

2015 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award Winners

Karen Engelbretson, KJE Design LLC ~ *Business*

Karen Engelbretson, president of KJE Design LLC, is a graphic designer for print and web communications. Karen frequently offers her company's design services at a discounted rate or on a volunteer basis to further lake stewardship efforts at lake, county, and statewide levels. Karen's elegant, attentive design work portfolio is extensive: zoning laws, shoreland and aquatic habitat restoration, AIS prevention, aquatic and native plant awareness, wildlife identification and stewardship, youth education, and nature-inspired activities for families. Projects Karen has created through KJE Design are admired throughout the state, serving as exemplary models of how to instill a love of nature and how to craft innovative meaningful communications to affect positive change. Karen's creativity, aesthetic design talent, organizational skills, and extensive knowledge on matters of lake health and community are widely appreciated. Her passion for lake stewardship, along with her professional skills as a designer and writer, have advanced statewide efforts to protect and improve our lakes.

Thomas Davenport ~ *Public Service*

Tom Davenport, an Environmental Scientist, was designated as the National Nonpoint Source Expert and received seven Bronze Medals from the USEPA for outstanding contributions for activities related to nonpoint source, lake restoration, and watershed management. Tom served as EPA Region 5 coordinator for the Nonpoint Source and Clean Lakes programs for 10 years. Current duties include being the Water Program Lead for the Great Lakes/Baltic Seas and 3 Rivers 3 Countries Watershed Capacity Building Projects. He received the UW-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources' Environmental Leader Award in 2004. Author of *The Watershed Management Project Guide* plus over 40 papers, book chapters and project reports, Tom provides valuable guidance on ways to meet the challenges of polluted runoff in our waters.

The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership

Since its genesis in the early 1970's, the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership has been recognized as a national model of collaboration, bringing science, education, and citizens together to empower people to work together to care for our lakes. The core Partners:

- ◇ Wisconsin Lakes (Citizens)
- ◇ WI Dept. of Natural Resources (Government and Science)
- ◇ UW-Extension Lakes Program (Academics)



The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Presents

2015 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Awards

Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Awards Banquet
Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention

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April 24, 2015

## Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Awards

The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership presents these 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.

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### 2015 Award Nominees

New nominees this year and from the previous two years are considered in each category. New nominees for 2015 are listed below in **bold**.

#### Citizen

**Joe Banick**  
**Bob Clarke**  
**Gene Weyer**  
**Edmund "Sonny" Wreczycki**  
Mike Backus  
Steve Fleming  
Sandy Gillum  
John Lyon  
Stuart Nelson  
Kathy Noel  
Margaret Mary Gerhard  
Sally Murwin  
Francie Rowe

#### Group Category

**Petenwell & Castle Rock**  
**Stewards (PACRS)**  
Archibald Lake Association

#### Public Service

Tom Davenport, US EPA  
Environmental Scientist

#### Business

**Karen Engelbretson,**  
**KJE Design**

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### **Sandy Gillum ~ Citizen**

Sandy Gillum epitomizes what it means to be stalwart citizen taking action to protect our lakes. Sandy is a creative, innovative thinker, a knowledgeable resource on all kinds of lake matters, and a profoundly faithful steward of our lakes. She is well known by many as a lake neighbor, mentor, scientist, and friend of waters throughout the state. She has done a phenomenal amount of volunteer work to champion lake causes at individual lakes close to her heart, and at the town, county, regional, and statewide scales. Sandy has been a leader in the Anvil Lake Association, Town of Washington Lakes Committee, Vilas County Lakes & Rivers Association, and the Wisconsin Lakes Board of Directors. Other accomplishments include: authoring the book ***Loon Summer*** (rich descriptions of common loon natural history based on her years of field research), advancing more protective shoreland zoning policies, promoting shoreland restoration initiatives, and creating a voluntary covenant program for landowners who want to leave a legacy of shoreland protection.

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### **Margaret Mary Gerhard ~ Citizen (educator)**

As someone who combines advocacy, education, and leadership Margaret Gerhard is a perfect illustration of what it means to be a citizen lake steward. She is a passionate advocate for the environment and an enthusiastic teacher of native landscaping methods in at least 14 counties. She has championed efforts to form associations for Lakes Hilbert and Oneonta, adopt a local boating ordinance at Lake Oneonta, and change city ordinances to allow natural landscaping and address stormwater pollution. Margaret is a tireless community organizer for numerous projects to clean up urban stormwater runoff, connect people to nature, and teach youth about the importance of protecting our waters.

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### **Archibald Lake Association ~ Group**

The people around Archibald Lake have great leadership, vision, and unity of purpose to achieve great results for lake protection. The Association's membership has been working cohesively to accomplish their mission of "providing preservation, safety, and enjoyment of Archibald Lake" since its formation in 1958. With over 90% of the property owners as Association members, this group has rallied to accomplish: water quality monitoring, shoreland and aquatic habitat restoration, fishery management, community education and outreach, plus management plans for overall lake health, aquatic plants and AIS. They are an exemplary model of what an organized, motivated, and concerned group of people can accomplish through a focused effort of lake stewardship at its finest.

*The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership thanks its Lead Sponsors of the Lakes Convention. Their donations helped defray costs for the Lake Stewardship Awards Banquet and Thursday night's Welcome Reception.*

