



The Alliance Environmental Leadership Award

In 2001, The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay established its Environmental Leadership Award in honor of Frances H. Flanigan's 23-year career of leadership and partnership building throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed as Executive Director of the Alliance. The award is presented in the fall of each year at the Alliance's benefit gala, the Taste of the Chesapeake.

Nominations are open to any individual:

- 1) who has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay's land and water, and whose career or personal commitment and work have had a meaningful and lasting impact on the environment, and
- 2) whose efforts have been consistent with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's mission to lead, support and inspire local action and help create collaborative solutions to advance the cause of environmental stewardship in the watershed.

Nominees may be employees or volunteers who represent organizations, agencies, or businesses, but it is the individual who will be recognized as the award recipient and not his/her organization. Philanthropy alone will not qualify someone for this award, but may be part of his/her commitment to the environment. Only one award winner is selected each year and, he/she should be one who is held in the highest esteem and whose accomplishments are uniquely noteworthy and distinguished.

Past Honorees include:

2016 Thomas Schueler

Tom has been a pioneer for more than 30 years in finding practical and effective approaches to reducing the problem of stormwater runoff and affecting the development process in ways that better protect and restore watersheds. Tom began his passion for urban watershed issues with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments where he led the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Team—one of first efforts to comprehensively restore an urban watershed. It was there that Tom began to develop his innovative thinking on ways to protect urban streams.



To allow himself more freedom to pursue this work, Tom founded the Center for Watershed Protection in 1992 and through the force of his ideas and technical skills, built the Center into a national leader in watershed science and practice. Tom authored many widely used references, like *the Practice of Watershed Protection*, *Rapid Watershed Planning Handbook*, and the *Impacts of Impervious Cover on Aquatic Systems*. His ideas and recommendations have been incorporated in state and local regulations and national guidance that governs stormwater work in the Bay states and communities across the country.

Tom left the Center and turned his attention fully to the Chesapeake watershed, forming the Chesapeake Stormwater Network in 2009. This non-profit organization is devoted to more sustainable stormwater practices across the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Tom also serves as the stormwater technical coordinator for the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program and directs the Chesapeake Bay Stormwater Training Partnership, which provides webcasts, workshops, and on-line training to engineers.

2015 William “BMat” Matuszeski

Bill Matuszeski has a legacy of creative and ambitious leadership related to the Chesapeake Bay. He is best known for the 10 years he served as the Director of the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP), retiring in 2001. As the longest-serving CBP director, he aggressively advocated setting quantifiable goals for which the public could hold government accountable and for increasing citizen involvement. The Chesapeake 2000 Agreement, which he spearheaded, was a comprehensive and far reaching set of commitments; including the first goals for land use, environmental education, and preserving open space.



He was the 2001 recipient of the Lee Thomas Award, EPA’s highest honor for distinguished public service. He also received the 2008 Sustained Achievement Award from the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation, a consortium of national environmental science organizations. Before the CBP, Bill served EPA headquarters and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration where he was Director of NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service, Coastal Zone Management, and Deputy of the National Ocean Service.

But beyond career, *BMat*, as Bill is known to his friends and colleagues, is a passionate and tireless volunteer. He chairs the Anacostia Watershed Citizen’s Committee, the Environmental Committee for the National Arboretum, and is a member of the Friends of the National Arboretum and other Boards including having served on the Alliance and Hudson River Foundation Boards. Bill has championed restoration of Hickey Run, a highly degraded urban stream in the District, which flows through the Arboretum. Bill is also known as a mentor and teacher. Giving back to the community, Bill is Vice President of the Friends of Tyler School, an award-winning tutoring program. He spends his spare time gardening, fiddling with classic cars, and landscape and cityscape painting (see the Virtual Gallery at www.yellowbarnstudio.com).

2014 Luke Brubaker

Luke represents what can be achieved through a strong personal commitment to conservation and innovation on the farm. The Brubaker farm, a multi-generational dairy operation in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, is a showcase of conservation practices including no-till farming, cover crops, buffers and stream protection, nutrient management, and generation of energy with manure. Brubaker Farm demonstrates a stewardship ethic that promotes the economic value of conservation practices and provides a sustainable model for agriculture in the future. Luke believes, "It is so important for farmers to realize the value of conservation practices, rather than doing it just because they have to do it."



