

20TH ANNUAL

2007 WISCONSIN LAKE STEWARDSHIP AWARDS

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.

-- This is our 20th year of celebrating Wisconsin's outstanding lake stewards. --

Those 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 performed outstanding service, making the selection of winners in each category a difficult task.

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

New nominees this year and those from the past two years are considered in each category.
The nominees and award winners in each category for 2007 are:

CITIZEN CATEGORY

2007 Award Winner:
David Pozorski

Nominees:

Roger Dreher
Harold Friestad
Don Glaeser
Dr. Bill Iwen
John "Jack" King
Gilbert Kroll
Betty Liebert
Francine Marshall
Bob Nicholson and Paul Kuhn
Ann Parker
June Schmaal
Bob Tomashek and Fran West-Tomashek
Nick Williams

GROUP CATEGORY

2007 Award Winner:
Lauderdale Lakes Partnership

Nominees:

Fox Lake District Plant Management Cmte.
Geneva Lake Conservancy
Gordon Flowage Association
Munger Bear Lake District

YOUTH CATEGORY

2007 Award Winner:
New Auburn High School Lake Leaders

PUBLIC SERVICE CATEGORY

2007 Award Winner:
Kevin MacKinnon

Nominees:

Audrey Greene
Peg Lautenschlager
Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Dept.
Mark Sesing

EDUCATOR CATEGORY

2007 Award Winner:
Susan Knight

Nominees:

Jill Graf
Mary Pardee
Pamela Peters
Nancy Turyk

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

2007 Award Winner:
Richard Wedepohl

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

2007 Award Winners:

Laura Felda-Marquardt
Twenty-year Veteran Citizen Lake Monitors

2007 WISCONSIN LAKE STEWARDSHIP AWARD WINNERS

Citizen... David Pozorski

Dave Pozorski stands out for his determined efforts to encourage good lake stewardship:

- Locally, through his fundraising and other efforts to assist in the successful Silver Lake Rehabilitation project in Manitowoc County,
- At the county level, through his efforts to revive and grow the Manitowoc County Lakes Association and its influence,
- And statewide, through his advocacy of statewide policies beneficial to lakes, including a statewide phase-out of phosphorus in lawn fertilizers.

What also makes Dave stand out is the fact that this consummate lake leader does not live on a lake! He is *a lake user who cares*. Dave shines as an excellent example of what one dedicated citizen can accomplish if one sets one's mind to it, takes the lead, and involves others throughout the process.

Dave is a networker, a collaborator, and a gentle leader who encourages others to join him and to take on leadership roles of their own.

Dave Pozorski's leadership at all levels to protect Wisconsin's lakes and his personal embodiment of the Public Trust Doctrine, have earned him the 2007 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award in the Citizen category.

Group...Lauderdale Lakes Partnership

The Lauderdale Lakes Partnership comprises four groups that have worked closely together over the last 10-plus years to accomplish great things for the Lauderdale chain of lakes in Walworth County:

- the **Lauderdale Lakes Management District**,
- the **Lauderdale Lakes Improvement Association**,
- the **Lauderdale Lakes Conservancy**, and
- the **Town of LaGrange**.

With some individuals involved in one or more of these groups, and with a great deal of coordination and cooperation between them, this partnership has succeeded in setting aside sensitive lands for permanent conservation, developing local ordinances to protect the lakes, implementing best management practices to prevent degradation of lake water quality, and advocating for sound land use decisions where negative impacts on the lakes might otherwise have resulted.

Twelve key individuals have led this partnership effort: Scott Mason, Nestor Dybalo, Peter Van Kampen, and Pete Donahue with the District; Bud Vance, Floyd Pochowski, and Pete Spaulding from the Association; Jerry Peterson with the Conservancy; and Rick Callaway, Jeff Schramm, Frank Taylor, and Dave Heilmeier with the Town of La Grange. Pete Donahue and Dave Heilmeier are recognized in memoriam. All twelve of these lake stewards are honored for their leadership and collaboration in this coalition that has accomplished so much for the Lauderdale Lakes and the surrounding community.

For outstanding teamwork across organizations with common lake stewardship goals, and for their wide-ranging successes in moving toward those goals for this important lake resource, the Lauderdale Lakes Partnership is awarded the 2007 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award in the Group category.

