



## FACT SHEET

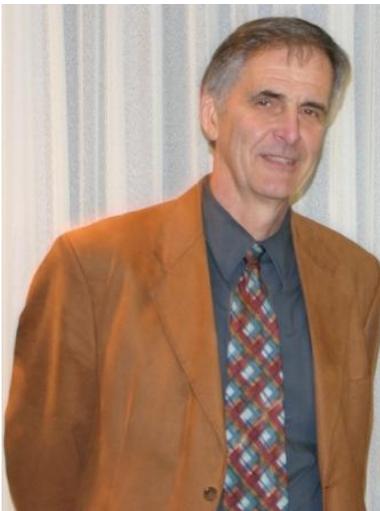
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### Recipients of the Jonathan Sharp Lifetime Achievement Award

The Jonathan Sharp Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes people for advancing science and management of the [Delaware Estuary and River Basin](#). Recipients are rare individuals who have exhibited the following qualities over their career, leading to significant improvement of the Delaware Estuary's ecosystem:

- Discovery – Lifelong contributions to knowledge base
- Translational – Applying science to address problems, bridging sectors
- Service – Hard work and dynamic participation in collaborations and work groups
- Respected – Considered a trusted expert to turn to for peer review and advice
- Leader – A pioneer who has taught, trained, or otherwise created a path for current and future generations of environmental professionals



Credit: Dr. Danielle Kreeger of the PDE

#### **Dr. Jonathan H. Sharp**

Awarded February 1, 2011

[Dr. Jonathan Sharp](#) retired in 2014 as a professor of oceanography at the [University of Delaware's College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment](#) in Lewes, Delaware, where he began his career in 1973. Dr. Sharp and his research group have produced over 45 refereed publications and reports on the Delaware River and Bay since the 1970s. He has given numerous presentations about the Delaware Estuary in public forums regionally and at national and international scientific meetings. This has allowed him to track and describe the estuary's long-term improvement since the passage of the Clean Water Act following centuries of pollution. Dr. Sharp has served as a mentor to dozens of aspiring scientists. He served as the chair of the [Science & Technical Advisory Committee](#) during the planning phase of the Delaware Estuary Program. This is a coalition of institutions working to improve the tidal Delaware River and Bay. He was the first chair of the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary's [Board of Directors](#). And he served on a number of advisory committees for governments and industries in the Delaware Estuary region over a three-decade period.



Credit: Shaun Bailey of the PDE

### **Governor Michael N. Castle**

Awarded October 14, 2011

[Michael Castle](#) served as Delaware’s governor from 1985 to 1992. During this time he and others nominated the tidal Delaware River and Bay for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s [National Estuary Program](#). Eight years later, this led to the formation of the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary. Governor Castle went on to advocate for estuaries during his 18 years in the U.S. House of Representatives. That is where he also created and introduced the [Delaware River Basin Conservation Act](#), which politicians continue to reintroduce and champion. It is fitting then that the State of Delaware named an interstate trail for him. Soon the [Michael N. Castle Trail at the C&D Canal](#) will connect two of America’s largest estuaries: the Chesapeake and Delaware bays.



Credit: Elizabeth Horsey of the PDE

### **Dr. John Kraeuter**

(pronounced “CROY-ter”)

Awarded January 28, 2013

[Dr. John Kraeuter](#) retired in 2013 and is a visiting scientist at Rutgers University’s [Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory](#) in Port Norris, New Jersey. Dr. Kraeuter and Dr. Sharp were the co-chairs of the Delaware Estuary Program’s [Science & Technical Advisory Committee](#) when it was first formed in 1989 until 1992. He was also the lead author for the aquaculture plan for the State of New Jersey. Dr. Kraeuter studied the ecology and aquaculture of [Delaware Bay’s oysters](#) for over 40 years. He also investigated other bottom-dwelling, or “benthic,” marine life, all of which helps to sustain coastal economies, including clams, horseshoe crabs, scallops and more.

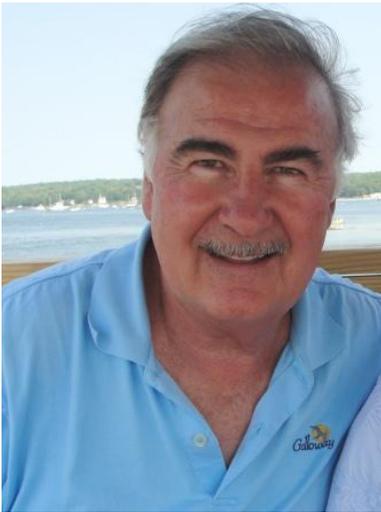


Credit: The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University

### **Carol R. Collier**

Awarded October 9, 2014

In 2014, [Carol Collier](#) became a senior advisor for watershed management and policy at [The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University](#) in Philadelphia. Prior to this she spent over 15 years as executive director of the [Delaware River Basin Commission](#). In this role she helped protect the entire non-tidal Delaware River through a DRBC program called [Special Protection Waters](#), and she helped clean up the Lower Delaware by steering a cleanup plan for its [PCBs](#). Likewise, she served on the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary’s [Steering Committee](#). This is an eight-member group of city, state, and federal leaders who decide the nonprofit’s priorities. Collier was the committee’s one mainstay as her counterparts came and went. This allowed the PDE to benefit from her expertise as a regional planner, which harkens back over three decades. That is when she began her career at BCM Environmental Engineers and, later, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Collier grew to love estuaries through her studies with [Dr. Ruth Patrick](#).



Credit: Robert Tudor

### **Robert Tudor**

Awarded October 9, 2014

[Robert Tudor](#) retired in 2014 after 13 years as deputy director of the [Delaware River Basin Commission](#). During this time he helped craft two plans that will influence the Delaware Valley for generations. These involve the long-term management of [water](#) throughout the basin and [sediment](#) (mud) in the basin's lower half, or the region draining to the Delaware River estuary. Prior to that he spent over two decades at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, where he rose to the position of deputy commissioner. It was during this time that he spent three years as director of the Delaware Estuary Program. This required him to involve the public while drafting a long-term management plan for the [estuary](#). This led to the formation of the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, a cause he continues to champion. It also fostered his appreciation for wetlands, leading to his involvement in New Jersey's Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act of 1987. Tudor went on to help develop this law's regulations the following year, as well as supervise the programs that followed.



Credit: Elizabeth Horsey of the PDE

### **Dr. Susan Kilham**

Awarded January 26, 2015

[Dr. Susan Kilham](#) is a professor and researcher at Drexel University in Philadelphia, where she specializes in ecology and climate change. She is one of the rare scientists whose contributions span both freshwater and marine ecosystems, and she is internationally known. For more than 30 years, she has dedicated much of her efforts to understanding the Delaware River and Bay ecosystem. As a result, Dr. Kilham has played a leading role in the estuary's improvement. Beginning in 1991, she worked with Dr. Jonathan Sharp and others on the [Science & Technical Advisory Committee](#) and its drafting of the *Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan*, which launched the Delaware Estuary Program. She also helped evaluate the estuary's environmental health for [the first time in 1996](#), and she has continued to guide successive "State of the Estuary" reports ever since. She has served on the [Board of Directors](#) governing the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, and she has chaired its [Science & Technical Advisory Committee](#) for the past five years. Meanwhile, Dr. Kilham has trained over 30 doctoral and masters students, many of whom are now internationally acclaimed in their own right. And she continues to mentor dozens of undergrads, some of whom work in her [laboratory](#).

**The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, a National Estuary Program, leads science-based and collaborative efforts to improve the tidal Delaware River and Bay, which spans Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.**