

## **The Buffalo News Outstanding Citizens for 2012**

July 7, 2013

### **Paul Leuchner**

An aquatic biologist now retired from the Army Corps of Engineers, Paul Leuchner has been a tireless advocate for parks, the environment and maximizing the connecting trails that are part of the Niagara Greenway. The Grand Island resident founded Paddles Up Niagara in 2006 and still serves as chairman. The event has brought hundreds of participants and visitors to a family-friendly canoe and kayak event on the Niagara River off Beaver Island. He was appointed by Gov. George Pataki to the Niagara River Greenway Commission, serving from 2005 to 2009, and now serves as commissioner emeritus on the Past Commissioners Advisory Committee. Leuchner successfully pursued a plan to build a handicapped-accessible launch ramp for canoes and kayaks in the East River Marsh in Ferry Village at Beaver Island State Park and to create the Spaulding Trail that links the Beaver Island Parkway Trail to the East River Marsh. After completing this project he proposed a similar paddlecraft launch in the City of Tonawanda that now operates at Eastern Park on Ellicott Creek.