

2015 Environmental Service Award Recipients

Congratulations to these 7 recipients



Conservation Commissioner of the Year: William Frenette

Bill Frenette has been a member of the Dighton Conservation Commission since 1972 when conservation commissions were first given the duty of administering the Wetlands Protection Act. With an unbroken tenure of 43 years, Bill has also been the Chairman since 1975, which is almost unheard of in the world of conservation commissions. Bill's service to his Town and the region as a whole goes well beyond his commission work. He has led efforts to purchase over 50 acres of salt marsh and uplands in Broad Cove on the Taunton River, piece by piece over many years. It is now the site of the Broad Cove Recreation Area, complete with a bike path. He was the lead advocate in getting the Community Preservation Act accepted in Dighton, which has led to even more open space preservation. He remains on the Community Resources Council for the Town. In the 90's, Bill worked with the Taunton River Watershed Alliance to survey the Segregansett, Three Mile, and Muddy Cove Brooks in the successful effort to get the Taunton River designated Wild & Scenic. He successfully petitioned Mass Fish & Wildlife to install a fish ladder at the Harodite Finishing Plant on the Three Mile River, and is working to get two more constructed in town. He has led successful efforts to establish osprey nests on town properties and utility rights-of-way, and has been active on the Natural Resources Management Board at the Bristol Agricultural School. His main duties include assisting with the curriculum and agenda each year, and advocating for technology advancements, which have included the introduction of GIS and AutoCAD software and technology at the high school level. After notifying him of the award, and asked about his accomplishments, Bill's humble nature prevented him from saying he is anything more than a farmer, that he "doesn't keep tabs" and tends to forget things he's accomplished for the town over the years, but that he continues to do what he does because he loves his town and loves what he's doing. He has no plans to retire.



Conservation Administrator of the Year: Frank McKinnon

Frank McKinnon has been a member of the Saugus Conservation Commission and MACC since 1980 and Chairman since 2003, with 31 years of service and 1,030 Notices of Intent. Frank wears many hats: he is the Conservation Officer and also a Commissioner. He worked closely with the Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration for over 16 years on the Ballard Street Salt Marsh Restoration Project. His colleagues from DER said that his dedication and perseverance with that Project were second only to his passion for protecting Saugus' resources. He has contributed not only knowledge critical to project planning, but also provided the humor, wit, and a level-head when required for project meetings to be constructive. His institutional knowledge of the area's resources, attention to detail, and meticulous record-keeping have greatly facilitated restoration planning at the Ballard Street Salt Marsh Restoration Project. Frank worked on many projects to protect and restore the local environment with the Saugus River Watershed Council for over a decade, in addition to his service to the conservation commission. His commission told us that Frank puts in 40 hours and is always available after hours and weekends when needed. In his 31 years he has seen many changes in personnel from Town Manager, Selectman and positions on the commission. He can be counted on to train new staff and conduct orientation for new commissioners, keep the office well-organized, and enthusiastically share his keen knowledge of wetlands protection science and laws with anyone and everyone. His outstanding efforts have helped to protect and restore vegetated buffer zones, prevent Stormwater pollution, and limit encroachment and development into valuable rivers, streams, freshwater wetlands and marshes. Frank has won numerous awards for environmental protection and conservation efforts over the years.



Outstanding Achievement in Conservation: Ingeborg E. Hegemann

Ingeborg E. Hegemann has been a member of the Stow Conservation Commission since 1993, serving as a member including multiple terms as chair and lending her experience to more than 500 Notices of Intent and countless RDAs, enforcement cases, and land and community outreach projects. Prior to being appointed to the Stow Commission, she served for more than 10 years as member and chair of the Cambridge Conservation Commission, for