2013 Ann Pesiri Swanson

Ann Pesiri Swanson has been deeply involved in the Bay restoration effort for nearly 30 years, the last 25 as the Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, a tri-state legislative authority serving the states of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia. Ann has a long history of leadership on key issues and collaboration with partners to help drive policy change at the Chesapeake Bay Program. The Commission has promoted policy initiatives in the areas of nutrient reduction, fisheries management, toxics remediation, pollution prevention, habitat restoration and land management. Ann often works in a highly political environment and has been a tireless advocate for forging consensus among jurisdictions.



Some highlights of Ann's contributions include shepherding the ban of phosphate detergents in all three Bay Program states; fostering the passage of land-use laws that protect the Bay's shorelines, such as Maryland's Critical Area Act and Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act; guiding the establishment of the first bi-state committee to promote better management of the Bay's most commercially valuable species, the blue crab. The Bi-State Blue Crab Advisory Committee remains a catalyst for cooperative management of the blue crab today. Ann helped to draft the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement and with the Trust for Public Land and the Chesapeake Conservancy, undertook a regional strategy for land conservation in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Recently, Ann led a panel of experts to produce an economic study of nutrient credit trading.

A trained wildlife biologist and forest ecologist, she graduated with honors from the University of Vermont and Yale University; and has served as Chairman of the Board of the University of Vermont's Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources. Ann has been married for 28 years, is a published illustrator, an accomplished gardener and sea kayaker, and is a mother of two boys.

2012 Tom Horton

Tom Horton, author, educator, and environmentalist has been a part of the Chesapeake cultural landscape for over 30 years. Tom's writing has been an influential force as an advocate for the Bay and its watershed, not only in terms of presenting in depth and well informed commentary on political or policy issues but also in keeping alive a passion for the Bay and its beauty. A native of Salisbury on Maryland's Eastern Shore, Tom still lives there and teaches writing and environmental topics in the local community.



Tom worked at the *Baltimore Sun* from 1972 to 1987, largely focusing on environmental issues, and then he worked for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation as an educator on Smith Island from 1987 through 1992.

During that time he wrote *"Turning the Tide,"* a book covering the range of issues facing the Chesapeake. He returned to the Sun from 1993 through 2006, writing a weekly column, *"On the Bay."* Tom's other books about the Bay include *"Bay Country," "Island out of Time," "The Great Marsh"* and *"Nanticoke: Portrait of a River," "Swanfall,"* and an updated version of *"Turning the Tide"* in 2003. His articles have appeared in *National Geographic, Rolling Stone,* and the *New York Times Sunday Magazine,* the *Bay Journal,* among many other publications.

He is an ardent educator and outdoorsman. He paddled his kayak 550 miles around the Delmarva Peninsula. Before his work with printed media he was an assistant manager of a poultry farm, and with the Army, he was a translator in Africa and the Middle East. Tom is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University.

2011 George Hawkins

A long-time advocate for a healthy Chesapeake Bay, the Alliance honored Hawkins for his life's work as well as his magnetic personality that attracts others to the cause. As head of the District Department of the Environment, Hawkins initiated DC's innovative stormwater management practices which are currently being copied in urban centers throughout the country. Under his direction the Department began implementation of the nation's most stringent federal permit to reduce pollutants from stormwater runoff. He implemented the Anacostia 2032 Plan to transform one of the most polluted rivers in the country into an Environmental gem that will drive economic revitalization. As Director he was active in the leadership of the Chesapeake Bay Program at the Principles' Staff Committee and was often lauded for his impassioned presentations for a stronger Bay Program partnership. He launched and chaired the Mayor's Green Team which coordinated sustainability efforts across the District's more than 40 agencies.



Currently, Hawkins runs DC Water which operates Blue Plains, the world's largest advanced waste water treatment plant. Under his leadership DC Water is designing and implementing the Clean Rivers Project that will nearly eliminate overflows of stormwater and sewage to the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers and Rock Creek. He also is overseeing the installation of a biosolids digester that will become the largest source of renewable energy in the region, reduce the amount of biosolids from Blue Plains by half, and disinfect these biosolids to be clean enough to sell as fertilizer at retail stores.

