

2022 MWMC Carl Weber Award – Bruce Michael



Bruce Michael spent 42-years working on and managing various projects that assessed and monitored the health of the Chesapeake Bay and Maryland's waterways, first as an employee with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, then Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and then with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Bruce started as a field biologist/data analyst and worked his way up to leadership roles at all levels from program manager to DNR Tidewater Ecosystem Assessment Division Director, and finally Director of Resource Assessment Service (RAS). As Director of RAS, Bruce managed Maryland's groundwater, non-tidal waters, estuarine waters, lakes and Coastal Bays and numerous living resources monitoring programs in support of regional, State, and Departmental policies and pollution control programs. He also coordinated and managed Maryland's Harmful Algal Bloom Assessment Program. Results from these programs impacted State and federal legislation, Maryland's economy, and informed the public on issues related to human health, aquatic health, seafood safety, and tourism.

Bruce has been instrumental in helping us better understand Maryland's vast natural resources including the Chesapeake Bay. In addition, he has also excelled at connecting the ideas and people to revitalize our waterways. His efforts have been key to clearing up our waters and recharging them with oxygen, ultimately providing a brighter future for the iconic fish, crabs and oysters calling Maryland waters home.