

MICHIGAN CHAPTER
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY
CHAPTER AWARDS PROGRAM

The Michigan Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society has an Awards Program to recognize contributions to the science and art of soil, water and related resource management. We have many unsung heroes in the soil and water conservation field, and taking time to recognize them is important.

The Michigan Chapter Awards Committee is accepting nominations for our annual awards. The nomination process isn't complicated, just tell us who you are nominating and why you think they deserve to be recognized. The award categories are:

Outstanding Service: The Outstanding Service Award is given to a **Michigan Chapter SWCS member** in recognition of distinguished service in helping the Michigan Chapter and the Society to develop and carry out its program over a long and sustained period of time (10 years minimum). Accomplishments of the nominee should be greater than those required for the Commendation Award. (May also be eligible for the Society's Outstanding Service Award.)

Criteria:

- Any **Michigan Chapter member** may be nominated.
- Chapter and Society Officers are eligible during their terms of office.
- The nominee must have performed distinguished service to the Chapter and 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.
- The nominee's service should include activities that help the Chapter and Society to achieve its goals and objectives.
- The award will not be given merely to recognize long membership in the Society or to honor a member's retirement.

Commendation: The Commendation Award gives recognition to a **Michigan Chapter SWCS member** who has made exceptional contributions to the Michigan Chapter. (May also be eligible for the Society's Commendation Award.)

Criteria:

- All **Michigan Chapter SWCS** members are eligible for consideration.
- The activity for which the individual is recognized should be in line with the Society's objectives, growth, and activities.
- The nominee shall have served as a committee member, or as a chapter officer, or in another capacity, and shall have been instrumental, in an exceptional way, in the development or implementation of a chapter.
- The activity should have required exceptional time or effort.
- The nominee's activity shall have been accomplished recently; does not necessarily have to be a long sustained project; and may have been done over a period of less than a year.

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Honor: The Honor Award recognizes people, usually nonmembers of the Society or lay members of the Society, for outstanding accomplishments compatible with the mission of the Society. Need not be a member of the Michigan Chapter or the Society. (May also be eligible for the Society's Honor Award.)

Criteria:

- A nominee's outstanding accomplishments must be widely recognized by leaders in soil and water conservation and/or related fields.
- 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.), and nonpartisan political activity.
- The nominee's activity shall have been of a voluntary nature and not part of his or her normal working duties.

Merit: 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. Need not be a member of the Michigan Chapter or the Society. (May also be eligible for the Society's Merit Award.)

Criteria:

- 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.
- The activity should be the result of an organized program and may include the activity of an agency of government.
- The principal effect of the activity should have been directed to other than professional conservationists.
- The activity should have clearly contributed to bringing about better conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources and/or better understanding of natural resource conservation issues.

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Conservationist of the Year: The Conservationist of the Year Award is given for outstanding effort and achievement in any field of natural resource management, or for significant contribution to the cause of conservation. The nominee must have undertaken conservation efforts over a number of years that have shown long term benefits for the natural environment and society.

Criteria:

- The nominee should be a conservationist, professional or volunteer, whose contribution to an environmental field has been sustained over a period of several years;
- The nominee should be a person whose contribution to conservation is of such significance as to be known statewide, or nationally;
- The nominee should be a conservationist whose contributions are not necessarily related to a single issue or effort, but who has, over a period of time become known as a person whose activities and influence bring about positive changes in matters affecting the environment;
- The nominee should be a conservationist who, by this recognition, would serve to create a broader interest in conservation and by example, encourage others to outstanding accomplishments on behalf of our state's natural resources;

News/Media: Awarded to an individual, group or organization for the outstanding promotion of natural resource issues in the news/media. (Use this Award category if your proposed award nomination does not fit any of the first 4 categories.) Need not be a member of the Michigan Chapter or the Society.

Education: Awarded to an individual, group or organization for their contribution to the conservation education of adults and/or youth. (Use this Award category if your proposed award nomination does not fit any of the first 4 categories.) Need not be a member of the Michigan Chapter or the Society.

Note: The Michigan Chapter SWCS Awards Committee reserves the right to determine which Award category best fits the Award nomination.

Nominations should be submitted by December 1 to be included in the current year Award Committee's considerations.