

Remarks from David Deen at Connecticut River Conservancy's annual meeting, June 16th, 2018 at The Retreat Farm in Brattleboro, VT.

“The Bud Foster Award celebrates the first ever executive director for CRWC. He served the river and its inhabitants in the 1950s. The Foster award recognizes that earliest work to stabilize our suffering river.

We use the annual award as a chance to publicly thank our partners working hard with CRC for our river. Our rivers are lucky to have people like Marie and Adair on their side.

Past recipients include:

- Pat Parenteau and David Mears together as environmental attorneys of note at the VT Law School
- Andrew French Conte Refuge Director of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Barbara Skuly chair of the Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee
- Margaret Miner chair of Rivers Alliance of CT.

We are offering the award this year to two people– as you see from our history that is not all that unusual but certainly deserved on the part of our award winners.

The award this year will go to two women each of whom:

- Have long careers of environmental advocacy
- Both are dedicated to clean, swimmable, fishable and drinkable water
- Both are excellent writers even if in different venues
- Both are competent, disciplined, and tenacious
- Both hold advanced environmental degrees
- But each lives in a different state within the upper CT River Watershed – a fitting combination for the Bud Foster Award from the all watershed CRC.

Now let's Meet our Bud Foster Awardees! I am going to do the introductions alphabetically.

It is my pleasure to introduce Marie Levesque Caduto

Marie is the Watershed Coordinator for VT DEC and lives in Chester, VT. Professionally she develops, writes, edits, circulates and implements the water quality improvement plans for the watersheds in southeastern Vermont. The rivers include the Deerfield all the way upriver to the Ottoquechee River with the Whetstone Brook, Broad Brook, the Green River, the West River, the Williams River, the Black River, and Mill Brook in between. She has mobilized a host of public and private cooperators in her work including the CRC.

A Vermonter since 1988, she has been working protecting Vermont's watery environments ever since. She taught natural history, ran a water quality monitoring program in the Connecticut

River watershed, and worked with farmers on water quality issues through her work at the Natural Resources Conservation District in Windham County.

Joining Marie as a well deserved awardee of this year's Foster award is Adair Mulligan.

Adair is the Executive Director of the Hanover Conservancy. She lives in Lyme, NH. The Hanover Conservancy is dedicated to the conservation of land, water, and fostering the appreciation of natural resources in the greater Hanover, NH community. Adair manages programs in land conservation, active land stewardship, environmental education and supports conservation public policies.

Prior to her tenure at the Hanover Conservancy, she provided leadership for 20 years as Conservation Director of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions, working with valley citizens to create the Connecticut River Management Water Quality and Recreation Plans that are still in use in the 3 FERC dam relicensings in the upper CT River going on right now.

She has contributed to a number of river publications, including *Proud to Live Here in the Connecticut River Valley of Vermont and New Hampshire* and *Where the Great River Rises, An Atlas of the Upper Connecticut River*.

On a personal note from me, as one of the authors of the laws that put the VT Basin Planning Program in place and as one of the authors of the law that created the VT half of the CRJC it is difficult for me to find adequate words of praise to tell you how vital these women have been in their long careers to bring to fruition the public policies of clean water in VT and NH.

It is one thing to write a good law, it is an entirely other thing and of equal importance to make that law work. From my experience with these two water quality advocates extraordinaire, the success of these programs has relied on their commitment, their knowledge about our river, and their jolly good nature to make good stuff happen. I thank them for their hard work and I celebrate their success. So, let's get to the award."