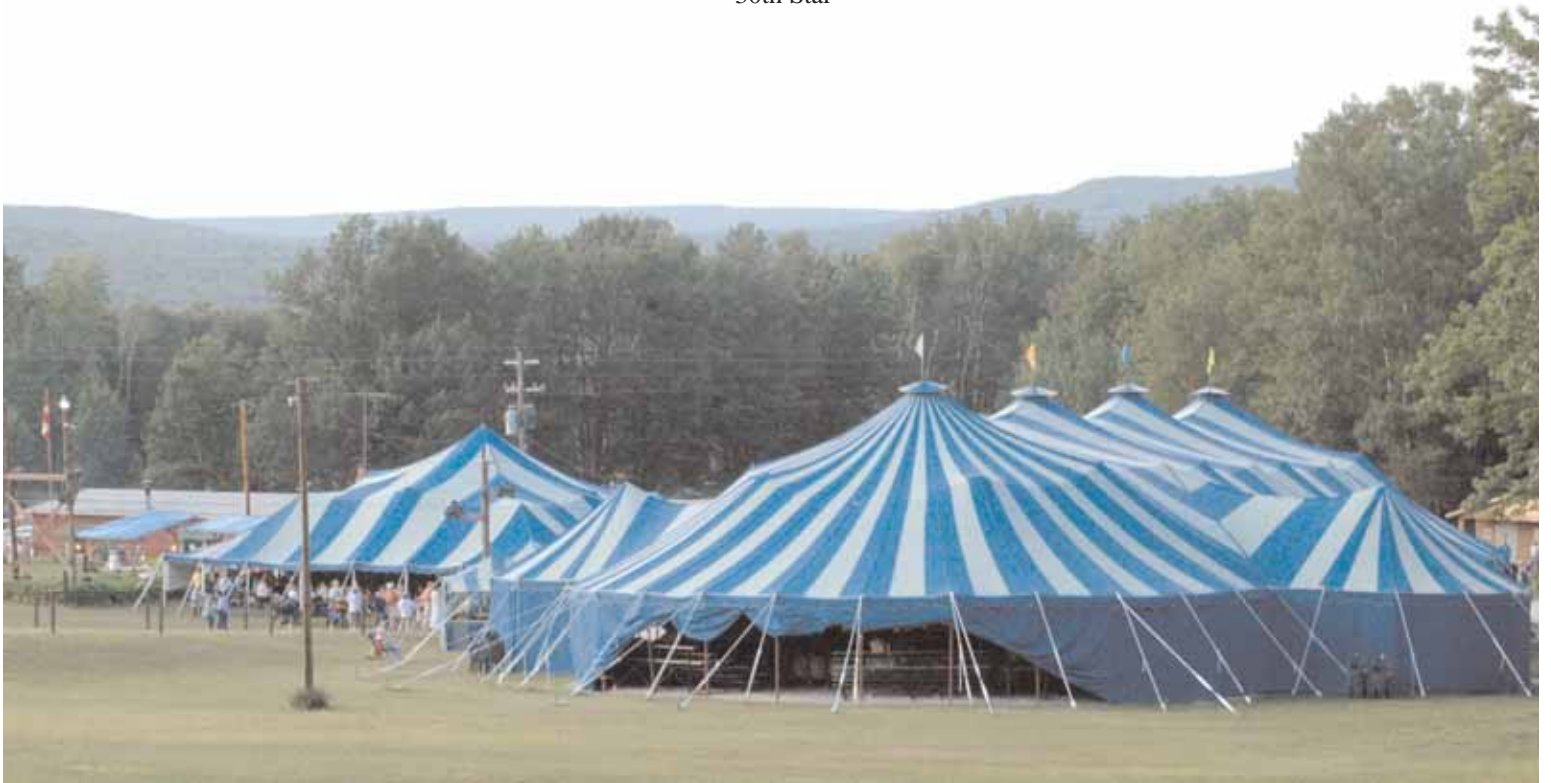




LAKE SUPERIOR  
**BIG TOP CHAUTAUQUA**

*“The most American thing in America until a new age turned the page.  
It was radio that killed Chautauqua...  
And here we are in the twenty-first century with Chautauqua standing again.  
In Northern Wisconsin. And on the radio!”*

