## **Wisconsin Archeological Society**

## **Awards Committee**

## Robert E. Ritzenthaler Distinguished Service Award

## Purpose, Process, and Criteria for Evaluation Created December 2012

The Robert E. Ritzenthaler Award recognizes long term significant contributions to The Wisconsin Archeology Society in honoring the memory of Robert Ritzenthaler, a long time Society officer and editor of *The Wisconsin Archeologist* from the 1950s into the early 1970s. The award has been presented by the Wisconsin Archaeological Society on an infrequent basis since 1972 and is now considered the Society's highest recognition. The award consists of a brass facsimile of the cover of the journal during the period of Ritzenthaler's editorship with the recipient's name and date of award engraved in the lower half, which is mounted on a wood backing (See attached image). The original design and wood mold for the brass casting was crafted by Neil Ostberg.

The primary purpose of the Ritzenthaler Award is to recognize long-term service to The Wisconsin Archeological Society. The following list of Criteria was established for the initial series of Ritzenthaler Awards and remains in effect with one clarification on who can nominate:

- "1. The proposed recipient must be a member of The Wisconsin Archeological Society, in good standing, who has over a period of years given exemplary service to the Society, its members, and the archaeological community in general.
- 2. Service shall be considered on a long-term basis. For example, service to the Society by an officer, even if exceptional, will not be sufficient criteria for receipt of the award. However, a member that has held numerous positions, worked on various committees, and been generally active in the operations of the Society, as well as performed meritoriously to improve the operation, image, and community standing of the Society, shall have performed exemplary service.
- 3. The vocational and avocational shall be considered on the same basis, because the opportunity to participate and give service to the society is equal.
- 4. All members of the Awards Committee have the right to nominate, and the responsibility to approve or disapprove potential award recipients. The chairman of the committee has the responsibility of disseminating information to all committee members.

5. The vote of approval concerning award recipients must be unanimous."

Wayne Hazlett (1977):—Update Report: Awards Committee The Wisconsin Archeological Society. The <u>Wisconsin Archeologist</u> 58(4): 302)

For clarification, in additional to Award Committee members, any member of the Society may submit a Lapham Research Award nomination at any time. The nomination should follow the attached format and be submitted to the current chair of the Society's Awards Committee (contact information on the form). The Awards Committee will review the nomination packet within 45 days of receipt of a complete packet. The Committee may request additional information from the nominator during the evaluation process.

Upon approval of award designation, the Awards Committee Chair will notify the Society Board of the decision. The Committee Chair will also then coordinate with the current Society President to have a Ritzenthaler Award engraved with the name of the recipient and date of award, and to plan for a presentation at a Society function, preferably either the spring or fall meeting.

