

Coastal Bays Heroes

This is the fifth in a series of articles celebrating our “Coastal Bay Heroes” – those who have contributed to the establishment and ongoing work of the Maryland Coastal Bays Program.

Gwynne Schultz



Gwynne Schultz has more than 30 years of experience in coastal and ocean resource management and policy issues. During her tenure with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Gwynne led Maryland’s efforts to establish the multi-state Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) and served as a founding Management Board member and past chair. She was also the State Co-lead on the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (RPB) during the development of the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Action Plan. The RPB was honored as a recipient of the 2017 Peter Benchley Ocean Award for “Excellence in Solutions.”

Schultz co-chaired the “Not Up the Creek” conference held a few years prior to the beginning of the Coastal Bays Program. Without the public interest shown during this conference, there may not have been the effort put forth for a National Estuary Program.

She served on the Management Committee and then the MCBP board from its’ inception until she retired from her position with the Department of National Resources’ Coastal Zone Management Division.

Schultz was a real asset, helping the program establish many internal policies, but more importantly, she kept the program coordinated with state and federal plans. She was key to finding funding for CCMP actions. She kept the program on track for success and was affectionately referred to by some as “a bureaucrat with a heart.”

For over two decades Gwynne represented the Governors of Maryland on the national Coastal States Organization (CSO) serving on the Executive Committee representing the Mid-Atlantic region and chaired CSO's Coastal Zone Management Act Reauthorization and Water Quality Committees. Gwynne also served as the Maryland representative on the Department of Interior Outer Continental Shelf Policy Committee, was a member of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management-Maryland Renewable Energy Task Force and served on the Environmental Protection Agency's Coastal Elevations and Sea Level Rise Federal Advisory Committee.

Schultz is currently serving as president to Coastal States Stewardship Foundation

Sandy Coyman



Sandy Coyman was a very active and influential board member of the program.

Coyman was the Director of Worcester County Department of Comprehensive Planning department which dissolved in a department consolidation. As head of that department, he worked to make Worcester County a leader in planning and helped Worcester County win a 2006 award for its' nationally recognized comprehensive plan.

He also oversaw the implementation of land protection programs such as the Coastal Bays Rural Legacy Area program, the county's Agricultural Land Preservation Program, and the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program. These programs have permanently protected over 8,000 acres of farms and forests in the county since 2000.

Coyman's job also included tracking trends and anticipating future community needs, educating citizens, and getting them involved in community stewardships, supplementing local monies with grants and managing the county-wide Geographic Information System, among other duties.

After his position dissolved in Worcester County, he was hired by Talbot County to head the planning and zoning department. He is currently the Planning and Water Quality Consultant with Earth Data, Inc.