- 30th Star



# BCO IN CONCERT

Big Top Chautauqua • 888-BIG-TENT • [www.bigtop.org](http://www.bigtop.org) • [info@bigtop.org](mailto:info@bigtop.org)  
Jamey Penney-Ritter, Marketing Director • [marketing@bigtop.org](mailto:marketing@bigtop.org) • 715-373-0788



# BLUE CANVAS ORCHESTRA BCO IN CONCERT



**BCO IN CONCERT** The Blue Canvas Orchestra is the heart and soul of Big Top Chautauqua. These professional musicians present a well-seasoned blend of bluegrass, folk and blues - more than ready for prime time after appearing on the Big Top stage for 23 years. The gang combines professional musicianship with humor and a spirited rapport with live audiences. Beautifully blended vocal harmonies are smoothly blended with exceptionally precise and exciting instrumentals. The Blue Canvas Orchestra has entertained hundreds of live audiences over the past two decades.

A BIG TOP CHAUTAUQUA PRODUCTION

# THE BLUE CANVAS ORCHESTRA & SINGERS

The Blue Canvas Orchestra & Singers as a group have some slight variations in composition depending on the performance. Members include Jack Gunderson on bass, Andy Dee on guitar & dobro, Bruce Burnside on mandolin, Tom Mitchell on percussion, Bruce Bowers on violin, synthesizer & flute and Severin Behnen on piano, and Band Director Ed Willett on cello. Phillip Anich, Cheryl Leah, Sally Kessler perform vocals. Betty Ferris performs behind the screen managing the big-screen visuals.



Front to back: Bruce Burnside, Andy Dee, and Bruce Bowers



The Blue Canvas Orchestra & Singers. Left to Right: Cal Aultman, Tom Mitchell, Cheryl Leah, Phillip Anich, Jack Gunderson, Bruce Burnside (seated), Ed Willett, Andy Dee and Bruce Bowers.



Bruce Bowers (violin), Andy Dee (guitar), Bruce Burnside, Cal Aultman (bass), and Tom Mitchell (percussion).



Ed Willett, Cheryl Leah, Jack Gunderson and Phillip Anich

The Reporter - October 27, 2002

# 'Big Top' show makes stop in Fond du Lac

*Bluegrass band rolls in for 2 performances at Windhover Center*

By Peggy Breister  
THE REPORTER  
pbreister@fdlreporter.com

Big Top Chautauqua's performance at the Windhover Center for the Arts on Friday was not only a treat for local residents, it was a welcome change for the band, too, said leader Warren Nelson.

The non-profit performing arts organization is moving into its 18th year under the big top on the shores of Lake Superior in Bayfield. In the fall and spring, the seven-member house band takes to the road, performing in venues around the Midwest.

The band brought its brand of Bluegrass, or "Lake Superior New Grass," to Fond du Lac for two shows Friday. Although the band has played around the Fox Valley before, it was the group's first stop in Fond du Lac. The evening performance Friday was sold out.

"This is just great. This is the real deal," Nelson said after the afternoon show that drew about 100 people. "We're usually plugged into so many amplifiers. Here we had one mike. That is the best. We can hear each other."

"They were just wonderful," said Diane Fricken of Fond du Lac, who had never heard the group perform before. "I just couldn't believe they would



Members of Big Top Chautauqua perform before a sellout crowd in the 200-seat grand hall of the Windhover Center for the Arts Friday night. The bluegrass group, which has a 10 p.m. Saturday Wisconsin Public Radio show, made its first appearance in Fond du Lac.

know all those notes without having anything written down."

The performance, she said, has led her to start thinking about planning a trip to Bayfield to see the group next summer.

Jerry Sullivan of Fond du Lac is a Big Top fan, having attended the tent show in Bayfield.

"I don't know how we got them to come here, but it's a real treat," he said.

Betty Burroughs and her sister, Sally Griesbach, both of Menasha, are longtime Big Top fans.

"We went to their first show, and we just thought it was

great," Burroughs said.

"It made me cry — it was so good," added Griesbach.

After that first show, the sisters wrote Big Top a letter, telling them how moved they were by the performance. They described themselves as "the two old women in the front row."

Arnold and Alice Gudex of Campbellsport are longtime Big Top fans, listening to the company's Wisconsin Public Radio show at 10 p.m. Saturdays. When they heard the group was going to be in Fond du Lac, they knew they just had to come and hear them in person.

