

Members and Friends of the Indiana Water Resources Association,

The Indiana Water Resources Association (IWRA) is pleased to announce the following award winners that were recognized during the 31st Annual Water-Resources Symposium held at Purdue University on May 26-28, 2010:

#### Charles H. Bechert Award

Dr. James Gammon, Professor Emeritus, DePauw University; for his lifetime of work studying the fish communities of the Wabash River.

#### Outstanding Achievement Awards

Public Sector: Rodney Renkenberger, Executive Director, Maumee River Basin Commission; for his leadership in floodplain and stormwater management.

Private Sector: The Nature Conservancy; for the development and implementation of 2-Stage Ditching in Indiana, a technique used to reduce nitrogen transport.

Academic Sector: Dr. Bill Jones, Professor, Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs; for his coordination of Indiana's Clean Lakes Program and leadership in lake management.

The IWRA congratulates these deserving award winners and is proud to honor their achievements. The following are the nominations and past recipients of each award:

#### Charles H. Bechert Award

Dr. James R. Gammon: Dr. Gammon received his BS Degree in Biology from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in 1956, his MS from UW-Madison in 1957, and his Ph.D in Zoology from UW-Madison in 1961. Dr. Gammon has been affiliated with DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana since 1961 (Assistant Professor of Zoology 1961-1965; Associate Professor of Zoology 1965-1972; Professor of Zoology 1972-1991; Dept. of Biological Science Chair 1988-1992; Professor Emeritus 1992-Present). In addition to his teaching duties as a Professor of Zoology at the University he has performed numerous

studies for State and Federal governments, as well as private organizations, with regard to the aquatic biology and ecology of Indiana's rivers and streams. Dr. Gammon has authored more than 60 publications involving the state of various aquatic ecosystems. One of the most impressive results of Dr. Gammon's research activities was the creation of the first multimetric index to score fish assemblage quality. His index of well-being (Iwb) was the precursor to the Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) multimetric index that currently is used throughout the world in ecosystem assessment.

Dr. Gammon's 1998 textbook "The Wabash River Ecosystem" summarizes 30 years of sampling from the Wabash River. The following quote from the text provides a glimpse into his humanistic interest in studying the river and its ecosystem: "Rivers, together with mountains, lakes, and oceans, are among the few natural features which bestow a permanence to an otherwise transitory world. There is something satisfying in the thought that a familiar nearby river once floated a birch-bark canoe and will continue to be a source of enjoyment to our children and grandchildren."

Dr. James R. Gammon has been involved in many local organizations including the Friends of Sugar Creek, the Friends of the White River and The Nature Conservancy. He also was active in numerous professional organizations including the Indiana Academy of Science (President, 1996), the Natural Areas Association, American Fisheries Society, the Society for Environmental Toxicology and Contamination and the American Society for Limnology and Oceanography.

Dr. Gammon retired from DePauw University in 1993 and currently has emeritus faculty status. Although retired, he continues to serve on the White River Citizen Advisory Council and regularly attends local conferences.

#### Outstanding Achievement Awards

Rodney Renkenberger (Public Sector): Rod Renkenberger brings many years of knowledge and experience in pro-active floodplain management to his position as Executive Director of the Maumee River Basin Commission and to his involvement in the Indiana Association of Floodplain and Stomwater Management (INAFSM), Indiana Water Monitoring Council (InWMC), and Indiana Silver Jackets Multiagency Hazard Mitigation Taskforce. His achievements include:

Through his leadership as Executive Director, the Maumee River Basin Commission is recognized throughout Indiana for excellence in floodplain management through progressive and pro-active activities such as development of an award winning Web-based Flood Mitigation Master Plan.

Election to Chair of the Board of Directors of INAFSM. In this position, Rod is leading the largest State organization devoted to floodplain and stormwater management. Under his leadership, INAFSM provides critical resources including workshops, floodplain and stormwater management classes and test administration for National certifications in those fields, and education/outreach for floodplain and stormwater professionals, State and local government officials, and the public.

Representation of regional government through his position on the InWMC Board of Directors. He is assisting the InWMC providing a forum for communication among groups that are monitoring, sharing monitoring information including data, and developing effective procedures and protocols for sample collection.

As an Indiana Silver Jackets member, he has been active in a number of activities including having a pivotal role in a Silver Jackets task team established to identify flood hazard issues in the North Branch of the Elkhart River drainage basin.

Rod is recognized throughout Indiana as a passionate and energetic advocate of sound water resources management. His efforts are leading the way in improving the resilience of IN communities to flood hazards and in moving forward on an integrated approach to floodplain and stormwater management to improve the resource for all citizens.

The Nature Conservancy (Private Sector): The Nature Conservancy's work in Indiana leads the Midwest regarding the development and implementation of 2-Stage Ditching, a technique to reduce nitrogen transport downstream. Researchers have developed a drainage design by observing the natural processes of stable streams and rivers that could relieve the erosion, scouring and flooding that conventional ditches may cause. This design, known as the 2-Stage Ditch, is a drainage channel that will benefit both agriculture and the environment. The concept of the 2-Stage Ditch is simple. The design incorporates a floodplain zone, called benches, into the ditch by removing the ditch banks roughly 2-3 feet about the bottom for a width of about 10 feet on each side. This allows the water to have more area to spread out and decreases the velocity-or energy- of the water. The flow of that water is a function of the velocity and area of the water. Since flow can be considered as the amount of water moving through the ditch, the design has actually increased the amount of water that the ditch can

process by constructing the benches, or floodplain area. This not only improves water quality, but also improves the biological conditions of the ditches where they are located.

Dr. Bill Jones (Academic Sector): Dr. Jones has spent years at the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs teaching future environmental managers and scientists the complexities of lentic and lotic ecosystems. Since 1989, Bill has coordinated the Indiana Clean Lakes program in conjunction with the Indiana Dept. of Environmental Management. The water quality data from the Clean Lakes Program has been instrumental in the development of nutrient criteria for Indiana's lakes and reservoirs. Bill is also past president of the North American and Indiana Lakes Management Societies (NALMS, ILMS) and continues to be a guiding force in lakes management. As editor of the "Water Column", Bill provides interesting and timely information to the public on lake management issues.

#### Past Award Recipients:

##### Charles H. Bechert Award:

1981 Oral Hert

1982 Dan Weirsmas

1984 Bill Andrews

1986 Bill Steen

1990 Dennis Stewart

1992 Jacques Delleur

1996 Jim Barnett

1998 John Simpson

2002 Tom Bruns

2004 Mark Reshkin

2006 Charlie Crawford

2007 Judith Beaty

2008 Jim Stewart

2009 Dennis Clark

Outstanding Achievement Awards:

Public Sector:

2009 Dave Knipe

Private Sector:

2009 Siavash Beik

Academic Sector:

2009 Lenore Tedesco

Thanks to all who submitted nominations and congratulations to the 2010 recipients.

Sincerely,

Mark Basch

IWRA Awards Committee