



International Association of Wildland Fire

Uniting the global wildland fire community

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD HISTORY

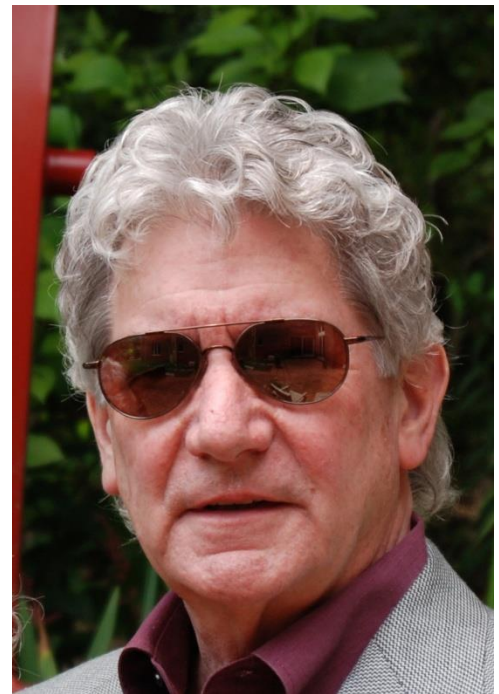
The IAWF's *Distinguished Service Award* recognizes individuals, groups, or organizations for their outstanding contributions to furthering the goals of the Association.

2011

To honor the 20th anniversary of the *International Journal of Wildland Fire*, the Association is proud to announce that Dr. William T. Sommers, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia, USA, as the Association's first recipient of the *Distinguished Service Award* in 2011. Bill was the Forest Service Director of Forest Fire and Atmospheric Sciences Research in 1991 and through his vision and leadership the *International Journal of Wildland Fire* was created.

Dr. Sommers spent 30 years in the Research division of the U.S. Forest Service, serving as a Director of national research programs. In that capacity his research area responsibilities included: Forest Fires, Global Change, Carbon Cycle, Invasive Species, Quantitative Ecology, Ecological Risk Assessment, and Sustainable Forest Management. He was a member of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG), International Boreal Forest Research Organization (IBFRA) and the Roundtable on Sustainable Forests; and was active in the White House science committees on Global Change and Ecological Systems.

Following his distinguished career in US Forest Service Research leadership, Bill joined the staff at George Mason University, where he serves as a Research Professor and Chief Scientist at the College of Science Center for Climate and Society, and as the co-Director of the EastFIRE Laboratory. Dr. Sommers is currently engaged in research on fire history and climate change, and fire emissions of GHG and black carbon.



Bill continues to be active in forwarding the Association's goals through research and education and by previously serving on the IAWF's Board of Directors and as Vice-President of the Association. Bill represented IAWF as a member of the U.S. delegation to the XIIIth World Forestry Congress in Argentina.

Dr. Sommers' academic training is in the fields of Atmospheric Science and Geophysical Fluid Dynamics with degrees from the City College of New York (CCNY), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and State University of New York at Albany (SUNYA); with additional training at the MIT Sloan School of Management.

2017

The IAWF's Distinguished Service Award recognizes individuals, groups, or organizations for their outstanding contributions to furthering the goals of the Association. The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Charles L. (Chuck) Bushey at the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Workshop in Reno, Nevada in April.

Since 1985, Bushey was the founder and President of Montana Prescribed Fire Services, Inc. (MPFS) performing the duties of Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Fuel Mitigation Specialist, Fire Ecologist, Prescribed Fire Specialist, and Fire Behavior Analyst. He was wildland fire red-carded as a Fire Behavior Analyst, Strike Team Engine Leader, Wildland Fire Arson Investigator, and Fireline Explosive Specialist. He also served as a Fire Behavior Service Center Team Leader and Long Term Assessment Team Leader.

Bushey has over eighty articles, research publications and reports to his record, principally dealing with fire effects, fire behavior and fire policy issues. In his role as an international consultant and lecturer, and as a primary developer of the Fire Behavior Service Center concept, he was honored in 1995 by being selected as a member of US Registry's "Who's Who of Outstanding Americans" and in 2000 he was honored in "Who's Who in America" 2001 Edition for his contributions as a wildland fire researcher.

From 2007-2011 Bushey served as President of the International Association of Wildland Fire (IAWF) and led a 15-member international Board of Directors and office staff. Before his role as IAWF President, he served for twelve years as an IAWF Director. As president, he oversaw IAWF's involvement with their membership magazine Wildfire providing a "Presidents Desk" article for each issue, and the International Journal of Wildland Fire, the only peer-reviewed publication of wildland fire research.

In his role as IAWF President he interacted with a wide range of organizations interested in wildland fire topics such as the US Forest Service, the US Department of the Interior, the United



Nations FAO, the Australasian Fire & Emergency Service Authorities, the Bushfire Cooperative Research Center to name a few. He initiated an international learning webinar series with the USFS Lessons Learned Center and operated a listserv called "FireNet." IAWF organizes at least two international wildland fire conferences per year, and during his service as IAWF president, Bushey made several oral presentations, served as session moderator, and met with attendees and the membership. He is currently IAWF's representative to the western US region's National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy.

Bushey has been involved in wildland fire since 1970. Previous to MPFS, Bushey worked with the US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station Fire Sciences Laboratory (Missoula, MT) as a wildland fire researcher (fire effects, fire behavior, fuels, fire weather, smoke). Recently he has agreed to bring his wildland fire and private sector business expertise to helping the International Fire Relief Mission, a nonprofit NGO, better perform its goals of providing refurbished fire equipment, gear and firefighting tools to regions of the globe in need.

Side and hobby interests for Bushey include fishing, photography, meteorology, and honey bees. He is also a member of the City of Billings Animal Control Board and a member of the Yellowstone County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).