



LAKE SUPERIOR BIG TOP CHAUTAUQUA SILVER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATORY COMMISSION

MARY HULINGS RICE, CHAIRPERSON

Residing in Bayfield, WI, Mary Rice is a painter, jewelry maker, restaurateur, philanthropist and self-proclaimed but widely recognized "Queen of Bayfield." Her parents, Betty and Bill Hulings founded the MAHADH Foundation with the mission of generosity and quiet service through the philanthropy and community involvement of their descendants. Mary and her children carry on this benevolent tradition.

DEAN AMHAUS

Dean Amhaus is Executive Director of the Milwaukee Water Council and President of the Spirit of Milwaukee. He has served as President of Forward Wisconsin, the state's economic development organization, and Executive Director of the Wisconsin Sesquicentennial Commission. For six years, Dean was with the Wisconsin Arts Board; first as Deputy Director and later as Executive Director.

ANN BOCHLER

Ann is part of the C. G. Bretting Manufacturing Company family in its fourth generation. She has served as Board Member for Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua and is the Chairperson for the annual "Relay for Life" cancer fundraiser in Ashland, WI.

MARK BUGHER

Mark is Director of the University Research Park, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Prior to joining the Research Park in 1999, he served the State of Wisconsin as Secretary of Administration from 1996 to 1999 and as Secretary of Revenue from 1988 to 1996. Mark currently chairs the Wisconsin Technology Council and serves on the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce Board (past chair 2008-2009) and the Madison Gas and Electric Company Board of Directors.

LEE JENSEN BUJOLD

Lee resides in Knife River, MN on the outskirts of Duluth where she is retired from the Center for Economic Development, and is a summertime resident of Bayfield. She has served as President of the Board of Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua and is involved in activities in support of Northland College in Ashland.

WILLIAM CRONON

Noted environmental historian, William Cronon is the Frederick Jackson Turner and Vilas Research Professor of History, Geography, and Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Cronon serves on the board of directors for The Trust for Public Land, a national land conservation group. He also sits on the governing council of the Wilderness Society.

DON FUNK

Don Funk is a third-generation seeds man. He is a President and Co-Founder of Channel Bio Corp, one of the largest and fastest-growing seed corn and soybean seed companies in the U.S.

ARLO GUTHRIE

Arlo Guthrie is the son of famed folk singer and political activist Woody Guthrie. He has earned his own legendary status as well, as a singer and songwriter. He has performed frequently on the Big Top stage over the past 25 years.

BOB JACQUART

Bob Jacquart is President of Jacquart Fabric Products in Ironwood, MI - best known as home to the distinctive brand Stormy Kromer. He is Chair of the Gogebic Community College Board of Trustees and a major supporter of The Ironwood Theatre and Big Top Chautauqua.

GARRISON KEILLOR

The host of "A Prairie Home Companion," author, columnist, singer and spokesperson for Lutherans and Minnesotans (and children that are above average), Garrison Keillor has performed on the Big Top stage 18 times since 1992.

BARBARA LAWTON

Barbara is Wisconsin's first woman lieutenant governor, elected in 2002 and re-elected in 2006. She also chairs the Wisconsin State Arts Board.

DICK LEINENKUGEL

Dick is a beer industry executive with over 21 years experience and member of the fifth generation of the Leinenkugel family. He served the State of Wisconsin from 2008 to 2010 as Secretary of the Department of Commerce.

LARRY MACDONALD

Larry is serving his 8th term as Mayor of Bayfield, Wisconsin. He is a member of the Board of the Alliance for the Great Lakes, the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Advisory Council, the State of Wisconsin Coastal Management Council, Alliance for Sustainability and participates in numerous community oriented activities. Larry and his wife live in an 1888 home in Bayfield, which they have operated as the Cooper Hill House B&B since 1989.

