

2010

Society Presents 2010 State History Awards

The Historical Society of Michigan presented its 2010 State History Awards at the 136th Annual Meeting and State History Conference held October 15–17 in Frankenmuth. The awards were presented at the annual awards reception and banquet on Friday evening. The State History Awards are the highest recognition presented by the state's official historical society.

Fifteen awards were presented this year in a variety of categories including Publications: University and Commercial Press, Publications: Private Printing, Media, Communications, Educational Programs, Restoration/Preservation, Distinguished Volunteer Service, Special Programs and Events, and Lifetime Achievement.

This was the fourth year that the Historical Society presented its Lifetime Achievement Award, which honors men and women who have dedicated themselves to preserving Michigan's history over a significant amount of time.

The 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Iron County Historical and Museum Society charter member Marcia Webster Bernhardt. Bernhardt has worked for many decades to preserve the county's heritage, having spent more than 40 years as curator/director of the Iron County Museum in Caspian. Under her guidance, the museum has become a facility that stores important material and makes it available for visitors to enjoy and for scholars to use to conduct important research.

Bernhardt has also recruited community volunteers in every aspect of historical preservation. She has helped students research and write several publications and to produce historical productions. And, in 1985, with her husband, Harold, she established the Northern Historical Consortium with representatives from more than 20 historical organizations participating.

As a grant writer, Bernhardt was instrumental in securing dollars for numerous projects in the Upper Peninsula, including a \$100,000 grant to help build a cultural center and a second \$100,000 grant for building repair.

In addition to these achievements, Mrs. Bernhardt has written or edited numerous books as well as articles for such newspapers as the *Iron River Reporter* and the *Green Bay Press Gazette*.

In the category of Distinguished Volunteer Service, the Society recognized Sandy Stamm for her 20 years of work as a volunteer archivist and historian for the Plainwell area. Stamm organized and preserved the materials in the archival collection

at the Charles A. Ransom District Library, enabling easy access for researchers. She also developed a volunteer project to index the *Plainwell Enterprise*; because of her leadership, the years 1886–1944 have been completed.



Marcia Webster Bernhardt, winner of the 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award. Pictured with Kendall Wingrove.