

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS HAROLD C. JORDAHL JR.

Harold C. (“Bud”) Jordahl, professor emeritus in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning and faculty member in the Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, and planning specialist, UW-Extension, passed away on May 11, 2010. He lived a remarkably full and productive life dedicated to: natural resources and land use planning and public policy; public outreach and extension education; extensive engagement with the local, state and national conservation community; and to his family and friends.

Bud was born in McIntosh, Minnesota on August 18, 1926. He served in the U.S. Navy in 1944-45 and then began his undergraduate education at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. He transferred to the University of Michigan where he received a BS in 1949 and an MS in 1950 in forestry. Upon graduation, he began his career with the Wisconsin Conservation Department serving as a district game manager in Viroqua and Black River Falls, and then as area game biologist in Spooner. In 1954-55, he took a leave of absence to accept a fellowship at Harvard University, where he completed an MS in public administration. That program – with its broad training in land use, economics, conservation, and planning and co-taught by academic luminaries including John Gaus, Arthur Maas and John Kenneth Galbraith – had a major influence on his subsequent career, particularly in terms of valuing interdisciplinarity. Bud returned to the conservation department but shifted to the Wisconsin Department of Resource Development, where he eventually became director. Bud worked closely with then-Governor Gaylord Nelson and agency directors Frank Zeidler and David Carley in implementing the nationally pioneering Outdoor Recreation Action Program (ORAP) and developing the Wisconsin State Plan. These were the years when he developed a close working relationship with University of Wisconsin faculty members involved with natural resources and recreation research and extension programs.

In 1963, Bud moved to service in the federal government, serving as Midwestern coordinator in the Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior. From 1967-69, upon nomination by President Lyndon Johnson, Bud served as federal co-chairman of the Upper Great Lakes Regional Commission, focused primarily on economic development in a 119-county area of northern Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan. From 1965-69, he had also served as a part-time lecturer in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, teaching a two-semester seminar in resources policy issues that was to become his signature course and a training ground for a generation of academic and activist environmentalists and conservationists. Bud joined the university full-time in 1969, accepting an appointment as associate professor in the department, and chairman, Community and Natural Resource Development, University Extension. He was promoted to full professor in 1971; he retired in 1989.

In the area of land use policy and planning, Bud Jordahl was a major player in almost every major state and regional program and legislative enactment for decades. Beyond ORAP, he did much of the staff work and analysis for Senator Gaylord Nelson on legislation initiating a national wild and scenic rivers program, and for establishing the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. His book chronicling the development of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore is forthcoming from UW Press in Spring 2011. He served on the Governor’s Land Resources Committee in the early 1970s, and with others did much of the work supporting governors Knowles and Lucey’s efforts to initiate better land use planning in the state (setting the stage decades later for smart growth/comprehensive planning legislation). He did pioneering work in the use of scenic easements, which became a mainstay in the development of the Great River Road along the Upper Mississippi River. He wrote definitive histories related to the county forests and was one of the architects of the “managed forest act” to further private land stewardship on millions of acres of Wisconsin forestlands. And he consistently championed sound planning and regionalism – often in adverse settings where these essential ideas were less than popular – such as along the Wisconsin Riverway.

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As an educator, Professor Jordahl played a primary role in the formal graduate academic training of many of today's conservation leaders. Devoted to extension education, he saw the role of extension as one that should foster citizen education and involvement in understanding and protecting the state's environmental heritage. A monument to that tenacity is the magnificent Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in Ashland. That effort that began with his idea for a regional education center, followed by his arranging funding for an URPL workshop to do preliminary concept and design work for such a facility, and continuing over the years in work with local, state and federal officials (including Congressman David Obey and many others) in bringing the idea to fruition.

Professor Jordahl saved some of his best work for his "retirement" years! His belief in (small "d") democratic principles and the ability of citizens to play a major role in resources stewardship led to his active leadership in building the civic capacity of Wisconsinites to protect their cherished landscapes. He knew that successful conservation needed direct citizen engagement as well as government. He was a founding board member of 1000 Friends of Wisconsin and Gathering Waters Conservancy, and he provided leadership and support to those organizations since their inceptions. His love of the land and the Coulee Country of southwestern Wisconsin – where he had begun his professional career – was reflected in the family's Richland County farm, an example of private land stewardship and environmental restoration shared enthusiastically with family and friends.

His life partner, Marilyn (nee Hanson) whom he married in 1955, and his daughter Johanna predeceased him. Professor Bud Jordahl is survived by daughters Kari and Kristi, and son Harald "Jordy," and an extensive family. Bud's family, academic and professional colleagues, and myriad friends, will all miss his warmth, wisdom, mentoring, and counsel greatly.

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