



2012 Conservation Hall of Fame Inductees Announced

The Conservation Hall of Fame is a non-profit organization composed of 24 Wisconsin conservation-related organizations. The Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Foundation was established to encourage the growth and practice of a conservation ethic as a legacy for the people of the state.

The inductees into the Hall of Fame have significantly contributed to conservation programs, projects, public understanding, and conservation ethics within the state of Wisconsin and the nation.

This year three conservationists will be honored by their induction into the Conservation Hall of Fame.

Nils Folke Becker

The Richard (Dick) and Robert (Bob) Hunt brothers

Phil H. Sander

Details on the induction ceremony will be announced soon.

Check out: <http://wchf.org> For more information!



2012 Conference

"Understanding and Protecting Wisconsin's Groundwater"

Join us on Thursday, February 9, 2012 at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center in Stevens Point!

<http://wi-swcs.org/conference.html>

Be sure to register for the Conference by JANUARY 31, 2012!

2012 Hall of Fame Inductees

Nils Folke Becker 1891-1961

Folke Becker was born in Sweden in 1891 and was educated in Scandinavia and Germany. His father was a well known paper engineer. He came to the US in 1914, became a citizen in 1919 and called northern Wisconsin his home for the rest of his life. Early on, Becker directed his life toward improving the efficiency of paper making and the improvement and perpetuation of the forest resource. To this end he was instrumental in the establishment of Trees for Tomorrow (Trees) in 1944 where a multitude of students are instilled with the conservation ethic to this day. Becker worked closely with “Mully” Taylor, the long-time director of “Trees”, and established the first logger’s apprenticeship training Program.

Becker joined the Rhinelander Paper Co. in 1926 as mill superintendent and served as president of the company from 1935 till his retirement in 1954. During his early years with the company he was a proponent of the Forest Crop Law for public funding of forestry and the County Forest program. In the 1950s, Becker pressed the Conservation Department to establish the position of forest entomologist to support reforestation.. After his retirement Folke Becker was appointed to the Wisconsin Forestry Advisory Council where he served until 1961. During his tenure on this committee helped to shape the forestry program for the remainder of the 20th century. This included the establishment of a center for forestry and watershed research in the Coulee Region. In his obituary, the Rhinelander Daily News stated that Folke Becker went beyond the expected and helped Wisconsin into a new era, one that saw the reforestation of much of the state and careful management of the resource for many different uses.

The Richard (Dick) and Robert (Bob) Hunt brothers

The Hunt brothers, Dick and Bob were born to Roy and Clara Hunt apparently in the late 1920s, Dick being the eldest. During the Great Depression the Hunt family moved from Madison to the nearby small town of McFarland on Lake Waubesa. The lake, river and associated wetlands, together with their interest in hunting and fishing orientated the Hunt brothers towards their professional careers in wildlife management. Both had military experience and work in prairie chicken management with Fred and Fran Hammerstrom in Central Wisconsin and college degrees at the UW-Madison. Dick received a PhD and Bob an MS in the Wildlife Management Department where they were strongly influenced by the successors of Aldo Leopold. Dick zeroed in on the management of upland game and waterfowl while Bob’s zeal was for trout management. Together they performed 69 years of extraordinarily productive work with the Wisconsin Conservation Department and its successor the Department of Natural Resources.

Each is credited with the authorship of a long list of professional publications, and they are the recipients of many awards, nationally and internationally. Their contributions have been summarized as follows: “Thanks to Dick’s efforts, more than anyone else’s, Canada geese, once scarce in Wisconsin, now abound. Thanks to Bob’s efforts, more than anyone else’s, Wisconsin’s wild trout, once diminishing in streams devastated by habitat damage and contaminated with hatchery fish, now thrive. Those improved resources enhance the quality of life for the people of Wisconsin and for the visitors to its fields, marshes and streams.” The Hunt brothers have been frequent lecturers and project cooperators with Wildlife Management faculty at the UWSP College on Natural Resources.

