

SUMMARY OF NATIONAL SOCIETY AWARDS

Essential Information

The awards program of the Soil and Water Conservation Society is designed to recognize individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions in advocating the conservation of soil, water and related natural resources. Award recipients are announced at the Society's annual meeting, unless otherwise indicated.

A formal nomination questionnaire **must be** filled out for the appropriate award category and may be accompanied by supporting information.

There is a specific nomination questionnaire for each award category. Additional information may be obtained from the Society's headquarters office or the state awards committee for the exact procedures that **must be** followed in order to nominate someone for an award.

Society Member Awards

Fellow

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 for professional excellence, first and foremost. Professional achievement may be in practicing, investigating, administering, or teaching soil and water conservation or closely related fields.

The criteria for selection of a Fellow is as follows:

1. Only Society members with at least 10 years of membership are eligible.
2. Board members and officers of the Society are not eligible during their term of office.
3. Nominees should be widely recognized outside the Society and their state or province for their expertise as professional conservationists.
4. Nominees shall have made contributions to the progress of the Society beyond the Chapter level.
5. Contributions may have been through volunteer service, writing, teaching, fundraising, etc.
6. The degree of Fellow **will not** be awarded to recognize long and faithful service to a chapter or to the international Society in the absence of **significant** professional achievement.

The nomination procedure shall be by petition signed by a minimum of 25 members of the Society (need not be members of the same Society chapter). Supporting material should include documentation of the individual's professional achievements in a narrative form, including significant publications, significant papers presented at professional meetings, etc. Please contact your state awards committee for all the details.

The Society Awards Committee will evaluate and rank nominees. Recommendations will be presented to the Board of Directors for final approval. No more than one-tenth of one percent of the Society's membership will be honored each year.

Conservation Research Award

The SWCS Board recently approved a new award to honor Society members who achieve excellence in conservation research. Recipients of the Conservation Research Award will receive a plaque and will be honored by their peers at an awards luncheon at the annual conference.

If you know of a member who is achieving excellence in conservation research, please nominate them according to the nomination procedure described below.

Conservation Research Award

The Conservation Research Award is conferred on SWCS Society members or teams of 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 first and foremost. The award may be given for research excellence or results of the research that have led to significant conservation improvements.

Criteria:

- Those eligible must be Society members for three continuous years at the time the award is given.
- Board Members, Officers of the Society, and Award Committee Members shall not be eligible for the award during their terms of office.
- Nominees should be widely recognized outside the Society and their state or province for their research excellence in conservation.
- The Conservation Research Award will not be awarded to recognize longevity of research career

Nomination Procedure:

- Nominations shall be made by submitting information requested in the research application form. Nominations may be made by any society member who has at least three years of continuous membership at the time of the nomination.
- Award nominations may be submitted by email to: sueann.lynes@swcs.org. You may also submit Award nominations by U.S. Postal Service (1 copy only) to: SWCS-Awards, SW Ankeny Rd., Ankeny, IA 50023. All nominations must be received by December 12. Both forms of submission will receive a confirmation of receipt. Late nominations will not be considered.

The supporting material should include:

- Documentation of an individual's or team's professional research achievements in narrative form, including significant publications or products using significant research papers, presentations at professional meetings, and other information, detailing the specific contributions
- Length and continuity of Society membership
- Related Awards received from the Society or other organizations

Selection:

- The Awards Committee will evaluate and rank nominations. Recommendations will be presented to the Board of Directors for final approval.
- No more than 4 awards will be presented per year.

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. Accomplishments of the nominees should not be of a scope or significance warranting the degree of Fellow, but should be greater than those required for the Commendation Award.

