



News Release Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

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Chequamegon-Nicolet NF Ecologist receives national award

Park Falls and Rhinelander, Wisc. – August 14, 2007. Linda Parker, Forest Ecologist on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest is the 2007 recipient of the prestigious Karl Urban Celebrating Wildflowers award.

This award is given by the Forest Service to honor the memory of Karl Urban, a teacher and Forest Service botanist. The award is an ongoing tribute to his significant contributions to the Celebrating Wildflowers program.

The Celebrating Wildflowers program promotes the importance of conservation and management of native plants and plant habitats and emphasizes the aesthetic, recreational, biological, medicinal, and economic values of wildflowers.

This award recognizes an individual or group within or outside the Forest Service who exemplifies dedication to North

America's native floral resources via creativity, community involvement, volunteer programs, and educational efforts through wildflower talks, walks, festivals or classes.



Linda is pictured with Professor E.O. Wilson, Harvard University, at the National Pollinator reception in the USDA Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Parker received the Karl Urban Celebrating Wildflowers Award for 2007 for her years of diligent and effective work to increase the visibility and success of a host of Celebrating Wildflowers events as well as the national website (<http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers>). She has also had an important impact on the identification and development of native plant protocols, new directives, training and workshops, methodology, and research -

garnering numerous partners and volunteers in the process. She has championed the development of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest's highly successful Botany Program with numerous native plant administrative site gardens, seed orchards, educational offerings, and Wildflower Viewing Areas. Linda and her botany staff were recognized for their significant contributions to Celebrating Wildflowers by authoring numerous articles for the national website.

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Supervisor Jeanne Higgins said the Forest was proud of Parker's efforts and that the award was a fitting honor.

"Linda is a committed and talented ecologist and very deserving of this recognition," Higgins said. "We are quite proud of her achievements."