

2015

Karl Mason Award

Walter A. Lyon Award

Gifford Pinchot Scholarship

Maurice Goddard Scholarship

Pennsylvania Association of Environmental
Professionals

May 7, 2015



Karl Mason

2015 Karl Mason Award

Bernard McGurl

Bernard has championed the rebirth of the Lackawanna River and its watershed for over 25 years. He has partnered with a wide range of individuals, non-profit organizations, businesses, local municipalities and state/federal agencies, resulting in improved water quality and aquatic diversity in the river, a network of rail-trails, acres of reclaimed abandoned mine lands, and an engaged public. Bernie McGurl was one of the over 200 citizens who founded the Lackawanna River Corridor Association in 1987. The LRCA is a not-for-profit, community based, river and watershed conservation organization established in 1987 "to promote the conservation, protection and appropriate management of the Lackawanna River and its Watershed resources." He served in a volunteer capacity as its President from 1989 to 1991. During his term as President he led the watershed planning effort that resulted in the Lackawanna River Citizens Master Plan.

It has been a marathon, not a sprint, and over the past 25 years through Bernie's efforts:

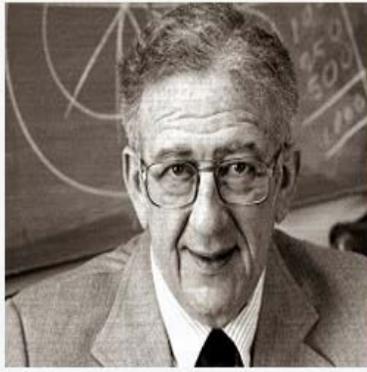
† The water quality, in many miles of the River and its tributaries, has improved to the point that the River is now recognized as a destination for trout fishermen.

† A cyclist can now pedal along the river for over 15 miles, from Taylor through Scranton to Peckville and Jermyn, on a network of rail trails and the river levees.

† The importance of watershed lands and open spaces was documented in the Lackawanna County-Luzerne County Open Space Plan and critical areas are now protected by national and local land trusts.

† The community now sees the river as a natural resource to be protected and enjoyed, as seen by the hundreds participating yearly in the LRCA's annual Canoe-A-Thon and RiverFest.

Bernie has forged partnerships with local, state and national government bodies, with businesses, with civic organizations and with individuals to implement the Master Plan. His activities range from the development of greenways and trails along the river to working with municipalities to enact stormwater ordinances, from manning a table at a community festival to teach homeowners how to disconnect their downspouts from the sewer system to advocating for greater abandoned mine lands funding, from showing school children the river's macroinvertebrate communities to serving as Commodore of the annual RiverFest. Through his efforts, parents no longer tell their children to stay away from that dirty river; instead they all take a bike ride along the river on the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail, watching the mallard swim by.



Walter Lyon

2015 Walter Lyon Award

John Arway and the PA Fish and Boat Commission:

Throughout his 35-year water resource-focused career, John has tirelessly demonstrated exemplary leadership in protecting and enhancing the surface water resources of the Commonwealth and the nation. He is widely respected by his peers.

In his role as Chief of Environmental Services for over 30 years he led the development and implementation for the PAFBC of many innovative water resource management measures including:

† The annual review of 2500 waterway permit applications to protect aquatic habitat from physical encroachments of streams and wetlands by proposed highways, pipelines, peat extraction sites, sand and gravel dredging, housing projects and other development activities.

† The PAFBC pioneered the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to spatially organize natural resource information in order to promote information transfer among agency staff, other agencies and the public.

† Functioned as contact for Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 USC 661 et seq. consultations for water resource development projects with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Natural Resource Conservation Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

† John functioned as agency contact and agency senior expert witness for Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) claims for damages to aquatic trust species as regulated by PA DEP and US EPA under state and federal Superfund laws. Established resource damage penalties and assist in settlement negotiations. Successfully negotiated claims for the Ashland Oil Spill (\$1.75M), PCB contamination from Texas Eastern Pipeline sites (\$1.25M), and brine discharges from Pennzoil's oil wells (\$150K) among many others. These funds were specifically restricted to be spent on remediating damages to affected waterways.

† The PAFBC manages the Adopt-a-stream and Adopt-a-lake habitat improvement programs that involve the planning, design, construction and monitoring of over 200 stream and 1100 lake structures.

† The PAFBC reviewed and coordinated comments on management plans for DCNR State Park and State Forest lands.

In summary, the PAFBC with John as current Executive Director, is an outstanding environmental professional organization with a commitment to stewardship of the Commonwealth's surface water resources. The PFBC focuses on protecting and enhancing our fisheries for current and future generations.

2015 PAEP Gifford Pinchot Scholarship

Levi Lundell

Levi is a sophomore Environmental Science major at Allegheny College, where he holds a 3.26 GPA. He is a member of the Lambda Sigma Honor Society where he serves underprivileged/at-risk youth. He is also involved in Allegheny Student Government, Phi Gamma Delta, Alpha Phi Omega, is a Resident Advisor (work study position), and a Big Brother mentor in the local Big Brother/Big Sisters program.

Levi volunteers as a Project Assistant at Creek Connections where he collects water quality and macroinvertebrate monitoring data and educates youth on environmental stewardship and water quality. He is a member of the Students for Environmental Action, which promotes environmental advocacy and sustainability awareness on campus. Levi is also on the Environmental Education Staff at the Patuxent Research Refuge and an EFF Intern at the Environmental Film Festival back in the Nation's Capital (summers). He is not only a member of these organizations listed above, but holds leadership positions as President, Vice President, chairman, and team leader.

While attending Allegheny College, he has received several awards for his accomplishments. His goals include working for an organization such as the Natural Resources Defense Council, or a similar organization, where he can be a voice for the environment, based on scientific data.

Levi was described as a "reliable go-getter" and leader by his employer, who pointed out that although Levi was paid for his position his freshman year, he has continued his job in his sophomore year as a volunteer at Creek Connections (as a RA, you can only hold one position on campus, but he didn't want to give up his work with the local schools!).

2015 PAEP Maurice Goddard Scholarship

Caryn Sennett

Caryn is a senior Environmental Studies and Spanish major at Dickinson College, where she holds a 4.0 GPA. She is an active farm crew member where students are responsible for harvesting vegetables, managing volunteers, and delivering compost on the college organic farm. In addition, she serves as a student educator where she teaches children monthly the importance of sustainable agriculture and how to be caretakers of the earth and its resources.

During her college career, Caryn lived in the Treehouse, which is a residence of sustainable living where residents reduced their carbon footprint and limited energy and water use within the house. As part of the Treehouse, she also was a community outreach coordinator, secretary, and liaison with facilities management to improve community and college facilities to be more sustainable.

Caryn is a student member on the President's Commission on Environmental Sustainability at Dickinson and is a member of three honor societies (Alpha Lambda Delta, Sigma Delta Pi, and Phi Beta Kappa). In her "spare" time, she also serves as a volunteer medical interpreter at Keystone Migrant Health where she not only translated language between patients and doctors, but also helped physicians to understand cultural frames of reference in treatment. Caryn also received several awards while attending Dickinson College.

Her career goals include exploring the interrelationships between humans and the physical environment. She hopes to work for a community-based organization that educates the public on how to prevent health hazards and empower change at the local level. She plans to continue to her environmental education in a graduate program in Environmental Health Science.