Governor’s Environmental Stewardship Award Winners

25th Anniversary

1986 to 2011
History of the Governor’s Environmental Stewardship Award

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation’s Annual Stewardship Awards program began in 1995, although a major component of it, the Governor’s Award for Excellence in Hazardous Waste Management actually began in 1986 through a legislative mandate. Working through the commissioner’s office, the program’s leader, Ernie Blankenship, along with many program partners, believed there was a need to publicly recognize the fine efforts of the many unsung volunteers, both individuals and organizations, who had participated in efforts to protect our state’s environmental quality, promote environmental education, and enhance the state’s natural beauty and quality of life.

The purpose of these awards is to recognize outstanding achievements by individuals, businesses, organizations, educational institutions, and agencies resulting in successful environmental projects and conservation measures. Also to promote leadership by example and in turn increase conservation of the natural resources of the State of Tennessee – its wildlife, forests, soils, water, natural heritage, parks and recreation, and air.

In an effort to encompass the entire spectrum of environmental and conservation efforts, 14 award categories were eventually established and over the years the categories have changed names many times to better fit the type of nominations that were being received. These awards are the most prestigious environmental and conservation awards in the state. For over 20 years, the awards have been presented to individuals and organizations that make great contributions to the conservation of our wildlife and related natural resources, the natural elements upon which all life depends.

The Governor’s Environmental Stewardship Awards is an evolving awards program that will continue to change as our environmental and conservation efforts and needs change.
1986 Stewardship Award Winners
Hazardous Waste Management
Small ◆ Diversified Printing Corporation and Eaton Corporation Axle Brake Division and Carrier Air Conditioning Company
Large ◆ Cleo, Inc.

1987 Stewardship Award Winners
Hazardous Waste Management
Small ◆ Rhone-Poulenc
Large ◆ Nissan Motor Manufacturing Corporation

1988 Stewardship Award Winners
Hazardous Waste Management
Small ◆ Cleveland Pneumatic Company and Bendix-Allied Signal
Large ◆ Texas Instruments

1989 Stewardship Award Winners
Hazardous Waste Management
Small ◆ Thomas Industries
Large ◆ TRW Ross Gear

1990 Stewardship Award Winners
Hazardous Waste Management
Small ◆ Emerson Electric
Large ◆ Snap-On Tools

1991 Stewardship Award Winners
Hazardous Waste Management
Large ◆ Ball Zinc Products Division and Great Dane Trailers Tennessee, Inc.

1992 Stewardship Award Winners
Hazardous Waste Management
Small ◆ Whirlpool Corporation and Phillips Consumer Electronics Company
Large ◆ Sunbeam-Oster Specialty Products

1993 Stewardship Award Winners
Hazardous Waste Management
Large ◆ UNARCO Materials Handling Company and Schering-Plough HealthCare Products

1994 Stewardship Award Winners
Hazardous Waste Management
Small ◆ Siemens Energy and Automation
Large ◆ Lodge Manufacturing Company and Amana Refrigeration, Inc.
1995 Stewardship Award Winners

**Agriculture & Forestry**
Timberlands Division Central Region – Westvaco Corporation

**Hazardous Waste Management**
Small ◊ Advance Transformer Company and Bridgestone/Firestone Morrison Facility
Large ◊ Robertshaw Industrial Products

**Industrial Pollution Prevention**
Cooper Automotive of Wagner Lighting and Johnson Controls, Inc. and Plus Mark, Inc.

**K-12 Environmental Awareness**
Small ◊ Bon DeCroft Elementary and Nature’s Way Montessori
Medium ◊ Alpha Elementary
Large ◊ Cameron Middle and Boone’s Creek Middle
Secondary ◊ Tennessee High School

**Local Civic Volunteer**
Mr. Jim Robinson

**Local Government**
Town of Jonesborough Humphreys County 4-H

**Higher Education**
Internal ◊ Vanderbilt University
# 1996 – 1997 Stewardship Award Winners

## Agriculture & Forestry
- **East** ▶ McMinn-Loudon Farmers Co-op
- **Middle** ▶ Tenneco Packaging
- **West** ▶ Bob Whitworth, UTAES

## Aquatic Resource Preservation
- Scientific & Citizen ▶ Not Awarded

## Hazardous Waste Management
- Large ▶ E.I. DuPont de Nemours & Co.

## Industrial Pollution Prevention
- M&M / Mars
- Philips Consumers Electronics

## Service Industry/ Business
- Excel of Tennessee
- Columbia Centennial Medical Center

## K-12 Environmental Awareness
### Elementary Schools
- **East** ▶ Lonsdale Elementary and Love Chapel Elementary
- **Middle** ▶ Oak Hill School
- **West** ▶ Chimneyrock and Berclair Elementary and Dyersburg Primary

### Middle Schools
- **East** ▶ John Sevier Middle
- **Middle** ▶ William James Junior High

## K-12 Environmental Awareness
### High Schools
- **East** ▶ Maryville High
- **West** ▶ Germantown High Wolf River/ W.E.T. Project

## Local Civic Volunteer
- **East** ▶ Clean Kingsport
- **West** ▶ Germantown Environmental Community Project

## Higher Education
- Internal ▶ University of Memphis – Ground Water Institute

## Local Government
- **East** ▶ Water Quality Forum/ 2nd Creek Task Force
- **Middle** ▶ Metro Nashville Greenways Commission
- **West** ▶ Ground Water Quality Control Board for Shelby County

## Trail Development
- Not Awarded

## Natural Heritage Conservation
- **East** ▶ Foothills Land Conservancy and Friends of North Chickamauga Creek
- **Middle** ▶ Arnold Engineering Development Center and Scott’s Gulf Committee
- **West** ▶ Wolf River Conservancy
1998 Stewardship Award Winners

Agriculture & Forestry
East ▶ Clinch/Powell Watershed Protection Project
West ▶ Tenneco Packaging – Woodlands Division

Aquatic Resource Preservation
Scientific ▶ Five Rivers R&D Council Partnership
Citizen ▶ Boone Watershed Partnership

Greenways & Trails
Greenways/Conservation
East ▶ City of Maryville and Kingsport
and Johnson City
Middle ▶ Rails to Trails in Ashland City
West ▶ Recreation/Parks Department of Jackson

Industrial Pollution Prevention
East ▶ DuPont & General Shale Products Corporation
Middle ▶ Bridgestone/Firestone
West ▶ Tenneco Packaging

Higher Education
Internal ▶ Belmont University
External ▶ University of Tennessee Agriculture
Extension Service

Hazardous Waste Management
Large ▶ Olin Corporation

K-12 Environmental Awareness
Elementary Schools
Small ▶ Alpha and Hickerson
Medium ▶ Avoca and Sam Houston
Large ▶ Granberry and Sango

K-12 Environmental Awareness
Middle Schools
Small ▶ Pi Beta Phi
Medium ▶ Coffman
Large ▶ Inman

K-12 Environmental Awareness
High Schools
Small ▶ Elizabethton
Medium ▶ Hillwood
Large ▶ Centennial

Local Civic Volunteer
East ▶ Ijams Nature Center
Middle ▶ Kathy Dewein
West ▶ Haywood High School

Local Government
East ▶ Sevier Solid Waste Inc.
Middle ▶ Central TN Solid Waste Planning Board
West ▶ City of Germantown
Environmental Committee

Natural Heritage Conservation
East ▶ Flenniken Square Apartments Partnership
and Middle Glenn Springs Holdings, Inc.

