



## **2019 MWMC Above and Beyond Award – Suzanne Etgen**

For at least 15 years, Suzanne Etgen has been a cornerstone of bringing Chesapeake Bay cleanup goals down to the local level. Suzanne serves as the Executive Director of the Anne Arundel Watershed Stewards Academy (AAWSA), and has provided the energy and dedication that have made this 10-year-old organization a success. Suzanne has always believed that the best work is done at a shared table, with as many diverse voices as possible. The vision of the Watershed Stewards Academy is to have every community in Anne Arundel County actively engaged for clean water, and

through her efforts they are well on their way.

One of her greatest successes has been the development and implementation of the curriculum for the Academy's signature program: a Certification Course which trains volunteers to become Master Watershed Stewards. Graduates of the course emerge as community leaders, providing assistance and expertise to neighbors on how to become better stewards of the Chesapeake Bay.

Suzanne is a visionary and has been instrumental in the development of exciting collaborations which have not only had a measurable impact on the health of local waters, but have shifted the demographics of environmental action. In 2014, Suzanne spearheaded a faith-based program, RiverWise Congregations, with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake.

Suzanne has a gift for building relationships--not just between herself and the volunteers at AAWSA, but among partners working toward similar goals. Suzanne sees options and solutions from multiple angles, and helps move difficult conversations from talk to action. Her optimistic personality and keen knowledge

of cutting-edge science around behavior change research make her an effective change-maker driven by science.

Overall, it is hard to imagine a leader, a doer, a spark plug, or a collaborator with more drive and more impact than Suzanne Etgen.

