

2014 NOMINATION FOR THE RICH CAILTEUX AWARD

Bob Wattendorf – FWC, Division of Freshwater Fisheries Management

Bob has devoted his career to freshwater fisheries management & promoting freshwater fishing in Florida. He joined the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission in 1979 and spent his first years working on non-native fish, eventually becoming involved in projects involving Triploid Grass Carp. He adapted the Coulter Counter System for the first rapid and practical certification of Triploid Grass Carp. He was the Assistant Division Director of the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission Fisheries Division from 1985 to 1996 and has spent many years as the freshwater Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration coordinator. Bob has stayed busy promoting freshwater fishing through marketing and special projects with FWC and was a key figure in developing the five-year fishing license, an incentive program which has successfully increased license sales. As an early adopter in the use of technology, Bob has been the FWC webmaster since 1996. He currently writes the monthly “Fish Busters’ Bulletin” on the FWC website, as well as a freshwater fishing blog for Florida Sportsman. Bob has been instrumental in the promotion of the Big Catch and Trophy Catch statewide angler recognition programs. He has served as both facilitator and Chairman with Get Outdoors Florida, and is the coalition’s current secretary. Bob is also the current President of the Florida outdoor Writers Association.

With all he has been involved with in his professional career and personal life, Bob has also made the time to play a significant part in the Florida Chapter. He has been a member of the Florida Chapter since the first meeting in 1981, and served as president from 1999 to 2000. He brought the chapter into the digital age; creating our website, which he has single-handedly maintained since 1996. While he handed over the role of the Florida Chapter’s webmaster this year, we are extremely grateful for the time and service Bob has provided to the Chapter. He has done a tremendous job and was always quick to respond to any requests.

Whether working to advance the goals of the Florida Chapter of AFS or serving in different roles in Florida’s Fish and Wildlife agency, there is one trait that Bob consistently exhibits - he is the consummate professional. Anybody who has ever worked with Bob would agree that nobody in our business behaves more professionally.

Awards that Bob has received include:

1999 - Florida Outdoor Writer’s Association Best Website Award

2004 - Louise Ireland Humphrey Award-- from the Wildlife Foundation of Florida (an annual Lifetime Achievement Award recognizing an FWC employee whose dedication and service has made a significant contribution to the protection and conservation of Florida's fish and wildlife)

2007 – Outdoor Ethics Communications Award (Izaak Walton League)

2008 - **Division of Fisheries Superior Lifetime Accomplishment Award**

2010 - **Conservation Educator of the Year Award** from the Florida Wildlife Federation.

2011 - **Bass Pro Shops "Pass it on Award"** from the Florida Outdoors Writers Association (for Conservation Education efforts involving Get Outdoors Florida and the Fish Busters' Bulletins)

2011 - **Division of Freshwater Fisheries' Superior Achievement**
(for work on the Black Bass Management Plan, unflagging promotion of our freshwater fishing resources, and enhancing future fishing opportunities.

2013 - **Florida Outdoor Writers Association Excellent in Craft Award**
(for monthly column "Fish Busters," which shares Florida's freshwater fishing opportunities with readers across the country)