

The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Presents



2011
Wisconsin
Lake
Stewardship
Awards

Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Awards Banquet
Wisconsin Lakes Convention

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April 13, 2011



# 2011 Award

## Winners and Nominees

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New nominees this year and from the previous two years are considered in each category. The nominees and award winners in each category for 2011 are:

### Business Category

Cheryl Clemens, Harmony  
Enviromental

### Citizen Category

Chuck Thier

#### *Nominees:*

Don Fornasiere\*  
Rod Olson\*  
Dave & Patty Zerger\*  
Virginia Amerena  
Mike Bader  
Barry & Arlene Borman  
Candis Chapman  
Sandy Gillum  
Jim Heim  
Donald Hermes  
Ted Ludwig  
Donald Madden  
Connie Muckelberg  
AJ Theiler  
Lee Wiesner

### Public Service Category

Rep. Spencer Black

#### *Nominees:*

Jim Vennie\*  
Kevin Gauthier\*  
Heidi Bunk  
Dave Ferris

### Group Category

Friends of Lake Wingra

#### *Nominees:*

Bayfield County Lakes Forum\*  
Cloverland Town Lakes Committee\*  
Lake Association of White Lake\*  
Mercer Lake Association\*  
Tomah Lake Committee\*  
Turtle-Flambeau Flowage / Trude Lake  
Property Owners Association\*  
Tri-Lakes Management District\*  
Clark Lake Advancement Association  
Lake Puckaway Protection and  
Rehabilitation District  
Lake Wissota Improvement Association  
Rock Lake Leadership Team  
Rusk County Wildlife Restoration  
Association

### Youth Category

Brad Baas

#### *Nominees:*

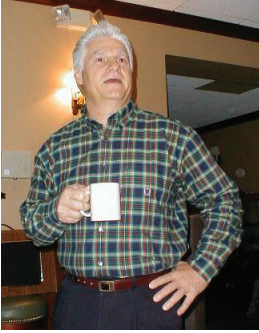
Girl Scout Troop 2724

### Lifetime Achievement

Bob Korth

Jeff Bode

\* - New nominee in 2011



## Lifetime Achievement

# Jeff Bode,

## Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

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Jeff Bode began his career with DNR in 1973 as a limited term employee. His application evaluation sheet included a comment that he “seems good.” After a short time with the Department, his true worth became evident, as his supervisor rated him as “promising a high achievement future.”

Jeff is now chief of the Lakes and Wetlands Section of DNR, but before coming to the Department worked as a messenger in the Wisconsin Senate, worked for Harley-Davidson, and studied as a limnology grad student at the Center for Great Lakes Studies at UW-Madison.

After spending the first part of his DNR career in southeast Wisconsin, he took his current position in Madison. Under his leadership, the Lakes and Wetlands Section established a self-help citizen lake monitoring program, regional lake contacts for lake organizations, lake educational and assistance at UW-Stevens Point, Adopt-A-Lake and Project Wet youth education programs, financial assistance for lake planning and protection, and AIS prevention and control grants.

Over his career, Jeff has received numerous awards and accolades, including a Lake Stewardship award in 1998. Well before that, however, he earned a meritorious award for “exceptional coordination of the Southeast District Water Quality Program” from then DNR Secretary Tony Earl. In 1985, the

Department awarded him a Certificate of Appreciation for his leadership on several projects, including the Sheboygan River PCB Cleanup, Milwaukee Urban Lakes Initiative, Phosphorus and High Flow Assessment of Regional Treatment Systems Program, and the Milwaukee River Program. He was again awarded an Exceptional Performance Award by DNR in 1986.

In 1996 he became Lakes and Wetlands Section Chief, and in this position he “became a leader in building partnerships with various players in managing lakes.”

In regards to this award, a colleague remarked, “As you reflect upon the presentations you listened to today or over the



course of the last 33 years at this Lakes Convention, you will be truly benefiting from the guidance and leadership of Jeff Bode. As Coach McCarthy says, ‘I’m a builder.’ I think it can be said that Jeff has been a builder as well.”

The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership is proud to present Jeff with the Lifetime Achievement Lake Stewardship Award, and wishes him a continued “high achievement future.”



