

2005 WISCONSIN LAKE STEWARDSHIP AWARDS

The Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Awards are presented each year to individuals and groups that have made outstanding contributions of time and effort toward the preservation and protection of Wisconsin's lake ecosystems. Each year thousands of individuals spend countless hours in the work of lake stewardship; only a few are recognized for their efforts. Those who are nominated join a long and distinguished list of women, men, young adults, and students whose dedication, vision, and commitment ensure that Wisconsin's legacy of lakes will be safe and secure for generations to come. All nominees have done outstanding service, which makes selecting winners in each category a difficult task.

Please join us in congratulating all of this year's nominees and winners!

This year's nominees plus those from the past two years are considered for Stewardship Awards. The nominees and award winners in each category for 2005 are:

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

2005 Award Winner:
Elmer Goetsch

GROUP CATEGORY

2005 Award Winner:
Pike Lake Chain Lakes Association, Inc.

Nominees:
Gordon Flowage Association
Friends of the Mukwonago River
Manitowoc County Lakes Association
Save Our Lake & Environment (S.O.L.E.)
Bayfield County Lakes Forum
Long & Bass Lake Association of Lincoln County

PUBLIC SERVICE CATEGORY

2005 Award Winner:
Patrick (Buzz) Sorge

Nominees:
Audrey Greene
John Molinaro

YOUTH CATEGORY

2005 Award Winner:
Liberty Go-Getters 4-H Club

INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY

2005 Award Winners:
Sandy and Fred Anderson
Wayne Towne

Nominees:
John "Jack" King
Betty Liebert
Bob Tomashek and Fran West-Tomashek
Don Anderson
Karen Engelbretson
Louis C. Hjort
Mary Knipper
Gilbert Kroll
Ezra Meyer
Michael Norris
Pamela Peters
Clyde Satori
Kay Scharpf
Mary Witt
Dick and Elaine Gronert
Alan Meyer
Dr. and Mrs. Richard Wagner



2005 WISCONSIN LAKE STEWARDSHIP AWARD WINNERS

Lifetime Achievement... Elmer Goetsch

Elmer has spent over a quarter century serving Wisconsin's lakes. He has been a director on the WAL board since its formation and served on the board of one of WAL's two predecessors, the Wisconsin Federation of Lakes. A waterfront property owner on the Three Lakes chain in Oneida County for over forty years, he has served on the Oneida County Board of Adjustment since 1988.

Elmer is a knowledgeable, dedicated, productive, mild mannered, and selfless volunteer who is always willing to help others learn. He is widely respected by his peers on the WAL board, his colleagues within the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership, and throughout the Wisconsin lake community. Elmer's accomplishments over his long involvement in Wisconsin lake issues are too numerous to list. He has been, and will continue to be, an inspiration to other Wisconsin lake stewards.

Elmer's consistent and continual efforts to protect Wisconsin's legacy of lakes coupled with his leadership, hard work, and willingness to share with the community earn him the 2005 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Group...Pike Lake Chain Lakes Association, Inc.

The Pike Lake Chain Lakes Association has been active since 1998, and is working to improve the quality of the Pike Lake Chain in Price County. The Association has an active volunteer monitoring program and has been monitoring water quality since 1999. In addition, the Association has been monitoring for aquatic invasive species for the past several years. They've worked closely with town government to pass an ordinance to protect lake wildlife, and have enhanced fish and wildlife habitat through cooperative efforts with state and federal agencies. They've established an education program that both distributes information to lake property owners and users and solicits their input on the direction of lake management efforts. Earning a lake planning grant in 2003 has allowed the Association to create a comprehensive lake management plan.

For significant achievement in building a strong foundation for future success, the Pike Lake Chain Lakes Association is presented with the 2005 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award in the Group category.

Public Service...Patrick "Buzz" Sorge

Buzz Sorge has been a tireless proponent of sound lake management practices for his entire career at the Department of Natural Resources. He has been instrumental in the success of many local lake projects and has helped develop innovative statewide initiatives such as the Lake Leaders Institute, which prepares future leaders to preserve and protect Wisconsin's waters.

Buzz believes that when people take ownership over the management of their lake there is a greater likelihood for positive outcomes and ongoing resource stewardship. His leadership has guided, expanded, and shaped Wisconsin lake management efforts, paying back huge dividends to the people of Wisconsin. Buzz sincerely cares about our water resources and the people that use them, and it shows in all that he does.

For his leadership, dedication, and enthusiasm for helping people understand their lakes, we present Buzz Sorge with the 2005 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award in the Public Service category.

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Youth...Liberty Go-Getters 4-H Club

The twenty-one members of the Liberty Go-Getters 4-H Club undertook a project to combat Purple Loosestrife in their community by raising purple loosestrife beetles and raising awareness among watershed residents of the threats posed by this harmful invasive plant. This ongoing project has been successful on both counts. These young lake stewards are now working to transfer the knowledge they have gained from this project to their peers.