Phil H. Sander 1906 - 2006

Phil H. Sander was born in Kenosha in 1906 and is one from a very short list of environmentalists to survive into his or her 100th year of life. Devotion to natural areas was apparent from his early childhood when he explored the forests and wetlands along the Lake Michigan shoreline. He earned his living for 47 years as an industrialist in Kenosha with the Simmons Company and with American Motors. Throughout his working years, his interests ranged from archeology, history, community affairs, and service to youth. After his retirement, Carthage College summarized his accomplishments as six decades of ardent promotion of conservation and environmental protection.

Sander's noteworthy achievements are overwhelming. Among the tracts of land that he played a major role in preserving is the Chiwaukee Prairie, the Grey Dawn Gun Club in the Des Plaines River wetlands, and the 4,500 Bong Recreational Area. Sander worked closely with other renowned environmentalists who are Conservation Hall of Fame inductees Aldo Leopold, Joseph Hickey, Walter Scott, and Owen Gromme. Together with Walter Scott, Phil Sander initiated what has now become The Big Tree Society. He discovered the twelve thousand year old buried forest along Lake Michigan and his maps of it led others to the discovery of a full-grown northern woolly mammoth.

At 95 of age, Phil Sander narrated a documentary made from clippings of 8 mm film that he shot during the 30s and 40s. The sixteen awards listed in his resume' range from a Golden Honor Badge from the Boy Scouts of America to an Honorary Doctorate of Public Service from Carthage College.

UW-Stevens Point student receives Soil and Water Conservation scholarship

A University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point student, Helen Leavenworth of Mount Horeb, will receive the first 2011 Soil and Water Conservation Scholarship at the Agronomy, Crop and Soil Science Societies of America international annual meetings next week in San Antonio, Texas. Leavenworth, who is majoring in soil science with a minor in international resource management, will receive a one-year \$3,000 grant. An additional \$500 will go to her research adviser, Robert Michitsch, who will donate it to the UWSP Soil and Waste Conservation Society (SWCS) and Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) student chapters.

The scholarship, sponsored by the Soil Science Society of America, Division S-06, and the Agronomy Science Foundation, was initiated as a way to bring back into focus the vital necessity and passion for the discipline by encouraging current undergraduate and graduate students to consider a career in soil and water conservation.

"Helen is the epitome of a very well-rounded person, student and young professional," said Michitsch. "Knowing that her goal is to work in the field of soil and water conservation, she has the tools that will benefit any position she pursues. I expect great things from her in the future."

Leavenworth is a soil science major with a minor in international resource management. She was selected as the College of Natural Resources Outstanding Soil and Waste Resources Student Award for the 2010-11 academic year. She currently serves as a project leader for the UWSP chapter of the SWCS and SSSA, and has presented research projects in the CNR research symposium for the last two years.



Helen Leavenworth

SWCS Fall Tour

By Chris Miller, NRCS

On October 13, 2011, the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) hosted a fall tour located in Calumet County, WI with the topic of discussion being Karst Landscape, Groundwater Quality, and Planning Issues.

The day started with a presentation by Eric Fowle, AICP-Founding Co-Chair of the Niagara Escarpment Resource Network (NERN). Mr. Fowle's presented on the history of the escarpment, where it's located, and what significance it plays in WI.

For more information, you can visit the website at: <http://www.escarpmentnetwork.org/>.

The next presenter was Dani Santry of the Calumet County Land and Water Conservation Department. Mrs. Santry's presentation was titled "Groundwater Challenges of Calumet County Private Wells in Karst Landscapes." She presented information to the group regarding the well water testing program in Calumet County as well as map overlays that outlined the areas of concern, private well water test results, Karst topography, and soils information.

After lunch, we visited a local dairy farm to discuss the cost of conservation in Karst topography. This particular individual has been working with the LWCD and NRCS for the past 3 years to get manure based conservation on the ground. Next, we took a bus tour to view various Karst features such as rock outcroppings and sinkholes located around Calumet County. Our final stop for the day was at the Ledge View Nature Center in Chilton where group members were able to tour the nature center and some of the brave folks got to take a trip into the "Escarpment" and explore some of the caves located on the property.