"People like this are what we're all about," Nelson said. "Being able to come out and play for them is the best. I hope they bring us back every year."

A native of Fairmont, Minn., Nelson has been a singer/songwriter since high school. He left the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis School of Journalism just short of graduation to open for Elvis Presley in Las Vegas back in the 1960s.

He moved his family, his talent and his band to Bayfield after the group visited there nearly 20 years ago. The name, Big Top Chautauqua, comes from the tent shows that would travel the country at the turn of the century, bringing culture to rural areas.

Nelson said he never set out to have a career as an entertainer.

"I guess I was just born to do this," he said. "I love what I do. I tell people I have a dream job with nightmares."

# Big Top Pays Tribute to Paul Simon, Cat Stevens

By CLAIRE DUQUETTE, Editor  
Published: Friday, August 21, 2009

BAYFIELD — Taking the music of two of the greatest singer-songwriters of all time and putting it in the hands of the talented Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua performers is a recipe for an evening of great music that gets audiences up and out of their seats.

“Moon Songs and Moon Shadows,” a tribute to the songs of Paul Simon and Cat Stevens, debuted recently at Big Top, with an encore performance Aug. 26.

Ed Willett, a Blue Canvas Orchestra cellist, singer, and front man who shared arranging duties for the show with fellow orchestra member Severin Behnin said the idea for the show came from a meeting at which all the band members got together and made pitches for songs they would like to perform — and discovered they had enough material for a show focusing on Simon and Stevens (now Yusaf Islam). Willett said taking these classic songs and putting a unique BCO sound to them was challenging and rewarding.

“We didn’t want to be impersonators,” he said.

In fact, as they rehearsed, they abandoned a few songs because they couldn’t come up with a unique way to do them that still honored the composers.

Betty Ferris was responsible for the great visuals that accompany the show, a mix of portraits of the singers at all stages of their careers and beautiful nature photographs, many featuring the show’s namesake, the moon.

“Moon Songs” takes full advantage of the breadth of abilities in the BCO, from Jack Gunderson’s smooth balladeering (“Bridge Over Troubled Water,” “Old Friends”) and Cheryl Leah’s ability to belt out soulful tunes (“The First Cut is the Deepest,” “Morning Has Broken”) to an acapella rendition of “Love Me Like a Rock.”

Adding his own special energy is guest artist and local favorite Corey Carlson.

“Corey actually called and said he wanted to be in this show,” Willett said. “He really rocks the house.”

Indeed, Carlson’s stage presence added an entirely new dimension to the BCO — he shined on his featured songs, such as “Late in the Morning” and “Me and Julio.” During the finale, “Call Me Al,” Carlson leapt off the stage and joined the audience in a impromptu dance.

Willett said the Aug. 26 show is adding in “Peace Train,” on which Carlson will be featured.

Other talents shine in unique ways. Bruce Burnside is featured on banjo on “Cecilia,” an instrument that may not first come to mind for that tune. But it works magnificently. Again, Burnside on mandolin and Phil Anich on vocals bring a unique bounce to “Red Rubber Ball.”

From “The Boxer,” to “Wild World” to “Kodachrome” and more, the tribute



succeeds. By the end of a night of images and sounds one is keenly aware of the great body of work these two composers have created, and continue to create. At the same time, even if the songs are familiar — Willett at one point acknowledged it was odd to sing lyrics the audience may know better than he does — the BCO made them their own.

This is a house show that can be developed further this season, and hopefully in seasons to come, a favorite that one can see and enjoy for a first time, or just like a well-worn favorite album, heard again and again.

# Old Minnesota Reviewed as Sesquicentennial Must See

by Harry Hanson, Sauk Centre Herald 11/25/09

Fifth and sixth grade students from Sauk Centre and surrounding schools may not have known what a Chautauqua was when they came to the Sauk Centre School Auditorium Thursday afternoon to view a matinee performance of *Old Minnesota: Song of the North Star*, sponsored by the area Lions Clubs. However, the youth left knowing a lot more pictorially about Minnesota history.

