

2010 Recognition Awards for Outstanding Leadership in the Radical Center

The Fourth Annual Recognition Awards for Outstanding Leadership in the Radical Center are dedicated to the “four legs” of The Quivira Coalition’s original “chair” – ranchers, conservationists, civil servants, and researchers. We wish to recognize those individuals in each category who have shown remarkable and enduring leadership in the difficult job of working in the radical center – the place where people are coming together to explore their common interests rather than argue their differences, as author and conservation leader Bill deBuys has described it.

We believe that the radical center is where real change happens – on the “actual landscape of the back forty” as Aldo Leopold put it. But change needs strong leadership, especially in this era of seemingly endless partisanship. We think the time is right to honor those who have advanced the cause of the radical center with integrity, vision, and determination – sometimes against long odds. Each has inspired us with their dedication to family, community, healthy lands and advancement through their teaching, writing, research, service, work and good humor. Through their efforts and leadership they have been a strong voice for the common bonds that bind us together. We are proud to honor these fine individuals.

On behalf of the Board and staff of The Quivira Coalition, we are honored to award the “Outstanding Leadership” Awards for 2010 to:

RANCHING - Tom and Mimi Sidwell

Tom and Mimi Sidwell own and operate the 7,000-acre JX Ranch located in northeastern New Mexico, where they raise all-natural grass-fed beef and sell it through their website www.leannaturalbeef.com. Customers from all over the U.S. can buy their dry-aged whole, half or quarter of a beef or a smaller beef pack over the internet and have it shipped to them. The Sidwells manage the natural resources on their ranch using holistic range management principles. They have vastly turned this ranch around by, among other things, installing a multitude of range improvements including pipelines, water storages and electric fencing, as well as mechanically removing dense mesquite thickets, cholla, and juniper. This now enables them to rotate the whole herd, allowing for 105 days of rest in each of the 26 pastures, with short grazing periods. The result has been nothing short of amazing. Their goal is to improve the ecological health of the land, including that of water, vegetation, and animals, while at the same time making a living and sharing this unique lifestyle with others which they do through their “working cattle ranch” vacation offerings. Over the years, they have won awards for their stewardship management including: Society for Range Management, Excellence in Range Management Award

T



2008; Upper Hondo Soil & Water Conservation District, Outstanding Rancher 1991 & 1994 ; Goodyear/NACD Conservation Awards, Award of Merit for Outstanding Accomplishments in Resource Conservation 1991 & 1994; and, New Mexico Cattle Growers Association; Salt of the Earth Award 1993 & 1995 (Those volunteers who donate their time, energy, expertise and resources are the SALT OF THE EARTH).

Visit the JX Ranch website: www.jxranch.com

CONSERVATION - Dan Taylor

Dan directs the Water for Wildlife Project for Bat Conservation International (BCI), the Texas-based non-profit whose mission is to conserve the world's bats and their ecosystems in order to ensure a healthy planet. The Project's goals are to ensure safe and reliable water resources for both livestock and wildlife, in the face of climate change and drought. Dan previously directed BCI's Forests and Abandoned Mine Lands programs, and received his B.S. in Wildlife Biology from the University of Montana and an M.S. in Forestry from Northern Arizona University. Dan has more than 25 years of experience working on a wide range of wildlife conservation projects in North and Central America and Africa. Prior to BCI, Dan was a biologist with the Forest Service on the Kootenai, Mount Hood, and Prescott National Forests in Montana, Oregon and Arizona, respectively. Dan was also the first director of the Cockscomb Basin Jaguar Preserve while serving in the U.S. Peace Corps in Belize. He is particularly passionate about balancing natural resource utilization and wildlife conservation, his family, and whitewater rafting. Dan is being honored for his endless efforts in reaching out to rural communities to enhance wildlife habitat.



Visit Bat Conservation International's website:
www.batcon.org

CIVIL SERVICE - Maryann McGraw

Maryann is the Wetlands Program Coordinator and the Wetlands and Department of Transportation Team Leader with the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Surface Water Quality Bureau. Maryann has managed the New Mexico Wetlands Program since 2003. Since then, the Wetlands Program has been awarded 20 competitively-obtained grants for wetlands projects that are conducted throughout New Mexico. These projects include developing Wetlands Action Plans in partnership with watershed groups and stakeholders, designing and implementing wetlands/riparian/buffer restoration projects, developing best management practices specific to wetland type, devel-



oping monitoring protocols and conducting baseline monitoring specific to New Mexico's wetlands, and mapping and classifying wetlands resources in New Mexico. The Wetlands Program is committed to increasing public awareness around the state regarding the important functions and irreplaceable services that wetlands provide. The goal of the New Mexico Wetlands Program is to restore and protect New Mexico's remaining scarce wetlands resources for the benefit of all New Mexicans.

Visit NMED-SWQB's website:
www.nmenv.state.nm.us/SWQB

RESEARCH - Christine Jones, Ph.D.

Christine Jones is an internationally renowned and highly respected ground-cover and soils ecologist. She has a wealth of experience working with innovative landholders to implement regenerative land management techniques that enhance biodiversity, increase biological activity, sequester carbon, activate soil nutrient cycles, restore water balance, improve productivity and create new topsoil. Christine has organized and participated in workshops, field days, seminars and conferences throughout Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Zimbabwe and the USA and has a strong publication and presentation record.



Christine received a Community Fellowship Award from Land and Water Australia in 2001. The LWA Community Fellowship Program was designed to "provide recognition to individuals with an outstanding track record in mobilizing and inspiring the community to better manage their land, water and vegetation."

In March 2007, Christine launched the Australian Soil Carbon Accreditation Scheme (ASCAS), the first incentive payment scheme for soil carbon in the world - making Australia a leading nation in the recognition of soils as a verifiable carbon sink. The ASCAS project rewards landholders for adopting innovative techniques designed to sequester soil carbon and improve soil water-holding capacity, thus reducing the atmospheric concentration of both carbon dioxide and water vapor, the two major greenhouse gases.

Visit the Amazing Carbon website:
www.amazingcarbon.com