## Lifetime

## Achievement

# Bob Korth, UW-EX Lakes Program

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Bob Korth developed two entire careers related to water: the first within the waters of the world as a specialized SCUBA instructor starting in the 1970s, and secondly among the waters of Wisconsin as director of the UW Extension Lakes program in Stevens Point. During his second career, Bob managed to impact the people and resources of Wisconsin in ways that most people strive to accomplish in a lifetime.

Bob's role in the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership began in the late 1980s as a graduate student of Lowell Klessig at UW Stevens Point. His first convention presentation was in 1989, on the topic "Designing and Writing Newsletters," something he had learned about while editing *Lake Tides* for Lowell.

In 1990, Bob was hired to head up UW Extension's role in the Lakes Partnership and for twenty years he dutifully served the people of the lakes. As the director at UW Extension Lakes, Bob facilitated a program that went far beyond the expectations of the policymakers that created it. Through Bob's incredible and dedicated leadership, both Extension and the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership have become invaluable resources for helping citizens maintain and protect the lakes of Wisconsin.

Bob has served lakes in other ways as well: Chair of the Publications Committee for the North American Lake Management Society for seven years; Co-Chair of North

American Lake Management Society Lake Line Publication from 1997-2007; Coordinator of the Lake Leader Institute since its inception in 2000; UW-Kemp Biological Station Advisory Board for the past seven years; Board of Directors, Wisconsin Society for Underwater Archeology from 1990-2001; and numerous other positions related to our water resources. He has authored or facilitated many well known publications on lakes such as "Through the Looking Glass" and "People of the Lake: A Guide for Wisconsin Lake Organizations". He is an exceptional public speaker and made hundreds of presentations around the state in support of our precious lakes. Bob received the Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award in the Public Service category at the 2003 Lakes Convention.

Bob is a gifted leader and has been a driving force in spurring partnerships throughout Wisconsin and beyond on behalf of our waters. His words, photographs and actions spark action in those who typically sit along the sidelines. Many have witnessed his ability to rekindle a love for the water among those who were burned out and had no energy left to "fight for the frogs." Whether he is facilitating a small group or speaking to hundreds, his passion for water and others who share this love is unmistakable. Bob speaks for lakes and inspires us all to join in the chorus.







## Business

# Cheryl Clemens, Harmony Environmental

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Cheryl Clemens, with her company Harmony Environmental, Inc., demonstrates a commitment to meeting the needs of lakes and shoreline property owners that is well known among resource professionals, lake groups and citizens across northwest Wisconsin. Her concern for people's needs and her ability to collaboratively work with citizens, lake leaders and agency staff make her an outstanding asset to the lakes of Wisconsin.

Cheryl is someone who understands the complex biological and social context of lakes and is able to translate these issues into well written plans. She frequently guides lake groups through plan implementation, and successfully completes the planning cycle. For example, Cheryl has been working with the Deer Lake Conservancy since its establishment and assisted with its strategic planning and implementation. She also coordinated and organized the Balsam Branch Partnership, a cooperative watershed protection and education group in Polk County, and serves on its board of directors.

Cheryl's solid professional background and strong work ethic combine with her caring perspective to gain the trust of all her clients, including many Land and Water Conservation Departments across northern Wisconsin. She has coordinated several county Land and Water Resources Management Plans (e.g. Bayfield, Douglas, Burnett and Price counties to name only a few) that guide a LWCD's work and make it eligible for DATCP



funding.

In her more than sixteen years of lake stewardship, Cheryl won the Northwest Lake Stewardship Award in 2004, played the leading role in developing, designing, implementing and evaluating the successful Burnett County Tax Incentive Shoreland Program, is a frequent presenter at workshops and conferences, and has published and guided numerous lake studies, aquatic plant management plans and educational



publications.

Simply put, Cheryl gets the job done by supporting local citizens as they enhance and protect the lakes of northwest Wisconsin. For all of the above reasons, the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership is proud to name Cheryl Clemens and Harmony Environmental, Inc. 2011 Lake Stewardship Award Winner in the Business Category.



Citizen  
Chuck Thier

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Chuck Thier is described as a tireless champion of improving the quality of lakes in the Wisconsin Northwoods, especially for Vilas and surrounding counties.

