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TYLA MATTESON WINS NATIONAL SIERRA CLUB

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – Hampton/Newport News activist Tyla Matteson is among those being honored with national awards from the Sierra Club this year.

Matteson is receiving the **Special Service Award**, which recognizes a member for strong and consistent commitment to conservation or the Club over an extended period of time. Over the last 23 years, Matteson has been involved as a leader or principal organizer in conservation and administration efforts at both state and regional level.

Matteson was leader of several high-profile Sierra Club-Virginia Chapter campaigns. She is perhaps best known for her relentless, much-heralded efforts to prevent Newport News from building the King William Reservoir, which would destroy the pristine waters of the Mattaponi River and its adjacent wetlands in eastern Virginia. Other campaigns she has been involved with include the Virginia Endangered Landscape Campaign and “Cool Communities” campaigns for the City of Richmond and the state of Virginia. More recently, Matteson also has become involved with international conservation efforts, travelling to countries where was or the effects of colonialism and globalization have devastated the environment.

Virginia Chapter Chair Charles Price, stated, “Tyla enjoys a legendary reputation for her untiring work, perseverance, tenacity, and 24/7 commitment to protecting and preserving the state and region’s environment.” In his support of her nomination, Virginia Delegate Albert Pollard (D-99th) wrote, “The Sierra Club is built by its members and as such it can only be as strong as its members. Tyla Matteson, and volunteers like her, are truly the rock on which the Sierra Club house is built.”

The award will be presented Sept. 20 during the Sierra Club’s Annual Dinner in San Francisco. For more information on the Sierra Club awards program, visit [www. sierraclub.org/awards](http://www.sierraclub.org/awards).

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