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Glacier Park Biologist Wins Jack Potter Award

Scientist Uses Wits and Dedication to Understand and Protect Natural Wonders

June 1, 2016

Dear Friend!:

Headwaters Montana is pleased to announce the 2015 recipient of the [Jack Potter Glacier National Park Stewardship Award](#) established to promote stewardship of Glacier Park's spectacular natural resources.

Park wildlife biologist **Lisa Bate** of Kalispell will receive the award from Headwaters Montana this May.



Lisa Bate, the 2015 Jack Potter

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Lisa exemplifies the key attributes behind the Stewardship Award. She loves the Park, and she works intelligently and with determination to understand and protect the big as well as small wonders of Glacier. Even those little things like bats, that people don't even know they come to Glacier to enjoy!

Lisa began as a seasonal wildlife technician and was rapidly promoted to more demanding project work. She led the wildlife mitigation work for reconstruction of the Going to the Sun Road. Simultaneously, she coordinated the harlequin duck study that led to the discovery of the ducks wintering ground in Puget Sound, Washington.

Speaking of bats, Lisa's conducted the park's first bat study

*Glacier National Park
Stewardship Award recipient
holding a Harlequin Duck
chick that she just banded for
research. (Photo courtesy of
Lisa Bate)*

that led to the discovery of two new bat species living in the park. She has also assumed the leadership of the Breeding Bird Survey that monitors breeding success in the park. And she contributes annually to the Citizen Science Program in Glacier that allows visitors to participate in the Park's scientific research.

Lisa's passion for wildlife and education don't stop at the park boundary. She is always ready and willing to give public presentations, assist teachers with science education, and apply her expertise to local conservation issues. One Park official has said of Lisa, "We are super-fortunate to have her. She would be an excellent choice as the first winner of the Potter Award."



Lisa Bate, second from right (of course) with her "Bat Crew,"... (Photo courtesy of Lisa Bate)

Headwaters Montana established the award in 2011 after the retirement of Jack Potter, a 40-year veteran of Glacier Park. Potter retired from the park as Chief of Science and Resources. He was known for his vigorous defense and advocacy of the Park's natural resources, sometimes in opposition to forces looking to be expedient or financial rather than custodial.

The award is really about taking a courageous and enthusiastic stand for stewardship of Glacier's natural resources. Each recipient of the award must demonstrate that they acted above and beyond the call of duty. Lisa Bate surely meets this tough criterion.

The award consists of a hand-blown glass sculpture trophy of a water ouzel donated by Bigfork glass artist [Lee Proctor](#) and a cash award of \$200.

Readers interested in information about other recipients of the Potter Award or wishing to nominate a candidate can visit the [Headwaters Montana website](#). Know someone worthy of the Potter Award? Nominations for the 2016 award will remain open until October 30.

Cheers!



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