a grand total of more than 31 years of service on local conservation commissions and far too many commission meetings to count! Ingeborg's quiet leadership and professionalism have earned the Stow Conservation Commission a great deal of community respect. Ingeborg has also played an invaluable role as mentor to new members of the conservation commission, imparting her knowledge and approach to science, policy and neighbor relations. In addition, she also served a 5-year term with the Stow Planning Board. Ingeborg served on the Board of Directors of the Stow Conservation Trust and the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions. She is currently on the OARS Board of Directors (the watershed association for the Assabet, Sudbury, and Concord River Watersheds), and of E Inc, a Boston based non-profit that provides children, teens, and adults with a scientific understanding of Earth's natural resources and the skills to protect the planet and live sustainably. She also enjoys writing, and has written several educational natural resource articles for publication in local media, and has contributed to the MACC Handbook, among other publications. Ingeborg is a frequent presenter at MACC Annual Meetings and is one of the teachers of the Wetlands Functions and Values Unit for the MACC Training Program - which is being given today! Professionally she is a principal of BSC Group, Inc. (BSC), where she is responsible for BSC Group's Ecological Sciences Group. Ingeborg is also an Adjunct Professor teaching graduate level Wetlands Ecology at the University of Massachusetts (Lowell). She is a Professional Wetland Scientist, certified by the Society of Wetland Scientists Professional Certification Program (SWSPCP) where she was the President for the 2012-2013 periods, and is currently on the Certification Review Panel. In the past she also served on Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Advisory Committees, and served on a Federal Peer Review Team for the Northcentral and Northeast Regional Supplement to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual.



Outstanding Local and Regional Service: Kitty Doherty

For more than 33 years Kitty Doherty has led natural resource conservation efforts in the three Bridgewater towns and the Taunton River Watershed. Known as a catalyst in creating public awareness and for her skill as a coalition builder, she doesn't simply advocate for conservation, she lives and portrays it in the heart of everything she does. A resident of Bridgewater, Kitty's involvement in natural resource protection began in 1982 when she was appointed to the conservation commission. She served for 13 years, during which she chaired its Open Space Committee and served on the Master Planning Committee. Kitty is a co-founder and former executive director of the Taunton River Watershed Alliance. She is a member of the Taunton Wild & Scenic River Stewardship Council after serving on the committee working to achieve this important designation. She is a founding Director and has served as President of the Natural Resources Trust of Bridgewater where she initiated the establishment of a municipal Conservation Parkland System. She founded the Town River Fishery Committee and facilitated legislation that permanently preserved 425 acres of prime agricultural land at the Old State Farm under Article 97. Kitty recently spearheaded creation of the Nunckatasset Greenway, a network of land and water trails connecting the Town River and the Bay Circuit Trail to public conservation areas and urban centers in Bridgewater and West Bridgewater. The Greenway extends for 14 miles along the Town River from the Hockomock Swamp (part of the largest freshwater wetland system in Massachusetts) to the Taunton River. As co-coordinator of the project, Kitty brought together Bridgewater State University, planning agencies, wildlife, recreation and conservation groups and other stakeholders. Kitty has received numerous awards including the Unsung Heroine Award of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women (2007) and the Citizen of the Year Award from the Rotary Club of the Bridgewater's (2008). She has served as Secretary to the West Bridgewater Conservation Commission since 2003, where she is also Coordinator of the Department of Conservation Preservation and Recreation. She has obtained numerous grants to create multi-town trail networks, clean up rivers, protect amphibians, and educate the public. She has made the conservation office a real 'department' -open, efficient, educational, and welcoming. Kitty is the ideal conservation commission role model, always acting in the best interest of the land and its inhabitants. We need more like her!



Outstanding Agency Leadership: Commissioner Mary B. Griffin, MA Dept. of Fish & Game

Under Commissioner Mary Griffin's leadership during the last eight years, the Department of Fish and Game protected over 45,000 acres of land, which equates to approximately 22% of the total land preserved by this agency and its predecessor since its creation in 1866! Mary fought tirelessly to defend and improve the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program so that we could continue to protect the State's most imperiled plants and wildlife. Mary played an instrumental role in rebuilding the Department's Headquarters in Westborough as the state's first

net zero energy office building. With her departure as Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game, we thank her for her devotion, hard work, and extraordinary accomplishments and know she will continue to serve the Commonwealth in the next chapter of her career, leading the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition.



