

# LWV/RSC RIVER AWARD WINNERS 2003-2009

## 2003 AWARD WINNERS

### **Billerica**

#### **River Steward Award**

Kevin Gilligan, founding member, Concord River Environmental Stream Team

#### **Conservation Award**

Joann Giovino, member of the Billerica Conservation Commission

### **Carlisle**

#### **River Steward Award**

Greg Peterson, leader in the Carlisle Land Trust

### **Concord**

#### **River Steward Award**

Mill Brook Task Force

#### **Conservation Award**

Musketequid Arts and Environment Program

### **Lincoln**

#### **Conservation Award**

In memory of Ann Gannett, State Representative and Chair of the State Water Supply Citizen Advisory Committee for her leadership and commitment

### **Sudbury**

#### **Conservation Award**

Frank and Ursula Lyons and the Hop Brook Association

### **Wayland**

#### **River Steward Award**

Sally Newbury, Committee to establish the Wild and Scenic River Designation

#### **Conservation Award**

Lewis Russell, Russell's Garden Center, for environmentally sensitive advocacy for water conservation

## 2004 AWARD WINNERS

### **Billerica**

#### **Ellen Rawlings**

Billerica Selectperson, whose tenure has been marked by numerous strong stands for the environment and development of a Recreation and Open Space Plan

### **Carlisle**

**Vivian Chaput**, posthumous award given for her commitment to land planning and protection through 17 years of service on the Planning Board and 8 years as a Selectman.

**Concord**

**CCHS students Emma Schumacher, Elena Coleman and Katie Lebling** for 5 years of enthusiastic participation in the Organization for the Assabet River Clean Up project

**Lincoln**

**Anna Rollins, Rural Land Foundation and Jane Leyton, Conservation Commission,** as leaders of the **Lincoln Green Fair Initiative**, an innovative, educational and fun approach to live in an environmentally friendly way

**Maynard**

**Jennifer Steel, Conservation Commission and Paul Boothroyd, Historical Society,** were instrumental in the restoration of the **Ice House Landing**, a brownfield site redeveloped as a public park on the banks of the Assabet River

**Sudbury**

The **Sudbury Earth Decade Committee**, for their education, advocacy and passion to minimize the use of toxic pesticides in the environment at a local and state level.

**OUTSTANDING RIVER STEWARD AWARD**

**Marian Thornton**, for her courage and lifetime of leadership in pioneering conservation efforts that protect the natural environment of the Concord area for future generations.

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AWARD**

**Bill Sullivan, Concord**, for his vision, leadership and tireless ten-year effort to seek wild and scenic designation for the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Rivers.

**2005 AWARD WINNERS**

**Acton**

**Mary Michelman and the Acton Stream Awareness Project**

**Billerica**

**Margaret Hannon-Rizza**, Assistant Director, Recreation Department, Town of Billerica, for implementation of the Open Space-Recreation Plan

**Carlisle**

**Louise Hara & the Carlisle Trails Committee** for creating the River Trail Boardwalk encouraging awareness and enjoyment

**Concord**

**C.C. King**, co-founder of the Musketaquid Arts and Environment Program for her leadership in organizing the Musketaquid Earth Floats and Earth Day program

**Lincoln**

**Jen James**, The Food Project, for leadership in development of Sustainable Agriculture and Workshops

**Sudbury**

**Grove Wadman**, for passionate involvement in the SuAsCo Fisheries Restoration Program and Assabet River Refuge Clean Up

**Wayland**

**George Lewis**, Founder of the Sudbury Valley Trustees and conservation visionary

**Westborough**

**Chris Rogers and Stephanie Garrett**, Mill Pond School's Everyday Heroes

**2006 AWARD WINNERS**

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CONSERVATION HERO AWARD**

**Steve Meyer of Sudbury**, was honored for a lifetime of conservation leadership for the Town of Sudbury and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**Acton**

**Jim Snyder-Grant and the Acton Land Stewardship Committee** who made Acton's 1650 acres of conservation land and associated waters accessible to the public, yet protective of their resources.