DENNIS MCCANN

Dennis is a Wisconsin native, author and rover. From 1983 to 2007 Dennis was a columnist at the "Milwaukee Journal Sentinel." His books include "Badger Boneyards: The Eternal Rest of the Story," "The Wisconsin Story: 150 Stories/150 Years," "Dennis McCann Takes You for a Ride" and "Rough Stuff," a collection of his columns from "Wisconsin Golfer" magazine. Now a freelance writer, he spends most of his time with his wife, Barb, a retired teacher, at their home on Lake Superior in Bayfield.

MALCOLM MCLEAN

Malcolm McLean has served as President of Northland College in Ashland, WI, and President of Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua's Board of Directors as well as President of the United Arts Council in St. Paul. Before that Malcolm was a Foreign Service Officer with the US Information Agency and served in Korea, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Washington - he now volunteers and runs two lecture organizations.

FRANK MONTANO

A member of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Frank Montano is a master flute maker. Frank has performed in many different countries, including Croatia, Switzerland, Germany, Japan, and Mexico, and is a member of the International North American Flute Association. He has performed on the Big Top Stage numerous times since 1991.

TIA NELSON

The daughter of former US Senator and pioneering conservationist Gaylord Nelson, former Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle has called Tia Nelson "one of the great leaders of the environmental movement in Wisconsin...carrying on her father's legacy of land conservation." Tia is Executive Secretary, Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, for the state of Wisconsin. Tia is the past director of the Climate Change Initiative of the Nature Conservancy.

MICHAEL PERRY

Michael is a writer, humorist, and now an actor on the stage of Big Top Chautauqua (in last year's comic hit "Bally Hoo Haw" to which he also contributed some of the writing), as well as the new host of Big Top's Tent Show Radio program. Self described "Country Chronicler," Perry has written three best selling memoirs. He has also written for Esquire, The New York Times Magazine, Backpacker, Outside, and Salon.com. The majority of his writing discusses his farming background, small town ruminations and life lessons.

ELLSWORTH AND CARLA PETERSON CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

The Petersons are arts patrons for many Door County arts organizations. Their foundation was created from the Peterson family's shipbuilding business in Sturgeon Bay. Carla and Ellsworth have been leaders of major capital campaigns for the Peninsula Players Theatre and Door County YMCA - and both are past presidents and active members of the Sturgeon Bay Rotary Club. They were recognized in 2007 with the Governor's Award in Support of the Arts for their leadership and philanthropy.

JERRY PHILLIPS

Jerry Phillips is owner/innkeeper of the award winning Rittenhouse Inn in Bayfield. Opened in 1974 by Jerry and his wife Mary, Rittenhouse Inn is Wisconsin's first bed and breakfast. He is a past member of the Big Top Board of Directors and has produced several musical theatre pieces for performance on the Big Top stage.

TOMMY THOMPSON

Tommy George Thompson served as the 42nd Governor of Wisconsin from 1987 to 2001, having been elected to an unprecedented four terms. He left office in 2001 when he was appointed by President George W. Bush as the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services. In 2005, Tommy entered the private sector. He is a partner at Akin Gump Straus Hauer & Feld LLP and serves as Board Chairman at Logistics Health Incorporated.

KELLI TRUMBLE

Kelli Trumble served the State of Wisconsin as Secretary of the Department of Tourism from 2007 through 2010. Kelli's long career in Wisconsin's travel and hospitality industry began with her position as Executive Director at the Wisconsin Dells Visitor & Convention Bureau.

ADVISORS:

GARY KNOWLES

Gary is travel editor of Dane County Lifestyles Magazine, a writer, award-winning photographer, marketing consultant, author and on-air "Travel Advisor" on Wisconsin Public Radio's, "Joy Cardin Show." He served as spokesperson and Director of Communications for the WI Division of Tourism from 1979 to 1993.

GAIL KOHL

Gail brings more than 30 years of experience promoting and raising funds on behalf of local and statewide organizations including American Players Theatre, Taliesin Preservation Commission, Frank Lloyd Wright Heritage Tourism Program, Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters.

MARK ROSE

Mark is President and Owner of Discover Mediaworks, producer of the popular television programs "Discover Wisconsin," "Family Inc.," "Into the Outdoors" and "Trail Nation."