

National Invasive Species Awards

Outstanding Achievement in Aquatic Invasive Species Outreach and Education

The winner of the 2013 NISAW Award for Outstanding Achievement in Aquatic Invasive Species Outreach and Education is ***The Lake George Association, Inc.*** Working to protect and conserve the Lake George Basin, the Lake George Association has led regional efforts to engage in invasive species outreach and education. The Lake George Association has implemented a Lake Steward program, combining invasive species spread prevention with public outreach and education, while collecting invaluable invasive species spread data through the program. The Lake George Association is a prominent member of the Lake George Asian Clam Rapid Response Task Force and was instrumental in developing and distributing educational and outreach materials in response to this new invasive threat. The Lake George Association has partnered with other local organizations to create a visible and collective response to invasive species spread through websites, documentaries and boating education campaigns.

Outstanding Achievement in Terrestrial Invasive Species Outreach and Education

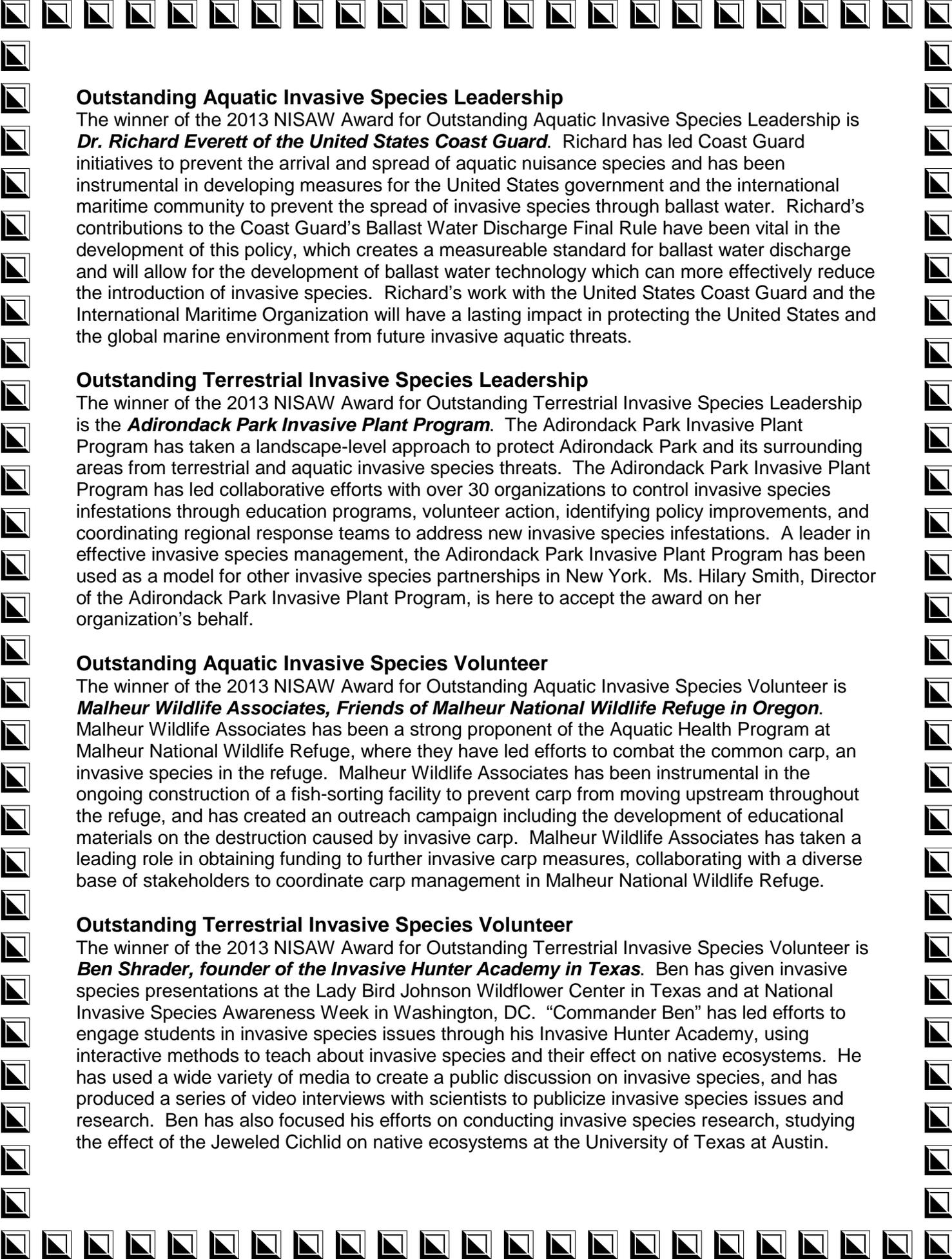
The winner of the 2013 NISAW Award for Outstanding Achievement in Terrestrial Invasive Species Outreach and Education is the ***Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at the University of Texas at Austin.*** As a leading invasive species education and outreach organization in the state of Texas, The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center has led invasive species efforts at the national, state and local level through its innovative approach combining advocacy, education and public outreach with research and citizen science. The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center has taken a prominent role in many national and state invasive species initiatives and has been instrumental in addressing invasive species issues in the state of Texas by gathering concerned stakeholders together and organizing coordinated responses to invasive species issues. Dr. Damon Waitt, Senior Director and Botanist for the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, is here to accept the award on his organization's behalf.

