



2019 SWCS AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

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.

Leonard J. Lane



The Hugh Hammond Bennett award for 2019 goes to Leonard J. Lane, a scientist and engineer who has advanced conservation science by improving the representation of physical and chemical processes in simulation models and applying the improved quantification of

those processes in decision support for soil and water conservation. Lane has had a varied career, which began in 1965 with a position as a hydrologic technician for the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in Tucson, Arizona. After earning his PhD and returning to Tucson, he moved to New Mexico and worked for the Los Alamos National Laboratory where the problems associated with hydrology and sediment contaminated with radioactive waste became a research interest for the rest of his career. In 1984, Lane returned to Tucson to work for the USDA ARS until his retirement in 2002. For 10 years following his retirement, he worked as principal of L.J. Lane Consulting. Lane has made many notable contributions to science, including developing a method to estimate transmission losses (streamflow losses due to infiltration in channel bed and banks) in ephemeral stream channels and developing several procedures to route flood hydrographs in ephemeral streams. He also worked diligently to develop procedures to relate statistics for geometric correspondence of simulation model watershed topography to the resulting hydrograph goodness-of-fit-statistics for simulated runoff, cooperated in the development of advanced overland flow and upland erosion models, and led efforts to develop efficient methods of parameter estimation for coupled runoff-erosion models. Additionally, Lane helped develop time series techniques to analyze historical global change data to separate anthropogenic variations in temperature, precipitation, etc. from natural fluctuation and variability; added to the knowledge of floods and flood frequency in the southwestern United States through long-term studies; and contributed to the development or improvement of the following models: CREAMS (Chemicals, Runoff, and Erosions from Agricultural Management Systems), SPUR Basin

Scale Model, HEM (Hillside Erosion Model), and WEPP (Water Erosion Prediction Project). Lane also fostered the science of natural resource conservation for sustainability by supervising a cadre of PhD scientists in watershed hydrology and erosion prediction that have gone on to influential careers, in universities and agencies, both in the United States and abroad.

Fellow Award

The Fellow Award recognizes SWCS members who have performed exceptional service in advocating the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources. This award is given for professional excellence, first and foremost.

Linda Prokopy



Linda Prokopy, professor of Natural Resources Social Science at Purdue, has been a member of the society since 2007. She leads the Natural Resources Social Science Lab at Purdue and also directs the Indiana Water Resources Research Center. A mixed-

methods researcher, Prokopy's work to investigate farmer, stakeholder, and citizen motivations for environmentally friendly behaviors has contributed to conservation science, practice, and policy. She has published over 100 peer-reviewed journal articles as well as several book chapters, feature articles, and datasets. Her highly cited publications have advanced research in the fields of water resources planning, adoption of conservation behaviors and practices, climate change adaptation, and sustainable agriculture. Prokopy previously served on the editorial board of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* and is currently the editor-in-chief of *Society and Natural Resources*. In addition, she serves on the SWCS annual conference program planning committee and technical review team, the Field to Market Science Advisory Council, and the FFAR Advisory Council on Sustainable Water Management. For her work, she has received the 2017 Indiana Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence, the Corinne Alexander Spirit of the Land Grant Mission Awards, and several commendations for her outstanding efforts as an educator.

Susan Meadows

Susan Meadows is currently the Conservation Technical Assistance Program Specialist for Indiana Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Her previous 28



years included positions in the field as a Soil Conservationist, District Conservationist, and Technical Services Team Leader working directly with land users and decision makers as they put conservation on the land. Meadows also served four years as a RC&D Coordinator where

the unique challenges and opportunities of nonprofit management skills were honed working with volunteers and a variety of partners to meet the Council's mission. Each position Meadows has held requires a high level of coordination, along with exceptional communications and organizational skills.

