

Environmental Service Awards 2013

Congratulations to the Following Recipients

Margaret D. Arguimbau (Sharon)

Lifetime Achievement in Conservation



Peg Arguimbau has served as a volunteer commissioner in Sharon for 26 years, 25 of those years as chair. Her underlying passion has been land protection and during her tenure the Sharon Conservation Commission has acquired or assisted in the preservation of over 1,500 acres of land. So committed to the cause of land protection, Peg has permanently protected 28-acres of her own farm. Peg understands that the role of a conservation commission is more than a regulatory body, but platform for other meaningful conservation at the local level. In addition to MACC's Lifetime Achievement Award she was Sharon's Citizen of the Year in 2012.

Joyce Eichacker (Warren)

Conservation Commissioner of the Year



Joyce Eichacker, Chair of the Warren (population 1,405) Conservation Commission, helped guide the permitting of two major solar arrays, including the largest (at the time) in the state, an 18MW facility on 90 acres and a 4.6 MW array on 25 acres. Both projects were bounded by wetland resource areas, requiring the commission to ensure protection of wildlife habitat and water quality. Joyce's fortitude, leadership and downright doggedness resulted in a positive outcome for the Commission and the community, including 15 new acres of permanently protected land. As conservation commissions across the state have to review and permit a slew of new renewable energy facilities, Joyce and her fellow members proved it could be done without compromising the mission of the Commission.

Lisa Rhodes (MassDEP-Boston)

Outstanding Public Service



Lisa has been at DEP for a dozen years. During that time she has mitigated the wetland impacts of complicated, large-scale projects. These include the Greenbush Commuter Rail, Blue Hills Covered Storage, Middlesex Turnpike enhancements and the Pittsfield, New Bedford, Hanscom and North Adams Airport improvements.

In addition to her regulatory oversight she has developed a number of wetland program policies and guidance that are used routinely by conservation commissions. Lisa also spearheads the EPA Wetlands Monitoring and Assessment initiative. MACC believes Lisa embodies the best in public service and is an indispensable contributor to MassDEP's Wetlands and Waterways Program, an essential resource to all conservation commissions.