

# Randy Carter Award Presentation



*Each year the Float Fishermen of Virginia recognize the contributions of individual river conservationists with the Randy Carter Memorial Award. Initiated in 1974, this award is given for outstanding efforts to protect Virginia's free-flowing streams for their recreational and environmental value, for significant contributions to the growth of the Virginia Scenic Rivers Systems, or for promoting a greater appreciation of our rivers among the citizens of our state.*

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*The 2005 Randy Carter Award was presented by Bill Tanger, FFV Conservation Committee Chair, to John Tippett, Executive Director of Friends of the Rappahannock at the FOR Annual meeting in Fredericksburg, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006.*

Tippett holds a Master's degree in Environmental Resource Management from Duke University (1990) and a B.S. in Environmental Science from Allegheny College. Prior to joining the Friends in 1995, Mr. Tippett was an environmental scientist with the water quality department of The Research Triangle Institute, a non-profit research organization located in North Carolina's Research Triangle Park.

As director of the Friends of the Rappahannock, Mr. Tippett has led a series of successful conservation initiatives ranging from the removal of Embrey Dam to securing precedent-setting county code changes for Low Impact Development.

In 1999, he initiated a four-year education and consensus-building effort that resulted in the passage of a precedent-setting suite of code changes in Stafford County, Virginia. These codes were the first in the region to create incentives for the use of LID design in subdivisions, and to mandate the use of LID practices on commercial parking lots.

Through this process, he developed a "building block" approach to effective grassroots code change efforts. This approach has generated extensive interest by non-governmental and governmental agencies regionally, nationally, and internationally. Mr. Tippett has presented on the approach in venues ranging from the

keynote of the 2004 National LID Conference to special trainings of grassroots nonprofits in the Philippines. The approach is now being replicated in various forms in a number of other river basins. He has also authored a narrated CD tutorial and resource kit on Low Impact Development, over 1,000 copies of which have been distributed nationwide. In 2004, he and his staff completed two federally-funded model watershed studies which pioneered an approach to prioritize sites for LID retrofit using GIS analysis of impervious cover, soils, and water quality data.

Over the past decade, Mr. Tippett led a grassroots advocacy effort that played a major role in securing the ultimate removal of Embrey Dam on the Rappahannock River. His organization's advocacy work was responsible for successfully engaging Sen. John Warner, who ultimately funded the \$10M removal of the dam through the Water Resources Development Act. The breach of the Dam in 2004 restored over 700 miles of historical spawning habitat for shad, herring, striped bass and other migratory species.

Currently Mr. Tippett is working on a major initiative to secure a 4,300 acre conservation easement along a 25 mile section of the Rappahannock and Rapidan rivers. He is also overseeing the construction of several demonstration Low Impact Development practices which he designed. These demonstration practices are part of an advocacy effort to secure policy changes in state Departments of Transportation that will

allow LID practices in road right-of-ways.

The meeting & presentation occurred at the Rappahannock Outdoor Education Center adjacent to the Rappahannock River and the Rappahannock Canal. The center is operated by a long-time river conservationist Bill Micks, one of the founding members of FOR. The center also serves as FOR headquarters. Attendees included the Mayor of Fredericksburg, members of the city council, FOR board members and nearly forty other guests and dignitaries.

The Randy Carter Memorial Award was one of several presented that evening, but without a doubt the statuette award was the most admired and received the most attention. All in all, the FFV made a good splash with the Friends of the Rappahannock and their local guests.

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*Randy Carter, of Warrenton, was Virginia's premier river runner during the 1950's and 1960's and creator of the Randy Carter gauging system (a.k.a. 'boater's gauge').*

*Copies of his classic "Canoeing White Water River Guide" (Appalachian Books, Oakton VA 1967, Eighth Revised Edition, 1974) are available in both paperback and hardcover from John Sweet, on the web: <http://johnrsweet.com/Carterguide.html>*



## Thank You FFV

In a letter to FFV State President John Van Luik, Tippet expressed his gratitude to FFV for being named the 2006 Randy Carter Award. The text of this letter is included below.

*I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Float Fishermen of Virginia for honoring me with the 2005 Randy Carter Award. Over the years, it has been my great pleasure to work with many dedicated volunteer conservationists from the Float Fishermen. It means a great deal to me to receive recognition from exactly those people who have inspired and mentored me in my work.*

*The award itself is a marvelous creation ... truly a magnificent work of art. I will certainly treasure it greatly.*

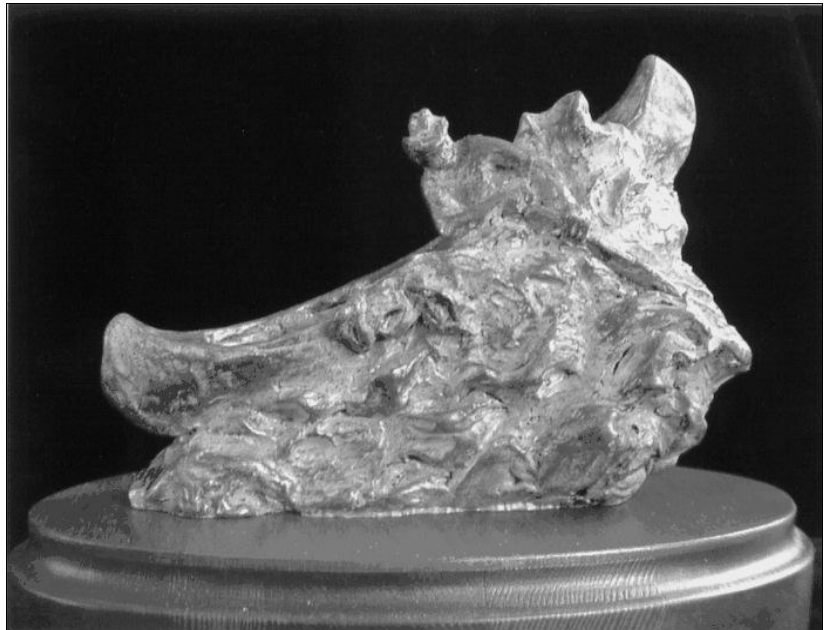
*Sincerely,*

*John Tippet  
Executive Director*

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The Randy Carter Award of today was sculpted by Judith Damon and cast at a foundry in Greensboro, North Carolina. The base is made from wood taken from old doors out of the Hotel Roanoke prior to the 90's renovations.

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## An excerpt from Carter's *Canoeing White Water River Guide*....

After 30+ years some of the specifics in Randy Carter's *White Water River Guide* have become dated; but his river and stream descriptions, peppered with humor, historical observations and inspired prose, create an enjoyable read for their own sake. Here is one brief example (extra credit if you can identify the stream).

*"Starting out in a meadow, past farmers' back doors, past another's front door, and on down into the mountains... getting faster and faster. Past big rocks covered with the most beautiful soft green velvet moss, past great rock gardens with ferns and wild flowers; cliffs and jagged mountain sides and the beautiful hemlocks screening the light and leaving a dark quietness in the gorges and ravines.*

*Around sharp bends to come upon some unexpected scene or a narrow place to shot through; brushing up against the vertical side of a mountain going up into the sky where an eagle soars above the peaks. The blue sky, the white clouds, the rushing little river, and its sudden surprises of beauty are rewarding indeed."*