

STAFF AND VOLUNTEER AWARDS

The Outdoor Ministries Association initiated a new leadership awards program in 1987. Beginning at the Outdoor Ministries luncheon at Annual Conference that year, an award was presented to a camp staff person and another to a camp volunteer. The awards give special recognition to persons providing outstanding leadership in the camping ministry and honor the men and women who have made long-term commitments and sacrifices to benefit the Church of the Brethren camping ministry.

Staff Award

The nomination form for camp staff person reads, “qualified nominees for this award are persons employed in a Church of the Brethren Camp on a part-time or full-time basis. The nominees will be judged on long-term commitment to outdoor ministry, significant contribution to the development of a district outdoor ministries program, visionary leadership and consistent service.”

Volunteer Award

The nomination form for camp volunteer reads, “nominees for such recognition may be members of district camp boards/committees, district board, counselors, directors or individuals committed to outdoor ministries. The nominees will be judged on long-term commitment, creativity, vision, service and leadership in the area of outdoor ministries and service to the total church.”

Nomination and Selection Process

The nomination forms are mailed out each fall, and at its spring meeting the Outdoor Ministries Association Steering Committee chooses a person from the nominations. Staff and Volunteer Award Nomination Forms can be located on the OMA website or by contacting the Grants and Awards Member of the OMA Steering Committee.

Award Recipients

1987 – Staff: William “Bill” Hare, Emmaus; Volunteer: Hazel Heisey, Brethren Woods

1988 – Staff: Charlene Clark, Woodland Altars; Volunteer: Lefty Hoal, Bethel and Clay Sheets, Carmel

1989 – Staff: Bob Jones, Bethel; Volunteer: Carl Williams, Shiloh

1990 – Staff: Arden Ball, Mack; Volunteer: Ray Verbeck, Koinonia

1991 – Staff: Tom Ness, Blue Diamond; Volunteer: Cassel Mammau, Swatara

1992 – Staff: Roger Crusser, Woodland Altars;
Volunteer: Lucille Reber, Ithiel and Wayne Buckle, Mid-Atlantic District Camps

1993 – Staff: Patty Shoemaker, Woodland Altars; Volunteer: Orlin Lett, Myrtlewood

1994 – Staff: Kathy Snyder, Placid and Curt Rowland, Eder;
Volunteer: Roy Frysinger, Swatara and Rufus Petre, Blue Diamond

1995 – Staff: Myrtle Conner, Bethel; Volunteer: Julia Laprade, Bethel

1996 – Staff: John and Margaret Jones, Myrtlewood;
Volunteer: Hazel Hoover, Peaceful Pines and Virginia DuBois, Peaceful Pines, and Donna Kesler, Mack

1997 – Staff: Doug Phillips, Brethren Woods; Volunteer: Paul Bowman, Brethren Woods

1998 – Staff: Kathryn Oltman, Ithiel; Volunteer: Al Brubaker, Ithiel

1999 – Staff: Neal Harvey, Harmony; Volunteer: Linda McMurray, Swatara and Aaron Martin, Swatara

2000 – Staff: Rex Miller, Shepherd’s Spring;
Volunteer: Milton Ewert, Peaceful Pines and Eugene Miller, Blue Diamond

2001 – Staff: Ken Kline Smeltzer, Peaceful Pines; Volunteer: Jan Hurst, Shepherd’s Spring

2002 – Staff: Marlin Houff, Swatara; Volunteer: Elaine Herty, Peaceful Pines

2003 – Staff: None; Volunteer: Martha Cole, Placid and Sandy Kopp, Swatara

2004 – Staff: Deb Glenny, Blue Diamond; Volunteer: Morris Firebaugh, Emmaus

2005 – Staff: Dean and Jerri Heiser Wenger, Blue Diamond; Volunteer: Shari Hoopingartner, Mack

2006 – Staff: None; Volunteer: Alvin Walbridge, Mardela and Arthur & Shirley Crane, Peaceful Pines
and Betty Kreider, Mack; Lifetime Achievement: Bill Hare, Emmaus

2007 – Staff: Andy Levin, Myrtlewood; Volunteer: Joe Henderson, Carmel and Frank & Barbara Hart, Peaceful Pines

2008 – Staff: Lloyd Moyer, Swatara; Volunteer: Clifton Smith, Shepherd’s Spring
and Norris & Gary Martin, Bethel; Lifetime Achievement: Clay Sheets, Carmel

2009 – Staff: Lloyd & Leroy Lapp, La Verne and Bob Patalano, Inspiration Hills; Volunteer: None

2010 – Staff: Michael Kauffman, Mack; Volunteer: Alfred & Patricia Wiley, Peaceful Pines

2011 – Staff: Barry LeNoir, Bethel; Volunteer: Steve Frazier, Mardela

2012 – Staff: Joann Ebling, Camp Swatara; Volunteer: Doug & Sally Ruby, Shepherd Spring, Swatara, Mardela