

Charlie Morrison Wins The Margery Sachs Service Award

In the fortieth year of our respective organizations, the New York State Association of Conservation Commissions (NYSACC) and the New York State Association of Environmental Management Councils (NYSAEMC) were proud to honor Charles C. Morrison for his role in building the conservation commission movement in New York State. NYSACC's Margery Sachs Award for Lifelong Environmental Concern and Service and NYSAEMC's Ramona Barton Award were presented to Charlie for his significant roles in establishing conservation commissions and county environmental management councils in New York State and in the creation of NYSACC and NYSAEMC.



Charlie's attendance at the Conference on the Environment brought about a reunion with an old friend whom we had not seen for many years. Upon receiving his awards, Charlie said, "This brings back so many memories of what we did together 40 years ago. Now we have created another memory. I'll never forget you, all of you, for your generosity and thoughtfulness. It has taken a lot of people to build the conservation commission movement in New York State." He talked about the people who should be thanked, stating, "There are many, many more, working on environmental issues in cities, towns, villages and counties across the state."

Charlie Morrison is a geographer, a graduate of Colgate and Columbia Universities. His conservation and planning career began at the Regional Plan Association of New York in 1955, after which he worked in glaciology and climate change with the American Geographical Society during the 1957-58 International Geophysical Year. He then moved to capital budget and policy analysis for the New York City Department of City Planning and preparation of a national plan for outdoor recreation with the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation in the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Charlie joined the New York State government in 1967

as director of a new environmental conservation commission that had been established in the State Office for Local Government. This was a year after Perry Duryea, then Speaker of the Assembly, initiated legislation for town CACs. Charlie soon began to work with the CACs. In 1969, he prepared two sample local laws that cities, towns and villages could use in establishing conservation commissions and that counties could use for creating environmental management councils. The laws were distributed throughout the state in 1970 and helped CACs and EMCs just

at the time when Section 239-x of the General Municipal Law and Article 47 of the Environmental Conservation Law were enacted.

In 1970, Charlie became Director of the Office of Community Assistance, and formed a steering committee selecting a dozen or so activists from the local CACs across the state, including Margery Sachs, Ramona Barton, Betsy Sluder, Marilyn DuBois, Steve Wilson, Doris Lyng, Julie Krug and others. (Familiar names in NYSACC history) He then drafted the bylaws for what was to become NYSACC.

In 1974, Charlie became head of the Bureau of Land and Natural Resources Planning where he continued to work until he retired from DEC in 1995, but not before drafting a revised version of the 1969 sample local law that took the natural resource inventory responsibilities of CACs to the next level - becoming full-fledged open space plans enabling the CACs to coordinate and integrate with the then-new State Open Space Plan and make use of Environmental Protection Fund monies.

Charlie never forgot us. He currently works on community issues in Saratoga Springs and as a board member of Protect the Adirondacks!

Charlie Morrison played a key role in drafting the articles of organization for NYSACC, helped select NYSACC's first Board of Directors and worked to set up the first Conference on the Environment. So it is especially fitting that we honor him. He has been with us since our beginning.

For a complete history of Charlie Morrison's memories of CACs and NYSACC, go to our website, www.nyaccny.org.

Eve Fertig Student Scholarship Winners

It has become a tradition for NYSACC to award student scholarships to the yearly Conference on the Environment. These scholarships are awarded to students who have exhibited a concern for the environment and an interest in working to preserve it. It is hoped that through facilitating their attendance at the Conference, NYSACC is developing environmental leaders of the future, and perhaps new CAC members.



Student Scholarship winners Mitch Paine, Jennifer Pierce, Taylor Prince, Christina Pacifico and Chris Franklin

Jennifer Pierce is pursuing a masters degree in City and Regional Planning with an environmental concentration at Cornell University. She is enrolled in courses on conservation, biology, biodiversity and ecology. Jennifer wants to pursue a career in planning for biodiversity at the local and regional level. She has volunteered in flood assistance for Owego and Appalachin, New York, design/building services for a minority, low income sustainable farming community in Pembroke, Illinois and working with the homeless in Chicago and Los Angeles.

After the Conference, Jennifer stated that "it was really great to meet the members of NYSACC and to learn first-hand about the system of local environmental planners and advocates in New York State. I made new friends and learned a lot that could not have been conveyed in the classroom. I especially enjoyed how welcoming everyone was and how willing they were to explain their work. The state of New York owes a lot to the volunteers of NYSACC. It was my privilege to get to know some of them."

