

* * * 2021 MECTA AWARDS BALLOT * * *

John Maley Award, which will be presented to the outstanding thrower of the season. Competitors in the shot put, discus, and turbo jav are eligible. This award is presented in memory of John Maley, an IDEXX employee and team captain, who died in 2012.

- Kathy DiPhilippo (South Portland)
- Mike Hansen (Bath Iron Works)
- Jillian Kellough (MaineHealth)
- Mike Martin (Unum)

Tim Smith Award, which will be presented to the outstanding distance runner of the season. Runners competing in the 800m, 1600m, 3200m, 5000m and 5k events are eligible. This award is presented in memory of Tim Smith, a Unum employee who died in 1987.

- Carl Comstock (Unum)
- Thomas Harvey (MaineHealth)
- Kali McGown & Jacob Brady (IDEXX)

Judy Hairsine Award, which will be presented to the outstanding jumper and/or sprinter. Competitors in the high jump, long jump, and races 400 meters and under are eligible. This award is presented in honor of Judy Hairsine, a record setting jumper from Unum.

- Kyle Cunningham (MaineHealth)
- Skyler Horrigan (South Portland)

Peter Cooley Award, which will be presented to the outstanding team contributor (other than a captain) who best meets the same criteria outlined in the Cheryl Gilbert Award. This award is presented in memory of Peter Cooley, an IDEXX employee and runner, who died in the spring of 2004 during an ascent of Mt. Rainier in Washington state.

- Kate Foley (South Portland)
- Tamara Schwartz (MaineHealth)
- David Young (L.L. Bean)

Cheryl Gilbert Award, which will be presented to the outstanding team captain who:

- represents the spirit of wellness and participation,
- makes significant contributions to the successful operation of the team,
- has been a captain and/or MECTA member for at least two years,
- serves as a role model for other team and MECTA members,
- trains to participate at a personal competitive level,
- participates in multiple events, and participates in at least 75% of MECTA meets.

This award was renamed in 2018 to honor the long time captain of Bath Iron Works, Cheryl Gilbert. Cheryl has led the BIW team for over 30 years, served as MECTA president for over a decade, and continues to serve on the MECTA Board.

- Barbara LaVallee (MaineHealth)
- Laura Peterson Gervais (IDEXX)
- Cindy Senkbeil (Bath Iron Works)

NOMINEE INFORMATION

JOHN MALEY AWARD – Outstanding Thrower

Kathy DiPhilippo (South Portland)

Season after season Kathy competes in all three throwing events, and season after season she always ranks as one of the top throwers in her division. 2021 is no different as she leads in both the discus and turbo jav, and ranks second in the shot put.

2021 stats: Shot = 22' 2", Discus = 56' 3", Turbo Jav = 59' 1"

Mike Hansen (Bath Iron Works)

Competing amongst a powerful group of teammates in a deep division, Mike has the best throws in the shot put and discus, and is five inches shy of the top javelin throw. For BIW, he has been a tremendous help to Cheryl getting out an Employee Service Announcement to all employees, providing guidance on how to get monetary support from the company for MECTA dues and new uniforms, and even leading the team when needed. What most people don't see is that Mike is always one of the first people to arrive at meets (well over an hour before start time.) When you arrive and find the sandwich boards in place (listing rules & records), benches nearby, and the throwing circles immaculately cleaned out and ready for action, know that it was Mike preparing all those places so we can enjoy the competition.

2021 stats: Shot = 37' 0", Discus = 119' 2", Turbo Jav = 84' 6"

Jillian Kellough (MaineHealth)

In only her second season, Jillian has come out of her shell and is constantly bettering her throws, and plans to dip her toe into the Throwers' Relay.

