



ELIZABETH JESTER FELLOWS AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT

Elizabeth J. Fellows headed the Assessment and Watershed Protection Division in USEPA's Office of Water. She dedicated her career to natural resources management and environmental protection including envisioning the creation of the National Council. She was an effective advocate for developing a nationwide framework for coordinating, collecting, assessing, and communicating water quality monitoring information and results. In her memory, the National Water Quality Monitoring Council has established the Elizabeth Jester Fellows Award to recognize individuals for outstanding achievement, exemplary service, and distinguished leadership in the field of water quality monitoring.

In recognition of her contributions to water quality monitoring, the NWQMC is pleased to present the 2006 Elizabeth Jester Fellows Award to



Eleanor Ely
Editor
The Volunteer Monitor

In recognition of her contributions to water quality monitoring, the National Water Quality Monitoring Council is pleased to present the 2006 Elizabeth Jester Fellows Award to Eleanor Ely, editor of *The Volunteer Monitor* newsletter.

For sixteen years, Ellie has been the editor and driving force behind *The Volunteer Monitor*, the national newsletter for those who train and oversee the huge population of citizen volunteers across the country. Volunteer program coordinators all over the U.S. – and in many other countries – rely on the newsletter for technical advice on monitoring, sustaining programs,

training volunteers, and many, many other topics. This newsletter is, in fact, *the* critical link connecting the thousands of diverse members of the volunteer monitoring community. Ellie's persistence, patience, and unique editorial insight ensure that her publication is timely *and* timeless, an invaluable resource for the entire monitoring community, from volunteer to professional.

Ellie devotes a tremendous amount of time, effort, and energy into writing, editing, and producing each issue of *The Volunteer Monitor* newsletter. She has a critical eye for details, and researches and thoroughly masters each newsletter topic – from data management to bacteria monitoring. Most remarkably, Ellie can translate the most arcane bureaucratic doublespeak or scientific technospeak into plain, clearly understandable English. She cares very much about the newsletter's technical and editorial quality, and is just as wholly dedicated to the volunteer monitoring movement itself; she knows more about individual volunteer monitoring programs and their leaders than any other person in the U.S. She is always eager to share her knowledge, experience, and connections with others, and to help forward the cause of volunteer environmental monitoring.

Ellie is a gifted writer, editor, and advocate of community-based environmental monitoring. Her selfless effort to enhance and advance the efforts of citizen volunteers has given them a greater voice in protecting and restoring the nation's water resources. Her colleagues in the volunteer monitoring community nominated her for this award as an expression of their admiration and gratitude.

Congratulations, Ellie!