

**Citation Speech for Watershed Alliance Presidents  
2008 Peacemaker of the Year Award Winners  
by Bicky Redman**

The Watershed Alliance of Adams County has been in existence for about a decade. Its primary mission is to help residents better understand the complex watershed issues affecting Adams County and to encourage sound water management and land use practices that will promote a sustainable watershed resource.

The Watershed Alliance was officially incorporated in November 1999. But prior to that Bob Robinson, WAAC's first president, spent many hours meeting with a grassroots group interested in forming a watershed association. In those early days, Bob and others hosted meetings at their personal watershed addresses and eventually developed a plan to form the Watershed Alliance into a nonprofit organization. Bob persevered through and oversaw the grueling task of developing WAAC's mission statement, bylaws and structure. Bob's presidency concluded in 2001, when Pat Naugle took the reins. Pat brought his attention to detail skills to bear in obtaining substantial grant funding for various projects. WAAC got involved in an assessment of the Conewago Creek watershed, performed riparian buffer plantings in the Narrows and at a dump cleanup site in the Browns Dam area, started monitoring streams with test kits, worked with the agricultural community on some demonstration projects to reduce run-off to streams, and worked to secure ongoing funding to maintain a stream gauge on the Conewago to provide real-time information on stream flow. Pat's presidency ended in early 2004, and Charlie Skopic stepped up to lead the board.

Charlie expanded WAAC's public outreach and was instrumental in publishing WAAC's informative newsletters, beginning a monthly newspaper column and assisting with the funding and creation of the popular Land & Water program on ACTV and the creation of an informative website. Charlie was also instrumental in organizing public forums for residents to hear their local candidates' views on environmental issues. Under Charlie, WAAC continued to complete various projects, such as the Rock Creek Assessment and the formation of the Rock Creek Working Group to work with municipalities on ordinances that affect watershed resources such as storm water management. Charlie's term ended in early 2006, when Mark Berg ascended to the presidency.

Mark brought a new focus to WAAC from his time promoting the Keep Adams Green movement. Mark has sought to encourage sound water management and land use practices to sustain the Adams County watershed resources. During his time a rivers conservation plan has been developed for the Conewago Watershed, and WAAC has formed partnerships with other like-minded organizations, such as the Partnership for Land Use group that has been offering many educational programs on land use issues. Also during Mark's term, WAAC began work on a water budget project that measures water inflows and outflows to quantify the amount water available in the watershed.