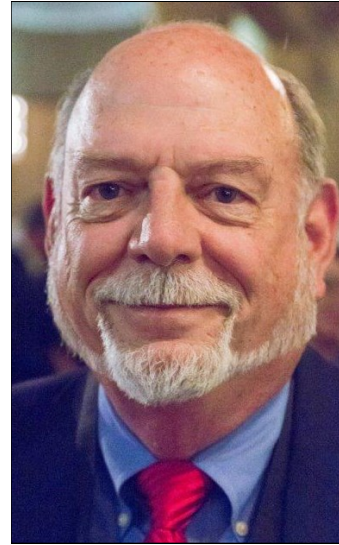




National Conservation Awards

2017



**IF YOU TAKE CARE OF THE FISH,
THE FISHING TAKES CARE OF ITSELF**

NOMINATE YOUR LOCAL VOLUNTEERS

WWW.TU.ORG/AWARDS

TELOS® CORPORATION

The great American poet and philosopher Henry David Thoreau once wrote “Goodness is the only investment that never fails.”



TU is blessed to have hundreds of companies in all industries and regions that live by that ethic and go above and beyond to support our mission and help us grow.

These businesses, whose leaders believe the legacy they leave is as important as their bottom line, help make up a backbone of financial resources and a network of connections and expertise that make TU so impactful in coldwater conservation.

Since 2011, Telos® Corporation, a leading provider of continuous security solutions and services, has provided funding for TU’s Veterans Service Partnership (VSP), a program that helps veterans and their families find hope, healing and community through fly fishing and conservation.

The VSP program, first envisioned by Chris Wood, TU President & CEO, and his brothers Emmett and John Wood, the Executive Vice President of Marketing and CEO of Telos, respectively, has benefitted from the company’s steadfast support as it has grown to include more than 200 local chapters with more than 575 events and programs for veterans annually.

To date, TU chapters across the country have helped nearly 7,000 wounded veterans, donating over 60,000 volunteer hours.

With the help of Telos, and other companies, foundations and individuals, the TU VSP has built an extensive network of volunteers to introduce veterans and their families to conservation through fly fishing. TU chapters and partner organizations provide instruction, camaraderie and local networks of anglers to the veteran community around the country. TU’s VSP also provides fishing retreats for veterans with physical and emotional scars, as well as family members grieving the loss of military loved ones.

Thanks to Telos, TU will continue to grow our VSP program and model how a strong corporate partner can make all the difference when it comes to solving the many challenges that we face as a conservation organization.

Trout Unlimited’s more than 3,500 passionate and dedicated volunteer leaders who drive our more than 400 chapters and councils are the heart of our organization’s strength and the major drivers of the impact we make together improving our rivers and watersheds.

Thanks to all of you, and the local level work that each of you do every day, TU is one of the most effective coldwater conservation organizations across the country and a model of how effective, local grassroots action and advocacy can change the world.

Last year, you broke all records with your passion and dedication.

Together, our chapters and councils recorded more than 725,000 hours of volunteer service, planted a better future and restored rivers with over 1,080 conservation projects, ignited a spark in the next generation with more than 1,640 youth education programs and raised more than \$10.5 million for local programs and services!

Thank you for making TU the powerful, grassroots organization that it is! We would not be able to accomplish all that we do without you.

Please consider nominating someone in your chapter or council, or a community or agency partner for a TU award in the future.

To make a nomination visit tu.org/awards.

We hope you’ll join us for the 2018 National Conservation Awards celebration in Redding, California on Fri., Sept. 21, 2018.



Since the early 1960s, Trout Unlimited (TU) has bestowed awards to publicly recognize the outstanding achievements of its members, chapters and councils that have embodied the values of TU and fulfilled its mission to conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. TU also recognizes the contributions and accomplishments of individuals and groups outside the organization that have demonstrated significant leadership and success in the world of coldwater conservation.

Today, TU is proud to showcase an exceptional group of achievements by these award winners who represent grassroots conservation successes, professional commitment to conservation excellence and organizational strength within our chapters and councils.

Congratulations 2017 TU National Conservation Award recipients!

