



Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA). An SWCS member for 20+ years, he has served as a North Dakota SWCS Council representative, has given multiple presentations, moderated sessions at SWCS technical workshops, and has volunteered time to assist organizers of SWCS-sponsored workshops. Throughout his career, Liebig has sought to make his research efforts transferable to agricultural clientele, as shown through his research in developing and testing user-friendly approaches to assess soil properties, his contributions to develop decision-aids for designing more sustainable agroecosystems, and his work with national and international organizations to develop climate change mitigation strategies for agricultural producers. For his dedication to natural resource management, Mark Liebig is an outstanding selection for Fellow.



**DeAnn Presley**

DeAnn Presley is a professor in the Kansas State University Department of Agronomy. She is nationally and internationally known as an authority on soil and water conservation and management, having been an internationally invited speaker. Her integrated extension and

research program is based on applied field research on subjects including cover crops, soil health, wind erosion, and soil physical properties as a function of crop residue management strategies of Mollisols in Kansas. Her service to SWCS has included active membership since 1999, as well as chair or member of the SWCS Annual Conference Planning Committee since 2012, and regular reviewer of the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation. Presley is a dedicated educator, advisor, and mentor for numerous graduate and undergraduate students, and she has been honored for her excellence in teaching. Her extension work includes approximately 500 presentations to over 22,000 adults and 5,000 youth. DeAnn Presley truly exhibits the superior qualities that warrant her selection as a Fellow of SWCS.

**Conservation Innovation Award**

*In recognition of an outstanding activity, product, or service by a group, business, firm, corporation, or organization that promotes natural resource conservation.*



**Conservation Agriculture Systems Innovation Center**

The California's Conservation

Agriculture Systems Innovation (CASI) Center is being recognized for its long and commendable service fostering the science and art of natural resource conservation. CASI has had a remarkable impact on addressing important resource conservation challenges by using scientific principles and practices associated with reduced disturbance agricultural production systems that have had immense benefits in other regions, but that have been largely unexplored in California prior to its formation in 1998. Its work first investigated long-term impacts of reduced tillage and cover cropping on soil function, water and carbon cycling, and economics in a unique 22-year study on several farms in the San Joaquin Valley. New production paradigms for crops in a region that historically has relied on intensive disturbance during the past century were developed. As a result, less dust, positive changes in soil structure, porosity and hydraulic properties, and soil biological attributes was documented. More recently, CASI's work has been quantification of water use by winter cover crops; this effort may help inform and shape policy to implement the State's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in several San Joaquin Valley counties. While focused largely on California, CASI has shared their work widely through invited presentations, videos, and web blogs. Because of their efforts in soil and water conservation, they are highly deserving of the 2022 Conservation Innovation Award.



**Navigation-Ecosystem Sustainability Program**

Waterways Council, Inc. is being recognized for the 2022 Conservation Innovation Award for the successful implementation of the Navigation-Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) for the Upper

Mississippi River System (UMRS). Authorized in 2007, NESP is an innovative, transformative approach to address multiple challenges facing the UMRS. It is the only river system designated by Congress as a “nationally significant ecosystem and a nationally significant commercial navigation system.” NESP projects are focused on restoring, protecting, and enhancing riverine and riparian habitats through ecosystem restoration measures designed to ensure the sustainability of home to 25% of North America’s fish species and a globally important flyway to 40% of North America’s migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. The program, managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers, requires multiple federal and state agencies, along with nongovernment organizations, to collaboratively prioritize and shape the future of the UMRS. Paul Rohde deserves special recognition for his role in finding solutions that a diverse coalition can support. Through the NESP, there’s a spotlight on America’s greatest river and education for the public on the need for its restoration through workable solutions that benefit all citizens of its watershed, regardless of income, ethnicity, or other status. The efforts of Waterways Council, Inc. are most deserving of the 2022 Conservation Innovation Award.

### Harold and Kay Scholl Excellence in Conservation Award

*In recognition of individuals who work on the ground to provide direct and personal delivery or conservation planning and technical assistance.*



#### David Bedlan

The Harold and Kay Scholl Excellence Award goes to David Bedlan. Bedlan has been involved in multiple projects that advance community

involvement in natural resource management and agricultural land conservation. In 2011, he helped to convert 98 acres of farmland into a riverine wetland, which in turn protected the City of Fairbury’s drinking water wells and benefited local flora and fauna. He was also involved in improving erosion problems in the McNish City Park through the design of a grade stabilization project and the installation of 410 block chutes and a flexible mat

liner. Because of this project, soil erosion was reduced greatly and the overall aesthetics of the park were enhanced. Bedlan has a commitment to working with community members and land owners to preserve natural resources, reduce erosion, and promote the conservation initiatives championed by SWCS.

### Conservation Professional of the Year Award

*In recognition of outstanding accomplishments in practicing and advancing the science and art of natural resource conservation.*



#### Steve Tucker

Steve Tucker is not “just a farmer.” He is a regenerative agricultural production specialist. He switched from conventional farming to no-till farming in 1994. In

2010 he added the use of cover crops, and in 2015 he added livestock. In 2016, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) named him Soil Health Champion. This year he was invited to present at the Orlando NACD conference. His presentation was titled “Extreme Weather Events and Climate Change: How NACD and Local Landowners Are Making an Impact.” Tucker has been on the speaker’s list many times for NRCS’s Farming Evolution over the past seven years, an event that reaches 150 to 200 farmers each year from all over the country and Canada.

### Society Service Award

*In recognition of Society members for service to their chapter or to the Society.*



#### Arlene Brandt-Jensen

Arlene Brandt-Jensen is recognized for her service to the Society as a leader and for her service to her chapter. With the South Dakota Chapter membership in decline, Brandt-Jensen saw a challenge and decided to do something about it.

While serving as chapter president and on a special chapter committee that revised and updated chapter