

News

The Christina Conservancy
202 Brecks Lane, Wilmington, Delaware 19807

To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors

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Contact: Joanne Rufft
302- 453 -7144
christinaconservancy@gmail.com



Left to right: Dennis Palmer, president, WRA DRB, Lorraine Fleming, and Mike Riska, retired executive director, Delaware Nature Society.

Congratulations Lorraine Fleming

The Christina Conservancy (Conservancy) congratulates one of its own. Lorraine Fleming, current secretary of the Board of the Conservancy, received the Life Time Achievement Award from the Water Resources Association of the Delaware River Basin (WRA DRB) at the 32nd Annual Recognition Dinner held on April 16, 2014. According to the WRA DRB, Lorraine Fleming was given the award “for her lifetime of sound environmental leadership and stakeholder collaboration in preserving, protecting and improving Delaware’s natural habitats: land, air, wetlands, and water.”

In addition to her on-going work with the Conservancy from its inception and years of dedicated Board work, Lorraine Fleming has a long a rich history of devotion and service to environmental causes as shown in the attached summary.

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The Christina Conservancy was established in 1982 to improve the water quality and to protect the river’s natural and historic resources. The Christina Conservancy is an all volunteer membership organization (501(c) 3 operated by a board of directors of local citizens.

www.christinaconservancy.org

Lifetime Achievement Award

Lorraine M. Fleming

For her lifetime of sound environmental leadership and stakeholder collaboration in preserving, protecting and improving Delaware's natural habitats: land, air, wetlands and water.

Since the 1970s Lorraine Fleming's achievements have been related primarily to preserving and improving Delaware's habitat: land, wetlands, water and air. They began with a historically important scientific survey and inventory of 101 natural areas within the state worthy of special preservation efforts, later published as a reference book, *Delaware's Outstanding Natural Areas and Their Preservation*, 1978. It continues to be used by state agencies and other organizations as an important benchmark for scientific assessment of changes to Delaware's most important natural assets. Later related activities included organizing a coalition of state organizations (numbering over 300) with environmental interests to successfully lobby for a number of Delaware land preservation causes – including a source of permanent funding for state purchase of threatened but environmentally-critical lands. She was named to numerous state and local environmentally focused committees and has been an “environmental representative” on many panels and conferences. She has been consulted by Delaware legislators, the press and others as a spokesperson for the environmental perspective on topical issues.

Ms. Fleming began volunteering as a teacher-naturalist at the Delaware Nature Education Center (now the Delaware Nature Society) in 1972. She became a contract employee in 1974 to coordinate the field work for the natural areas study. She became a full-time employee in 1979, Manager of Conservation and Preservation in 1988, and later an Associate Director for the Nature Society. Upon retirement in 2001 she was named Honorary Board member and continues to be active in advocacy, conservancy, publications, and fund-raising. She also served as Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Delaware, 1979-1988, and served as President, Delaware Academy of Science in 1988. She has been involved with the Christina Conservancy since its inception, first as an Advisor, then a Board member, currently Secretary.

During the period 1982 to the present, Ms. Fleming has served on 28 environmentally focused Committees, Councils, Coalitions and Task Forces – mostly statewide groups. These include Delaware Open Space Council, Delaware Sea Grant Advisory Council, Water Supply Coordinating Council, Delaware Coastal Zone Regulatory Advisory Committee, Governor's Permit Policy Task Force, Delaware Inland Bays Task Force, Governor's Advisory Council on Environmental Control, Natural Areas Association and University of Delaware Museum Studies Program.

Ms. Fleming was also Technical Director of the film “Countdown for Natural Areas”, author of eight articles and one book, and co-author of “*Birds of Delaware*” (2000, 635 pp, four co-authors).

She attended Knox College and graduated from Iowa State University with a B.S. in Zoology and later a M.Ed. (1975) in Biological Science Education from the University of Delaware.