

MUCC Awards Policy and Procedure [Adopted March 2021]

Each year, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) honors individuals and groups doing exemplary work that furthers the mission of “uniting citizens to conserve, protect, and enhance Michigan’s natural resources and outdoor heritage.” We hope this acknowledges the work already done and encourages the work yet to be done by others in the future. We are conservation, but only with your help.

Awards Procedure

Committee: The awards committee is made up of the past presidents with the immediate past president as chair. The past presidents shall meet either in person or electronically at a time and date in advance of convention to review nominations for awards.

Deadline: All nominations should be received no later than the day of the past presidents meeting through use of the Conservation Awards Nomination Form.

Definitions:

- **Nominator:** person who presents the nomination for the award — must be a member of the organization or staff and in good standing.
- **Recipient:** may be anyone — member or non-member.

Awards and Criteria

The nominator must have first-hand knowledge of the recipient’s activities and present them in writing to the committee via the Conservation Awards Nomination Form.

Outstanding Conservationist of the Year

Awarded to an individual who has made substantial contributions to the conservation of Michigan’s natural resources.

Water Conservationist of the Year

Awarded to an individual or organization who has made substantial contributions to the conservation of Michigan’s abundant freshwater resources.

Land Conservationist of the Year

Awarded to an individual or organization that has made substantial contributions to bolster land-use best practices and the wise use of our public lands.

Wildlife Conservationist of the Year

Awarded to an individual who has made substantial contributions to the conservation of Michigan's wildlife or habitat benefiting wildlife.

Fisheries Conservationist of the Year

Awarded to an individual who has made substantial contributions to the conservation of Michigan's fisheries or habitat benefiting fisheries.

Forest and Park Conservationist of the Year

Awarded to an individual or organization who has made substantial contributions to the conservation or wise use of Michigan's forests, parks and recreation facilities.

Conservation Officer of the Year

Awarded to an individual who has gone above and beyond the call of duty that includes enforcing laws and regulations, educating the public about recreational safety and fulfilling all duties required of a licensed peace officer.

Youth Conservationist of the Year

Awarded to a person under the age of 18 who has made substantial contributions to conserving Michigan's natural resources.

Conservation Communicator of the Year

Awarded for recognition of production of outstanding outdoor media, including but not limited to video, television, audio, podcast, writings, books, journalism, etc.

Volunteer of the Year

Awarded to an individual who has unselfishly given their time and talents to further the mission of MUCC.

Conservation Educator of the Year

Awarded to an individual who has made made substantial contributions to connecting students or communities to conservation and the outdoors.

Exceptional Outdoor Woman Award

Awarded to a multi-skilled sportswoman who ethically and legally hunts, fishes, or traps and can navigate in the wild.

Legislative Conservationist of the Year

Awarded to a legislator who has worked to pass laws advocating for best-practice conservation principles and the wise use of our natural resources.

Unsung Hero award

Awarded to an individual or organization who has made substantial contributions to the conservation of Michigan's natural resources behind the scenes and out of the headlines.

Ben East Award

Awarded to an individual who has made substantial contributions to the conservation of Michigan's natural resources through outstanding outdoor writing.

Conservation Organization of the Year

Awarded to any organization who has made substantial contributions to the conservation of Michigan's natural resources.

Conservation Project of the Year

Awarded to a specific project, or the project's organizers, that greatly benefited the public's use or awareness of a specific conservation issue in Michigan.

Harold Glassen Award

Harold W. (Hal) Glassen was a lifelong hunter, competitive shooter and gun collector. Introduced to the outdoors at the age of six by his father, young Glassen developed an early respect and love for firearms. This award goes to the affiliate club that makes the greatest achievements in hunter education.

Corporate Conservationist of the Year

Awarded to a business who has made a distinguished effort to preserve, perpetuate or improve the quality of Michigan's great outdoors and thus add to the enjoyment of hunters, trappers, anglers and outdoor enthusiasts.

Affiliate of the Year

Awarded to an affiliate club of MUCC that has made substantial contributions to MUCC or the conservation of Michigan's natural resources.

President's Award-

Awarded to an individual who has made substantial contributions to the

conservation of Michigan's natural resources or MUCC as seen fit by the sitting president of the MUCC Executive Board.

Special Conservation Award

This is a smaller yet important plaque, given to groups of people like committees within MUCC, ballot committees, and other people who made a difference in the last year.

50 years of service to conservation award

Awarded to an individual who has made substantial and continual contributions to the conservation of Michigan's natural resources for more than 50 years.

Michigan Conservation Hall of Fame-

Michigan United Conservation Clubs Conservation Hall of Fame Award is the Medal of Honor of this organization. It should not be given out lightly. The recipient(s) should have been or be involved in direct conservation activities for a minimum of twenty (20) years. The recipient must have tangible evidence of his or her activities in preserving natural resources.

Executive Director's Award

Awarded to an individual who has made substantial contributions to the conservation of Michigan's natural resources or MUCC as seen fit by the MUCC Executive Director.

Rising Star of Conservation

Awarded to an individual who has made substantial contributions to the conservation of Michigan's natural resources through volunteering or in their professional capacity. The recipient must be under 40 years of age or new to their field of work.

On the Ground Conservation Partner of the Year

Awarded to an individual, group, club or organization that has made substantial contributions to on-the-ground habitat improvement efforts in their respective regions through partnership with Michigan United Conservation Clubs' On the Ground wildlife habitat improvement program.