**Billerica**

**Betsy Gallagher** for many years of service as the Concord River's ambassador in Billerica, generously guiding many visitors on her pontoon boat.

**Bedford**

**Dave Ranney**, Bedford Trails Committee, who brings the public to enjoy and appreciate Bedford's portion of the Concord River.

**Carlisle**

**Lynn Knight** has, for the past 6 years, volunteered to do water quality monitoring for the Organization for the Assabet River.

**Concord**

**Bob LeMaire**, a beloved teacher at the Thoreau School, for implementation of the River Schools project for all 5<sup>th</sup> graders due to his energy and commitment.

**Sudbury**

**Karen and Ron Riggert** who are models of local community involvement in watershed protection

**Wayland**

**In memory of Ken Moon**, honored for his tireless commitment to conservation efforts in **Wayland, in the watershed and in the State**

**Southborough**

**Freddie Gillespie**, founder of the Sudbury River Watershed Organization in response to the Sudbury River running dry in 1999.

## 2007 AWARD WINNERS

### LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Rowan Family, Southbridge Boat House, Concord

#### CARLISLE

**Peter Burn**, Carlisle Conservation Commission and SuAsCo Watershed Association

#### CONCORD

**Susan Erickson, teacher and her 4<sup>th</sup> grade class**, Thoreau School

#### FRAMINGHAM

**Michele Grzenda**, Conservation Agent

#### SUDBURY

**Mike and Anne Meixsell**, co-founder, Hop Brook Protection Association, lifelong environmental activists and mentors

#### WAYLAND

**Brian M. Donahue**, Professor and Director of the Environmental Studies Program, Brandeis University, author and local expert on the great meadows of the Sudbury River valley.

## 2008 AWARD WINNERS

#### BEDFORD

**Libby Herland**, from US Fish and Wildlife, has been the driving force to blaze trails and expand the concept of the Concord River Walk from Concord, through Bedford and into Billerica making these riverfront lands more accessible to the general public. Her commitment through the entire process of permitting, design and building the trail, as well as her ability to organize volunteers, ensured its success.

#### BILLERICA

**Chris Landers**, dubbed 'the river rat' by his friends, has visited the Concord River for all of his life. He knows the river well, and joins his grandmother on boat tours during Riverfest, imparting his knowledge to guests. He has produced a slideshow called "Cruising the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Rivers" and takes every opportunity to show off the river he loves.

#### CARLISLE

**Thomas and D'Ann Brownrigg**, honored for their long term commitment to wildlife diversity in the Concord River area and for raising public awareness through lectures, walks and contributions to the local paper of town and regional wildlife resources.

#### CONCORD

**Thoreau School Riverwalk Committee** took the dream of 4th grade teacher Susan Erickson to provide a trail to the Assabet River for her students, and helped to make it reality. The volunteer crew donated 100's of hours of time to

plan, design, permit, build and landscape a handicapped accessible trail which is now a learning resource for the children.

**Joanne Bissetta**, the Water Conservation Coordinator for Concord, has initiated many innovative programs to encourage wise use of water resources in the community. She has been integral in the Community Conservation Challenge, healthy lawn initiatives, audits, rebates and workshops designed to raise awareness of water use and promote the protection of water resources.

#### **MAYNARD**

**Liz Lingener and Mike Stevens**, from the Fowler Junior High School in Maynard are honored for their exemplary efforts to raise environmental awareness in their classrooms and the community. Their efforts have resulted in greater understanding by students of complex issues including water quality on the Assabet River and energy conservation and its relationship to climate change.

#### **SUDBURY**

**Susan Crane** has dedicated herself to protection of Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Rivers through her work to help protect Hop Brook, her promotion of the Community Preservation Act in Sudbury and serving on the Board of Sudbury Valley Trustees. She has provided pro bono legal counsel at the local and state level, and with her assistance many environmental groups have been able to navigate complicated legal and regulatory requirements.

#### **WAYLAND**

**Sudbury Valley Photographers**, who share their passion and skill through exhibitions of their work throughout Metrowest Boston. Their photographs call attention to the beauty of the rivers that is often not seen by the casual observer, and inspire others to appreciate the river, care about its health and enjoy their scenic and recreational values.