Service Industry/Business
Nashville Electric Service
Renaissance Nashville Hotel
1999 Stewardship Award Winners

**Agriculture & Forestry**
East ♦️ Gail & Jim Harris Farm
Middle ♦️ Lincoln Farmers Co-Op
West ♦️ Hayden Miles – UT Agricultural Extension Service

**Aquatic Resource Preservation**
Scientific ♦️ Center for Field Biology – APSU
Citizen ♦️ Boone Watershed Partnership

**Greenways & Trails**
*Greenways/Conservation*
Bowater Pocket Wilderness Areas

**Greenways & Trails**
*Trail Development*
Individual ♦️ Ron Weber and Sam Powell
Regional ♦️ City of Brentwood

**Hazardous Waste Management**
Small ♦️ Bridgestone/Firestone Morrison Facility
Large ♦️ Fort Campbell – Pollution Prevention Center

**Higher Education**
External ♦️ Center for Field Biology – APSU

**Industrial Pollution Prevention**
Bridgestone/Firestone Morrison Facility and Tenneco Packaging

**Local Civic Volunteer**
Janet Clark – Bristol
Frank Sanders – Winchester

**Local Government**
Scenic Cities Beautiful Commission of Chattanooga
City of Cleveland
Williamson County
City of Memphis – Division of Public Works

**Natural Heritage Conservation**
East ♦️ Steele Creek Parks Nature Center
Statewide ♦️ Bridgestone/Firestone Nashville Facility
Land Donations ♦️ J&M Huber Corporation

**K-12 Environmental Awareness**
*Elementary Schools*
Small ♦️ Love Chapel and Tennessee Ridge
Medium ♦️ Highland Park and Westwood
Large ♦️ Granberry and Stuart-Burns/Burns and A.L. Lotts

**K-12 Environmental Awareness**
*Middle Schools*
Small ♦️ Camp Creek and MacDonald/Mohawk and E.E. Jeter
Medium ♦️ Sequatchie County
Large ♦️ Cameron and Prescott Central

**K-12 Environmental Awareness**
*High Schools*
Small ♦️ Sequatchie and Sweetwater
Large ♦️ Centennial

**Service Industry/Business**
Waste Reduction & Recycling, Inc.
Black & Decker, Inc.
Sheraton Music City Hotel
2000 Stewardship Award Winners

Agriculture & Forestry
East View Farm Belvedere

Greenways & Trails
Greenways/Conservation
Linda Hixson
Lyndhurst Foundation

Aquatic Resource Preservation
Scientific ◇ Upper Holston Watershed Team – TVA
Citizen ◇ North Chickamauga Creek Conservancy;
Girls Scouts of Reelfoot Council; Tennessee River
Rescue and Dorris & Sherri Sutton

Industrial Pollution Prevention
East ◇ Bowater Newsprint
Middle ◇ Tennsco Corporation
West ◇ Buckeye Technologies of Memphis

Local Government
Marion County
Roane County Recycling Center

K-12 Environmental Awareness
Elementary Schools
Small ◇ Natures Way Montessori; Oakmont
Elementary; Pittard Campus
Medium ◇ Fountain City; West Carroll Primary; Green
Magnet Math/Science
Large ◇ Chimneyrock Elementary; Oak Elementary

K-12 Environmental Awareness
Middle Schools
Small ◇ Spalding School;
McDonald School; Two Rivers

Hazardous Waste Management
Small ◇ Tennsco Corporation of Dickson

Greenways & Trails
Trail Development
Green Gold Conservancy
Friends of Big Cypress Tree Natural Area

Higher Education
Internal ◇ UT Chattanooga
External ◇ UT – CIS and UT – Chattanooga Creek Watershed

Local Civic Volunteer
Martha Sundquist; Fred Sandefer; Paris Council
Garden Club; Dr. Harry Houk – University of Memphis;
Jamie Marston; Waller Trust Acquisition

Service Industry/Business
Community Resource Center of Nashville
Woodlake Golf & Lake Community of Tazewell

K-12 Environmental Awareness
High Schools
Small ◇ Elizabethton High; F.C. Boyd Christian High
and Hutchison Preparatory; McCallie High; Forrest
High School

Natural Heritage Conservation
Westvaco; Swan Conservation Trust; USX
Corporation/ U.S. Steel Group; Marathon Ashland
Petroleum
2001 Stewardship Award Winners

Agriculture & Forestry
Mr. Richard Spain Greene County

Aquatic Resource Preservation
Scientific ⋆ Conservation Fisheries, Inc.
and Mr. Lewis Bumpus
Citizen ⋆ South Chickamauga Creek Greenway
and Alliance and Cumberland River Compact

Greenways & Trails
City of Knoxville
Mr. John Wilbanks – Pigeon Forge
City of Collegedale
City of Clarksville
Volunteer Conservation Club of Dyersburg
Cane Creek Lake & Park Project of Cookeville

Local Government
Memphis Light, Gas & Water Department

Commissioner’s Gold Star
Mr. Gary Barrigar – Elizabethton
Ms. Pat Carpenter – Mohawk
Ms. Sherrie Force – Nashville
Mr. Dan Edmiston – Cordova
Mr. Jeff Taylor – Franklin

Local Civic Volunteer
Jill Bader – Nashville
Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Scott – Ooltewah
Friends of South Cumberland Recreation Area
YMCA Earth Services Corp. of
Nashville/Middle Tennessee
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Garr – Mt. Juliet

Hazardous Waste Management
Small ⋆ Tennsco Corporation of Dickson
Large ⋆ Eastman Chemical of Kingsport

Natural Heritage Conservation
Bridgestone/Firestone Inc.
Mr. Rex Boner - The Conservation Fund

Higher Education
External ⋆ The University of Tennessee
Botany Department; Vanderbilt Center for
Environmental Management Studies

Industrial Pollution Prevention
RTR Group Inc. dba/Dura-Glass Pools
General shale Products Corporation

K-12 Environmental Awareness
Elementary Schools
St. Nicholas; Algood; Johnson;
Granberry; Copper Ridge;
Chimneyrock Elementary

K-12 Environmental Awareness
Middle Schools
McDonald Middle School TSAP Club
and Fairview Middle School Recycling Team

K-12 Environmental Awareness
High Schools
Sevier County; Wartburg Central; F.C. Boyd Christian;
Centennial; Forrest High School

Service Industry/Business
BP Amoco Oil Company
2002 Stewardship Award Winners

**Agriculture & Forestry**
State of Tennessee Division of Forestry
Shadow Nursery
Mr. Frank McGinley of Savannah

**Hazardous Waste Management**
Large ♦ Eastman Chemical of Kingsport

**Greenways & Trails**
City of Kingsport; City of Murfreesboro; Germantown Parks & Recreation Department; Mr. & Mrs. John Donnelly – Crossville; Mr. Jim Schroeder – Cumberland Trail

**Higher Education**
External ♦ East Tennessee State University and Middle Tennessee State University Center for Environmental Education

