

2011 Coy C. Kaylor Conservation Award Recipient Bruce Darr



In 2002 the Arkansas Chapter of Trout Unlimited created the Coy C. Kaylor Conservation Award to be given annually at the Banquet/Fundraiser to an individual who has demonstrated exceptional contributions in conservation, or environment or outdoor education related to coldwater fisheries. We are pleased to announce this year's recipient is Bruce Darr who is pictured above with a White River Brown Trout.

Bruce's first memories of fishing were with his father on Lake Nokomis, Wisconsin for walleyes and northern pike. His interest was further fueled by a woman he calls "Aunt" Jean, who cared for him as a child. She first introduced him to a fly rod for bluegills and crappie. Bruce was hooked and has been addicted to fishing every since. Growing up in Illinois postponed his first trout fishing until a family vacation to Yellowstone Park when he was in his very early teens. That first day on the Madison River was magical and incredibly humbling! But it led him to seek more trout opportunities and even a business degree from the University of Montana...where the Clark Fork and Blackfoot Rivers became his home waters.

Bruce joined Trout Unlimited in 1979 while managing banks in Michigan and has been active in TU ever since. While in Michigan, Bruce served in various officer and committee positions with the local TU Kalamazoo Valley Chapter. In addition, he served on the Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited as treasurer for almost a decade helping the Michigan Council in its legal battle to change the licensing process for dams in the state (which it won) and to prepare the Council to hire its first full-time paid executive director. He also was active as an officer with the Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock Michigan, Inc. - a national nonprofit organization that teaches young people about conservation and fishing.

He moved to Fayetteville on 1/2/00 and attended his first Arkansas TU meeting a week later and joined the Arkansas Chapter TU board directors the following month. Later that year, Bruce was elected president of the chapter and served until 2003 when he was appointed to TU's National Leadership Council for two years. Bruce also has served on the Arkansas State Council for many years and is currently its secretary/treasurer. In 2007 Bruce was recognized with the Trout Unlimited Silver Trout award.

Bruce has two sons and a one-year old grandson in Homer, Alaska....a perfect reason to visit Alaska!