



**Recipients of the Karl Mason Award**  
years 1977 thru 2021 and  
**Recipients of the Walter Lyon Award**  
years 2014 thru 2021

**2021 Karl Mason Award –**

Marci Mowery entered the conservation arena 29 years ago. She currently serves as the President of the PA Parks and Forests Foundation, a position she has held since 2005. The PPFF is comprised of volunteers who monitor the Commonwealth's 121 state parks and 2.2 million acres of forest lands. They support education, stewardship, recreation and volunteerism.

**2021 Walter Lyon Award –**

The Wildlife Leadership Academy, established in 2007, prepares high school age students to become Conservation Ambassadors to ensure a sustained wildlife, fisheries, and natural resources legacy for future generations. The Academy has graduated 824 youth from 62 Pennsylvanian counties and nine other states.

**2020 Karl Mason Award –**

John E. Childe has been active in environmental protection for 50 years. As an attorney, John has represented various environmental clients in their efforts to require enforcement of the laws of the State and Federal governments.

**2020 Walter Lyon Award –**

Lenny Lichvar is an avid outdoorsman and his passion has lead him to champion environmental conservation and improving stewardship of the natural environment through hands-on involvement.

**2019 Karl Mason Award – *Robert Eppley***

Robert Eppley retired in June 2018 from his position as the Environmental Manager for PennDOT District 6-0. His 25 years of service as the environmental manager were exemplified by the utmost in professionalism, ethics, quality, and depth of knowledge.

**2019 Walter Lyon Award – *Allegheny CleanWays***

Allegheny CleanWays is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization formed in 2000 to "engage and empower people to eliminate illegal dumping and littering in Allegheny County."

**2018 Karl Mason Award – *Felicia Dell***

Felicia Dell became Director of the York County Planning Commission in the spring of 2000, after previously serving as Chief of the Transportation Division and Assistant Director. As Director, she manages the day-to-day operation, as well as the long-term direction, of the organization.

**2018 Walter Lyon Award – *Suskie Bassmasters***

The Suskie Bassmasters were founded in February 2005 when a group of anglers from the Wyoming Valley decided to start a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to improving public access and use of the Susquehanna River Watershed by promoting environmental protection and responsible use of the river, its wetlands, and wildlife resources.

**2017 Karl Mason Award – *Eric H. Buncher***

***Eric H. Buncher*** has been awarded the Karl Mason Award for his many years of outstanding leadership and service to the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals (PAEP). As a general member, board member, western section chair, and board president he advanced many initiatives which inspired environmental professionals to not only join the organization, but contribute substantial time and energy to accomplishing the PAEP mission and goals

**2017 Walter Lyon Award – PA Senior Environmental Corp**

The Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corp (SEC) has been awarded the Walter Lyon award based on their diligent environmental work effort throughout Pennsylvania. The SEC has been collecting water quality data since 1997, and has collected data over 16,000 monitoring events on approximately two-thirds of the Commonwealth's waterways.

**2016 Karl Mason Award – Carol Collier**

Carol Collier is an experienced leader in regional watershed management and planning and currently serves as Senior Advisor for Watershed Management and Policy at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University. Carol holds an active leadership role supporting the work of the Patrick Center for Environmental Research in monitoring and improving the health of watersheds in the Delaware River Basin. She acts as the principal liaison for outreach and program development to partners and high level contacts in government, business, non-governmental organizations and funding organizations.

**2016 Walter Lyon Award – Natural Lands Trust Natural Lands Trust (NLT)**

NLT is the southeast PA region's oldest and largest conservation organization, protecting the forests, fields, wetlands, and streams that are essential to the sustainability and quality of life in eastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey.

**2015 Karl Mason Award - Bernard McGurl**

**Bernard McGurl** 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.

**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.

**2014 Karl Mason Award – Mr. Nathan Welker**

Mr. Nathan Welker of the US Forest Service in Warren PA is solely responsible for the inception, mobilization, organization, and coordination of a regional task force – Allegheny Watershed Improvement Needs Coalition (WINS). WINS started in 2007 and has brought in over \$5M in outside funding, with over 50 watershed restoration projects completed, provided over 60 environmental education and outreach opportunities that reached over 10,000 students, and organized over 5,000 volunteers that contributed more than 30,000 hours of hands-on activities related to stream restoration, environmental education and outreach.

**2014 Walter Lyon Award - Blue Mountain Preservation Association (BMPA)**

BMPA is a small, all volunteer organization that persisted in a twelve year battle to block the construction of a private racetrack known as the Alpine Rose Motorsports Club on the side of Blue Mountain, also known as Kittatinny Ridge in Montour County, PA. BMPA was assisted by other conservation groups, but BMPA was central to the process.

