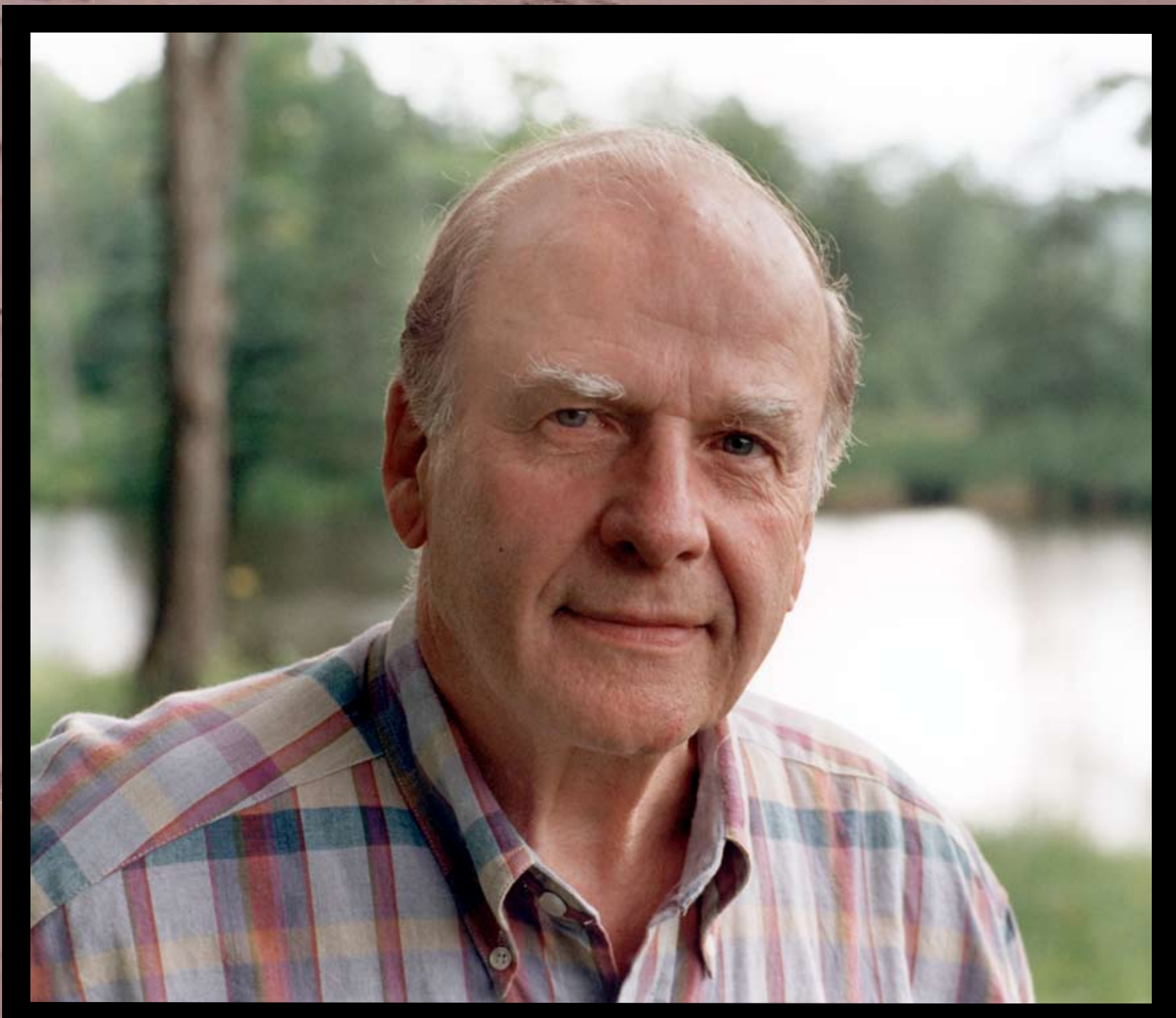




Gaylord Nelson Wilderness

“This is a unique collection of islands...there is not another collection of islands of this significance within the continental boundaries of the United States. I think it is tremendously important that this collection of islands be preserved.”

- Gaylord Nelson



Gaylord Nelson (1916-2005)

This visionary conservationist worked to protect the Apostle Islands while serving as Wisconsin's governor (1958-1962) and U. S. Senator (1963-1980). That effort led to the establishment of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore as part of the National Park System in 1970. Nelson may be best known as the founder of Earth Day.

Forever Wild

Discover the unconfined splendor of nature in Apostle Islands National Lakeshore's Gaylord Nelson Wilderness. Established in 2004, the new wilderness comprises more than 80% of the lakeshore's land area.

The 1964 Wilderness Act defines wilderness as an area “...without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation....”

Through caring stewardship and responsible use, the enduring resources of this landscape will be enjoyed by all generations...forever.