2021 stats: Shot = 21' 10³/₄", Discus = 49' 2", Turbo Jav = 43' 7"

Mike Martin (Unum)

Aside from holding three Unum records and being the MECTA treasurer, Mike is an amazing person, athlete, and supporter of the league. Mike had the top shot put throw of any age or gender in two of the three meets – only two throwers from other teams have topped that all year. He has also been first or second in the discus each week. Mike anchors the Throwers' Relay taking a second and a first this season. At the rescheduled second meet, MECTA was short officials and Mike offered to run the shot put instead of throw himself before being relieved by a late arriving worker - still a nice gesture. Along with insurmountable personal tragedy in his life, Mike has rebounded well and is a deserving honoree.

2021 stats: Shot = 36' 3¹/₂", Discus = 97' 9", Turbo Jav = 67' 6"

TIM SMITH AWARD – Outstanding Distance Runner

Carl Comstock (Unum)

Carl is the only ongoing member of the Unum track team that started in 1986. Since his retirement, Carl has supported MECTA by driving from Vermont to be at all our state meets. Two years ago he suffered a knee injury while long jumping that required medical treatment and surgery. He has returned with a vengeance. A personal family matter has forced him to remain in Maine and he has been at, and excellent in, every meet. Carl holds 11 Unum records and, at age 83, runs like the wind. In 2021, Carl has crushed the competition and now holds five MECTA records. Having previously set the 800 mark, Carl tied the 400 record this season, and also set new standards in the 1600, 3200, and 5000 taking six minutes off the 3200 record, and nine minutes off the 5000. Carl's range is incredible jumping and running from 100 to 5K (even winning the 100 once this year), and is still going strong from the days when Carl and Tim Smith were young runners at Unum.

2021 Stats: 800 = 4:45.8, 1600 = 10:26.4, 3200 = 21:54.5, 5000 = 36:05.0, 5K = 39:09.0

Thomas Harvey (MaineHealth)

In his first MECTA season, Thomas can always be found with the leaders in any distance race and has the top submaster time in the 3200.

2021 Stats: 800 = 2:18:0, 1600 = 5:14.4 3200 = 10:19.7, 5K = 16:39.0

Kali McGown & Jacob Brady (IDEXX)

IDEXX's dynamic duo had standout seasons and are nominated together as the top distance runner. Kali started the season by running the fastest women's Kick-off 5K ever. She went on to compete in every single distance event (in every single meet) during the regular season, finishing as the top overall finisher every time. Not limiting herself to the long races, she has also competed in the 100, 200, 400 and relays, and is the leading scorer in her division. Jacob has the top overall times in the league at 1600, 3200, and 5000 (where he set the M18-29 league record.) Both runners will compete in this year's Maine Marathon.

Kali 2021 Stats: 800 = 2:38.5, 1600 = 5:31.4, 3200 = 11:57.9, 5000 = 18:50.0, 5K = 19:21.0

Jacob 2021 Stats: 800 = 2:26.7, 1600 = 5:07.0, 3200 = 10:16.0, 5000 = 17:07.0

NOMINEE INFORMATION

JUDY HAIRSINE AWARD – Outstanding Sprinter/Jumper

Kyle Cunningham (MaineHealth)

A MECTA rookie, returning to running after 20 years, has performed very well and is always eager to fill holes in any relay.

2021 Stats: 100 = 13.5, 200 = 31.6

Skyler Horrigan (South Portland)

From his early days in the fire department, Skyler has been a fixture on the South Portland team and is now in his 8th season. He started as a sprinter, learned the throws and then branched out to all that MECTA offers. In fact, at the season opening Kick-off he competed in every single event (5K, 300 hurdles, 200, relay, all throws.) He makes his biggest contributions to his team however by being available for any and all relay legs. You will always see him in at least two relays, but more often three or even four which of course means he may race back to back or even three times in a row when the team needs it. This season he has competed on two winning 4x200 teams, the top open 4x100, anchored two winning 3 lap sprint relays (including the league's fastest), twice run the 200 leg of the throwers' relay (including the league best time), and anchored South Portland's league record Decade 4x100. Skyler exhibits a calm, quiet demeanor off the track while simultaneously being a beast on the track.

