



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photo of winners attached

Alliance Announces Outstanding Conservationists of 2009

At the close of each year, the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance board gives its highest award to an individual who has made exceptional achievements toward conservation work in the valley.

At its annual membership meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 2, in the Hansen Hall of St. John's Episcopal Church, the Alliance announced the Outstanding Conservationist of the Year Award would go to two individuals, who together have dedicated a lifetime of hard work and passion to the Jackson Hole community and to keeping the valley unique and beautiful for generations to come – Addie and Ted Donnan.

“The Donnans need no introduction in this community,” said Alliance Board Chairman Anthony Stevens. “They are widely known and respected for their dedication to various organizations and causes in this community, with conservation work being just one of their important accomplishments. We couldn't be more proud and pleased to be able to give them this award.”

The Donnans, who will receive a glass plaque containing a photograph of a bison in front of the Tetons, were out of town and unable to accept the honor in person Wednesday night. However, they were notified of the award in advance and issued a prepared statement of acceptance. They said they couldn't adequately thank the Alliance and community for the special honor.

“How lucky we are to live in this beautiful valley, and it is a joy to be able to occasionally find things we can do to help keep it that way,” the Donnans wrote. “So many of you do far more than we, which makes us feel a bit like we are stealing this gorgeous plaque. You are fortunate that we aren't with you tonight or you might be looking at two very teary people.”

The Donnans were founding members of the Alliance 30 years ago and are honorary board members. Together, they make for a dynamic duo in the community, through their work to support not only the Alliance, but also St. John's Medical Center, the Murie Center, Teton Science Schools, Jackson Hole Therapeutic Riding Association, the National Museum of Wildlife Art and many other important endeavors.

Addie Donnan has played a vital role in organizing major fundraisers for the Alliance, including the Silent Art and Antique Auction and the annual Addie's Benefit Boutique, which supports

“the health of the valley’s people and its ecosystem.” She’s also the major driving force behind the Alliance’s needlepoint rug project, rallying volunteers to create exquisite rugs, which are then sold to support the work of the Alliance. Meanwhile, she’s actively involved in St. John’s Medical Center, Junior League, Red Cross, YWCA, United Appeal, St. John’s Episcopal Church, the League of Women Voters, Teton Science Schools, the National Museum of Wildlife Art, the R.E. Lee Memorial Association and other organizations.

Ted Donnan, a retired executive from the Federal Paper Board Company, has special expertise in finance and investment management. He served for years as treasurer of the Alliance and continues to be a key member of the Finance Committee. Ted has also served on the Board of Directors for the National Museum of Wildlife Art, the Teton Science School and the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole. He has been active with several fundraising committees, including St. John's Episcopal Church, St. John's Hospital, and the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance's capital campaign to purchase an office building.

Ted and Addie own the Owl Ranch in Wilson and have been property owners in Jackson Hole since 1967, where they enjoy spending time with their two daughters and granddaughters.

For decades, the Alliance has been periodically awarding community members for specific conservation achievements through its Hats Off Award Program. The Outstanding Conservationist of the Year program was created in 2003 to honor those who have shown a lifetime commitment to conservation. Previous recipients are: Gil and Marge Ordway, Tom Wiancko, Bert Raynes, Yvon Chouinard, Kathe Henry, and Lisa and Steve Robertson.

The Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance is a nonprofit organization dedicated to responsible land stewardship to ensure that human activities are in harmony with the area's irreplaceable wildlife, scenic and other natural resources. The organization has more than 2,000 members from Jackson Hole and across the nation.