

Members and Friends of the Indiana Water Resources Association,

The Indiana Water Resources Association (IWRA) is pleased to announce the following 2017 award winners that were recognized during the 38th Annual Water-Resources Symposium held at the Turkey Run Inn at Turkey Run State Park on June 28 - 30, 2017:

William G. Wilber – John S. Zogorski Leadership Award

Jeffrey Martin; USGS, Indiana-Kentucky Water Science Center – 2017 IWRA President

Dedicated Service Awards

Kathleen Fowler; USGS, Indiana-Kentucky Water Science Center – For her dedicated service as IWRA Treasurer from 1993 – 2016.

Mark Hopkins; USGS, Indiana-Kentucky Water Science Center (retired) – For his dedicated service as IWRA Webmaster from 2004 – 2016.

Student Poster Presentation Awards

Top 5 (of 20 total) Award Winners - 1) Adam Alford; 2) Jingqui Chen & Garrett Pignotti (tie); 4) Meng-Yang Lin & Maria Laura Ortiz de Zarate (tie)

Charles H. Bechert Award

Dr. William G. Wilber (retired); United States Geological Survey – for his creation and leadership of the USGS National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program.

Outstanding Achievement Awards

*Academic Sector* – Bob Barr; IUPUI Department of Earth Sciences, Center for Earth and Environmental Sciences – For conducting and facilitating research, and providing educational and outreach opportunities for the School Branch Watershed Project.

*Private Sector* – Mike Starkey and Jack Maloney; Owners of Starkey Farms and Little Ireland Farms, respectively – For their implementation of farm management programs to enhance the quality of run-off water, reduce flooding, and increase drought resiliency on their farms in the School Branch Watershed.

*Public Sector* – Shannon Zezula; State Resource Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service – for his effective outreach and educational efforts regarding soil health in Indiana and his leadership role with the School Branch Watershed Project

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

Charles H. Bechert Award

**William G. Wilber:** Bill Wilber devoted the majority of his 37-year career with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to creating and leading the USGS National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program. The NAWQA Program is the largest and most ambitious water-quality program ever undertaken by USGS, with the goals to assess water quality conditions in the Nation's streams and aquifers, evaluate how water quality is changing over time, determine how natural factors and human activities affect status and trends, and forecast future water-quality conditions. Although creation and oversight of NAWQA over the years was a team effort, it was Bill's tireless leadership, first as a leader of the pilot phase of NAWQA beginning in 1986, then as National Synthesis Chief, and finally as NAWQA Program Coordinator, that made NAWQA the highly respected program it is today.

Throughout his career Bill insisted on the highest data-quality standards for NAWQA and had the program conduct rigorous lab- and field-based QC studies to document the quality of NAWQA data. Bill also made sure that NAWQA was not just a "monitoring program;" instead he advocated that water-quality data, models, and interpretative studies be integrated with national-scale geographic data on natural and human factors that affect water quality (such as climate, pesticide use, and land use) to better understand how, why, where, and when water-quality conditions vary across the country. This approach was used to construct water-quality models that can extrapolate concentrations of selected water-quality parameters to unmonitored areas across the conterminous US, evaluate sources of contaminants, and

determine the quantity and timing of contaminant delivery to important receptors such as estuaries or public supply wells. Getting NAWQA water-quality findings out to those who needed it, in a wide variety of formats, technical levels, and venues was something Bill promoted and oversaw.

Bill started his USGS career in 1978 at the Indiana District office as a hydrologist developing dissolved oxygen models for a wide range of streams in Indiana and leading studies of the hydrologic impacts of surface coal mining on the quality and quantity of water resources in southwestern Indiana. In 1980, Bill established the Indiana Water Resources Association (IWRA) as a state affiliate of the American Water Resources Association. Bill served as the first president of IWRA in 1980 and 1981. In 1981, Bill led IWRA's efforts to establish the Charles Harold Bechert Award for lifetime achievement in Water Resources and presented the first Bechert award to Oral Hert, retired Executive Secretary of the Indiana Stream Pollution Control Board. In 1982 Bill transferred to USGS headquarters in Reston Virginia where he began many years of advocating, planning, and leading the USGS NAWQA Program. In 2002, IWRA established the William G. Wilber/John S. Zogorski Leadership Award to acknowledge the significant contributions to IWRA made by the Presidents of IWRA. The Leadership Award was presented to Bill and to most of the past Presidents of IWRA at the 23rd IWRA Symposium at Pokagon State Park. Bill retired from the USGS on December 31, 2015.

In summary, without Bill there would be no IWRA. Thank you Dr. William G. Wilber.

