

# PPFA honors Annual Award recipients

PPFA honored the following members during the PPFA Member Meeting and Luncheon held January 19 at the PPFA 2014 Annual Conference, Bally's Hotel, Las Vegas, Nev., concurrent with the West Coast Art & Frame Expo/The National Conference.

PPFA President John Pruitt, CPF, presented the winners with their respective awards, assisted by Linda Wassell, MCPF, chair of the PPFA Awards & Recognition Committee.

.....

## Paul Frederick Distinction for Leadership Award: Mark Klostermeyer, MCPF



Mark Klostermeyer, MCPF, Design Frames, Falls Church, Va., has spent an entire career in service to PPFA, serving for many years on the chapter level; he

continues to be a dedicated and active National Capital chapter member.

Mark has spent many years on a variety of national PPFA committees and boards, including Certification, Chapter Relations, Board of Directors and PPFA President. He also served as a judge in chapter and International competitions. He was one of the first Certified Picture Framers and Master Certified Picture Framers and is an MCPF examiner.

Mark also serves on the PMA Board, which benefits from his exceptional skills of organization as well as his ability to relate on a personal level to members.



PPFA Service Award:  
Susan Gittlen, MCPF  
Susan Gittlen, MCPF, Whispering Woods Gallery, Holland, Pa., has been a PPFA member for 27 years, holding a leadership position since 2005; and is a Master Certified Picture Framer.

Sue served as president of the New Jersey/Delaware

Valley chapter for two years and for the past year served as treasurer of the Metro-Atlantic chapter. For the past eight years, she has been chapter librarian and Webmaster, and is a chapter competition judge. She launched the chapter Facebook page, and a regular Constant Contact newsletter and had chapter business cards made for suppliers and members to distribute.

She has led visits to museums, organized innovative meetings involving suppliers, and works with suppliers to bring in new members. Under her direction, the chapter has held tile framing competitions and dessert challenges to involve and inspire members.

Last year, Sue chaired the PPFA Chapter Relations Committee and spearheaded a very successful Chapter Leaders conference. She currently serves on the Chapter Relations Committee and Membership Committee.

.....

## Vivian Kistler Recognition for Innovation Award: Paul Hickman, Urban Ashes



Paul Hickman, owner of Urban Ashes in Ann Arbor, Mich., turns trees blighted by the Emerald Ash Borer into picture frames and uses a work force of transitional and disabled labor.

His Work Skills crew went from one full time person to five over the past year.

Using bootstrap funding, Paul brought together partners to see his vision through. From a humble start in his studio, Urban Ashes is now in over 114 retail partners and stores, in 24 states and one Canadian province. He is now utilizing a wide variety of downed urban trees, and has partnered with a Detroit organization that is teaching construction skills to a displaced transitional work force by deconstructing abandoned housing and keeping wood out of landfills. The result is his Detroit De-Nailed line of frames.

Paul – who participates in the new PPFA Member Advantage Program and is a member of the Great Lakes chapter – took a leap of faith, kept his vision big, created jobs, kept a viable resource from ending up in the land-fill, and created a beautiful product.

.....