



Save Lake Superior Association Fall 2017

Dedicated to the restoration and preservation of this Great Lake

www.savelakesuperior.org

ARLENE LEHTO RECEIVES EXCELLENCE IN ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Every year, the Board of Directors of the Save Lake Superior Association (SLSA) grants the Excellence in Achievement Award to a member in recognition of their outstanding efforts directed toward meeting SLSA goals and objectives to preserve and protect Lake Superior. The 2017 Excellence in Achievement Award has been presented to Arlene Lehto.

Arlene Lind (Harvell) Lehto

Arlene grew up at her parent's Twin Points Resort on the North Shore of Lake Superior just south of the Split Rock Lighthouse. The property has since become a state protected lake access, with the adjacent shore area named for Arlene's mother Iona (Iona's Beach Scientific and Natural Area). Arlene was educated at the Two Harbors High School, the University of Minnesota in Duluth, and at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, where she graduated in 1984 with a Masters Degree in Public Administration.

In 1969, Arlene helped create the grass-roots organization SLSA, demanding the cleanup of the iron-ore mining derived pollution of Lake Superior by the Reserve Mining Company, co-owned by Republic and Armco Steel Companies, which was discharging 67,000 long tons of taconite tailings daily from its processing plant in Silver Bay, Minnesota.

To further pursue the objectives of environmental protection of Lake Superior and Minnesota's natural resources, Arlene served for three consecutive terms as a Duluth area representative in the Minnesota House of Representatives, where she worked with Rep. Willard Munger and others on numerous environmental issues, including acid rain, and mercury contamination in fish.

Arlene used her talents to educate students by teaching American Government at Westford Academy in Massachusetts, server on the Oro Valley Arizona Water Commission Advisory Board, and later freelance writing for the Arizona Citizen newspaper.

Her latest endeavors were directed at fighting the potential pollution from oil pipelines, and the threat that pipelines pose to the natural environments of Native Americans in the Midwest. Arlene has earned the title of



Arlene Lehto

“Water Warrior” for her continuous work to protect and preserve the water quality of Lake Superior and the surrounding environment.

SAVE LAKE SUPERIOR ASSOCIATION 48TH ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting was held on October 7, 2017 at Lafayette Park Square on Park Point in Duluth. The crowd enjoyed an excellent presentation by Dale Hoff, Director; USEPA Midcontinent Ecology Division. Mr. Hoff explained that the Duluth EPA laboratory is no longer a national laboratory but works with other branches on environmental projects. Most projects are specific to Lake Superior. Emerging contaminants including new chemicals that would threaten the lake are monitored. They focus on remediation and restoration of soils. Contaminated soils are revitalized through processing including oxidation. Unfortunately they haven’t focused on contaminants from proposed copper mining and processing since it has not entered the contamination phases of mining and processing on a massive scale.

The local mid-continent Ecology Division has just completed the long and arduous study of asbestos-like fibers that scientist Phil Cook began decades ago when lung cancers were detected at high rates on the eastern part of the Iron Range. They have confirmed that Cook’s data analysis is valid and shows that the historical definition of asbestos should be modified to include very short fibers with low aspect ratios. The chemical makeup of these fibers is also a significant factor, with ferroactinolite being by far the most toxic of these fibers. Unfortunately these fibers are present in the particles released in processing the taconite ore on the eastern end of the iron range. For some reason the mining companies are pressing the State of Minnesota to eliminate the “Control City Standard” developed by Judge Miles Lord during the Reserve Mining Trial. This standard requires that there be no more of these asbestos-like fibers (amphiboles and chrysotile) in the air of Silver Bay, Minnesota that there are in St. Paul, Minnesota. Mr. Cook would be pleased that his work on fiber toxicity has been successfully completed thanks to Mr. Hoff and his fellow scientists.



A Short Fiber

The Annual Meeting was concluded with the meeting of the Board of Directors, reelection of the current board officers and with an excellent lunch prepared by board member Tom Opfer and others who pitched in to help.

VERNA MIZE HONORED BY MICHIGAN WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

In about the same timeframe as Arlene Lehto, first SLSA President, was championing the fight against the pollution of Lake Superior by Reserve Mining Company in Minnesota, Verna Mize of Calumet, Michigan was lobbying Congressmen and politicians in Washington, D.C. to stop disposal of taconite tailings into Lake Superior at 67,000 tons per day. This duo in addition to Judge Miles Lord overcame huge corporate, state and local obstacles to spearhead the effort that stopped the dumping in 1980. Former MPCA Director Grant Merritt recalled that "In effect, Verna became the MPCA's Washington lobbyist on Reserve. In her own words, "The companies made professional reviews (to politicians). All I could do was pour my heart out". In the court case that lasted seven years, the U.S. Supreme Court, in 1980, directed Reserve to stop dumping! After 13 years, Verna Mize and many others had won!



Verna Mize

Verna was inducted into the "Michigan Women's Hall of Fame on October 18th, 2017. Save Lake Superior Association co-sponsored her as a thank you for the work she had done. Bob and Pat Tammen, also defenders of Lake Superior and its watershed, attended the induction ceremony representing SLSA. The water in the entire Lake is affected by pollution from many mining and processing operations around the entire lake. We need more champions like Verna Mize and Arlene Lehto both of whom we had the privilege of honoring this past month.

LeRoger Lind, President Save Lake Superior Association

Membership Dues

Please check your Newsletter mailing label for expiration date. If the year is not current, it needs to be updated.

Repeat of new dues structure:

ALL EXCEPT LIFETIME ARE PER PERSON PER YEAR

\$10 Fixed income	\$50 Sustaining	\$200 Lifetime
\$20 General	\$100 Benefactor	(per person)
\$30 Family		

The Lifetime option is only available to new members or members whose label is currently up-to-date.

Please designate your choice when you renew

We appreciate your interest as well as your support.

Save Lake Superior Ass'n
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