



Six IPM Leaders Receive First “Friends of IPM” Awards

Six of the South’s exceptional leaders in integrated pest management were recently named “Friends of IPM.”

The Southern Region IPM Center developed the Friends of IPM Award last year to recognize extraordinary achievement in research, extension and implementation of integrated pest management (IPM) in the Southern Region.

A call for nominations in October outlined award possibilities in six categories: IPM Implementer, IPM Teacher, Pulling Together, Future Leader, Outstanding State IPM Program and Lifetime Achievement. Awardees in the first five categories were eligible for \$2,000 in reimbursable expenses.

Each category covers a different aspect of IPM and is intended to attract a range of nominations. “IPM Implementer” awards successful “on the ground” users of integrated pest management. “IPM Teacher” recognizes those who teach others to use IPM successfully, increasing the number of IPM users. The “Pulling Together” award recognizes a group of people who successfully implement IPM technologies as a team. “Future Leader” awards someone early in his or her career in IPM who shows extraordinary promise of future leadership, and the “Lifetime Achievement” award rec-

ognizes someone with a long career in IPM who is highly regarded and respected as a role model. A special category was added for this year only: “Outstanding State IPM Program.”

In September, the Southern Region IPM Center convened a panel made up of some members of its Advisory Council to decide on the award categories and amount. At their bi-annual meeting on November 27-28, the Southern IPM Center Advisory Council and Steering Committee decided on the winners and made the final award designations.

Friends of IPM Awardees

The Advisory Council recommended giving six awards. The following are the 2008 recipients of the Friends of IPM Award:

- IPM Implementer: Glades Crop Care
- IPM Teacher: Marvin Harris and Bill Ree, Texas A&M Pecan IPM Program
- Future Leader: Jennifer Gillett, UF/IFAS IPM Florida
- Pulling Together: University of Kentucky Wheat Science Group
- Outstanding State IPM Program: Texas IPM Program
- Lifetime Achievement Award: John Jackman

In this issue:

1

Friends of IPM
Award Winners

3

Upcoming
Events



Friends of IPM Awardees (continued)

Award Recipients

IPM Implementer: Glades Crop Care

Since its inception in 1972, Glades has provided independent crop consulting using IPM and sustainable agriculture techniques. In addition, they conduct research on new invasive species including *Thrips palmi*, a highly destructive pest that endangered the Florida pepper crop in 1990. Glades' scientists were able to find a biological control for *Thrips palmi*, earning them an appreciation award from USDA in 1991. And Glades' training and consulting work on food safety has provided a much-needed service to growers complying with FQPA standards. Glades is also working with foodservice marketer and distributor SYSCO Corporation on developing guidelines for sustainable produce and educating growers on how to change their techniques to meet the new standards.

Pulling Together: University of Kentucky Wheat Science Group

Led by Kentucky IPM Coordinator Douglas Johnson and associate Lloyd Murdock, the Wheat Science Group is a collaboration among six departments in the College of Agriculture, the Kentucky Small Grain Growers Association, county agricultural extension agents, wheat consultants, agribusinesses and growers. Started in 1997, the Wheat Science Group has one of the highest rates of grower participation in adopting new technologies for managing pests that have a lower environmental impact while increasing profits.

Outstanding State IPM Program: Texas IPM Program

With one of the strongest and technologically advanced IPM programs in the country, The Texas IPM program supports 12 different agricultural commodities in the state, in addition to a full-time school IPM program and IPM programs for residents. State IPM coordinator Tom Fuchs says that one of the keys to the program's success is that each IPM agent has an individual IPM steering commit-

tee comprised of growers, consultants and agricultural leaders who determine the priorities for each program. In addition, IPM agents provide grower education both on an individual basis—by talking with individual growers—and with a broad scale approach—by using the media to disseminate lessons to a wider audience.

Future Leader: Jennifer Gillett

IPM Florida Associate Director Jennifer Gillett was named "Future Leader" for her resourcefulness and extraordinary ability to lead multi-disciplinary collaborative projects. Already a proven leader in IPM, Gillett has overseen the development of IPM guides for Florida's growers and conducts IPM seminars, workshops and other training sessions. Last year, she coordinated the completion of the Grower's IPM Guide for Florida Tomato and Pepper Production, a comprehensive guide that takes a grower from the early planting decisions of pest and disease prevention to recommendations on how to manage problems that occur during the growing season.

IPM Teacher: Marvin Harris and Bill Ree

Researcher Marvin Harris and Extension specialist Bill Ree have worked together in the Pecan IPM Program since 1987. Not only have they discovered methods that have made pest management more effective and more affordable for pecan growers, but they have also gained growers' confidence in these methods. One of their most successful projects is an online prediction system for pecan nut casebearer, using a temperature-based model to anticipate when the pest may begin to damage the nuts and aid growers in timing pest management efforts. Their training efforts have resulted in a 35 percent reduction in insecticides since 1980, with a \$4.4 million annual cost savings.

Lifetime Achievement: John Jackman

With a combination of prediction modeling and technology experience, Jackman practically introduced the Texas A&M Entomology

Friends of IPM Awardees (continued)

Department to computer technology. Soon after he joined the department in 1976, he placed portable computers in several district Extension offices—a notable feat since the IPM-PC didn't hit the market until 1982. Since then, Jackman has built and regularly maintains over 30 websites for Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Because of his efforts, Texas A&M has some of the best state-of-the-art pest management technology in the country. In addition to his technological talents, Jackman is an extraordinary teacher. He has delivered Extension programs to a wide variety of audiences, developed field guides on insects and arthropods,

and served as liaison with regulatory operations between USDA-APHIS and the Texas Department of Agriculture. The many awards he has received throughout his career further prove that his efforts have been appreciated by many associations around the state.

Award ceremonies will be held separately in each state. The Center is pleased with this year's results and will be releasing the 2009 Call for Nominations in the fall.

In upcoming editions of *Southern Exposure*, look for in-depth features of each Friends of IPM Award winner.



Upcoming Events

February 5-6: National IPM Centers Coordinating Committee, Joint CSREES-Water Quality / IPM Symposium, Reno, NV

February 13-15: School IPM Workgroup meeting, Dallas, TX

March 16-19: SERA 003 Meeting, Saint Croix, VI

March 25-27: SARE 20th Anniversary New American Farm Contest, Kansas City, MO

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