



Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commissioners



Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission Executive Director John A. Arway



Dennis Guise, Former Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission Deputy Executive Director, representing the Ralph W. Abele Conservation Scholarship Fund

Historical Marker Honoring Ralph W. Abele Unveiled

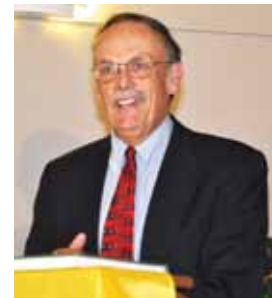


Ralph W. Abele 1921-1990

On July 17, a Pennsylvania historical marker was unveiled during a dedication ceremony honoring former Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission Executive Director Ralph W. Abele (1921-1990) at PFBC headquarters in Harrisburg. Abele inspired and commanded the fight to save the natural environment. He believed in the right of everyone to "clean air, pure water and the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and aesthetic values of the environment."

As Commission executive director from January 1972 through May 1987, Abele's accomplishments garnered him the title of "Lord of the Fish" for his tireless and relentless efforts in protecting water quality against pollution and working to restore American shad to their native Susquehanna River. Abele's voice and action, as a leader during the beginnings of ecology awareness, called industry to task and empowered individuals with an understanding that they, too, had the power to affect change and protect our natural environment.

Following his death in 1990, two important legacies for conservation were established in his name: the Ralph W. Abele Conservation Heritage Award and the Ralph W. Abele Conservation Scholarship Fund. The award has been presented to such notables in conservation as Dr. Maurice K. Goddard, and the scholarship fund has provided a seed of continued growth for many students with the same aspiration in the field of conservation. Visit our Facebook page (PaFishandBoat) to see video and photos of the ceremony. ☐



Ralph W. Abele Jr.



Cindy Dunn, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Deputy Secretary



Commissioner Frederick Powell, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission



Larry Schweiger, National Wildlife Federation, President and CEO



Franklin Kury, Former Pennsylvania Senator and State Representative



Ted Walke, Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission Outreach Division Chief