

Charles H. Lyles Award Recipient 2011

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Past Charles H. Lyles Award Recipients

<i>Charles H. Lyles</i>	1984
<i>Theodore B. Ford</i>	1985
<i>J.Y. Christmas</i>	1986
<i>John Breaux</i>	1987
<i>John Ray Nelson</i>	1988
<i>I.B. "Buck" Byrd</i>	1989
<i>Hugh A. Swingle</i>	1990
<i>John A. Mehos</i>	1991
<i>J. Burton Angelle</i>	1992
<i>Louis A. Villanova</i>	1993
<i>Theodore H. Shepard</i>	1994
<i>Edwin A. Joyce, Jr.</i>	1995
<i>Tommy D. Candies</i>	1996
<i>Walter M. Tatum</i>	1997
<i>Thomas L. Heffernan</i>	1998
<i>Trent Lott</i>	1999
<i>James M. Barkuloo</i>	2000
<i>Walter W. Fondren, III</i>	2001
<i>Jerald K. Waller</i>	2002
<i>Andrew J. Kemmerer</i>	2003
<i>Hal R. Osborn</i>	2004
<i>Leroy Kiffe</i>	2005
<i>Robert P. Jones</i>	2006
<i>Wayne E. Swingle</i>	2007
<i>Ralph Rayburn</i>	2008
<i>William S. "Corky" Perret</i>	2009
<i>Albert L. King</i>	2010



Virginia A. Vail

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The Commission takes great pleasure in announcing that Dr. Virginia “Ginny” Vail has been selected as the **2011 Charles H. Lyles Award** recipient. She currently lives in the Tallahassee, Florida area.

Dr. Vail grew up in Scotia, New York, on the Mohawk River and started her college education at a small school in central New York. She initially majored in Spanish but quickly became captivated with biology and changed her major to Biological Sciences. In 1967, she was awarded a B.A. in Biological Sciences from Hartwick College. In the 1970s, she moved south to Florida and received her Masters of Science from Florida State University in 1971 where she studied the reproduction and growth of the "grunt" earthworm in the Apalachicola National Forest. She continued on at Florida State where she obtained her Ph.D. in 1975 focusing on the comparative brood production in three species of live-bearing freshwater snails.

Dr. Vail began her professional career at the Tall Timbers Research Station in 1975 where she was on the research staff examining freshwater snails, land snails and earthworms related to their comparative systematics, morphologies, life histories and fire ecology. She moved onto state government in 1980 as an Environmental Specialist III with the Florida Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Lands. While with the Division of State Lands, she focused on on-site assessments of properties proposed for acquisition under the Conservation and Recreation Lands Acquisition program. Her career in the marine arena began in 1982 when she moved over to the Division of Recreation and Parks as an Environmental Administrator responsible for administering and operating Florida's National Marine Sanctuaries and National Estuarine Research Reserves. In 1986, she became an Environmental Administrator for the Division of Marine Resources, performing as the state Artificial Reef Program and a marine Federal Aid Coordinator. In 1994, the Florida Department of Natural Resources changed to the Florida Department of Environmental

Protection (and again in 1999 to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission) and she became the Chief of the Bureau of Fisheries Management and Assistance Services in the Division of Marine Resources where she provided management and administrative oversight of Bureau commercial and recreational licensing programs. Throughout her career, Dr. Vail provided outstanding stewardship to the marine resources of the Gulf of Mexico. She has been involved in the Commission activities for over 23 years, working on its various subcommittees and committees as well as a valued Commissioner from 1991 through 2010 (and serving three times as Chairman).

After 30 years of service with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Dr. Vail recently retired and is currently enjoying her well-earned retirement doing what she loves most. She is an avid birdwatcher and has taken up gardening. She prefers natural landscaping using native Florida plants to attract birds and butterflies. It is with great pleasure that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission presents this year's **Charles H. Lyles Award** to such a deserving recipient.



