



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Education Leader to Receive Marcy Damon Award

On November 2, 2017, Adele Ashkar, FASLA, will become the third recipient of the Marcy Damon Conservation Landscaping Award. The award, given by the Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council, a regional non-profit, recognizes Ashkar for her devotion to sustainable landscaping and education within the Chesapeake Bay region.

Ashkar is currently serving as Dean for Academic Excellence at The George Washington University, where she was, for many years, the Director of GW's Landscape Design Program. Under Ashkar's guidance, GW established a unique master's degree in Sustainable Landscapes, bringing that program to the cutting edge of sustainable design theory and practice. The Landscape Design Program is specifically tailored to the needs of students who are changing careers. Ashkar also teaches design courses at GW and serves as an adviser to faculty and students.

Prior to joining GW, Ashkar practiced landscape architecture at the Office of Dan Kiley in Charlotte, VT, then at the design firm HOK, Inc., in New York City and Washington, DC, where she managed large design and installation projects. She authored several books on landscape architecture and design and she is a frequent speaker at conferences and events, including previous CCLC conferences, and has served as design studio critic for Master of Landscape Architecture programs at Virginia Tech and the University of Maryland. Ashkar is actively involved in GW's interdisciplinary campus sustainability efforts and she helped to lead the award-winning Team Capitol DC's project in the 2013 Solar Decathlon.

The Marcy Damon Conservation Landscaping Award was established by the Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council to honor former Council chair and Maryland naturalist and educator, Marcy Damon. Damon, age 64, passed away in June 2013. Damon spent the last 12 years of her career contributing to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's effort to "Save the Bay," but it was a life long love affair with nature that inspired her personal and professional dedication to sustainable landscaping, habitat preservation, and environmental education. Past award recipients include Ellie Altman, former Director of the Adkins Arboretum, and Britt Slattery, currently Director of Conservation Education with the MD Dept. of Natural Resources, and previously with Audubon at Home..

Ashkar will receive the Marcy Damon Conservation Landscaping Award at an evening ceremony in Herndon, Virginia. The event will kick off the Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council's biennial sustainable landscaping "Turning a New Leaf" conference. The event is open to the public; however, the popular conference fills to capacity quickly. "The purpose of each conference is to inspire, educate and help build the professional relationships that are essential if we are to grow sustainable landscaping programs and initiatives and protect the Chesapeake Bay," says Pam Rowe, CCLC's Board President. "This year it is a terrific honor to celebrate two remarkable women whose careers so clearly reflect the Council and conference's mission and goals." For more information, visit www.chesapeakelandscape.org.

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