**2013 Cindy Adams Dunn**

Cindy Adams Dunn is a trained scientist who has dedicated her career to advancing the conservation of Pennsylvania's environment by engaging our citizens and advancing innovative conservation policies. In Cindy's role as leader in both the governmental and non-profit sectors, she has created nationally recognized programs that link people to the out-of-doors, conserved land, and advanced community conservation.

**2013 Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies at Penn State**

The Center provides education, outreach, and technical assistance for the implementation of the Commonwealth's highly successful Dirt and Gravel Roads Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance Program for reducing sediment impacts on streams from over 20,000 of unpaved roads.

**2012 there were no awards issued for this year.**

**2011 Laurie Popeck**

Laurie helped build and promote the Ohio Watershed Celebration (ORWC) into a successful event. The ORWC is an annual event that is open to the general public at no cost, thanks to Laurie's sponsorship fundraising. The ORWC is an educational event that illustrates the value of watershed protection and conservation. The ORWC demonstrates, from the unique perspective of Pittsburgh's Three Rivers, the economic, environmental, and cultural impact that the resources of the Ohio River Watershed have upon the region.

**2011 Maurice K. Goddard Legacy Task Force**

M.K. Goddard served five Pennsylvania Governor's as Secretary of Forest and Waters and as the founding Secretary of the Department of Environmental Resources (1955-1979). The Task Force is developing initiatives to build awareness of his legacy and share that legacy of conservation values and good government with all Pennsylvanians through a series of programs, interpretive signs, television, new media, a documentary and involvement in the outdoors.

**2010 Gary D. Bloss**

Gary Bloss is recognized for thirty years of exemplary leadership in professional environmental management specializing in community planning, landscape architecture, watersheds, greenways, open space and trails. Notable projects include the Susquehanna Greenway, Monroe County 2020 Vision and Plan, River to Bay Greenway, Pennsylvania Center for the Performing Arts, and Nittany and Bald Eagle Greenway and Bikeway.

**2010 Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring, Dickinson College**

The Alliance has been honored for twenty four years of significant contributions to Pennsylvania's environmental quality by providing professional technical assistance and training to volunteer environmental groups and watershed associations to carry out their missions of environmental monitoring, restoration and protection.

**2009 Devra L. Davis**

Devra Davis is recognized for outstanding and courageous leadership as an environmental professional protecting public health, and for a lifetime of exemplary achievements researching and documenting public health issues and hidden costs associated with pollution.

**2009 Montour Run Watershed Association**

The Montour Watershed Association is a small grassroots organization of dedicated volunteers that has made a real difference in the community by improving water quality through stream bank stabilization and acid mine drainage treatment projects resulting in 10 miles of improved streams and removal from streams of 40 tons of acidity per year and 10 tons of metals per year.

**2008 Terry A. Rightnour**

Terry Rightnour is recognized for his innovative work in developing and applying natural designs and ecology based technologies to meet water resource protection, restoration, and management needs. Also for outstanding leadership and generosity mentoring future environmental professionals.

**2008 The Pennsylvania Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils**

The PA RC&D is recognized for the work it and its nine regional councils are doing to enhance the environment and quality of life in communities throughout Pennsylvania.

**2007 CHEMSWEEP, PA Dept. of Agriculture**

The PA Department of Agriculture is recognized for CHEMSWEEP, the successful program that removes hundreds of thousands of tons of dangerous chemicals from storage places (many causing actual or potential groundwater pollution) and disposes them in an environmentally safe manner. Pennsylvania's program has received national recognition and has been copied by many States.

**2007 Senator Noah Wenger**

Senator Wenger's commitment to the environment, conservation, and the health of family farms has left a lasting legacy in Pennsylvania. He has long understood that the health of our agricultural economy is crucial to the water quality in our rivers and streams, and has acted to ensure the health of both

**2006 Frank H. Felbaum**

Frank Felbaum is recognized for his steadfast commitment and dedication as an environmental professional to protecting, restoring and enhancing Pennsylvania's wildlife resources through his leadership of the Wild Resource Conservation Fund.

**2006 R. John Dawes**

R. John Dawes is recognized for his steadfast commitment and dedication as an environmental professional to protecting, restoring, and enhancing Pennsylvania's land and water resources through the effective application of and advocacy of sound agricultural resource conservation, water resource management, and energy conservation practices.

**2005 Gary Alt**

Gary Alt is recognized for his steadfast commitment and dedication as an environmental professional to protecting, restoring and enhancing Pennsylvania's ecological resources through the effective application of science to black bear and deer management.

**2005 Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation**

EPCAMR is recognized for its non-profit, non-partisan, local, state, federal, and industry partnerships to improve water quality through cooperative efforts to reclaim abandoned mine lands in the Commonwealth's Appalachian coal communities.

