



2011 Soil and Water Conservation Society

Awards Program

The Soil and Water Conservation Society is pleased to honor award recipients that have exhibited exemplary service to the conservation community. Today's award recipients join with us in our mission to advance soil, water and related natural resources conservation to achieve sustainability.

Individuals, organizations, and chapters nominated for these awards competed on a national and international level against others who have demonstrated leadership, creativity, and dedication in delivering assistance to landowners, communities, or local governments.

Hugh Hammond Bennett Award

The Hugh Hammond Bennett Award recognizes extraordinary national and international accomplishments in the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources.

Dr. Andrew Sharpley



Dr. Andrew Sharpley has focused much of his work on understanding the fate of phosphorus in soil, the mechanisms of loss in runoff, and on tackling national water quality issues.

Sharpley received his BS at the University College of North Wales, and his PhD at Massey University in New Zealand. He was employed as a USDA Agricultural Research Service soil scientist from 1978 to 2006, has been an adjunct professor at The Pennsylvania State University, and is currently a professor in the Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences at the University of Arkansas–Fayetteville.

His history of service to the SWCS includes participation on the scientific advisory board for Society conferences, speaking at our conference as a keynote speaker multiple times, and serving as a lead or as a chapter author for Society-published books.

The scientific underpinnings of the Phosphorus Index are based on Sharpley's findings that most of the phosphorus exported from agricultural watersheds comes from only a small area of land during a limited number of storms. He pioneered the development and transfer of environmental risk assessment tools and simulation models that are used by conservation agencies throughout the world. His conservation legacy is seen in nearly all programs in which critical source area management is used to mitigate nonpoint source pollution.

Sharpley is a true leader of conservation science who has shaped, directed and guided efforts to curb the biological enrichment of surface waters caused by excessive nutrient loading. In light of his outstanding, meaningful, and lasting impacts on the field of natural resources conservation and his achievements in advancing the goals and objectives of the SWCS, Sharpley has been selected as this year's Hugh Hammond Bennett recipient.

Fellow Award

The designation of Fellow is conferred on Society members who have performed exceptional service in advocating the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources. This award is given first and foremost for professional excellence. Professional achievement may be in practicing, investigating, administering, or teaching soil and water conservation or closely related fields. Only Society members with at least 10 years of membership are eligible.

Robin Foulk



Robin Foulk is being honored for her leadership and dedication to the mission of the Society. She is directly responsible for the success of several technical projects and conferences on carbon sequestration. Additional efforts on the carbon sequestration projects included an educational briefing to US Senate staffers on the economical benefits to agriculture.

Her Society activities include holding leadership positions at regional and chapter levels and participating as a moderator, presenter, and staff member for a number of international Society meetings. She has chaired over 10 chapter and technical meetings. Foulk led efforts to develop two SWCS promotional videos aimed at recruitment and increasing Society membership and serves as the SWCS liaison with Chadron State College to promote chapter-sponsored scholarships. Foulk is also a

recipient of the SWCS national Commendation Award for 1997, as well as a number of chapter and regional commendation awards.

Douglas Karlen



Dr. Douglas Karlen is being honored as a Fellow for his internationally recognized research in the areas of soil quality assessment, soil-based comparisons of alternate farming systems, and sustainable bioenergy feedstock production. As an expert in soil quality and a developer of many of its principles, he serves as an international leader in its use to evaluate sustainability of agricultural land management practices. Dr. Karlen's applied soil science research program has been highly influential in the development of soil quality assessment tools. His application of soil science principles has been beneficial to farmers, Natural Resources Conservation Service personnel, fellow scientists, and many other land managers.

In the past, Dr. Karlen has received the SWCS Conservation Research Award, American Society of Agronomy Fellow, Crop Science Society of America Fellow, and Soil Science Society of America Fellow. He currently serves as Science and Policy Advisor for the SWCS.

