



# 2013

Karl Mason Award  
Presentation Dinner

Pennsylvania Association of Environmental  
Professionals

May 9, 2013

# Road to the 2010 Karl Mason Awards

## Nominees and Winners

Each year, at the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals (PAEP) Annual Conference, the Karl Mason Award is presented to meritorious nominees selected by the PAEP Board of Directors from two categories as follows:

- An individual who demonstrated exemplary leadership in the field of environmental management.
- An organization, project or program that has made a significant contribution toward maintenance or restoration of Pennsylvania's environmental quality.

Six nominations for the 2010 Karl Mason Awards were received by the PAEP Conservation Heritage Committee. Nominations were as follows:

### Individual

- Gary Bloss, Consultant, Past Executive Director, Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, nominated by Robert Hosking.
- Richard Piacentini, Executive Director, Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, nominated by Keri Rebeck.

### Organization, Project, or Program

- Bear Creek Mountain Resort, nominated by Camille Otto.
- Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring, Dickinson College, nominated by Sarah Brylinsky.
- Bureau of Public Transportation, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, nominated by Angela Schreffler and Chris Spahr.
- Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, nominated by Keri Rebeck

All are deserving of recognition. Votes were accepted from the PAEP Board of Directors through April 12<sup>th</sup>. Karl Mason Award winners were announced at the April 13<sup>th</sup> PAEP Board meeting conference call.

### 2009 Karl Mason Award winners are as follows:

- **Individual: Gary Bloss**
- **Organization, Project, or Program: Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring, Dickinson College**

Congratulations to the winners and the nominees.

Sincerely,

Eric H. Buncher  
Chair, Karl Mason Award  
Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals

# Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies (Center) Larson Transportation Institute, Penn State University

## 2013 Karl Mason Award Recipient

The Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies, an independently funded, non-profit entity under the Thomas D. Larson Pennsylvania Transportation Institute at Penn State, was created in 2000 in partnership with the PA Dirt and Gravel Road Maintenance Program (Program). The Center specializes in education, outreach, research, and project oversight related to the environmentally sensitive maintenance of unpaved roads and trails.

Pennsylvania's Dirt and Gravel Road Maintenance Program provides funding to reduce stream pollution caused by runoff and sediment from the state's 20,000+ mile network of unpaved public roads. The Program was enacted into law in April 1997 as Section 9106 of the PA Vehicle Code, with \$5 million in annual funding for "environmentally sensitive road maintenance." The goal of the Program is to reduce sediment pollution and long-term maintenance costs associated with rural roadways, effectively creating a more environmentally and economically sustainable rural road system through education, outreach, and project funding. Over 16,600 stream pollution sites have been identified as eligible for funding. The Program has funded 2,200 of the identified project sites in the past 15 years.

The Center acts as the education, outreach, and technical assistance entity for the statewide Dirt and Gravel Road Maintenance Program, both through the PA State Conservation Commission, and the PA Bureau of Forestry. The Center is instrumental in the implementation of \$5 million per year Program to local and state government organizations responsible for reducing sediment generation from the maintenance of 20,000 miles of unpaved roads across the Commonwealth. The Center also strives to expand the message of "Environmentally Sensitive Road maintenance" to other entities throughout the state and nation with various research, education, and outreach efforts.

The Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies and its many partners exemplify exceptional and sustained leadership in the field of environmental management in the Commonwealth and the United States for the following reasons:

- The Center assists 64 County Conservation Districts in administering the Commonwealth's Dirt and Gravel Road Maintenance Program with the guidance of a four-person Quality Assurance Board made up of two Conservation District staff, one Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) staff, and one PA Fish and Boat Commission staff. All the decisions on the eligible work sites and the scope of work to address the sediment problems are made at the local level.
- The Center jointly maintains several advisory groups to help steer various aspects of the Dirt and Gravel Road Maintenance Program. The groups are made up of a mixture of Conservation District, PA Department of Environmental Protection, and Center staff. The groups are advisory only, and any recommended actions affecting the Program must be acted upon by the State Conservation Commission.
- The Center promotes environmentally sensitive and economical road maintenance practices following the common-sense principles of: avoiding concentrating drainage, minimizing flow volumes, reducing effects of concentrated drainage, preventing surface erosion, and reducing maintenance cost and frequency.
- The Center conducts research through outside grants to identify environmentally-sensitive road maintenance practices. Some examples are: (1) Allegheny National Forest Sediment Quantification Study, which involves the quantification of sediment production from 14 shallow oil well access roads in the Allegheny National Forest, including testing on 4 of the 14 sites after new aggregate placement; (2) Effect of Road Dust on Forest Soils and Roadside Vegetation, which measures the effect of dust from native surface and limestone roads on the soil chemistry and vegetation along forest roads in Central Pennsylvania; (3) Chesapeake Bay Commission Road Sediment Reduction Study, which analyzes sediment reductions from several environmentally sensitive maintenance practices advocated by the Center, including Driving Surface Aggregate, additional drainage outlets, grade breaks, raising the road, and berm removal; and (4) USDA Conservation Innovation Grant, involving implementation and sediment monitoring for several environmentally sensitive maintenance practices on farm lanes in Mifflin County.
- The Center developed the USDA Forest Service *Field Guide for Environmentally Sensitive Road Maintenance Practices for Dirt and Gravel Roads*, which has been distributed to National Forests and Local Technical Assistance Programs throughout the country.

