

DAWN MUSSELMAN INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER 2002

The Pacific Northwest Association Local Masters Swimming Committee proudly presents the 2002 Dawn Musselman Inspirational Swimmer Award to **Barb Gundred**.

Barb, you have been an active PNA Masters Swimmer since the early 1980s. You have served as a Meet Director for several Bellingham meets, the PNA Championships, and the first PNA-sponsored Open Water swim last year. You were an instructor at many of the PNA clinics and our Hospitality Chair for the 2001 USMS Nationals. You have long been a World Class swimmer, ranked in the World Top Ten year after year from many age groups. This past year your swimming career reached a zenith with two World Records at the USMS Short Course Championships. It is important to note that you have achieved these successes in spite of a serious illness a few years back which left you partially disabled.

But your teammate Ian Thompson says the real reason you deserve this award is for your inspiration as coach of the Bellingham Masters Swim Team. "When Barb joined me in the early 80s we formed the Bellingham team. Over the years one or the other of us have coached the workouts. For the past 6-7 years Barb has taken on full responsibility as Coach. As a direct result our team size now approaches fifty members, growing from the "small" team category to "large" at PNA Champs. Year after year this team includes a host of national and world ranked swimmers.

"In addition, there is a large group of fitness swimmers and actually the predominant group of our team is triathletes, including a Hawaiian Ironman Champion and several qualifiers. Barb has provided good leadership and inspiration to all these swimmers. She has been a friend and supporter of many who have gone through crisis. She is affectionately known as "Mother Barb" for her listening ear and comforting support. Barb does all of this at no charge, free, gratis, to the swimmers of Bellingham for the love of swimming and for the good of the sport. I consider her among my closest friends."

Megan Bussart adds, "Barb's so driven to swim and to do it better each time... She gets up at the crack of dawn to give us a workout just because she loves the sport. She likes to make athletes." David Austin concludes, "She gives selflessly to our team and to the PNA. Barb has truly made the Bellingham team something for everyone interested in swimming. She is a fantastic coach and lady."

Barb, for your inspiration to your team and example for our organization, the PNA is proud to recognize you as the Dawn Musselman Inspirational Swimmer for 2002.

For the PNA Board:

Lee Carlson, President

For the Nominating Committee:

Steve Peterson

