

Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame



Cedric A. Vig
Inducted 2005



*“I write with a philosophy of trying to be a teacher,
and I try to teach readers about the outdoors.”*

— Vig

Facts About Cedric Vig

Outdoor writer, author,
photographer in
Rhineland for more
than four decades

Longtime school
superintendent

Helped establish state
conservation curriculum
President

Teacher of outdoors
education at Treehaven
and Nicolet College

Cedric A. Vig 1912-

Cedric A. “Ced” Vig has been educating and writing about nature all of his life. That includes more than four decades as an educator and school administrator and another four-plus decades as a nature writer, author and photographer. In his 90s, he continues to write a weekly nature column for the Rhineland Daily News, New Richmond News and Phillips Bee.

The Hawkins native earned an undergraduate degree at Central State Teachers College in Stevens Point in 1933. He recalls that one of his major influences at Stevens Point was Fred Schmeckle, a natural resources professor and 1990 inductee into the Conservation Hall of Fame. Vig was an assistant to the professor.

Vig was a high school principal in Hawkins from 1934-39, there marrying his wife of more than 40 years, Marvel. He earned his master’s degree at the University of Minnesota in that period, too, and continued as a principal and then school superintendent in several Wisconsin cities, including the years 1934-77 at Rhineland High School.

As an educator in the 1960s, Vig served on the state Department of Public Instruction

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**About Wisconsin's
Conservation Hall of Fame**

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

www.wchf.org

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

Cedric Vig

(continued)

Conservation Curriculum Committee, and working to fashion a conservation curriculum for Wisconsin schools.

He helped to establish one of the early school forest at Rhinelander, and the school board there later named a diverse 80-acre parcel of woods in his honor. The Cedric A. Vig Outdoor Classroom is an environmental resource center for area kindergarten through 12th grade students.

Vig's "Wisconsin Woodsmoke" newspaper column has been a favorite among northern Wisconsin readers since the early 1960s. His idea from the start to focus on nature appreciation, believing that other newspaper columns already had plenty of information about hunting and fishing. His weekly columns are full of information about the natural wonders of his northern Wisconsin home. The Rhinelander Daily News compiled 40 years worth of his columns for a 1999 book "Wisconsin Woodsmoke," and more than 5,000 copies were sold. An accompanying book of his outdoor photos was also popular.

Ced Vig's bright, lively style of writing continues in his weekly columns, and he remains at teacher, educating seniors about nature at Treehaven Environmental Station near Rhinelander and at Nicolet College in the city. He also teaches at Trees for Tomorrow and writes a column for the education center's national newsletter.

A friendly voice from the north, Ced Vig is a worthy inductee into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame.