

# 2013 Outstanding Leadership in the Radical Center Awards

The Seventh 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 described by author and conservation leader Bill deBuys.

We believe that the radical center is where real change happens. As Aldo Leopold said, it happens on the “actual landscape of the back forty.” But change needs strong leadership, especially in this era of seemingly endless partisanship. We continue 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 unite us. We are proud to recognize these fine individuals.

On behalf of the Board and Staff of the Quivira Coalition, in 2013 we are honored to present the Outstanding Leadership in the Radical Center Awards to the following recipients:

**RANCHING: Dennis and Deb Moroney.** Dennis grew up on the rural suburban fringe of Phoenix, Arizona in the 50s and 60s. He has BS degrees in Animal Science and Agriculture Education from the University of Arizona and a Master’s in Education from Central Washington University. Dennis is an educator at his core and throughout his career has made use of this gift by teaching vocational high school students and serving as an administrator at an alternative high school and as an adjunct instructor at Prescott College, Yavapai College and Cochise College. Dennis is a certified Permaculture designer and a past president of the Cochise Graham Cattle Growers Association and the Arizona Section of the Society for Range Management.



Deb is a medical doctor, rancher, fiber artist and teacher. Drawing upon her Native and Hispanic background, as well as her extensive experience with herbal and conventional medicine and forty years as a farmer, gardener and animal caretaker, Deb has combined her accumulated wisdom to craft a life on the land characterized by compassionate care for all living things, a strong work ethic and an artist’s aesthetic sense.

Since 2002, Dennis and Deb have been living and working on the 47 Ranch located near Bisbee in Cochise County, Arizona. They have been deeply involved in conservation work on their ranch and currently have two conservation easements totaling 2,400 acres. They have strong working partnerships with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA NRCS, and many agencies. In addition, Dennis and Deb have used their ranch as a learning laboratory for graduate students, summer interns, traveling classes from various colleges and universities, and Quivira’s New Agrarian Program. They are devoted to providing working opportunities for students and young people who want to learn about conservation and food production. Married for more than forty years, Deb and Dennis are the adoptive parents of Allie, 20, and Gordon, 18. (*Read more about Dennis, Deb and the 47 Ranch at the top of page 7.*)

**CONSERVATION: Jan-Willem Jansens.** Born in the Netherlands, Jan-Willem has developed an international career as a landscape planner and ecological restoration specialist. He earned a graduate degree in landscape architecture from the Agricultural University Wageningen in the Netherlands. During a research internship with the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute, Jan-Willem steered his landscape architecture study toward agroforestry, erosion control, and watershed restoration planning. His thesis work led to two trips to the U.S. and to publications on topics such as streambank revegetation, hedgerow and windbreak design in Sub-Saharan Africa and watershed restoration and agroforestry planning in Kenya. He also worked for three years in a Dutch bilateral aid program on ecological restoration and rural economic development in Niger, West Africa.



In 1993, he accepted a rural development and community forestry position with the Forest Trust in Santa Fe. In this job he developed, among other things, two collaborative forest conservation programs for the communities of Truchas and Picuris Pueblo. In 1997, he founded his own company, Common Ground, and worked on building bridges between rural communities and private and public funding programs. He coordinated a sustainable forestry funding and education program aimed at FSC certification of tribal forestry operations, conducted a series of forest products market studies and established the Galisteo Watershed Restoration Project in collaboration with Earth Works Institute.

In 2002, Jan-Willem became executive director of Earth Works Institute. His accomplishments included the establishment of the Galisteo Watershed Partnership, the Galisteo Watershed Conservation Initiative, a watershed restoration and forest products utilization program in several Navajo communities and a statewide collaborative network for the conservation of wildlife corridors.

In January 2012, Jan-Willem returned to private practice. With his new business, Ecotone, he completed a trail stewardship guide and a Wetlands Action Plan for Santa Fe County, and co-authored a hydro-geology study of wetlands in the La Cienega area. He also launched a large collaborative watershed restoration initiative in the Lower Embudo valley with the Arid Lands Institute at Woodbury University, California, in collaboration with local acequia associations and landowners, NGOs and government agencies. Jan-Willem continues to work as a landscape planner and educator for numerous private landowners, ranchers, NGOs and community groups throughout northern New Mexico.

Jan-Willem lives in Santa Fe and enjoys hiking and camping with his family in the beautiful New Mexico outdoors.

**CIVIL SERVICE: Lisa VanAmburg.** Lisa grew up in Kansas surrounded by agriculture, a fact that she did not realize or appreciate until leaving her small town. It is this background that drives her passion for agrarians and the work they do. She left Kansas to attend Colorado State University where she received both a bachelor's degree and a Master of Science degree in Rangeland Ecology, coupled with a Certificate in Geospatial Science.

Lisa's professional career has included work in the private sector and research with the Agricultural Research Service prior to working in land management with the U.S. Forest Service as a rangeland management specialist. She began her Forest Service career in Saguache, Colorado, where she had the opportunity to work with and learn from many remarkable ranchers. Lisa recently relocated with the Forest Service to Paonia, Colorado where she continues to learn from the many outstanding agrarians in the area. Once again surrounded by agriculture, but a few more hills!



**RESEARCH: Jonathan Overpeck, Ph.D.** "Peck," as he prefers to be called, is a founding co-director of the Institute of the Environment, as well as a professor of Geosciences and a professor of Atmospheric Sciences. He received his BA from Hamilton College, followed by a MSc and Ph.D. from Brown University. Jonathan has published over 130 papers in climate and the environmental sciences and recently served as a Coordinating Lead Author for the Nobel Prize-winning UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment (2007). He has also been awarded the U.S. Department of Commerce Bronze and Gold Medals, as well as the Walter Orr Roberts Award of the American Meteorological Society for his interdisciplinary research. Overpeck has been a Guggenheim Fellow, was the 2005 American Geophysical Union Bjerknes Lecturer and won, with co-authors, the 2008 NOAA Oceanic and Atmospheric Research Outstanding Scientific Paper Award. He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences.