Larry Wright



Larry Wright is being honored for his professional excellence and achievements that have helped foster growth and leadership in a wide array of conservation professionals and organizations locally, nationally, and worldwide. He has helped people understand the importance of our natural resources and how to advance the conservation mission. His broad understanding of conservation issues and his ability to reach across organizational and geographic boundaries to bring together the expertise needed to solve problems, has helped build capacity and move toward conservation solutions.

Wright led in the development of the Southern Plains Agricultural Resource Coalition that is creating a market-based incentive to promote the adoption of no-till

conservation cropping systems that has resulted in 100,000 acres of no-till small grains in Oklahoma. Wright was also instrumental in the development and on-going support of the Oklahoma's Women in Agriculture conference, which provides a key networking opportunity for women developing agricultural enterprises.

Larry was recognized as Outstanding Resource Conservation and Development Coordinator (RC&D) for the Southwest States RC&D Councils in 2003 and 2005 and as Outstanding Coordinator by the National Association of RC&D Councils in 2003.

Harold and Kay Scholl Excellence in Conservation Award

The Harold and Kay Scholl Excellence in Conservation Award recognizes individuals who provide technical assistance, demonstrate effectiveness and creativity in conservation planning and plan application.

Jay Fuhrer



Jay Fuhrer has worked for 30 years with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and his Soil Conservation District (SCD) Board to promote improved soil quality on cropland, hayland, and rangeland in Burleigh County, North Dakota. Fuhrer and his SCD Board have established no-till cover crop demonstration plots and worked with producers to establish no-till cropping systems with diverse “cover crop cocktails” that build soil quality. Their efforts now include tours, workshops, and presentations that have started a soil health revolution. Some workshops have exceeded 500 attendees from as far away as South America and Europe.

Fuhrer and the SCD Board members have presented soil quality information in Canada, Russia, and France. The Board has also purchased land to serve as a demonstration site. His efforts have contributed to recognition through a Chapter Service Award in 2008 and the Merit Award in 2010. Perhaps most importantly, his conservation leadership the last three years has helped add 47 Environmental Quality Incentives Program contracts on more than 49,000 acres; 11 Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program contracts on more than 10,000 acres; and 20 Conservation Security Program contracts on at least 35,000 acres, all based on soil health.

Conservation Research Award

The Conservation Research Award is conferred on SWCS members whose research has led to exceptional improvements in soil conservation, water conservation, and/or related natural resources research. This award is given for research excellence or results of the research that has led to significant conservation improvements.

Dr. Birl Lowery

Dr. Birl Lowery is widely recognized for his professional efforts and achievements that have contributed to the protection of our natural resources. He is a professor of Soil Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he has done soil and environmental science research and teaching since 1980. From 1999 to 2004, he served as chair of the Soil Science Department. He is presently serving as an associate editor for the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* and has served as secretary general of the International Soil Tillage Research Organization.

Lowery's research has focused on a broad array of soil and water conservation issues and problems. The thrust of this work was to apply basic soil physical principles to understand and solve these problems. He has done both field and laboratory work focusing on the dynamics of soil water and temperature regimes, soil water movement, soil compaction, soil quality, and the development of management practices to prevent soil erosion and other environmental quality problems. His research on adapting conservation tillage to more northern climates in the Midwest United States has led to better management and more rapid adoption of these tillage systems.

Dr. Martin Shipitalo

Dr. Martin Shipitalo is recognized as an international expert on earthworm effects on soil structure and the assessment of the effects of macropores, mostly formed from earthworms, on water and chemical transport through soil. He is a research soil scientist with the USDA Agricultural Research Service at Coshocton, Ohio, and is an adjunct faculty member with Ohio State University. His international reputation has resulted in his participation on PhD student committees in France, being invited to collaborate with scientists in Finland, and giving presentations at meetings in Germany, including a presentation at the Max Planck Institute. He also delivered the keynote address at the European Society of Soil Conservation, 2nd International Congress in Germany in 1996.