2010 Governor Gerald Baliles

The Alliance recognized Former Virginia Gov. Gerald L. Baliles for his longstanding commitment to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay and his efforts to advance the cause of environmental stewardship in the Bay's watershed. Elected in November 1985, Gov. Baliles served as the Commonwealth's chief executive from 1986 to 1990. During his term he worked to strengthen Virginia's environmental protection and sought to strengthen VA's environmental initiatives, including restoring and protecting the Chesapeake Bay. Gov. Baliles was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates from 1976 to 1982 and the Commonwealth's attorney general from 1982 to 1985.



Since leaving office, he continued his commitment through his work with organizations such as the Chesapeake Bay Blue Ribbon Panel and the Nature Conservancy. He was also named conservationist of the year in 2005 by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Gov. Baliles was also Director of the University of Virginia's Miller Center of Public Affairs, a leading public policy institution devoted to studying, examining and sharing information about the American government and presidency, as well as promoting discourse and consensus on national and international policy issues.

2009 Steele Phillips

The Alliance honored to G. Steele Phillips for his tireless dedication to the preservation and conservation of agricultural lands. Steele was a life-long fighter for the Bay and an outspoken leader in the farm community on the Eastern Shore, as well as a dedicated member of the Bay Program's Citizens Advisory Committee. He devoted endless volunteer hours to the effort to restore the Chesapeake.



For more than 50 years, he and his wife, Doris, have managed 762 acres in farmland, forest, and wetlands in Dorchester County on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Steele continuously applied new knowledge, techniques and strategies in order to achieve success in farming with minimal impact on the environment. An early participant in the Integrated Pest Management program, he also was one of the first to apply no-till farming practices, and was the first to plant no-till corn in Dorchester County where he remains a supporter of the practice today. Mr. Phillips has demonstrated leadership in farming and served as the first chairman of the Agricultural Land Preservation Board in Dorchester County, chairman of the Dorchester County Soil Conservation District, Critical Areas Commission and Farm for the Futures Board. He has also served on Congressman Gilchrest's Ag Advisory Committee.

2008 Cindy Adams Dunn

Cindy Dunn was chosen for her decades of effort to generate public awareness of the importance of healthy rivers in Pennsylvania to the overall restoration of the Chesapeake. With the Susquehanna River contributing almost half the fresh water to the Bay, and with another portion of the state draining into the Potomac, the Commonwealth is the source of most of the river inflows to the estuary. Cindy's dedication to restoring the health of these rivers and reducing their adverse impacts on the Bay has been a critical part of the Pennsylvania effort.



Cindy Dunn currently serves as Deputy Secretary for Conservation and Technical Services in the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. In this capacity, she leads DCNR's work in landscape conservation and administers the Bureau of Recreation and Conservation and the Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey. Cindy has also served as the Executive Director of Audubon, Pennsylvania from 1997 through 2003 and the Pennsylvania Program Director of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay for 10 years.

2007 Charles A. Stek

As a key advocate and strong supporter of Bay issues, Charles Stek has more than 25 years in senior executive positions in which he represented and advised U.S. senators and congressmen in developing and implementing strategic plans, building partnerships and achieving results. Mr. Stek was a valued member of U.S. Senator Paul Sarbanes executive team since 1985. In addition, he was directly responsible for managing and bringing to fruition many projects and legislative initiatives that were vitally important to the Chesapeake Bay region.



2006 W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr.

W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr. served from 2002-2006 as Virginia's secretary of Natural Resources. During part of his tenure, he chaired the Chesapeake Bay Program's Principals Staff Committee. Tayloe Murphy served in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1982 to 2000. During his time in the General Assembly, he served as chairman of the Chesapeake Bay Commission and was chairman of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission during its two-year review of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.



Throughout his tenure in the General Assembly, Murphy was noted for his commitment to environmental conservation and stewardship and protection of Virginia's natural resources. He was an instrumental leader behind the General Assembly's passage of both the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act and the Virginia Water Quality Improvement Act.

2005 George B. Wolff

George Wolff is a public affairs consultant who has represented the interests of agriculture and conservation since 1953. Protecting the interests of the business industry prompted his involvement in workers' compensation, business tax reductions, farming issues including a statewide nutrient reduction program and water resources legislation, funding initiatives for the road and bridge construction industry, food and product safety protection issues, and product liability reform efforts. Wolff has owned and operated farms in Lebanon County, PA for over 40 years, has served as the public member on the Chesapeake Bay Commission since Pennsylvania joined the Commission in the early 1980's.



