



TROUT UNLIMITED

Conserving, protecting and restoring North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

DEERFIELD RIVER WATERSHED CHAPTER

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TROUT UNLIMITED'S DEERFIELD RIVER WATERSHED CHAPTER #349 WILL HONOR FRANKLIN LAND TRUSTS' RICH HUBBARD WITH ITS' ANNUAL CONSERVATION AWARD

Rich Hubbard, the retiring executive director of the Franklin Land Trust (FLT) has been named 2019 Robert Anderson Conservation Person of the Year by the Deerfield River Watershed Chapter of Trout Unlimited (DRWTU). The award will be made at the DRWTU annual banquet at the Warfield House in Charlemont, MA on February 23, 2019 at 6:00 pm.

Hubbard will be retiring this July. He is nationally recognized as an authority on farmland and open space conservation. During his 33 years in the profession, Hubbard has negotiated the conservation of more than 450 properties, totaling over 41,000 acres.

“Land conservation and protecting cold-water rivers and streams go hand-in-hand,” said Mike Vito, president of the DRWTU chapter. “Ours is a natural partnership that Rich and his staff helped all of us at TU realize with the Crowningshield property acquisition in Heath.” Crowningshield was a collaboration between FLT and TU chapters throughout Massachusetts. It is now a 100-acre conservation area containing a section of the West Branch of the North River, one of the most important native and wild brook trout habitats in the state.

Kevin Parsons, DRWTU Past President, worked with Hubbard on the Crowningshield acquisition and said, “Rich Hubbard’s fingerprints are on tens of thousands of acres of woodlands and farmland that have been forever preserved. Rich has been involved in more conservation deals in our watershed area than any other person. Rich’s efforts, throughout his career, have made a profound impact on protecting water resources and open lands which are

critical to our existence and life enjoyment. We celebrate the legacy Rich is leaving behind for generations to come.”

Prior to taking the helm at FLT, Hubbard served as Assistant Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) and Chief of its Bureau of Land Use, and for fifteen years managed the Commonwealth’s Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program and served as the Agricultural Resource Specialist for western MA. Prior to his tenure at (MDAR), Hubbard was Assistant Director of the Northeast Office of the American Farmland Trust and President of the MA Land Trust Coalition for three years, where he continues to serve on their board of directors. .

Hubbard graduated in 1977 from the University of Connecticut with a B.S. degree in Natural Resource Conservation and received a M.S. degree in 1980 from Syracuse University and the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Environmental Land Use Planning. He resides with his wife, Julie, in New Salem, MA.

DRWTU’s annual Robert Anderson Award celebrates local conservationists who have made a difference in the Deerfield River watershed’s overall protection and enhancement.

The Annual Banquet is open to the public. Limited reservations are available. RSVP is required. Contact: DRWTU via email Deerfieldrivertu@gmail.com or by calling Kevin Parsons directly at 413-522-5200.

DRWTU is a conservation organization whose mission is to preserve and enhance cold water fisheries for the benefit of wild trout in the Deerfield River watershed area. One of the smallest TU chapter’s in the United States, DRWTU won the prestigious Gold Trout Award last year, recognized as the top chapter in the entire nation.

For more information go to: www.deerfieldrivertroutunlimited.com

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