**2004 Somerset Conservation District**

The Somerset Conservation District is recognized for the successful *Casselman River Watershed Major Nonpoint Pollution Assessment and Restoration Plan* which exceeded its intended objectives of assessing major nonpoint pollution sources in the watershed and by producing a Restoration Plan to guide future restoration activities.

**2004 Dan Kunkel**

For his role as Executive Director of the Wildlife Information Center, Dan is recognized for his dedication and involvement in establishing the Wildlife Information Center and negotiating the purchase of what is now the Lehigh Gap Wildlife Refuge.

**2003 Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection**

In recognition of the Growing Greener Program, which supports local watershed groups, county conservation districts, local governments, business people, farmers, teachers, and students by funding local watershed restoration and protection projects, abandoned mine reclamation projects and oil and gas well plugging projects, PADEP is awarded the Karl Mason Award.

**2002 Dr. Arthur C. Hulse**

Dr. Hulse is recognized for his career interest in amphibians and reptiles and gravitation to the structure of snake communities, population ecology of aquatic salamanders, and the distribution and abundance of amphibians and reptiles through Pennsylvania.

**2001 Larry J. Schweiger**

Larry J. Schweiger, President, CEO of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, is recognized for his lifetime commitment to the protection of Pennsylvania's environment.

**2000 Don Hopey**

Don Hopey is recognized for his role as an environmental journalist and investigative reporter for the Pittsburgh Post Gazette since 1992

**2000 Dr. Ann F. Rhoads, Ph.D.**

Dr. Ann F. Rhoads, Ph.D., is recognized for her lifetime contribution to cataloging and monitoring the health of Pennsylvania's flora, and her role in co-authoring *The Vascular Flora of Pennsylvania, Annotated Checklist and Atlas*.

**1999 Wayne W. Kober**

Wayne Kober is recognized for his contributions as Director of PennDOT's Bureau of Environmental Quality and Charter Member of PAEP.

**1999 Dr. Bernard Sweeny**

Dr. Sweeny is recognized for his work as Director of the Stroud Water Research Center and lifetime service.

**1998 William R. Adams, Jr.**

William Adams, Jr., PennDOT Geotechnical Engineer, is recognized for his pioneering work in hazardous waste management.

**1998 Paul O. Swartz**

Paul Swartz, Executive Director of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, is recognized for his leadership of the Commission.

**1998 Dave Witwer**

Dave Witwer is recognized for his lifetime achievement as an Environmental Professional including nearly 20 years as the Executive Director of the Pennypack Watershed Association and as Executive Director of the Delaware and Lehigh Canals National Heritage Corridor Commission.

**1987 Ralph W. Abele**

Ralph W. Abele, Executive Director of the PA Fish Commission, is recognized for producing an inventory and classification system for the fishery resources of Pennsylvania, and for his support of the State's Environmental Protection programs.

**1981 Robert W. McCullough**

Robert W. McCullough is recognized for his leadership in preserving the Pine Creek watershed.

**1981 Clifford L. Jones**

Clifford Jones is recognized for his work in providing financial assistance to small drinking water systems in Pennsylvania's establishment of the Water Facilities Loan Program.

**1981 Fred Jones**

Fred Jones, Conservation Editor of the Pittsburgh Press, whose articles informed many Pennsylvanians about environmental degradation, which helped enhance and strengthen mining legislation, is recognized for his contributions.

**1980 Governor Raymond B. Shafer**

Governor Raymond B. Shafer is honored for his efforts in creating the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources.

**1980 Walter A. Lyon**

Walter A. Lyon is recognized for his leadership of Pennsylvania's Clean Streams (1957 to 1979) and work in dam and drinking water safety.

**1980 Senator Franklin L. Kury**

Senator Franklin L. Kury is recognized for his work on environmental legislation, i.e., amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution.

**1980 The Water Pollution Control Association of Pennsylvania**

The Water Pollution Control Association of Pennsylvania is recognized in the name of the many municipalities and industries that contributed significantly to the cleanup of 45,000 miles of streams.

**1980 Maurice K. Goddard**

Maurice K. Goddard is recognized for his leadership in the field of environmental programs and for serving as the outstanding first Secretary of the Department of Environmental Resources.

**1979 Wesley H. Gilbertson**

Wesley H. Gilbertson is recognized for his accomplishments as Mason's successor in leading the State's Environmental programs through a most difficult period of transition and growth.

**1977 Professors Kardos, Sopper, Farrell and Myers**

Professors Kardos, Sopper, Farrell and Myers are recognized for their accomplishments in connection with The Penn State Living Filter Project.

**1971 Thomas J. Foerster**

Thomas Foerster is recognized for his work with the Allegheny County Conservation Program.