Meadows has been a member of the Society for 28 years. During this time, she has been very involved in the both the Hoosier Chapter and the North Central Region. Meadows ended her term as the North Central Region Director and treasurer of the Society in 2018. As the North Central Region Director she was actively involved in the transition of the board to the current structure. Meadows has served in several Hoosier Chapter officer positions, including president. She has assisted on the Program Development Committee for five years, serving as the Professional Development Chairperson for two different terms. The committee is responsible for planning and implementing two meetings annually. Under Meadows's leadership, these meetings have been very successful and have trained hundreds of members and nonmembers. Meadows has also planned and participated in East North Central Region training sessions.

Harold and Kay Scholl Excellence in Conservation Award

The Harold and Kay Scholl Excellence in Conservation Award recognizes individuals who creatively and effectively provide technical assistance in conservation planning and plan application.

Darrell Oswald



Darrell Oswald has been providing technical assistance in conservation on cropland, rangeland, hayland, and pastureland in North Dakota for a total of 22 years starting in Morton County and then in Burleigh County as a Soil Conservation District Technician

for 18 years. As a member of the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition, he has provided support and education for producers, including a mentoring network to discuss

topics such as decision making, monitoring conservation practices, using livestock as a tool on the land, cover crops, and winter grazing opportunities. Oswald is also manager of the Burleigh County SCD Menoken Farm, a conservation demonstration farm located in central North Dakota, overseeing all activities at the farm, including management of the cropping and grazing systems, and assisting in the education and demonstration aspects of the numerous soil health workshops that take place on the farm. Being a cattle rancher himself, he can better relate to others seeking his assistance, and so they trust his recommendations. Darrell Oswald is well deserving of the Scholl Award.

Honor Award

The Honor Award recognizes individuals for outstanding accomplishments compatible with the mission of the Society.

Lena Bohm



Lena Bohm has been instrumental in organizing pollinator and farming-with-beneficial-insect trainings across North Dakota, starting with "Birds the Bees" Pollinator Conservation Workshop in 2010. The success of the first workshop led to "The Birds and the Bees Too," in 2013, in which

the attendance doubled. The courses she organizes and presents teach conservation biological control strategies that encourage getting beneficial insects back into cropping systems for natural pest control. Bohm also holds "Coffee Talks," where producers and conservation professionals can meet in coffee shops and other informal settings to talk about conservation and how to address resource concerns. Bohm's efforts to stimulate interest in natural resource conservation have demonstrated exemplary service to the mission of the Society.

Merit Award

The Merit Award recognizes 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.

Braaten Law Firm

The Braaten Law Firm, out of Bismarck, North Dakota, led by Derrick Braaten, are staunch advocates for landowners, and perform a majority of their work on behalf of farmers and ranchers. In 2018, the Braaten Law Firm discovered a permit application to construct wind farm access roads by cement-modification of soil. Suspecting that the proposal was flawed, the Braaten Law Firm hired an independent consultant to study the proposal, and submitted the results to the North Dakota Public Service Commission, opposing



the destructive provisions of the permit application. As a result of Braaten Law Firm's vigilance, at their own expense, the Public Service Commission rejected the destructive provisions. Additionally, Braaten Law routinely provides pro bono advice on legislative issues to the Northwest

Landowners' Association, promoting legislation to protect and properly reclaim soil, especially in the heavily impacted Bakken oil field. Braaten Law takes "pride in standing up for the little guy, taking the toughest cases, and proving that landowners can use the judicial system as the great leveler to take on Goliath and win." We are deeply grateful to the Braaten Law Firm for representing the interests of natural resource conservation.

Integrated Crop-Grazing Research Team



The Integrated Crop-Grazing Research Team, Douglas Landblom, and the North Dakota State University Dickinson Research Extension Center have improved sustainability and profitability by initiating

a regenerative integrated crop and beef cattle grazing project. In their semiarid region, crop and grassland productivity can be limited by environmental factors. This research is directed at promoting soil protection and water conservation within this harsh environment. They have demonstrated greater profitability for the producer's livestock enterprise as well as lowered crop production costs by reducing fertilizer applications while improving soil health, soil protection, and water utilization. The results of this work have stimulated interest from farmers, ranchers, and extension and agency personnel throughout the northern Great Plains. The team has presented these results to groups in not only North Dakota, but also South Dakota, Montana, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Wyoming, where similar production conditions exist. Thank you for sharing your research results with farmers and ranchers across your region.

