

Slattery Named Glenwood Springs Chamber's Citizen of the Year

Cabinet maker and traveler is honored for volunteerism and philanthropy

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Friends and family, including his wife, Judy, applaud Bill Slattery after he was named the Glenwood Springs Chamber Resort Association's 2008 Citizen of the Year.

Photo by: Kara K. Pearson/Post Independent

GLENWOOD SPRINGS — Consummate volunteer, unassuming master craftsman, world class hunter and all around great guy Bill Slattery won the Glenwood Springs Chamber Resort Association's 2008 Citizen of the Year award.

"Bill is a very unassuming but extremely generous philanthropist who doesn't seek public credit for his contributions," said Marianne Virgili, president and CEO of the chamber. "He has touched the lives of many in this community and is truly a good Samaritan."

Active at St. Stephen's Church, Slattery is the kind of guy who's volunteered and served as an usher every Sunday for 30 years. He quietly built and donated thousands of dollars worth of altars, woodworking and construction projects to the school and two churches over the past 45 years, one of his nomination letters says.

In a video presented in honor of Slattery at the chamber ball Saturday, Rolf Hermanson said Slattery is a great photographer, a mentor to many, and a friend to all.

"You're just an all around great guy," Hermanson said.

Slattery's list of participation in service organizations and accomplishments makes the Sears Tower seem short. He began volunteering as a young man with the Glenwood Springs Jaycees. He also volunteered as a ski-patroller at the short-lived Red Mountain Ski Area. He's donated his blood to Valley View Hospital for 30 years along with a substantial amount of money to the hospital foundation, among other things.

The Wisconsin native moved here 45 years ago and opened the Modern Cabinet Shop and later the Modern Kitchen Center. In his humble way, he had no idea his masterful work would quickly spread and end up attracting the attention of stars in Aspen.

Slattery helped build homes for John Denver, Lucille Ball and Prince Bandar. He helped build the boardwalk at Hanging Lake and the shelter and tables at Veltus Park.

Mary Steinbrecher, who won last year's award, said Slattery has hunted in Canada, Asia, Siberia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Nepal, Mongolia and Hawaii and has visited Rome, Turkey, Berlin, China and

Korea along the way.

"When he travels, he brings iodized salt, toys and candy to the children and visits hospitals and schools to educate about thyroid disease," she said.

Slattery's trips have been chronicled in national magazines, in which he's contributed photographs and writing several times.

At Saturday's ball, Slattery received Mark Lemon's painting of longtime rancher Adolph Diemoz on his horse Sonny. The painting was selected from the Fall Arts Festival themed "legends of Glenwood." Slattery's trip with Diemoz up Mount Sopris for Diemoz' 80th birthday made the gift all the more appropriate, Steinbrecher said.

Slattery received a standing ovation and whistles.

"Well, I'm not used to this," Slattery said. "This is unbelievable."