

2009



**Wisconsin Lake Stewardship
Award winners**

About the Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Awards

The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership presents the Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Awards each year in celebration of the extraordinary volunteer and professional efforts made to protect and improve lakes in Wisconsin. The Stewardship Awards represent our best collective effort to honor and celebrate all the incredible work that goes into ensuring the future of our state's Legacy of Lakes.

This is our 22nd year of celebrating Wisconsin's outstanding lake stewards. All nominees have performed outstanding service for lakes, which makes the selection of winners in each category a difficult task.

Stewardship Award Categories

There are five Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award categories to recognize outstanding contributions of time and effort to the future of our lakes.

Citizen

This category recognizes the many individuals whose actions help protect our lakes and encourage others to do the same. Dedicated local volunteers are helping monitor and learn more about our lakes, working with local governments to ensure that land use decisions consider the health of lakes, and extending a helping hand to neighbors interested in protecting their lake.

Organized group

Many groups—including lake associations, lake districts, countywide associations, and other collaborative efforts—are working to make their lakes clean, safe, and healthy for everyone. This category recognizes groups who have organized their members to make positive contributions to lake quality by starting local education or restoration programs, participating in local government decision making, working collaboratively with other organizations, or other activities.

Youth

This category recognizes young lake leaders or youth groups showing local or regional leadership getting their peers excited about lakes, monitoring and studying lakes, and doing lake related projects.

Public Service

This category recognizes public officials and employees who are dedicated and committed to helping others learn more about our lakes and making sound lake management decisions.

Business

This category recognizes businesses that have shown outstanding commitment to the ecological health lakes, and assisting lake organizations with the development and implementation of sound lake management plans.

2009 award winners and nominees

New nominees this year and from the previous two years are considered in each category. The nominees and award winners in each category for 2009 are:

Citizen Category

2009 Award winner:

Les Schramm

Nominees:

Virginia Amerena
AJ Theiler
Brian Ewart
Candis Chapman
Connie Muckelberg
Don Hermes
Don Madden
Lee Wiesner
Mike Bader
Sandy Gillum
Al Baade
Milt Stanze
Lorna Wilson
Roger Dreher
Harold Friestad
Don Glaeser
Dr. Bill Iwen
Gilbert Kroll
Francine Marshall
Bob Nicholson & Paul Kuhn
Ann Parker
Nick Williams

Public Service Category

2009 Award Winner

**Marninette County Land and Water
Conservation Division**

Nominees:

Heidi Bunk
Dale Hanson
Deborah Konkel
Carolyn Scholl
Peg Lautenschlager

Youth Category

2009 Award Winner

University Lake School Students

Nominees:

Girl Scout Troop 2724
Luke and Kyle Lenard, Clean our Oneida Lakes Club

Group Category

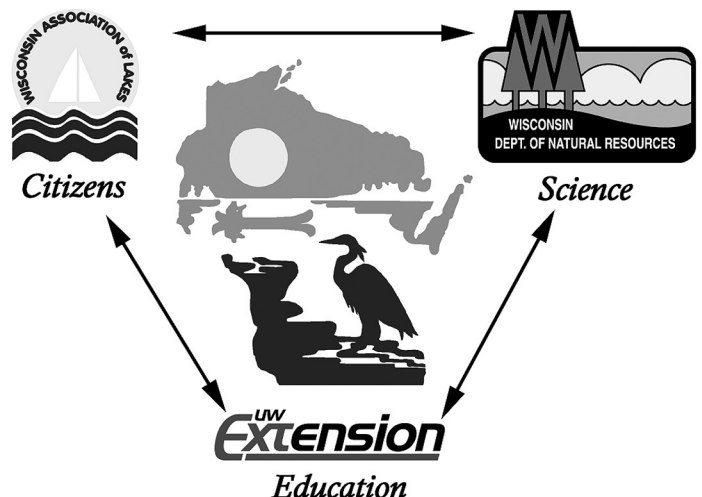
2009 Award Winner

**Town of Barnes Eurasian watermilfoil
committee & town clerk**

Nominees:

Clark Lake Advancement Association
Florence County Lakes and Rivers Association
Bayfield County Lakes Forum
Gibson Island Conservation Project (Cloverleaf Lakes)
Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity (Silver Lake)
Fox Lake District APM Committee
Geneva Lake Conservancy
Munger Bear Lake District

Wisconsin Lakes Partnership



Citizen—Les Schramm

For his dedication to teaching others about lakes; ability to build and sustain diverse partnerships with local groups, neighbors, and local governments; and advancement of lake protection initiatives— we are pleased to recognize Les Schramm with the Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award in the Citizen category.

Les Schramm is a past president and long-time board member of the Lake Metonga Association, board member of the Forest County Association of Lakes and chairman of their invasive species committee. Les has been instrumental in making the Lake Metonga Association one of the more active, progressive lake groups in the region.