Shipitalo's early work involved the quantification of earthworms on soil aggregate stability. This led to a widely used conceptual model regarding the effects of earthworms on aggregation. This led to work on the effects of earthworms and soil macropores on potential movement of agricultural chemicals toward groundwater. Data from this work was used to validate and refine the Agricultural Research Service Root Zone Water Quality Model. He has also done research on small watersheds dealing with off-site movement of agricultural chemicals. Recently, he has studied the impacts of paper mill sludge on strip mine reclamation and the resulting effects on runoff water quality.

Shipitalo continues to make major contributions to soil science and environmental quality research as affected by earthworms and soil macroporosity. Thus, we recognize Dr. Martin Shipitalo as the 2011 recipient of the Society's Conservation Research Award.

Sustaining the Earth's Watersheds - Agricultural Data Systems (STEWARDS)

The Society recognizes Dr. Jean L. Steiner, Dr. E. John Sadler and Dr. Jerry L. Hatfield as the recipients of the 2011 Conservation Research Award for their leadership of the STEWARDS Data System. The three internationally recognized scientists successfully led a team that developed and implemented the Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) database known as STEWARDS. The recipients demonstrated initiative and creativity in all phases of the project. They embarked upon this project because the Agricultural Research Service has several long-term watershed research sites that have individually held large quantities of data for many years, but before the development of STEWARDS, those data had not been integrated into modern storage and delivery tools. The team successfully convinced the agency to support STEWARDS through equipment acquisition and personnel assignments. Release of STEWARDS was included as a major accomplishment in the Agricultural Research Service's Water Availability and Watershed Management National Program Annual Report and has been widely acclaimed by diverse agency and research customers. The efforts of the team leaders have improved access, provided quality assurance and transparency regarding research methodology, and reduced transaction costs of conducting multiple watershed research projects.

Merit Award

The Merit Award is given in recognition of an outstanding activity, product, or service by a group, business firm, corporation, or organization that promotes the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources.

USDA Agricultural Research Service Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory

The Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory is being recognized for excellence in technical transfer of USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) research and public outreach at their annual "Friends & Neighbors Day" event. The ARS staff at Mandan, North Dakota, and the North Dakota Area's four Soil Conservation Districts developed this activity to inform the public of the ARS agricultural and environmental research and to enhance awareness of the value of natural resources conservation. This 26-year-old activity has grown into a major day-long

community event featuring campus lectures and exhibits, agricultural and environmental research tours, and children's activities. More than 900 people from the Great Plains region of the United States and Canada attend annually. Currently, this major event focuses on soil health education and agricultural sustainability research to assist producers in developing improved science-based management practices, and it also supports public awareness of environmental stewardship.

Cargill Corn Milling Operations in Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Cargill Corn Milling Operations in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is being recognized for their partnership with Living Lands and its Million-Tree give away program. Recently, the Cedar Rapids facility gave away nearly 400 native trees to be planted in the Linn County area. Cargill, Incorporated, also regularly contributes support to soil and water conservation efforts across the world through a variety of environmentally focused programs. Examples of Cargill's environmental programs include their Water Matters minigrant program, the Global Partnership Fund, and their Water Matters Initiative.

Honor Award

The Honor Award recognizes outstanding accomplishments compatible to the mission of the Society.

Diane Olson

Diane Olson is being recognized for her outstanding service to the cause of natural resources education. Olson has served on the Barnes County Soil Conservation District Board for 17 years; she has served on the education board for the state association, and was appointed to a national post for the National Association of Conservation Districts dealing with education. Olson also served on the Sheyenne James Resource Conservation and Development Coordinator Council.

Olson has used each one of these positions as opportunities to advocate for training, conservation policy improvement, youth learning, and professional development for both staff and board members. Olson has fostered the art and science of natural resources conservation by learning about the environment she lived in and using conservation measures and practices to preserve it on her own farm. Her main goal has been educating the public, especially children, through tours of her farm and involvement in the local soil conservation district. She has worked tirelessly to demonstrate conservation of natural resources and how to properly take care of the environment. Olson has opened up her farm for years to children to teach them about the balance of our natural resources and how to properly care for the environment. Environmental education has become her life's mission; she was instrumental in establishing an Eco-Ed Camp and the Envirothon in North Dakota. Olson continues to be a leader among leaders in preparing and leading the way in natural resources education to children across the state of North Dakota.