The criteria for selection for the Outstanding Service Award is as follows:

1. Any Society member may be nominated. A five-year period must elapse before members who have received the Fellow Award are eligible for the Outstanding Service Award.
2. Officers at the national and chapter levels, Board members, and Society staff members are eligible during their terms of office.
3. The nominee must have performed distinguished service to the Society on a sustained basis – for at least 10 years. This service may have been performed at the chapter, regional, or international level, or any combination thereof.
4. The nominee's service should include activities that help the Society to achieve its goals and objectives.
5. The award **will not** be given merely to recognize long membership in the Society or to honor a member's retirement.

The nomination procedure shall be by petition, signed by at least 25 Society members. Individuals signing the petition may be, but need not be members of the same chapter. Supporting materials should include such items as length and continuity of membership; time span during which the service was accomplished; and offices, committee, and other positions held at the chapter and international levels plus many other items. Please contact the state awards committee for more detail.

The national Awards Committee will evaluate and rank all nominations. Recommendations will be presented to the Board of Directors for final approval. No more than one-tenth of one percent of the Society's membership will be honored each year.

Commendation Award

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

The selection criteria includes the following:

1. All society members are eligible except members who have received the Fellow Award within the past five years.
2. The activity for which the individual is recognized should be in line with the Society's objectives, growth, and activities.
3. The nominee shall have served as a committee member, chapter officer, or in another capacity and shall have been instrumental, in an exceptional way, in the development or implementation of a chapter.
4. The activity should have required exceptional time and/or effort.
5. The activity shall have been accomplished recently; does not have to be a long, sustained project; and
6. may have been done over a period of less than a year.
7. There is no limit to the number of times an individual may be given the Commendation Award or on the time span between Commendations.

Each Society chapter or council of chapters, each parent Society officer, and each Society board member may nominate no more than one member each year. Supporting materials should detail the specific

accomplishments the nominee has made to the chapter or council of chapters.

Regional members of the Awards Committee will recommend approval or disapproval of all nominations in their respective regions. Recommendations will be presented to the Board of Directors for final approval.

SOCIETY MEMBERS AND NONMEMBER AWARDS

Hugh Hammond Bennett Award

The Hugh Hammond Bennett Award is the highest honor bestowed on an individual by the Society. It is given for distinguished service in recognition of national and international accomplishments in the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources.

The selection criteria includes the following:

1. The award may be given to Society members or nonmembers.
2. No elected officer of the Society or Board member shall be eligible for the award while holding office.
3. The service and accomplishments of the nominee shall have made major and widely recognized contributions to the conservation of natural resources on national **and** international levels. These accomplishments shall be consistent with the goals and objectives of the Society.

Nominations may be made by Society officers, Society Board members, Society chapters, or individual Society members. The supporting material should clearly document the national and international scope of the nominee's accomplishments, including such items as professional achievements in resource conservation, publications, and papers written or delivered at professional meetings. Service to the Society either as a member or nonmember and service to other professional or conservation organizations can also be included.

The Society's Board of Directors reviews all nominations and selects the recipient. The award will be presented at the annual meeting or elsewhere as designated by the Board. The award shall be given to no more than one individual annually. No award shall be made if a suitable candidate is not nominated or if the Society's Board of Directors decides there are significant reasons for not conferring the award.

Honor Award

The Honor Award recognizes people, usually nonmembers of the Society, for outstanding accomplishments compatible with the mission of the Society.

The selection criteria includes the following:

1. Nominees can be either Society members or nonmembers.
2. Nominee's outstanding accomplishments must be widely recognized by leaders in soil and water conservation or related fields.
3. The nominee's influence or position should have materially stimulated interest in and advanced the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources through one or more of the following fields: author, speaker, educator, administrator, industry, business, banking, soil conservation district, profession (lawyer, doctor, minister, etc.), or nonpartisan activity.
4. The nominee's activity shall have been of a voluntary nature and not part of his or her normal working duties.
5. The nominee's political activities can in no way be construed to reflect a partisan attitude on the part

of the Society.

The nomination may be made by Society chapters only. An award nomination questionnaire should be filled out and supporting materials included. These should include details on the extent and scope of the nominee's contributions, any assistance the nominee has given the international Society or chapter, how the nominee's professional role relates to his or her conservation activities, and any other pertinent data.

