

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 and the communities surrounding them. Each year thousands of individuals spend countless hours in the work of lake stewardship; only a few are ever recognized for their efforts.

Those who are nominated for these awards join a long and distinguished list of women, men, young people, and groups 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 the Stewardship Award in each category. The nominees and award winners in each category for 2006 are:

CITIZEN CATEGORY

2006 Award Winner:
Kay Scharpf

Nominees:

- Don Anderson
- Karen Engelbretson
- Louis C. Hjort
- John "Jack" King
- Mary Knipper
- Gilbert Kroll
- Betty Liebert
- Ezra Meyer
- Michael Norris
- Pamela Peters
- David Pozorski
- Clyde Satori
- June Schmaal

- Bob Tomashek and Fran West-Tomashek
- Mary Witt

GROUP CATEGORY

2006 Award Winner:
Green Lake Association

Nominees:

- Friends of the Mukwonago River
- Gordon Flowage Association
- Manitowoc County Lakes Association
- Save Our Lake & Environment (S.O.L.E.)

PUBLIC SERVICE CATEGORY

2006 Award Winner:
John Molinaro

Nominees:

- Audrey Greene
- Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Dept.

YOUTH CATEGORY

2006 Award Winner:
Girl Scout Troop 724

Nominees:

- New Auburn High School Lake Leaders

EDUCATOR CATEGORY

2006 Award Winner:
John Haack

Nominees:

- Pamela Peters
- Nancy Turyk



2006 WISCONSIN LAKE STEWARDSHIP AWARD WINNERS

Citizen... Kay Scharpf

Kay Scharpf is a model citizen lake steward, and she has been at it for more than three decades. Kay has been a volunteer water quality monitor on Franklin Lake in Forest County since 1971 – 35 years! She was one of the first to join the Self-Help lake monitoring program in 1986, and she has since trained numerous others as Self-Help volunteers. She was also one of the first volunteer loon monitors, or Loon Rangers, helping to monitor loons and loon habitat and to educate others on how to protect them.

Kay has worked on behalf of lakes at the local level: to encourage lakefront property owners to restore shoreland vegetation, to actively restore fish habitat, and to protect her lake's nesting loons. She has worked on behalf of lakes at the county level: to advocate strong shoreland zoning rules and to train others from neighboring lakes. And, she has worked on behalf of lakes with the state and federal governments: to ensure minimal water quality impacts from logging on their properties that abut lakes.

Kay is not only the consummate volunteer lake steward; she is also a great teacher and mentor, having shared her interests, drive, volunteerism, and knowledge with countless others over the years. Many great lake leaders in the north have been heavily influenced by Kay and her wonderful example. And, would you believe it? -- She's still at it!

Kay Scharpf's long-time volunteerism on behalf of lakes on a variety of fronts, along with the contagiousness of her stewardship ethic and her consistent efforts to teach others, have earned her the 2006 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award in the Citizen category.

Group...Green Lake Association

The Green Lake Association has been in existence and actively working to protect "Big" Green Lake since 1951 – a 55-year legacy. With a name change in 1975 from Green Lake Property Owners' Association to Green Lake Association, the organization cemented in place what had been a slow shift in its self image towards a decidedly conservation-oriented and inclusive lake organization. The group's current mission statement refers to its desire to include in its membership "all who are interested in the welfare of Green Lake," its interest in promoting lake-friendly land use and development along the lake's shores and throughout its watershed, and its desire to promote safe recreational use of the lake by a diversity of users.

One key to Green Lake Association's ongoing success in a number of areas is its effective collaborations with others. From its partnerships with the sanitary district to its interactions with the local land conservancy, cooperation with others has been critical to the Green Lake Association's success.

The Green Lake Association's efforts to work with students and nearby educational institutions, from local schools to Ripon College, have been wide-ranging and highly successful. These activities include pontoon classrooms, stream sampling, wetland restoration projects, aquatic invasive species control, and an Association-sponsored scholarship grant for advanced lake protection work done by local students.

The Association's RSVP (Revitalization of Shoreline Vegetation Project) is a model statewide for its success in spurring behavior change – shoreland restoration - on the part of its target audience – lakefront property owners.

For significant achievements in local lake protection based on inclusive, comprehensive, and innovative approaches, and for a long history of championing lakes and a lake stewardship ethic, the Green Lake Association is recognized with the 2006 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award in the Group category.

2006 WISCONSIN LAKE STEWARDSHIP AWARD WINNERS

Public Service...John Molinaro

John Molinaro has been a passionate and tireless advocate for lakes in Jefferson County, particularly his home lake - Lake Ripley - for nearly twenty years. He has, in recent years, taken his dedication and leadership to the state level through his involvement with the Wisconsin Association of Lakes and the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership.

