

## **Van Bowersox Meritorious Service Award – Linda Geiser**

*In recognition of her years of dedication to advancing critical load science, and her service to the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) and United States Forest Service (USFS).*

It is with great admiration that we present **Linda Geiser** with the **Van Bowersox Meritorious Service Award** in recognition of her years of dedication to advancing critical load science, and her service to the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) and United State Forest Service (USFS).

Linda is a world expert in the effects of air pollution on lichens, who pioneered the development of lichen critical loads for nitrogen and sulfur deposition. These “canaries in the coal mine” are an early warning signal for the effects from air pollution on natural ecosystems, giving land managers advance warning when issues are on the horizon. Her love for lichen and her vast understanding of these inconspicuous life forms encourages us to view our world more holistically, and has inspired the next generation of lichenologists in their quest to advance our understanding of the impacts of air pollution and climate change.

As chair of Critical Loads of Atmospheric Deposition (CLAD) Science Committee from 2018 to 2020, and through her devotion to CLAD before and after that, Linda has helped to foster a great understanding of air pollution impacts on ecosystems. She was instrumental in the development of the NADP critical load HUB that provides scientists, policy makers, land manager, and educators a one stop shop for everything related to critical loads.

Linda also was NADP Chair in 2023, and was on the Executive Committee from 2021-2024, where she helped guide the development of the PFAS monitoring network, explored expanding monitoring to support Environmental Justice and urban information needs, and continued NADP’s efforts to make our networks more sustainable.

Linda Geiser served the American public for over 30 years in the U.S. Forest Service. Linda expanded and defended biomonitoring for lichen across the U.S., always asked tough questions and had insightful solutions, and made all of us better scientists, expanding our view of the world. We are proud to nominate **Linda Geiser**, our dear friend, for the **Van Bowersox Award**.