Chris Franklin is enrolled in a masters program in Urban Planning with a concentration in Environmental Studies at SUNY Albany. Passionate about climate change, waste reduction and environmental conservation, Chris is past President of the Graduate Planning Student Association, a member of the SUNY Sustainability Council, organizer of the Student Sustainability Conference and recruiter and facilitator for two student/citizen- focused city planning meetings.

Chris said, "I am so appreciative of NYSACC for providing me the opportunity to attend the Conference. I found a warm and caring group of individuals, a beautiful setting, great food and a relaxed atmosphere that lent itself to reflection and deep discussion. Thanks for your support. I do wish to keep in touch with the organization."

Christina Pacifico is a student at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute majoring in mechanical engineering with a minor in sustainability. She has a passion for aviation and hopes to help better the emissions of aircraft by inventing a petroleum independent aircraft.

Mitch Paine attends Cornell University, where he is enrolled in a masters program in City and Regional Planning with a focus on policy development toward social and ecological issues in municipal government. Mitch was the Sustainability Associate with the city of Lincoln, Nebraska's Mayor's office. In this role he worked on policy development, sustainability program implementation, endangered species

and land use.

Aaron Detter is attending SUNY Albany, where he is pursuing a masters degree in Regional Planning with a specialization in transportation. Aaron is focused on sustainable transportation (walking, hiking and public transit). He is the president of the Graduate Planning Student Association. Aaron has a deep interest in environmental issues and open space conservation.

Aaron stated, "The Conference was immensely informative and interesting to me. I was impressed with the program and the line-up of speakers. On a personal level, I was overwhelmed at the warm and welcoming spirit of such a tight-knit group in the world of environmental conservation in New York State. My sincere thanks go to the organizers of the Conference for offering me this memorable opportunity."



Student Scholarship winner Aaron Detter

Taylor Prince attends Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute where he is an officer of the Student Sustainability Task Force. He is co-owner of a recycling business in East Tennessee and has started a green revolving fund to support local renewable projects.

Taylor said, "Thank you so much for inviting me back! Last year's conference left me with high expectations, and I was excited to see so many initiatives going on throughout New York State. I had a great time reconnecting with friends and meeting other environmentally-conscious students. An article in the Huffington Post highlighted Knoxville, Tennessee (my hometown) as having the second highest green jobs growth in 2010. Albany, New York came in first. I did not find this a coincidence, and I plan to commute between the two cities (by bus, of course) well after my graduation."

The NYSACC Awards

Town of Montgomery Conservation Advisory Council The Honey Bee Project 2011 Education Award



Richard Phelps, Montgomery Conservation Advisory Council, accepts the Award from Joy Squires

In January 2011, following a call to action by the United Nations concerning the honey bees' dire condition, the Community Garden of the Town of Montgomery established a bee station (apiary) near the community garden at Benedict Farm Park. Local beekeepers worked with novice beekeepers who were already garden members. Hives were purchased,

painted and constructed during the winter. In the spring, a nuc, or new colony with queen and workers was purchased. A second nuc was donated by a local beekeeper. An area of the park was fenced and warning signs saying "Bees Working!" were posted.

Garden members were trained in hive maintenance by experienced beekeepers. The youngest volunteer, Cristiana, a home schooled fourth grader, wrote a four page essay, "The Life and Times of the Honey Bee," which was read at one of the garden's pot luck dinners.

The purpose of the bee project is four fold. First, the project is hoping to help counteract the loss of bees through Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). Second, the bee project intends to help educate the local population as to the importance of honey bees in the pollination of food crops and other plants and to publicize the dangerous condition of declining bee colonies. Third, the bees are maintained to help provide a healthy environment for the two acres which now constitute the Town of Montgomery Community Garden. Fourth, after the colonies have displayed survivability, we hope to harvest honey crops for the garden members.

For further information, contact Richard Phelps at rlphelps@frontiernet.net.

Red Hook Conservation Advisory Council 10% Challenge Project 2011 Action Award

The Red Hook Conservation Advisory Council has worked on energy and climate change for many years. However, since the 10-10-10 launch of the Red Hook 10% Challenge, a heightened level of awareness has reached the community. The CAC and partner Bard College lead this initiative. Other partners for the Challenge include Sustainable Hudson Valley, Central Hudson, Red Hook and Tivoli public libraries, local schools, NYSERDA, local businesses and the Community Artists Network.