2007 WISCONSIN LAKE STEWARDSHIP AWARD WINNERS

Youth...New Auburn High School Lake Leaders

The students who made up the New Auburn High School Lake Leaders worked to improve Wisconsin lakes and to better themselves over the last ten years through a host of lake-related educational projects. They published educational newsletters, gave presentations at regional, statewide, and international lakes workshops and at Wisconsin teachers' conferences, helped organize a local lake fair, investigated and published a report on the history of Round Lake, raised purple loosestrife beetles, built web pages for lake groups, performed a rendition of *On Golden Pond* for the Wisconsin Lakes Convention and general public audiences, raised money to support their efforts and the Wisconsin Association of Lakes' youth fund, and lobbied Congress in Washington, D.C. to advocate for more money for lake restoration projects nationwide.

Over the years, several hundred students participated in this program, which serves as a model for the kind of youth and public school involvement in lake protection and lake and watershed education that the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership aspires to foster statewide.

With the leadership of teacher/advisor Jim Brakken, a Lake Stewardship Award winner himself, these students set lofty goals for themselves and accomplished more than anyone ever imagined they would. Many of them have since moved on to college and beyond. We hope to see them again soon, here in Wisconsin, working to better our lakes through continued lake leadership and stewardship.

For their sustained energy and enthusiasm, their creativity and leadership, their infectious passion for lake stewardship, and for the example they have set for youth lakes education in our public schools, we present the New Auburn High School Lake Leaders with the 2007 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award in the Youth category.

Public Service...Kevin MacKinnon

Kevin MacKinnon has been a steadfast and highly effective leader on Delavan Lake in Walworth County, and at the county and state levels as well. In his professional role as lake manager at the Delavan Lake Sanitary District, he oversaw one of the most successful whole-lake rehabilitation efforts in Wisconsin, and he did so much more, going above and beyond the duties and responsibilities of his professional capacity at the District.

Kevin was a major influence in the formation of the Walworth County Lakes Association, an effective regional player in its own right. He spent weekends and evenings helping spread lake education and lake protection and restoration messages to others on other lakes in and outside of Walworth County. He mentored other lake leaders, leveraging his leadership and effectiveness into a force much bigger than just that one individual. He has also served as a director on the board of the Wisconsin Association of Lakes since 2004, lending his professional experience and pragmatism to the board's deliberations on strategy and organizational focus at the state level.

For his exemplary leadership on lake stewardship efforts locally, regionally, and statewide, for his long-term commitment to lakes, for his professionalism and resolve, for going beyond the call of duty, and for his contagious love for lakes, we present Kevin MacKinnon with the 2007 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award for Public Service.

2007 WISCONSIN LAKE STEWARDSHIP AWARD WINNERS

Educator...Susan Knight

In the words of the person who nominated Susan Knight for the Lake Stewardship Award, “Susan is simply a natural and wonderful educator.” Trained and experienced as a research scientist, with expertise in aquatic plant ecosystems, Susan shares her knowledge and enthusiasm for lakes and the plant communities that inhabit them with everyone she encounters. She helps people become comfortable and familiar with aquatic plants, sometimes without their even realizing it. Susan does this not only in the formal setting of her aquatic plant identification workshops but also in presentations, informal conversations, and field trips out on the lakes, which she loves more than any other educational venue.

Susan turns the complex and unknown into the meaningful and easy-to-understand. She makes science fun and helps people to see the pieces as an inclusive whole. Her knowledge and her unique educational abilities make her a highly effective lake steward.

For her passionate, selfless, enthusiastic, measured, positive, and highly effective advocacy through education and education through advocacy, we designate Susan Knight the winner of the 2007 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award in the Educator category.

Lifetime Achievement...Richard Wedepohl

After earning degrees in engineering and business administration from UW-Madison, Richard began his career with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in 1974. In the late 1970's he was appointed to the Office of Inland Lake Renewal, where he worked directly on lake protection and rehabilitation.

In the early 1980's Richard had a major impact on the nation's lakes by helping found the North American Lake Management Society, whose mission is to forge partnerships among citizens, scientists, and professionals to foster the protection of lakes and reservoirs for today and tomorrow. Richard served as president of NALMS for one year and has remained very active in the fight for clean lakes nationwide.