The national Awards Committee will evaluate and rank all nominations. Recommendations will be presented to the Board of Directors for final approval. No more than 10 Honor Awards will be presented annually.

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.

The criteria for the award includes the following:

1. Activities of corporate sustaining members of the Society are eligible.
2. Society chapter activities are not eligible in this category.
3. Eligible organizations include press, radio, movies, television, industries, corporations, churches, societies, foundations, civic clubs, scout groups, and other organizations, public or private, that have carried out a noteworthy conservation activity.
4. The activity or effort shall be in line with the Society's mission.
5. The activity should be the result of an organized program and may include the activity of an agency of government.
6. The activity shall have an effect over a large area, at least a large part of a state or province, or parts of several states or provinces.
7. The principal effect of the activity should have been directed to other than professional conservationists.
8. The activity should have clearly contributed to bringing about better conservation of soil, water, and
9. related natural resources and/or better understanding of natural resource conservation issues.
10. The selection of the organization should not bring discredit to similar or competing organizations.

Nominations may be submitted by chapters and appropriate chapter committees, any three Society members, Society officers, Society Board members, or Society committee and task force chairs. Eligible groups may submit their own nominations. Supporting materials should include details on the geographical extent and scope of the nominee's contribution, the audience to which the contribution was targeted, and details on how the nominee's contribution improved the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources and/or improved the understanding of natural resource conservation issues.

Nominations will be judged by the Awards Committee. Recommendations will be forwarded to the Board of Directors for final approval. There is no limit on the number of awards presented annually.

Harold-Kay Scholl Excellence in Conservation Award

The Harold and Kay Scholl Excellence in Conservation Award recognizes and provides a yearly cash award to individuals who creatively and effectively provide technical assistance in conservation planning and plan application. Up to three (3) awards will be presented annually with cash awards ranging from \$800 to \$1200. The number and value of awards will depend on the annual income from the Scholl fund.

*Award nominations may be submitted by email to: sueann.lynes@swcs.org. You may also submit Award nominations by US Postal Service (1 copy only) to: SWCS-Awards, 945 SW Ankeny Road, Ankeny, Iowa 50023. All nominations must be received by **December 12**. Both forms of submission will receive a confirmation of receipt. Late nominations will not be*

considered.

Criteria

- Nominee must be engaged or have been engaged previously in employment for which the principle responsibility is personally providing direct technical assistance to landowners, communities, or units of government.
- The award may be given to Society members or nonmembers.
- No elected officer of the Society or Board member shall be eligible for the award while holding office.
- No immediate SWCS employee and immediate family members of the selection committee shall be eligible for the award.
- Recipients of other SWCS awards and/or scholarships are eligible for this award.

Specific Criteria for consideration of award nominees:

1. Demonstrated effectiveness and creativity in conservation planning and technical assistance.
2. Demonstrated dedication to serving landowners, communities and units of government through direct and personal delivery of conservation assistance.
3. Length of work
4. Results of work or assistance – provide before and after results
 - Changes in soil quality
 - Changes in water quality
 - Changes in land use conversions to non agricultural uses
 - Changes in wildlife populations
 - Changes in esthetic values
 - Changes in community economics as a result of service
 - Other
5. Community attitude changes
6. Results achieved through voluntary efforts of land users versus regulations
7. Impact on co-workers as a result of teaching, training others, while providing services

Nomination Procedures

Nominations will be accepted from individuals, governmental and non-governmental organizations and agencies and other appropriate sources. Nominations must be submitted to the local SWCS Chapter for review. Each Chapter may submit up to two nominations to the SWCS Awards Committee annually.

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Selection

Selection shall be made on the basis of demonstrated leadership, creativity, and dedication in delivering technical assistance to landowners, communities or units of government at the local level that results in conservation of natural resources being applied to private lands or communities.