

Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame



David Ladd
Inducted 2015



“You can be environmentally friendly while using a high amount of lumber if the trees are harvested in the right way. Mature trees need harvesting . . . This makes way for planting new seedlings. I’m a tree lover, not just for my business but for the environment.”

— David Ladd

Dave taught Hunter Safety classes through WDNR for 20 years and over 1,000 students.

Founded Walnut Hollow Inc in 1972 insisting company could be environmentally friendly while using such a high amount of lumber, and installing one of the first Dust Waste Collection Systems to keep the waste product from landfills and to create an environmentally safe space for the employees.

Helped to establish the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association in late 1970s as an action oriented group to educate and inform legislators and the public.

Helped develop the Iowa County Recreation and Prairie Restoration Project in 1998 which cleaned up 438 acres of county land so USFW could plant rare wildflowers.

Founding member Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter Trout Unlimited in Southwest WI.

Elected to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress for forty years.

Has received many prestigious awards for his dedication and leadership including the WDNR John Brogan Award (2006), Gathering Water Conservancy's Lifetime Achievement Award (2007), and the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council's Distinguished Service Award (2000).

**Facts
About
David Ladd**

David Ladd 1935-

Dave Ladd was born and raised on a farm near Dodgeville, Wisconsin where his father instilled the idea of respect and responsibility for the conservation of land and wildlife. To teach this same respect and responsibility for the conservation of land and wildlife, Dave taught Hunter Safety classes through the WDNR for 20 years and over 1,000 students.

In 1972, Dave founded Walnut Hollow, Inc. a woodcraft manufacturing company based in Dodgeville. Walnut Hollow uses 3-1/2 million board feet of pine and basswood lumber per year. Such a volume of timber takes many trees and Dave insisted that the company could be environmentally friendly while using such a high amount of lumber.

Looking for a way to use the waste product from his business, Ladd installed a Dust Waste Collection System to keep the waste product from landfills and to create an environmentally safe space for the employees.

Dave has been instrumental in starting a number of organizations as well as being active in many more. In the late 1970s, he helped to establish the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association as an action oriented group to educate and inform legislators and the public. In 1998, Dave and other local concerned conservationists developed an organization called the Iowa County Recreation and Prairie Restoration Project which cleaned up 438 acres of county land so U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service could plant rare wildflowers. He later was a founding member of the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter of Trout Unlimited in Southwest Wisconsin.

(Continued on back page)

**About Wisconsin's
Conservation Hall of Fame**
www.wchf.org

Location:

Schmeckle Reserve
Stevens Point, Wis.

Attractions:

Displays, information on Wisconsin's conservation history and leaders. Schmeckle Reserve, owned by the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, provides hiking and wildlife viewing opportunities.

Purpose:

To educate and inspire people with information about how resource conservation has shaped our environment and our lives.

Hours:

M-F, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sat: Noon - 4 p.m.
Sun: Noon - 4 p.m.

Support:

The Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame is funded solely by contributions. Donations are tax deductible and may be sent to:

WCHF Foundation Inc.
Schmeckle Reserve
UW-Stevens Point
Stevens Point, WI 54481
715-346-4992

Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame
Honoring our state's rich conservation history

David Ladd

(continued)

Because walnut trees were the main product for Walnut Hollow, at its inception Ladd joined the Wisconsin Chapter of the Walnut Council. He served as its first President and remained as a board member for several years, receiving the Appreciation Award.

In service to the State, Governor Tommy Thompson appointed Dave as Vice Chair of the Knowles-Nelson Blue Ribbon Task Force on Wisconsin Stewardship Program in 1999. Dave was elected to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress as District 9's representative for forty years and served as an elected member on the Executive Committee for 20+ years. He also served on the Legislative Council Study Group on Conservation Law Enforcement which recommended changes in conservation enforcement.

Ladd has received many awards over the years: 2000, the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council's Distinguished Service Award for his efforts to develop the Urban Forestry Program in Dodgeville. 2002, the Wisconsin Chapter of Soil and Water Conservation Society's Outstanding Achievement award for Shaping Wisconsin Natural Resource Conservation Policy and Pheasants Forever for Habitat Cooperation. 2003 and 2004, Gathering Waters Conservancy's Conservationist of the Year and in 2007, Conservationist Lifetime Achievement Award.

In 2006, Walnut Hollow received the John Brogan Award which is WDNR's highest form of environmental recognition. WDNR Secretary Scott Hassett said, "The Brogan Award recognizes consistent, high-quality work in protecting Wisconsin's environment. Walnut Hollow showed their commitment to protecting our resources through their work. Wisconsin is better off for their efforts and it's our honor to recognize them."