

2010 Coy C. Kaylor Conservation Award

Presented To

KERRI RUSSELL



In 2002 the Arkansas Chapter of Trout Unlimited created the Coy C. Kaylor Conservation Award which is given at the annual Conservation Banquet and Fundraiser. This award is in recognition of an individual who has given their heart and soul through volunteer work for The Arkansas Chapter of Trout Unlimited or other local coldwater conservation efforts. We are pleased and proud to announce the 2010 recipient is **KERRI RUSSELL!**

As a bit of background, Kerri saw a lot of the country during her childhood years living in Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, and California before graduating with an undergraduate degree in Physical Therapy from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Always driven to do more she completed a Masters in Special Education and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Arkansas. She is now a Physical Therapist for Northwest Health System working primarily with infants (NICU) and Lymphoma patients and also instructing at Northwest Arkansas Community College in the Allied Health Department. Kerri's passions and interests are many and widely varied such as a Master Gardener with Washington County, cooking (fantastic feasts she prepares for our club meetings at her home), music, fly-tying, home remodeling, kayaking and no need to mention fly-fishing both fresh water and salt water. Her passion and commitment continues for her family, sons – Josh, Brandon, Shawn and husband Gary.

Kerri became interested in fly-fishing when her son, Shawn, came home from his outdoor education class on the White River and told her he thought she would enjoy the sport. That's all it took! Kerri practically wore out guide Brian Harris (White River Anglers) learning to fly fish. This led to Kerri attending her first Trout Unlimited meeting after seeing a notice in the newspaper. Wanting to know more about coldwater fisheries and like most things she does, Kerri jumped in with both feet and hasn't looked back. She has been a member of Trout Unlimited for 11 years serving in a wide variety of roles including current Chapter President, banquet chairperson, program chair, Overlook Estates Norfolk River repair project, member of the Arkansas State Council, along with others. As a breast cancer survivor, Kerri has volunteered countless hours to Casting for Recovery (CFR) - a national non-profit support and educational program for women who have or have had breast cancer using fly-fishing as a means to positively impact women whose lives have been profoundly affected by the disease. Kerri is particularly passionate and involved in CFR. Kerri organized the first Arkansas CFR program in 2004 and has done so annually ever since. She also serves as the Medical Facilitator for CFR programs in other states including Michigan, Alaska, and Tennessee. Through CFR she has helped bring fly-fishing - "a sport for life" – into the lives of dozens of breast cancer survivors across the country. If you want to start a conversation with Kerri ask her about her newest toys – the "Shasta" camper trailer, her pink kayak or her dream of building a cabin on the Norfolk River.

Tonight we recognize Kerri for her outstanding leadership in Trout Unlimited and her dedication to conservation and the enjoyment of coldwater fishing in not only Northwest Arkansas but across the nation. Thank You Kerri !!