



NH Fish and Game Commission 2015 Awards of Excellence

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April 22, 2016

News Media: High-resolution images of award recipients are available by selecting images for larger view.

CONCORD, N.H. -- The New Hampshire Fish and Game Commission recently honored several individuals with 2015 Commission Awards of Excellence for outstanding efforts in the conservation field in support of the NH Fish and Game Department's mission.

"Each of these individuals has contributed in important ways to the work of New Hampshire's wildlife agency," said Commission Chairman Ted Tichy.

The 2015 Commission Award of Excellence (presented on April 20, 2016):

(<http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/images/news/events/comm-award-corriveau-2015-lg.jpg>) **Denny Corriveau**, also known as the "Wild Cheff" was honored with the Commission's Communications Award of Excellence. A master game chef who presents seminars on healthy eating and cooking wild game and fish, Corriveau has been featured on New Hampshire Fish and Game's "Wild Side" TV show and has appeared on the Food Network, the Sportsman Channel, and other television networks. His writing and recipes have been featured in *New Hampshire Wildlife Journal*, *Massachusetts Wildlife*, *USA Today Hunt & Fish Magazine* and more. He is also a board member of the New England Outdoor Writers Association.



"Denny's message of eating healthy by eating wild is getting a new segment of the public interested in hunting and fishing. He is a true ambassador of the outdoors," said Tichy.



(<http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/images/news/events/comm-award-students-2015-lg.jpg>) Six students from the Monadnock Regional Middle High School -- **Joe Repucci, Dawson McLean, Madison Daniels, Kyle Allison, Emily Read, and Alana Sprague** -- were honored with the Commission's Youth Conservationist Award of Excellence.

The Monadnock students spent many hours over several months in 2015 studying the Ashuelot River

watershed as part of an Extended Learning Opportunity project. As a part of exploring what makes a healthy watershed for fish and wildlife, they collected physical, chemical and biological samples, plus macro-invertebrate data, to assess water quality at various sites. They gained real-world experience in macroinvertebrate and water quality monitoring protocols, ArcGIS technology, data analysis and data sharing. Their results were posted online and shared with state and local decision makers.

“These kids have worked hard and set a great example,” said Tichy. “They have learned what resource agencies do to protect the environment, and what they can do to help that effort. They also learned how to tie flies and fish for their favorite species in the river!”

Tichy also recognized the contributions of volunteer project leader **Mike Morrison**.

(<http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/images/news/events/comm-award-riccardi-2015-lg.jpg>)The Commission’s highest honor, the Ellis R. Hatch Junior Award of Excellence, was presented to **Jim and Kris Riccardi** of Newport, NH, a Let’s Go Fishing program teaching team.

“Jim and Kris are the ‘dynamic duo’ of the Let’s Go Fishing Program,” said Tichy.



Over the past 25 years, Jim Riccardi has introduced countless anglers to the sport of fly fishing – many of whom had never fished before. He helped pioneer Fish and Game’s current fly-fishing and fly-tying curriculums. Kris has been his partner in this work for almost that long. The Riccardis volunteer every year for three different weekend-long workshops, a five-week fly tying class, and more.

“Volunteers like the Riccardis are the backbone of Fish and Game’s fishing outreach,” said Tichy. “They pass along not only their passion for fishing, but an understanding of the natural world beyond the rod and reel.”



There are seven award categories for New Hampshire Fish and Game Commission Awards of Excellence. If you are aware of a worthy individual or organization, please consider nominating them for the 2016 awards. Nominations must be submitted by December 31. For a description of the award categories and a nomination form, visit www.wildnh.com/about/commission-awards.html (<http://www.wildnh.com/about/commission-awards.html>).

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