

**2001 GOVERNOR'S CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD RECIPIENTS**

**Youth Conservationist of the Year**

*Charlaina Greene*

**Hunter Safety Instructor of the Year**

*Ricky Moss*

**Judicial Conservationist of the Year**

*Judge Tom Baxter*

**Legislative Conservationist of the Year**

*Rep. Jimmy Warren*

*Sen. Zeb Little*

**Conservation Enforcement Officer of the Year**

*Chief Tim D. Cosby*

**Conservation Communicator of the Year**

*Dennis Sherer*

**Conservation Educator of the Year**

*Shirley West*

**Air Conservationist of the Year**

*Glidewell Specialties Foundry Company*

**Forest Conservationist of the Year**

*Alabama Forests Forever Foundation*

**Water Conservationist of the Year**

*Engelhard Corporation*

**Soil Conservationist of the Year**

*Mickey Smith*

**Conservation Organization of the Year**

*Mann Museum and Outdoors, Opelika*

**Wildlife Conservationist of the Year**

*North Alabama Chapter of National Wild Turkey Federation*

**Conservationist of the Year**

*Riley Boykin Smith*

**Youth Conservationist of the Year**

*Charlaina Greene*

**Hunter Safety Instructor of the Year**

*Ricky Moss*

**Judicial Conservationist of the Year**

*Judge Tom Baxter*

**Co-Legislative Conservationist of the Year**

*Rep. Jimmy Warren*

**Co-Legislative Conservationist of the Year**

*Sen. Zeb Little*

**Conservation Enforcement Officer of the Year**

*Chief Tim D. Cosby*

**Conservation Communicator of the Year**

*Dennis Sherer*

**Conservation Educator of the Year**

*Shirley West*

**Air Conservationist of the Year**

*Glidewell Specialties Foundry Company*

**Forest Conservationist of the Year**

*The Longleaf Alliance*

The Longleaf Alliance was formed just a few short years ago to address the diminishing longleaf pine ecosystem. An ecosystem that once covered a large majority of the pine belt from Southern Virginia, south to Alabama, and west to Texas. The organization's goal is to provide scientifically based educational information to the many landowners and forest managers who desire to learn more about longleaf pine regeneration, longleaf ecosystem management, and wildlife enhancement.

Due in large part to the dedication and love for the resource found in Dean Gjerstad and Rhett Johnson, Co-Directors, The Longleaf Alliance has developed a following and is affecting positive gains for the longleaf ecosystem. Members from across the southeast include landowners, professional foresters and biologists, and agency personnel have been educated and enjoined in the effort. The Longleaf Alliance has conducted 2 Regional Conferences, Mobile and Charleston, which have attracted over 350 participants to each meeting. As well, the Longleaf Alliance has conducted over 30 workshops across the southeast. The Longleaf Alliance is having a significant impact on the education of landowners, professionals, and longleaf ecosystem enthusiasts. Their continued work will no doubt bring about increasingly positive impacts for this great ecosystem.

In recognition of their hard work in forest conservation, we present the 2000 Forest Conservationist of the Year – The Longleaf Alliance.

## **Water Conservationist of the Year** *Alabama Coastal Foundation*

The Alabama Coastal Foundation, established in 1993, is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit conservation group whose mission is to serve as a positive communication link for business, government, and citizen environmental issues.

Their Bay Watch Water Quality Monitoring Program, a citizen volunteer water quality sampling program in Mobile and Baldwin Counties, is an excellent example of the ACF's water quality work. The ACF provides training kits and training for each volunteer, and coordinates the compilation of the water quality data recorded. There are over 31 monitoring stations in the Mobile Bay, Delta and the adjoining tidal streams. The Bay Watch Program is the oldest volunteer water quality sampling program in the state of Alabama and has served as an excellent opportunity to raise public awareness of South Alabama's water resources.

The ACF is also instrumental in hosting educational symposiums, and working together with other local environmental groups to sustain a clean and healthy aquatic environment for present and future generations.

In recognition of their work in conserving Alabama's water resources we present the 2000 Water Conservationist of the Year – Alabama Coastal Foundation.

## **Soil Conservationist of the Year** *Jerry Johnson*

For over 20 years, Jerry Johnson has served conservation in Alabama. Through his position as Forest Specialist with the Natural Resource Conservation Service, formerly known as the Soil Conservation Service, Jerry has worked with landowners across the state on soil conservation practices. To his credit, his work and dedication have also positively impacted the forest, wildlife, and water resources of our state. His work has embraced programs in all disciplines. Jerry excels in his job, winning recognition from peers, landowners, co-workers, and administrators at all levels of state and federal agencies. He does an outstanding job, but his impact on natural resources conservation far exceeds his official job duties.

Jerry has been a leader in the natural resources community in Alabama, serving on a myriad of committees created to address conservation needs and has quietly helped shape many of the policies we abide by today in the state. He is steadfast in his belief and support of land stewardship principles.