Chapter / Council Awards

Gold Trout Award: 167 — Maryland Chapter (MD)

Silver Trout Award: 017 — Kalamazoo Valley Chapter (MI)

Volunteer Awards

Distinguished Service Leadership: Jim Hopkins (SC,) in memoriam

Distinguished Service Leadership: Rich Thomas (NJ)

Distinguished Service Youth Education: Mack Martin (GA)

Distinguished Service Communications: John Doss (AZ)

Distinguished Service Veteran Services: Jim Lanning (PA)

Partner Awards

Corporate Conservation Partner: Telos Corporation

Conservation Professional: Madeleine Lyttle, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

MADELEINE LYTTLE (U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE)

After Tropical Storm Irene dumped nearly 10 inches of rain in New England and the Northeast in 2011, the resulting flooding damage was more severe than any in recent memory and resulted in culvert, bridge and road damage or destruction that caused a flurry of construction and emergency river channel work that often did more harm than good.

If you had surveyed the damage in the weeks following the storm, you would never have envisioned that in the years ahead more 222 miles of native brook trout habitat would be reconnected with the removal of more than 20 problematic dams and culverts that had prevented fish and aquatic organism passage for years or decades.

But Madeleine Lyttle, a fisheries biologist with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, could see that future and helped turn the tragedy into a triumph for conservation through her strong guidance and steady hand in the years that followed.

Working hand-in-hand with TU chapters and staff from NY, VT and NH in the Lake Champlain, Hudson River, and Connecticut River watersheds, Madeleine cobbled together a complex array of partners, harnessed more than \$1.5 million in grants from FEMA, U.S. Fish & Wildlife, the TU Embrace A Stream program and other sources and leveraged the power of TU's grassroots network to identify, assess, plan, prioritize, implement and monitor aquatic habitat projects.

In addition to her work with TU, Madeleine works with local watershed groups, angler groups, conservation commissions, municipalities and landowners to promote aquatic habitat restoration and provide technical assistance for coldwater habitat projects and wild trout.

Thanks to Madeleine's efforts, there is a growing awareness of how removing and replacing dams and culverts is not only good for the trout, but can be a real benefit to towns and counties in helping withstand future flooding events.



Countless dams and culverts across New England have come tumbling down thanks to Madeleine Lyttle's years of work—often in partnership with TU chapters. Her technical expertise and guidance is often the difference between a project floundering or moving forward.



JACK WILLIAMS AWARD FOR APPLIED CONSERVATION SCIENCE



JOE MCGURRIN

There is no one anywhere who likes fish, fishing and native fish conservation more than Joe McGurrin. And it is a contagious passion. Whether it's on his boat fishing for stripers in the Chesapeake Bay, or fishing with the young kids of his TU staff friends for shad on the Potomac in DC, it truly is a holiday when you are fishing with Joe.

Joe was the first hire made by our former CEO, Charles Gauvin, in 1991. He's been at TU ever since, doing great work in many parts of the country. In the early years, he was a jack of all trades. He helped establish TU conservation policies on federal lands and state stocking and fish management measures. He helped to get our "Home Rivers" watershed program up and running on the Beaverkill River in New York, and in the rivers of the Driftless area in Wisconsin. He also served as the Embrace A Stream director, bringing hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants to important, local conservation projects across the country—matching those dollars with advice and counsel that helped make the volunteer-led efforts more successful.

More recently he has been focused on helping TU get through the maze of federal requirements that enable our federal conservation projects to occur. And he is a master of an essential ingredient for these projects—finding matching funds and passionate, local volunteers to leverage those funds.

Throughout his TU career, Joe's best work has been on native fish conservation. He fell in love with the native fish of the Southwest back in the late 1990s, and he has been a driving force for Southwest native fish restoration ever since. In recent years, he's brought laser-like focus—and an army of partners—to the protection and re-establishment of Sea Run Brook Trout on the eastern seaboard from Maine down to Long Island—one of our greatest, and growing, success stories.

He's not a flashy, "high profile" guy. He is simply the savviest, most determined fish conservationist TU has ever had.



