

*The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Presents*



**2017  
Wisconsin  
Lake  
Stewardship  
Awards**

Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Awards Banquet  
Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention

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April 6, 2017

# 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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## 2017 Award Nominees

New nominees this year and those from the previous two years are considered in each category. New nominees for 2017 are listed below in **bold**.

### *Citizen*

**Michael Backus**

**Harold Resch**

Joe Banick

Bob Clarke

Fritz Funk

Valerie Stabenow

Edmund "Sonny" Wreczynski

Ray Zuelke

### *Business*

**Onterra, LLC**

### *Public Service*

**Dr. Robert Freckmann**

**Derek Kavanaugh**

Jennifer Filbert

Bradley Steckart

### *Group*

**Clean Lakes Alliance**

**Lake Association of White Lake**

Silver Lake PRD (Washington Cty)

Petenwell & Castle Rock Stewards (PACRS)

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

**Onterra, LLC**  
*Lake Management Planning*



**AQUARIUS  
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# 2017 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award Winners

## Onterra, LLC ~ Business

Onterra, LLC exemplifies how a business can simultaneously be a successful business and a successful lake steward. Since its beginning in 2005, Tim Hoyman's company has worked with lake groups in counties all over Wisconsin. Customers report that in working with Onterra they become well educated, get sound science-based decisions, and are provided a comprehensive and complete management plan. But Onterra's care for lakes comes through not only in their work with their customers, but also in their obvious commitment to the cause of lake conservation. A supporter of many conservation efforts, the business's commitment to the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership has been steadfast, through numerous educational presentations and research projects presented at the Lakes Convention and support for partner organizations. Onterra far exceeds the usual business approach to their clients, and consequently has an enormous, positive effect on Wisconsin's lakes.

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## Jennifer Filbert (WDNR) ~ Public Service

Truly a lake steward for the 21st century, Jennifer Filbert makes a career of applying technology to lake protection. Jennifer began her WDNR career in 1996. She helped design and manage a database for the citizen lake monitoring program, easing the process of data collection for citizen volunteers and agency staff. Following that successful project, Jennifer became a lead developer and manager of the Surface Water Information Management System (SWIMS). SWIMS is the statewide information system that houses chemistry, physical, and biological data collected by WDNR staff and citizen water monitors around Wisconsin. This data provides critical information for the Clean Water Act implementation. Jennifer stands out for her consistently high marks for working with her fellow WDNR employees, but also with citizens. To quote one customer service response for Jennifer, "Wisconsin is lucky to have this lady working for the state."

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## Petenwell & Castle Rock Stewards (PACRS) ~ Group

Since 2007, the "PACRS" have steadfastly worked towards solving the water quality problems on these Wisconsin River reservoirs. In addition to monitoring their lakes, a Clean Boats, Clean Waters program, native plantings, and numerous partnerships, the group stands out for its work with local and state policymakers. According to one nominator, the PACRS "have elevated the profile of citizen groups, and underscored the importance of grassroots advocates' involvement with natural resource policymaking." While being strong advocates for their waters, they've done so in the best way possible - advocating forcefully, but also with respect and a sense of collaboration. For their work on their lake and with the many stakeholders necessary to solve the problems of Lakes Petenwell and Castle Rock, we honor the Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards with a Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Award.

# 2017 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award Winners

## Ray Zuelke ~ Citizen

Shawano Lake gained a powerful and successful advocate and steward when Ray Zuelke bought property on its shores in 1982. Since joining the Shawano Area Waterways Management Association, Ray has led a campaign to create an aquatic plant management plan that eventually led to a full lake treatment to handle the lake's 1700 acres of eurasian watermilfoil. Crafting partnerships, brokering deals, garnering funds, convincing the not easily convinced, Ray was instrumental in accomplishing this mammoth project. In addition, Ray helped broker a deal with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to hold off on winter drawdowns of the lake until more studies on the impact to the lake could be conducted. Ray is a Crew X graduate of the Lake Leaders Institutes and along with many local volunteer positions, currently serves on the board of Wisconsin Lakes. He received the DNR Secretary's award in 2015.

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## Dr. Robert Freckman ~ Lifetime Service to the WI Lakes Partnership

Dr. Freckman arrived at UW-Stevens Point in 1968 and taught vascular plant taxonomy and agrostology for 34 years. He's served as the official plant taxonomist for the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership for the last twenty years, receiving thousands of samples (often in terrible shape) for identification for from DNR staff, consultants, and volunteers. In addition, he's taught hundreds of resource professionals and volunteers to identify and love aquatic plants. This kind and patient man is always willing to share his knowledge and answer any question that comes up. From providing plant guides and key before such resources were widely available, to creating monitoring and identification protocol for aquatic plants, to provide identifications for aquatic invasive species rapid response grants, to producing publications, to providing generous and thoughtful one on one consultations over his illustrious career, we thank Dr. Freckman for a lifetime of service to the Partnership.



### *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 of the Partnership are:

- Wisconsin Lakes (Citizens)
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (Government)
- UW-Extension Lakes Program (Academics)

