

2008 Threinen Award
Presented February 6, 2008
Wausau, Wisconsin

The Bill Threinen Outstanding Service Award is a lifetime achievement award. Since 2000, this honor has been presented to individuals who have really gone the extra mile in service to our Chapter. This award is not given every year, and it represents recognition of longtime commitment and outstanding dedication to the Wisconsin Chapter.

No offense to past recipients, but normally I consider this to be the kind of award you give to someone near the end of their career, when they are old and crotchety. This year's Threinen award goes to someone who still has a few work years left, but I think he's become enough of a curmudgeon to make up for any lack of age.

Our recipient has a lot of energy and enthusiasm. He always has a couple irons in the fire, and he always tells a good story. He is a Wisconsin fisheries history guru, and he's given a number of talks on the topic. If that's not enough, this year he built a bridge with the AFS stamp on it.

Having served on Raffle Committee since 1995 and Raffle Chair since 1997, Steve Gilbert is one of the longest-serving committee chairs we currently have. He organized a record-setting raffle for the 2004 Parent Society Meeting in Madison that made the head office completely change the way they run future raffles. He put on a similar performance at the 2007 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Madison, with a variety of new and innovative ways to get a fairly tight-fisted crowd to part with their money: minnow races, decoy ring toss, even an ice-fishing game. Steve was President of Wisconsin Chapter AFS during 2002. Steve has represented Wisconsin chapter on the NCD Walleye Technical Committee for close to a decade and he hosted their summer meeting in 2003.

Did I mention that Steve built a bridge? I'm talking about the Art Oehmcke memorial bridge project at the Woodruff Hatchery – this is a reconstruction of a historic stone footbridge. How many of us can say we built a bridge in the name of our professional society? In my short tenure, Gilbert is the name that I most associate with Wisconsin AFS. For his energy, drive, enthusiasm and commitment, I am proud to present the 2008 Bill Threinen Outstanding Service Award to Steve Gilbert.

John Kubisiak
Wisconsin Chapter President