

Ann Mason

There were few things that Ann Mason loved more than being outdoors, surrounded by wildlife. She reveled in the raucous call of a sandhill crane and looked forward to the ear-piercing chorus of spring peepers when the weather warmed.

From Ann's perspective, the smallest wildflower deserved a closer look and butterflies were worth swerving to miss on the road. Turtles, snakes, wolves, or bears—the species didn't matter. If it was wild and alive, Ann loved it.



While much of Ann's personal life revolved around her enjoyment of nature, she devoted her professional life to serving the environment in a different way. As the Director of Clinton County's Department of Waste Management for ten years, Ann built one of the most well-respected solid waste and recycling programs in Michigan.

Tragically, Ann's own life came to an end in January 2001, after a hard-fought battle against melanoma, a deadly form of skin cancer. She died just two months short of her fiftieth birthday. In their wish to give meaning to her death and to honor what she loved in life, Ann's family and friends established the Ann Mason Memorial Fund. This fund supports Annie's BIG Nature Lesson, an educational program in cooperation with Woldumar, Fenner, Bengel, Harris, and Lincoln Brick nature centers in Lansing, and the Kalamazoo Nature Center in Kalamazoo. Teaching children, parents, and teachers about valuing nature and taking care of the environment, Annie's BIG Nature Lesson hopes to inspire youth through meaningful connections with nature.

Please consider contributing to the Ann Mason Memorial Fund. Your tax-deductible gift will provide the opportunity for children, teachers, and parents to participate in Annie's BIG Nature Lesson. Contributions can be sent to Clinton County Regional Education Service Agency, 1013 South US27, Suite A, St. Johns, MI 48879.