

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.

Faith Zerbe, Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Monitoring Network 2016 Barry Alan Long Award Recipient

For 18 years, Faith Zerbe has provided the leadership and vision that has helped the Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) Monitoring Program achieve broad success.

Spanning four states, the Delaware River watershed encompasses a multitude of habitats and contains numerous historic and emerging threats to water quality. Thus the challenges to DRN's monitoring not only span a broad scientific spectrum but a diverse political one as well.

DRN was the first organization to develop citizen watchdogs around large pipeline projects in the Delaware River basin, and now receives data from over 50 trained citizen pipeline watchers. Faith has held workshops to train Pipeline Watch volunteers in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Since 2011 when DRN's Pipeline Watch was begun, DRN staff and volunteers have conducted over 180 field visits, generated 140 field observation reports, and inventoried over 10,000 photos and videos related to baseline or pipeline construction work in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

Faith also leads DRN efforts to coordinate with agencies that conduct monitoring in the region including the Delaware River Basin Commission, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the US Geological Survey, the National Park Service, as well as universities and research institutions such as the Stroud Water Research Center and the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University. Faith recently helped develop a new partnership with Rider University to conduct heavy metals testing for DRN for existing stream stations while also examining road salt impacts.

In 2004, a major oil spill impacted the Delaware Bay. Faith worked with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to develop an oil spill field protocol and training materials, mobilize volunteers looking for injured wildlife, and document area where oiling occurred in three states. Prior to DRN's involvement, the Coast Guard opposed volunteer involvement in catastrophic response; now volunteers are embraced by that agency and included in the Delaware River contingency plan.

Faith's work can take her from the Delaware Bay to the New York Highlands. At times that means that a trip to New York to train volunteers must come immediately after a full night of tagging horseshoe crabs along Delaware Bay beaches. Such demands might be daunting to others, but Faith's passion and commitment sustain her. She always believes she should be doing more. Faith is receiving the Barry A. Long Award for the exemplary commitment she has made to monitor and protect the health of the Delaware River watershed, for the leadership she has demonstrated in expanding monitoring protocols and monitoring opportunities for private citizens, and for her advocacy in support of citizen science to safeguard our streams.

Congratulations Faith!

In recognition of significant contributions to water resource protection, the National Water Quality Monitoring Council is pleased to present the 2016 Barry Alan Long Award to:

Faith Zerbe
Director

Delaware Riverkeeper Monitoring Network