**Local Government**
City of Memphis; Lewis County; Campbell County; Town of Walden

**K-12 Environmental Awareness**

*Elementary Schools*
Alpha Intermediate; Granberry Elementary; Chimneyrock Elementary; St. Joseph Elementary; Maryville Intermediate

*Middle Schools*
McDonald; Fairview Middle School; Prescott Central Middle

**Commissioner’s Gold Star**
Dr. Julia Price – Morristown
Ms. Lynne Harvey – Kingsport
Ms. Twanella Majors – McMinnville

**Local Civic Volunteer**
Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy
Mr. Michael Claridy – Trousdale County 4-H
Mrs. Linda Stephens – President Recycle Rutherford

**Aquatic Resource Preservation**
Steele Creek Park Nature Center; Dr. Alan McClure & BASF Corporation; TN Dept. of Agriculture – Non-Point Source Program; Coal Creek Watershed Foundation; Harpeth River Watershed Association; Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association

**Industrial Pollution Prevention**
Kimberly-Clark – Loudon
DENSO Manufacturing
Glenn Springs Holding Company
Ft. Campbell Pollution Prevention Center

**Natural Heritage Conservation**
Mr. & Mrs. Glen Stallard – ALCOA Foundation
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
The Nature Conservancy of Tennessee

**K-12 Environmental Awareness**

*High Schools*
Centennial High; F.C. Boyd Christian; Sweetwater High; Sequoyah High; Clarksville/Montgomery County Schools

**Service Industry/Business**
Waves Recycle, Inc.
Auto Zone, Inc.
Hallsdale-Powell Utility District
2003 Stewardship Award Winners

**Agriculture & Forestry**
Burkhart Family Dairy Farm and International Paper Company
–Statewide Timberlands and Mr. & Mrs. Charles Daugherty
–Charlin Family Tree Farm and Cane Creek Watershed – Lauderdale County Soil Conservation District

**Aquatic Resource Preservation**
Overmountain Chapter Trout Unlimited
Dry Creek Coal Remining Project – Sequatchie Valley
Louisville Landing and Concord Marinas
Mr. John Jenkinson – TVA

**Hazardous Waste Management**
Large ♦ Fort Campbell Pollution Prevention Center

**K-12 Environmental Awareness**
Not Awarded

**Higher Education**
Internal ♦ Center for Excellence for Field Biology – APSU
External ♦ University of Tennessee – Botany Department and Tennessee Environmental Education Association (TEEA) and Tennessee Solid Waste Education Project (TNSWEP)

**Greenways & Trails**
Mrs. Eileen Cowen – LaGrange
City of Tullahoma
Trust for Public Land
The City of Collegedale & Norfolk & Southern Railroad

**Industrial Pollution Prevention**
Saturn Corporation of Spring Hill
Five Rivers Industrial Complex of Greenville

**Local Civic Volunteer**
Cumberland River Compact
TVA – Gallatin Fossil Plant Employees
Mrs. Curtis Officer – Livingston
The Late Richard Williams – ALCOA

**Local Government**
City of Germantown Environmental Commission and Metro Nashville – Stormwater Quality Management Program

**Service Industry/Business**
Target Corporation
Tennessee Department of Transportation
The Knoxville News – Sentinel
The Federal Correctional Institution at Memphis

**Natural Heritage Conservation**
Dr. Brian Coles – Division of Natural Heritage
The Weyerhaeuser Company – Timberland Division
Mr. & Mrs. Carter Patten – Chattanooga
The Hurricane Mountain Conservancy
Mr. Dennis Horn – Tullahoma
Dr. William Redmond – TVA’s Natural Heritage Program
2004 Stewardship Award Winners

**Agriculture & Forestry**
John P. Davis, Jr.

**Aquatic Resource Preservation**
Citizens " The Harpeth River Watershed Association and Little River Watershed Association
Scientific " The Nature Conservancy & Partners - Hatchie River Project

**Civic Volunteer**
Mr. Jerry Wilde – Pigeon River
The Dyer County Association of
Tennessee Master Gardeners

**Natural Heritage Conservation**
Coffee County Joint Industrial Park
Service Industry/Business
5R Processors Ltd. of Clinton
Tennessee Energy Leadership
Delta Faucet Company of Jackson
Memphis Light, Gas & Water Department

**Green Schools**
*Clean Air*
Andrew Johnson Elementary
Energy Conservation
Centennial High School

*Hazardous Chemicals Management*
Campbell County High School

*Land & Water Conservation*
Centennial High School

*Solid Waste Reduction*
Granbery Elementary

**Higher Education**
Not Awarded

**Greenways**

*Individual*
Mr. William Fronk – Hamilton County

*Local Community*
The Town of Erwin

**Hazardous Waste Management**
Large " Fort Campbell Pollution Prevention Center

**Industrial Pollution Prevention**
Tennessee Koyo Steering Systems Company
Local Government
Fort Campbell Military Installation
Panther Creek State Park

**Trails**
Panther Creek State Park/Hamblen Keep America Beautiful
2005 Stewardship Award Winners

**Agriculture & Forestry**
Tennessee Partners Project, Jackson

**Energy Leadership**
TVA Green Power Switch and Generation Partners

**Greenways Stewardship**
Metro Nashville Greenways Program

**Hazardous Waste Management**
Small △ Portion Pac, Inc. of Nashville
Large △ Olin Chlor Alkali, Inc. of Charleston and Volvo Penta Marine, LLC

**Aquatic Resource Preservation**
Panther Creek State Park

**Environmental Education and Outreach**
Knox County Community Action Commission (CAC) and AmeriCorps

**Parks & Recreation**
Randall B. Whitworth
Henry Horton State Park

**Pollution Prevention**
Valley Proteins LLC

**Green Schools**
*CLean Air*
Huntingdon Primary School

*Energy Conservation*
McDonald School

*Hazardous Chemicals Management/ Reduction*
Red Bank Middle School

*Land & Water Conservation*
Centennial High School

*Solid Waste Reduction*
Cumberland County High School

**Higher Education**

*Recycling*
Nashville State Community College
University of Tennessee
Vanderbilt University

*Reduction*
University of Tennessee

*Reuse*
University of Tennessee

**Natural Heritage Conservation**
The Tennessee Nature Conservancy
2006 Stewardship Award Winners

**Agriculture & Forestry**
University of Tennessee Forest Resources Center’s Horneyhead Creek Restoration

**Aquatic Resource Preservation**
Red River Watershed Association’s Visual Stream Assessments of Impaired Streams

**Building Green**
Cumberland River Compact’s Building Outside the Box (BOB)

**Energy Leadership**
Panther Creek State Park’s Energy Conservation Program

**Greenways & Trails**
City of Cookeville’s Tennessee Central Heritage Trail

**Environmental Education and Outreach**
Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont

**Parks & Recreation**
Native Butterfly Garden at Burgess Falls State Park

**Natural Heritage Conservation**
Stones River National Battlefield Restoration

**Green Schools**

* K-12
  Huntingdon Primary School “Cash for Trash”

* Higher Education
  Rhodes College Bike Program

**Hazardous Waste Management**
Small ▶ Hamilton County School Chemical Cleanout Campaign
Large ▶ Fort Campbell’s Pollution Prevention Operation Center

