Barry Alan Long Award

Barry Long was a hydrologist and water quality specialist with the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Forest Service. In June 2000, Barry was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia. His colleagues and supporters were moved by the tremendous perseverance, spirit, and courage he displayed during his long struggle with the disease. Barry continued his career as a tactful advocate for the protection of water resources and through his work on the Council, which included organizing the 2010 National Monitoring Conference in Denver, Colorado. In his memory, the Council established the Barry A. Long award to honor an individual who has demonstrated exceptional perseverance, positive spirit, and significant contributions to water resource protection.

In recognition of his significant contributions to water resource protection, the National Water Quality Monitoring Council is pleased to present the 2014 Barry Alan Long Award to:

Jim Harrington
Environmental Scientist
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Rancho Cordova, CA

Jim has been an environmental scientist with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife since 1987. Jim has provided support in water monitoring to not only the California Department of Fish & Wildlife and the state of California, but has also assisted many other state and Federal agencies, institutions, tribes, and local communities.

Jim established the Aquatic Bioassessment Laboratory in northern California, where he developed ecological assessment techniques for California’s river and stream ecosystems. In 1999, Jim developed the California Stream Bioassessment Procedure by adapting EPA’s Rapid Bioassessment Protocols. The result has been a cost-effective, consistent tool to determine the biological and physical integrity of California streams.

Jim’s California Aquatic Bioassessment Workshop is an annual gathering of scientists and researchers from California and nearby states. The upcoming 2014 workshop will be the 21st time that participants come together to share project information, learn about bioassessment approaches in other ecoregions, collaborate on projects of mutual interest, and meet and socialize with colleagues.

In addition to his workshops, Jim has established one of the best training forums for stream assessment protocols, including the latest field methods and data synthesis techniques. His students have included everyone from novices to seasoned scientists. In addition to training agency personnel in California, Jim has been extremely generous in responding to the training needs of tribes and citizen monitoring groups throughout the West. Jim’s training forums encourage and assist environmental resource managers and watershed stakeholders to incorporate measures of biological and physical/habitat into their water quality programs. The consistent use of the California Stream Bioassessment Procedure has also ensured that data generated by these efforts is compatible with a statewide bioassessment effort and can be used by regulatory agencies.
Jim Harrington exemplifies the intent of the BAL Award with his perseverance in promoting bioassessment, his positive spirit, and his work breaking down barriers between diverse stakeholders that represent both the regulators and the regulated. Congratulations, Jim!