Outstanding Service Award

The Outstanding Service Award is given to Society members in recognition of distinguished service in helping the society to develop and carry out its program over a long and sustained period of time.

Jill Howard

Jill Howard is being honored by the SWCS with an Outstanding Service Award for 2011. For the past decade, Howard has served as the North Dakota Chapter Newsletter Editor and has produced approximately 30 to 40 issues in that time. In addition, she has developed and maintained an email database of members and led efforts to communicate with the membership through email for the distribution of these newsletters, as well as meeting notices, election ballots, and other chapter business items.

Commendation Award

The Commendation Award gives international recognition to society members for service to their chapter or council of chapters.

Nancy Ferlow

Nancy Ferlow has been an active member for over 20 years with the Southern New England Chapter. She has been involved in numerous SWCS activities over the years. Her role as newsletter committee chair has provided the most outstanding service to her chapter. The quality and timeliness of the newsletter ensures that the chapter members are kept current on all chapter activities. Her long-term dedication to SWCS and its programs and initiatives demonstrates her commitment to the Society. Ferlow's leadership and devotion is truly appreciated.

Dan Mull

The Society is pleased to present a Commendation award to Dan Mull as recommended by the New Jersey SWCS Firman E. Bear Chapter. Mull provided exceptional planning skills in the execution of the successful Northeast Region Leadership and Technology Workshop: "Farm Energy Conservation."

His personal development includes a BA in general agriculture, work experiences on the family farm, leadership and supervisory skills gained while working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and field experience by the planning and layout of conservation practices. His enthusiasm, work ethic, and continued support to the Society are an inspiration to others.

Richard Webb

The Society is pleased to present a Commendation award to Richard Webb as requested by the North Dakota SWCS Chapter. Recently Webb's leadership resulted in a successful Pollinators Conference and North Dakota Soil and Water Science Summit.

Webb's personal leadership skills have been molded by his career experiences, including managing field offices and a staff position at the Natural Resources Conservation Service Jamestown Area Office. He has been involved with the Society's mission since 2003, received the Chapter Horizon Award in 2008, as well as a holding positions of council representative in 2006 to 2007, president-elect in 2007 to 2009, and president for 2009 to 2011.

President's Leadership Award

The SWCS President's Leadership Award is given at the discretion of the SWCS President in recognition of exemplary assistance to the President in helping to carry out the goals and objectives of the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

Diane Bradley-Redden and Ron Ziehm

Diane Bradley-Redden and Ron Ziehm, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, were the co-chairs for the Show-Me Chapter's Local Arrangements Committee for the 65th International Annual Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. They provided outstanding leadership, volunteer recruitment, and critical support in delivering one of the best attended conferences in years.

Ross Braun

Ross Braun was a key player in the Sustainable Feedstocks for Advanced Biofuels project and workshop held in Atlanta, Georgia last September. In addition to moderating and leading the effort on the roadmap chapter for the Northeast region, he served as primary reviewer for papers submitted for the meeting and was the lead editor for the resulting proceedings book published this year.

Richard Cruse

Richard Cruse has served the Society in many capacities making significant contributions to the accomplishment of the Society's mission. This award is being given to Cruse in recognition of excellence in service to the Board of Directors in the development of the Society's Strategic Plan.

Rebekah DeWind

Rebekah DeWind has performed her duties as Chairperson of the 66th International Annual Conference Local Arrangements Committee with exceptional skill and devotion to detail. She assumed her responsibilities from another person several months into the planning process without any loss of planning effectiveness. All this has been handled during a period of extremely heavy workload and distraction in the workplace. Over the months of planning, she has never faltered in her determination to help make the 2011 Annual Conference the best one ever.

