

# Press Release

## Mason-Dixon Outdoor Writers Association Honors Shenandoah University Professor and Students

Contact:

Marie Majarov  
Mason Dixon Outdoor Writers Association, Board Member  
Virginia Outdoor Writers Association, President  
[marie.milan@majarov.com](mailto:marie.milan@majarov.com)  
(540)336-8728

Dr. Woodward Bousquet  
Shenandoah University, Environmental Studies Department  
[wbousque@su.edu](mailto:wbousque@su.edu)  
(540)665-5461, office

April 18, 2013 7 PM in Halpin-Harrison Hall, Shenandoah University Environmental Studies Professor Woodward Bousquet and his dedicated, enthusiastic students will be presented with the Mason Dixon Outdoor Writers Association's (M-DOWA, [www.mdowa.org](http://www.mdowa.org)) prestigious Joe Penfold Memorial Award for Grassroots Conservation Efforts. This award honors 20 years of work by Dr. Bousquet and his students throughout those years in protecting, preserving, and educating about the precious natural habitat that is Winchester's Abrams Creek Wetlands

The award presentation on the 18<sup>th</sup> will precede the University's Annual Warrington Science Speaker and Symposium. Announcement of the award was made at the March 16, 2013 Annual Conference Dominion Banquet of the Mason Dixon Outdoor Writers Association Annual Conference, this year held jointly with the Virginia Outdoor Writers Association (VOWA, [www.vowa.org](http://www.vowa.org)) in the Shenandoah Valley's beautiful Staunton, Augusta, Waynesboro area. Together these organizations represent some of the best outdoor writers on the East Coast!

Nominations for this award, part of the organizations yearly Excellence-in-Craft competitions, are made by these writers based on their publications. Winchester's photo-journalist Marie Majarov nominated Bousquet and his students who were featured in her "Abrams Creek Wetlands: Wet Prairies and Calcareous Muck Fens!" published in *Virginia Wildlife Magazine*, November/December 2012.

An exceptional one mile strip of land, 50 acres, half in Frederick County and half in the City of Winchester, Abrams Creek Wetlands Preserve is one of the most biologically rich sites in Virginia! Or, as Bouquet's Environmental Education students describe it -- "Abrams Creek's

Wetlands: A Natural Wonder in Our Back Yards." Thriving here, amidst a lovely variety of flora and fauna, are 18 state-rare plants and 12 more on the watch list, with 2 found nowhere else in Virginia . More details in Marie Majarov's *Virginia Wildlife* Article attached with this Press release.

M-DOWA, representing 5 Mid-Atlantic States and DC, and VOWA are coalitions of outdoor communicators, including writers, photographers, radio/ video/film producers, artists, and internet communicators who strive to improve themselves in their craft, promote outdoor education, the wise use of our natural resources, and increase their knowledge and understanding of the outdoors.

**Contact Marie Majarov for information on related stories that might also be of interest:**

- Virginia Outdoor Writers Association and Mason Dixon Outdoor Writers Association (a regional organization including 5 mid-Atlantic states and DC) hold joint meeting in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley. Fabulous activities and workshops enjoyed by all.
- Ann & Rob Simpson, LFCC Professors and Nationally renowned photographers/writers present a workshop at Outdoor Writers Conference and win top Excellence-in-Craft Awards for their books.
- Marie Majarov, Winchester resident, President of the Virginia Outdoor Writers and Board Member for the Mason-Dixon Writers was also presented with top Excellence-in-Craft awards for both her photography and feature articles.