In 1982, the Office of Inland Lake Renewal was closed but Richard remained as the DNR's only lakes staff person. He worked on lake studies, water quality standards, and kept the lakes program alive. Maintaining relationships with UW-Extension and working with past Lifetime Achievement Award winner Lowell Klessig, Richard helped keep the traditions of the Wisconsin Lakes Convention and the *Lake Tides* newsletter alive. He fought to rebuild a Wisconsin lakes program, working closely with the Wisconsin Association of Lakes' predecessors, the Wisconsin Federation of Lakes and the Wisconsin Association of Lake Districts.

In 1985, Richard convened lakes advocates and they wrote a strategy for protecting Wisconsin's lakes that envisioned lake education specialists at UW-Extension and lake coordinators in the DNR. In 1986, his efforts were rewarded when a DNR Lakes Section was created and the Legislature established Self-Help (citizen) and Long-Term Trend monitoring. After that, Richard worked on legislation and budget initiatives to fund DNR and UW-Extension lakes staff and the State's lakes grant program.

Richard's extensive career with the Department focused mostly on his true passion: lakes. Richard cares deeply about and has worked diligently to protect Wisconsin's lakes and the people who share his passion.

For his long-time commitment, his advocacy for both lakes themselves and a strong partnership of people to protect them, and for his career-long passion for lakes, we designate Richard Wedepohl the winner of the 2007 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award for Lifetime Achievement.

2007 WISCONSIN LAKE STEWARDSHIP AWARD WINNERS

Special Recognition ...Laura Felda-Marquardt

Laura Felda-Marquardt arrived on the Wisconsin lakes scene with a passion for her work and a willingness to take on new challenges. She started out working to educate our youth, serving as the Adopt-a-Lake coordinator for five years. She now wraps up her wonderful career, having focused on assisting communities dealing with aquatic invasive species for the past four years in her capacity as the coordinator of the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program, which she also helped to develop.

Laura has always been willing to guide these statewide efforts in a way that helps people build their local strengths. In both of her roles she concentrated her efforts on building networks of effective people and supplying them with the materials they need to meet their challenges.

It has been great for all of us to work with Laura over the years. She came into our lakes realm wanting to help people, and she has done that in a wonderful way. Her professional life has always been about helping others and many people are thankful for her experience and enthusiasm.

As she retires this summer, it is sad for us to see her go, but we wish Laura all the best.

For leaving her personalized and permanent mark on the arena of lake education in this state, for having been such a great asset to our legacy of lakes, and for all she has accomplished in her time with us, we award Laura with a Special Recognition 2007 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award.

Special Recognition... Twenty-year Veteran Citizen Lake Monitors

**Robert August
Mary Jane Bumby
William Flader
Steven Frey
Don Glaeser
Dale Jalinski**

**Bob Kirschner
Howard Lang
Kevin MacKinnon
Gerald Ptaschinski, Sr.
Tom Rulseh
Kay Scharpf**

**Elaine Spees
Loren Swanson
James Vennie
Bill Whyte
Stanley Young**

The seventeen individual citizens recognized here hail from across the state and beyond. One thing they all have in common is twenty-plus uninterrupted years of citizen monitoring on Wisconsin lakes. Together they have more than 350 years of monitoring experience! Some began monitoring lakes even earlier, prior to the creation of the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network.

This group of dedicated volunteers is recognized in this, the 20th year of the Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Awards, for their special efforts to steward our legacy of lakes for those twenty plus years, by collecting useful information that helps us assess the health of our lakes and understand them better as they change and the world around them changes over time.

For their long-term commitment to monitoring Wisconsin's lakes for the benefit of the lakes themselves and the benefit of future lake users and residents (human and otherwise), we recognize the seventeen twenty-year-veteran citizen lake monitors with a Special Recognition 2007 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award in the 20th anniversary year of the Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Awards.

CITIZEN LAKE MONITORING: OVER 20 YEARS STRONG A LAKE STEWARDSHIP STORY

In 1986, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources initiated the Wisconsin Self-Help Lake Monitoring Program. The first year involved 113 lakes statewide and about 125 volunteers. In 1987, 169 lakes were monitored by 175 individuals. And the program has expanded – in 2006, over 1,500 volunteers were monitoring lakes statewide. Of the 175 volunteers that started monitoring in 1986 and 1987, seventeen (10%) are still actively participating in the program. Of the 169 lakes that were monitored in 1986 and 1987, 140 (83%) are still being monitored by volunteers. For many of these lakes, the torch has been passed on and “new” recruits are monitoring.

