

2008 Karl Mason Award Recipients

The Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals (PAEP) presented the 2008 Karl Mason Awards during their Annual Conference on Thursday, May 8, 2008, at the Holiday Inn, Grantville. The 2008 awards were presented to Terry A. Rightnour, a noted Pennsylvania Environmental Professional who received the award in the individual category, and Lebanon County Commissioner Jo Ellen Litz, who accepted the award on behalf of The Pennsylvania Association of Resource, Conservation and Development Councils, recipients of the award in the organization/project category.

Terry A. Rightnour is the President and Principal Hydrologist of Waters Edge Hydrology, Inc. He has more than 25 years of experience in the field of environmental consulting and is most recognized for his innovative work in developing and applying natural designs and ecology-based technologies to meet water resource protection, restoration, and management needs. His technical expertise in passive wetland treatment for the electric utility industry has led to award winning sustainable designs to treat wastewaters from coal combustion byproduct landfills. His work with the mining industry has included sustainable solutions for mine drainage abatement, reclamation plans, abandoned mine land restoration, and mine drainage water treatment. His experience in stream restoration and wetland mitigation includes high profile projects employing new and emerging technologies for riparian habitat creation, natural channel design, wetland mitigation banking, and the abatement of acid deposition on a watershed scale. Continuing activities consist of the development of a computer model to optimize selection and location of treatment systems for watershed restoration, design of in-stream flow measurement systems and research and development of natural systems for restoration and water pollution control.

As a consultant to industry and public agencies, Terry has served as the project manager on assignments ranging from concept development through construction management. His corporate experience includes executive level environmental management positions both in industry and with national environmental consulting organizations. As a guest instructor, he actively participates in university-based environmental programs and educational seminars on environmental management topics and has developed and taught related workshops for industry and government. As part of his work, he is a frequent author and presenter of professional papers at national and international symposiums and conferences.

Terry is a charter member of the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals and an active member of American Institute of Hydrology and Society of Wetland Scientists. He was awarded the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Wildlife Conservation Award for his work with acid rain mitigation and wetland habitat creation in the Mosquito Creek watershed and has been selected as an Outstanding Alumnus by the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences for his accomplishments in the field of environmental management.

For many years Terry has served as a guest lecturer and advisor for the Penn State ERM program. Countless ERM students have benefited from Terry's real-world lectures on what it is like to work as an environmental professional and the opportunities for rewarding careers in conservation. He also assisted the ERM program managers in improving the ERM curriculum. The ERM program now has over 3000 graduates.

Photo: Jo Ellen Litz on left and Terry Rightnour on right.



PA Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils

The Pennsylvania Association of Resource Conservation and Development (PARC&D) was recognized for the work its nine regional RC&D Councils are doing to enhance the environment and quality of life in local communities throughout the state.

PAEP commended the PARC&D Councils for their "outstanding service and support of resource conservation and development in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through innovate and dynamic leadership and by nurturing partnerships among public and private agencies, corporations, organizations and citizens to protect, restore, and enhance the environment" during the presentation of this prestigious award. The Karl Mason Award is given each year to an organization or project that has made significant contribution to the betterment of Pennsylvania's environment.

The PA RC&D Program and regional non-profit Councils develop projects based on regional needs identified and provide technical and/or financial assistance necessary to bring various projects to fruition. The focus of the national RC&D program includes land conservation, water management, environmental enhancement, and community development. There are 375 RC&D Councils nationally receiving assistance through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

"With the support and collaboration of our partners within the USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service, we bring together local citizens at a regional level to plan and implement projects that not only address natural resource concerns, but also address the need for community and economic development within our important rural communities," stated Lebanon County Commissioner Jo Ellen Litz during her acceptance of the award on behalf of the PARC&D Councils.

For more information about the PA Association of RC&D Councils, or to find out what RC&D does in your community, contact your local RC&D office or visit the web at:

www.parc.org