**Pollution Prevention**
Vanderbilt University’s Workplace Commuters Project
2007 Stewardship Award Winners

**Agriculture & Forestry**
Raymond Cooper Farm Grazing Technology for Water Quality

**Building Green**
Morgan Park Place, Phase One

**Aquatic Resource Preservation**
Tennessee Department of Agriculture Seven Mile Creek – Ellington Restoration Project

**Energy Leadership**
City of Johnson City Iris Glen Gas to Energy Partnership

**Greenways & Trails**
Maury County Parks & Recreation Tony’s Trail

**Environmental Education and Outreach**
Tennessee Valley Earth Partnership EarthFest

**Natural Heritage Conservation**
Friends of Beaman Park Non Native Invasive Plant Management and Landscape Restoration

**Parks & Recreation**
City of Chattanooga Renaissance Park

**Hazardous Waste Management**
Small Pull-A-Part Nashville: A Part of the Solution

**Pollution Prevention**
SIM from Tricycle, Inc.

**Greenways & Trails**
Maury County Parks & Recreation Tony’s Trail

**Green Schools**

*K-12*
West Carroll Elementary “Illuminates” Solid Waste Reduction and Energy Conservation

*Higher Education*
Middle Tennessee State University - WaterWorks!

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16
2008 Stewardship Award Winners

**Agriculture & Forestry**
Robert Thompson Conservation Farm - Niota

**Aquatic Resource Preservation**
Tennessee Aquarium Research Institute - Saving the Sturgeon - Tennessee River Watershed

**Building Green**
Metro Nashville Parks “Green” Nature Centers

**Energy Leadership**
Cleveland State Community College

**Greenways & Trails**
Peterson Lake Nature Area – Town of Collierville

**Environmental Education and Outreach**
Kilowatt Ours Youth Initiative

**Natural Heritage Conservation**
Tennessee’s Wild Side

**Hazardous Waste Reduction**
Johns Manville facility - Etowah

**Parks & Recreation**
Bell Buckle Park

**Pollution Prevention**
Bridgestone Firestone North American Tire, LLC

**Green Schools**
*K-12*
The Harpeth Hall School

**Solid Waste Reduction**
U.S. Fence facility in Bulls Gap

*Higher Education*
Vanderbilt University: The Commons
2009 Stewardship Award Winners

Agriculture & Forestry
Take Root Chattanooga

Building Green
Vanderbilt University / The Commons Phase II

Greenways & Trails
Wolf River Environmental Restoration Project

Natural Heritage Conservation
Lost Cove

Parks & Recreation
Bear Trace at Harrison Bay Golf Course

Green Schools
K-12
David Lipscomb Elementary School

Higher Education
Lipscomb University

Aquatic Resource Preservation
Duck River Opportunities Project

Energy Leadership
Gear Up for Clean Energy – Crockett Goes Green

Environmental Education and Outreach
Bridgestone Environmental Education Classroom and Habitat

Hazardous Waste Reduction
Tennessee Galvanizing

Pollution Prevention
JTEKT Corporation

Solid Waste Reduction
Procter & Gamble
2010 Stewardship Award Winners

Agriculture & Forestry
King Dairy Farm

Building Green
BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee

Greenways & Trails
City of Clarksville for the Clarksville Greenway

Natural Heritage Conservation
Friends of Warner Parks – Preservation of the Hill Forest

Parks & Recreation
A Sustainable Bonnaroo

Green Schools
K-12
University School of Nashville
Higher Education
Pellissippi State Community College

Aquatic Resource Preservation
City of Athens/Athens-McMinn Family YMCA

Energy Leadership
Nissan Americas

Environmental Education and Outreach
The Water Quality Forum’s Rainy Day Brush Off

Hazardous Waste Reduction
Tri State Distribution, Inc.

Pollution Prevention
Chattanooga Green Lodging Certification Program

Solid Waste Reduction
Knoxville Regional Medication Collection Program

Sustainable Transportation Solutions
Tennessee Department of Transportation
Lifetime Achievement Winners

1994 Lifetime Environmental/Conservation
Dr. Ruth Neff – Nashville

1995 Lifetime Environmental/Conservation
Volunteer
Mr. Edward F. Williams, III, P.E.

1995 Lifetime Environmental/Conservation
Professional
A pioneer in this nation’s environmental protection efforts and longtime director of Tennessee’s water pollution control agency Mr. Jones had a brief stint with the U.S. Geological Survey, Mr. Jones was hired in 1936 by the Tennessee Valley Authority. The three-year-old federal agency was already immersed in dam construction throughout the valley, and in 1939 Mr. Jones was assigned to Wilson Dam in Alabama. It was there that he met TVA librarian Lila Bell Haney, and in 1941 they were married. About this time, TVA decided to send the young engineer to Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. The school was already at the forefront of public health research and training, and in 1942 it awarded a second master’s degree to Mr. Jones, this one in public-health engineering. Mr. Jones was able to put his new skills to good use at his next assignment: helping in the construction of Fontana Dam on the Little Tennessee River in western North Carolina.

Throughout the TVA region, waters were severely degraded by municipal and industrial discharges. In 1943, the Tennessee Departments of Health and Conservation had persuaded legislators to introduce a pollution-control law. Although the bill failed, the General Assembly authorized a study board to further examine the issue. Tennessee turned to TVA for technical help, and the man they sent was S. Leary Jones. Mr. Jones did more than assist the effort. He became the primary author of a 47-page document detailing the alarming condition of Tennessee’s streams. This report, delivered to the Stream Pollution Study Board in January 1945, revealed that fewer than a third of the 114 sewer systems in the state provided any sewage treatment before discharging to the State’s waterways. Many more communities had no sewage collection system at all. Industrial waste was just as bad, with an estimated 200 million to 400 million gallons per day receiving little or no treatment. Within months of receiving these findings, Tennessee’s General Assembly passed the first water pollution law in the nation. The Tennessee Stream Pollution Control Act of 1945 predated the first federal Water Pollution Control Act by a full three years and helped inspire similar laws in other states. The new law created a Stream Pollution Control Board within the Department of Health. Mr. Jones was hired as its principal engineer, and when the department created a Stream Pollution Control Division, he was named as its first director.

Although the watershed approach to water quality management is the norm today, forty years ago it was downright visionary. Although he rejected all permanent job offers, he enjoyed two weeks of field work every year as a member of the U.S. Public Health Service Reserve; he was intensely active in the Kentucky-Tennessee Water Pollution Control Association (which he helped create); and for a number of years he served as an adjunct professor in Vanderbilt University’s Department of Environmental and Water Resources Engineering. It was only when he retired in 1975, after 30 years at the helm of the agency, that Mr. Jones relinquished the director’s chair. In 1990, the association established the “S. Leary Jones Hall of Fame Award” in honor of their colleague’s tireless service to clean water. In 1995, TDEC presented him with its Lifetime Environmental Stewardship Award. At Mr. Jones’ memorial service at Nashville’s Trinity Presbyterian Church, it was said of him that he “was just the man the state needed to figure out the science, to problem-solve the engineering challenges, to work with all the players and hierarchies, to speak for the voiceless streams and rivers, fish and birds, plants and trees, [and] to care for the health of God’s creation—nature and people.” The department, its staff and all who use and enjoy Tennessee’s waters owe much to this remarkable man.
Edward L. Thackston, a native of Lebanon, Tenn., received his bachelor of engineering degree in civil engineering from Vanderbilt University in 1961, and earned the Founder’s Medal for top honors. Thackston worked for Lebanon as city engineer and for the city of Nashville as a design engineer. He later received a master of science degree from the University of Illinois in 1963 and a doctoral degree from Vanderbilt in environmental and water resources engineering in 1966.

