

2008 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship awards

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 21st 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.

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

Many groups—including lake associations, lake districts, countywide associations, and other collaborative efforts—are working to make their lakes clean, safe, and healthy for everyone. 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.

Educator

Teaching lake stewardship is important so Wisconsin's lakes will be enjoyed for generations to come. This category recognizes environmental educators who have made learning about lakes a priority through innovative projects, workshops, interactive learning experiences, and educational materials.

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.

Business

This category recognizes businesses that have shown outstanding commitment to the ecological health lakes, and assisting lake organizations with the development and implementation of sound lake management plans.

2008 award winners and nominees

New nominees this year and from the previous two years are considered in each category. The nominees and award winners in each category for 2008 are:

Citizen Category

2008 Award Winner:

June Schmaal

Nominees:

Al Baade
Les Schramm
Milt Stanze
Lorna Wilson
Roger Dreher
Harold Friestad
Don Glaeser
Dr. Bill Iwen
Gilbert Kroll
Francine Marshall
Bob Nicholson and Paul Kuhn
Ann Parker
Nick Williams

Group Category

2008 Award Winner:

Dane County Lakes and Watershed
Commission and Office of Lakes and
Watersheds

Nominees:

Bayfield County Lakes Forum
Gibson Island Conservation Project (Cloverleaf Lakes)
Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity (Silver Lake)
Fox Lake District APM Committee
Geneva Lake Conservancy
Munger Bear Lake District

Youth Category

2008 Award Winner:

Lakes Studies Students, Green Lake School
District

Nominees

Luke and Kyle Lenard,
Clean our Oneida Lakes Club

Public Service Category

2008 Award Winner:

Mark Sesing

Nominees:

Dale Hanson
Deborah Konkel
Carolyn Scholl
Peg Lautenschlager
Marinette County
Land & Water Conservation Dept.

Educator Category

2008 Award Winner:

Jill Graf

Nominees:

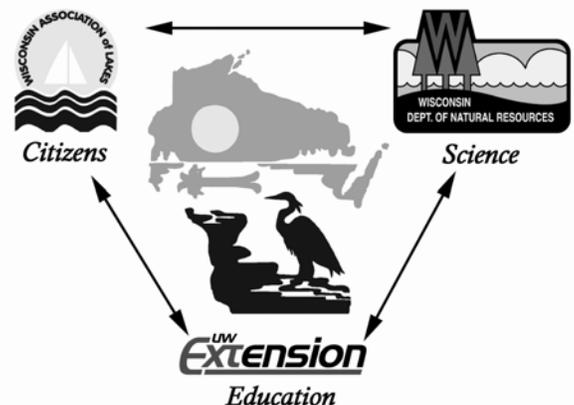
Mary Pardee
Pamela Peters
Nancy Turyk

Lifetime Achievement

2008 Award Winner:

Ron Martin

Wisconsin Lakes Partnership





2008 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award Winners

Citizen—June Schmaal

June Schmaal has been described as “a local hero,” “an extraordinarily articulate and passionate defender of Wisconsin lakes,” and a “quiet and graceful woman with a wise voice.” June’s impressive and enduring dedication to lakes as a neighbor, volunteer, concerned citizen, and town supervisor is but a small snapshot of all her efforts to protect the Northwood’s beautiful lakes.

June has monitored Johnson lake’s water quality, chemistry, and aquatic invasive species for more than fifteen years. She knows her lake intimately, and is full of tidbits about the natural history of the lake. She also knows all of her neighbors and considers them fellow lake stewards. June has been a gentle educator and her encouragement of good lake stewardship had resulted in lake friendly living that will help keep Johnson Lake healthy.

June has been instrumental in the birth and growth of several organizations devoted to lake management and protection. She was among the founding members of the Vilas County Lakes Association and was instrumental in many of the countywide lake education initiatives the association moved forward. She was among the earliest members of the Northwoods Land Trust, and one of the first lake leaders in her region to support providing permanent protection to lake shorelands through conservation easements. Her work as an Arbor Vitae town board supervisor resulted in the adoption of the town’s comprehensive land use plan.

June is an active citizen participant in the public discussion of lake issues. Her thoughtful letters to the editor, calls into public radio shows, and testimony at county board meetings and other public forums have made June an eloquent advocate for Wisconsin’s lakes.

For her continuing dedication to lakes, and her work with local groups, neighbors and local governments to further lake protection, we are pleased to recognize June Schmaal with the Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award in the Citizen category.

