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## George N. Van Orden, Ph.D.



Dr. Van Orden was born and raised in New Brunswick, New Jersey. He received a Bachelor degree in Environmental Science from Cook College, Rutgers University in 1979. He later attended Rutgers Graduate School and received a Master of Science degree in Environmental Science in 1986 and a Doctorate degree in Environmental Science in 1987. Dr. Van Orden's graduate research focused mainly on modeling pollutants within the Whippany River located in Morris County.

Dr. Van Orden retired from the Township of Hanover Health Department in 2015 where he was employed (since 1981) as their Health Administrator, Health Officer and Environmental Specialist. The Township of Hanover Health Department at that time covered the municipalities of Hanover, Harding and Morris Township's.

From 1993 thru 1999 Dr. Van Orden worked with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection on the Whippany River Watershed Project. This was New Jersey's first attempt at developing a watershed management plan. During this project Dr. Van Orden chaired the Characterization and Non-Point Source Committees and was a member of the Technical Advisory Committee (which developed the State's first watershed model) and Policy Advisory Group (which developed the State's first watershed management plan). As part of this work, he co-authored "A Cleaner Whippany River" which is a manual for municipal governments on Best Management Practices for reducing non-point source pollution. He developed educational materials and provided seminars to the public and local governments on watershed management. The Whippany River Watershed Project in 1995 was awarded the prestigious Elwood "Woody" Jarmer Award for Outstanding Environmental Planning from the New Jersey Chapter of the American Planning Association.

While conducting his work on the Whippany River, he witnessed and documented the transition of the Whippany River from a severely degraded river in the 1980's to today's thriving healthy ecosystem. In 2002, Dr. Van Orden was awarded the Watershed Stewardship Award from the Whippany River Watershed Action Committee for leadership, contributions to science and public health and decades of river stewardship.

His work on the Whippany River continued beyond the Whippany River Watershed Project. He received grants from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the Victoria Foundation, totaling \$230,000. He worked with other public health and environmental partners to study water quality and identify sources of pollution within the Whippany River Watershed. His research included developing methodology for conducting sanitary surveys of watersheds, studying indicator organisms and conducting a trend analysis on various water quality parameters to determine the effectiveness of Best Management Practices within the Whippany

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Watershed. He has published and lectured extensively in the areas of surface water modeling, sanitary surveys of natural surface waters and watershed management.

Dr. Van Orden has been an adjunct professor since 1983 and teaches courses at Rutgers University, Drew University and the College of Saint Elizabeth in the areas of Environmental Health, Environmental Toxicology, Epidemiology, Public Health and Environmental Biology. Over the past 30 years he was actively involved in the Environment and Public Health Course offered at Rutgers. Many of his students went on to become Registered Environmental Health Specialists and Health Officers working for health departments throughout the State.

Dr. Van Orden was a member of the New Jersey Association of County and City Health Officials (NJACCHO) where he served on the Executive Committee from 1992 thru 1999. He chaired the NJACCHO Communicable Disease Committee for over 20 years. In May of 2009, he was appointed by Governor Corzine to the New Jersey Mosquito Control Commission and in March of 2014 was appointed by Governor Christie to the New Jersey Drinking Water Quality Institute. He was a founding member and Vice-Chair of the North Jersey Health Collaborative and has served as a volunteer for this organizations as a member of the Data Committee.

Dr. Van Orden was the recipient of a number of awards and recognitions which include the 2002 New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's "Environmental Excellence Award" for leadership in Watershed Protection and Enhancement, 2002 "Osborne Award" presented by the New Jersey Health Officers Association for years of dedicated service in the promotion of public health in New Jersey, Saint Peter's High School Alumni Association's "Monsignor Harding Medal" for accomplishments in the areas of Arts and Sciences (November 2003), National Environmental Health Association's "Certificate of Merit" for contributions to the advancement of professionalism in environmental health presented in June of 1998, 2010 George Hammell Cook Distinguished Alumni Award presented by the Cook Campus Community Alumni Association, Rutgers University, for outstanding achievement in professional and civic endeavors, and the 2013 R. H. Nicholas Award presented by the New Jersey Environmental Health Association for outstanding and dedicated service in the advancement of public and environmental health in New Jersey.

George lives in Madison, New Jersey, with his wife Kathleen and their two children, Douglas and Miranda. In Madison he coached youth football, basketball and baseball. He also served on Madison's Environmental Commission, Drinking Water Utility Committee and was Madison's representative to the Ten Towns Great Swamp Watershed Committee and the Whippany River Watershed Action Committee. George currently serves as a Board of Health member with the Township of Hanover Board of Health.

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