Chris Gross

Chris Gross, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, was the lead volunteer in helping to plan the 2011 Modeling Summit held in Denver, Colorado, on March 28 to 30, 2011. Gross played a critical role in helping connect participants and help them focus on integrating available models and datasets to address specific conservation benefits and needs. His guidance and knowledge of the issues experienced by modelers and dataset managers was invaluable in organizing the meeting.

Douglas Karlen

Doug Karlen, USDA Agricultural Research Service, conceived of the Sustainable Feedstocks for Advanced Biofuels project while serving as the Science Policy Advisor for the Society in 2009 and 2010. His leadership on this project produced an extremely valuable meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, last September, six regional roadmaps outlining the future of sustainable biofuels feedstock production, and a proceedings book for the workshop that is very much in demand.

Shelly Lassiter

Shelly Lassiter is being recognized for her leadership as chair of the Society's Professional Development Committee from 2006 to 2010. During her leadership, the committee revised the Chapter Professional Development Award and conducted outreach to professional organizations in order to provide Conservation Education Units to Annual Conference attendees.

Maurice Mausbach—Journal

Maurice Mausbach made outstanding contributions to the publications board by providing excellence in service to the editorial process of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*, furthering the objectives of the Society. Mausbach served as associate editor from 2002 to 2011, handling a large number of papers for the Journal.

Kenneth Potter—Journal

Kenneth Potter made outstanding contributions to the publications board by providing excellence in service to the editorial process of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*, furthering the objectives of the Society. Potter served as associated editor from 2001 to 2011, handling a large number of papers for the Journal.

Journal of Soil and Water Conservation Awards

Best Research Paper Award for Impact and Quality

The Best Research Paper Award for Impact and Quality recognizes the impact and quality of a research paper published in the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation in the previous five years. The 2011 award and honorable mention are given to the following papers:

Kleinman, P.J.A., A.L. Allen, B.A. Needelman, A.N., Sharpley, P.A. Vadas, L.S. Saporito, G.J., Folmar, and R.B. Bryant. 2007. Dynamics of phosphorus transfers from heavily manured Coastal Plain soils to drainage. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* 62(4):225-235.

The Honorable Mention

Cruse, R., D. Flanagan, J. Frankenberger, B. Gelder, D. Herzmann, D. James, W. Krajewski, M. Kraszewski, J. Laflen, J. Opsomer, and D. Today. 2006. Daily estimates of rainfall, water runoff, and soil erosion in Iowa. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* 61(4):191-199.

Editor's Choice Award

The Editor's Choice Award recognizes articles of excellence appearing in the A Section of the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation in the previous year.

Jack A. Morgan, Ronald F. Follett, Leon Hartwell Allen, Jr., Stephen Del Grosso, Justin D. Derner, Feike Dijkstra, Alan Franzluebbers, Robert Fry, Keith Paustian, and Michele M. Schoeneberger. 2010. Carbon sequestration in agricultural lands of the United States. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* 65(1):6A-13A.

Jack Morgan is plant physiologist and Feike Dijkstra is post-doc research ecologist at the Rangeland Resources Research Unit, Ronald Follett is research leader and soil scientist and Stephen Del Grosso is a soil scientist and

ecologist at the Soil Plant Nutrient Research Unit, USDA Agricultural Research Service Northern Plains Area, Fort Collins, Colorado. Leon Hartwell Allen Jr. is soil scientist at the Chemistry Research Unit, USDA Agricultural Research Service South Atlantic Area, Gainesville, Florida. Justin Derner is rangeland scientist at the Rangeland Resources Research Unit, USDA Agricultural Research Service Northern Plains Area, Cheyenne, Wyoming. Alan Franzluebbbers is ecologist at the Natural Resource Conservation Center, USDA Agricultural Research Service South Atlantic Area, Watkinsville, Georgia. Robert Fry is state conservation agronomist at the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Davis, California. Keith Paustian is professor at the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado. Michele Schoeneberger is research leader and soil scientist at the National Agroforestry Center, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Editor's Choice Honorable Mention

Jeffrey S. Strock, Peter J.A. Kleinman, Kevin W. King, and Jorge A. Delgado. 2010. Drainage water management for water quality protection. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* 65(6):131A-136A.

