



Worcester County Honors Business and Tourism Persons of the Year for 2008

The Worcester County Economic Development and Tourism Departments announced both the Business and Tourism Persons of the Year for 2008 at their annual luncheon, which was held at the Carousel Resort Hotel on Monday, September 8.

Photo of the Commissioners with Matt Odachowski and Jim Rapp was provided courtesy of Christine Cullen of Ocean City Today Newspaper.

Matt Odachowski, Chief Executive Officer and owner of Royal Plus, Inc. in Snow Hill, has been named the 2008 Worcester County Economic Development Business Person of the Year. Mr. Odachowski has worked to grow skill-based business in the community by increasing his own workforce from just 56 employees in 2007 to over 100 employees in 2008. He strives to provide area residents with the job skills and training they need to enjoy greater job satisfaction.

Past recipients of the Economic Development award include Ronald Bettini, Executive Director for Hawk Institute for Space Sciences; Diane Nolte, owner of Snow Hill Business Center and organizer of the Lower Shore Broadband Cooperative; George Tunis, owner/operator of Hardwire; Wally Gordon of Mid-Atlantic Foods; David Landsberger of Bel Art Products; Ken Pusey of Paul Jones Lumber Company; and Bill Reagan and Larry LeDoyan of Red Sun.

Jim Rapp, a voice for resource development and conservation planning, has been named the 2008 Tourism Person of the Year for his dedicated efforts to grow nature-based tourism in Worcester County. Mr. Rapp has worked diligently throughout his lifetime to connect citizens and visitors to nature and raise awareness of the importance of using our natural resources wisely. Mr. Rapp currently serves as the Director of Delmarva Low Impact Tourism Experience, Inc., dedicating his time and abundant energies to promoting the enjoyment and protection of the environment and local culture to generate income, employment and the conservation of productive ecosystems.

Past recipients of the Tourism award include James and Sudie Gatling, both retired Worcester County public school teachers and community volunteers; Ann Coates, of the Snow Hill Alliance for Responsible Progress; Dave Wilson, Executive Director of the Maryland Coastal Bays Program; Ruth Rhynalds-Waters of the Harrison Group; Dr. Leonard Berger of the Clarion Fontainebleau; Larry Points of the Assateague National Seashore; and Kathy Fisher of the Furnace Town Historic Site.

For more information, contact Tourism Director Lisa Challenger at (410) 632-3110 or Public Information Officer Kim Moses at (410) 632-1194.