Governor John B. Swainson Award
Previous Recipients

2015

Beth Anne Eckerle – Emmet County
Communicated the history of Emmet County, including through publication of the *Essence of Emmet* magazine

Karl Gorham – Livingston County
Saved the hand-built fieldstone entrance gate pillars from the Maybury Tuberculosis Sanatorium and relocated them to Maybury State Park

Gerald Grieve – Kalkaska County
Identified and marked 226 graves of Civil War veterans in Kalkaska County, and continued his work with other counties

LeighAnn Mikesell – Muskegon County
Worked to rehabilitate Muskegon’s Veterans Memorial Park that was built in 1934 as a tribute to World War I casualties

Susan Passamani – Iron County
Documented the restoration of the 1890 Iron County Courthouse and created a history room in the courthouse to educate students and local organizations

2013

Michele Anderson, Wayne Westland Community Schools
Developed World War II Oral History Project

James Brennan, City of Port Huron
Documentation of Michigan Historical Marker Program

Guy Forstrom, Breitung Township, Dickinson County
Restoration of a fire truck used by the township in 1940-1954
2012

Jennifer Boardman, Michigan County of Appeals
Efforts to preserve Belle Isle Aquarium

Nancy F. Brown, State Bar of Michigan
Contributions to keeping Michigan Legal Milestones Program alive

Joann Germinder, Department of Defense
Guest Curator at Michigan Historical Museum for exhibit, “Follow the Girls! 100 Years of Girl Scouting.”

2011

George Lasater, Charlevoix County
Research and preservation of history of Charlevoix County’s contribution to World War II

Thomas P. Russow, Port of Monroe
Restoration of the River Raisin Battlefield, Port of Monroe

Erik J. Wilson, City of Plainwell
Redevelopment of abandoned paper mill, Plainwell

2009

Danny H. Hagen, City of Eastpointe
Led the restoration efforts to restore an original Model T fire truck

2008

Richard Cook, Environmental Protection Agency
Kelly Jones, Washtenaw County Road Commission
Roy Townsend, Washtenaw County Road Commission
Delhi Bridge Rehabilitation in Scio Township, Ann Arbor

Albert J. Meshkin, Laketown Township, Allegan County
Efforts to save the Felt Mansion, Laketown Township
2008 (continued)

Todd Sampson, Michigan Department of Human Services
Preservation and telling of the stories of Michigan’s African American veterans

Cal Taylor & AuSable Parks and Recreation Committee, AuSable Township
AuSable historic cemetery cleanup and renovation

2006

Dale Iman, City of Southfield
Restoration of Code House homestead and grounds

2005

Nancy Darga, Township and City of Northville
Assembled historic archive and registered endangered historic sites

Tom Wibert, East Lansing Police Department
Documented, shared and educated others about the history of East Lansing Police Department

Kendall Wingrove, Michigan House of Representatives
Contributed time to 60th anniversary ceremony of the D-Day invasion; newsletter with remembrances of World War II; series of articles about the State Capitol’s history; celebration of the Capitol’s 125th anniversary

2004

Richard Blachford, City of Newaygo
Revitalization of multiple historic resources in Newaygo

2003

Tony Angelosanto, Plymouth Police Department
Research and restoration of York Street Cemetery

Vicki Barnard, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Rediscovery and memorialization of State Salt Well #1, drilled by Douglass Houghton
2003 (continued)

Donald E. Riel, Michigan Department of Transportation
Preservation, documentation and education of others about Michigan Railroad History

2002

Ralph Raffaelli, Houghton Police Department
Collected, preserved and shared historic photographs of Houghton’s people, places and things

Frank Rembisz, Wayne County Office on Aging
Started the Eloise and Wayne County General Hospital Museum and a Friends of Eloise group to preserve the memory of Eloise, and shared his knowledge with many

2001

Jeannette Dusseljee, Almena Township, Van Buren County
Coordination and restoration of historic Almena Township Hall

Margaret Janose, Cannon Township, Kent County
Championed maintaining historic integrity of local museum, grew historical society membership and preserved local records

2000

Nancy Powell, Marenisco School District
Researched and produced history of Marenisco Township

1999

Kerry Chartkoff, Legislative Council Facilities Agency
Role in preservation of the Capitol Battle Flag Collection

Ellis N. Olson, City of Cheboygan
Spent a lifetime of discovering, preserving, and interpreting the history of the Cheboygan area
1998

James Katalin, Michigan Department of Corrections
Leadership and exemplary work in preserving the Champion #4 shaft-rockhouse at Painesdale

1997

Phillip Schertzing, Michigan State Police
Obtained interviews, diaries, news clippings and other memorabilia which he used to write the history of the Michigan State Police and educate new recruits

Tom Wieczorek, City of Ionia
Led numerous preservation efforts that included repaving brick streets; installation of historically accurate streetlights; and, restoration of the downtown buildings

1996

Mary Crowl, Michigan Department of Transportation
Recognized an uncovered plank road and rearranged the work so the road could be studied and preserved

Dean Sandell, Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Preservation of cultural resources on Lime Island and assisted in the development of the Island Explorer Water Trail

Barry Waara, Oakland County Central Services
Preservation and maintenance of Oakland County public records to provide public access in an atmosphere designed to encourage the public to use the facility and the records