Jeffrey Strock is an associate professor with the University of Minnesota, Lamberton, Minnesota. Peter J.A. Kleinman is a research soil scientist at the Pasture Systems and Watershed Management Research Unit, USDA Agricultural Research Service, University Park, Pennsylvania. Kevin King is an agricultural engineer at the Soil Drainage Research Unit, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Columbus, Ohio. Jorge Delgado is a research soil scientist at the Soil Plant Nutrient Research Unit, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Fort Collins, Colorado.

Chapter Awards

Chapter Professional Development Award

The **Hoosier Chapter** is recognized as a **2010 Professional Development Chapter Award recipient for Chapters with 75 or fewer members.**

Hoosier Chapter (Indiana) (Region 4)

The Hoosier Chapter reported on two workshops that engaged chapter members as well as non-chapter participants. One workshop discussed pollinators, their ecology, life cycles, and habitats. The second workshop and tour was to a wetland restoration site of regional ecological importance. Participants were informed about the programs used to restore the area, management activities, challenges that were overcome and other technical topics related to large wetland restoration projects. These activities exemplify how SWCS Chapters are expanding members' knowledge and skills to incorporate a systems approach to enhance the environment and provide multiple benefits. For example, the wetland restoration demonstrated how wetland habitat could be restored and enhanced to diversify the landscape, benefit aquatic plants and animals, reduce nutrient loads off site while using available programs and building partnerships with a broad network of groups and individuals.

Sustained Performance

Empire State Chapter (New York State) (Region 1)

Since its formation in 1946, the Empire State Chapter has been successful in developing a significant conservation message through multiple programs. The Chapter is being recognized for sustained performance, particularly for long-term efforts to weave professional and leadership development opportunities for Chapter members into annual technical sessions. The Chapter is a recognized resource in providing stormwater publications that are utilized by thousands of stakeholders, including agricultural users, engineers, municipalities, and regulators. The Chapter is recognized for its commitment to provide "Grants for Conservation," providing an annual budget of up to \$3,000 to support conservation-related programming for area events, such as the State Envirothon Contest, the New York Conservation Skills Workshop, and other related activities that extends the conservation mission to thousands of

people on an annual basis. Youth development is recognized annually by the Empire Chapter through the presentation of three college scholarships and exceptional effort in conservation is acknowledged with appreciation awards. The Empire Chapter is commended for their continued leadership and sustained performance.

North Dakota Chapter (Region 6)

North Dakota Chapter is recognized for their initiative in organizing many successful workshops over the past five years to bring together multiple stakeholders to address current issues. They have partnered with state and regional chapters for joint annual meetings and professional development workshops. In the past year they have organized workshops on (1) “Pollinator conservation planning on working lands,” (2) “Tools of assessment, adaptation strategies and implications of soil change,” and (3) “Energy: the spark of the future.” The Chapter’s activities have focused on outreach and communication to their members and the public at meetings and workshops, through two newsletters and a Web site, and through fundraising for scholarships and educational opportunities. The North Dakota Chapter demonstrates how a small chapter can build a sustainable program with a solid foundation of good leadership.