Outstanding Service Award

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

Amanda Brandt

Amanda Brandt has been a member of the North Dakota Chapter since 2009. She has served her local chapter in many capacities and is currently the North Dakota Chapter president. Brandt has participated in



and promoted educational workshops not only for chapter members but also the public. Through her willingness to lead or co-lead technical meetings, she has had an impact on her fellow conservationists, farmers, and ranchers from four states as well as students from

various colleges. She works tirelessly to promote new membership both personally and through the Chapter's Facebook page, which she started and still maintains. Brandt has been an ardent promoter of the SWCS mission through her professional work as well as her dedication to the North Dakota Chapter.

Commendation Award

The Commendation Award recognizes SWCS members for service to their chapter or council of chapters.

Hanna Bates



Hanna Bates is an essential leader in the Iowa Chapter. She recognized a widespread, national demand on food banks and soup kitchens during the federal government shutdown and economic downturn. Using her exceptional leadership skills to address this need, Bates

spearheaded an effort by the Iowa Chapter to provide social events in each of the Chapter's five regions during the spring of 2019 to help respond to local food pantry needs. Bates's efforts resulted in the gathering of at least 40 people at the first three events, and over 300 pounds of food donated to local food pantries. Ultimately, this initiative resulted in the registration of at least four new Iowa SWCS individual members and forged relationships between the Chapter and five other conservation-oriented organizations, as well as five food pantries across the state. Bates is serving her first term as a chapter officer, acting as the president elect. She also serves in a Society-level capacity on the Conference Planning Committee, where she assists in reviewing presentation submissions. For these and other reasons, Hanna Bates is most deserving of the 2019 SWCS Commendation Award.

Don Knezick

Don Knezick has been a member of New Jersey Firman E. Bear SWCS Chapter for over 20 years. He has served on the Chapter's council as well as other various capacities for the New Jersey Chapter. With no expense to others, Knezick has hosted meetings and tours at his Pinelands Nursery. Knezick's Nursery is an outstanding facility



specializing in native plants and education. Each year he hosts at least one meeting where environmental specialists gather and present or learn about native plants and restoration projects nationwide. In addition, he has worked as a representative and trainer for Certified Professional

in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) certifications and testing. Knezick has been a valuable member of the SWCS Firman E. Bear Chapter for many reasons, including his facilitation of a network of environmental groups to address environmental causes locally and nationally. For these reasons and more, Don Knezick is deserving of the 2019 SWCS Commendation Award.

Tania Nanna



Tania Nanna has been a SWCS member for more than 11 years. She first joined SWCS through the Louisiana Chapter where she served as secretary and treasurer followed by joining the North Dakota Chapter serving as a chapter council representative. Nanna was the co-chair for the

2017 North Dakota SWCS Annual Meeting where the total attendance was 119 people, which included students, conservationists, farmers, and ranchers. In 2018, she chaired the North Dakota Chapter annual meeting and technical workshop in Devils Lake, North Dakota, titled "Soil Erosion: Assessing Impacts and Exploring Preventative Strategies." Professionals such as agronomists, conservation planners, North Dakota State University Extension agents, soil scientists, college professors, and students collaborated to advance their knowledge about soil erosion and preventative strategies for the future. Both North Dakota annual meetings and technical workshops align with the SWCS's mission to advance the science and art of natural resource conservation. Nanna recently moved to Kansas where she continues her service to SWCS through the Salina Chapter. Tania Nanna is most deserving of the 2019 SWCS Commendation Award.

Conservation Research Award

The Conservation Research Award recognizes SWCS members or teams of members whose research has led to exceptional improvements in soil conservation, water conservation, and/or related natural resources research.

