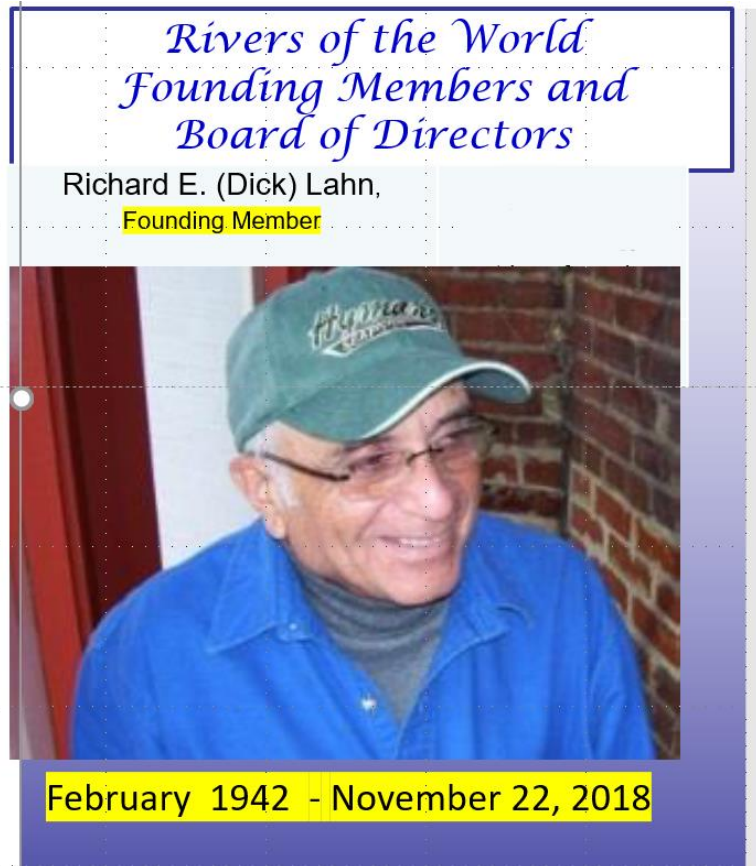


A Tribute to Richard (Dick) E. Lahn



Rivers of the World (ROW) Foundation, <https://rowfoundation.org>

Dear River Lovers,

We will miss the great support and routine interactions by Dick Lahn, a great community supporter and proponent of land conservation for preservation of nature and the environment.

The Gap is too large to be filled by any ordinary person. This will be really challenging to have such an unique and passionate individual like Dick to fill this “Green Sea” which parted on Nov 22nd with the demise of this great Environmentalist and passionate lover of people and communities all across the world. Our heartfelt tribute to him from the ROW members and fans all across China, Europe, India, Nepal, Philippines, and US, who came in touch with Dick one time or another and fell in love with his simplicity and passion.

A couple pictures from Dick’s visit to Shillong, India in December 2009.



At the Elephant Falls, Shillong. “We all Live Downstream” – Dick’s famous bumper Sticker



With Surojit Dutta, wife Mira (right) and daughter, Sonia at Dick's right



Dick's visited the Catholic Church, Donbosco, Shillong and Mother Theresa's Memorial there

Some of Dick's Volunteer Activities (from Dick's Bio)

- 1964-1970: Conservation Chairman of the Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club, conservation projects in 6 states and D.C. in the Chesapeake Bay region. Besides projects including Davis pumped storage project in WVA, Calvert Cliffs and Cove Point in MD, as volunteer organized to defeat national legislation which would have doubled the permissible dose allowed from X-ray machines and other radiation devices. Testified before Congress to create 3 Wilderness Areas in WVA and the C & O Canal National Park/Towpath.
- 1969: Filed complaint with HUD in Philadelphia to remove "Restricted Community" lettering on the gates to Crofton, MD. Lettering was removed after HUD finding that FHA money was being used to finance purchase of Crofton homes making lettering inappropriate for a community where U.S. government had an involvement.
- 1980's Member and Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Crofton Civic Association.
- 1980 - 1995: Soccer coach for 15 years for boys and girls teams for the Crofton Athletic Council. With several coaches founded the adult soccer leagues in Anne Arundel County.
- 1994 - 2002: Founder and organizer of Environmental Law Class at Anacostia High School in Washington, D.C., where students were taught by Department of Justice attorneys. Classes concluded with a mock trial presided over by a D.C. judge.
- 1994: Organized Earth Day Celebration at the Department of Justice with assistance from DOJ Attorney General Janet Reno. Event was in partnership with Anacostia Senior High School. Art competition was held among students.
- 1995 - Present: Became mentor to Anacostia High School senior Robert Phipps from when he was an intern at DOJ. Have advised him, befriended him, seeing him once a week for 20 years.
- 2000 - Present: Financial support, at times, for care giver who took care of my mother in her last years.
- 2000 - Present: Founder and Director of The Chesapeake Bay String of Pearls Project. Honors land owners and organizations in the six states and D.C. of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed who preserve land forever. At celebratory ceremonies the names of honorees are inscribed in the Register of Pearls which is on public view in the Circuit Courthouse on Church Circle in Annapolis. Nationally known landscape artists create paintings of these pearl properties which are for sale at the events. There are now 56 pearls, all in Maryland. The project is beginning work in other states in the watershed.
- 2002 - 2006: Worked throughout Anne Arundel County solving stormwater problems.

- 2007 - Present: Founding Board Member of the Rivers of the World Foundation. ROW cleans up rivers in the world using its network of engineers who travel to the river sites, collect data, prepare analyses, then prepare reports and proposals pro bono for local people to source for funds. Currently, there are projects in India, China, Philippines, Nepal, and U.S. (MD and TN). Work with my neighbor in Crofton Subijoy Dutta who is founder and director of ROW. I have been to India twice working on projects. Inspired many volunteers there. Provided a demonstration of food chain effect by a small skit involving the children in a village in Haryana, on the bank of the Yamuna River.
- 2008: Received Citizen of the Year Award for Crofton from Crofton Civic Association.
- 2008: Received Lifetime Achievement Award from the Sierra Club. Anne Arundel County Chapter of Sierra Club.
- 2009 - 2014: Founder and Director of the Annapolis Sustainable Business Alliance. ASBA was the voice in Annapolis for local, independent businesses, and promoted locally the national Buy Local movement. It's 50+ members were listed on ASBA webpage; nationally known speakers gave talks in Annapolis; candidate's nights for mayoral elections were held,; social functions held monthly enabled local business owners to meet and buy from each other; a program promoted buying food from local, fresh sources; and the organization was an active and visible participant in the Annapolis Main Street program and the City Dock study.
- 2010 - 2013: Environmental Advisor to the Greater Crofton Council.
- 2010 - 2013: Member of the Operations Committee of the Crofton Civic Association.
- 2012 - 2014: Led walking tours of Beaver Creek in Crofton showing residents damage created by stormwater, eroding stream banks and bottoms and channelizing waterways, carrying sediment to the Patuxent River and eventually to Chesapeake Bay creating dead zones.