#### Outstanding Achievement Awards

**Bob Barr** (*Academic Sector*): Bob Barr, a research scientist with the IUPUI Department of Earth Sciences, Center for Earth and Environmental Sciences (CEES) is a tireless advocate of conservation in many forms, and seemingly everywhere doing everything. Bob has been an instrumental participant in the School Branch watershed partnership not only conducting research, but facilitating the research of other participants, giving talks and demonstrations to educate others, and being a valued resource and friend to the agricultural community in the watershed (and elsewhere). CEES has commenced sampling a tile drain and overland flow site from two fields on the Mike Starkey farm that will be adjusted for application rates of fertilizer, cover crops, and other BMPs. CEES continues to monitor output from above and below a bioreactor located on one of Mike Starkey's fields that effectively denitrifies nitrogen, removing it from the stream. Bob has facilitated the installation of water-balance sites for the Indiana Geological Survey, Center for Geospatial Data Analysis. He comes at all projects, whether in the watershed, the Yellow River, the Silver Jackets, or low-head dams throughout the state seeking to understand how geomorphology, sedimentology, and landscape evolution can be used in support of maintaining healthy stream systems and solving real-world water-resources problems.

**Mike Starkey & Jack Maloney** (*Private Sector*): There is no question that the School Branch Watershed partnership wouldn't be in existence, much less a success, without the participation of Mike Starkey and Jack Maloney. Separately, they farm large portions of the land in the watershed with a conservation approach, and they both have long lists of leadership examples and accomplishments in not only employing conservation practices to enhance soil health, but educate others about best practices. Mike Starkey (and his nephew, Jeff) is owner of M&J Starkey Farms. His farm has been managed as no-till for over 15 years and has used cover crops for over 10 years. These practices have made the land resilient to flooding and drought and ensures that runoff leaving the land is clean. Jack (and his wife, Rita) is owner of Little Ireland Farms. They have been no-till since 1990 and also utilize cover cropping. Both Mike and Jack have enthusiastically welcomed field instrumentation on their property, from edge-of-field monitoring, bioreactors, stream gages, monitoring wells, soil moisture probes, and weather stations. They are patient and generous with site access, and their knowledge base often exceeds that of the academics running around their property. They can always immediately and intuitively interpret data collected regarding water and nutrient fluxes, and ask the next big questions that need to be studied. The leadership of Mike and Jack is appreciated by the School Branch Watershed partnership, the entire Indiana water resources community, and especially those that drink the water from Eagle Creek Reservoir.

**Shannon Zezula** (*Public Sector*): Shannon Zezula of the Natural Resources Conservation Service has been a positive voice of the School Branch project, volunteering to speak and give demonstrations

regarding soil health in national as well as state and local forums. He is comfortable being a vocal proponent of data-guided land-management practices, and is a consummate reasoned professional who can confidently educate audiences of any background using solid (and sometimes complex) scientific principles conveyed in understandable language. Anyone leaving one of his presentations or field demonstrations has an intuitive understanding of the relationship of soil to hydrology, resilience to stresses, sediment and nutrient runoff, and crop management and productivity. He is well versed in the pertinent literature, which is effectively combined with his understanding of the historical and geographical differences in land management practices. He knows the background behind questions that are asked, and he can put them in context, bringing forward new information that should be considered. Shannon has also taken a leadership role in “herding the cats” of the School Branch partnership. He brings people together to share updates, data, and approaches. No partnership can be sustained for the long term without someone stepping up, and that person has been Shannon. The nominator has learned much from Shannon and seeks to emulate his effectiveness.

**Past Award Recipients:**

Charles H. Bechert Award:

1981 Oral Hert  
1982 Dan Weirisma  
1984 Bill Andrews  
1986 Bill Steen  
1990 Dennis Stewart  
1992 Jacque 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  
2010 Jim Gammon  
2011 John Craddock  
2012 Dick Powell, Noel Krothe  
2013 Henk Haitjema  
2014 Les Arihood  
2015 Greg Olyphant  
2016 Manuela Johnson

Outstanding Achievement Awards:

*Academic Sector:*

2009 Lenore Tedesco  
2010 Bill Jones  
2011 Ron Turco  
2012 Alan Johnson  
2013 Sara Pryor  
2014 Jane Frankenberger  
2015 Manchester University Environmental Studies  
2016 IUPUI Dept. of Journalism and Public Relations

*Private Sector:*

2009 Siavash Beik  
2010 The Nature Conservancy  
2011 Jill Hoffmann & Lyn Crighton  
2012 Robert Armstrong  
2013 Jack Wittman  
2014 Sara Peel

2015 Acres Land Trust  
2016 Todd Feenstra

*Public Sector:*

2009 Dave Knipe  
2010 Rod Renkenberger  
2011 IDNR, Division of Water  
2012 Johnson Co. WHP/LPT  
2013 Sally Letsinger  
2014 Bill Guertal  
2015 Jane Hardisty  
2016 James Sullivan

Thanks to all who submitted nominations and congratulations to the 2017 recipients.

Sincerely,

Mark Basch  
IWRA Awards Committee