Brenda Cagle and Susan Ellis of the Red Hook Conservation Advisory Council.

Some of the work accomplished includes:

- Conducting energy parties to lead residents through the process of creating their own energy plants
- Selling 20 compost bins and raffling 10 bins
- Encouraging businesses to participate in the utility's commercial lighting program.
- Sponsoring an electronic waste recycling event
- Partnering with Central Hudson to do the outreach for their new Smart Meter Program
- Providing outreach on the Green Jobs, Green New York energy audit opportunity
- Securing a NYSERDA grant which allowed the Town to hire an Energy Consultant

The Challenge has had great success, engaging many partners and community members. To date:

- 66 Red Hook households have create energy plans, saving \$41,276 in energy costs
- More than 300 people have pledged to try to reduce their energy use by 10%
- 27 households applied for energy audits
- 12,666 pounds of electronic waste was recycled

Although the Challenge was conceived as a year-long event, a second phase is now being planned. Different sectors of the community are now coming up with their own ideas for reducing energy use. This was always the goal, to raise awareness about energy use to the height at which there is substantive community action.

For further information, contact Laurie Husted, Chair, at cac@redhook.org

NYSACC News

Arlene Kaufman, Editor
Joy Squires, NYSACC President

Newsletter Office
3 Andover Drive
Port Jefferson Sta.
NY 11776

631-928-3277
Teach23456@gmail.com
NYSACC website - www.nysaccny.org

NYSACC Office
P.O. Box 1732
Huntington, NY
11743
631-368-6949

joyssq@aol.com

NYSACC News is published three times a year. CACs are encouraged to submit press releases, articles, artwork or photography to the editor.

For additional copies of NYSACC News and address changes, contact the Newsletter office.

President's Message

Welcome to 2012. In these challenging economic times, my wish for Conservation Boards and Conservation Advisory Councils is that your mission continues unabated in these days of budget cuts. The fact that we are volunteers makes us even more valuable to our municipalities. Economic pain affects all of us on many levels.



As I have told you before, I consider my President's Message role to be that of cheerleader inspiring you with references to articles on other pages, relevant anecdotes, ideas for networking, and encouragement for attendance at our fall Conference and the June NYSDEC Workshop.

I am going to step out of the cheerleading role and tell you about the economic problems NYSACC is facing. The NYSACC Board of Directors has known about our situation for some time, but now I am going "public" with the problem. Our organization exists on \$75 yearly dues from members, and Conference profit (when there is one), which comes mostly from exhibitors, if there are any. Tough economic times affect NYSACC on the Conference level with fewer Conference attendees and few or nonexistent exhibitors.

For NYSACC itself, we have fewer members. Printing and mailing costs have gone up forcing us to print one less newsletter per year.

Our Board works to find solutions. We have a new individual membership category of \$30. Of course, we would really appreciate more ___\$30___\$50___\$75___\$100, as all the other requests say. This can be in addition to CAC membership dues. After sitting in on our Board meeting and learning about NYSACC's money situation, Charlie Morrison, our Conference honoree, surprised us with a huge check. This is paying for the winter edition of NYSACC News. He suggested we just ask, and good things will happen. Thank you, Charlie.

Pursuing grants is another avenue for us to explore. If you can suggest some direction to take, an appropriate grant giver, or if you can help write a grant application, please let us know. We would be so grateful.

May the economic forecast turn upward and bring NYSACC's fortunes (and our own) with it. However, we will need to work hard to make this happen.

Joy Squires

NYSACC Thanks

Our thanks to two men who have worked for NYSACC for many years in the important area of communication, both written and on the internet. They have endeavored to keep costs low for our not for profit organization.

Ron Evans, of Arrow Printing in Syracuse, has distributed NYSACC News since the mid 1980s. He has printed and used his bulk-mailing permit so our newsletter reaches you in a timely fashion. Arlene Kaufman, our office manager, puts the newsletter together and calls Ron. He is always gracious. We have never met him, just spoken on the phone. Some day we will stop and visit in his office near Syracuse University.

Kevin Holland helped us create our marvelous website. We discovered him when he was a student at Syracuse University. He is the only webmaster NYSACC has ever had. When Arlene contacts him with updates, they are promptly executed.

Gentlemen, we salute you and truly consider you members of our NYSACC family.