Starting in 1971, Chuck and his family have been actively involved in the lake community of Found Lake in Vilas County. Having observed the decline of water quality and fishery on Found Lake over the years, Chuck decided to address the issue. Through his initiative and leadership he organized the property owners of Found Lake to form a non-for profit lake organization. As President of the Found Lake Association, he was the key contributor in obtaining a DNR Educational Grant to create a property owner's handbook that educated the lake owners on how to protect and improve the environmental aspects of their lake. Through his leadership, the lake association established one of the first Clean Boats, Clean Water Inspection Programs in the area, including annual lake education workshops for the property owners. Along with the CBCW Program, he coordinated the updating of the AIS Signs at the boat landing.

Because of Chuck's successful leadership of the Found Lake Association, he was asked to take on an expanded leadership role across the St Germain area lakes community. He led a team of individuals that created and implemented the concept of a Lake Fair in the community of St Germain that focused on the awareness and prevention activities that residents and seasonal visitors could participate in to prevent the spread of



AIS and improve the environment of their lakes. This became an annual event in the community and through donations has raised thousands of dollars that were used to conduct ongoing educational activities and led to the establishment of a St. Germain Town Lakes Committee. Under his leadership as Chairman of the St Germain Town lakes Committee for four years, the town has applied for and received multiple DNR educational, and AIS Treatment Grants. Currently, the Town Lakes Committee is assisting in the coordination of nine grants to create/update lake management plans for lakes in the St. Germain community. Chuck also just completed a four year term as President of the Vilas County Lakes Association.



For his more than twenty years of dedicated service to Wisconsin's Lakes, the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership is proud to award Chuck Thier with the 2011 Lake Stewardship Award in the Citizen Category.



## Group Friends of Lake Wingra

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Friends of Lake Wingra (FOLW) carries out its mission “to promote a healthy Lake Wingra through an active community” solely with volunteers. Even without staff, this lake association for an urban lake in the heart of Madison conducts activities that make a clear and significant difference to public awareness and understanding of lake water quality issues, and result in noticeable improvements in the quality of Lake Wingra and its shoreline habitats.

FOLW’s accomplishments are many, and include bringing stakeholder groups together to create plans for stormwater management, control of invasive species and citizen involvement through a Lake Management Planning Grant in partnership with Dane County and the City of Madison.

Collaboration, in fact, is a centerpiece of FOLW’s efforts. Frequently working with the city, county, DNR, Edgewood College, UW-Madison and other area organizations, the group has worked on community visioning projects, shoreline habitat restoration, purple loosestrife eradication and a program working with DNR and Dane County to improve water quality by removing about half of Lake Wingra’s carp population.

Another prime example of the innovative programs instituted is the Adams Street project. Working with the City of Madison, the project dovetailed with the reconstruction of Adams Street to



use natural landscaping to soak up water along the street in lieu of installing curbs and gutters.

And FOLW's work has not only benefitted Lake Wingra, but also positively impacts Madison's other lakes, as well as the Yahara River and other area waterways. For example, the group led a collaborative outreach effort with watershed groups, the city, and county to remind Madison residents to "Love your Lakes, Don't Leaf Them" by keeping leaves out of the streets and sewer inlets.



In a letter supporting this nomination, John Magnuson, UW-Madison Professor Emeritus of Zoology and Limnology, wrote that FOLW is "on top of every issue in the watershed and ready to learn and respond to new issues that they might not yet have addressed."

The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership is happy to present Friends of Lake Wingra with the 2011 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award in the Group Category.





Public Service  
Representative  
Spencer Black

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This year, Spencer Black concluded 26 years of service representing Wisconsin Assembly's 77th District. A former high-school teacher and coach, Black took office when Tony Earl was Governor and Tommy Thompson was the Assembly minority leader. Over his career, he worked tirelessly and with an unwavering commitment to advance the protection of the environment in the state. Protections for our water and lakes always were an important component of his efforts.

His legislative efforts, including his work as chair of the Assembly's Natural Resources Committee, are far too numerous to catalog in their entirety here. Several examples, however, stand out to illustrate his crucial work in lake protection. For instance, Rep. Black played an instrumental role in the efforts to limit phosphorus runoff in our lakes and streams by sponsoring the bill that banned phosphorus in residential lawn fertilizers, except in certain conditions. His work became law in April of 2010. Spencer also led the effort for legislative approval of new rules to limit phosphorus runoff into our lakes.

Rep. Black also worked tirelessly for the improvement of the state's shoreland zoning standards, helping to broker a compromise that eventually resulted in the acceptance of NR115 by the legislature. As part of that effort, he led the initiative to mandate disclosure of a shoreland mitigation plan in real estate transactions, which became law last Earth Day.

