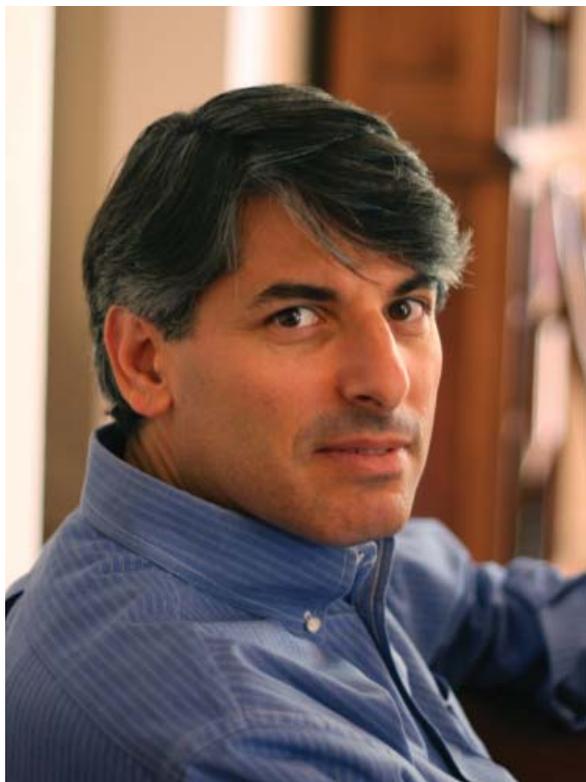


2013 Il Monito del Giardino



Aaron Wolf

Professor, Geography

Aaron Wolf, a geography professor in OSU's College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences, has been named a 2013 recipient of Il Monito del Giardino (The Warning from the Garden) Award by the Bardini and Peyron Monumental Parks Foundation of Florence, Italy. He was recognized for his mediation efforts in water conflicts.

The honor is given to persons who have distinguished themselves internationally in safeguarding the environment and raising awareness of ecological issues. The 2012 recipient was Jane Goodall. Wolf received his award in Florence.

The scientific committee cited Wolf's involvement in striving for more democratic access to the world's water sources. "The value of his work has come to be recognized on the world stage, mediation work in controversies relative to water's being at the center of the geopolitical scenes that are very delicate, such as that of the Mideast."

Wolf has traveled throughout the world as both a scientist and a mediator in the area of water conflicts. He has been a consultant to the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the World Bank, and numerous governments.

He directs the Program in Water Conflict Management and Transformation, through which he has offered workshops, facilitation, and mediation in basins throughout the world. He developed the Transboundary Freshwater Dispute database, which includes a compilation of 400 water-related treaties as well as information on water conflicts and resolution, and has (co-) authored or (co-) edited seven books and about fifty journal articles on various aspects of transboundary waters.

Wolf took his MS in Water Resources (1990) and Ph.D. in Land Resources (1992) from University of Wisconsin, Madison.



Wolf's calling takes him all over the world, wherever bodies of water—usually rivers—are shared by two or more countries. A dam built upstream, on one side of the border, will affect the flow of water on the other side. Whose needs are more important? Is generating electricity the priority? What about displaced people, fish passage, and the environment? "Everywhere you find real tension," he says, "you'll also find shared rivers."

"It is a real honor to have this work being recognized by such a prestigious organization," Wolf said. "It speaks well to the environment in the College and Oregon State University, where work of this deeply interdisciplinary nature is valued and encouraged, and the vast water community works together seamlessly to address the problems facing the state, the U.S., and the world." — Aaron Wolf