Above: Photos of group viewing a sinkhole and of a recent soil boring for a waste storage structure.

An Experience I Will Always Remember: the 66th Annual SWCS International Conference

July 17-20, 2011 - Washington D.C.

By Andy Holschbach, President, WI SWCS Chapter

The Soil and Water Conservation Society International Conference in Washington D.C. provided an excellent opportunity to meet and collaborate with folks from all over the world to learn more about their management and challenges to sustain soil and other natural resources.

The first session I attended was the "Fellows Forum," where I learned more about the involvement of the USDA in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Pakistan. While listening to these distinguished presenters, my thoughts focused on how blessed I am to live in the United States, where we have such productive soils, the ability to manage our resources based on science, an ample water supply, and full bellies.

The conference served well the SWCS mission: *to foster the science and art of natural resource conservation*. Sessions covered basic conservation, as well as more sophisticated topics like *Guidelines for Polyacrylamide Use for Erosion Control from Soils of Differing Texture, pH, and Clay Mineralogy*. These very interesting sessions would satisfy the palate of most any conservationist.

A highlight of the conference for me was shaking the hand of Dan Glickman, who served as the U.S Secretary of Agriculture under the Clinton administration. After he spoke on long-term implications of food and agricultural policy on conservation in the U.S. and around the world, I couldn't resist the urge to ask him about the use of corn for the production of ethanol. His response was to remind me that the use of corn for ethanol was implemented at a time when we had extremely low corn prices and vehicles waiting in long lines for fuel . . . at that time it was probably the right thing to do, per Glickman.

Perhaps my most memorable experience, however, was not a positive one. After enduring severe abdominal pain throughout the second night of the conference, I needed to get to a hospital early the following morning. After I refused an ambulance ride, the hotel staff secured a taxi and I was on my way, lying in a fetal position in the backseat, traveling to the emergency room at George Washington University Hospital, the same hospital President Reagan was taken to when he was shot by John Hinckley, Jr. Anyone who has ever had kidney stones will understand what this was all about. After getting an IV with pain medication, an MRI, and a few pills, I returned to the conference.

The conference was exceptional. If you have an opportunity to attend a SWCS International Conference in the future, do not let that opportunity pass you by.

The 2012 Annual SWCS International Conference will be held July 22-25 2012 in Fort Worth, Texas
<http://www.swcs.org/>

Summer 2011 Waupaca Chain of Lakes Activities

Throughout July and August, Kaycie Stushek and Paul Skawinski from Golden Sands RC&D surveyed the entire Waupaca Chain of Lakes for aquatic invasive species, while noting the native plant population as well. Members of the Waupaca Chain O' Lakes Association volunteered their boats in order to assist in the survey. The Chain had undergone an herbicide treatment in the spring, so as to eliminate the invasive Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). Golden Sands RC&D, as well as the company that completed the treatment, both surveyed and mapped the remaining EWM still present after the treatment. While mostly successful, portions of the Chain were not affected as desired. 2012 will yield another survey, with possible herbicide treatments in the future to combat Eurasian Water Milfoil.

The Waupaca Chain O'Lakes Association hired an intern from Golden Sands RC&D for the summer to perform boat checks at busy boat landings on the lakes. The intern, Jillian Bjorklund, educated boaters and fishermen about the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program which teaches people how to stop the spread of invasive species by checking watercraft for plants, and not transporting water, plants, or live fish to and from lakes. This was essential in the Chain of Lakes especially, because both the highly invasive Eurasian Water Milfoil and the Zebra Mussel are present in the water, and easy to accidentally transport. The visitors to the Waupaca Chain of Lakes were very interested in ways they could protect the lakes in which they spent their time enjoying.

