



For Immediate Release – November 29, 2017

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Hudson River Watershed Alliance Announces the Recipients of This Year's Watershed WaveMaker Awards

Marlboro, NY - The Hudson River Watershed Alliance is pleased to announce our 2017 *Watershed WaveMaker Awards* for an individual, community group, small business and institution who are working tirelessly to protect, conserve and restore the Hudson River and other water resources in the region. The recipients of this year's awards are: Bard College, the Quassaick Creek Watershed Alliance, New Paltz Kayaking Tours, and Michael Hickey from the Village of Hoosick Falls.

The Hudson River Watershed Alliance's mission is to protect water resources by building a network of information, innovation and effective stewardship in Hudson River watersheds. Since our inception, we have worked with dozens of watershed groups, municipalities and community watershed stewards by bringing critical education, resources and tools to assist them in their activities related to watershed planning, water quality monitoring, and community outreach.

The *Watershed WaveMaker Awards* were launched by the Hudson River Watershed Alliance as a way to recognize the exemplary efforts of our watershed partners, who are working throughout the year on critical activities to protect Hudson River water resources. The awards ceremony will take place at our *Toast to the Tribs Awards Benefit* at The Falcon in Marlboro, NY on Tuesday, December 5, 2017 from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm. The event includes dinner and a silent auction, with proceeds to benefit the Hudson River Watershed Alliance. Music will be provided by Breakneck Ridge Revue ([facebook.com/breakneckridgerevue](https://www.facebook.com/breakneckridgerevue)), performing Americana and swinging bluegrass tunes, led by Andy Revkin on vocals and stringed instruments, with Patrick Jones (guitar and vocals), Mark Murphy (bass), Todd Giudice (drums), Dan Einbender (guitar and vocals), and Karen Brooks (vocals). Andy Revkin is a science and environmental writer long associated with the New York Times and now with ProPublica, who will also share some brief remarks at the event. Tickets are \$85 per person and can be purchased at www.hudsonwatershed.org or bit.ly/2017ToasttotheTrib

Bard College is the 2017 Watershed WaveMaker award recipient in the institution/government category for its commitment to launching and supporting the Saw Kill Watershed Community to draw attention and awareness to the protection of the Saw Kill Creek; its use of the Bard Water Lab to improve the understanding of regional water quality issues for the Saw Kill, Roeliff Jansen Kill and other waterbodies; its leadership in implementing the Hudson River Subwatershed & Tributary Research Network (THuRST); and its academic excellence demonstrated in its Environmental and Urban Studies Program and Center for Environmental

Policy. Bard College has also implemented an ambitious green infrastructure demonstration project, featuring a constructed wetland, porous asphalt, permeable paver sidewalk, bioswales, a bioretention area and a riparian buffer area. The college has also taken steps towards a more efficient use of water and a transition away from bottled water usage.

New Paltz Kayaking Tours, a seasonal kayak/canoe rental business operating out of Sojourner Truth Park in New Paltz under the leadership of Craig Chapman, is the recipient of the 2017 Watershed WaveMaker award in the small business category for its outreach and promotion of recreational opportunities on the Walkkill and other surrounding waterbodies; for its assistance offering free boat rentals for those participating in the Walkkill River boat brigades; and for encouraging public access and enjoyment of the Walkkill River for those who may not otherwise be able to afford to do so.

The **Quassaick Creek Watershed Alliance**, led by dedicated volunteers such as John Gebhards and Peter Smith, is the 2017 Watershed WaveMaker award recipient in the community watershed group category for its years of work educating and informing the public on the importance of this watershed; for developing a watershed plan with Orange County and other partners; for initiating restoration and trail-making projects including their vision for "Newburgh's Other Waterfront"; and for helping the City of Newburgh during its recent water contamination crisis through its leadership, education and mapping of the watershed.

Michael Hickey is the 2017 Watershed WaveMaker award recipient in the individual category for his work as a citizen volunteer in unearthing a PFOA contamination crisis in the Village of Hoosick Falls that had been affecting members of his county for a generation; for continuing to fight for clean water on behalf of his community; and for establishing a strong team that has become Healthy Hoosick Water, a nonprofit whose aim is to take on corporate polluters.

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