

The Tuftonboro Times

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Tuftonboro residents honored at LRPC annual meeting

The Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC) presented their 2023 awards for service at the annual meeting, June 26. Among the recipients were three Tuftonboro residents. Community Service awards were awarded to Steve Scapicchio and jointly to Russ Baerenklau of Tuftonboro and Jim Shildneck of Wolfeboro. The Final Surprise award for Outstanding Community Service went to Steve Wingate.

Steve Scapicchio Community Service

Steve Scapicchio retired to Tuftonboro and became an active volunteer for the Mirror Lake Protective Association monitoring water quality in the lake as well as working on projects developed in the Mirror Lake Management Plan. In 2019 Steve joined the Tuftonboro Conservation Commission after assisting in a joint project between the TCC and the MLPA to conserve undeveloped shoreline on the lake. Steve quickly became an enthusiastic supporter of all things related to the conservation of natural resources. He quickly jumped in as a member of the Great Meadow Trail construction crew while providing energetic support to the TCC youth and family education program, well water testing, and easement monitoring. Soon he took over supervising trail construction at the Great Meadow project as well as helping to maintain and map other trails in town. At the same time he set up wildlife cameras near the trail to show people wildlife activities in the area. He also joined the Board of Supervisors of the Carroll County Conservation District. In 2021, Steve became the Chairman of the TCC and was also elected as Chairman of the CCCD Board of Supervisors.

Russ Baerenklau and Jim Shildneck Community Service

Russ Baerenklau built a workshop and acquired wood working tools after retiring from a career in dentistry. He has used his woodworking skills to serve the community ever since, building, furniture, shelving, and cabinetry for local non-profits. Russ, along with another volunteer who has since passed away, put in many hours over several years doing finished carpentry work at the All Saints Episcopal Church in Wolfeboro. They installed oak paneling and cabinetry in the church sacristy, shelving and cabinetry in the library, and finished the meeting

room kitchen. After the loss of his friend and fellow volunteer, Russ teamed up with Jim Shildneck and moved on to other community projects. They met while assisting young people and adults in the New Hampshire Boat Museum's summer boat building courses. Russ and Jim pre-cut all the boat project parts before the courses began and then helped mentor the builders through their projects. After successfully working together with the boat-building program, Russ and Jim began branching out into other projects for non-profits demanding skill in design and carpentry. They designed and built desks, shelving, and cabinets for the Tamworth Remick Farm Museum entrance and gift shop area. Later they they built a replica of a lakes-region style bob house and several other projects to be used at the Museum's winter festival. Next the duo built a large bulletin board for

event planning for the Great Waters Music Festival office in Wolfeboro. They have built truck-loads of nest boxes and bird houses for both the Carroll and Grafton County Conservation Districts and the Tuftonboro Conservation Commission. Recently Russ and Jim designed and built kiosks for both the Tuftonboro Great Meadow Trail and the Abenaki Tower Trail (off Rout 109). Russ has also served on the Tuftonboro Milfoil Committee for over ten years. He has helped organize annual milfoil removal projects in Tuftonboro as well as set up and maintain information areas at local boat launches explaining how to prevent the spread of invasive aquatic plants and animals. Russ is always ready to assist with his skills when needed for the benefit of the community.

Steve Wingate

Outstanding Community Service

Steve was honored for his ongoing community service, including 10 years as an LRPC commissioner from Tuftonboro. Steve is retired from the U.S. Forest Service after more than 30 years of service, but remains actively involved in forestry issues. He is a member of the NHTOA and a past program director. He is also a licensed State of NH Forester, member of the Society of American Foresters, and member of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. Steve has been and is involved with organizations and projects that are devoted to protecting New Hampshire's valuable natural resources. Steve's community involvement includes: The Tuftonboro Conservation Commission, Milfoil Committee, UNH Lakes Lay Monitor, Lake Winnepesaukee Association Board Member, Assessment Subcommittee of Wolfeboro Waters, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC), the Carroll County Conservation District Board, The Great Meadow Wetlands Project (GMWP, Tuftonboro), Land Bank, and contributor to The Tuftonboro Times.

**Sue Wingate, Member
The Tuftonboro Association**



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received Community Service awards,**

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