From Sea Run Brook Trout on Cape Cod to the Southwest's native cutthroat, Joe McGurrin has helped build the model of TU's science-based conservation approach for more than 25 years.



GOLD TROUT AWARD



167—MARYLAND CHAPTER (MD)

On its conservation efforts alone, the 167—Maryland Chapter stands tall as a robust and active community making a difference in its home waters.

Its Upper Gunpowder Brook Trout Conservation Partnership, a program that takes a watershed-wide approach to conservation and connects more than a dozen partners working together on some 60 miles of stream across 48 square miles is a model for chapters undertaking landscape-scale efforts.

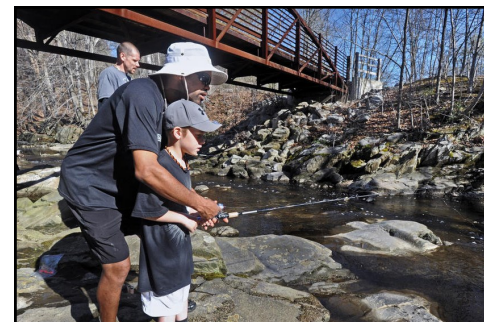
But what truly elevates the chapter are its powerful outreach and advocacy initiatives which elevate its presence across the region.

The annual spring City Catch partnership, a fishing and environmental education event for 120 children and their families, provides hands-on opportunities for urban youth to connect in a meaningful way to the rivers in their own backyard. Huck Finn Day follows in the fall, providing another opportunity for young city residents to fish, learn stream ecology and fall in love with trout and the streams where they live.

The chapter's Fly Fishing School takes a tried-and-true program to a new level with a formal collaboration with the Community College of Baltimore County to offer a 15-hour course that reaches a community of younger adults often not connected with TU and our mission.

The chapter also reaches a divers and growing audience through its 20-school Trout in the Classroom program, a partnership with Chesapeake Women Anglers, and the annual Restoration Run 5K race that takes nearly 100 runners on a course along the Jones Falls River.

Recognizing that "all politics is local", the 167—Maryland Chapter is an active player in local land-use advocacy, ensuring that when a development project is proposed that would impact a trout stream, or if a municipal plan for storm-water management needs a strong voice from the conservation community, the chapter is there to speak out and stand up for cold, clean water.



City Catch, a partnership with the Baltimore City Recreation and Parks Department, connects more than 120 local youth—and their families—to fishing, rivers and Trout Unlimited each year.



SILVER TROUT AWARD



017—KALAMAZOO VALLEY CHAPTER (MI)

Some chapters are made strong by the natural resources their region is blessed with, and some are made strong by a focused effort on one of TU's critical mission areas. For the 017—Kalamazoo Valley chapter in Michigan, the resource is certainly there to support a strong chapter, but what truly makes this chapter flourish 51 years after it's founding is the care and effort it puts into the business practices that keep it ticking.



A focus on engaging and empowering members to step up as volunteer leaders helps the 017—Kalamazoo Valley Chapter accomplish so much.

With 10 standing committees of the board, the chapter has proven that spreading the work and creating a space for new members and volunteers to step forward and grow pays dividends in the long-term health of the chapter and its ability to accomplish so much. Strong chapter activities and events draw new members out, and those with an interest are quickly recruited to serve and carefully mentored to make sure they feel supported and that their time and expertise are put to good use.

The chapter has also developed a unique grantmaking model that allows it to support many worthy projects in the region—and help fund partners to carry out in-stream efforts. From grants to graduate students from Colorado to New York to explore conservation research, to support for the state council and local watershed organizations, the chapter makes sure the dollars it raises are directed where they can do the most good.

Of course, the chapter also succeeds in so many of the familiar ways, with its own unique innovations that raise the stakes even higher.

From a four-day youth camp that makes a deep impact on many young anglers, to an Adopt-A-Highway program that brings attention to the chapter's work, and to the annual Tie-A-Thon which in a single day provides as many as 12,000 flies for donation to youth and veterans programs, the chapter is humming on all cylinders and has the organizational structure in place to maintain and grow this level of activity for years to come.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE: VETERAN SERVICES



JIM LANNING (PA)

When Bob Vierck, president of the 185—Spring Creek Chapter first listened to a presentation on the TU Veterans Service Partnership (VSP), he knew the chapter had a perfect candidate to implement the program.