Oklahoma Chapter (Region 7)

The Oklahoma Chapter has a long history of promoting conservation and providing networking opportunities for educators, conservationists, researchers, and others. The Chapter has supported the State Envirothon Competition, both financially and with active participation since 2000, touching hundreds of students and their advisors. In addition, they have provided financial and volunteer support to the National Soil and Land Judging Competition for a number of years. In fact, the sale of T-shirts, caps, and other items at this competition enhances the student experience and is the Chapter’s largest fundraiser. They use these funds to provide one or more college scholarships in a conservation or natural resources program and support leadership development training for their Council. In addition, they cosponsor educational and networking activities targeted at life-long learning of agricultural land owners and natural resource professionals at events such as the Oklahoma No-Till Conference and the Governor’s Water Conference. Their annual conferences have included such diverse topics as nutrient management issues associated with poultry production; the next-generation conservation plant materials and technologies, and connecting consumers with locally grown food. Management of the council’s business has been a priority, as well as planning for the future with a new strategic plan. The Chapter is dedicated to advancing conservation and providing members the opportunity to gain professional and leadership skills through networking, example, and mentoring. Steps have been taken to ensure a strong chapter through recruitment and diversification of membership, better utilization of electronic communication tools, and better support to next-generation conservationists, while sustaining their ongoing efforts in educational outreach. We are pleased to recognize the Oklahoma Chapter for its continued success!

Chapter Achievement

Firman E. Bear Chapter (New Jersey) (Region 1)

The Firman E. Bear Chapter addressed a global resource concern of increasing importance through their Leadership and Technology Workshop held in 2010. Key conservation energy topics and leadership skill development provided a forum to promote awareness of their Chapter as a leader in resource education and professional development. Additionally, the workshop enabled networking opportunities for conservation professionals in an enlightening atmosphere. We are pleased to recognize the Firman E. Bear Chapter for their efforts to address this timely and important issue.

Hoosier Chapter (Indiana) (Region 4)

The Hoosier Chapter achievements includes more than professional development and outreach activities. Developing and growing a chapter through strategic planning is certainly a significant achievement which can greatly strengthen the capacity of a chapter. The Hoosier Chapter did just this by providing its membership a direct voice in guiding the direction of the Chapter through the development of a five-year strategic plan. Strategic planning serves to define the purpose of the Chapter; establish realistic goals and objectives consistent with that

mission; and ensure the most effective use is made of the Chapter's resources by focusing the resources on the key priorities. The Hoosier Chapter's strategic plan will ensure that it will continue to see many great achievements coming out of Indiana in years to come. The Hoosier Chapter is applauded for accomplishing this significant task.

North Dakota Chapter (Region 6)

The North Dakota Chapter is receiving this award for their 2010 workshop entitled "What Dad Didn't Tell You About The Birds And The Bees," which was held to provide technical training for conservation planning with pollination in mind. The meeting was very successful in providing background and technical information from education and state presenters to the 52 participants, which included state and federal agencies, natural resource management professionals, agriculture and conservation groups, and the interested general public. This single event demonstrated how leadership development can translate into positive steps to address current issues in our environment. Congratulations, North Dakota.

Oklahoma Chapter (Region 7)

The Oklahoma Chapter worked with partners to conduct one of the most successful workshops ever in 2010 with their "Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food" conference. This event was held in the central hub of Oklahoma and involved urban as well as agricultural interests. The Chapter wanted to find a topic that was different and would have some kind of interest for all people, and they hit a home run with over 252 people of all ages in attendance. The conference included hands-on activities, lectures, tours, and even a Gala Tasting Dinner attended by over 200. All the foods at the conference were locally grown. Some of the highlights of the conference include cooking demonstrations of local organic food, involvement of school administrators with the Farm to School programs, and people receiving assistance with different programs to help their farms go organic and find local markets for their products. This event was successful in helping the Chapter with another goal, which was to reach out to a different gamut of people and try to recruit members as well. We congratulate the Oklahoma Chapter on their successful event.