For their creative efforts in the fight against the spread of purple loosestrife and for the example they have set for youth in every watershed, we present the Liberty Go-Getters 4-H Club with the 2005 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award in the Youth category.

Individual...Sandy and Fred Anderson

Sandy and Fred Anderson are dedicated lake stewards who have been instrumental in protecting and preserving lakes in Douglas County and throughout Wisconsin. The Andersons embody the ideal of active citizen participation, both in lake management and in government at all levels.

Their active and effective involvement in the political process; their efforts to educate the community and public officials about lakes and lake issues; their commitment to the success of local lake organizations; and their dedicated volunteerism make them exemplary lake leaders.

In the words of one of the many who supported their nomination, "Now more than ever before we rely on people like [Sandy and Fred] to engage themselves and help protect our resources. They are forces and voices that resource managers, politicians, and neighbors cannot ignore."

Their leadership is an inspiration to other lake leaders, and with that in mind we present Sandy and Fred Anderson with a 2005 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award in the Individual category.

Individual...Wayne Towne

Wayne Towne has been active with local groups dedicated to the protection of Legend Lake in Menominee County for over twenty years. This retired teacher's enthusiasm for lake protection has proven to be infectious, as he has encouraged the involvement of dozens of others in local lake protection efforts.

Wayne is a doer – he identifies a problem, works out the best way to solve it, and sees to it that a solution is realized. In this way Wayne has translated educational insights he has gained from other lakes across the state and successfully implemented change at the local level where he works.

Wayne believes that the protection of lake resources requires both an understanding of the ecology of the system and an awareness of the role everyone plays in maintaining its health. He takes time to inform people of the connections between their actions and the health of the lakes. Through this approach Wayne works to educate both youth and his peers.

Wayne is a leader admired by many who has worked tirelessly to build relationships both between people and between people and their lakes, and for this we present him with a 2005 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award in the Individual category.

PREVIOUS LAKE STEWARDSHIP AWARD WINNERS

Lifetime

2003 Dr. William Genthe

Group

2004 Lake Hallie Lake Association
2003 Pigeon River Watershed Stakeholders Group
2002 Whitefish Lake Conservation Organization (WILCO)
2001 Legend Lake LPRD
2000 Green Lake Sanitary District
1999 Rock Lake Improvement Association
1998 Sheboygan County Conservation Association
1997 Lake Redstone Protection District
1996 Loon Lake-Wescott Management District
1995 Lake Ripley Management District
1994 Balsam Lake Protection & Rehab. District
1993 Long Lake Fishing Club
1992 City of Tomah Lake Committee/District
1991 Black Otter Lake District
1990 Bullhead Lake Advancement Association
1989 Town of Delavan Lake Committee
1988 Lake Puckaway District/Association
1987 Rolling Stone Lake District

Individual

2004 Tom Arnison
2003 Yvonne Feavel
2002 Pauline Kelly
2001 Jim Brakken
2000 Robert & Fran Daffenbach
1999 Charlie Shong
1998 Mary Platner
1997 Fred Ellerman
1996 Mary Bierman
1995 John Seibel
1994 John Avery
1993 Alice Clausing
1992 Mary Danoski
1991 Lloyd Christenson
1990 Jim Holperin
1989 Lisa Conley
1988 Kathy Aron
1987 Elmer Goetsch

Business

2004 NES Ecological Services
2003 Eco Building and Forestry LLC
2002 Aquarius Systems, A Division of D&D Products

Youth

2004 White Lake Adopt-a-Lake
Milfoil Masters (Special Recognition)
2003 "Lake Watchers" Adopt-a-Lake Team
2002 Phelps School District & the North and South
Twin Lakes Riparian Association
2001 Hartford Union High School
2000 Montello School District (Montello Lake)
1999 Lake Holcombe High School Future Farmers
of America
1998 New Auburn High School (Round Lake)
1997 Cambridge High School (Lake Ripley)
Asa Clark Middle School (Pewaukee)
Three Lakes High School & FWIABS
Wood River Beavers 4-H Club
1996 Rice Lake Middle School (Rice Lake)
Lucky Hills 4-H Club (Lakes Kathryn & Esca)
August High School (Eau Claire Lake)
North Lakeland Elementary (Carlin Lake)
Lake Tomah School District (Lake Tomah)
Dodge County 4-H (Fox Lake)

Public Service

2004 Thomas Ward
2003 Robert Korth
2002 Dr. Jeffrey Thornton
2001 William P. O'Connor
2000 Bryan Pierce
1999 Mike Dresen
1998 Jeff Bode
1997 Northwoods Lake Fair Planning Committee
1996 Steve Field
1995 Tom Wilson
1994 Harvey Stower
1993 Les Aspin