Adults who came in the evening also got a reflective view of how Minnesota grew from the days when Indians named the prairies and wooded areas of the north on to the present with photos of the present-day Minneapolis skyscrapers and everything in between. The falls of St. Anthony were shown in all of their splendor

prior to the coming of the Pillsbury and Gold Medal flour era where the falls powered the mill's machinery.

Occasional vignettes by Warren Nelson, the producer, director, M.C. story teller, soloist and banjo player along with a couple of his sidekicks which characterized the time and place shown, added to the scene. There were four soloists in all, performing songs also originated with Nelson.

The company with their 10-piece musical string band, provided theme music for each of 12 separate pictorial segments. There was also an audio-visual person who projected old photos and filmstrips on the screen in sync with the music and orations. Kids and adults alike took well to an interview between the Chautauqua organizer, Warren Nelson, and legendary Paul Bunyan, made at the Paul Bunyan exposition in Brainerd.

Features, such as farming from primitive methods with much hard work to the machinery-present lifestyle, portrayed what life was like then and now; likewise, the iron ore industry in its infancy on the Vermillion range until the Merritt brothers uncovered an almost pure and bountiful supply of red-colored iron ore on the Mesabi Range. The city of Hibbing had to be



moved to make additional ore pits.

Cassias, one of the seven Merritt brothers on a quest to discover new mining lodes in a westward walk through wooded area, had fallen face down in the woods near Mt. Iron, coming up with a red face from ore being at surface level under leaves.

The Duluth harbor was glamorized, in showing the draw bridge and canal as well as the ore boats and freighters being loaded at the docks.

Another intriguing scene was a 1:56 minute picture frame after picture frame of the great harness race horse, Dan Patch, pacing around the mile long

Minnesota State Fairground track while setting a new all-time record.

## Nelson was originator of the production

The Minnesota production of *Big Top Chautauqua* had been in the creative mind of Nelson, a native of Fairmont. Previously, he had produced *30th Star* in song and message. This was the story of Wisconsin at its time of Sesquicentennial.

A master showman, song writer, musician, historian, radio host, Nelson and company have been performing summers under the big blue-and-white tent in Washburn, Wis.

Knowing his own state's 150th anniversary was coming up he ventured through poetry, music, skits and old pictures to bring the story of Minnesota alive. It was 2004, in his home town, that the first performance took place. While the Minnesota performances in the early going were presented in auditoriums in the major cities and the Minnesota State Fair, this 150th year has seen traveling to smaller communities such as Sauk Centre, with showings to grade schoolers and adults alike.



Students from around the Sauk Centre area attended a matinee showing Thursday in the Sauk Centre Public School Auditorium.

Antigo Daily Journal - August 7, 2007



Warren Nelson, center, gets rolling with his orchestra at City Park Monday. The crowd was estimated at more than 1,500.

## *Crowd huge, music great Monday night* Blue Canvas Orchestra performs at City Park picnic

By any measure, the visit to the Antigo Music in the Park program Monday night by the Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua's Blue Canvas Orchestra was a tremendous success.

"I never dreamed there would be a turnout like this," Warren Nelson, the band's leader said before the performance started in front of a crowd estimated at anywhere from 1,500 to 1,700 spread across the lawn south of the bandstand.

An anonymous donor put up the money to draw Nelson's crew to Antigo

from Bayfield's big blue and white chautauqua tent, and volunteers seized on the situation to serve dinner in addition to the usual Monday concert fare of pie and ice cream.

The Blue Canvas Orchestra has been performing under the tent for decades and does take its show on the road every now and then. But Nelson said the road equipment for a stop — like the one in Antigo — does not anticipate the sprawling crowd that was on hand Monday.

"Next year I'll bring some of those big

rock and roll amps," he said.

Janet Waterhouse, who coordinates the Music in the Park series, which attracts local volunteer entertainment on Monday evenings at 7 p.m., thanked a number of people who were part of the Blue Canvas program, including those who donated food and services.

Salm Partners, a group of brothers who make sausage in Denmark, offered 250 pounds of kielbasa, Dee Dee Cromer provided the buns, the Farmers Home and Dixie Lunch served

Lunch served up potato salad and the trimmings were provided by Antigo's Wal-Mart.

Nick Salm, who headed the cooking crew comprised mostly of members of the Antigo Optimist Club, was delighted how things had gone and suggested that something similar be undertaken during the summer of 2008.