Outstanding Public Service: Division of Ecological Restoration, MA Dept. of Fish & Game

The Department of Fish and Game's Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) works with community-based partners throughout Massachusetts, including conservation commissions, to restore aquatic ecosystems. DER and partners have restored an estimated 1,500 acres of wetlands and over 250 miles of streams. DER and partners recently completed the largest Atlantic white cedar swamp restoration in New England and are currently working on the largest coastal wetland restoration project in the Northeast. DER's projects have been recognized by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and former President George W. Bush. DER is a nationwide leader in stream flow restoration and barrier removal. DER staff has assisted in the removal of 34 dams in Massachusetts, with dozens more in design and permitting. Since 2009, DER has helped local communities secure competitive funding awards totaling more than \$45 million to complete ecological restoration projects of local and statewide importance. DER staffs pride themselves on providing timely technical assistance to volunteers and assisting conservation commissions to protect and restore natural resources.



MACC Honors Dr. Sally Zielinski with Nancy Anderson Award

MACC is pleased to confer on Dr. Sally Zielinski its most prestigious honor, the Nancy Anderson Award, for her sustained leadership, dedication, expertise, inspiration, and many roles in which she helped MACC over the years. Her well-deserved personal contributions and professional accomplishments are legion. If unchecked, we would be tempted to describe Sally Zielinski as the Energizer Bunny of MACC.

Sally marks her start with MACC in 1987, when she joined our Board of Directors. Spanning the years 1987 to 2014, Sally has been our Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, President, and even Executive Director.

As MACC Executive Director from 1991-2003, Sally managed operations and nurtured MACC's staff of professionals who make up the backbone of MACC. She led development of the MACC Certificate Training Program for conservation commissioners and staff, oversaw the growth of the MACC Newsletter, and wrote dozens of authoritative articles. She made sure MACC was in good financial health.

Sally always applied herself to what MACC needed most, typically without being asked, and frequently for the long haul. For nearly two decades, for example, Sally co-authored MACC's Environmental Handbook for Massachusetts Conservation Commissioners with Alexandra Dawson. We have come to count on Sally to draft and advocate for strong, science-based environmental legislation and regulations as well as effective federal, state and local environmental policies.

During her tenure on and off MACC positions, Sally helped to grow what is now the largest annual environmental conference in New England, and what surely must be the largest gathering of municipal conservation officials in the world! She continues to serve on MACC committees, teach and moderate Annual Environmental Conference workshops, write articles, and undertake special projects which always turn out successfully.

Sally over the years has been a trusted advocate for the MACC mission and message on numerous state advisory committees, from vegetation management to No Net Loss to invasive plants to adjudicatory procedures to the Massachusetts Environmental Trust.

For 25 years, Sally has been a leading expert on Britton's Violet (*Viola brittoniana*), a rare floodplain plant that ranges from Massachusetts to the Carolinas. There are about two dozen populations in the Commonwealth. Sally's research has identified and documented new Massachusetts populations, including the known largest. Working with the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, nonprofits and local communities, she studies the species' ecology, conducts surveys, monitors site conditions, and develops and implements management plans that include controlling invasive plants.

In 1987 and 1988, Sally was aide and advisor to Senator Carol C. Amick, Senate Chair of the Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee. From 1984 to 1992, Sally was member (and chair 1988 to 1991) of the Carlisle Conservation Commission. She taught wetlands ecology at UMass Lowell from 1992 to 2003 as well as biology, plant ecology, plant taxonomy and mycology at Boston University from 1980 to 1983. Her publications range from rare species population studies to habitat assessments to restoration and population monitoring. She was recognized as Conservationist of the Year in Carlisle (1992) and as a SuAsCo River Steward (2009).

Always understated by Sally and unknown to many of us is her other life as a professional artist. From 1970 to the present, her talent has been for oil paintings of natural and rural landscapes, seascapes and flora from New England, California and Europe, which Sally has exhibited broadly in Massachusetts and sold to collections across the United States.

We thank Dr. Sally Zielinski for sharing with MACC, among her many other personal avocations and professional obligations, her unflagging love for the environment, commitment to conservation, expertise in science, skill at teaching, and moral example. She is a most worthy recipient of MACC's award made to the very best person we know who is made in the mold of our beloved Nancy Anderson.