



JACKSON HOLE CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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***Lisa and Steve Robertson, Rich Bloom  
Honored at Conservation Alliance Annual Meeting***

JACKSON HOLE – Dedicated wildlife advocates Lisa and Steve Robertson received the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance’s Outstanding Conservationists of 2008 award on Dec. 4 during the group’s annual meeting.

“I have now presented six of these awards, and each year, I think that I have the honor to recognize the best, and each year the recipients get more worthy. This year tops everything,” said Alliance executive director Franz Camenzind on presenting the award. “Lisa and Steve do so many things, and they do them so quietly and so humbly, that their work has gone under the radar.”

As volunteer pilots for the environmental aviation groups Ecoflight and Lighthawk, as well as on their own, the Robertsons have logged literally thousands of hours of flight time in support of scientific studies. Here in the Greater Yellowstone, the couple’s generous help has proved invaluable for countless wildlife projects over the years, including research on wolves and lynx, pronghorn studies and other work by the Wildlife Conservation Society, Craighead Beringia South’s cougar research, and the National Wildlife Federation’s work on grazing allotment buyouts.

“If it’s wildlife, if it’s a good conservation program, Steve and Lisa were probably in the middle of it – a strong and quiet force in its success,” Camenzind said.

The Robertsons’ modest acceptance of the award exemplified his remarks:

“We’re very fortunate to live in such a wonderful place with such wonderful people,” Steve said. “We just did our little share.”

Lisa, who served on the Alliance board from 1998 to 2004, said that previous Outstanding Conservationists Tom Wiancko and Kathe Henry had inspired her to work on behalf of wildlife.

“No matter if it’s a black wolf in our backyard, or Cougar F101, a snow leopard in Afghanistan, or a child who we’re trying to educate about all of this, we’re all in it together and we all keep the world turning,” she said. “We all need to help.”

The Outstanding Conservationist award is given annually to people who have made a lifelong commitment to – and impact on – conservation in Jackson Hole. Previous recipients are: Gil and Marge Ordway, Tom Wiancko, Bert Raynes, Yvon Chouinard and Kathe Henry.

The Conservation Alliance also presented Rich Bloom, founder of South Park Neighbors, with a Hats Off award for his dedicated efforts to get citizens involved in keeping Jackson Hole wild and beautiful.

“The Hats Off award is our way of recognizing an individual’s extraordinary work for conservation in Jackson Hole,” Camenzind said. “This year, it became obvious that Rich Bloom was this individual. He’s just become a catalyst and a solid spokesperson for community planning.”

Bloom accepted the award “on behalf of the 300-plus households of South Park Neighbors and the 700-plus households that are part of other neighborhood groups that are working in conjunction with the Alliance on community planning issues.”

“I really see this award as an affirmation of the growing citizen involvement in the planning process to protect our treasured natural resources and community character,” he later added, “especially given our unique location as a gateway to Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks and the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem.”

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*The Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance is a non-profit 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 2,000 members from Jackson Hole and across the nation.*