Representative Black was also a strong advocate for efforts to improve groundwater protection in the state. After a new groundwater protection law was passed in 2004, he played a key role as Chair of the Natural Resources Committee in advancing the rules necessary to implement that law.



In addition to the above, Spencer Black has been an author and advocate of numerous laws to protect our environment including clean energy legislation, the Stewardship Fund, controls on mercury

emissions, wetland restoration, and the statewide recycling law. But even more than just the legislation he authored and supported, current Wis. Senator Jim Holperin (D-Eagle River) points out another important facet of Rep. Black's legislative career. Rep. Black, he says, "used these issues as opportunities to inform and convince dozens of his colleagues to develop an environmental consciousness and to accord natural resource issues and legislation the attention they deserve."

For Rep. Black's career-long effort to protect and preserve our lakes and environment, the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership is proud to present him with the 2011 Lake Stewardship Award in the Public Service category.





## Youth Brad Baas

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Given that Brad Baas is only thirteen years old, it's all the more impressive that he's been an active lake steward for at least six years!

Like many community minded kids, Brad has donated to the food pantry, picked up trash on a highway, made ornaments, decorated doors and caroled at a nursing home, and helped with children's games and trash removal at the local Dairy Breakfast. But not all kids can say that they've tested lake water for dissolved oxygen, temperature, and water clarity, prepared pH and chlorophyll samples, and spent a summer reading a staff gauge once a week to record water levels. Nor are most kids Brad's age involved in a long term project to get DNR approval to fix a breach in a 100 year old spill-way in an area creek.

Brad is deeply involved with the Turtle Lake Association (TLA). He helps with the put-in/take out of buoys, volunteers on committees that are traditionally staffed by adults, presents at the Annual Meeting, and even paid his own way to Wisconsin Lakes' Southeast Regional workshop in February of 2010. At a TLA meeting where the sad news that zebra mussels had found their way into the lake was being discussed and photos of the invaders shared, Brad quickly ran out and went into the lake, dug around, and came back with live specimens for everyone to see.

In a letter of support for this nomination, Brad is commended for his knowledge and love of the lake. The author, George Lawrence, a Univ. of Colorado professor who spends summers at the lake and worked on the water level gauge project with Brad, writes:

“So many young people only see a lake as a recreational facility. Brad understands that the lake is a living thing and must be studied and helped if it is to survive.”

Brad truly loves Turtle Lake and works to preserve it. His intelligence, technical skills, and motivation have been – and will be – a great asset to Turtle Lake, the wildlife and the home owners. Such a talented and dedicated person is a rare asset and should be encouraged and rewarded.”



The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership is pleased to reward Brad for his hard work and passion with the 2011 Wisconsin Lakes Stewardship Award in the Youth category.

# PREVIOUS LAKE STEWARDSHIP AWARD WINNERS



## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

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

## GROUP

2010 Florence County Lakes & Rivers  
 Association  
 2009 Town of Barnes Eurasian Water  
 Milfoil Committee & Town Clerk  
 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  
 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

2010 Earl Cook  
 2009 Les Schramm  
 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  
 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



## PUBLIC SERVICE

|      |                                                  |      |                                                     |
|------|--------------------------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 2010 | Carolyn Scholl, Vilas County Conservationist     | 2001 | Hartford Union High School                          |
| 2009 | Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Dept. | 2000 | Montello School District (Montello Lake)            |
| 2008 | Mark Sesing                                      | 1999 | Lake Holcombe High School Future Farmers of America |
| 2007 | Kevin MacKinnon                                  | 1998 | New Auburn High School (Round Lake)                 |
| 2006 | John Molinaro                                    | 1997 | Cambridge High School (Lake Ripley)                 |
| 2005 | Patrick "Buzz" Sorge                             | 1997 | Asa Clark Middle School (Pewaukee)                  |
| 2004 | Thomas Ward                                      | 1997 | Three Lakes High School & FWIABS                    |
| 2003 | Robert Korth                                     | 1997 | Wood River Beavers 4-H Club                         |
| 2002 | Dr. Jeffrey Thornton                             | 1996 | Rice Lake Middle School (Rice Lake)                 |
| 2001 | William P. O'Connor                              | 1996 | Lucky Hills 4-H Club (Lakes Kathryn & Esca)         |
| 2000 | Bryan Pierce                                     | 1996 | August High School (Eau Claire Lake)                |
| 1999 | Mike Dresen                                      | 1996 | North Lakeland Elementary (Carlin Lake)             |
| 1998 | Jeff Bode                                        | 1996 | Lake Tomah School District (Lake Tomah)             |
| 1997 | Northwoods Lake Fair Planning Committee          | 1996 | Dodge County 4-H (Fox Lake)                         |
| 1996 | Steve Field                                      |      |                                                     |
| 1995 | Tom Wilson                                       |      |                                                     |
| 1994 | Harvey Stower                                    |      |                                                     |
| 1993 | Les Aspin                                        |      |                                                     |
| 1992 | Carolyn Rumery Betz                              |      |                                                     |