Lifetime Invasive Species Achievement – Aquatic

The winner of the 2013 NISAW Award for Lifetime Invasive Species Achievement for Aquatic species is ***Mr. Rick Johnson, Coordinator of the Thurston County Noxious Weed Agency in Washington State.*** Rick has been committed to invasive plant management for 34 years, and has served on multiple weed management committees, boards and associations. Rick led a program for the management of Brazilian Elodea in the Chehalis River system, an initiative which spanned multiple agencies over the course of ten years. Due to his efforts, elodea has been nearly eradicated from the river system, which in turn has been restored to a higher functioning ecosystem, exhibiting lower sedimentation and risk of flooding and higher dissolved oxygen levels. His success in Washington has made his project a positive example for other states with elodea infestations.

Lifetime Invasive Species Achievement – Terrestrial

The winner of the 2013 NISAW Award for Lifetime Invasive Species Achievement for Terrestrial species is ***Dr. Richard (Dick) Reardon of the United States Forest Service.*** A leader of the Maryland and Appalachian Integrated Pest Management programs, Dick has devoted his career to the management of forest pests and invasive plants. He has led efforts to combat gypsy moth infestations and has developed gypsy moth-specific tactics including the viral insecticide *Gypcheck*, allowing implementation of control efforts in areas where sensitive non-targets could be affected. His work with mating disruption techniques was vital to the success of the gypsy moth Slow-the-Spread program, which has had tremendous impacts on gypsy moth management and has been a model for the use of mating disruption in the management of other invasive species.



Outstanding Aquatic Invasive Species Leadership

The winner of the 2013 NISAW Award for Outstanding Aquatic Invasive Species Leadership is **Dr. Richard Everett of the United States Coast Guard**. Richard has led Coast Guard initiatives to prevent the arrival and spread of aquatic nuisance species and has been instrumental in developing measures for the United States government and the international maritime community to prevent the spread of invasive species through ballast water. Richard's contributions to the Coast Guard's Ballast Water Discharge Final Rule have been vital in the development of this policy, which creates a measureable standard for ballast water discharge and will allow for the development of ballast water technology which can more effectively reduce the introduction of invasive species. Richard's work with the United States Coast Guard and the International Maritime Organization will have a lasting impact in protecting the United States and the global marine environment from future invasive aquatic threats.

Outstanding Terrestrial Invasive Species Leadership

The winner of the 2013 NISAW Award for Outstanding Terrestrial Invasive Species Leadership is the **Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program**. The Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program has taken a landscape-level approach to protect Adirondack Park and its surrounding areas from terrestrial and aquatic invasive species threats. The Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program has led collaborative efforts with over 30 organizations to control invasive species infestations through education programs, volunteer action, identifying policy improvements, and coordinating regional response teams to address new invasive species infestations. A leader in effective invasive species management, the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program has been used as a model for other invasive species partnerships in New York. Ms. Hilary Smith, Director of the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, is here to accept the award on her organization's behalf.

Outstanding Aquatic Invasive Species Volunteer

The winner of the 2013 NISAW Award for Outstanding Aquatic Invasive Species Volunteer is **Malheur Wildlife Associates, Friends of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon**. Malheur Wildlife Associates has been a strong proponent of the Aquatic Health Program at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, where they have led efforts to combat the common carp, an invasive species in the refuge. Malheur Wildlife Associates has been instrumental in the ongoing construction of a fish-sorting facility to prevent carp from moving upstream throughout the refuge, and has created an outreach campaign including the development of educational materials on the destruction caused by invasive carp. Malheur Wildlife Associates has taken a leading role in obtaining funding to further invasive carp measures, collaborating with a diverse base of stakeholders to coordinate carp management in Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

Outstanding Terrestrial Invasive Species Volunteer

The winner of the 2013 NISAW Award for Outstanding Terrestrial Invasive Species Volunteer is **Ben Shrader, founder of the Invasive Hunter Academy in Texas**. Ben has given invasive species presentations at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Texas and at National Invasive Species Awareness Week in Washington, DC. "Commander Ben" has led efforts to engage students in invasive species issues through his Invasive Hunter Academy, using interactive methods to teach about invasive species and their effect on native ecosystems. He has used a wide variety of media to create a public discussion on invasive species, and has produced a series of video interviews with scientists to publicize invasive species issues and research. Ben has also focused his efforts on conducting invasive species research, studying the effect of the Jeweled Cichlid on native ecosystems at the University of Texas at Austin.