

## Gary Thompson: 2012 ATV instructor of the year



**Gary Thompson, left, is the seventh name added to the ATV Instructor of the Year plaque, as presented by 2nd Lt. Leland Owens.**

use of an ATV and respect for laws and conservation,” said 2nd Lt. Leland Owens, DNR Enforcement recreational vehicle coordinator.

DNR conservation officers work closely with 825 ATV volunteer safety instructors. Through the efforts of these instructors, about 2,500 ATVers have graduated from ATV safety education courses annually since 1985. “Without the work of volunteer instructors, educating ATV operators would be an impossible job,” Owens said. **OR**

Gary Thompson of Detroit Lakes has been named the Minnesota DNR’s 2012 ATV volunteer instructor of the year.

In the past eight years, Thompson has certified more than 450 students and encouraged seven individuals to become DNR certified ATV safety training instructors.

“This award recognizes outstanding individuals such as Gary Thompson who make significant contributions to educating youths on the safe