



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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For immediate release

1. **Volunteers honored for service to environment**

**VOLUNTEERS HONORED FOR SERVICE TO ENVIRONMENT**

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AMES — The Iowa Department of Natural Resources recently recognized a number of outstanding individuals and groups for their contributions to protect and improve Iowa's water resources at its eighth annual Water Monitoring Conference in Ames.

IOWATER, the Iowa DNR's volunteer water quality monitoring program, presented five awards to citizens who have made outstanding contributions to Iowa's natural resources.

"These individuals and groups have a huge impact on protecting and improving Iowa's natural resources, especially those resources in their local area," said Lynette Seigley of IOWATER. "We want to thank them for their efforts. The awards provide an opportunity to celebrate and recognize their achievements."

To honor Iowa's volunteer leaders in water quality, the following awards were presented:

- **Don Propst** of Des Moines received the **IOWATER Volunteer of the Year** award for the countless hours he has dedicated to cleaning up Iowa's rivers. But cleanups are only part of Don's contributions. He routinely monitors the water quality of several streams in Des Moines and has helped build river accesses and promote the enjoyment of our state's rivers as natural trail corridors.
- **Donna Lutz**, program manager for the Des Moines River Water Quality Network and assistant scientist in the Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering Department at Iowa State University in Ames, received the **IOWATER Professional of the Year** award for her nearly 30 years of monitoring the water quality of the Des

Moines and Raccoon rivers, and the Saylorville and Red Rock reservoirs. The information she has gathered provides a valuable understanding of these water resources and changes that have occurred over time.

- The **Army Aviation Support Facility #3** in Davenport received the **IOWATER Event of the Year** for its contribution to the Upper Iowa University's Big Rock Volga River Cleanup in 2007. Skilled pilots from the Army Aviation Support Facility used a Chinook helicopter to airlift a 3,500-pound fuel supply tank from the banks of the Volga River to a salvage yard where it was recycled.
  
- **Bill Hammes** and the **Wilton FFA Chapter** received the **IOWATER Classroom of the Year** award for their educational experiences that extend far beyond the traditional classroom and into real-world applications. The Wilton FFA students have developed a trails system and educational outreach program to teach area students about water quality and natural resources.
  
- The **Partners of Scott County Watersheds** received the **IOWATER Watershed Group of the Year** award for developing and implementing ways citizens in Scott County can be better stewards of their watersheds. This group offers numerous opportunities for Scott County residents to get involved, from monthly public forums focused on local water quality and environmental issues to countywide stream sampling events.

To learn more about volunteering with the Iowa DNR's IOWATER program, please visit [www.iowater.net](http://www.iowater.net).