

The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Presents



**2016
Wisconsin
Lake
Stewardship
Awards**

Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Awards Banquet
Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention



March 31, 2016

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.

2016 Award Nominees

New nominees this year and from the previous two years are considered in each category. New nominees for 2016 are listed below in **bold**.

Citizen

Fritz Funk
Valerie Stabenow
Ray Zuelke
Joe Banick
Mike Backus
Bob Clarke
Steve Fleming
John Lyon
Stuart Nelson
Kathy Noel
Gene Weyer
Edmund "Sonny" Wreczycki

Group Category

**Burnett County Lakes &
Rivers Association**
**Silver Lake PRD of
Washington County**
Petenwell & Castle Rock
Stewards (PACRS)

Public Service

**Susan Borman & Dorothy
Semple**
Jennifer Filbert, WDNR
John Skogerboe, USACE
**Bradley Steckart, Washington
Co. Land Cons. Dept.**

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.

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CLEAN LAKES MIDWEST

2016 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award Winners

Gene Weyer~ *Citizen*

Manitowoc County's Gene Weyer is a true leader in efforts to protect and restore the lakes of the county. On the water and in meeting room, Gene's work with the Hartlaub Lake Association and as president of the Manitowoc County Lakes Association from 2010-2014 has energized and enthused others to become more involved with their lakes. After realizing data was missing from many lakes in the county due to lack of monitoring, he recruited and trained volunteers to monitor, and helped secure funding for their efforts. The work led to the discovery that some lakes in the county held a hybrid form of Eurasian Watermilfoil that was resistant to some treatments, so Gene led efforts to find a solution. In addition, he worked with the county government on lake classification, secured a portion of boat launch fees to go to AIS management efforts, and, on a personal level, purchased over 100 acres of cropland in order to manage it to reduce runoff to Hartlaub Lake. "He has a passion for the work he does," says one supporter, adding, "he challenges others to step up and is not afraid to get his hands dirty doing the heavy lifting."

Burnett County Lakes & Rivers Association ~ *Group*

For decades, BCLRA has been a leading force in protecting the waterways of Burnett County. From advocating for the county to adopt lakes classification as part of its shoreland zoning ordinance in 1988, to more recent efforts pioneering the research and use of social science principles in lake protection, the group's steadfast efforts make it an easy choice for a lake stewardship award. Notable accomplishments include sponsoring an initiative that led the county to be one of the first in Wisconsin to adopt an ordinance making it illegal to transport aquatic vegetation on boats and trailers. The group remains active in county government planning activities, helps new lake organizations form, keeps over 6,100 county waterfront property owners educated and aware of issues impacting the waters of Burnett County through BCLRA's successful Lakelines newsletter. Finally, the group was an instrumental part of the successful effort to create a shoreland protection incentive program that currently has 750 participants and protects 50 miles of shoreland.

To see past Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award winners and for more information about the awards, go to www.wisconsinlakes.org

2016 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award Winners

Susan Borman & Dorothy Semple ~ *Public Service*

When agreeing to be part of the team revising *Through the Looking Glass*, the beloved book of Wisconsin's aquatic vegetation, both Susan Borman and Dorothy Semple took on a daunting task. Susan, a retired DNR aquatic plants specialist, donated her time to help revise the book she helped write the first time around as an employee. Nominator Susan Knight applauded Susan for taking on "some of the thornier species and issues, despite some serious health crises at the time." Dorothy Semple, a Stevens Point artist, also confronted a difficult problem: providing accurate drawings that blended with the first edition's artwork. To make it worse, she took on the job in winter, when she wasn't able to see live samples from which to work. Her results, however, speak for themselves. Without Susan and Dorothy, the 2nd edition of *Through the Looking Glass* would not be the same, and they are deserving winners of an award for public service.

John Skogerboe, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ~ *Lifetime Service*

John Skogerboe boasts more than a lifetime of effort to improve how we manage the aquatic plant life of our lakes. States beyond just Wisconsin benefitted from his research with the Army Corps of Engineers, but in the ten years since he retired, his work as a consultant to DNR has benefitted the agency, lake management professionals, and citizens alike. John's collaboration with DNR, according to one of his nominators, "has helped move science based lake management forward by taking advantage of ongoing AIS control projects to help the Lakes Partnership understand what strategies work and why." John's spent countless hours doing research, working directly with DNR staff, reporting on his findings and teaching techniques at everything from national conferences to local lake organization meetings. His lifelong commitment to helping all stakeholders manage the problems of invasive species and to restore healthy ecosystems makes him a deserving recipient of a lifelong service award.

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)

