



## **2016 MWMC Carl Weber Award - Bonnie Bick**

Bonnie Bick is a tireless, prescient, and dedicated advocate with 20 years of volunteer experience. Bonnie co-founded the Mattawoman Watershed Society in 2006, and in the early 90's, as one of 70 members of a state citizens' advisory committee, she was the sole vote against the Western Waldorf Bypass, reasoning that this leg of the Outer Beltway would destroy

Mattawoman Creek and lead to a new Potomac bridge, threatening Chicamuxen and Nanjemoy Creeks as well. Only later did two subsequent advisory committees vote against the Bypass, and it no longer adorns land-use plans.

As president of the Friends of Mt. Aventine, Bonnie led the lengthy fight against the edge city of Chapman's Landing, proposed to stretch from the Potomac to the Mattawoman over 2,250 forested acres laced with streams. The effort coalesced into the Campaign to Preserve Chapman Forest and today is Chapman State Park and Mattawoman Wildlands. When spawning River Herring were found, Bonnie publicized the discovery—Fish Love Forests! With this determined effort, the 1,400 acres draining to the Mattawoman are now Wildlands instead of development. Bonnie also leads outdoor education field-trips to the Potomac shore of Chapman State Park and to a Mattawoman trib through programs she initiated with Charles and Prince Georges County elementary schools.

In 2007, 1,000 rural acres were threatened by "The Preserve at Green Spring," a mega-development that purported to protect the Mattawoman stream valley with a golf course. Bonnie lobbied the County Commissioners to hold an unprecedented hearing, and then rallied citizens. The outcry was strong, the

project was denied, and today the land is a Wildlife Management Area and county recreational park.

Bonnie was instrumental in forming the Smarter Growth Alliance for Charles County (SGACC), a consortium of 20 regional, state, and local organizations formed to defend Mattawoman Creek and the county's biodiversity from the Cross County Connector. She also sits on the SGACC steering committee as president of the Chapman Forest Foundation.

In 2011 there began an intense five-year process to revise Charles County's comprehensive plan that fully engaged SGACC and MWS. Aided by Bonnie's efforts, that set the stage for a remarkable conservation success. A new plan was adopted that will curtail sprawl.

Bonnie has maintained a constant presence in the monitoring community through volunteer monitoring in Stream Waders and MWS activities, and through numerous presentations to resource agencies.