One phone call was all it took to get Jim Lanning, an Air Force veteran, and father of a veteran to agree without hesitation.



"Any veteran—and their family—anytime!" is Jim Lanning's constant refrain as he builds a Veterans Service Partnership program that has become a true community across generations.

What Bob—and the chapter—didn't know was that in just four short years, Jim would build a community of veterans, their families and an army of volunteers that has eclipsed every expectation and created a model that others seek to follow.

The chapter's VSP is unique in its belief that supporting a veteran extends to all members of the veteran's family, and goes far beyond fishing and fly tying to encompass conservation, mentoring and community service.

Each year, Jim's program reaches more than 500 veterans and their families with more than 20 fishing and fly tying events and multiple community events such as Veterans and Memorial Day services and parades, conservation projects, and outreach to youth. More than 1,500 volunteer hours go into all of these endeavors.

The program recognizes that fishing only addresses some of the needs of the service men and women who come to the fabled Fisherman's Paradise on Spring Creek to connect with a community of support. The program assists with reintegration into civilian life, assistance in employment and other community activities and specially-designed conservation classes to help the veterans continue to serve by taking on projects for the chapter.

Volunteer mentors in the program take their job seriously and receive training in mental health assistance, CPR, and first aid. Jim has also recruited, trained and mentored several young veterans to help lead his program.

Beyond the chapter level, Jim serves on the national VSP Advisory Board and as chair of the Pennsylvania Council VSP.

MACK MARTIN (GA)

Among the 336 youth taught by Mack Martin and his fellow volunteers in the last 14 years at Georgia Trout Camp, it's very likely that all of them will go on to make our world a better place to live—and our trout streams colder and cleaner—because of the care, commitment and passion he brings to his teaching.



Over the last 14 years, Mack Martin has taught and mentored thousands of youth in fly fishing and conservation.

Since the first year in 2004, Mack has spent 84 days at the camp making sure that the experience is a memorable one for all the youth who attend. He meticulously plans the event to make sure that the lessons learned go far beyond the mechanics of the proper way to cast a fly rod and encompass conservation, volunteerism and community leadership.

Whether at camp, or at the countless lessons and clinics he leads across the state each year, this former president of the 436—Upper Chattahoochee Chapter, former Georgia Council chair and current National Leadership Council representative has been focused on expanding youth education for decades.

Mack's chapter level leadership has resulted in numerous classes and clinics and a strong partnership with local Boy Scout troops on Fly Fishing Merit Badge programs. On the state level, he was instrumental in launching the first college-level TU Costa 5 Rivers Club and greatly expanding the Trout in the Classroom program.

As the leader of the educational programs at the Blue Ridge Mountain Chapter's annual "Trout Fest" event which has attracted over 10,000 visitors, Mack has helped scale up the awareness and reach of TU and our mission.

For the owner of the Atlanta Fly Fishing School—one of the first TU Gold Level Business Members in the country—there's an obvious connection between his business and his interest in growing the next generation of anglers and conservationists. For Mack, being able to combine his work and his passion has made our organization stronger and inspired others to do the same.

JIM HOPKINS (SC)

Like so many successful leaders in TU across the country, Jim Hopkins knew that to build a strong team of dedicated volunteers, all you have to do is four simple things:

- You need to inspire them by setting a bold vision and stretch goals.
- You need to set the example for them through your own untiring dedication and commitment.
- You need to ask them to join you in making a difference and convince them they have the skills and expertise to contribute.
- You need to thank them at every turn and let them know how much everyone appreciates their efforts.



Jim Hopkins was a dynamic and charismatic leader. The South Carolina Council Chair passed away in 2016 just days before he planned to join his friends at the Annual Meeting in Bozeman.

From 1993 when he first joined his 046—Mountain Bridge Chapter in South Carolina, it was clear that Jim, who had joined TU for the fishing knowledge he could gain, was quickly hooked by the conservation mission. He was the first to raise his hand to volunteer, joined the board within a few short years and became chapter president in the early 2000s.

