



Walter Lyon

2022 Walter Lyon Award

Lori Erb and the MACHAC Bog Turtle Recovery Program



Lori Erb

PAEP presents the Walter Lyon Award each year to “An organization, project, or program that made a unique, creative, or significant contribution toward the maintenance or restoration of Pennsylvania’s environmental quality or to the field of environmental management.”

For nearly a decade, Lori Erb has tirelessly spearheaded efforts to identify, monitor, and track the status of the threatened bog turtle in Pennsylvania. She also coordinated the development of a conservation plan and on-the-ground habitat management actions. Working on behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Center for Herpetology and Conservation (MACHAC) and its Bog Turtle Recovery Program, Lori coordinates volunteer efforts, arranges annual meetings that bring together multiple agencies and individuals, spends thousands of hours in the field, secures funding for both local and northeast regional projects, developed a population monitoring protocol, drafted a conservation plan, and so many other unsung achievements that have served to protect and enhance populations of this remarkable flagship species. The preservation, restoration, and recognition of the critical wetland habitats required by the bog turtle serve to improve the surrounding environment throughout their range.

MACHAC’s Bog Turtle Recovery Program is a partnership among several organizations, federal and state agencies, key among them being the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC). Ms. Erb works closely with each of them but especially PFBC about whom she states, “I wouldn’t be able to do what I do without them.” The collaborative efforts of MACHAC’s program as implemented through the leadership of Lori Erb embody the vision of Walter Lyon and this award.