

Arkansas Chapter Trout Unlimited 2004 Conservation Banquet & Auction



In 2002 the Arkansas Chapter of Trout Unlimited created the Coy C. Kaylor Conservation Award to be given annually at its Banquet. We are pleased and proud to announce this year's recipient is **Ray Smith** who is pictured above.

Ray was raised in Paris, Arkansas where at an early age he started fishing with his parents. His mother was quite a fisherwoman but both of his parents loved the outdoors and encouraged his interest in outdoor activities such as fishing, hunting and camping. After graduation from high school, Ray enrolled at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and in 1951 was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. His Air Force career that spanned twenty-six years at numerous locations in the United States, including tours in Washington, D.C. and the Pentagon, and overseas in the Territory of Hawaii, and at other times in Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, Philippines, Japan, Italy, Greece and Turkey. Ray retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1977 and returned with his wife, Marilyn, two daughters and a son to Arkansas to enroll in the University of Arkansas School of Law and graduated in December 1980 with a Juris Doctor degree. Currently Ray is a sole practitioner with his office in Fayetteville.

While Ray plays a little golf, his passions are his family including his grandchildren and fly-fishing. Tonight we are recognizing Ray for his outstanding leadership in Trout Unlimited and his dedication to conservation in not only Northwest Arkansas but across the nation. Ray is a charter member of the Arkansas Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the first TU chapter to be organized in Arkansas, and has been active at the local level ever since. For seven years, Ray was TU's Midwest Regional Vice President with responsibilities for TU chapters and councils in Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, Indiana and Illinois, and served on TU's National Board of Trustees until 2003. Ray is a Past President of the Arkansas Chapter and served as the Chairman, Arkansas Council. In addition, Ray was the Chairperson of the 1996 TU National Meeting held in Fayetteville. Finally, Ray provided important leadership to launch the impressive Beaver Tailwater habitat improvement project and worked tirelessly as a volunteer throughout its implementation.

Over the years, Ray has been a dedicated volunteer with Trout Unlimited, Fayetteville Evening Lions Club, the Central United Methodist Church, and other volunteer organizations. Ray is a quiet man, a thoughtful leader, a role model, an enthusiastic volunteer, and even a hero to the young man whose life he saved in Hawaii. Consequently, he has earned the respect of others and proven his leadership abilities and effectiveness whether he's helping other people or protecting our natural resources.

Congratulations, Ray and thanks for your vision and commitment to Trout Unlimited!