



Contributed Photo

Nancy Breed and Tim Jacobson present Greg Thoren with the Outstanding Land Management Award.

Thoren Farms honored at Inaugural Awards Banquet

LA CROSSE, Wis. — Sustainable Driftless, Inc. honored nine organizations from across the four-state Driftless Region for outstanding sustainability work at its inaugural awards banquet April 18 at the Pettibone Resort.

The event drew approximately 130 attendees and recognized leaders in land management, business, community impact and education from Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois and Minnesota.

From a field of finalists spanning farms, schools, conservation groups and local governments, four award recipients were selected. Thoren Farms, of Stockton, received the Outstanding

Land Management Award

“These awards recognize the people doing real, on-the-ground work to protect and strengthen the Driftless Region,” said Nancy Breed, event chair and a member of the board of directors.

Each finalist was featured in a video highlighting its sustainability efforts. Award recipients received a hand-crafted engraved wooden platter created by Midwest Wood Art of Dubuque, Iowa, along with a \$500 prize. Other finalists received \$250.

“Hearing these stories from across the region was inspiring,” said Tim Jacobson, president of Sustainable Driftless, Inc. “We’re bringing together people

solving similar challenges in different communities and helping them learn from each other.”

The event was supported by regional organizations and individual donors, including the Dr. Lee Johnson Memorial (Rev. Kent Johnson), Raptor Resource Project, Fitzpatrick, Skemp & Butler, LLC, Prairie Moon Nursery, and Julie Jacobson Vann, Ph.D., M.S., R.N.

Sustainable Driftless plans to hold the awards banquet annually, rotating locations among communities throughout the Driftless Region to strengthen regional connections and collaboration.