



Beaver **Water** District

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Wilson Named Carol Griffie Communication Conservationist of the Year



Amy L. Wilson of Fayetteville, Director of Public Affairs for Beaver Water District, received the 2011 Carol Griffie Communication Conservationist of the Year Award from the Arkansas Wildlife Federation on Aug. 27th at the Annual Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards Banquet held in Bryant, Ark. Dr. Robert Morgan, Manager of Environmental Quality for Beaver Water District, accepted the award on her behalf. The Arkansas Wildlife Federation has been a leading voice in helping to conserve and protect the wildlife, waters, and wild lands of Arkansas since 1936. This year, the communication award was renamed for Carol Griffie (1937-2011), the longtime editor of the AWF publication *Arkansas Out-of-Doors* and a highly respected veteran journalist known for meticulous reporting on environmental and conservation issues of concern in Arkansas.

Wilson has served as Director of Public Affairs for Beaver Water District since late 2004. The District is the primary drinking water provider for Northwest Arkansas. A native of Louisiana, Wilson moved to Fayetteville, Ark., with her family in the early 1970s and graduated from Fayetteville High School in 1976. She attended the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, where she earned bachelor's and master's degrees in English. She then worked as a reporter for about two years at the Northwest Arkansas Times in Fayetteville. In the mid-1980s, she moved to Little Rock, where she joined the Arkansas Democrat and later the Arkansas Gazette. During this time, she got to know the late Carol Griffie, who influenced her writing and taught her about integrity and the importance of getting the facts straight. For more than a decade following Wilson's journalism career, which ended with the closing of the Arkansas Gazette, she worked for the Arkansas Environmental Federation, an environmental education industry group, where she served as Communication Director. In her present role with the Beaver Water District, she promotes the importance of clean drinking water and safeguarding the watershed that drains to Beaver Lake. Her responsibilities include administering the District's website, producing internal and external newsletters and other publications, and directing the development and implementation of a broad-based public awareness and education program, as well as the development of a Water Education Center that is benefiting from a grant awarded to the Beaver Water District by The Walton Family Foundation. For information, visit bwdh2o.org or contact Alan Fortenberry at 479-756-3651.