

# 2013 Wisconsin School Forest Award Recipients

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## School Forest Educator Awards

### Mary Wagner

Rudolph Environmental Center, Newman Catholic Schools, Wausau, WI

Nominators: Dr. Janet Klosinski, Tina Meyer, Mary Hart

Mary is a teacher at Newman Catholic Elementary School. She actively serves on the forest advisory committee of the Rudolph Environmental Center, has emerged as the voice for elementary teachers, and helped form the vision of an outdoor education classroom for students and teachers at the forest. Mary has been instrumental in involving other teachers and in engaging and nurturing students' love for the environment. She develops environmental education lessons and holds classes for her co-workers to encourage other teachers to take their students to the school forest. Mary has a love and passion for nature, science, the environment and teaching. She is an inspiring educator and valiant protector of the school forest. Newman Catholic Schools is very proud and fortunate to have Mary's leadership, energy, and devotion to enhance learning at the Rudolph Environmental Center.



### Stephen Hadfield

Pittsville School Forest, Pittsville, WI

Nominators: Terry Reynolds, Mark Weddig, and Kim Fischer

Stephen's unrestricted vision, leadership skills, and unstoppable work ethic have allowed the progress of the Pittsville School Forest to move forward by leaps and bounds. Stephen has designed and led the construction of the forest's first shelter using timber from the school forest and an ancient construction technique called Timber-Frame. Students and volunteers made all the parts, assembled, and reassembled this Timber-Frame shelter at the forest under Stephen's direction. This was accomplished because of the devotion that Stephen possesses for the forest, the students, and his craft. He is also an "out of the box thinker" and continually brings forth new ideas for the future of the forest and its development. More teachers now plan on using the school forest as a teaching tool for environmental education than ever before. He is a visionary who believes that by motivating others, dreams can become reality. The Pittsville School Forest and community is fortunate to have a passionate educator in Stephen who continues to build new opportunities for students at the school forest.



## Community Member Award

### The Shumaker Family: Dan, Nicke, Sara, Kelsi, Gage

Tigerton School Forest, Tigerton, WI

Nominators: Wanda Minniecheske, Julie Prey, and Lori Rowe

The Shumaker family has worked diligently to maintain and enhance the Tigerton School Forest. They help with major forest projects such as establishing the prairie, upgrading trails, creating a snake hibernaculum, and building a cordwood facility. Each year the Shumakers write grants, secure donations, and coordinate fundraisers...

including the opportunity for the community to have fall portraits taken at the school forest. Nicke and Dan spend hours volunteering with classroom teachers and students at the forest and lead a summer school recreation class in the forest. Nicke is also an active and invaluable member of the Tigerton School Forest Committee. The Shumaker family has willingly donated much time and effort to maintain and improve the school forest. The passion and dedication exhibited by Dan, Nicke, Sara, Kelsi, and Gage is a driving force that propels learning experiences for students and the community at the Tigerton School Forest.

