

## 2008 Norman A. Berg Awardees National Capital Chapter



*Larry Clark (left) accepts award from Bill Boyer*

### **Lawrence E. Clark Norm Berg Award**

Mr. Clark held nine positions during his tenure at SCS/NRCS, from Soil Conservationist to Deputy Chief. He began his professional career as a student trainee in Morgantown, West Virginia, and held numerous leadership positions with SCS/NRCS in Columbus, Ohio; Indianapolis, Indiana; Washington, D.C.; Portland, Oregon; Phoenix, Arizona; and Raleigh, North Carolina.

Mr. Clark has led several international resource planning teams in Africa, serving as an advisor to a range of African nations, including, The Gambia, Senegal, Ghana, Togo, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Congo, Gabon, and South Africa. He has also led similar natural resource conservation advisory work in China and Australia.

Mr. Clark holds Master Degrees in Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and in Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina. He is a graduate of North Carolina A&T State University (NCA&T) with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Economics. He is a member of organizations such as the Soil and Water Conservation Society of America, the National Association of Conservation Districts, the World Association of Soil Conservation, the National Association of Professional Black NRCS Employees, and the NCA&T-SAES Alumni Society.

Mr. Clark's distinguished career of over 40 years in Federal conservation service has left its mark across the globe but particularly here in the National Capital Chapter. He is a past president of the National Capital Chapter and has been a member of the SWCS local chapter in each state he has worked. Mr. Clark is a true visionary and believer in voluntary conservation where support starts in the field with local leadership and partnerships.

Throughout Larry's career, he was diligent in looking after the next generation of conservationists through mentoring, providing opportunities for details and other activities, as well as providing thoughtful advice.



*Tom Simpson (left) accepts award from Bill Boyer*

## **Thomas W. Simpson Norm Berg Award**

Tom's outstanding service and tremendous accomplishments have had significant contributions to the development of science and policy for advancing agricultural water quality goals, not only in the Chesapeake Bay watershed but nationally. His work with both the agricultural and environmental communities at the science-policy interface are widely recognized and

deeply appreciated by leaders in the Bay region and elsewhere. When it comes to agricultural conservation efforts, there is little that has not been affected and has not benefited from Tom's work.

For nearly a decade, Tom has served in a truly unique shared position between the University of Maryland and the Maryland Department of Agriculture, providing scientific support and coordination to the state executive branch while helping direct research and extension activities to support state needs. In this capacity, Tom developed the Maryland approach to agricultural Tributary Strategies and worked to engage the agricultural community in implementing the strategies.

Tom's leadership roles are myriad, including chairing the Nutrient Subcommittee of the regional Chesapeake Bay Program, serving as the Mid Atlantic Water Coordinator for USDA-CSREES and the ten regional land grant universities, and serving on the national USDA-land grant national Committee on Shared Leadership for Water Quality. The Mid Atlantic water Program has more than 30 scientists at ten universities working on a range of agricultural water quality issues from nutrient management and CAFO training and outreach to assistance to small and underserved farmers and rural drinking water.

Recently, Tom has served as a valuable member of the EPA Science Advisory Board's Hypoxia Advisory Panel. Tom led the development of the ethanol section of the Hypoxia Panel report, which has just been released. He also leading research and extension activities on biofuels in the Mid Atlantic region. Tom is leading the evaluation and revision of BMP efficiency estimates for the Chesapeake Bay, work that is being used nationally by NRCS, states and other watershed programs. Tom works on both the technical and programmatic aspects of nutrient credit trading in order to develop trading programs that achieve water quality objectives.

Without question, Tom's work and influence as an educator, author, speaker, and scientist have materially stimulated interest in and advanced agricultural conservation goals, in particular water quality in the Chesapeake Bay region. Throughout his career,

Tom has not only gone above and beyond in terms of effort, vision, and impact in his job, but through myriad volunteer or extra activities, especially in fostering and encouraging partnerships and innovative initiatives as well.