



Welcome to the **Natural Areas Association's** 2026 Annual Awards Communications Toolkit, which provides ready-to-use language to help individuals and organizations share the recognition with colleagues, partners, community members and media. Please contact NAA's communications and partnerships consultant **Sarah Floyd** with any questions.

## Contents

- **Key Messages**
- **Social Media Handles**
- **Social Media Text**
  - **Hilary Swain, Ph.D.**
  - **Southeastern Center for Conservation at Atlanta Botanical Garden**
  - **Megan Crecelius**



## Key Messages

- Natural Areas Association's Annual Awards recognize individuals and organizations whose work demonstrates exceptional achievement in natural areas conservation, stewardship, research and leadership.
- The recipients of NAA's 2026 Annual Awards are:
  - **Hilary Swain, Ph.D.**
    - 2026 George B. Fell Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient
    - Executive Director Emerita at Archbold Biological Station
  - **Southeastern Center for Conservation at Atlanta Botanical Garden**
    - 2026 Carl N. Becker Stewardship Award Recipient
  - **Megan Crecelius**
    - 2026 Rising Leader Award
    - Forest Ecology Program Director and Botanist at the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry
- The 2026 recipients will be recognized during an in-person Awards Luncheon during the **2026 Natural Areas Conference (NAC26): Where Science Meets Stewardship**, on October 8, 2026, in Asheville, North Carolina.



## Social Media Handles

### ● Facebook

- Natural Areas Association: [@naturalareasassc](#)
- Atlanta Botanical Garden: [@atlantabotanicalgarden](#)
- Archbold Biological Station: [@archboldstation](#)
- Indiana DNR Division of Forestry: [@indnrforestry](#)

### ● Instagram:

- Natural Areas Association: [@natural\\_areas\\_association](#)
- Archbold Biological Station: [@archboldstation](#)
- Atlanta Botanical Garden: [@atlbotanical](#)
- Southeastern Center for Conservation: [@atlantabgconservation](#)
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources: [@indianadnr](#)

### ● Bluesky

- Natural Areas Association: [@naturalareas.bsky.social](#)

### ● X

- Archbold Biological Station: [@archboldstation](#)
- Atlanta Botanical Garden: [@atlbotanical](#)
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources: [@idnrnews](#)



## Social Media Text

### Hilary Swain, Ph.D.

*Executive Director Emerita | Archbold Biological Station*

#### **2026 George B. Fell Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient**

#### **[View social media graphic](#)**

**Optional alt-text for social media graphic:** Portrait of Hilary Swain, Ph.D., smiling outdoors. The graphic recognizes Swain, executive director emerita of Archbold Biological Station, as the recipient of Natural Areas Association's 2026 George B. Fell Lifetime Achievement Award.

### **Facebook**

Hilary Swain, Ph.D., executive director emerita of Archbold Biological Station, has received the Natural Areas Association's 2026 George B. Fell Lifetime Achievement Award.

As NAA's highest honor, the award recognizes individuals who exemplify excellence in the profession and whose sustained achievements have significantly advanced natural area identification, protection, stewardship or research.

For three decades, Dr. Swain's leadership has advanced the protection and stewardship of some of Florida's rarest ecosystems while strengthening connections among science, conservation, policy and community. During her tenure, she oversaw the stewardship of more than 20,000 acres and helped influence the protection of hundreds of thousands more across Florida.

**[Recipient social media text continued on next page]**



Dr. Swain will be honored October 8, 2026, during an in-person Annual Awards Luncheon at the 2026 Natural Areas Conference (NAC26): Where Science Meets Stewardship in Asheville, North Carolina.

Learn more: <https://bit.ly/NAAwardsHilary> #NAA2026AnnualAwards

## Instagram

Hilary Swain, Ph.D., executive director emerita of Archbold Biological Station, is the recipient of the @natural\_areas\_association 2026 George B. Fell Lifetime Achievement Award.

NAA's highest honor recognizes individuals who exemplify professional excellence and whose sustained achievements have significantly advanced natural area identification, protection, stewardship or research.

For three decades, Dr. Swain has helped protect and steward some of Florida's rarest ecosystems while strengthening connections among science, conservation, policy and community. During her tenure, she oversaw the stewardship of more than 20,000 acres and helped influence the protection of hundreds of thousands more across the state.

Dr. Swain will be honored October 8, 2026, during an in-person Annual Awards Luncheon at the 2026 Natural Areas Conference (NAC26): Where Science Meets Stewardship in Asheville, North Carolina.