Group—Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission and Office of Lakes and Watersheds

Over its twenty year history, the Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission and Office of Lakes and Watersheds has built a successful combination of public lake education programs, strong partnerships, and policy initiatives that have resulted in a long list of accomplishments and better protection for Dane County’s lakes.

This unique group has been the catalyst for many of Dane County’s lake protection initiatives including a phosphorus lawn fertilizer ordinance, storm water and construction site erosion control ordinance, regulation of winter manure spreading, and a ban on driveway sealants containing toxic coal tar. Many of these initiatives have been used as models by other counties; Dane County’s successful phosphorus lawn fertilizer ordinance has been used as a model for statewide legislation.

The breadth of lake related issues addressed by the Commission and Office has included complex watershed-wide issues as well as lake-specific issues that have affected just about every group of lake users. The Commission and Office approach all issues in a thoughtful, careful, inclusive, and transparent manner. Their efforts to include diverse partners, stakeholders, and citizens in the decision making process have achieved positive results for our lakes that are widely understood and accepted by lake users.

In addition to sponsoring research studies and developing science based policy initiatives, the Commission and Office have hosted an array of educational and project-related events for citizens to learn about and improve our lakes. A continual emphasis on educational programming and outreach materials have led to greater awareness of lake issues and citizen participation in programs, like building rain gardens, that will help the lakes.

For their commitment to tackling the wide array of issues affecting lakes, dedication to involving citizens in lake management decision-making, and ongoing community service and educational programming, we are pleased to award the Dane County Watershed Commission and Office of Lakes and Watersheds the 2008 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award in the Group Category.

Youth—*Lakes Studies* Students, Green Lake School District

For more than three decades, Green Lake students have been conducting valuable lake research and hands-on lake stewardship projects. The exceptional training, work, and overall experiences of these dedicated students has inspired community members to implement lake stewardship practices, helped professional lake managers monitor the lake’s health, and provided students with an appreciation of the natural world.

Hands-on research projects enable students to see and share what is happening to the lake’s ecosystem over time. From measuring and monitoring storm water discharge, to monitoring zebra mussels, to managing purple loosestrife, the data gathered and analyzed by these students gives lake managers regular feedback about the health of the lake.

Other stewardship activities—such as trail building, restoring shorelines, and conducting prescribed prairie burns—provide a community service, while improving the natural beauty of the lake and installing natural defenses that help manage runoff and support good habitat.

But for these students, learning goes far beyond the physical lake. Green Lake is a focal point for the community and is a feature that helps define the town’s “sense of place.” The partnerships these students have developed with other organizations and citizens concerned about Green Lake have helped students see the lake not only as a natural resource, but a community resource. A video documentary project, *Lake Stories*, is helping these students learn what the lake means to their neighbors.

For their comprehensive approach to learning about lakes, their community service to promote lake stewardship and their dedication to lake science and monitoring the health of their lake, we designate the Lakes Studies Students from the Green Lake School District winner of the 2008 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award in the Youth category.

Public Service—Mark Sesing

There is a special blend of characteristics that separate good people who do a good job from really special people who do a great job. Mark Sesing is a great guy who does a great job. Mark's sense of humor, patience, hard work, creativity, and persistence has enabled him to work effectively with many diverse groups and translate their common interests and issues into broadly accepted lake management goals. Like many great leaders, Mark does not assume a leadership role, rather he teaches those around him to become leaders.

Mark is an excellent limnologist, but of equal importance to Wisconsin's lakes are his relationships with lake people. Over the years Mark has built many strong and sincere relationships with local lake leaders. His extensive knowledge of lakes, experience, gentle guidance, and investment in lake people has made Mark a respected and wise counsel for lake management decisions.

He is a great communicator and teacher, and has the ability to connect with the public to remind us that not only are we individually responsible for our environment, but we also need to work together to get the job done. Mark's work to ensure citizens are making well informed decisions and are determining a lake's future for themselves has led to many self-sustaining and successful programs run by lake people.

In the words of one of Mark's many admirers, "the Mark Sesing I know would not ever expect, nor probably desire, to be honored with the Stewardship Award...those of us who know him and work with him are driven to honor him. Whether he likes it or not, the Stewardship Award is our way of saying 'thank you' to a very special man; a man who thinks he's just an ordinary guy, but one who has done extraordinary things."

For his tireless service for our lakes and lake people, his dedication and commitment to helping lake community members learn more about their lake and make sound lake management decisions, we proudly designate Mark Sesing as the winner of the 2008 Wisconsin Lakes Stewardship award in the Public Service category.

