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Friday, October 31, 2014



Wheeler honored for her conservancy, education efforts

Nanjemoy civic leader and school teacher Deanna Wheeler was honored with the 2014 Charles County Heritage Award presented by the Conservancy for Charles County during its recent annual meeting at the Jaycees center in Waldorf.

The conservancy cited Wheeler not only for her innovative and inspiring work as a science teacher at J.C. Parks Elementary School but also for her service as an environmental and civic community leader, according to a news release.

In 2000, she formed the Nanjemoy-Potomac Environmental Coalition to save Douglas Point from gravel mining, which resulted in a joint federal-state acquisition of the land for conservation and public use.

She continues to lead NPEC as president.

During the same period, she also served on the Rural Commission and coordinated a community effort to produce the Nanjemoy Land Use Vision.

As an elementary school science teacher, Wheeler is well-known for her enthusiasm for "leaving no child inside."

Her environmental programs and activities have received statewide, national and international notice.

Special mention was made of her participation in 2009 and 2012 on two Arctic expeditions to the Bering and Chukchi seas aboard a U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker, during which she shared her experiences and data with her students via blogs and live shipboard webinars, the release states.

During its business meeting, conservancy members in attendance recognized outgoing director James B. Hooper of Waldorf and re-elected three incumbent directors, Vice President Gwen Brewer of Waldorf; Brian Clark of Waldorf; and Treasurer Richard C. Viohl Jr. of Nanjemoy.

Other directors returning to the 11-member board include Lloyd S. Bowling Sr. of Charlotte Hall; Secretary Ellen Cline of Indian Head; President Hal Delaplaine of La Plata; Rick LaNore of La Plata; Judy Lathrop of Accokeek; Nancy Schertler of Newburg; Al Stewart of Leonardtown; and Lynne Wheeler of Indian Head.

Comedian Robert Mac provided entertainment and the evening concluded with a silent auction.

The Conservancy for Charles County is a private, all-volunteer charitable organization devoted to preserving and protecting the scenic, natural, forest, agricultural, rural and historic areas of Charles County for the benefit of the general public.

It is the only qualified land trust that operates exclusively in Charles County and partners with the Maryland Environmental Trust, the release states.

It has protected more than 1,800 acres of privately owned land in the county by working with landowners in a voluntary program of donated conservation easements.

For information about the conservancy, call 301-932-5714.



Submitted photo

Deanna Wheeler, the 2014 Charles County Heritage Award winner, receives an award from Hal Delaplaine, president of the Conservancy for Charles County.

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