

Ann Swanson has served as a leader in the Bay restoration for nearly 30 years, the last 26 as the Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, a tri-state legislative authority serving the states of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia. It is the Commission's responsibility to sponsor legislation at the state level and to work with state legislators, members of the U.S. Congress, and the federal and state regulatory agencies to coordinate programs aimed at restoring the Chesapeake Bay.

Although Ann operates in a highly political environment, she is trained in the sciences. A trained wildlife biologist and forest ecologist, she graduated with honors from the University of Vermont and Yale University; she served as Chairman of the Board of the University of Vermont's Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources and remains on its board. Among her many awards, in 2001, she was awarded the Bay region's highest Conservation Award, Conservationist of the Year, in 2008 was recognized by general assembly resolutions in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, in 2011 was awarded the YMCA Outstanding Women in Industry Twin Award, in May 2012 received an honorary doctorate from the University of Vermont, and in 2013 received the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Leadership Award. Ann has been married for 29 years, is a published illustrator, a master gardener and sea kayaker, and is a mother of two boys.