

## 2010 CONSERVATION HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

**The name, George Becker** (1917-2002), remains perhaps the most recognized ichthyologist in Wisconsin. His best known writing is "Fishes of Wisconsin", a 1052-page, 1983 book. George was born in Milwaukee to German immigrant parents and received his early education there. During WWII, as a master sergeant, he was in charge of the first radio stations serving from Australia to the Philippines. George taught in several high schools before moving into the teaching of biology, at what became UWSP. He was a very popular Professor of Biology at UWSP, from 1957 until 1979, and during this time he received a Ph.D from UW-Madison. George Becker was a pioneer environmentalist as a conservator of energy and natural resources. He and his wife Sylvia set up a system to utilize solar energy as a partial source of heat for their home. He championed his "Big Pipe Dream" to keep pollutants out of the Wisconsin River. Dr. Becker was the second recipient of the "Excellence in Teaching" award at UWSP. Many of his former students cite him as their primary role model.

**Ruth Hine** (1923 - ) was born in Ohio, received her education through the MS in New England, and her Ph.D in Zoology and Wildlife Management at UW-Madison. Hine worked for more than three decades as a technical editor in the research bureau of the DNR. She described her role in this way, "I look at myself as middleman between the researcher and the public in the writing I do." "When I'm able to explain clearly to the layman the vital importance of the Conservation Department's work, I get tremendous satisfaction from my job." Ruth served as a role model who helped to lead more women into professional conservation positions. She played a key role in developing the Wisconsin endangered species program. She was particularly interested in the demise of frogs. Ruth Hine worked through Bethel Lutheran Church in Madison as a part-time naturalist for Lutheran summer camps. She relates her faith and her views on natural resource conservation as being intimately intertwined.

**Emily H. Earley** (1916- ) was best known for her work with The Nature Conservancy and was involved with the Wisconsin chapter almost since its conception. She expended much effort fruitfully in the campaign to raise money from donors to the aims of The Nature Conservancy. Emily Hornblower Earley grew up in New York City and graduated from Bennington College in Vermont. She married James Earley, and, in 1937, the two of them pursued graduate degrees at UW-Madison. Emily received an MS in labor economics and spent most of the rest of her life in Madison. She set about the active resource management of The Nature Conservancy land holdings. This involved the organization of work parties and driving them in her familiar red convertible wherever management activities were required. These activities included erecting fences, conducting prescribed fires, harvesting seeds and planting prairies. She lobbied for a paid staff and today more than 25,000 acres of The Nature Conservancy land is under a management plan. In 1990 she participated in the extension of The Nature Conservancy to Nicaragua and she continues to advocate for it. Other organizations through which Emily Earley worked were the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, The Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, The Wisconsin Conservation Corps, 1,000 Friends of Wisconsin, the Natural Heritage Land Trust of Dane County. She is currently (at 94) a member of Wisconsin Women Forward for Environmental Education.