When Eurasian watermilfoil was found in Lake Metonga, Les spent countless evenings at meetings with the city, town, county, and tribal governments participating in discussions about appropriate management options to ensure that the surrounding communities were comfortable with the control methods chosen to address this challenging problem.

Les has been a Citizen Lake Monitoring Network volunteer since 1998; and he can always be counted on to recruit and train new volunteers. Les has welcomed Crandon High School environmental science students to make Lake Metonga their outdoor classroom, lending a helping hand to teach them about water quality monitoring for the past seven years. Many of those students have shared their research from Lake Metonga at conferences and have gone on to pursue careers in natural resources.

Les has also built a rewarding partnership with the Sokaogon Chippewa Community. His tireless work ethic and great communication skills bridged a gap among the Tribe, lake association, and local communities. Over the past decade these groups have been working cooperatively on many beneficial lake projects such as fish stocking, wildlife habitat improvements, and more.

Les is described as a perfect example of the type of men and women who are the backbone of lake stewardship in Wisconsin. He is a graduate of Wisconsin Lake Leaders Institute Crew IV, which has expanded his lake family. His admirers note that while there are many serious ongoing issues on Lake Metonga, Les remains upbeat and positive, making him a pleasure to work with.



Analyzing Zebra Mussel density on a sampler plate from Lake Metonga.



Seining with Mike Preul, Fishery Biologist with the Mole Lake Chippewa Tribe.

Group—Barnes Eurasian watermilfoil committee & town clerk

For their perseverance, enthusiastic outreach, willingness to share their experiences with other communities; and for serving as an excellent model for other municipal-scale lake projects— we are pleased to award the Town of Barnes Eurasian Watermilfoil Committee and their Town Clerk the 2009 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award in the Group Category.

The Town of Barnes Eurasian Water-milfoil Committee and Town Clerk have shown focused energies, tremendous commitment, and innovation in addressing aquatic invasive species in their town. The Committee's birth was sparked by discovery of Eurasian water-milfoil (EWM) in Tomahawk and Sand Bar Lakes, two adjacent lakes in the lake-rich region of Bayfield County, in August 2004.

Current Committee members include: Ingemar Ekstrom (chair), Gus Gustafson, Jim and Patty Joswick, Mitch McGee (Town Supervisor and co-chair), Dave Pease, Barb Romstad (secretary), and Lee Wiesner. Town Clerk, Elaine Brustad, coordinates the Committee's administrative activities. They are a standing committee of the Barnes Town Board, with a permanent slot on the town's monthly agenda. Previous committee members included: Dixie Chermack, Leigh Jordahl, George Kornstad, Dave Thorson, and Carol Tierney.

The motto, Community Problems Require Community Solutions, propels their work. So far they have completed three town-wide projects to inventory aquatic plant communities in 27 nearby lakes, educate residents and visitors about AIS, inspect watercraft, research EWM control, and build consensus among numerous stakeholders including property owners, local government, businesses, and visitors to address the AIS issues facing this region.

Early steps of this ambitious group were to create a regional public outreach campaign, and implement Clean Boats Clean Waters Programs at the major landings. Their first CBCW workshop was an indication that their community motto indeed resonated throughout Barnes—over 60 people showed up for training! Over the course of their projects, the Committee and Town Clerk have coordinated and/or reported a whopping 4,200 volunteer hours. These numbers are evidence of the community's dedication to addressing this AIS issue.

The Committee's positive relationship with WDNR and the unique features of the EWM lakes led to creation of a cooperative research project with the US Army Corps of Engineers Research and Development Center. This five-year project is evaluating the effects of whole-lake treatments on long-term EWM control, native aquatic plant communities, and water quality.



Seated, Ingemar Ekstrom and Lee Wiesner, Town of Barnes EWM committee, pose with staff hired for the 2007 season. Standing left to right: Boat Landing Monitors Charles Corlett and Dave Pederson; Coordinator Jack Conklin, Substitute John Kudlas; Boat Landing Monitor Drew Carlson.



2005 Barnes AIS Survey crew: Project Coordinator, John Kudlas (seated at left), Darienne MacNamara, and Keith Groehler.

The committee's leadership skills, inclusive decision-making, and passion for protecting these lakes have made quite an impression on their collaborators. "(T)he Town of Barnes EWM Committee and Town Clerk's efforts, dedication, and sacrifices will expand our understanding of aquatic invasive species control on a national level," says one of their research partners

Public Service—Marinette County Land and Water Conservation Division

For their tireless service to land and water resources, dedication and commitment to helping county residents learn more about lakes and their natural world— we proudly designate the Marinette County Land and Water Conservation Division as the winner of the 2009 Wisconsin Lakes Stewardship award in the Public Service category.