During his tenure, his high energy, dedication and desire to take the organization to a new level of excellence was contagious. He implemented new funding and opportunities, wrote grants to fund Project Healing Waters and Trout in the Classroom. He championed the "Adopt a Highway" program along Highway 276 which follows the course of the South Saluda River, and he implemented a chapter strategic plan that set a clear course for growth.

Jim's work ethic and dedication didn't end when his term expired as chapter president. He went on to become the South Carolina Council Chair and elevated the TU mission across the state. One of his crowning achievements was a partnership he helped build across all the Southeastern states which led to the creation of the Fly Fishing Museum of the Southern Appalachians. Jim's excitement as it opened its doors in May 2015 – spreading the region's history and heritage of fly fishing to a new generation—was palpable. He will be missed.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE: LEADERSHIP

In memory of Stan Griffith



RICHARD THOMAS (NJ)

Bringing business acumen mixed with an open and welcoming demeanor, Rich Thomas is a TU volunteer who drives our mission forward by building strong teams and partnerships.

The New Jersey Council Chair, who has also served as the states' National Leadership Council Representative and nearly every role within his local 123— Central New Jersey Chapter, is constantly thinking of ways to strengthen TU. Whether through a focused effort on leadership mentoring and development, strategic planning, or reaching out to partners to build coalitions and apply a collaborative effort to an opportunity or challenge, he's a never-ending networker and planner.

His natural instincts and personal skills enable him to reach outside the TU framework and cultivate partnerships that add value and potency to TU objectives. Rich was integral in the formation of a highly productive partnership with Friends of the Upper Delaware River in New York, a collaboration that has resulted in significant accomplishments in protecting and restoring one of the country's finest wild trout tailwater fisheries.

In 2014, Rich's knowledge and ability to "think big" was recognized as he was asked to serve on the National Strategic Planning Committee which developed our organization's five-year plan.

His leadership style reflects the notion that by working together, a synergy develops and carries the vision and impact far and wide. Rich works with many individuals to help them achieve their goals and grow as TU volunteer leaders, a mentorship style that has helped drive efforts in diversity, veterans and youth education programs across the state of New Jersey.

He also understands that big ideas only flourish in an environment where the foundation is strong and has helped develop council and chapter strategic plans, improved internal communications among and between chapters and grown TU's presence in the Garden State.



Building partnerships and mentoring new leaders are among the hallmarks of Rich Thomas' work as a chapter and council leader in New Jersey.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE: COMMUNICATIONS

In memory of Jean Bollinger



JOHN DOSS (AZ)

If we were just basing a communications award on quantity alone, John Doss, the Webmaster of Arizona's 463—Zane Grey Chapter would undoubtedly be a top contender.

His production is prolific. Since June 2015, John has developed, produced and maintained nearly a dozen websites for TU and various supporting programs and organizations.

Recognizing that the chapter and its partners needed to be thinking more strategically about mobile and social media communications in order to be relevant in the coming years, John set about developing a network of websites and Facebook pages that not only reach existing members, but draw in new anglers and conservationists from across the region and state.

Perhaps the most innovative approach to this was the development of the AZ Fishbook group on Facebook. Billed as "Arizona's Fly Fishing, Conservation & Community Social Network" the premise behind this group is simple: Celebrate all aspects of conservation and fishing in the state and share and support every organization serving that community, and you will help strengthen our TU mission in the process.

The AZ Fishbook draws in traditional TU members as well as a broad range of non-traditional anglers by featuring updates and stories and photos of fishing of all sorts from across the state. It highlights and shares the events and activities of every aligned organization—whether that is a TU chapter, a fly fishing club, a watershed association or a community conservation program.

This celebration online has led to stronger partnership offline, allowed the TU chapters to build relationships with a diverse array of organizations and connect their members and volunteers to our mission.

John has also been a mentor to other TU communicators across the country, sharing his knowledge and insights through the TU Forum as well as in-person trainings such as at the 2017 Western Regional Rendezvous.



John Doss continues to capture new audiences and spread the TU mission far and wide through a focus on social media in Arizona.