Maysoon Mikha

Maysoon Mikha has 23 years of research experience focused on soil quality/health and soil conservation, 16



of which have been with USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS). She has become nationally and internationally recognized for her unique soil drying-rewetting technique, modified wet sieving units, and in situ nitrogen mineralization that has been used in the United States

and other countries. She has coauthored book chapters on soil quality assessment, and has become a faculty affiliate with Colorado State University and University of Nebraska where she serves on MS and PhD committees. Mikha is a leader in the American Society of Agronomy (ASA), Soil Science Society of America (SSSA), and Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS), Colorado Chapters. Recently, she was awarded an associate editor award for the *Soil Science Society of American Journal* (SSSAJ) for her hard work, diligence, and conscientious efforts in the oversight of manuscript reviews.

Chair's Leadership Award

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

New Mexico Chapter

The New Mexico Chapter was instrumental in hosting the 2018 Annual Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. From the Regional Forum and Flavor Reception through the Conservation Tours, the Chapter provided innovative ideas and unique learning opportunities that showcased the state of New Mexico and enhanced participant experiences. Their contribution to the Society and the success of the 2018 International Annual Conference is sincerely appreciated.

John Peterson



John Peterson, SWCS Fellow, served as the SWCS Washington, DC, representative, from 2012 through 2018. In this role, Peterson brought his expertise in natural resources, public policy, water resources, and erosion and sediment control as well as experience from a highly

successful career with USDA to advise SWCS leadership and members. Peterson tracked legislative issues and provided weekly updates to inform our membership of current political action. In addition he served as a link for SWCS to lawmakers and other national conservation organizations in the Washington, DC, arena. His long-



time dedication to the Society greatly improved SWCS conservation policy knowledge and advocacy efforts.

JOURNAL OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION AWARDS

Best Research Paper for Impact and Quality Award

The Best Research Paper for Impact and Quality Award recognized the impact and quality of a research paper published in the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation in the previous five years, as well as an Honorable Mention.

Best Research Paper for Impact and Quality Award

Dunn, M., J.D. Ulrich-Schad, L.S. Prokopy, R.L. Myers, C.R. Watts, and K. Scanlon. 2016. Perceptions and use of cover crops among early adopters: Findings from a national survey. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* 71(1):29-40.

Best Research Paper for Impact and Quality Honorable Mention

King, K.W., M.R. Williams, and N.R. Fausey. 2016. Effect of crop type and season on nutrient leaching to tile drainage under a corn–soybean rotation. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* 71(1):56-68.

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.

Editor's Choice Award

Olson, K.R., and L.W. Morton. 2018. Water rights and fights: Lao dams on the Mekong River. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* 73(2):35A-41A.

Editor's Choice Honorable Mention

A. Ward, A. Sharpley, K. Miller, W. Dick, J. Hoorman, J. Fulton, and G.A. LaBarge. 2018. An assessment of in-field nutrient best management practices for agricultural crop systems with subsurface drainage. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* 73(1):5A.

Associate Editor Excellence Award

The Associate Editor Excellence Award recognizes associate editors for their contributions to the success and development of the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation.

Karl Auerswald

Karl Auerswald has served as an associate editor since 2011. In addition to managing the review of an average of five papers each year, he has assisted other associate editors by providing feedback on several of



Mark Nearing



MS Srinivasan



their manuscripts. Auerswald consistently strives to return review decisions quickly so that authors receive timely feedback and the Journal meets its goal turnaround times. We are pleased to present him with the Associate Editor Excellence Award.

Mark Nearing joined the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* Editorial Board in 2012. In the last five years alone, he has handled the review of 29 papers, providing authors with timely, high quality reviews. Nearing has also served on Editorial Board committees to select research article award

winners, establish and review Journal policies, and develop a policy for the review and publication of dataset articles. His work to improve the Journal's impact and relevance is recognized with the 2019 Associate Editor Excellence Award.

MS Srinivasan has been an associate editor since 2010. In this role, he has consistently provided authors with prompt and thorough reviews, ensuring that authors are provided helpful feedback. In addition, Srinivasan has volunteered to serve in

committee capacities and has been instrumental in the evaluation and selection of top-ranked papers for the Best Research Paper for Impact and Quality Award. He is well-deserving of the Associate Editor Excellence Award.

CHAPTER AWARDS

Outstanding Chapter Award

The Outstanding Chapter Award recognizes one chapter from each region for its success in carrying out its overall program during the past year.

