

Elizabeth Jester Fellows Award

Elizabeth Jester Fellows was the Director of the EPA's Assessment and Watershed Protection Division until her death in November 2000. She dedicated her career to natural resources management, environmental protection, and public service. Elizabeth was the EPA co-chair of the Intergovernmental Task Force on Monitoring (ITFM) and envisioned the creation of its successor, the National Water Quality Monitoring Council. She was a strong and effective advocate for developing a nationwide framework for coordinating, collecting, assessing, and communicating water quality monitoring information and results. Elizabeth was the personification of the goals and ideals of the monitoring Council, and her legacy has been an inspiration to those who have followed her and continue the Council's work. In her memory, the Council has established the Elizabeth Jester Fellows Award to recognize individuals for outstanding achievement, exemplary service, and distinguished leadership in water quality monitoring and environmental protection.

In recognition of her contributions to water quality monitoring, the National Water Quality Monitoring Council is pleased to present the 2014 Elizabeth Fellows Award to:



Linda Green

Director

University of Rhode Island Watershed Watch
Providence, Rhode Island

For 26 years, Linda has been the Program Director for the University of Rhode Island Watershed Watch, where she is the tireless leader of one of the most respected statewide volunteer monitoring programs in the nation. URIWW provides current information on the water quality of surface water resources throughout Rhode Island, including lakes, ponds, reservoirs, rivers, streams and the marine environment. However, back in 1988 when Watershed Watch was formed, state agency staff and other professionals challenged the value of volunteer generated data. The professional, upbeat manner with which Linda handled those early naysayers, combined with the high quality of data generated by her volunteers, not only changed minds but resulted in the use of volunteer data throughout the state of Rhode Island.

Among her many roles, Linda has been a leader of the New England Monitoring Council; an officer of the North American Lake Management Society; on the editorial board of *The Volunteer Monitor Newsletter*; a founding member of both the Rhode Island Volunteer Monitoring Advisory Board and the Rhode Island Monitoring Collaborative, which created partnerships between multiple watershed groups and state agencies; and the first volunteer monitoring representative appointed to the Council. Linda received the URI Cooperative Extension Educator of the Year award in 1994 and an EPA Merit Award in 1999 for her efforts to promote volunteer monitoring.

Linda's efforts to encourage volunteer monitoring programs across the Nation have ensured that the reach and impact of her work has extended far beyond Rhode Island. She has led three successful USDA projects to develop and implement a comprehensive support network for Cooperative Extension-affiliated volunteer monitoring initiatives. These projects have been critical in maintaining energy and focus for volunteer monitoring during an era of significant budgetary constraints. Representing her program and the national volunteer monitoring movement, Linda has been instrumental over the past two decades in helping the EPA, the USGS, and other organizations -- including the Council -- understand and value the contributions of volunteer water monitors and develop programs to support the movement. Congratulations, Linda!

