



Ripples

CROW WING COUNTY
LAKES AND RIVERS ALLIANCE
P.O. BOX 53, PEQUOT LAKES, MN 56472

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2014 Lake Friendly Awards Winners Announced

By: *Eleanor Burkett, LARA Board Member (Ex-Officio)*

The Lake Friendly Awards Committee proudly announced the 2014 Lake Friendly Award Winners at a Brainerd Area Environmental Learning Network (BAELN) sponsored event on October 9, 2014. This was the 12th consecutive year of recognition of lake friendly activities by citizens and collaborations of organizations to protect our area water resources.

Winners were selected in several categories this year as follows. In the category of Lake Friendly Stewardship, Margaret Blistain and Peter Berg were recognized for shoreland restoration to native vegetation on Bay Lake in Crow Wing County. For Lake Friendly Protection Strategy, Crow Wing County and Dan Steward were recognized for the innovative 2013 Crow Wing County Water Plan. The Water Plan created a methodology to prioritize protection and restoration implementation efforts for the county. This plan provides opportunity to measure and quantify implementation efforts. Also in the category of Lake Friendly Protection Strategy, the Army Compatible Use Buffer Program (ACUB), Camp Ripley Area, was recognized for protecting the rural character of Morrison, Crow Wing and Cass counties. Their partnership has maintained and improved water quality and habitat along the Mississippi, Crow Wing, Gull and Nokasippi Rivers.

In the category for River Stewardship the Brainerd Rotary Club, was recognized for their efforts in protecting land from development along the Mississippi River including wetlands downstream from Buffalo Creek. They purchased the land and donated it to the City of Brainerd which will remain as a park with trails and wildlife viewing.

John Allen, Bar Harbor on Gull Lake in Cass County, was recognized in the category of Lake Friendly Lakescaping for installing a shoreland buffer and rain gardens. Also in the category of Lake Friendly Lakescaping, Charles and Julie Costa were recognized for their work in restoring shoreland on Lake Ossawinnamakee in Crow Wing County by adding two rain gardens and a shoreline buffer on their property.

At this event honors were given in memory of Alan Cibuzar, Chief Executive Officer, A.W. Research Laboratories (1971-2014) and Image Engineering, Inc. (1981-2014). Mr Cibuzar dedicated his life and work to sustaining the quality of Minnesota Lakes.

President's Message

By: *Mike O'Brien, LARA Co-President*

Weather. It drives our lives here in Minnesota. We wake up in the morning hoping for the best but more often than not expecting the worst. The weather can dictate if it's time for a bike ride, hiking or more likely putting on the rain coat or winter boots.

Here at LARA we are concerned with another type of "whether." Whether we continue to focus on issues of Aquatic Invasive Species; whether we concentrate our resources on protecting our groundwater. How about our shorelines? Maybe excessive land development? How about getting some of that state funding that is now available? I am sure that you all can list other issues that you believe need our attention.

This is where you, the people we represent, can help us decide where to concentrate our efforts. Whether we do this or whether we do that depends on what you want us to do. Please help us manage our "whether" by contacting us and letting us know what is important to your lake association. Have a great holiday season and stay warm over the winter. 🦋

The awards event was also highlighted by an engaging presentation by Paul Radomski, author of *Lakeshore Living: Designing Lake Places and Communities in the Footprints of Environmental Writers*. Radomski shared facts about the impacts on our lakes and strategies for maintaining clean water and healthy water resources into the future.

Partners for the Lake Friendly Awards include Brainerd Lakes Area Audubon Society, Crow Wing County Lakes and Rivers Alliance, Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District, Jerry Raedeke,

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Get to know your Board Members

Sharon Herwig

What prompted you to become a member of the LARA board?

I was asked to join the board by Mike Duval (a former board member) to assist in the communication needs of the board to their members.

What lake or river are you most connected to (in Crow Wing County)?

I am most connected to Sorenson Lake.

What lake or river environmental issue is most important to you, and what are you doing to help the cause?

As a lakeshore property owner on one of the smaller lakes in the area, water quality has always been a high priority for me, including shoreland restoration and a concern pertaining to overuse of smaller lakes.

What can others do to help with this cause?

When shorelines are restored to a more natural state, the water quality will improve. Other things to improve water quality on a smaller lake, could be making sure your boat is not oversized for the body of water, and finding and staying in the navigable areas so that essential aquatic plants are not ripped out and the bottom is not churned up. These scars can take years to heal and on a smaller lake, every plant is essential for filtering the water. We all love our lakes, big and small. We all enjoy them in different ways. Knowing and following DNR regulations for keeping a proper distance from the shoreline and other boats can be challenging on a smaller lake but is essential to maintaining water quality. 🐾



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Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Nongame Wildlife Program, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Section of Fisheries, The Nature Conservancy and the University of Minnesota Extension. 🐾

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, January 20, 2015 to Wednesday, January 21, 2015: 2015 Aquatic Invaders Summit

Who should attend? Minnesota local units of government and their partners: lake associations, service providers, sporting groups, angling and conservation organizations, business community members and more.

[Register online here.](#)

To register by mail, go to the link above where you will find the materials packet and registration form.

Registration deadline is January 6, 2015. Late fees apply after this date.

\$150/per person for two-day Summit (see program materials for details)

Late Registration: \$165 per person if postmarked or registered after January 6.

Refunds: \$25 processing fee for refunds; no refunds after January 13.

A limited number of scholarships are available for nonprofit organizations. Scholarships are available on a first-request basis; only one per organization. For more information and before registering, contact Paula West at (218) 838-5010 or westcom@brainerd.net

For registration questions contact: Peg Bohn at 651-452-8506 or pegbohn@gmail.com.

For Summit questions contact: Paula West at 218-838-5010 or westcom@brainerd.net.

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