Thackston taught water and waste treatment, water supply, wastewater collection, water quality management, and environmental law at Vanderbilt from 1965 to 2000, except for 1972–1973 when he was on leave to serve as staff assistant for environmental affairs to Tennessee Gov. Winfield Dunn. In 1974 he was named Conservationist of the Year by the Tennessee Conservation League—the Tennessee affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation—for his work in promoting good environmental policy within the Tennessee state government.

From 1980 through 1999, Thackston was chairman of the department of civil and environmental engineering at Vanderbilt, during which time the faculty expanded from 10 to 15. He directed almost $1.5 million in sponsored research activity and has been the author or co-author of more than 120 technical publications. Thackston retired from Vanderbilt in 2000, was active in several research projects until 2005, and remains active in private consulting. Thackston was active in the Tennessee Conservation League and was on the board of directors from 1974 through 2003. He won the League’s Career Achievement Award in 1983 and the Lifetime Conservation Achievement Award from the State of Tennessee in 1997. Thackston also served on the Tennessee Water Quality Control Board and as chairman of the Metro Nashville Wastewater Hearing Authority.

He was named Engineer of the Year in 2001 by the Nashville chapter of the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers. Also in 2001, he received the Outstanding Paper Award from the Association of Environmental Engineers and Scientists. In 2004, the Kentucky-Tennessee Water Environment Association presented him its Leary Jones Award and named him to its Hall of Fame. In 1990 Thackston was named a Distinguished Graduate by Lebanon High School. In 1995, he was elected to the board of trust of Cumberland University and in 2007 he was elected chairman of the board.
Robert Sparks Walker Lifetime Achievement

Robert Sparks Walker was a native Tennessean whose love of his native land inspired him to spend a lifetime in research and writing about Tennessee’s history and natural wonders. For eighty-two years he lived in the Chattanooga area, finding there an endless wealth of material on which he based his long and respected career. During his life Mr. Walker identified and labeled more than 3,500 trees on school grounds and parks, broadcasted a 15-minute weekly nature program on the radio, answered over 20,000 nature questions, organized the Chattanooga-Lookout Mountain Hiking Club, and founded and edited Flowers and Feather. Winners of this lifetime achievement award reflect Walker’s contribution to a greater awareness of Tennessee’s environment and the need to preserve its natural beauty. Nominees must have at least 25 years of service devoted to enhancing Tennessee’s environment through natural resource management, conservation, education and public service.

**Note:** Henceforth, this award will be named the Robert Sparks Walker (1878-1960) Lifetime Achievement Award to posthumously recognize the pioneering drive of Mr. Walker, an attorney in Chattanooga who devoted his life, writings, and estate toward developing a public interest and appreciation for nature. UT Chattanooga’s Lupton Library is currently cataloging Mr. Walker’s papers, etc. for public viewing this spring.

1998 Lifetime Environmental/Conservation Volunteer 1930 – 2007 Mr. Robert Brown

Mr. Robert Brown is a retired Vice-President of the Third National Bank and was nominated by the Nature Conservancy, who states that "he has exhibited a pure love for natural things for almost 70 years." He was a Board member of Nature Conservancy, Friends of Radnor Lake, Tennessee Trails Association founder and many other involvements. Bob was a founding member of the Tennessee Trails Association in 1968 and spent countless hours working on the Black and Brady Mountain sections of the Cumberland State Scenic Trail (CT). This section is south of I-40 where the CT crossed I-40 at the Crab Orchard exit. Bob worked by himself, with the local community in Grassy Cove, with TTA volunteers and with Boy Scout troops.

Bob was also an avid birder, loved the Warner Parks in Nashville and helped convince the City of Metro Nashville to acquire the 1,500 acre Beaman Park property. Bob’s constant companion on the trail was his dog, Trouble. Trouble was very well mannered and was as well known as Bob. Bob passed away in 2007.

1998 Lifetime Environmental/Conservation Professional  Dr. Patrick Doyle – MTSU

In 1972, Dr. Doyle began his public service recycling volunteer role. Results then: 9,000,000 pounds newspapers recycled, 175,000 pounds aluminum cans recycled, 1,000,000 pounds office paper recycled. These activities, plus hundreds of workshop presentations have funded 28 scholarships enjoyed by 300 students since 1972. ($300,000 raised by volunteer efforts for scholarships).
1999 Lifetime Environmental/Conservation
Volunteer Evan Means
Evan Means - journalist, author, conservationist, hiker, trail builder, originator of the Cumberland Trail, and co-founder of the Tennessee Trails Association. Mr. Means won countless awards for his work over the years to protect Tennessee’s natural resources and beauty, as well as for his dedication to projects that allow hikers to enjoy this natural beauty.

1999 Lifetime Environmental/Conservation
Professional Gary Myers
Myers has spent the last 27 years of his distinguished 40-year career in wildlife management as executive director of the TWRA, one of the longest running tenures of any wildlife agency director in the nation. He has been actively involved in implementation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, both nationally and internationally. Myers has also served on the North American Wetlands Conservation Council and is presently involved in the North American Bird Conservation Initiative. He has served on the steering committee of Partners in Flight, a national non-game bird initiative and provided impetus for the development of the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan. He has received numerous awards and honors, including the Regional Director’s Partnership Award from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in recognition of his leadership in fish and wildlife conservation.

2000 Lifetime Environmental/Conservation
Volunteer 1910-2003 Dr. William Russell & Dr. Liane Russell
William Russell was a world-renowned geneticist and long-time advocate for Tennessee waters. Together with wife Liane, he founded Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP) in 1966, an organization dedicated to the protection of land and water through public ownership. Bill co-authored and facilitated the passage of the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Act in 1968, the first such comprehensive act in the nation, preceding the national act.

Bill worked tirelessly to prevent the construction of a dam on the Obed River. He succeeded in saving the Obed from the dam, and also had it designated a National Wild and Scenic River in 1976. Liane B. Russell joined the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in 1947 and retired in 2002, continuing, however, on a guest assignment. Between 1975 and 1995 she served as head of the Mammalian Genetics & Development Section. Dr. Russell’s scientific contributions have been chiefly in the areas of basic mammalian genetics, mammalian mutagenesis, and teratogenesis. Early in her career, she carried out a systematic study of the effects of radiation on mouse embryos and fetuses which led to the definition of demarcated critical periods during prenatal development. Applying the findings of this classical teratogenetic study to human health, she suggested that elective radiation of women of childbearing age be restricted to the first two weeks of a menstrual cycle to avoid unsuspected pregnancies, a recommendation that has been accepted worldwide. She also developed the homeotic-shift method, a highly sensitive and quantitative prescreen for agents capable of causing developmental damage. The Russells, husband and wife, were leaders of mammalian genetics studies at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The Russells also formed the Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, seeking stringent control of strip-mining and preservation of wilderness areas. Their efforts fostered creation of the Big South Fork National Recreation Area in northern Tennessee and southern Kentucky.
2000 Lifetime Environmental/Conservation

Professional Earl Leming

Mr. Leming has worked with a number of government agencies whose mandate includes natural resources management, conservation, education, and/or environmental protection and enhancements. These agencies include Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency, Tennessee Valley Authority, Corp. Of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy, and numerous other state environmental programs. Mr. Leming was instrumental in establishing the Tennessee Oversight Agreement which provides the State of Tennessee the technical and financial support to assure its citizens that their health, safety and environment are being protected through existing programs and substantial new commitments by the Department of Energy.

