

# NHLGPA's Person of the Year: Jan Voit

By Kelli Nerem

As I thought about this article for NHLGPA's 2011 Person of the year, two words kept surfacing: dedication and steadfastness. The President's Q and A with Jan Voit provides a lot of background information for this year's Person of the Year, but what cannot be found in that article is the sheer dedication Jan exhibits. Her personality and demeanor

## ded•i•cate

–verb

1. to set apart and consecrate to a deity or to a sacred purpose.
2. to devote wholly and earnestly, as to some person or purpose.
3. to offer formally (a book, piece of music, etc.) to a person, cause, or the like in testimony of affection or respect, as on a prefatory page.

or let her do nothing less than the best. Besides working full time, she balances her time as a mother, wife, daughter, sister and aunt with as much dedication. Jan is also active in her church and community. In addition, for several years, she has assisted NHLGPA with selecting, ordering and selling the NHLGPA clothing. She also volunteers her time to assist with the NHLGPA Banquet setup and take down.

As a former employee of the HLWD, I have seen Jan's dedication firsthand. She typically is at the office before 6 a.m., just so she can get a jump start on the day! She is also a self-proclaimed introvert and yet, her position as district administrator pushes her out of her comfort zone through planning, leading and presenting at events and meetings. In addition, Jan has worked for the HLWD for over 25 years. That in itself is dedication!



Jan Voit

to the HLWD and the Heron Lake area, these opportunities would have been limited.

Changes to farming practices, land use, funding sources and regulations have created a feast and famine mindset, and yet Jan has remained. There have been some rough waters that she and the HLWD managers have weathered through the years, and yet she has remained. These changes

## stead•fast

–adjective

1. fixed in direction; steadily directed.
2. firm in purpose, resolution, faith, attachment, etc., as a person.
3. unwavering, as resolution, faith, adherence

show her steadfastness and commitment to Heron Lake and its watershed residents. Jan's dedication and steadfastness are worthy of noting, and she is very deserving of the 2011 NHLGPA's Person of the Year award.

One of the successes touted by the HLWD is the long-term relationships and partnerships formed over the years. These partnerships have created opportunities for bringing conservation dollars into the watershed, provided a quality internship program for over 26 students and educated watershed residents about various environmental topics. Without Jan's dedication and steadfastness