

No. R-172. House concurrent resolution congratulating Michael Smith on his winning the 2011 CVPS-Zetterstrom Environmental Award.

(H.C.R.142)

Offered by: Representatives Andrews of Rutland City, Courcelle of Rutland City, Fagan of Rutland City, Font-Russell of Rutland City and McNeil of Rutland Town

Offered by: Senators Carris, Flory and Mullin

Whereas, Michael Smith's love affair with Pine Hill Park, and role as a tireless conservationist and motivator of the city's youth, came to pass because of a long neglected gift to the city, and

Whereas, former Rutland City Mayor Henry Carpenter (1908–1910) bequeathed to his hometown a mountain (Pine Hill) “for the recreation and enjoyment of the citizens of Rutland,” and

Whereas, as a youngster, Michael Smith, accompanied by his golden retriever, Rembrandt, began a clandestine trail construction project on this largely neglected 300-acre tract, and

Whereas, in 2001, the tract's future and the life of its special guardian were dramatically altered for the better when he successfully organized local recreational enthusiasts in opposition to a proposed road easement intended as the prelude to a housing subdivision on Pine Hill, and

Whereas, with the road and housing proposal scuttled, Michael Smith, with the support of Shelley Lutz; Cindi Wright, Recreation Director of the Rutland City Recreation & Parks Department; Keith Wright; and Tom Vile, initiated an effort to transform the dream of Pine Hill Park into a reality, and in 2008, they

formed a nonprofit friends' group, the Pine Hill Partnership, and selected Michael Smith as its president, and

Whereas, Michael Smith recruited a group of eager fifth graders who, with a little help from a GPS unit, found all but one of the tract's survey markers, enabling the first Pine Hill Park map to be published in 2002, and

Whereas, in the following years, Michael Smith has recruited many young persons from school and community organizations to construct trails, including one named in Rembrandt's memory, and he has taught and inspired them, and adult volunteers as well, to appreciate parks and despite his countless hours in the park, he has found time to be an effective grant writer on its behalf, and

Whereas, his leadership of youth in trail development activities is as truly remarkable as his lasting impact on Rutland's landscape, and

Whereas, Michael Smith has been selected, from among 18 nominees, as the recipient of the 2011 CVPS-Zetterstrom Environmental Award which honors an individual who exemplifies the environmental legacy of conservation activist and osprey restorer Meeri Zetterstrom, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Michael Smith on his winning the 2011 CVPS-Zetterstrom Environmental Award, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Michael Smith in Rutland.