Learn more through the link in NAA's profile. #NAA2026AnnualAwards

**[Recipient social media text continued on next page]**



## Bluesky or X

Hilary Swain, Ph.D., executive director emerita of Archbold Biological Station, has received NAA's 2026 George B. Fell Lifetime Achievement Award. NAA's highest honor recognizes three decades of conservation leadership.

<https://bit.ly/NAAwardsHilary> #NAA2026AnnualAwards



## Southeastern Center for Conservation at Atlanta Botanical Garden

### 2026 Carl N. Becker Stewardship Award Recipient

#### [View the social media graphic](#)

**Optional alt text for the social media graphic:** Lush green foliage appears behind Atlanta Botanical Garden's logo. The graphic recognizes the Garden's Southeastern Center for Conservation as the recipient of Natural Areas Association's 2026 Carl N. Becker Stewardship Award.

#### **Facebook**

The Atlanta Botanical Garden's Southeastern Center for Conservation has received the Natural Areas Association's 2026 Carl N. Becker Stewardship Award.

The Center's efforts have strengthened plant conservation capacity across the Southeast through regional leadership, innovative partnerships, and collaborative initiatives. With a 42-person team working across 15 states, the Center exemplifies the commitment to effective natural resource management and conservation at the heart of the Carl N. Becker Stewardship Award.

The Center will be honored October 8, 2026, during an in-person Annual Awards Luncheon at the 2026 Natural Areas Conference (NAC26): Where Science Meets Stewardship in Asheville, North Carolina.

Learn more: <https://bit.ly/NAAwardsABG> #NAA2026AnnualAwards

**[Recipient social media text continued on next page]**



## Instagram

Atlanta Botanical Garden's Southeastern Center for Conservation has received the @natural\_areas\_association 2026 Carl N. Becker Stewardship Award.

With a 42-person team working across 15 states, the Center has strengthened plant conservation capacity throughout the Southeast through regional leadership, innovative partnerships and collaborative initiatives. Its work exemplifies the sustained commitment to effective natural resource management and conservation at the heart of the award.

The Center will be honored October 8, 2026, during an in-person Annual Awards Luncheon at the 2026 Natural Areas Conference (NAC26): Where Science Meets Stewardship in Asheville, North Carolina.

Learn more through the link in NAA's profile. #NAA2026AnnualAwards

## Bluesky or X

The Atlanta Botanical Garden's Southeastern Center for Conservation received NAA's 2026 Carl N. Becker Stewardship Award for innovative, collaborative work protecting imperiled plants and natural communities across the Southeast.

<https://bit.ly/NAAwardsABG> #NAA2026AnnualAwards



## Megan Crecelius

*Forest Ecology Program Director and Botanist | Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry*

### **2026 Rising Leader Award Recipient**

#### **View social media graphic**

**Optional alt text for social media:** Portrait of Megan Crecelius smiling in an Indiana Department of Natural Resources shirt. The graphic recognizes Crecelius, a forest ecologist and botanist with the department's Division of Forestry, as the recipient of Natural Areas Association's 2026 Rising Leader Award.

## **Facebook**

Megan Crecelius, forest ecology program director and botanist with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry, has received Natural Areas Association's 2026 Rising Leader Award.

From developing management guidance for Indiana's High Conservation Value Forests to advancing plant conservation, ecological monitoring, and collaborative research, Megan is already making a significant impact on natural areas conservation.

The Rising Leader Award recognizes professionals early in their careers who demonstrate excellence in natural areas research, protection, or stewardship.

Megan will be honored October 8, 2026, during an in-person Annual Awards Luncheon at the 2026 Natural Areas Conference (NAC26): Where Science Meets Stewardship in Asheville, North Carolina.

Learn more: <https://bit.ly/NAAwardsMegan> #NAA2026AnnualAwards

**[Recipient social media text continued on next page]**



## Instagram

Megan Crecelius, forest ecologist and botanist with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry, has received the @natural\_areas\_association 2026 Rising Leader Award.

From developing management guidance for Indiana's High Conservation Value Forests to advancing plant conservation, ecological monitoring and collaborative research, Crecelius is already making a significant impact on natural areas conservation in Indiana.

The Rising Leader Award honors professionals in the early stages of their careers who demonstrate excellence in natural areas research, protection or stewardship.

Megan will be honored October 8, 2026, during an in-person Annual Awards Luncheon at the 2026 Natural Areas Conference (NAC26): Where Science Meets Stewardship in Asheville, North Carolina.

Learn more through the link in @natural\_areas\_association's profile.  
#NAA2026AnnualAwards

## Bluesky or X

Megan Crecelius received NAA's 2026 Rising Leader Award for innovative, collaborative work advancing forest ecology, plant conservation, monitoring and stewardship in Indiana. <https://bit.ly/NAAwardsMegan> #NAA2026AnnualAwards