



Media Advisory

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Rachel Carson Centennial Culminates with Awards Ceremony
Maryland Students Recognized as Rachel Carson Scholars

What: Awards ceremony honoring Rachel Carson Scholars
When: Thursday, May 24 at 1 p.m.
Where: National Wildlife Visitors Center
Patuxent Research Refuge
10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop
Laurel, Md.

Editor's Note: Rachel Carson Scholars will be available for interviews at the event and by phone. To arrange a phone interview, please call Olivia Doherty, 301-656-0348.

McLean, Va. – One teenager devised a new school recycling plan. Another planted American lotus seeds along the Anacostia River and monitored their growth. A third has taught fifth-graders about the joys of nature at an environmental education center.

These Maryland high school students are among the first-ever Rachel Carson Scholars, a new program launched by the Newton Marasco Foundation to celebrate the centennial of Rachel Carson's birth this month. **On Thursday, May 24, at 1 p.m. at the National Wildlife Visitors Center in Laurel, Md.,** the foundation will honor seven young environmental stewards for their commitment to protect and preserve the natural environment. After an awards ceremony, actress Kaiulani Lee will perform *A Sense of Wonder*, a one-woman play about Rachel Carson. Carson's centennial is **May 27**.

"The legacy of Rachel Carson is more relevant today than ever before, and we are proud to recognize young Maryland students who are continuing Miss Carson's legacy of environmental stewardship," said Amy Marasco Newton, president of the Newton Marasco Foundation, an environmental foundation based in McLean, Va.

The first-place Rachel Carson Scholar, receiving an award of \$1,000, is **Jennifer Crick** of **Chesapeake City**, a senior at The Tome School in North East. Crick has volunteered more than 1,000 hours — leading her school's Environmental Club and helping create a new school recycling plan; planting trees, organizing river clean-ups and coordinating bird rescue donations as a Girl Scout; and volunteering at two historic, environmentally sensitive sites. She plans to become an environmental lawyer.

The second-place Rachel Carson Scholar, receiving \$750, is **Dietrich Epp Schmidt of Hyattsville**, a senior at Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt. Last year, Schmidt planted American lotus seeds along the Anacostia River and monitored their growth over 12 weeks for a wetlands restoration and research project with the Anacostia Watershed Society. He also served on the Youth Conservation Corps at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and organized local park clean-ups.

The third-place Rachel Carson Scholar, receiving \$500, is **Wade Simmons of Forest Hill**, a junior at C. Milton Wright High School in Bel Air. Simmons has served as a counselor to fifth-graders at an environmental education center and volunteered at a historic grist mill and park. He will spend the summer with the Student Conservation Association, working in Saguaro National Park.

Additional Rachel Carson Scholars are:

- **Melissa Duvall of Arnold**, a senior at Broadneck Senior High School in Annapolis
- **Laura Betz of Monkton**, a senior at North Harford High School in Pylesville
- **Stephanie DeHaven of Reisterstown**, a senior at the Western School of Technology in Baltimore
- **Jennifer Shellem of Bel Air**, a senior at Harford Christian School in Darlington

The Centennial Celebration marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Carson, a long-time Silver Spring, Md., resident. As an acclaimed nature writer, scientist and ecologist, Carson sparked the modern environmental movement with the 1962 publication of her landmark book *Silent Spring*, exposing the dangers of chemical pesticides.

More than 40 years ago, Carson called on Congress to create new policies to protect human health and the environment. Her scientific work and writings led to milestone environmental legislation in the U.S. and abroad. Sixteen years after her death in 1964, President Carter awarded Carson the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom.

“A generation ago, Miss Carson inspired a national debate that changed the way we view the world, and I am proud to continue that discussion today,” Newton said. “By celebrating Miss Carson’s legacy, we hope more Americans will join us in protecting and improving our environment.”

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The Newton Marasco Foundation’s mission is to inspire responsible environmental stewardship. NMF designs innovative programs that foster learning, appreciation and caring for our natural environment through education, consulting, and celebration. For more information, visit www.newtonmarascofoundation.org.