

## *~ 2018 Recipients ~*

### BOB GAGNER

Bob Gagner began his 40 year career in non-profit youth work with the Boy Scouts of America in Minneapolis in 1975. During his 32 years with the Scouts, he served as the Director of Program and Camping, highlighted by leading the largest single day food drive in Minnesota, collecting 450,000 pounds of food, and being the Camp Director of Many Point Scout Camp for 25 years, the largest camp in Minnesota when he left.

In 2006, he began working for the YMCA as the Director of Camp Icaghowan. During his 9 years at Icaghowan, he was an innovator for new programs including the addition of Yurts and Tree Houses for campers to sleep in and a Winter Camping Program. Bob also initiated a local camper scholarship program where locally raised donations, helping local children to attend Camp Icaghowan.

After his retirement in 2015, he and his wife Chris, took to the outdoors backpacking parts of the Lake Superior Hiking Trail, Appalachian Trail, Colorado Trail, North Country Trail, climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, trekking the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, and they will be leaving October 1st to trek to Mount Everest Base Camp and attempt climbing Kala Pathar. They have two grandchildren that they hope will come camp in a tree house on Wapogasset some day.

## PAUL HALVERSON

Paul Halverson grew up in the Barron- Dallas area just east of here. They were married in 1974 and moved to the Amery area in 1976 where they were hired at Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp and also lived there. Donna was lead cook and Paul the Camp Manager position. In 1978 Donna began a teaching career in Amery. In 1979 they were blessed with a set of twin girls. In 1981 they bought and moved into a house on the southeast end of Bear Trap. A year later they were blessed with another set of twins –a boy and a girl. Needless to say living on the Lake was an incredible place for the kids to grow up with all the water activity and camp involvement. Now they have 10 grandchildren ranging from age 9 down to age 3. Knee boarding, tubing, swimming and fishing occupy a lot of time when all the kids are home, which is often, during the summer.

Paul continues to work at camp but has now gone to a halftime position. He remembers the dredging of the channel back in 1990 which provided about 2500 cubic yards of soil to fill in a low spot at camp. The sewer system that went in back in 1978 was a huge challenge for the camp as it needed to come up with \$60,000. What an incredible blessing it has been however because it has allowed camp to expand. Boat in worship and the Christmas dinner theatre continue to be well attended by our lake people. One of the highlights each year is the fireworks and light up the lake which the camp has been hosting for quite some time now. Both Paul and Donna exhibit a deep sense of gratitude for the Lake Association and all that it does to promote great lake experiences for kids at camp and for their own family and friends. They say thank you.

## *~ Special Recognition ~*

### JULIE SELLE

Julie Selle graduated from Amery High School in 1977. Over the years she was employed at Ferrell Gas, Union State/Bremer Bank, Owen Williams Law Office in Amery and over 20 years at the Lake Wapogasset Sanitary District.

Julie was a lifetime active member of First Lutheran Church in Amery. She was the organist for over 40 years, until forced to retire due to her illness. Besides playing for the congregation's regular services she also provided organ and piano accompaniment and support for many weddings, funerals and other events and occasions in the community for many over the decades. She also served as bookkeeper/treasurer for the church.

For a great many years Julie assisted annually with the line up and start of the Amery Fall Festival Grand Day Parade and provided musical accompaniment for the queen coronation pageant.

An animal lover, like her mother, Julie went barely a day in her life without dog and/or cat companionship, from the first family members she grew up with - Jeff, Whiskers, and Missy - to her last feline friend Alley, who was with her at the end. Julie gave loving home to a long progression of lucky cats and dogs and often tried to find placement for those she couldn't take in herself. Not infrequently keeping her parents supplied with steady pets, despite some good natured grumbling about "critters" from her Dad.