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### **The Bad River Watershed Association Celebrates Ten Years and Outstanding Stewardship**

The Bad River Watershed Association (BRWA) celebrated its tenth anniversary at a special event on Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at Freehands Farm of Ashland. At the event the organization was also pleased to present Tracey Ledder with the Karen Danielsen Outstanding Stewardship Award. Nearly 100 friends and supporters gathered at the farm to enjoy local food and drink, live music by Andy Noyes and Stevie Matier, and to see Ledder receive her award.

Ledder is one of the people responsible for starting BRWA over ten years ago. She also started the organization's volunteer water quality monitoring program, and continues to serve as a Technical Advisor to the organization on a volunteer basis. In addition, she also maintains a position as a volunteer water quality monitor collecting water data at two stream sites in the White River basin.

As part of BRWA's ten year history, one of the organization's biggest success stories was in 2006 when the water quality data collected by volunteers was used by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to give many streams in the Bad River Watershed formal recognition as Outstanding or Exceptional Resource Waters. "This would not have happened without the work and dedication of Tracey Ledder to ensure the data was technically sound," says Valerie Damstra, Citizen Involvement Coordinator. "Tracey's contributions to this organization are truly amazing."

"I've been doing this for a long time, and it's been a lot of work, but the reason I do it is because it's fun" said Ledder of her many contributions to the BRWA organization. "I hope other volunteers are involved because it's fun for them too." The Karen Danielsen Outstanding Stewardship Award is presented annually to a BRWA volunteer in honor of founding board member and long-time volunteer, Karen Danielsen.

More pictures from the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event can be found at BRWA's Facebook page.

*The Bad River Watershed Association is a nonprofit organization with the mission to promote the healthy relationship between the people and natural communities of the Bad River Watershed, by involving all citizens in assessing, maintaining, and improving watershed integrity for future generations. The Bad River Watershed drains over 1,000 square miles within the counties of Ashland, Iron, and Bayfield. For more information about the Bad River Watershed or BRWA visit [www.badriverwatershed.org](http://www.badriverwatershed.org).*

*Submitted photo: Tracey Ledder, winner of the Bad River Watershed Association's Karen Danielsen Outstanding Stewardship Award, with her daughter Eleanore .*