On August 18, and 22nd, Golden Sands RC&D hosted a Japanese Knotweed cutting and treatment party at Scoopers Ice Cream shop on the Waupaca Chain of Lakes. The invasive plant was spreading from the Scoopers property to the adjacent boat landing on Columbia Lake. The goal was to prevent the plant from spreading toward the lake. Once Japanese Knotweed hits a water source, it becomes almost impossible to control. Jeff Maiman of Scoopers and the Wheelhouse Restaurant had been battling the Japanese Knotweed on the property for decades. Armed with volunteers from Golden Sands RC&D Council, the Waupaca Chain O' Lakes Association, and project Fresh Start, the Japanese Knotweed was cut and treated with an herbicide called Aquaneat, which is made for treating plants near the water. The lake residents, along with the workers at Scoopers, are going to keep an eye out for any further infestations of Japanese Knotweed. Now that they know how to get rid of it, they are better equipped to eliminate the plants that come back.

Hartman Creek State Park, at the headwaters of the Waupaca Chain of Lakes, was host to this year's Waupaca County Conservation Field Day. Students in the fifth grade from four Waupaca County Schools came to Hartman Creek to learn about various subjects in the field of conservation. With 18 different sessions to choose from, students were able to go to their top seven choices. The schools represented were: Waupaca Learning Center, Clintonville Middle School, Manawa Elementary, and Christ Lutheran School. Some options of classes the children chose from included: Aquatic Plants, Wildlife Trapping, Law Enforcement, Alternative Energy, Tree Identification, GPS Treasure Hunt, and Composting. Over 350 students participated in the day-long event. This was the 5th year of the Conservation Field Day, and it will continue to grow in the years to come.

For any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact

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Join the WI SWCS RSS Feed!

<http://wi-swcs.org>

and click on the "RSS" Button!

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The RSS reader checks the user's subscribed feeds regularly for new work, downloads any updates that it finds, and provides a user interface to monitor and read the feeds. RSS allows users to avoid manually inspecting all of the websites they are interested in, and instead subscribe to websites such that all new content is pushed onto their browsers when it becomes available.

There are many RSS readers including Outlook! Or open a free account with any one of a number of RSS feed burners or readers, such as Google Reader, iGoogle, Pageflakes, Netvibes and more. These tools, once you've created them, will store your favorite websites and blogs and constantly update them for you. They also help you to organize yours feeds by tags, titles or categories.

Remember to go in to your feed reader often and use it as a place to do your reading. Many people who sign up for feeds make their RSS page the first thing that opens when they sign on to the Internet. With iGoogle, you can organize your categories with the use of "tabs" provided by iGoogle on its feeds page. For example, you can create a "politics" tab, a "to do" tab, a "news" tab, and so on. iGoogle also makes suggestions for feeds from its widgets, including clocks, maps and games.

http://www.ehow.com/how_2312182_use-rss-feeds.html

What else would you like your WI SWCS webpage do? Let us know!

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Students and Professionals

Are you in need of financial assistance to continue your education or update your skills?

2012 SWCS Scholarships



The **Donald A. Williams Soil Conservation Scholarship** provides financial assistance to members of SWCS who are currently employed but wish to improve their technical or administrative competence in a conservation related field through course work at an accredited college or through a program of special study.

One scholarship for \$1,000 is expected to be awarded in 2012.

The **Melville H. Cohee Student Leader Conservation Scholarship** provides financial assistance to members of SWCS who are in their junior or senior year of full-time undergraduate study or are pursuing graduate level studies with a natural resource conservation orientation at a properly accredited college or university.

One scholarship for \$500 is expected to be awarded in 2012.

The **Kenneth E. Grant Research Scholarship** provides financial aid to members of SWCS for interdisciplinary graduate-level research on a conservation topic that will extend the SWCS mission of fostering the science and the art of soil, water, and related natural resource management to achieve sustainability. *Grant research scholarship will not be available in 2012.*

Deadline for all application submissions: February 12, 2012

Scholarships are available for individuals who have been a SWCS member for at least one year. Membership information can be found at: www.swcs.org.

Visit: www.swcs.org/scholarships for more details and applications.

Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) mission is to foster the science and art of natural resource conservation. Our work targets conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources on working land—the land used to produce food, fiber, and other services that improve the quality of life people experience in rural and urban communities.