

Three women leaders to be honored for wildlife conservation

Wendy Walsh, Tanya Sulikoswki and Martha Maxwell-Doyle



Three women, including Martha Maxwell-Doyle, were honored for their work in wildlife conservation at the 11th annual Women & Wildlife Awards Wednesday. Wendy Walsh, Tanya Sulikoswki and Maxwell-Doyle were chosen by Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey (CWF) in recognition of their achievements, advances as women in their profession and their efforts to increase awareness of rare species and habitats and contributions to state wildlife. (Photo: ~Courtesy of Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ)

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HILLSBOROUGH – Three New Jersey women are being honored for their inspirational, leadership and educational wildlife conservation work at the 11th annual Women & Wildlife Awards Wednesday.

Wendy Walsh, Tanya Sulikoswki and Martha Maxwell-Doyle were chosen by Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey (CWF) in recognition of their achievements, advances as women in their profession and their efforts to increase awareness of rare species and habitats and contributions to state wildlife, according to a foundation news release.

Being conducted from 6 to 8:30 p.m in the Coach Barn at Duke Farms in Hillsborough, the event will feature former Gov. James J. Florio as its keynote speaker. The event also includes a silent auction and a live bird of prey.

For more than two decades, CWF has worked to protect rare wildlife throughout the state. CWF biologists and educators utilize field science, habitat restoration, environmental education, public engagement and volunteer stewardship to ensure the most vulnerable wildlife species can continue to call the state their home, according to the news release. Through the efforts of the CWF's scientists, many species have recovered and thrive again in the densely populated state.

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“Wildlife conservation efforts have benefited from a strong core of female scientists, educators, advocates, researchers, and rehabilitators who serve as role models for the next generation,” said David Wheeler, CWF executive director said in a news release. “Thanks to our Women & Wildlife honorees, today’s young girls can feel confident in pursuing science and conservation as careers with limitless and exciting possibilities.”

With over three decades of dedication to resource management, hazardous materials and environmental protection, Maxwell-Doyle received the "Inspiration" award. The longtime conservationist has proved to be a powerful force behind habitat restoration and protection. Currently working at the Barnegat Bay Partnership as a project coordinator for estuary protection and restoration, Maxwell-Doyle's years of experience at multiple national estuary programs has made it second nature for her to implement conservation and management plans. According to CWF, Maxwell-Doyle's enthusiasm for life and the environment drives her to do as much as possible to repair the state's wildlife habitats while teaching others that a difference can be made.



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Being recognized for "Leadership," Walsh is a senior fish and wildlife biologist at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who has worked to help different endangered species, including the piping plover, swamp pink and seabeach amaranth. According to the CWF, Walsh's most notable work is with the red knot, a declining species for which she took the species lead in the federal listing process. Her efforts coordinating, analyzing and interpreting data, particularly detailing the effects of changing climate on these long-distance migrant shorebirds has made her work widely acclaimed as the final rule, according to the CWF.

As the "Education" honoree, Sulikowski is called a "champion in environmental education." The manager of programs at Duke Farms, Sulikowski hosts hands-on creative projects including bird banding, bird monitoring, rain gardens and rain barrels. She considers her creation of the Teen Action and Leadership Opportunities for Nature program to be her greatest professional achievement, since it inspires urban students to make lifestyle changes that incorporate their newly discovered love of nature. Her reach has extended statewide through her various roles within the Alliance for NJ Environmental Educators, where she currently serves as vice president, according to the CWF.



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CWF's wildlife webcams, Story Maps, live webcasts and e-books aim to bring wildlife directly to the screens of tens of thousands of people, while public events and volunteer projects give residents the opportunity to experience the wonders of wildlife up close. Educators utilize art and essay contests, educational field trips, summer camps, afterschool programs, technology initiatives, classroom presentations and wildlife-based curriculum and lesson plans that meet the latest educational standards in helping kids grow in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics).

For more information on the 2016 Women & Wildlife Awards, go to www.ConserveWildlifeNJ.org/getinvolved/event/women. To learn more about CWF, go to www.ConserveWildlifeNJ.org.

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