Jerry has been active in the Alabama Chapter of The Wildlife Society for many years and has held leadership roles in the TREASURE Forest Program and the Society of American Foresters. Jerry is a role model for all of who endeavor to make a difference in natural resource conservation. He is a consummate professional who truly believes in the principles he espouses.

For his dedication to the soil and related natural resource conservation, we present the 2000 Soil Conservationist of the Year – Jerry Johnson

## **Conservation Organization of the Year** *The Nature Conservancy of Alabama*

The Nature Conservancy of Alabama is a true asset to our state and its abundant natural resources. Its focus on preserving biodiversity by land acquisition and partnerships combined with its non-confrontational and market-based approach to the business of land conservation has created a powerful, respected, and effective conservation force.

The Conservancy uses the best available scientific methods to identify, protect and manage elements of biodiversity and their associated habitat. The result is a group that can bring a broad array of partners to the table and implement innovative conservation strategies that benefit landowners, communities, businesses and most importantly, the precious natural areas they are protecting. Acting locally is also key to the Conservancy's effectiveness. No where in the state is the importance of local community involvement as evident as the conservation successes surrounding the Cahaba River. In addition to owning three preserves along the banks of the river, the Conservancy has been working with Congressman Spencer Bachus, Congressman Bob Riley, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife to establish a 3,500 acre National Wildlife Refuge along the Cahaba. The refuge would protect a beautiful 3.5 mile stretch of the river that includes the Hargrove Shoals area where the largest remaining stand of the Cahaba lily is found. The refuge would also enable the public to enjoy hiking trails, a visitor's center, small-game hunting, fishing, canoeing, wildlife observation and environmental education.

Their partnership with Forever Wild, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Ducks Unlimited, and the Alabama Wildlife Federation was critical to the recent acquisition of 47,000 acres in the Mobile-Tensaw River Delta. Their one million-dollar gift to the protection effort is the perfect example of this organization's effectiveness and commitment to conservation in our state.

In recognition of their conservation leadership role in Alabama, we present the 2000 Conservation Organization of the Year – The Nature Conservancy of Alabama.

## **Wildlife Conservationist of the Year** *Ducks Unlimited*

Ducks Unlimited (DU) has actively supported and impacted wetland conservation on this continent for many years. While the benefits of DU's efforts for waterfowl are well known, the importance of DU's programs to wetlands and the many associated wildlife species is equally impressive.

In Alabama, DU has been a strong supporter and leader in wetland and waterfowl projects. Through DU's fund raising program, MARSH, (Matching Aid to Restore State Habitat), ideas have been turned into ground projects. DU was among the first conservation groups to acquire property in the Mobile Delta and donate the property to the State for wildlife management and public use. MARSH has provided other opportunities on several state wildlife management areas and national wildlife refuges. Currently, DU is assisting with projects on the wildlife management areas and is in the planning phase of other WMA projects. One of the most beneficial projects is the Raccoon Creek Wildlife Management Area Waterfowl Development Project. This project is receiving constant compliments from the public and is possible because of help received from DU. Waterfowl and other water-related species are receiving tremendous benefits from the project.

DU's partnership with Forever Wild, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy of Alabama, and the Alabama Wildlife Federation was critical to the recent acquisition of 47,000 acres of valuable wildlife habitat in the Mobile-Tensaw River Delta. DU's eagerness to provide the match to acquire grant money was an important part of the acquisition.

For their untiring wildlife conservation efforts in Alabama, we present the 2000 Wildlife Conservationist of the Year – Ducks Unlimited, Alabama Chapter.

## **Conservationist of the Year** *Alabama Forever Wild Land Trust*

The people of the State of Alabama overwhelmingly passed the Forever Wild Constitutional Amendment in 1992 to provide for a state land acquisition program. Since that time, the Alabama Forever Wild Land Trust has worked diligently to secure special pieces of land for nature preserves, recreational areas, and wildlife management areas for Alabama citizens. Some notable properties secured by Forever Wild to date include: The Grand Bay Savannah

Tract in Mobile County, The Wehle Tract in Bullock County, The Sipsey River Tract in Tuscaloosa County, and Coldwater Mountain in Calhoun County.

During 1999 and 2000, board members of the Alabama Forever Wild Land Trust partnered with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy of Alabama, Ducks Unlimited, and the Alabama Wildlife Federation and took steps to secure 47,000 acres for wildlife habitat, critical wetlands, and outdoor recreational area in what many have called the crown-jewel of conservation lands in Alabama – the Mobile-Tensaw River Delta. The acquisition represents the largest land purchase in our State's history for conservation purposes and has been referenced as a land purchase fully engaging the philosophy and meeting the magnitude of importance that formed the basis for the vote by the people of Alabama to create the Alabama Forever Wild Land Trust.

In recognition of its investment in conservation on behalf of the people and natural resources of Alabama, we present to you the 2000 Conservationist of the Year – Trustees and Staff of the Alabama Forever Wild Land Trust.