

PNA 2023 Coach of the Year

Wendy Neely has been at the helm of the Blue Wave Aquatic Club (formerly the Federal Way Masters workout group) for well over 20 years and was honored as the inaugural “PNA Coach of the Year” award recipient in 2020.

She received numerous endorsements from her team’s members and the award selection committee consisted of 4 previous Coach of the Year award recipients and one board member.

Wendy was credited by many for the dedication she has shown to BWAQ by sustaining the club through the pandemic. When the pools were closed, she introduced members to the wonders of swimming in the area lakes and the sound. She created zoom-based workshops to keep team members connected. Wendy revived the club’s “fish out of water” gatherings, which included informal social events at parks, food establishments, and local breweries. She led meditation classes and book clubs. And, unrelated to the pandemic, Wendy was lauded for making Masters Swimming more accessible to more people in the region by expanding the workouts to multiple pools and providing a program that serves swimmers of all abilities.

Wendy has fostered a team that embodies Masters Swimming – an organization that promotes health, wellness, and community . . . and healthy competition for those who want it!

Congratulations to Wendy Neely – the 2023 PNA Coach of the Year!