

Lecture Series

ELEVENTH ANNUAL GEORGE B. HARTZOG, JR. LECTURE

Thursday, September 20th 2:00 p.m.

Daniel Hall Auditorium

Speaker: Senator Gaylord Nelson, Counselor, The Wilderness Society

The Environment – Earth Day and Beyond

(Reception in Lehotsky Hall Following Lecture)



Sponsored by:
Clemson University
College of Forest and Recreation Resources
Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism
Management



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Gaylord Nelson

Gaylord Nelson, former U.S. Senator (D-WI), became Counselor of The Wilderness Society in January, 1981. Senator Nelson was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1962 after serving as a state senator for ten years and as Governor for four years. In his eighteen years in the Senate, Gaylord Nelson, often referred to as the "Father of Earth Day," earned a reputation as a staunch environmentalist, holding a record of notable achievements, which include:

- *Environmental Quality Magazine* (November, 1971): "The Founder of Earth Day. Senator Nelson is the leading environmentalist in the U.S. Senate. His activities are uniquely conservation-oriented, including the sponsorship of numerous bills for protection of America's natural resources."
- Founder of Earth Day in 1970, an annual observance, which focuses national attention on the problems of the environment. In 1980, nearly 1,000 events were held across the country to mark the tenth anniversary of Earth Day, including a White House ceremony presided over by President Carter. Senator Nelson currently serves as honorary co-chairman of Earth Day 1990 and Earth Day 20.
- Operation Mainstream and Green Thumb (to employ the elderly in conservation projects).
- The Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Act, which preserves part of the Lake Superior shoreline and 21 Apostle Islands within the national park system.
- The St. Croix Wild and Scenic Riverway -- part of the National Wild and Scenic River system.
- Upper Great Lakes Region Commission.
- The National Environmental Education Act.
- Sponsor of the 1964 Wilderness Act.
- Original author of the legislation to preserve the 2,000 mile Appalachian Trail, and later introduced legislation to establish a nationwide system of hiking trails, including the Appalachian Trail. The bill became law in 1968.

Gaylord Nelson (continued)
page two

Introduced the first legislation in Congress to:

- Mandate fuel efficiency standards in automobiles;
- Control strip mining;
- Ban the use of DDT;
- Ban the use of 245T (agent orange);
- Ban the use of phosphates in detergents;

As Governor of Wisconsin from 1959 to 1963, Gaylord Nelson initiated ORAP -- the Outdoor Recreation Acquisition Program -- to purchase one million acres of recreation and wildlife areas. The program, funded through a penny-a-pack tax on cigarettes, was the first of its kind in the nation.

Born on June 4, 1916 in Clear Lake Wisconsin, he received his BA degree in 1939 from San Jose State College in California and his LLB at the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1942. He was in the U.S. Army during World War II for 46 months serving as first lieutenant during the Okinawa campaign. Returning to Madison, WI, Nelson practiced law from 1946-58. He lives with his wife, Carrie Lee, in Washington, DC, and has three children.