

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2008 WISCONSIN LAKE LEADERS INSTITUTE
Vilas County Graduates

Photo: R. Korth



*Front: Barb Gajewski, Sandy Gillum, Walt Bates, Roberta Gast.
Back: Norm Wetzell, Marty Ketterer, and Chris Wise*

Vilas County is home to seven new graduates of the *Wisconsin Lake Leaders Institute*. The Institute is offered biennially to participants statewide by the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership, a team made up of the University of Wisconsin Extension, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL), who recognize the need for new and on-going leadership in the management of our lakes and created the Wisconsin Lake Leaders Institute in 1996. Through a combination of reading, classroom seminars and field experiences, participants learned about lake management, local and state government, and gained leadership skills. “With so many lakes worth so much and so few people in service to protect them, it is clear that no one state agency or unit of government can independently provide the attention that each lake deserves” explained Robert Korth, UW-Extension Lake Specialist. “This leadership program provides local lake leaders with effective tools as they volunteer their skills and talents to the stewardship of our lakes”.

On behalf of DNR Secretary Matthew Frank, DNR Executive Assistant Mary Ellen Vollbrecht, recognized Walt Bates, Barb Gajewski, Roberta Gast, Sandy Gillum, Marty Ketterer, Norm Wetzel, and Chris Wise. Walt Bates is vice-president of Black Oak Lake Association and the lake's water quality monitor. Barb Gajewski is co-partner of Wild Wood Custom Landscape & Design, in Eagle River which provides shoreland restoration options and is involved in local AIS projects. Roberta Gast is chairman of the Lac du Flambeau Town Lakes Committee and treasurer of Crawling Stone Lake Association. Sandy Gillum serves on the board of directors of Wisconsin Association of Lakes and is co-chairman of Town of Washington Water Resources Committee. Marty Ketterer is a Cloverland Town Board supervisor, chairman of the town lakes committee, a commissioner on the Lower Eagle River Chain of Lakes Commission and president of Snipe Lake Association. Norm Wetzel serves on the Lac du Flambeau Town Lakes Committee. Chris Wise is on the board of the Plum Lake Association and is co-chair of the town lakes committee. The graduation ceremony took place at the Aldo Leopold Shack near Baraboo. Carroll Schaal, Division of Water DNR, Robert Korth, UW Extension Lakes, and Earl Cook, Wisconsin Association of Lakes president also participated in the presentations.

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Information regarding participation in the Wisconsin Lake Leaders Institute is provided at <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/lakeleaders>.