

RACHEL CARSON INSTITUTE

AT CHATHAM UNIVERSITY

Sustaining Earth's life support system - clean air, pure water and fertile soil - through education, research, and outreach

Patricia M. DeMarco, Ph.D. Director, Rachel Carson Institute

Short Biographical sketch

Patricia DeMarco is the Director of the Rachel Carson Institute in the School of Sustainability and the Environment at Chatham University. Patricia DeMarco became Director of the Rachel Carson Institute in January 2011, following a five year term as Executive Director of the Rachel Carson Homestead Association. She is a native of Pittsburgh, and received a Bachelor of Science and a Doctorate in Biology from the University of Pittsburgh.

She pursued a career in biochemical genetics research at Yale University and at Boston University School of Medicine with a focus on mutation mechanisms. Following her academic career, she dedicated five years to raising her two children in Connecticut, then she turned her attention to energy and environmental policy. She served the State of Connecticut as Executive Director of the Power Facilities Evaluation Council and as staff to the Governor of Connecticut on such issues as nuclear power plant safety, energy conservation, clean fuels technology and as liaison to the Connecticut Energy Advisory Board. She represented the Governor on the Wild and Scenic Rivers Task Force which succeeded in designating the West Branch of the Farmington River. She worked as the manager of resource development for the Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Co-operative and, as a loaned executive, started up a technology development firm to commercialize declassified defense technology. She moved to Alaska in 1998 to take the position of President of the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation. While in Alaska, she served as a Commissioner of the Regulatory Commission of Alaska, with jurisdiction over all electric, gas, water, refuse utilities, and oil and gas pipelines. From 2002 to 2005, she served as Associate Dean for the College of Business and Public Policy at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

She enjoys fishing, gardening, quilting, cooking for friends and spoiling her grandchildren.