2021 Stats: 100 = 13.2, 200 = 27.9, 400 = 1:02.8, 300 hurdles = 1:06.3

NOMINEE INFORMATION

PETER COOLEY AWARD – Outstanding Team Contributor

Kate Foley (South Portland)

Kate eats, sleeps, and breathes the team player mentality. She is cheery, friendly, and extremely welcoming to others regardless of what team they may be on. She continues to find ways to contribute to her team even if that means going out of her comfort zone. At an early practice, her captain remarked the team would be short in the W30-39 this season to which she replied, “I’ll run every race.” He didn’t realize she was serious. In three meets, she has competed in every single race that MECTA offers (both hurdle races, all dashes, and all distances from 800-5000, even the 5K at the Kick-off.) She’s either at practice or mailing captains to make sure she’s doing the same workouts as the team when she can’t make it in person. Even though she is not a captain, Kate volunteered her services to MECTA on the Meet Management Committee where she provided perspective and information gathered from her own job to help MECTA develop protocols to keep athletes safe and the league in compliance with all COVID regulations and CDC recommendations. Kate’s selflessness and determination extend beyond her team and are an inspiration to all.

Tamara Schwartz (MaineHealth)

Tamara epitomizes the ideal teammate. She’ll attempt almost any running event, and jump in any relay where she’s needed despite having never been a track runner. She is encouraging and inspiring to all of us.

David Young (L.L. Bean)

David’s dedication to Maine Corporate Track and his team is truly remarkable. This summer David has not missed a meet. You can find him in almost every running event from the 100 meter dash to the 5K. His passion for the sport and willingness to run in most events is inspiring. At the last meet he ran the 100, 400, 800, and 3200. More impressively, the 800, 100, 3200 were back to back and he placed in the top three in each. David’s positivity for running is admirable and what most strive for. When not competing, you can find David with his camera taking great snapshots of all which he posts at Maine Running Photos. L.L. Bean feels lucky to have him on their team and part of the Maine running community.

CHERYL GILBERT AWARD – Outstanding Team Captain

Barbara LaVallee (MaineHealth)

Barbara is in her second term as MECTA President and led the league through its most challenging time amid two seasons of uncertainty brought on by the COVID pandemic. Bringing the captains together virtually, she helped the group navigate an enormous (and ever changing) number of COVID regulations to make the 2021 season happen. Through many hours of meetings, she formed committees to examine the many regulatory pieces and took the lead on the all important COVID committee which had to make sure we checked all necessary boxes to keep everyone safe and get our meets insured.

Despite injuries that should have sidelined her, she still broke the league record in the hurdles and used herself to fill holes in relays to make sure her teammates could still compete as a team. A grateful team member comments, “I’m new to the league...Barb made a big effort to make me feel like I’ve been on the team for years. Even when she was loaded with things to take care of, she would stop and answer my questions without hesitating and always with a positive attitude.”

Laura Peterson Gervais (IDEXX)

A force on the track, Laura recorded the fastest overall women’s 100 time this season, and is also the top submaster in the long jump and 200. As a captain, she always assembles a strong team including an undefeated group of open women. On the MECTA side, she brings a knowledgeable track voice to all Board discussions, and served on the Competition Committee that listed potential event modifications needed to safely hold meets during a global pandemic. Beyond corporate track, you’ll find her active in the community including officiating local track meets.

Cindy Senkbeil (Bath Iron Works)

Cindy is a valuable asset to her team and has been since she joined the team as a new employee over 30 years ago. She’s rarely missed a meet since. She became co-captain shortly after joining BIW and has been one of the best team players and co-captains Cheryl could ask for. At the meets she takes charge of their whiteboard listing the order of events, organizes relay teams, and participates in any event needed. She is an excellent thrower and will sprint as long as it’s a 100 or maybe a 200 if begged. She is very willing to show new throwers the correct technique, always claps, cheers on and congratulates all athletes. She is even willing to help “pull the tape” or retrieve shots and discs for others when needed. Cheryl says, “Cindy is not only my co-captain, but a great friend.”
