecting people to nature is their hallmark. Scores of people have gained knowledge and skills and been inspired through collaborative research projects, informational programs, and field days in prairie habitat restoration and management led by the Martins. They have been leading annual field trips for the Wisconsin Natural Resources Foundation since the first one in 1993, continuing to emphasize the value of field experiences to this day. They mentor landowners, some of whom have since donated their lands to Wisconsin as SNAs. Mark and Susan also mentor interns who aspire to have conservation careers. They have written hundreds of articles for the Madison Audubon newsletter, the biweekly Friday Feathered Feature and Goose Pond Updates. Mark also took the Madison Audubon lead on acquiring land at Rose Lake SNA (donated to Jefferson County) and Zeloski Marsh (donated to the DNR).

Mark and Susan's decades of work with the public have made nature accessible to and appreciated by many who can now enjoy its benefits. The Martins are truly lifetime Wisconsin conservationists.

BYRON HERBERT SHAW (1943 - 2016)



Byron Herbert Shaw
*Photo courtesy of Shaw family,
2011.*

What we do above ground affects what is below ground. To protect the health and well-being of our citizens, we should be concerned about chemicals going into our drinking water.

–Byron Herbert Shaw

Byron Herbert Shaw is widely known for becoming the first scientist in Wisconsin and among the first in the nation to recognize that pesticides used on farm fields could leach through the soil to contaminate groundwater. As a persistent, perceptive, and courageous water and soils scientist interested in conducting applied research on questions vital to the management of Wisconsin's natural resources and motivated by strong environmental and civic ethics, Shaw made and communicated new scientific discoveries that influenced policy and law in Wisconsin including Wisconsin's groundwater protection law, a model for the nation. Few scientists have contributed more to the fundamental body of knowledge about water quality than Byron Shaw.

Byron Shaw was a lifelong resident of Wisconsin. He was born in Madison on January 4, 1943, to Kenneth and Ruth (Wilhelm) Shaw. He grew up in Waunakee. As a young boy, he hunted, fished, and trapped with his father and raised trees for sale. From his youth, he loved the outdoors and developed strong community-minded values. He was Waunakee's first Eagle Scout.

Shaw earned both his B.S. and M.S. degrees in soil science and a Ph.D. in Soil Science with a minor in Water Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. S.A. Wilde, 1994 Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Inductee, was his mentor. At UW-Madison, he met Margaret, whom he married in June 1966.

In 1968, Dr. Shaw began his career as an assistant professor of Soil and Water Science in the College of Natural Resources at UW-Stevens Point (UWSP). He became a full professor and taught in the College until his retirement in 2000. He established the Environmental Task Force Laboratory (now called the Water and Environmental Analysis Laboratory) to address soil and water quality problems, help train students as water chemists, and bring in grant funds to support student research. He was the major professor for more than 50 graduate students, many of whom helped him make important scientific discoveries through work done in the Environmental Task Force Lab.

In 1980, Shaw documented the presence of aldicarb, a pesticide used on potatoes, in wells in Portage County, thereby becoming among the first in the nation to recognize that pesticides used on farm fields could leach through the soil to contaminate groundwater. He also was the first to find acid rain and acid snow in Wisconsin, and he pioneered one of the first major agricultural watershed and reservoir modeling efforts in the nation on the Big Eau Pleine reservoir in Marathon County. The Eau Pleine research and other research on subdivision effects on groundwater quality led to changes in public policy. His testimony is also credited with contributing to the passage of Wisconsin's landmark groundwater protection law in 1984.

In 1977, Dr. Shaw became a Water Resource Specialist with University of Wisconsin-Extension. Like all Extension specialists, he implemented the Wisconsin Idea – the idea that University knowledge, research, and resources should reach to all corners of the state. He loved traveling across Wisconsin to meet with and educate citizens about private well water quality and lake management in their own communities. He improved UWSP's and UW-Extension's capabilities to serve the public through the ETF and by helping establish the Central Wisconsin Groundwater Center.

Shaw was a man of many skills and interests beyond being a leading scientist, admired colleague, university professor, and mentor. He was a farmer who loved his farm where he lived with his family near Amherst Junction. In 2000, he transformed 52 acres of the farm to native prairie to provide pollinator habitat and improve water quality. Shaw invited friends and organized groups to tour the farm and learn skills such as prairie burning and soil judging. As a skilled woodworker, he used wood from the farm and elsewhere to build cedar strip canoes, some of which were donated to raise money for environmental causes. He also made wood carvings of birds and other wildlife. In retirement, he continued to work as a Soil and Water consultant for 15 years, testifying in precedent-setting water quality cases in several states.

Byron Shaw received many awards over his long career, including the Wisconsin Idea Award from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at UW-Madison, and the first Distinguished Service Award from the Wisconsin chapter of the American Water Resources Association. But he might have considered developing fruitful relationships with the enormous community of conservation professionals and advocates he trained, mentored, and inspired to be his most significant accomplishment.

WCHF INDUCTION EVENT DETAILS

The 2023 WCHF Induction Events will be held on April 25, 2022. The events will be held live on a virtual platform and are free and open to the public. For more details about the events visit:

<https://wchf.org/2023-induction-events/>

WISCONSIN CONSERVATION HALL OF FAME FOUNDATION, INC. (WCHF)

The WCHF was established in 1982 to encourage the growth and practice of a conservation ethic as a legacy for the people of the State. Individuals may be nominated for induction into the WCHF by the public. Based on a set of criteria, 2023 nominees were selected for induction by the WCHF Board of Directors, Representatives of 35 Voting Member Organizations, and an independent Board of Governors.

The WCHF is located in the Schmeckle Reserve Visitor Center on the UW-Stevens Point campus in Stevens Point, WI.

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