

2009 Citizen of the Year unedited nomination text  
as submitted by members of the Onekama community.  
Assembled by Chuck Reed to provide background on those nominated April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009

- Randy Hopwood . He goes the extra step every day to help people out in the community, not only by fixing furnaces but helping people out with simple tasks that the elderly can not do. With more caring people in the world life would be a better place to live.
- Our nomination would be Dan Behring, as an individual.
- The Portage Lake Watershed Forever as an organization.
- Dave Meister for his tireless work as the Township Supervisor. He has spent many hours of work for the improvement and good of our community.
- Dan Behring. He is involved and active in many different areas in the community and he quickly offers his expertise to help others. A few examples are all the work he has done on the planning commission, master plan, PLA projects, watershed projects, Lion's club activities. He volunteers many hours to work on ways we can improve our community.
- I vote for dave combs .there is a person that gives more of his time for everything that is asked of him
- Bob Bennett for the "Citizen of the Year" award. Altho we are not full time residents and spend only about a month in the area all year long, we have been impressed with all the energy & enthusiasm Bob has expended toward the inception and development of North Park. He obviously was passionate about the park possibility as a very positive solution for saving a wetlands area. It was his perseverance and pursuit of a dream expressed by Blanch Miller that continued to propel him into action--resulting in the culmination of a treasure that North Park is today!  
North Park will continue to be an outstanding example of a heretofore useless area that was transformed into a quiet, natural, safe retreat to be enjoyed by many generations to come.  
In his quiet, unassuming way, Bob Bennett has put his money and energy where his mouth is--leaving a legacy of monumental importance that will become even richer with time
- Emily Bernard, she has encouraged family members and friends to be a part of the Portage Lake community for 70 years. She passed way on Dec. 27, 2008 at the age of 91. I can get with the family members to see what organizations she belonged to. She may be a charter member of PLA. If you want me to persue this, please let me know
- We feel that Mary Reed would be an outstanding nominee for the following reasons:
  1. Very active officer of PLA
  2. Outstanding effort on behalf of PLWF in areas of Phragmite, and other weed control programs
  3. Active member of Jr Clio Club
  4. Active with the Petunia Parade
- nominate Mary Reed for all of her work on invasive species.
- I nominate Marilyn Acker for arranging the scarecrows and supporting the onekama welcome sign effort.
- My nominations are Chuck and Mary Reed.  
I do not know all of the ways that you two have contributed to the

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community as I am a new member of that community. However, I have a feeling that you were both founders of PLA and have held various offices throughout your membership. Now Chuck is the vice president. Mary has been secretary and is chair of the extremely active Phragmites and Invasive Species Committee.

Both Chuck and Mary are extremely kind and innovative individuals. They go out of their way to make new people in Onekama feel at home. They are just good people.

- I would like to nominate Mike Acton for his efforts regarding the [Portage Lake Watershed](#) Forever Plan
- If I could, I'd nominate several people: Mary, because of all the work she put into the invasive plant species project,
- Suzanne Scwing, because of her wetlands efforts,
- Doug Calloway, because of his work on the Onekama sign,
- Margaret and George Panches
- Roger - etc.. I don't envy your job if you have to decide.
- I nominate Mary Reed for her tireless efforts in preventing [invasive species](#) in the [Portage Lake watershed](#). She has devoted her time to the study of the plants and what to do to combat them. She has attended many meetings in and out of town and has organized a group to carry forth this project.
- Paul & Jane Mueller - They have been involved in everything for several years. I believe they deserve the award.
- Doug Calloway - He put alot of time & work in the signs. We know from trying to do this in the past that it's not an easy task.
- Seems to me the one group that embodies the goals of the community and the PLA that worked this year is the Leadership Team for the development of the new master plan. Second, the Invasive species team seems to achieve some of the goals of the PLA and the community
- As an individual, a person that comes highly recommended would be Mary Reed
- Brian & Cheryl Kessel, They've put alot of work into this community both by opening businesses and by volunteering and supporting the PLA in the past.
- My nomination is for Chuck and Mary Reed. They have been hardworking board members of the PLA for many years, and their efforts have not gone unnoticed by us all. They put in many hours of work on the booklet for the [annual fund raiser](#), as well as donor contacts and [event planning](#). It would be very tough to do this event without their vast amount of knowledge and help. They are also heading up the public awareness of

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the [invasive species](#) in and around [Portage Lake](#). They take an active part in all community events, and would be excellent representatives as Onekama citizens of the year for 2009.