

2018 President's Award

As presented by Doug Bechtel and Helen Dalbeck at the New Hampshire Audubon Annual Meeting, September 15, 2018.

The President's Award recognizes a strong friend of NH Audubon whose actions and commitment have significantly furthered the work of the organization. The recipient of the 2018 award is Bill Smagula.

Bill Smagula was a long time employee of Eversource (formerly Public Service of New Hampshire) and a dedicated partner in the Amoskeag Fishways Learning and Visitor Center, for which NH Audubon is the managing partner.

The Amoskeag Fishways is an award winning environmental education center located in the heart of Manchester, NH on the Merrimack River. The center houses an impressive exhibit hall that allows visitors to explore the Merrimack River watershed and learn the importance of wise stewardship of our water resources. In May and June, visitors can view migrating shad, herring and sea lamprey in underwater viewing windows as they swim through a fish ladder that takes them around the Amoskeag Dam.

Helen Dalbeck, Amoskeag Fishways Executive Director, writes:

“Today I begin my 20th year at the Amoskeag Fishways and I've worked with Bill for 17 of those years. It took a bit for this hydro-generation engineer and executive to warm up to an environmental education center but it wasn't long before Bill Smagula became a strong ally, friend, and supporter of our work and the partnership team.

I think he was amazed by our creativity, dedication, and professionalism, our persistence in upholding the mission, and the simple courage it took at times to lead the project through both wonderful and challenging times. Bill was also willing to play and celebrate with us at festivals, anniversary events, partner gatherings, retirement parties and of course, he marched in one epic parade wearing a fish hat and carrying a giant fish! He fought for our continued funding, repairs, new exhibits, and loved to shower us with new Fishways vests and gear.

Therefore, we, the Amoskeag Fishways partners and staff of the past, present and future along with the thousands and thousands and thousands of students, visitors, and community members as well as all of the species that cannot speak for themselves like the fish, eagle, caddisfly and Tree Swallows – we all circle up and in one voice congratulate Bill on this occasion and are filled with gratitude for having had him on our team.”

With a deep bow, we thank you and present Bill Smagula with NH Audubon's 2018 President's Award.



Bill Smagula (center), receiving the 2018 President's Award from NH Audubon President, Doug Bechtel and Holly Groh representing the Amoskeag Fishways for Helen Dalbeck.

Photo by Dyanna Smith.