## YOUTH

|      |                                                                              |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2010 | Boy Scout Troop 1035, Berry Lake                                             |
| 2009 | University Lake School students                                              |
| 2008 | Lakes Studies Students, Green Lake School District                           |
| 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 |

## EDUCATOR

|      |              |
|------|--------------|
| 2008 | Jill Graf    |
| 2007 | Susan Knight |
| 2006 | John Haack   |

## BUSINESS

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

## Want to ensure your deserving lake steward or group is considered for the 2012 Lake Stewardship Award?

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Sometime before the end of the year, a call for nominations will go out for the 2012 awards. At that time you'll be able to download or request a nomination form and instructions.

Be sure to follow the instructions carefully, and remember, quantity does not trump quality! The committee receives many nominations, making the nomination materials a very important part of the process. All nominations are good for three years.

The call for nominations is published in Wisconsin Lakes' publications *The Lake Connection* and *eLake Letter*, and on their website at [www.wisconsinlakes.org](http://www.wisconsinlakes.org). UW-Extension Lakes also publicizes the nomination procedure in print and at the Lakes Convention website.

The deadline for submission will be early in January or February of 2012, with the winners announced at the 2012 Wisconsin Lakes Convention.



## *About the Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Awards*

The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership presents the Wisconsin Lakes 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 23rd 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 six Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award categories to recognize outstanding contributions of time and effort to the future of our lakes.

### BUSINESS

This category recognizes firms that have shown outstanding commitment to the ecological health of our lakes in providing products or services to lake people and lake communities.

### 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

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

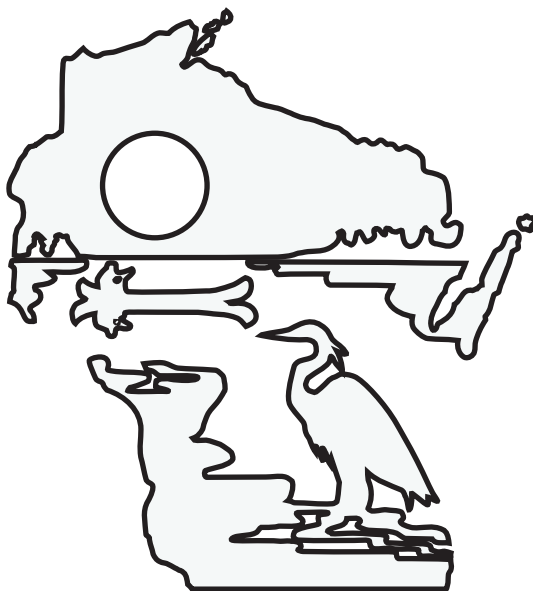
This category recognizes young lake leaders or youth groups showing local or regional leadership getting their peers excited about lakes, monitoring and studying lakes, and doing lake related projects.

### 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.

### LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

This category recognizes those who demonstrate a lifetime of work making significant contributions to lake stewardship in Wisconsin.



## *The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership*

*Wisconsin has an incredible team working for the continued well-being of our lakes. With 15,000+ lakes, no one entity can do the job alone. The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership brings science, education, and citizens together to empower people to work together to care for our lakes.*

*Since its genesis in the early 1970s, the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership has been recognized as a national model of collaboration.*

*The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership is comprised of three partners: the Department of Natural Resources (which supplies the technical expertise and regulatory authority), the UW-Extension Lakes Program (provides supporting educational materials and programs), and Wisconsin Lakes (mobilizing citizens to be advocates for lakes).*