The Marinette County Land and Water Conservation Division (LWCD) staff members are: Greg Cleereman, County Conservationist; Chuck Druckrey, Water Resource Specialist; Paul Klose, Conservation Technician; Anne Warren, Information and Education Specialist; and Aleta DiRienzo, Program Assistant. With more than 440 lakes covering more than 10,000 surface acres in their County, the LWCD is an active leader in many innovative projects to improve lake and watershed health. Here's a brief snapshot of the work they do.

The LWCD has built strong relationships with watershed landowners to demonstrate that sound land conservation practices make good business and economic sense, as well as good environmental sense. They also sustain partnerships with several lake organizations to develop and implement holistic lake management plans. The LWCD was a key player in Marinette County's lake classification project which tailors shoreland management policies to their water resources' sensitivity, providing greater protection to the County's most vulnerable lakes and rivers.

In ongoing work to implement the lake classification initiative, the LWCD has built a strong, innovative education program that is crucial to improving compliance with the County's new shoreland zoning ordinance. The LWCD provides technical assistance and cost-sharing for shoreland restoration on developed riparian lots. County staff conducts trainings to certify contractors that work in shoreland areas. They also established mapping methods to track shoreland zoning compliance and changes in shoreland development over time.

Shoreland stewardship outreach by the LWCD includes guidebooks that colorfully illustrate shoreland zoning rules and the rationale for them, and shoreland buffer demonstration sites. They created a popular shoreline display for the County Fair featuring live fish and animals— it received 2,060 visitors in 2008! The LWCD publishes, "Notes from the Shore," a newsletter template used by nine lake groups and The Northwood's Journal, a free newspaper emphasizing lake issues, water quality and habitat protection.

The LWCD also offers a program called, Teaching Outdoor Awareness and Discovery (TOAD), which provides hands-on learning opportunities about lakes and other natural resources. Almost 20,000 people



have participated in 514 TOAD programs. Sand Lake Conservation Camp is another environmental education program offered by the LWCD where youth learn about the lake on which it is located and its resources.

To address terrestrial and aquatic invasive species, Marinette County LWCD has developed programs with their Towns, lake groups, and other cooperators. When hydrilla was discovered in a private, artificial pond in the County in Summer 2007, they were a valuable partner with state agencies to coordinate rapid response, control, and follow up survey efforts (hydrilla has not been reported elsewhere). They also just hired an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinator to improve prevention and control of AIS.

Youth—University Lake School Students

For their outstanding public service to their community and enthusiastic commitment to lake and river stewardship, we designate the students of University Lake School winner of the 2009 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award in the Youth category.

Fourth through eighth grade students from the University Lake School in Hartland have worked diligently for four years to improve the quality of water entering North Lake by restoring an area of the Oconomowoc River, immediately upstream of the lake.

Over the years, the students have succeeded in making the river run faster, deeper, colder, and cleaner. To reduce streambank erosion, they created wing dams by repositioning downed trees; re-built the shoreline using the rocks from the riverbed and removed debris. The students' restoration efforts improved fish and wildlife habitat and prevented additional material from eroding downstream into North Lake.

Studies of the Oconomowoc River and North Lake have been an ongoing component to the restoration. Each grade learned about watersheds, river ecology and restoration methods in the classroom before their actual hands-on river restoration experience began. The students also gained experience in building a partnership with area lake organizations, local governments, and businesses to accomplish a long term project with broad-reaching benefits in the community.

The University Lake School Students' enthusiasm and dedication to this long term project has won the respect of adults in the community: "a restoration force to be reckoned with," in the words of one of their advisors.



Lake Stewardship Award Winners from the last decade

Lifetime Achievement

2008 Ron Martin
2007 Richard Wedepohl
2005 Elmer Goetsch
2003 Dr. William Genthe
2000 Lowell Klessig
Sandy Engel

Group

2008 Dane County Lakes and Watershed
Commission and Office of Lakes and Watersheds
2007 Lauderdale Lakes Partnership
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
2001 Legend Lake LPRD
2000 Green Lake Sanitary District
1999 Rock Lake Improvement Association
1998 Sheboygan County Conservation Association

Public Service

2008 Mark Sesing
2007 Kevin MacKinnon
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

Business

2004 NES Ecological Services
2003 Eco Building and Forestry LLC
2002 Aquarius Systems

Citizen

2008 June Schmaal
2007 Dave Pozorski
2006 Kay Scharpf
2005 Sandy & Fred Anderson
2005 Wayne Towne
2004 Tom Arnison
2003 Yvonne Feavel
2002 Pauline Kelly
2001 Jim Brakken
2000 Robert & Fran Dauffenbach
1999 Charlie Shong
1998 Mary Platner

Youth

2007 New Auburn High School Lake Leaders
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)

Educator

2008 Jill Graf
2007 Susan Knight
2006 John Haack