

Annual Golden Paddle Awards: Illinois River Watershed Partnership Announces 2021 Winners



Walter Wright, Jr.
wwright@mwlaw.com
(501) 688.8839

02/17/2022

The Illinois River Watershed Partnership (“IRWP”) issued a February 10th news release announcing the 2021 winners of what it denominates the “Golden Paddle Awards.”

The Golden Paddle Awards are described as honoring:

... an outstanding organization or individual from seven different stakeholder categories ... for their work in and service to the watershed.

The stakeholder categories include:

- Agriculture
- Business
- Conservation
- Construction
- Government
- Technical (Research and Education)
- Volunteer

Criteria for choosing the winners are stated to include engagement, support, and stewardship that they contribute toward IRWP’s mission over the calendar year.

The 2021 winners include:

- Agriculture – The Ollers (Describing Stan Oller and his family receiving the award for their commitment to conservation practices which include improving livestock grazing and watering systems on their farm.)
- Conservation – Grand River Dam Authority Scenic River Operations (Nominated due to its dedicated work in watershed management in Oklahoma including making Illinois river a sustainably managed recreation destination.)
- Business – Arvest (Nominated due to the company’s leadership across the region supporting community investment that improves environmental education and water quality in the Illinois River Watershed.)
- Construction – Wes Craiglow, NWA urban Land Institute (Advances responsible land use and development in Northwest Arkansas.)
- Government – Elizabeth Bowen, Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (Nominated due to her leadership and commitment in addressing stormwater and water quality in the Illinois River Watershed.)

- Technical/Research and Education – Candice Miller, Oklahoma Blue Thumb (Nominated for her work with Oklahoma Blue Thumb on water quality monitoring and education in the Illinois River Watershed.)
- Volunteer – Curtis Lester (Nominated due to his dedication and enthusiasm for improving the Illinois River Watershed and volunteering time with IRWP at a number of events throughout 2021.)

A copy of the news release can be downloaded [here](#).