### **2009 AWARD WINNERS**

#### **BEDFORD**

**Bob Slechta, Neal Leary, Dennis Warner, Peggy Hobbs, Susan Russo and Don Corey**, honored for their work to restore and enhance the Two Brothers Rock site in Bedford. Representing a diversity of interests, including the Bedford Historical Society, Bedford Historic Preservation Commission, US Fish and Wildlife and the Eagle Scouts, these individuals worked together to clear the site, build benches and create interpretive signage. Now the Two Brothers Rocks are accessible by foot and canoe and honor the unique history of the Town of Bedford.

#### **BILLERICA**

**Ralph Bacon** has dedicated a lifetime to working, studying and advocating for the rivers in his community – both the Concord and Shawsheen Rivers. Ralph advocated for watershed management long before it was the accepted approach to river protection since his town straddles two watersheds – and his work as town engineer required him to understand this. Ralph represented Billerica in all discussions related to the wild and scenic river and continues to serve on the RSC today. Ralph has developed a true intimacy with our water resources and always speaks for their protection.

## **CARLISLE**

**Dr. Sally A. Zeilinski**, honored for tireless and single handed advocacy for the protection of the Britton's Violet, a threatened flood plain wildflower found along the Concord River. Over the past 20 years Dr. Zeilinski has studied the Violet, monitored known sites, written papers and worked with local conservation commissions to ensure its protection in their plans and activities. Her work has raised awareness of the need for the protection of open space as well as the value of plant diversity in our environment.

## **CONCORD**

**Sally Farrow**, honored for her efforts to create and implement river-based educational programming for youth across the SUASCO watershed over the past 10 years. Her commitment both "on and off" the job has inspired and sustained this program – from continually seeking new venues for river programs, to building new collaboration and stewarding partners. As a result of Sally's commitment, thousands of students in Bedford, Carlisle, Concord, Maynard, Billerica and Lowell have explored their local rivers and learned how they can help protect them.

## **LINCOLN**

For nearly 20 years **Joan C. Kimball** has been tireless in her efforts to help rivers – especially by supporting local river advocates in making a difference in the ecological, recreation and scenic resources of their local rivers. As Director of the Massachusetts Riverways program, Joan has made many positive and lasting changes to help protect rivers in the state – by creating a first in the nation volunteer streamflow monitoring network and overseeing the first proactive dam removal in the state. Her devotion to her home watershed, the SUASCO, is what we honor – her support of local organizations and her long term commitment to the wild and scenic river will be part of her legacy.

## **MAYNARD**

**A Vernal Pool Named Grace** is an environmental science project created by the Grade 2 teachers at the Green Meadow School. The project takes advantage of a special wooded area behind the school and provides an opportunity to bring 2<sup>nd</sup> graders outside. A Vernal Pool Named Grace is designed to promote use of the scientific method, enhance literacy and expand an understanding of connections in the environment and the community. The project touches 135 lucky students each year!

## **SUDBURY**

**Debbie Dineen**, Conservation Coordinator in Sudbury, is a vigorous advocate for environmental protection and has worked hard to protect the health of the Sudbury and Assabet watershed. She has been a dedicated partner to the efforts of the Hop Brook Protection Association efforts to protect water quality in the Brook, and also volunteers her time as part of the Assabet River NWR Keeping Track team, monitoring vernal pools and frog populations and sharing her experiences in public workshops. Her efforts to conserve properties, including Nobscot, help define the character of Sudbury and contribute to the high quality of life there.

## **WAYLAND**

Seeing the town from the seat of a bicycle inspired **Chris Devany and Cliff Kolovson** to create Wayland Cleans Up!, a town-wide clean-up effort. Last year more than 300 volunteers participated in efforts to clean trash from roads, rivers, conservation land and even vernal pools. Cliff and Chris have enlisted a local Starbucks, through their Make Your Mark program, and raised \$1000 for the Town Beautification Committee. A new website keeps the public updated on clean-up efforts and helps to ensure the continuation of this great new upstart!