

## Arkansas Chapter Trout Unlimited 2006 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 to individuals who have demonstrated exceptional contributions in conservation, or environmental and outdoor education related to coldwater fisheries. We are pleased and proud to announce this year's recipient is Darrell W. Bowman who is pictured above (with a fish we'd all love to catch). While Darrell is a competent fisherman with a rod and reel, he's known to be most successful with electro-fishing equipment!

After receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Management from Arkansas Tech University (1990) and a Masters in Zoology (Fisheries Biology) from the Arkansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Arkansas (1993), Darrell was hired by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission as Assistant Trout Biologist in 1993. Following two years of experience in all phases of trout management in Arkansas, Darrell moved to Virginia to accept the position of District Fisheries Biologist in the Shenandoah Valley area. In 1999 Darrell returned to the AGFC as the Stream Team Regional Coordinator until being promoted to Trout Biologist responsible for statewide trout management in 2001.

Melissa Jones, Darrell's supervisor, summed up Darrell's contributions as follows: "Darrell has earned the respect and admiration of not only his peers and co-workers at AGFC, but also those he interacts and works with on a daily basis at other state and federal entities in his capacity of "state head trout guy". When Darrell was selected as the Trout Biologist in 2001, he was tasked with developing a comprehensive statewide trout management plan. No easy feat, but through Darrell's efforts, he successfully developed a plan that was approved with full Commission support in 2001 and he is currently working on individual management plans. Darrell is a natural leader and he recognizes the importance of stakeholder involvement and partnerships in managing the abundant fish and wildlife resources the state has to offer. Darrell embodies the Fisheries Division's mission. He approaches his work using good science based management practices, he has an open and transparent management style, he is people orientated, and he monitors and evaluates the results of his management efforts in order to continue to improve the trout fishery in the Natural State."

Darrell has been an excellent partner with numerous groups including Arkansas Trout Unlimited. We appreciate his leadership and dedication to make things happen that improve coldwater fisheries for all of us. Congratulations, Darrell, and Thank You for your commitment to fisheries management and Trout Unlimited!