



**Gulf of Maine
Council on the
Marine Environment**

Gulf of Maine Council

Press Release

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Gulf of Maine Council Announces Visionary and Longard Awards

Gulf of Maine Visionary Awards: Each year, the Gulf of Maine Council gives out Visionary Awards - recognizing innovation, creativity, and commitment to protecting the marine environment - to two individuals, businesses, or organizations within each state and province bordering the Gulf of Maine. The recipients recognized for their innovation, creativity, and commitment to protecting the marine environment may work in scientific, educational, conservation, or policy realms. They are, engaged in projects that involve public awareness, grassroots action, or business/manufacturing practices.

One **Longard Award** is presented each year to an unpaid individual from one of the five states and provinces bordering the Gulf. The Award recognizes individual commitment to volunteer programs dedicated to environmental protection and sustainability of natural resources within the marine, near shore, and watershed environments of the Gulf of Maine. The Longard Gulf Volunteer Award is bestowed each year in memory of Art Longard, a founding member of the Gulf of Maine Council.

This year's recipients were honored at an awards ceremony on June 7, 2006, Portland, Maine.

The 2005 Visionary Award Winners-

Massachusetts, Congressman Bill Delahunt

For his vision, leadership and unwavering service to the citizens of Massachusetts in protecting and restoring their environment. Congressman Bill Delahunt consistently advocates for legislation and projects that restore habitat, reduce pollution, and clean up brownfields. The Representative's office is a devoted partner in coastal habitat restoration and recently helped secure Federal support for the Herring River restoration in Wellfleet and the Straits Pond restoration in the towns Hull, Hingham, and Cohasset.

Massachusetts, Jack Buckley

To a pioneer in environmental education who has demonstrated his vision for experiential learning by established the Cohasset Center for Student Coastal Research. Jack Buckley is the founder and President of this new Research Center that has helped engage hundreds

of South Shore students in coastal research and monitoring projects that provide valuable data to area towns and state government agencies. By fostering innovative working relationships between students, teachers, and coastal managers, Mr. Buckley has created a truly synergistic model for applied science and learning that helps students achieve tangible results that make a difference in the real world.

New Hampshire, Dean Peschel, City of Dover

For his progressive work in identifying and cleaning up pollution from sewage, pet waste, and stormwater, resulting in better water quality and improved shellfish harvest conditions.

New Hampshire, Lorie Chase, Cocheco River Watershed Coalition

For her leadership in forming the Coalition, defining its mission, developing a restoration plan, and bringing people together in the watershed to address fish barriers, bank erosion, debris removal, septic systems, and agricultural waste.

Maine, Captain Al Crocetti and Stacie Crocetti, Hardy Boat

Captain Al Crocetti and Stacie Crocetti have grown Hardy Boat into a quality sustainable nature-based tourism business in the Gulf of Maine. As nature tour operators, they maintain a high standard: assuring that their business is good for the communities with which they work and which incorporates quality marine education. Hardy Boat has successfully achieved their vision to have a business that sustains both them and their community and the health of the marine environment.

Maine, Joan Lyford, Pemaquid, Maine

For over thirty years of dedication to the ecological health and sustainability of the beach and salt marsh near her home in Pemaquid, Maine. In April 2005, degrading and non-functioning road culverts that greatly reduced tidal flow into Pemaquid Salt Marsh were replaced with a new culvert that fully restored natural tidal flow. Prior to culvert replacement, the marsh was slowly dying—supporting less of the plants, fish, birds and other inhabitants of these unique and finite natural resources. As a result of Joan's unwavering commitment, the marsh is presently on a trajectory for full ecological recovery into the future.

New Brunswick, Susan Farquharson

As part of her long time commitment to the environment, Susan Farquharson has been actively involved in Eastern Charlotte Waterways (ECW) delivering environmental programs since its beginning in 1993 and serving as Executive Director for the past 10 years. Susan's hard work with ECW and on-going volunteer work has made her well known and respected in her community.

New Brunswick, Sunbury Shores Arts and Nature Centre

Sunbury Shores Arts and Nature Center is a distinctive and remarkable centre where the public can explore nature through arts and the natural environment. Since 1964, Sunbury Shores' unique mandate has been to explore the connections between these two

disciplines. This is achieved through an arts program that utilizes the rich natural environment of the southwestern region of New Brunswick as a source of artistic inspiration and nature exploration.

Nova Scotia, Warren Paton

In recognition of his leadership and commitment to the protection of Nova Scotia marshlands for the purpose of preserving their natural values, and for the establishment of a wildlife preservation area on St. Mary's Bay. Through dedicated effort over a five year period to acquire property, Warren Paton has secured over 60 acres of land and wetland to establish the Toymaker's Marsh Wildlife Area. This area he freely shares with others who believe in environmental stewardship and conservation and take only their footprints with them when they leave.

Nova Scotia, Saltmarsh Restoration Team at the Ecology Action Centre

In recognition of the team's dedication and commitment as the driving force behind Nova Scotia's first community-based saltmarsh restoration project in the Bay of Fundy at Chevie Marsh in the Minas Basin. Following two years of on-site ecological study and government and public consultation, the Ecology Action Center staff secured a commitment from government to replace the existing tidally restrictive culvert with a larger crossing. Restoration of a natural tidal flow will increase fish passage, reduce the risk of flooding, provide tourism, outdoor education, and recreational opportunities, improve habitat productivity, and preserve ecological integrity as wetland habitat.

Longard Award Winner-

Sheila Washburn, New Brunswick

Sheila Washburn is a well-known and active member of the whole community of southern New Brunswick. Both as a professional engineer and as a volunteer, Sheila has made a substantial difference in how people interact with the environment. She has participated actively in the preservation of special lands in New Brunswick, including the coastal lands along the Bay of Fundy. Sheila is Past President of the Nature Trust of New Brunswick, a charitable land trust dedicated to preserving nature for the benefit of present and future generations. She and her family have donated land to ensure that New Brunswickers will be able to enjoy the vistas and special ecology of the Caughey-Taylor Preserve (Sam Orr's Pond) in Charlotte County. Sheila also served on the Todd's Point Committee to protect the 350-acre Ganong Nature Park. Sheila has volunteered in numerous other ways, contributing to student scholarship (Thomas Washburn Memorial Scholarship Committee), and volunteering with many community organizations. Sheila is an outstanding contributor to her community and a champion for protection of the coastal environment.

In December 1989, the governors and premiers of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia signed an agreement creating the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (GOMC). The Council's efforts are focused on promoting sustainable development of marine and coastal resources, raising public

awareness about the Gulf of Maine, and cultivating support for stewardship at the local level. For more information visit the Council's website at www.gulfofmaine.org

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