



Minnesota DAR Presents both the Minnesota and the National Conservation Awards to McAloon

Peggy McAloon of Colfax, WI was honored by the presentation of two prestigious awards at the Minnesota State Society of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) on May 18<sup>th</sup> at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bloomington, MN. Ms McAloon is currently the Co-Chair of the Education/Outreach Committee of the Tainter/Menomine Lake Improvement Association (TMLIA) of Menomonie and a resident on Lake Tainter.

The presentation speech was made by Cindy Hoffmann, Chair of the Minnesota DAR Conservation Committee. Ms. McAloon was presented with the State of Minnesota Conservation Award and also with the National Conservation Award of the DAR. Mrs. McAloon grew up in rural Iowa where she became interested in Conservation through helping with the farm soil tests at Keota Spray Service, owned by her parents, in Keota, Iowa. She has always loved being near the water, whether a lake, stream, or ocean. Her passion to protect, preserve, and restore the waters of the Red Cedar River Basin was simply “the right thing to do for my community”. She commented that the award was even more special because the presenter, Cindy Hoffmann works with farmers in Minnesota through one of the NRCS offices there. “I grew up in an area where farmers stressed the importance of being “Stewards of the land and waters”, she commented on Hoffmann’s involvement in helping reduce runoff on Minnesota farms.

McAloon developed the “Water Guardian Program” for the Menomonie Robotics Club, led in the distribution of “Troubled Waters: A Mississippi River Story” to all junior and senior high schools within the Red Cedar Watershed and provided assistance to UW-Stout Professor Nels Paulson in the subsequent survey of the participating students as

a result of the information viewed in that video. She originated the stream monitoring program for the lake association, worked numerous hours on the Clean Boats/Clean Waters Program, has assisted with numerous community events including the Red Cedar Conference held earlier this year in Menomonie, and is Editor of TMLIA's newsletter "Lake Talk" and numerous other educational materials used by the lake group. She was also chosen as one of only 29 people in the State of Wisconsin in 2010 to attend the "Wisconsin Lake Leaders Institute" developed by UW Extension and Wisconsin Lakes Association

She shared with the attendees at the DAR Convention the prediction by the UN's Commission on Sustainable Development that by the year 2025, 47% of the world will experience water stress. She explained that currently 53 Million Americans are drinking tap water contaminated with lead, fecal bacteria and other pollutants and 19.5 Million Americans are sickened each year from water-borne bacteria – viruses and parasites (many from animal and human feces). The audience was asked to "do whatever they are able to do to conserve, protect, and restore our waters...a "finite" resource that will become one of the major sources of conflict in this century throughout the world".

McAloon is retired from Forius, Inc. (the Minnesota offices for the National Association of Credit Management), where she worked for 23 years as the National Account Manager in western and eastern Minnesota and portions of western Wisconsin