Educator—Jill Graf

Jill Graf is an enthusiastic educator whose passion for teaching and the environment has profoundly influenced her students and the greater lake community. The curriculum Jill has developed literally gets her students into the water to learn about aquatic plants and animals, monitoring water quality, and the scientific investigative techniques to assess the overall health of Wisconsin's lakes and streams. Her work instills a passion for lake preservation and sustainability within her students, and helps them become stewards of the environment.

But her educational work goes well beyond the campus boundaries. Numerous public lectures to a wide variety of citizen groups have provided opportunities for the surrounding lake communities to learn to identify aquatic plants, animals, and invasive species. Jill has also helped many lake groups set up ongoing monitoring programs, collect and analyze data, assess water quality, and better understand their lakes. Numerous lakes have benefited from her knowledge of and passion for preserving water quality and the stewardship activities that have resulted on many area lakes. Her educational outreach extends to area residents, many of whom have implemented lake stewardship practices and been inspired to take up the cause of Lake Stewardship.

For her exemplification of Lake Stewardship as an educator and her work to inspire her students and others to become better stewards of the environment, we are pleased to present Jill Graff with the 2008 Wisconsin Lakes Stewardship Award in the Educator category.

Lifetime Achievement—Ron Martin

After graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Ron began his professional career with the Department of Natural Resources in 1974. Throughout his distinguished 31-plus year career with DNR, Ron worked on issues of crucial importance to lake protection. Ron conducted the first statewide assessment of Wisconsin lake water clarity using new satellite imagery technology matched with on-lake Secchi disk measurements to assess the trophic status of lakes. He developed a strategic plan for public access to inland lakes.

In 1988, Ron received special recognition from the Wisconsin State Legislature for his report and role in passing Wisconsin's Phosphorus Ban (in laundry detergent) Law. In the 1990's Ron focused on lake and river classification and Wisconsin's anti-degradation policy to protect the surface waters of Wisconsin from pollution discharges. In 1997, Ron received special commendation from the Secretary of the DNR for his leadership in developing Wisconsin's initial list of Outstanding and Exceptional Resource Waters to give the state's watery jewels the legal protection they deserve.

In the early 1990's, Ron began his career-capping work to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Under his leadership, a governor-appointed Aquatic Nuisance Control Council drafted and submitted a *Report to the Legislature on the Status of Zebra Mussels in Wisconsin* and a *Plan for Prevention and Control*. Eventually, this Report and *Wisconsin's Comprehensive Management Plan*, which he authored, led to Wisconsin laws making it illegal to launch boats with zebra mussels attached and ultimately to Wisconsin's Aquatic Invasive Species Control Law to prevent the spread and control all invasive species in waters of the state. Under this law and legislative appropriations, Ron established Wisconsin's Clean Boats/Clean Waters Campaign and watercraft inspection efforts. He initiated statewide monitoring and mapping of aquatic invasive species and developed agreements with UW for education and outreach and for critical research on Smart Prevention of aquatic invasive species.

For his long-time commitment to Wisconsin lakes; his honesty, integrity and patience while working on difficult water resource issues and for his distinguished professional career working with the people of Wisconsin for the protection of Wisconsin's lakes and streams, we designate Ron Martin the winner of the 2008 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Previous Lake Stewardship Award Winners

Lifetime Achievement

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

Group

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

Public Service

2007 Kevin MacKinnon
2006 John Molinaro
2005 Patrick "Buzz" Sorge
2004 Thomas Ward
2003 Robert Korth
2002 Dr. Jeffrey Thornton
2001 William P. O'Connor
2000 Bryan Pierce
1999 Mike Dresen
1998 Jeff Bode
1997 Northwoods Lake Fair Planning Committee
1996 Steve Field
1995 Tom Wilson
1994 Harvey Stower
1993 Les Aspin

Business

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

Citizen

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

Youth

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
2001 Hartford Union High School
2000 Montello School District (Montello Lake)
1999 Lake Holcombe High School Future Farmers of America
1998 New Auburn High School (Round Lake)
1997 Cambridge High School (Lake Ripley)
1997 Asa Clark Middle School (Pewaukee)
1997 Three Lakes High School & FWIABS
1997 Wood River Beavers 4-H Club
1996 Rice Lake Middle School (Rice Lake)
1996 Lucky Hills 4-H Club (Lakes Kathryn & Esca)
1996 August High School (Eau Claire Lake)
1996 North Lakeland Elementary (Carlin Lake)
1996 Lake Tomah School District (Lake Tomah)
1996 Dodge County 4-H (Fox Lake)

Educator

2007 Susan Knight
2006 John Haack