Arizona Chapter (Southwest Region)

The Arizona Chapter is recognized as an outstanding chapter for carrying out a successful year. The Chapter held spring and fall meetings, an urban garden tour, and science fairs. They also participated in Envirothon and participated and assisted with planning the SWCS international annual conference in New Mexico. Congratulations to the Arizona Chapter.



Michigan Chapter (North Central Region)

The Michigan Chapter has been awarded the Outstanding Chapter Award for hosting the successful event “A Matter of Balance: Managing Soil and Crop Nutrient Systems to Protect Water Quality.” The well-attended event featured speakers who were nationally recognized experts of their fields and offered CEUs. The Michigan Chapter also held a secondary event and field trip—all in addition to their policy action with Michigan House Bill 5638, “Proposed Large Quantity Water Withdrawal.” Congratulations to the Michigan Chapter.

Nebraska Chapter (Northwest Region)

The Nebraska Chapter is recognized with the Outstanding Chapter Award for their annual meeting, which included training, demonstrations, and historical reports from multiple speakers. The Nebraska Chapter also held two winter meetings, fundraised for scholarships, and supported the local student chapter. Congratulations to the Nebraska Chapter.

New Jersey Firman E. Bear Chapter (Northeast Region)

The Firman E. Bear Chapter in New Jersey is recognized as an outstanding chapter for carrying out the SWCS mission throughout the year with several professional and educational activities. The Chapter not only sponsored the New Jersey Envirothon, but also held spring and fall meetings, membership recruitment activities, and provided scholarships. Congratulations to the New Jersey Chapter.

Chapter Achievement Award

The Chapter Achievement Award recognizes chapters for significant achievements through a single activity conducted during the year.

Michigan Chapter

The Michigan Chapter has been awarded the Chapter Achievement Award for their policy action with Michigan House Bill 5638, “Proposed Large Quantity Water Withdrawal.” It is unique for a chapter to take the lead on a state policy initiative, and they called upon headquarters for support with this endeavor. Congratulations to the Michigan Chapter.

North Dakota Chapter

The North Dakota Chapter has been awarded the Chapter Achievement Award for their “Soil Erosion: Assessing Impact and Exploring Preventative Strategies” technical workshop. Congratulations to the North Dakota Chapter.

Southern New England Chapter

The Southern New England Chapter (SNEC) is recognized with the Chapter Achievement Award for SNEC's unique

Erosion and Sediment Control Educational Field Days. This event was held in addition to their annual meeting, and included public/private sector participants, and provided certification and credits. Congratulations to the Southern New England Chapter.

Colorado Chapter

The Colorado Chapter is recognized with the Chapter Achievement Award for their workshop and field tour focused on unique aspects of soil health in the western United States. The event featured interactive discussions on soil health formation, monitoring, and troubleshooting. The Chapter also engages with the farming and ranching community. In addition, SWCS staff worked with the Chapter to film a documentary that was unveiled July 26. The film was created in memory and honor of Mike Collins. Congratulations to the Colorado Chapter.

Melville H. Cohee Scholarship

The Melville H. Cohee Scholarship provides financial assistance to members of SWCS who are in their junior or senior year of fulltime undergraduate study or pursuing graduate level studies, with a natural resource conservation orientation at an accredited college or university.

Jacob Wright



Jacob Wright will be a senior this fall attending Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, majoring in agronomy. His passion for agriculture conservation was cultivated while growing up on a dairy farm in rural Virginia. His desire is to connect science to the real world, and one of the ways he is doing this is by serving as editor-in-chief of *Getting into Soil and Water*, an annual publication reaching over 3,000 people across Iowa and the nation and targeting high school teachers and community members. Wright has served as an officer, teaching assistant for soils courses, and is on the soils judging team. He is engaged in volunteer leadership positions and has provided educational presentations about natural resources issues and solutions for community outreach events, Boy Scouts, and FFA groups as well as local schools. His commitment to the environment has strengthened, and he is inspired to seek a career where he can make an impact in the environment.