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Press Release

WWA Board Presents Industry Awards To Innovative Leaders and Inducts Four Worthy Recipients Into WWA’s Hall of Fame In 2014

**Overland Park, KS, November 3, 2014** —Last week, the WWA’s Board of Directors handed out its annual Board Awards and inducted four individuals into the Hall of Fame. Recognition of these industry leaders and pioneers are always a highlight of the WWA Show, with the ceremony being held during the Opening General Session on October 28, 2014 at the Paris Las Vegas Convention Center. Each yearthe Board recognizes member contributions in a variety of areas significant to the industry’s success such as: dedication to guest and employee safety; excellence in leadership; innovation and creativity in designing new themes and attractions; and the development of standards that raise the bar for the industry overall.

 “We believe that our industry leaders deserve as much recognition as we can give them for all the amazing things that they do to bring joy to the lives of their guests and clients in the safest manner possible on a daily basis,” said Jim Basala, Chair of the WWA’s Board of Directors.

**WWA Hall of Fame:**

The WWA inducted four individuals into the WWA Hall of Fame, which honors the water leisure industry’s most important and visionary pioneers and innovators. This year’s honorees were:
• Robert H. “Budge” & Arlene M. Brown, (posthumously), Oakwood Lake
• Sam Haynes, Blue Bayou Water Park

• Jill White, Starfish Aquatics Institute

 Along side these Hall of Fame inductions, the Board handed out a Lifetime Achievement Award for only the third time in its history. This award recognizes outstanding individuals whose pioneering spirit, inventiveness and level of integrity….have provided an excellent example for fellow industry members. This year’s honoree was:

• W.A. James, Conserv Associates

(Induction videos for each honoree are available for linking to at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/WorldWaterparkAssn>.)

**Board of Directors Awards:**

The WWA Board of Directors recognized the exceptional accomplishments of 27 recipients in 2014 including:

• **Al Turner Memorial Commitment to Excellence Award**: The Kells Family, Water Wizz of Cape Cod, Inc., East Wareham, Massachusetts, U.S.A.; Dato’ Richard CK Koh, Only World Group, Selanger Darul Ehsan, Malaysia; Dale McFarland, Veracity Hospitality, L.L.C., Gurnee, Illinois, U.S.A.

• **Executive Board Award**: Franceen Gonzales, WhiteWater West Industries Ltd., Richmond, BC, Canada; Billy Hamilton, Wet ‘n Wild Orlando, Orlando, Florida, U.S.A.; Kentucky Kingdom and Hurricane Bay, Louisville, Kentucky, U.S.A.; Schlitterbahn Galveston Island for Two Story Cabanas, Schlitterbahn Waterparks, Galveston Island, Texas, U.S.A.; Schlitterbahn Kansas City for “Verrückt” Waterslide and Media Campaign, Schlitterbahn Waterparks, Kansas City, Kansas, U.S.A.

• **Kelly Ogle Memorial Safety Award: Rick & Robin Doucett, Wild Waters, Silver Springs, Florida, U.S.A.; Karol Komar, Tinley Park-Park District, Tinley Park, Illinois, U.S.A.; Joe Stefanyak, Jeff Ellis & Associates, Inc., Ocoee, Florida, U.S.A.**

• **Leading Edge Award:** Aquaventure at Atlantis The Palm and WhiteWater West Industries Ltd. for the “Tower of Poseidon”; Cartoon Network Amazone and Polin Waterparks for their work on Cartoon Network Amazone; Center Parcs and ProSlide Technology Inc. and Water Technology Inc. for their work on the Subtropical Swimming Paradise at Center Parcs Woburn Forest; Village Roadshow Theme Parks and Myrtha Pools, ProSlide Technology Inc., Water Technology Inc. and WhiteWater West Industries Ltd. for their work on Wet’n’Wild Sydney

• **Emerging Leaders Employee of the Year Award: D.J. Auzenne, Schlitterbahn Waterparks, Galveston Island, Texas, U.S.A.; Joseph Beshears, Disney’s Blizzard Beach Water Park, Lake Buena Vista, Florida, U.S.A.; David Guida, Summit Family Aquatic Center, Summit, New Jersey, U.S.A.**

 **Also, the World Waterpark Association awarded its second Emerging Leaders Scholarship as part of its ongoing effort to support the Emerging Leaders Membership program. The Scholarship was created to give individuals in the beginning of their water leisure careers the opportunity to attend the WWA show. This year’s recipient was David Guida, a seasonal employee for the City of Summit’s Family Aquatic Center, Summit, New Jersey. Guida is also a full time student at Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey.**

“We continue to be blown away by the exceptional quality of scholarship applicants we received for the EL Scholarship program,” said Rick Root, WWA President. “We have some outstanding young people working in our industry and it is our goal to give them every opportunity to grow into our future leaders.”

Other scholarship finalists were: D.J. Auzenne, Schlitterbahn Galveston Island, Galveston Island, Texas, U.S.A.; Esmail Ebrahim Bakari Bwana, The Lost Paradise of Dilmun Water Park, Al-Areen, Bahrain; Aaron Forsythe, Roaring Springs Waterpark, Boise, Idaho, U.S.A.; Byron O’Donnell, Whale’s Tale Waterpark, Lincoln, New Hampshire, U.S.A.

**Wave Review Awards:**

Recipients of WWA’s popular Wave Review marketing competition were recognized during the Keynote Session on October 29, 2014. Winners’ work represented successful marketing campaigns from small public-sector facilities to large corporately owned waterparks. “Response to this year’s call for entries was one of the largest we have ever had with double digit increases in the number of parks represented,” said Aleatha Ezra, Director of Park Member Development. “We are thrilled to be able recognize the work of so many parks that are using such inspiring and creative approaches to building relationships with waterpark customers.”

Multi-category winners were: Adventure Park, Geelong, Victoria, Australia; Camelbeach Mountain Waterpark, Tannersville, Penn., U.S.A., Water World Water Park, Dothan, Alabama, U.S.A.; among others.

(The full list of Wave Review winners is available in a separate attachment.)