

Women honored for environmental initiatives

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By Shannon M. Nass, Special to the Post-Gazette

Spotlighting several women from southwestern Pennsylvania, an ecology group hopes to showcase Pittsburgh's eco-tourism and "environmental friendliness."

At a luncheon at the Omni William Penn Hotel, Downtown, six women were honored by the American Forest Foundation, a Washington, D.C.-based group working for sustainable forests. The Pittsburgh chapter of the foundation's Women's Group, established in 2010, was the first in the AFF, and was spearheaded by Laura Tuel, vice president of development for the AFF and a Pittsburgh native

"Growing up here I realized how philanthropic the city is and how much the city has grown with the steel industry leaving," said Tuel. "The city has been able to re-emerge to become very environmentally friendly. That was really important to me."

Honored for their commitment to the environment:

Betsy Benson is publisher and vice president of Pittsburgh Magazine. Benson was instrumental in transforming the magazine into an environmentally conscious publication by showcasing "eco-friendly" places around the city and reducing paper waste through ancillary Internet publishing.

Caren Glotfelty is director of The Heinz Endowments' Environment Program. Glotfelty's grant-making work has expanded to promote smart developmental expansion and land use at regional and state levels. She also helped create the foundation's focus on environmental health, supporting efforts to clean up the region's industrial legacy of contaminated land, water and air.

The following women were recognized for their leadership and dedication to the Pittsburgh Chapter:

Yvonne Campos is CEO and president of Campos Inc., a Pittsburgh-based marketing and consulting company. Campos was one of the first women in the region to join the Women's Group and has invested much of her time in helping to set up the framework for the Pittsburgh chapter.

Marion Lewis is CEO and co-founder of Tachyon Solutions Inc., a web design and Internet marketing company. Lewis was instrumental in expanding membership within the Pittsburgh chapter and has brought awareness to the AFF through her numerous professional and personal connections throughout Pittsburgh.

Alexis Macklin is director of library and archive services for the Senator John Heinz History Center. Macklin has a passion for environmental education. She helped arrange the Women's Group's first professional development workshop for educators, to be held this spring.

For more information, visit www.affoundation.org.