Mr. Leming represents the State of Tennessee as technical representative to the National Governor’s Association Federal Facilities Compliance Task Force and the National Conference of State Legislature’s State and Tribal Government Working Group. These groups address such issues as the equitable transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of the Department of Energy’s waste on a national level. These wastes include long lived radioactive material which requires institutional control for many generations to come. In all of the considerations Mr. Leming continues to place the protection of Tennessee’s environment and the conservation of her resources for the use of present and future generations first. Mr. Leming has devoted a working lifetime of effective and valuable service to Tennessee’s environmental protection.

2001 Lifetime Environmental/Conservation

Volunteer 1918 - 2005 Mr. Donald Todd – Wartburg

Mr. Donald Todd of Wartburg/Morgan County was a retired Morgan County high school biology teacher who was actively crusading for recognition of the Cumberland Mountains’ natural beauty and their protection. He passed away at the age 87. He was a First Lieutenant in the 13th Army Air Corps, serving as a Bombardier during World War II in the Pacific Theatre. He worked for the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Soil Conservation Service and was a retired Morgan County Teacher and member of the Retired Teacher’s Association. He was a Boy Scout Leader and Sunday School Teacher in First Baptist Church of Wartburg. He was a charter member of the Morgan County Genealogical and Historical Society and served as Morgan County Historian until his death. Mr. Todd was very active in environmental and conservation issues until his death and received numerous awards. As a part of his environmental efforts, he hosted a radio talk show, led wildflower hikes in Frozen Head State Park and appeared on the Heartland television series. He was a founder and Past President of the Tennessee Trails Association with a prime role in passing the bill that created Tennessee’s Scenic Trail System. He was also a founder and served three terms as President of Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning.

Mr. Todd was instrumental in the establishment of the Obed River as part of the National Wild and Scenic River System. He led efforts for the establishment of Frozen Head State Park and later efforts to expand the protection of the Flat Fork Valley adjacent to the park. For these efforts, he was the first Tennessean to be presented with the prestigious Gulf Oil Award in 1985.
2001 Lifetime Environmental/Conservation

Mr. Douglas Clark – Winchester
Mr. Douglas Clark/Winchester and Jack Daniel Distillery –
Mr. Clark was an early (1970s) industrial sector pioneer
who urged voluntary compliance and stewardship from his peers. He served for 16 years as a Board Member of the
Tennessee Conservation League. He is actively employed at
the Distillery in an executive capacity and still urging waste
reduction/recycling and good stewardship.

2002 Lifetime Environmental/Conservation
Volunteer Mr. Sam Powell – Signal Mountain
For the past 30 years, Mr. Powell has served as a volunteer visionary of the Cumberland Trail and has devoted
innumerable hours to volunteer teams building infrastructure for the Cumberland Trail and other projects.
Sam Powell was one of the founder’s of the Tennessee Trails Association (TTA) which was created in 1968 with
the vision of creating the Cumberland Trail as an alternate to the Appalachian Trail. Sam, along with Evan
Means, Donald Todd and Robert (Bob) Brown started the TTA at a meeting at Cumberland Mountain State
Park. Sam was a strong supporter for the passage of the Tennessee Trails Acts in 1971. This Act designated the
Cumberland Trail (CT) as one of seven state scenic trails and the Act was the beginning of the development of
the 300 mile long CT.

Sam was a tireless worker on the Signal Mountain section (southern end) of the Cumberland Trails working
with the Boy Scouts, Tennessee Division of Forestry staff and many other volunteers to not only build the trail,
but became famous for his bridges crossing streams on the trail. He was also a guardian of the Rainbow Lake
property owned by the Town of Signal Mountain. Sam was actively involved with the development of trails at
the Shackleford Ridge Park that was built in the late 1990’s at these trails made connections to the Cumberland
Trail and the Signal Mountain trails.

2002 Lifetime Environmental/Conservation
Professional Mr. Mack Prichard

Mr. Prichard has rendered 50 years of service to Tennessee Department of
Environment and Conservation. He has been described as "the conscience
of conservation in Tennessee for the past 40 years." Mack Prichard began
his career with the state’s conservation department when he was just 16
years old, as a seasonal naturalist at Shelby Forest State Park near
Memphis. In addition to developing a profound knowledge of natural and
cultural history, he had a gift for connecting with the public. Mack has
distinguished himself as The Conservation Conscience of Tennessee,
having traveled more than two million miles in presenting to Tennesseans
the natural and cultural history of their homeland and fostering
outstanding conservation efforts by others; and has been responsible for
the creation of more than thirty conservation organizations and has been
honored more than thirty-five times for his exemplary service to
conservation in Tennessee. Mack's remarkable success as a public servant and naturalist is directly
attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon
ability to work well with people from all walks of life. He epitomizes the ideal of the consummate
conservationist, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor.
2002 Lifetime Environmental/ Conservation

Dr. David Etnier – The University of Tennessee

Dr. Etnier, a 2001 retiree from UT has spent 35 years engaged in the study of Tennessee’s streams and rivers and species therein. The Southeast Fishes Council recognizes Dr. Etnier as one of the foremost leaders in Tennessee stream systems and aquatic fauna. David joined the Zoology Department at UT in 1965 after completing a BS in Fish and Wildlife Management and PhD in Zoology at the University of Minnesota. He continues to serve at UT as an Emeritus Professor, mostly spending his time doing research and writing papers on various aspects of aquatic biology, especially concerning the systematics of fishes and caddisflies of eastern North America.

During his career and his many students have been involved with numerous Park projects, including the fishes of the park, large stream fish surveys for the park, Brook Trout reintroductions in the Park, and the ATBI for the park as a specialist in the insect order Trichoptera (the caddisflies). He and his wife Liz and their three grown children and four grandchildren continue to spend summers on their island on Lake Saganaga, just north of the wilderness, on the MN/ON border. While David mostly does research in the Park, wife Liz, author of a recently published day-hikers guide to all the trails in the Park, really uses it. David has also served as a trustee on the Tennessee Chapter of the Nature Conservancy.

2003 Lifetime Environmental/ Conservation

Ms. Shirley Caldwell-Patterson – Nashville

Ms. Caldwell-Patterson, a native Nashvillian has engaged in environmental and conservation activities for more than 25-years. Currently, she serves as the founder and chairman of the Cumberland River Compact. She has been an effective volunteer organizer of the Tennessee Environmental Council; the Tennessee Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, Environmental Action Fund, and the Lucius Burch Conservation Funds at the Nashville and Memphis Community Foundations.

