

This year the John Krall Award is being presented to Bill Conway.

This volunteer has been a member of our community since 2004. Originally from Illinois, he spent time as a youngster with his family in our nearby forests and developed a love for the outdoors and the forests. The forest that makes up a big part of our natural beauty may be what attracted him to Arrowhead.

His service to the community has been outstanding and he has done far more than his job as Forest Manager requires. His contributions started long before his current role. He assisted our first forest manager for many years and helped develop our beetle mitigation strategy. He has been a valuable asset to our community as a whole and to the Fire Department and the AIA specifically.

He has demonstrated a devoted commitment to save our community from deforestation from the beetle epidemics occurring throughout western Colorado. He has done an outstanding job fighting off the tree beetles by promoting and running the MCH program and educating the community on how to preserve our forest. Bill coordinates putting up MCH packs for owners that aren't able to put the packs up themselves. He arranges for other fire department volunteers to put packs up in for owners and in common areas. Also, Bill puts up a significant number of these packs by himself.

Having retired from the US Forest Service he continues to work with the our local Forest Service regarding logging projects to help keep our community aware of activities occurring that effect our safety and the quiet enjoyment of our time at Arrowhead.

Bill has managed the Arrowhead Cleanup Day for quite some time now. Prior to the event day he spends a great deal of time cutting up trees and slash and making piles for the volunteers to pick up. Many areas get flagged ahead of time so volunteers know where to stop. He coordinates the volunteers on the event day to efficiently get the job done. At times he gets free additional help from contractors who provide machine loaders or help cut down beetle infested trees so volunteers can pick up and haul the slash. This requires significant hours on his part prior to each event day. We routinely have approximately 70 people attend some of these Cleanup Days.

Bill is also a major part of the Fire Department. Bill has been very active with the F. D. and is still our current wildfire expert teaching classes on fighting wildfires as well as their behavior. His Forest Service background allows him to conduct detailed wildland fire training for the F. D. team. He also has done medical First Responder work. This takes many additional hours of his personal time.

During the mock evacuation practice exercise a few years ago, Bill provided much needed expertise with setting up the subdivision into blocks so teams knew where to provide evacuation information to owners. He also worked closely with the Gunnison Emergency Management group to help make this exercise a success.

In all he does he is supported by his wife, Bonnie. Together they are a valuable team that adds to our community. They are the type of people we all are proud to call our friends and neighbors.

It is with all of Arrowhead's gratitude that we give the 2019 John Krall Award to