The mischievous Nelson played a little with the words in one of his songs, "Nice Fish," and substituted "nice park," "nice bandstand" and "nice crowd" for the fish words.

And he was absolutely correct.

## Big Top+big crowd=big money for library



Plus a big dose of the arts for Hayward middle schoolers

by Will LaBrecche  
Staff Writer

There wasn't a steady foot in the audience as "The Best of the Big Top" took center stage at the Hayward High School Auditorium last Friday evening, Sept. 22. Whether tapping their toes or nodding their heads, audience members were entranced by the music performed by bandleader Warren Nelson and the Blue Canvas Orchestra as a fundraiser for the new Hayward Library.

Between sets the very talented cast performed skits from their "River Pants" shows typically held at the Big Top Chautauqua just outside of Bayfield. Not only was Hayward's show held to raise much-needed funds for the library, but it was a cultural experience for anyone

attending.

Early in the afternoon, the educationally oriented show was attended by Hayward middle school students, who watched with wide eyes and listened with intent ears to the sounds of the Big Top; sometimes clapping in unison as the musicians nodded at each other in approval.

With photos of lumberjacks, Native Americans, and other early Wisconsin images calmly transposing behind them, the orchestra at times quietly whispered the music into the air, while occasionally rolling into complex rhythms all to be absorbed by the younger attendees.

Infused with stories of lumberjacks and fishing told by frontman Nelson,

**please see 10a**

these younger listeners enjoyed every moment as could be seen when they rose from their seats in applause. The orchestra looked as though they too were having an equally good time. But it wasn't just about music.

Early in the morning, high school students worked side-by-side with the stage crew of the show, setting up and tuning equipment before the afternoon and evening concerts. After the middle school performance, orchestra member Bruce Burnside lectured to students about the Civil War, while Betty Ferris lectured about using technology in creative ways.

Perhaps the greatest hit of the show was fiddler and Hayward resident Randy Sabien who proved he is nothing short of a musical genius. His fiddling found great response from not only the middle school students in the afternoon, but from attendees of the main concert that evening.

For the evening performance, Sabien serenaded the audience down the Namekagon River as underwater images played on the screen behind him. The audience remained completely still throughout this performance and roared to life as Sabien struck his final few notes. It certainly was only one of the many highlights of the show.

Blue Canvas Orchestra member Jack Gunnison,

who has performed with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and Minnesota Opera, donned waders as part of the River Pants skits which were included in the performance. Not only are his vocals crisp and well-toned, but his acting ability seems to be another gift in his array of talents. Posing as Iowa tourists here in the northland for some fishing, Gunnison caught the entire audience chuckling and nodding in recognition.

And though it was raining outside, the auditorium was abuzz with energy and excitement. At times it was difficult to discern who was having a better time: those on stage or those watching (in awe) from the seats.

Instrumental in bringing the Big Top show to town were Hayward Library

Steering Committee members Jerry Winters and Signe Backus, Mary and Paul Schwister, and Carol Alcoe. Jerry Winters could barely contain his excitement for the event as the refreshments for the evening performance were arranged that afternoon. It took nearly a year to organize and finally bring the Big Top to Hayward.

"The Big Top people have been great to work with," says Winters. "They have been so responsive. We all believe that part of the role of a library is to disseminate culture and this is part of that. We would like to see more events like the Big Top brought here to Hayward."

The community has been very supportive of the Big Top show, all the way down to the refreshments.

According to Backus, 54 people in the community made cookies, bars, and other morsels and refreshments for the show for attendees to sample at intermission.

"People, especially the sponsors of this event, really stepped up to the plate," Winters says. "Even though the performance will be well-attended, a lot of people can't afford to attend shows like this, so we would like to also bring shows here that everyone can afford."

Turnout for the evening performance was estimated to be 375 to 400 and during the show every seat had an occupant.

The Big Top is a nonprofit performing arts organization operating out of a 900-seat tent theater; producing and presenting

over 70 shows every summer. During the off-season, shows take to the road with performances taking place throughout the Midwest. The Big Top weekly radio program is broadcast on public radio stations all over the nation.

Bandleader Warren Nelson has been instrumental (in more than one way) in keeping the Big Top operating since 1986 and in attracting other performers to the venue. In 2006, the outfit celebrated its 21st anniversary and will continue to bring quality entertainment to all of the Upper Midwest.

