**Natural Areas Association Carl N. Becker Stewardship Award Nomination Form**

#### Description

The Natural Areas Association recognized individuals or groups who have demonstrated excellence in natural area stewardship. The Natural Areas Association Carl N. Becker Stewardship Award is given in recognition of excellence and achievement in managing the natural resources of reserves, parks, wilderness, and other protected areas.

This award is given in honor of Carl N. Becker, former NAA president and conservation leader with the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and the Illinois Chapter of the Nature Conservancy. Carl brought leadership skills to all phases of his conservation career – he was an excellent field biologist, bureaucrat, and political thinker. He knew how to inspire his staff to work together to do more than they could possibly do on their own and encouraged new ideas to approach unresolved issues.

Some examples of Carl’s leadership that have benefited natural area conservation locally, regionally and nationally, include:

- He led the development of Illinois legislation dedicating a portion of the state real estate transfer tax to the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund, which supports natural areas acquisition and stewardship and the operations of Illinois’ Nature Preserves, Natural Heritage, and Endangered Species programs;

- He championed Illinois legislation for the Wildlife Preservation Fund income tax check-off that conserves non-game wildlife and habitat.

- He acted as a state and regional leader working with the Teaming with Wildlife Coalition to urge Congressional approval in 2000 for the establishment of the USFWS State & Tribal Wildlife Grant (SWG) program. During the first 13 years of the program, it dedicated over $760M to fish and wildlife conservation programs and projects across the nation.

The award:

1. Recognizes individuals or groups who have resolved or made a significant contribution to an issue related to identification, protection, and/or management of natural areas, and the mission of the NAA
2. Recognizes individuals or groups who have developed creative or innovative strategies which have directly contributed to resolution of issues or otherwise greatly improved protection of natural areas.
3. Recognizes individuals or groups who have made a major advance in the protection of natural areas and wildlands

Nominations

Nominations are valid only for the current year. Preference may be given to “local” nominees who are geographically proximate to the location of the current year’s meeting.

The winner of the award should be advised that they will need to be **present in person** at the Natural Areas Conference Awards Banquet on **Wednesday October 11**, in order to accept the award. NAA will cover the winner’s registration costs.

Nominators for nominations that are not selected will be advised accordingly and encouraged to resubmit the nomination for a future conference.

Return this form, a copy of the nominee’s resume and at least one letter of reference or support for the nominee/nomination by May 12 to: Rick Myers at [Rick.Myers@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:Rick.Myers@dcr.virginia.gov)

Name of Nominator:

Nominator Address:

Nominator Telephone:

Nominator Email:

Date:

Name of Nominee:

Nominee Title:

Nominee Address:

Nominee Telephone:

Nominee Email:

1. Describe the achievement(s) that form the basis for this nomination.

2. Describe the scope of the activity and the complexity of the resources/issues addressed.

3. How was creativity demonstrated? What new ideas or different approaches did the nominee or group use to solve the problem(s)?

4. What methods or techniques did the nominee use to overcome obstacles and how did these contribute to the success of the overall mission?

5. What other decisions or actions illustrate the nominee's or group’s overall, long‑term commitment to natural area preservation and activities designed to restore and/or preserve sustainable ecosystems? How has this commitment been communicated to the public?

6. Describe whether a nominee’s accomplishments were strictly in the course of employment or were above and beyond: did the nominee volunteer/donate time and resources?

7. Describe the nominee’s involvement with NAA. Is the nominee an NAA member?

If so, how long have they been a member? Has the nominee ever served on the NAA Board, or on an NAA Committee? If so, for how long have they served?