He is a member of the PA Farm Bureau, a legislative committee member of the PA State Grange. As a past president of the PA Association of Conservation Districts, Wolff was instrumental in coordinating a

group which proposed recommendations for the management of the state's water resources through regional and statewide management committees working in cooperation with river basin commissions. In December 2003, he was appointed to the Statewide Water Resources Committee and in 2005 to the PA Energy Advisory Board. In 1993, he served as a member of a select committee to develop the Act 6 regulations for nutrient management.

2004 Sarah Taylor-Rogers

The 2004 award was presented to Sarah Taylor-Rogers, Ph.D. Dr. Taylor-Rogers has had a distinguished career over the past 30 years working at the federal, regional, state, and local levels in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to form partnerships providing for balanced environmental management of open space, wetland, riparian, agricultural, and forestry resources.



She is best known for her groundbreaking work as Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission, where she helped create and administer Maryland's first land use/growth management program to protect the Chesapeake Bay. She was Secretary of Maryland's Department of Natural Resources and is a Research Fellow at the Maryland Center for Agro-Ecology. At the local level, she helped the Upper Eastern Shore community to band together to improve lands and water. She obtained 2,800 signatures on a petition to stop the use of sludge on C&D Canal banks and inspired watershed groups to work toward a goal of creating a Sassafras River Keeper position.

2003 Judith Stribling

Judith Stribling is Executive Director of the Friends of the Nanticoke River and founder of the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance, a bi-state consortium of Delaware and Maryland government, business and citizen groups that promote community involvement in protection of the river. At Salisbury University, she is an Associate Professor of Biology and coordinator of the Dual Degree Program in biology and environmental-marine sciences with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. She is on the Board of Directors of the Atlantic Estuarine Research Society, a member of the Advisory Committee for the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and the Science Advisory Panel for Assateague Island National Seashore. She serves as a consultant to Maryland Department of the Environment in assessment of wetlands management in the Coastal Bays Watershed.



2002 Rear Admiral Ray E. Moses, NOAA (Ret.)

Admiral Moses has been president of the Board of Directors of the Elizabeth River Project in Norfolk, Virginia since 1995. Under his leadership the project grew from no members and one staff person to 2000 members and an eight person staff. He developed a broad partnership of industry, government and citizen interests through an unwavering commitment to the collaborative approach. As a volunteer Board President, Admiral Moses used leadership qualities developed in his 32 years of service in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to help the project secure more than \$15 million in programs aimed at restoring the Chesapeake's dirtiest river.

2001 Frances H. Flanigan

Fran Flanigan was Executive Director of the Alliance for 23 years from 1978-2001. What began in 1971 as a small group of concerned citizens dedicated to marshaling public and political support for the crucial Bay ecosystem, matured, under her leadership, into an organization that is recognized as the major force for collaboration and partnerships in the Bay restoration effort. She continues to serve, protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay through consulting projects and partnerships.



Watershed Champion: Special Recognition Awards

Like the Environmental Leadership Award, the Alliance also occasionally recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the Chesapeake watershed through innovative thinking and developing impactful partnerships. Like our Leadership award, special recognition awardees are those:

- 1) *Whose efforts have had lasting impact on the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay and demonstrate innovation and initiative, and*
- 2) *Who foster partnerships to advance environmental stewardship in the watershed.*

Watershed Champions are often the unsung heroes of government agencies or conservation groups.

Recent watershed champions include:

Bobby Whitescarver, Farmer/Conservationist
Kelly Gutshall, LandStudies, Inc.
Nina Beth Cardin, Interfaith Partners for the Environment
Rev. Johnny Calhoun, Mt. Olive AMR Church
J. Michael Foreman, VA Department of Recreation and Conservation
Charlie Conklin, Gunpowder Valley Conservancy;
Harriet Tregoning, US Dept of Housing and Urban Development;
John Tippet, Friends of the Rappahannock;
Steven Koehn, MD DNR Forest Service;
Carin Bisland, US EPA Chesapeake Bay Program;
Gary Waugh, VA DCR;
Don Walsh, EPA region III;
Will Baker, Chesapeake Bay Foundation;
Patti Jackson, James River Association; and
Wayne Gilchrist, former Congressman.