In the late 1980's, John helped organize the aquatic plant management program on Lake Ripley, which is now viewed as a highly successful long-term management effort. He has been elected chair of the Lake Ripley Management District for 13 straight years. During that tenure, John has overseen significant lake-protection achievements, including: a large wetland restoration project, the creation of a neighborhood-watch style program aimed at curbing disrespectful and illegal boating, a path-breaking report assessing the recreational carrying capacity of Lake Ripley, and the creation of local ordinances addressing the impacts of piers and shoreland development.

John has worked on lake and general natural resource conservation issues at the county level as well, helping to create the Jefferson County Land Trust, serving on the Jefferson County Lakes Enhancement Committee, and being elected (and re-elected) to the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors.

At the statewide level, John has volunteered to organize and speak at the Wisconsin Lakes Convention several years in a row, graduated from the Lake Leaders Institute and returned to help train others there, served as a riparian landowner representative on the DNR's Pier Rules Stakeholder Group, served as vice-president of the Wisconsin Association of Lakes, and presented at regional and national lakes conferences.

For his commitment to helping protect lakes at all levels in Wisconsin, for the enthusiasm with which he commits himself unselfishly to this cause, and for his good-natured and effective leadership, we present John Molinaro with the 2006 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award for Public Service.

Youth...Girl Scout Troop 724

The four members of Girl Scout Troop 724 – Sarah Bowman, Nicole Wiesendanger, Kelsey Hallberg, and Lindsey DeWitt – have taken on what was supposed to be a short-term Girl Scouts project and turned it into an example of youth lake stewardship that goes above and beyond the call of duty.

They began their project by learning about the ill effects of purple loosestrife on wetlands and connected waters, and they proceeded to work with the Lake Pewaukee Sanitary District to introduce bio-control beetles to help manage problematic loosestrife populations in Lake Pewaukee wetlands. When that original project was over, their work had just begun. They sought additional ways they could work to document, increase awareness about, and tackle the extensive purple loosestrife problem in the Lake Pewaukee watershed, and they expended significant energy over the past year pursuing those additional avenues. The girls have indicated an interest in working to train other youth groups from their area to work on similar problems. They are making a presentation at the 2006 Wisconsin Lakes Convention on their project as well, as a way of sharing the inspirational story with others.

For their self-motivation, leadership, infectious zeal for environmental stewardship, and for the example they have set for youth in every watershed, we present the girls of Girl Scout Troop 724 with the 2006 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award in the Youth category.

2006 WISCONSIN LAKE STEWARDSHIP AWARD WINNERS

Educator...John Haack

John Haack is midway through his third decade working as a public servant to protect and enhance Wisconsin's natural resources. In his early jobs working for the Department of Natural Resources, particularly in the contentious role of Water Regulation and Zoning Specialist, he honed his skills as a negotiator, his patience, and his ability to help people understand complex situations in a way that defuses potential conflict.

John's current role as a Basin Educator allows him to focus on what he does best: educate. Here, John's ability to forge partnerships, to effectively shepherd along group processes, and to help groups achieve results really come to the fore. He is a great communicator, mediator, facilitator, and leader. By drawing on these characteristics, John effectively gets the message across to those with whom he works to encourage them to change their behavior, thus improving our lakes and other natural resources.

John is a diligent worker, frequently going above and beyond the call of duty to follow through on projects, some of which he is dragged into midway along as a last resort when things have otherwise hit a wall. The incredible level of support shown for John's nomination for this award by numerous citizens and professionals working in the Northwestern part of the state is a testament to his effective leadership and all-encompassing commitment to his work, the shared work of all of those who strive to make the world a little bit better place for both current and future generations.

For his long track record of effective leadership in natural resource management in northwestern Wisconsin, based largely on his unparalleled ability to help others help themselves, we designate John Haack the winner of the 2006 – the first ever – Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award in the Educator category.

PAST LAKE STEWARDSHIP AWARD WINNERS

Lifetime Achievement

2005 Elmer Goetsch
2003 Dr. William Genthe

Group

2005 Pike Lake Chain Lakes Association, Inc.
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

Citizen

2005 Sandy & Fred Anderson
Wayne Towne
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

2005 (-None-)
2004 NES Ecological Services
2003 Eco Building and Forestry LLC
2002 Aquarius Systems, A Division of D&D Products

Youth

2005 Liberty Go-Getters 4-H Club
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)

Public Service

2005 Patrick "Buzz" Sorge
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

