

Conservation Hall of Fame 2014 Inductees

Jay Reed was born in Nelson, Wisconsin in 1928. In 2002 he died of cancer at the early age of 73. He was an avid outdoorsman from the time he was in grade school. Jay quit high school at 15 and at 17 he lied about his age to enlist in the marines. He took part in the invasion of Pacific islands during WW-2. During this time in the military he got his GED. After his discharge he began his career in journalism in Rockford, IL, but this was interrupted when he was recalled to active duty during the Korean War. When he became a civilian again he joined the Appleton Post-Crescent and soon turned his attention towards outdoors journalism. In 1963 Jay was recruited by the Milwaukee Journal as their outdoors writer. In 1967-68 he was attached as a journalist to combat units in Vietnam. When he returned to The Journal he wrote hunting and fishing columns for a total of 39 years. Jay assembled over 100 best loved columns for publication, but this endeavor had to be completed by his widow, Christine, in 2009 under the title, "Thor and More". In his memory his family and friends established a scholarship for students majoring in wildlife and related fields at the University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point.

Clifford E. Germain was born in Merrill, WI. With his siblings he learned to love the outdoors in the north woods. He was in the U.S. Army during WW-2, but otherwise he spent his professional life in Wisconsin. He received a BS degree in Zoology in 1949 after studying under icons of natural resources at the UW-Madison. He was hired by the Wisconsin Conservation Department (WCD) in 1949 to study and manage white-tail deer and was promoted to Game Manager in Woodruff. Germain served in similar positions throughout Wisconsin. During this time his interest focused on the protection of natural areas. In 1966 he was hired as the Scientific Areas Protection Program ecologist with the goal of protecting them before they were lost forever. Germain led the development of strategies for acquiring funds for the purchase of unique natural areas, including allocated funds in the state budget for this purpose. Through his leadership this movement went nation-wide with the establishment of the National Areas Association (NAA). Germain, in association with other professionals such as Francis Hole, have developed several maps emphasizing several natural areas which have led to their protection.

Bill Horvath was born on a farm without electricity and plumbing in 1938. At the age of 6 he watched his favorite fishing stream be destroyed by a dragline in the name of improved agricultural production. Right then he became a dedicated conservationist. At the age of 9 his parents divorced and he was taken in by a local dairy farmer. From that time on, for as long as he lived there, he worked from sun-up to sundown seven days per week. However, on that farm he learned the ways of the wild creatures too. A grade school teacher recognized his devotion to nature, and she gave him a catalog to what is now UWSP. He graduated in 1961 with a degree in Conservation. This was followed by a Master's degree from the University of Michigan- Ann Arbor. He took a position with the Pennsylvania Soil and Water Conservation Dept. Next he took a similar job in Maryland and soon became the director of the Maryland State Soil and Water Conservation Agency. A couple of years later he was offered the same position with the Soil and Water Conservation Board in Wisconsin. Here one of his accomplishments was to interrupt a channelization program and thereby preserve wetlands. In 1972 Bill became the first Midwest Regional Director of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). Space does not permit me to present his many accomplishments with this organization. After retirement he was elected to the Wisconsin Assembly in 1983 and has served on many university, state, and local organizations where he has championed natural resource causes to which he had dedicated himself as a child.

The Conservation Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be held April 19, 2014 at the Sentry Theater in Stevens Point. The doors will open at 9 a.m.