- In 2000, the Center developed Driving Surface Aggregate, an aggregate specification specifically designed for use as an unbound wearing surface aggregate for roads. DSA has been used on hundreds of miles of public roads in Pennsylvania and was approved by PennDOT in 2008. In 2010, the Center developed a similar "Trail Surface Aggregate" designed to be a better and longer lasting surface for rail-trail and multi-use trails.
- The Center conducts approximately 10 environmentally sensitive maintenance courses at locations around Pennsylvania every year. The course runs from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for two days and includes lunch. The course is free to municipal, county, and state agencies involved with Pennsylvania's Dirt and Gravel Road Maintenance Program. Individuals from private and out-of-state entities can attend one of these courses for a fee. This course provides 1.3 Continuing Education Units from Penn State's College of Engineering. Over 6,000 road maintenance and conservation professionals have attended a course to date. Typical attendees include municipal road masters and equipment operators, PA Bureau of Forestry road maintenance personnel, Department of Environmental Protection personnel, and many others.
- The Center has been selected to host the 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Low-Volume Roads in Pittsburgh in 2015. This multi-national conference, held once every four years, draws over 300 professionals from around the world to discuss current research on rural road issues. The Center will showcase Pennsylvania's Dirt and Gravel Road Program and its environmentally sensitive maintenance practices for this event.
- The Center's annual maintenance workshop is held each fall at a different location in Pennsylvania. This two-day workshop includes guest speakers, concurrent classroom lectures, and field trips to active and completed road projects. The participants see the active and completed projects firsthand and have the opportunity to network with their counterparts all over the state. The workshop usually attracts over 150 participants from academia, state and federal environmental agencies, consultants, contractors, and materials suppliers.
- The Center also delivers a one-day course focusing on environmentally sensitive maintenance practices for the gas industry and other heavy hauling industries.
- The Center's field staff has extensive expertise and teaching experience, and they provide on-site technical assistance to local road owners regarding the implementation of environmentally sensitive maintenance practices. Technical assistance visits range in complexity from simple "what would you do" visits, to preparation of stationing documents, to oversight of project implementation. The field staff is widely respected throughout the state and is in high demand.
- The Center uses demonstrations in the field as a tool to promote environmentally sensitive maintenance practices. The Center also documents many of the projects in order to provide valuable educational tools.
- In addition to the material it publishes "in-house," the Center has collected links to various other unpaved and low-volume road resources.
- The Center maintains a list of environmentally sound products such as dust suppressants that are approved for use under the Dirt and Gravel Road Maintenance Program. Also provided is the process to obtain the program's approval status for a given product.
- The Center maintains a library of Center publications/bulletins detailing specific environmentally sensitive road maintenance practices. Each bulletin is grouped by topic area and is specific to one practice.
- The Center partners with a wide spectrum of local, state, and national partners. Examples of partnering local and state entities include the Shaver's Creek Environmental Center, PA State Conservation Commission, PA Department of Environmental Protection, PA Department of Transportation, PA Fish and Boat Commission, PA Association of Township Supervisors, PA Department of Agriculture, PA Local Technical Assistance Program, and PA Trout Unlimited. National and regional partners include the U.S. Forest Service Allegheny National Forest, U.S. Forest Service San Dimas Technology and Development Center, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, The Nature Conservancy, Western PA Conservancy, Chesapeake Bay Commission, and Great Lakes Commission.

In summary, in the last ten years the Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies at Penn State has consistently provided excellent education, training, research, and technical assistance services across the Commonwealth, which has resulted in thousands of miles of unpaved roads being stabilized and reducing the sediment loads in thousands of miles of streams. Furthermore, the education and outreach services provided by the Center have helped the Program to spread its message of environmentally sensitive road maintenance to other entities around the world.