This year, the 20th year in which we award Lake Stewardship Awards to outstanding leaders in lake protection across the state, we have chosen to honor the seventeen volunteers that began monitoring in 1986 and 1987, twenty and twenty-one years ago. Together, they have more than 350 years of monitoring experience. Many had been conducting lake monitoring for years before they joined this network. Many are also conducting other types of monitoring on their lakes and in the watersheds surrounding their lakes.

Each of these individuals is a limnologist and historian for their lake. They love the lakes they have spent so much time studying. Many volunteers have made monitoring a family event; others have mentored new volunteer monitors over the years. Some monitor several lakes. There are even volunteers who do not live on a lake, but choose to monitor because they want to give back to the environment and future generations.

Despite the differences in their lakes, the volunteers have much in common. They share concerns about aquatic invasive species and the pressures of development and recreation. All of the volunteers share a belief that the monitoring they are doing today will benefit future generations.

All of the volunteer data is collected by the Department of Natural Resources and shared with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the state legislature, and the general public. Many of the volunteer monitors work with and share their data with their lake associations and lake districts. Some work with their local sanitary districts, the U.S. Geological Survey, and other organizations. Some send their data to the local chamber of commerce, their mayor, fishing guides, wastewater treatment plants, and their county land and water conservation department.

So what changes have these experienced lake detectives seen on their lakes? According to them,

- Some volunteers have seen improvements in water quality; some have seen a decline, and most have seen water quality remain relatively constant over the years.
- Much of the desirable property has been developed, yet there is pressure to develop what land remains, even when it is less well-suited to development and likely more sensitive.
- Small seasonal cabins and houses have been replaced with larger year-round homes.
- There are more permanent residents now, as well as more seasonal residents.

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- There used to be more family resorts.
 - There has been a visible shift from passive to active forms of lake recreation, and there are more water toys available than ever before.
 - Pie-shaped lots are being formed to maximize the number of lots on the lakes.
 - There are more and larger piers.
 - Watershed changes include development of farmland into residential and other land uses.
 - A number of aquatic invasive species are now present.
 - There is more fishing pressure on the lakes.
 - There is additional traffic on the water, and the size, power, and speed of motorboats has increased.
 - The use of personal watercraft increased dramatically over the last twenty years.
 - The removal and destruction of vegetation along the shorelines continues, often in the interest of creating or expanding lawns. The nighttime sky grows ever brighter – not from the stars or the moon, but from the reflected glare of powerful lights.

Volunteers not only monitor their lakes, but they continue to work on other ways to improve water quality and enhance life on the lakes. They encourage property owners to keep or replant native vegetation on their shorelines and to manage storm water runoff. They work with elected officials on issues like invasive species, boating, land use planning, and zoning. As one volunteer stated, “the lake association works hard to educate people about the right things to do to help our lake.”

Why do these volunteers faithfully collect data on their lakes? As one eloquently stated,

“There isn’t much glory in being a Citizen Lake Monitor, but you do it for the lake. If we can help scientists get a handle on lake chemistry, our lake should be in good hands for a long time to come. We have to be responsible for our natural resources and realize that all the things we do impact our lake. We can keep heaping abuse on our lake, but eventually, something is going to happen. Maybe my monitoring can help keep that from happening.”

Another said, “I hope the data I collect will benefit future generations. I believe strongly in education and keeping the history of the lake alive.”

Many of the volunteers talked about the frogs, birds, and wildlife that they see while monitoring and said that they keep an eye on the lake for wildlife’s sake.

In a nutshell, the volunteers collect data because they care – and we in Wisconsin are blessed with the best volunteers anywhere.

PAST LAKE STEWARDSHIP AWARD WINNERS

Lifetime Achievement

- 2005 Elmer Goetsch
- 2003 Dr. William Genthe
- 2000 Lowell Klessig
Sandy Engel

Group

- 2006 Green Lake Association
- 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 & Rehabilitation 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

- 2006 Kay Scharpf
- 2005 Sandy & Fred Anderson
Wayne Towne
- 2004 Tom Arnison
- 2003 Yvonne Feavel
- 2002 Pauline Kelly
- 2001 Jim Brakken
- 2000 Robert & Fran Dauffenbach
- 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

- 2006 Girl Scout Troop 724
- 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)

Public Service

- 2006 John Molinaro
- 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

Educator

- 2006 John Haack