

Susan Miller, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Where would we be without the Web? Our lives have generally become very entwined with the world-wide-web. Red-cockaded woodpecker conservation and recovery is no exception. My avoidance of computers is legendary, as some of you know. For the most part, I have been dragged into the electronic information age kicking and screaming. And then along came Susan Miller, hired by the USFWS to operate our nations flagship Safe Harbor Program for red-cockaded woodpeckers in the North Carolina Sandhills. She called me one day in the summer of 2000 and suggested that the red-cockaded woodpecker recovery program needed a web site. Naturally, I panicked and felt faint thinking this was going to lead to some uncontrollable monster that would result in chaos in the red-cockaded woodpecker world. On that date, I had been on a web site maybe 5 times, really. Essentially, I knew nothing about web sites as Susan can attest to based on the idiotic questions I know I asked. Well, thankfully, she was on a mission to advance species recovery and persisted with the idea. Of course her vision was right on target and today we have an incredibly well designed and effective web site. Susan Miller did it all. Another wonderful example of a field biologist who had a vision and turned it into reality for the good of all of us and especially red-cockaded woodpeckers. I can assure you that without the web site we would not be having this conference. There is no way we could have accomplished what we did to organize and run this symposium without the web site. For your significant contributions to red-cockaded woodpecker recovery on the ground and via our web site, we are proud to present you this award. Thank you Susan.