Dr. Barry Sheetz, Penn State Professor of Civil and Nuclear Engineering, served as co-director of the Center from 2001-2007 and director from 2007-2011. Steve Bloser was appointed assistant director of the Center in 2010 and director in January 2012 after working with the Center since 1999. Steve has BS and MS degrees from Penn State in Environmental Resource Management and Environmental Pollution Control.

For more information on the Center or the Program, go to: [www.dirtandgravelroads.org](http://www.dirtandgravelroads.org)

# Cindy Adams Dunn

## 2013 Karl Mason Award Recipient



Cindy Adams Dunn exemplifies the vision of Karl Mason award – 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. Further in her volunteer work she has rounded out her employment accomplishments through sweat equity for a myriad of organizations.

### **Professional Accomplishments:**

- Developed and leads the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) nationally-recognized, inter-agency Conservation Landscape Initiative - an integrated, place-based approach to coordinate strategic investment and actions in large landscapes, around the values of sustainability, conservation, community revitalization, and outdoor recreation.
- Leads DCNR’s land conservation efforts, which have conserved more than 150,000 acres over the last 10 years
- Led and coordinated DCNR’s campaign for Growing Greener 2
- Led the development of Audubon PA’s important bird area program ,which was replicated on the national level
- Launched the national-recognized sojourn program while Pennsylvania Program Director for the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.

### **Leadership Positions**

- Deputy Secretary, Conservation and Technical Services, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) 2007 to Present
- Director, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, DCNR 2005-2007
- Executive Director and Vice President, Audubon Pennsylvania 1997-2003
- Director of Community Relations and Environmental Education, DCNR 1996-1997
- Pennsylvania Program Director Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay 1987-1976
- Air Quality Specialist PA Department of Environmental Resources 1983-1987

### **Personal Accomplishments:**

- Accomplished birder, fly fisher woman, paddler and hiker
- Enthusiastic volunteer for conservation causes in Central Pennsylvania
- Mentor to many young women and men
- Dedicated wife and daughter

## Past Recipients of the Karl Mason Award

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

**2011 – Laurie Popeck**, for helping build and promote the Ohio Watershed Celebration event that educates and illustrates the value of watershed protection and conservation.

**2011 – Maurice K. Goddard Legacy Task Force** the goal of the Task Force is to celebrate the accomplishments of Maurice K. Goddard and rededicate the public to his vision and values for natural resource conservation.

**2010 - Gary D. Bloss**, 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**, 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**, for outstanding and courageous leadership as an environmental professional protecting public health. For a lifetime of exemplary achievements researching and documenting public health issues and hidden costs associated with pollution.

**2009 - Montour Run Watershed Association**, 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**, 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 – Pennsylvania Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils**, 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**, for 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**, 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**, 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**, 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**, 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**, 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**, Executive Director of the Wildlife Information Center, 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.

**2002 - Dr. Arthur C. Hulse**, 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**, President, CEO of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, recognized for his lifetime commitment to the protection of Pennsylvania's environment.

**2000 - Don Hopey**, for his role as an environmental journalist and investigative reporter for the Pittsburgh Post Gazette since 1992

**2000 - Dr. Ann F. Rhoads, Ph.D.**, 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** as Director of PennDOT's Bureau of Environmental Quality and Charter Member of PAEP.

**1999 - Dr. Bernard Sweeny** as Director of the Stroud Water Research Center and lifetime service.

**1998 - William R. Adams, Jr.**, PennDOT Geotechnical Engineer, for his pioneering work in hazardous waste management.

**1998 - Paul O. Swartz**, Executive Director of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission.

**1998 - Dave Witwer** 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.

**1997 - Harvey Knauer**, for creativity in environmental management while with PennDOT for thirty years (1967-1997).

**1987 - Ralph W. Abele**, Executive Director of the PA Fish Commission, 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** for his leadership in preserving the Pine Creek watershed.

**1981 - Clifford L. Jones** 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**, Conservation Editor of the Pittsburgh Press, whose articles informed many Pennsylvanians about environmental degradation, which helped enhance and strengthen mining legislation.

**1980 - Governor Raymond B. Shafer** for his efforts in creating the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources.

**1980 - Walter A. Lyon** for his leadership of Pennsylvania's Clean Streams (1957 to 1979) and work in dam and drinking water safety.

**1980 – Senator Franklin L. Kury** for his work on environmental legislation, i.e., amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution.

**1980 - Water Pollution Control Association of Pennsylvania** - 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** 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** 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** for their accomplishments in connection with The Penn State Living Filter Project.

**1971 - Thomas J. Foerster** for his work with the Allegheny County Conservation Program.