

## **Georgia Department of Natural Resources**

2 Martin Luther King Jr., Dr., Suite 1152 East Tower, Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
Noel Holcomb, Commissioner  
Carol A. Couch, Ph.D., Director  
Environmental Protection Division  
(404) 656-4713

**For Immediate Release**

**March 15, 2007**

### **EPD DIRECTOR RECEIVES GEORGIA TECH LEGACY ALUMNI AWARD**

The director of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), Carol A. Couch, has received the 2007 Ivan Allen Jr. Legacy Alumni Award from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

In addition to accepting the Legacy Award, Director Couch had the honor of presenting the address for the 2007 Ivan Allen Prize for Progress and Service. This year's recipients are Lessie Smithgall and the late Charles Smithgall, legendary benefactors of Smithgall Woods, the Smithgall Woodlands Gardens of the Atlanta Botanical Society and numerous other causes pertaining to conservation and the environment.

"I am honored and humbled to receive this award," said Director Couch. "I'm also delighted to make a presentation that would honor the Smithgall legacy and natural resource conservation."

The Allen Legacy Award recognizes a Georgia Tech alumnus whose life and career demonstrate the excellence of character and mental ability exemplified by Mr. Allen, who was a 1933 graduate of the former Georgia Tech School of Commerce. The liberal arts college of Georgia Tech is named for Mr. Allen, who was a businessman, civic leader and mayor of Atlanta.

The awards were presented at the Ivan Allen College Founder's Day Luncheon on Thursday, March 15, 2007 in the Grand Ballroom of the Biltmore Hotel on West Peachtree Street in Atlanta.

Director Couch was appointed by the Board of Natural Resources, with the approval of Governor Sonny Perdue, and has led the EPD since October 2003. EPD is an 850-person state regulatory agency responsible for implementing and enforcing state and federal laws to protect, conserve and restore Georgia's environmental resources. EPD is a division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Prior to joining EPD, Director Couch was Chief of the Ecological Synthesis Program for the National Water Quality Assessment Program at the United States Geological Survey (USGS) in Reston, Virginia. Along with a Bachelor of Science in health systems engineering from Georgia Tech, she holds a Master of Science in biology from the University of South Carolina and a doctorate in ecology from the University of Georgia.

EPD Contact: Kevin Chambers (404) 651-7970