Outstanding Chapter Recommendations

Alabama Chapter (Region 3)

The Alabama Chapter is awarded the 2010 Outstanding Chapter Award for its excellent professional development activities as well as its new scholarship program. The Chapter initiated its first ever scholarship program last year by awarding \$1,000 student scholarship. The criterion for selection was based upon a "student enrolled in an Alabama school and interested in furthering their education in soil and water conservation field of study." This Chapter continues to offer a number of workshops that allow participants to obtain Conservation Education Units (CEUs). In 2010, their workshops provided a total of 9.5 hours of CEUs. Even their annual meeting entitled, "Managing Our Soil and Water Resources," offered opportunities for CEUs. The Chapter also held an event called "Clear Water Alabama" last year in support of the state's Erosion and Sediment Control where over 125 participants learned about stormwater management and streambank stabilization. This event provided seminars, handbooks, field guides, and field day activities for members and individuals throughout the state. The Alabama Chapter's continued dedication to provide CEUs and other training is to be recognized as it encourages continued member support and the addition of new members. Congratulations to the Alabama Chapter for a job well done!

Hoosier Chapter (Indiana) (Region 4)

The Hoosier Chapter is recognized for its outstanding efforts in 2010. This past year, the Chapter held two well received professional development opportunities focusing on pollinators and wetland restoration. These events were attended by over 100 members and nonmembers. The Hoosier Chapter was also active in two large advocacy activities in 2010. As a part of the Indiana Conservation Alliance (INCA), the Hoosier Chapter partnered with a diverse group of Indiana conservation groups and organizations to present a unified legislative agenda to Indiana legislators. They also held a legislative tour on a farm in central Indiana to make legislators more aware of conservation issues. Perhaps most important, the Hoosier Chapter took the time to work with membership to develop a five-year strategic plan for the Chapter. Although the Chapter revises its plan ever five years, many major

changes in direction were identified that will improve its outreach and member support for years to come. These activities demonstrate that the Hoosier Chapter is deserving of recognition as a truly Outstanding Chapter.

Oklahoma Chapter (Region 7)

The Oklahoma Chapter is recognized for their many accomplishments in 2010. In addition to the large number of events held and its regular business, the Chapter formed new committees to address the goals in its strategic plan. A small Chapter with big ideas best describes the Oklahoma Chapter as they carried out five training events last year. Their largest event, the “Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food” conference attracted over 200 nonmembers, representing both urban and rural areas of the state. The Chapter also sponsored events, such as the National Land Judging Contest held in Oklahoma City, the Governor’s Water Conference, the State Envirothon Contest, and the Annual No Till Conference. In 2010, steps were taken to enhance the Chapter through recruitment and diversification of membership, better utilization of electronic and social networking communication tools, and better support to next-generation conservationists at the state’s universities and colleges, while sustaining ongoing networking and educational outreach. These efforts are already paying off with four new members signed up by the end of the year! The Oklahoma Chapter is a model for others in its programs and we are pleased to present them an Outstanding Service award.

Scholarship Recipients

The Melville H. Cohee Student Leader Conservation Scholarship

The Melville H. Cohee Student Leader Conservation Scholarships provides financial assistance to members of SWCS who are in their junior or senior year of full-time undergraduate study or are pursuing graduate level studies with a natural resource conservation orientation at a properly accredited college or university.

Donald (D. J.) Graper is very active and involved in many organizations at Purdue University. He has held several leadership positions in these organizations, including treasurer and vice-president of the Purdue Student Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. He exemplifies the traits of a conservation leader envisioned for this conservation leadership award.

Kenneth E. Grant Research Scholarship

The Kenneth E. Grant Scholarship provides financial aid to members of SWCS for graduate-level research on a specific conservation topic that will extend the SWCS mission of fostering the science and the art of soil, water, and related natural resource management to achieve sustainability. SWCS actively promotes multi disciplinary research.

Bonnie Keeler has developed an aggressive research project linking economic factors and ecosystem services using a geographic information system to target biomass crop production in the Upper Mississippi River Basin. Her goal is to use multicriteria evaluation techniques to develop bioenergy suitability maps. These maps can be used by decision makers to assist them to make better informed decisions regarding biomass production.

The Soil and Water Conservation Society would like to thank the members of the following committees for their services:

Awards Committee
JSWC Editorial Board
Leadership Development Committee
Professional Development Committee