2003 Lifetime Environmental/ Conservation

Dr. Elsie Quarterman – Vanderbilt University

Dr. Quarterman is a retired (1976) Biology Professor at Vanderbilt University. For more than 50 years, students and conservation workers have followed Dr. Quarterman through prickly cedar brush to study and protect routinely abused “waste places” known as cedar glades, home to 19 rare and endangered species of plants that grow nowhere else in the world. Cedar glades are natural rock gardens occurring in Middle Tennessee’s Central Basin.
Ann has been an effective, relentless advocate for Tennessee’s free-flowing streams, environmentally healthy watersheds and environmentally sensitive outdoor recreation for nearly 40 years. As a founding member of the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association and a founding member of the Friends of Radnor Lake, Ann quickly established a lifelong career of protecting our natural resources. She chaired the Governor’s Commission on Tennesseans Outdoors and has been appointed by several governors to special task forces and an environmental regulatory board. An enthusiastic supporter of greenway corridors and recreational trails, Ann became chairman of the newly formed Metro-Nashville Greenway Commission in 1993, a post that she continues to hold today. As a board member of the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Association, Ann led the effort to give small grants to local groups to spur the development of local greenways in smaller communities. Her tireless efforts have constantly promoted a strong conservation ethic among the public, the business community and government leaders and has forged many paths for citizen involvement in environmental protection and conservation issues.

Dr. Byford, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin, has dedicated his service career to teaching landowners, outdoor users and youth how to manage and enjoy the land. His manner of teaching inspires his students to love and respect the land and wildlife. His broad perspective of land management, his conviction to land stewardship and his moderate, common sense approach to the land ethic has attracted national attention. Dr. Byford’s approach to land management brings together the agricultural community forestry interests, as well as wildlife and fisheries advocates. Since being named Conservationist of the Year by the Tennessee Conservation League in 1982, Dr. Byford has received numerous state and national awards for his work, particularly for his conservation education work with youth. Over the last 20 years, he has given 57 invited presentations in 24 states, Ecuador and Japan. Dr. Byford’s widely respected book, “Close to the Land,” was published in 1999 and his monthly outdoor column appears in Southeast Farm Press.
2005 Robert Sparks Walker Lifetime Achievement

Gary Myers, Nashville

Gary Myers, one of the longest serving leaders of a state conservation agency in United State's history, has announced his retirement as the executive director of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, effective March 1, 2009. Myers announcement came during the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission meeting on Wednesday (Oct. 21).

Myers, 73, has been associated with the TWRA since 1974 when he came to Tennessee following 11 years with the Colorado Game and Fish Department. He served as TWRA Assistant Director of Field Operations. He was named as TWRA Executive Director in 1978 and celebrated his 30th anniversary in the position this year. Widely recognized by his peers and conservation organizations throughout the country, Myers has received numerous honors during his acclaimed career.

Among Myers’ most recent awards was receiving the George Bird Grinnell Memorial Award for Distinguished Service to Natural Resource Conservation. The Grinnell Award salutes a person whose career in conservation has been exemplified by integrity, leadership, foresight and achievement. This past summer, Myers was named the Tennessee Outdoors Sportsman of the Year which was presented during the annual Legends of The Outdoors National Hall of Fame Banquet. Myers is credited with leading the TWRA through a critical period in its history. He has also served on many national fish, wildlife, and boating committees during his tenure. The TWRC will conduct a search to find a replacement as TWRA executive director.

2006 Robert Sparks Walker Lifetime Achievement

Virginia “Happy” Birdsong, Nashville

For more than fifty years the vivacious spirit, humor, and fearless sense of adventure have combined with Happy Birdsong’s love of outdoors to benefit Tennessee communities. From parks in Madison to lakes at Old Hickory and Percy Priest, her work with young people has touched lives while making our world more fun and beautiful. For more than 50 years Happy impacted thousands of young women through her leadership with Girl Scouts of America. Through words and deeds she encouraged Girl Scout troops to care for themselves, care for others and care for their shared environment. Along with her lasting impact through Girl Scouts, she served the community through membership on the Metro Beautification and Environment Commission, Keep Tennessee Beautiful and The Friends of Metro Beautification and Environment Commission Council. People in many quarters noticed her achievements, and she received the highest possible honors awarded from Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Keep America Beautiful. In her honor, groups have celebrated her leadership and dedication with the establishment of the Happy Birdsong Girl Scout Environmental Award, the building of the Friendship Bridge and the naming of the “Happy Birdsong Nature Trail” at Sycamore Girl Scout Camp.
Bertha Chrietzberg – Murfreesboro

Bertha Chrietzberg has been a tireless and effective champion for outdoor recreation and the protection of Tennessee’s environment for more than 45 years. Bertha was a founding member of the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association created in 1966 and the Tennessee Trails Association founded in 1968. She has been a dominant force in many other non-profit, citizen based organizations including the Tennessee Environmental Council, Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Friends of Fall Creek Falls, Friends of the Stones River Greenway, the Black Fox Wetland League, the Stones River Watershed Association, and the Tennessee Native Plant Society.

Bertha has been active in the field of environmental education for many decades and played a key role in creating the outdoor recreation major at Middle Tennessee State University through which many of her students have become environmental leaders. Bertha’s work has helped to bring about real, measurable, and lasting changes. She is a true environmental educator by both vocation and inclination, a shining example for all of us of the power of one. As Bertha is inclined to note, “I consider myself an environmental activist. It’s all about doing one’s part. People say, ‘why don’t they do this?’ ‘They’ doesn’t exist. It should be ‘why don’t I do something?’ It’s amazing what one person can do.”

Bertha has rescued rare plants, prevented gravel mining in the Stones River, championed the Stones River greenway route, cleaned up toxic dump sites and conducted numerous wildflower hikes.
John H. Noel III - Williamson County

For almost four decades, John H. Noel III has been a thoughtful, effective advocate for Tennessee’s natural, cultural and historic resources. He helped rescue the Bon Aqua Woods in January 2006 from timber harvest and residential development by purchasing it with personal funds. With a beginning goal of preserving this unique property for public enjoyment the department and John determined the massive "old growth" white oak forest, cave system and nearby historic springs qualified the Bon Aqua Woods site for acquisition and use as a state natural area.

He was also instrumental in helping the Tennessee General Assembly pass the Wetlands Act with a small real estate transfer tax that generated $4 to $6 million annually for land acquisition in Tennessee. This Act has been responsible for generating funds that have conserved 280,000 acres of wetlands, parklands and natural areas in Tennessee since its passage.

John has been a board member for the Tennessee Environmental Council, Tennessee Conservation Voters, Tennessee Valley Reform Coalition, the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, and Interim Executive Director of the TN Environmental Council. He also led a coalition of environmental and civic organizations in the successful effort to prevent wastewater from a sewage treatment plant from being discharged into Dry Fork Creek and the Rumbling Falls Cave system in Fall Creek Falls State Park. Rumbling Falls Cave proved to be the second largest cave in the nation and home to at least 24 globally significant rare cave species, including blind cave fish, blind cave crayfish and numerous beetles and invertebrates. This case resulted in new rules for implementation of the state's anti-degradation policy and other changes in the permitting process for Tennessee's Water Quality Control Board.

