



ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN WATER FORUM

21st Annual

“Bob Appel – Friend of the Arkansas” Award

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2026 “Bob Appel – Friend of the Arkansas” Award. The award is presented each year at the Arkansas River Basin Water Forum (Forum). The award is intended to honor an individual who has, over the years, demonstrated their commitment to improving the condition of the Arkansas River as it flows from its headwaters near Leadville to the Colorado state line.

Criteria: This award is meant to recognize someone who has helped to promote the best management practices in the usage of water in the Arkansas River basin. Their efforts may include contributions in the general areas of development, preservation, conservation, and/or leadership. The ability to reach out to as many constituents as possible, cooperation, and consensus-building, is an important aspect in the consideration of this award. Other considerations include, but are not limited to, the nominee’s length of service in the area of water resources, the impact of their accomplishments, and their respect within the water community of the Arkansas River basin.

Nominations should include a thorough description of why the individual is being nominated as well as any testimonials or letters of recommendation. Nominations will be referred to an award selection committee comprised of past recipients of the award.

Nominations may be sent to the following:

Jean Van Pelt, Program Manager
Arkansas River Basin Water Forum
PO Box 2055

Pueblo, CO 81004
ARBWF1994@gmail.com

Nominations need to be received **no later than Friday, March 20, 2026 at 5:00 pm**. If you have any questions about the award or the nomination process, please email ARBWF1994@gmail.com.

Past “Bob Appel – Friend of the Arkansas” Award recipients are:

2005 - Mike Conlin	2012 – Alan Hamel	2019 – Jean Van Pelt
2006 – Denzel Goodwin	2013 – Steve Witte	2020 – Ralph “Terry” Scanga
2007 – Paul Flack	2014 – Greg Policky	2022 – Roy Vaughan
2008 – Reed Dils	2015 – Dr. Lorenz Sutherland	2023 – Bill Tyner
2009 – Carl Genova	2016 – Dr. Bernard Smith	2024 – Jim Broderick
2010 – Allen Ringle	2017 – Gary Bostrom	2025 - Michael “Sandy” White
2011- “Bud” O’Hara	2018 – Ken Baker	

Our 31st annual Water Forum will be held on April 22 - 23, 2026 at the Salida Steam Plant. For more info: www.ARBWF.org.

Please forward this announcement to others in the Arkansas River Basin water community, or feel free to share it in your newsletters or mailings.

Thank you,
ARBWF Board of Directors