Daily Tribune, Wisconsin Rapids - March 3, 2004

## LETTERS

### Pittsville happy under 'Big Top'

The Blue Canvas Orchestra performed its "Best of the Big Top" Feb. 10 and 11 at the Pittsville School auditorium.

In true Chautauqua style, these traveling American minstrels brought a heaping helping of historical lore, singing about iron mines, riverboats, railroads and ships of the Great Lakes.

The show featured songs and dramatic storytelling of live performers who also happened to be exquisitely talented musicians, while hundreds of historical photographs flashed across the big screen via video and slideshow. The multimedia production recounts Wisconsin's natural beauty, its history and its earliest settlers.

Eight-hundred-thirty students from 11 schools attended two daytime performances. Teachers com-

mented that the educational content of the program was good and the entertainment value was excellent. It followed their social studies curriculum.

The overall response of the students was that they enjoyed the program.

A public evening show treated the audience to an extra hour of music and humorous entertainment.

Big Top fans from all over central Wisconsin flocked to Pittsville to take advantage of the appealing ticket price (up to \$20 less than most venues) and enjoyed somber tales of shipwrecks, a rollicking version of the Orange Blossom Special and video footage of the underwater life on the back waters of the St. Croix River.

The musical numbers featured intricate solos on mandolin, violin, electronic woodwinds, banjo and guitar.

But it was the vocals that stole the show, from the gravelly blues of Jack

Gunderson and the jovial vocals of Warren Nelson, founder of Big Top Chautauqua, to the powerful, rich voice of Ashland native Phillip Anich, who recounted the wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald.

The Pittsville Schools is grateful for the grant from the Community Foundation of South Wood County and the generous support of Pittsville Area Foundation for the Arts, Pittsville Parent-Teacher Organization, Pittsville Music Boosters, Pittsville Elementary School Student Council, Pittsville Homes, Abby Gas, Gardner Trucking, Mary Peterson, Annette and Tom Minor, Ted and Jeanne Urban, Louis and Libby Rosandick, Fred and Carol Grorich, and Ron and Joy Zieher who made this stop possible.

**MARY PETERSON**  
Superintendent  
School District of  
Pittsville

# WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## *Gateway to Minnesota History*

### Endorsement for “Old Minnesota: Song of the North Star”

*Prepared by Hank Sampson, Vice President of the Washington County Historical Society and General Chairman of performances of the show in Stillwater on November 5, 2004.*

The show helped accomplish the mission of our historical society to educate the public, both youths and adults, on history. And it does so in such an enjoyable production, a delightful blend of education and entertainment. It was also a critical fund-raising project at a time when we were being phased-out of county financial support of our Society.

Encouraged by the artistic and financial success in 2004, we are pleased to sponsor a return engagement for Minnesota’s Sesquicentennial, scheduled here for May 2-3, 2008. The shows will be the major opening event of the celebration in Stillwater...and what could be more appropriate...in the place where Minnesota was born.

Those who worked on bringing the show here before (and some were skeptical and lukewarm) are now enthusiastic supporters, eager to get involved again. These include educational people such as community education and school principals. As a terrific teaching opportunity, they were especially pleased with the free student performances and study guides. Some schools even raised donations which we did not even ask for.

Optimistic about even greater success for the 2008 shows in Stillwater, we are doubling (or maybe even more) what we did in 2004. At this time, we are planning on two or more student shows during school hours and two adult evening shows, for which we offer reserved seating and charge admission. In 2004, from ticket sales and foundation grants we netted \$8,000 for our Washington County Historical Society.

I first met Warren Nelson by going to Fairmont, Minnesota, for the (modestly-titled) World Premier in his hometown. Then I also attended another advance performance at the Pantages Theater in Minneapolis. He is a remarkable talent, evidenced by his record of composing and producing so many marvelous shows, most (all?) with historic themes.

Attesting to Nelson’s musical abilities, my grandchildren attended the show in 2004 and still sing his charming transportation song “How Ya Gonna Get from Here to There?”

For the Minnesota Sesquicentennial, I can think of no other show than “Old Minnesota: Song of the North Star” as the centerpiece of the celebration. With no reservations, I recommend Warren, his wonderful show and talented performers. I am thankful that we already have it booked for Stillwater, it will be THE show of the celebration all throughout the entire state.