John also recognized years ago that energy – its production, distribution and consumption - would be a pivotal issue for our country and mankind. Starting with the Tennessee Valley Energy Reform Coalition and its goal of keeping TVA accountable to the communities it serves, John was instrumental in broadening its purpose into the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy. Today, John is the current Board President of SACE, the preeminent non-profit, nonpartisan organization promoting responsible energy choices that solve global warming problems and ensure clean, safe and healthy communities throughout the Southeast. He has been an active member of The Climate Institute in Washington, D.C., played a key role in the Southeastern Cities Energy Project and chaired the 2006 Energy Summit on assessing climate risk.
Honorable Judge Larry Potter

For 26 years, the Honorable Judge Larry E. Potter has lead the Shelby County Environmental Court seeking compliance with the law to promote environmental protection. Judge Potter is a definitely a trailblazer. In 1982, Mayor Wyeth Chandler was looking for a unique person to start an environmental court in the Memphis. There were no environmental courts in Tennessee and there were only two environmental courts in the entire nation. The mayor realized that it would take a unique person and set of talents to establish the first environmental court in Tennessee. A diverse set of life experiences, combined with a love of the land and a family legacy of environmental activism, made Larry Potter the right person for this brand new post.

Once appointed, Judge Potter was the prime mover behind creation of the Memphis Environmental Court. This court was established without cost to taxpayers by transferring all environmental cases (codes, fire, health, housing and police) to this docket. Judge Potter immediately began to create procedures and promote laws that continually improved his Memphis court. In fact, many of the concepts that are now standard for Environmental Courts in America were designed and developed under his leadership. For the Memphis Environmental Court docket, Judge Potter began a practice of personally performing “on-site inspections” in order to see firsthand the problems that were being brought to his court. Training seminars were held for city inspectors to improve professionalism in presenting evidence. Don’t think that these inspections or time have slowed Judge Potter down. He is an incredibly productive jurist. His Environmental Court has grown from a Friday afternoon Municipal Court Docket in 1982 to a full time General Sessions Court in 2008 when Potter heard 2,312 new cases. As the case load grew, Judge Potter was concerned that many areas of the city didn’t know of the court and its results to remove blight, so he “went to the people.” He annually made 25 to 40 public appearances, raising community consciousness for a safer and cleaner home space. As a teacher and former principal, Potter believes in education and its power to change culture.

Judge Potter developed Citizen Review Panels and Community Courts to empower neighborhood leaders to fight blight and expedite bringing code infractions to justice. There are now six Community Courts in Shelby County. His positive impact drew attention to Memphis and his court. Since 1984, Judge Potter has traveled and consulted with major American cities as they established Environmental Courts in their jurisdictions. The American Bar Association recognized this Court of Specialty, using Judge Potter to build a network of recognized Environmental Courts. Today there are more than 100 courts in the U.S., including seven in our state. Here in Tennessee, Judge Potter is credited with helping form environmental courts in Jackson, Nashville, Knoxville/Knox County, Chattanooga and Cleveland/ Bradley County. Judge Potter has also been instrumental in helping local and state lawmakers take meaningful steps toward better public policy. In 1991, Judge Potter helped write a law that created a countywide Environmental Court with authority to deal strongly with environmental problems confronting Memphis and Shelby County, making it the first county-wide court of this type in the nation. His latest achievement was to spearhead a move to rewrite Tennessee’s Litter Laws in 2007. The new statutes make it much easier for law enforcement to write litter tickets and makes penalties equitable with volume of litter involved. As a natural extension of his personal and professional commitment to a cleaner world, Judge Potter has served on the Keep Tennessee Beautiful Advisory Council since 1987 and continuously supports the Memphis City Beautiful Commission. His national impact even led to him receiving the prestigious Iron Eyes Cody Lifetime Achievement Award from Keep America Beautiful in 2006.
2010 Robert Sparks Walker Lifetime Achievement

Jean C. Nelson, Nashville
For more than 25 years, Jean Nelson, "Jeanie" to all who know her, has provided remarkable environmental leadership at the local, state and federal level. Her work over these years demonstrates her dedication and passion for environmental and conservation stewardship, as well as a record of considerable achievement. In the 1980s, Jeanie served as President and board member of the Tennessee Environmental Action Fund, now called Tennessee Conservation Voters, and she served on the board of the Tennessee Environmental Council. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, she served as Chief Deputy Attorney General for Tennessee, and in that capacity she dealt with various environmental issues facing the State.

In 1992, then-Nashville Mayor Phil Bredesen asked Jeanie and her husband to informally "scout around" for remaining large plots of open space in the city of Nashville that could be future candidates for Metro Parks and Greenways. Two such sites identified are now Shelby Bottoms and Beaman Park. Later, Mayor Bredesen appointed Jeanie as Founding Co-Chair of Metro Greenways Commission for Nashville. In 1993, President Bill Clinton appointed Jeanie as the General Counsel of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and later in the Clinton Administration she served as the EPA Administrator’s liaison to Vice President Gore’s office.

For approximately 15 years, Jeanie has served on the board of directors of the non-profit, public-interest law firm, Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC), based in Charlottesville, Virginia, and she has been its chairman of the board for the past five years. In 2008, Jeanie was awarded the Dockery Award, SELC's highest honor for environmental leadership. Following her return to Nashville from Washington in 1998, Jeanie worked with Governor Bredesen in founding The Land Trust for Tennessee, a premier land trust that has protected open spaces, farms and forests in nearly 50 counties throughout the state. She is its Executive Director and President of its board. A land trust works with landowners, using tools like conservation easements, to preserve the unique character of natural and historic landscapes and sites for future generations. Under her leadership, the Land Trust for Tennessee has also worked in public-private partnerships with TDEC and other governmental agencies in a number of cases, including the preservation of Lost Cove, in Sewanee. For its work on the Lost Cove conservation project, The Land Trust for Tennessee was awarded a Governor's Award for Excellence in Natural Heritage in 2009. Also in 2009, The Land Trust for Tennessee received accredited status through The Land Trust Alliance Accreditation Commission, joining the ranks of 92 other accredited land trusts out of the over 1,200 land trusts throughout the country. Since 1999, the Land Trust for Tennessee has been successful in protecting over 51,000 acres through 167 projects in 47 counties. It’s the biggest of the land trusts that have formed in the last 10 years. While conservation might seem fundamental to all of us here today, it may not be universal to every audience. Her dedication to planning and effective partnerships is reflected in her recent service on Mayor Karl Dean's Green Ribbon Committee for Nashville. One of the top recommendations from this initiative has led to Jeanie also spearheading The Nashville-Davidson County Open Space Plan, a public-private partnership between The Land Trust for Tennessee and Metro Nashville Government. As Jeanie was once quoted, “There has to be a voice of the land out there.” Few have done more than Jeanie in the last decade here in Tennessee to speak on its behalf. In the words Governor Bredesen, “There are a lot of people who have dreams and there are some that are hard working, Jeanie is a good example of putting that together.”
Governor’s Environmental Stewardship Award Winners

1986 to 2010

Award Winners by County

- 0 Governor’s Award Winners
- 1 – 3 Governor’s Award Winners
- 4 – 8 Governor’s Award Winners
- 9 – 15 Governor’s Award Winners
- 16 – 25 Governor’s Award Winners
- 25 or more Governor’s Award Winners
www.tn.gov/environment/awards