*March 6, 2007*

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel - July 18, 2006



**Dennis McCann**

### **History - that's entertainment**

It's trick enough to entertain, but to entertain while also educating is an even greater accomplishment. This month the Wisconsin Historical Society recognized Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua for 20 years of historical contributions with its first Wisconsin History Award.

William Cronon and Jerry Phillips, both members of the society's Board of Curators, presented the award at intermission of "Riding the Wind," Big Top Chautauqua's flagship original musical about the history of Bayfield and the Apostle Islands, saying that show and others in the summer repertoire make the group "one of the most original, creative and distinguished public interpreters of local, state and regional history" in the country.

The original musicals, along with appearances by regional and national performers, have been staged in a tent at Mount Ashwabay ski hill near Bayfield since 1986. Cronon, the University of Wisconsin's Vilas professor of history, said the Board of Curators created the award after seeing a Big Top performance and realizing that other existing historical society awards for books or museum exhibits did not apply to the kind of historical presentations at Chautauqua. Three of the group's founding members, Warren Nelson, Betty Ferris and executive director Carolyn Sneed, accepted the award.

Other historical musicals include the Wisconsin sesquicentennial show "30th Star," "Centennial Green" and "Take It to the Lake." For a schedule of remaining Big Top Chautauqua shows this summer and early fall, visit [www.bigtop.org](http://www.bigtop.org) or call (888) 244-8368.

Wisconsin Historical Society

# Wisconsin History Award

## LAKE SUPERIOR BIG TOP CHAUTAUQUA

Whereas, 2006 marks the 20th anniversary of **Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua's** founding and the 150th anniversary of the founding of the town of Bayfield; and

Whereas, **Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua** has created a unique brand of popular entertainment that blends historical research, archival photographs, superb storytelling, and unforgettable music to make history come alive for the thousands of people who have attended its performances; and

Whereas, **Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua** has revived the Chautauqua tradition of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries by combining the humor and songwriting genius of Warren Nelson; the energetic research and visual storytelling of Betty Ferris; the organizational leadership of Carolyn Sneed; and the diverse talents of an extraordinarily gifted group of musicians, technicians, and managers; and

Whereas, **Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua** has produced more than a dozen original musicals, including *Riding the Wind*, its signature history of Bayfield and the Apostle Islands, and *The Thirtieth Star*, its sesquicentennial history of the State of Wisconsin; and

Whereas, **Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua** is one of the most original, creative, and distinguished public interpreters of local, state, and regional history in the entire United States;

THEREFORE, the Wisconsin Historical Society is delighted to recognize the achievements and contributions of **Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua** by presenting to it this inaugural Wisconsin History Award, the first ever given by the Society.



July 2, 2006

*Ellsworth H. Brown*  
Ellsworth H. Brown, Director





## *Our Mission*

**To create a sense of community and connection to the life and history of the Chequamegon Bay Area, the State of Wisconsin and the upper Midwest.**



**Enhance year-round cultural opportunities through the uniquely American tradition of Tent Shows.**

## *How We Achieve Our Mission*

### **ORIGINAL HISTORICAL MUSICAL THEATER**

We produce and present an incomparable collection of 12 signature Original Shows. They are written, produced, played and vocalized by our troupe of players the Blue Canvas Orchestra.

### **SHOWCASING LOCAL AND REGIONAL ACTS & NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED HEADLINERS**

Over 500 different performers and groups in 22 consecutive seasons with over 450,000 patrons attending.

### **ON TOUR**

We serve as travelling ambassadors for the Northland by taking the Big Top to audiences in Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois and Minnesota. We are recognized with a U.S. Dept. of Education grant to take educational Original Shows into schools. Over 40,000 students have seen our productions.

### **TENT SHOW RADIO**

Twenty-six, one-hour shows are each aired twice a year. Shows are produced annually from performances recorded live at the Tent. These shows are distributed free of charge to 47 public radio stations in nine states.

### **ARTS & EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH**

- Free public workshop in conjunction with scheduled performances.
- Family series of specially priced matinee performances designed for a family audience.
- Workshops and special performances in cooperation with area high schools.
- Free tickets donated to help support the community organizations.