



# International Association of Wildland Fire

*Uniting the global wildland fire community*

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD HISTORY

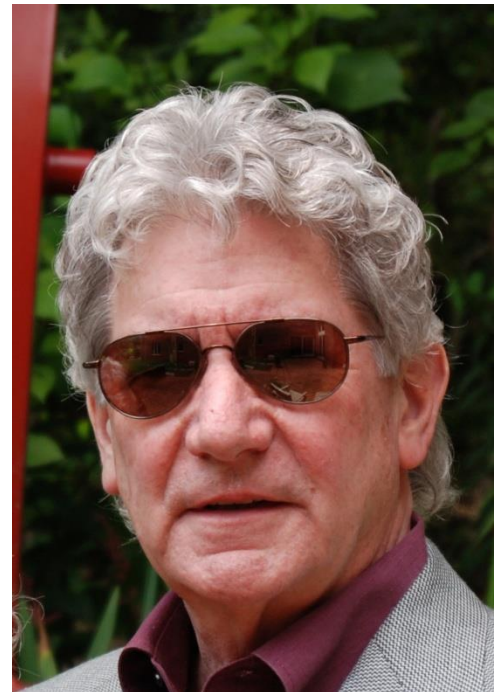
The IAWF's ***Distinguished Service Award*** recognizes individuals, groups, or organizations for their outstanding contributions to furthering the goals of the Association.

**2011**

### **William Sommers**

To honor the 20<sup>th</sup> 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 XIII<sup>th</sup> 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**

### **Chuck Bushey**

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).

## 2020

### Tom Zimmerman

We are pleased to announce the 2020 recipient, Dr. Tom Zimmerman. Tom is retired from the Wildland Fire Management Research, Development, and Application Program, Rocky Mountain Research Station, U.S. Forest Service. He worked at multiple federal land management agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and US Forest Service during his career. Tom has conducted training in the United States, China, Canada, and India, and presented papers, either in person or virtually, at conferences in the United States, Canada, Italy, South Africa, and Cyprus. Wildland fire and emergency response constituted a major focus area and Tom has over 30 years of involvement in incident management team operations including service as an Incident Commander and Area Commander on wildland fire incidents and all hazard emergency responses across the country. Tom was on the IAWF Board of Directors from 2012 – 2017 and was the IAWF President from 2014-2017. During his term and continuing to the present, Tom has chaired or participated on multiple committees, including the Nominations, Strategic Planning, Fund Development, Ember Award Sub-committee, Membership, Finance, Stewardship, and the Diversity and Inclusivity Committee. Tom has actively participated on and/or chaired 12 conferences planning committees since 2013. Tom also represents the IAWF as a





Member of the Association for Fire Ecology Diversity and Inclusivity Committee, he is the AFE Board liaison, the IAWF Representative to Western Regional Strategy Committee, and the NASA Earth Science Senior Review of NASA satellites. For the past 8+ years Tom has made himself readily available to further the mission and success of the IAWF. He always finds time to provide support and/or advice to current board members and to the Executive Director, Mikel Robinson. Mikel has expressed her sincerest gratitude to Tom, and said she can't think of anyone more deserving of this award.

Tom's comments about receiving this award: *"Thank you so much for the IAWF Distinguished Service Award. I was certainly surprised and amazed of what a well-kept secret this was and that the award was actually sitting in my house while I had no indication of anything. When Toddi presented it and then my wife brought it into my office, I was so surprised that I was actually speechless for a few moments. This is such a prestigious IAWF award, I don't know if I can express how humbling it is to receive this recognition from the Board, Association members, and the global fire community. It is an honor to serve and represent the IAWF and a pleasure to be able to be involved in the mission of IAWF. I truly enjoy all the things that I have been fortunate to be involved with, all that IAWF has exposed me to, and all the individuals around the world that I have met and worked with because of IAWF – what an honor to be able to experience such a rewarding, learning, and fulfilling experience! Everyone involved with IAWF brings a genuine passion and commitment to wildland fire management and the ability to share that passion for such a common good is truly awe-inspiring. I look forward to continuing to serve and represent IAWF in all manners that I can and am motivated and inspired to further our goals for the betterment of global wildland fire management."*

**2021**

### **Dr. Susan Conard**

It is with great pleasure that we announce the 2021 IAWF Distinguished Service Award goes to Dr. Susan Conard. Editor-in-Chief at IJWF, Emeritus Ecologist, USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station and Faculty Affiliate, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA. Dr. Conard has had a very productive career in wildland fire science, both as a research scientist, and as a research manager dealing with, and strongly influencing the direction, recognition, and funding of wildland fire science both within the US and internationally. She was on the IAWF Board of Directors in the early 1990's. Perhaps most impressively is the invisible work she has done as an institution builder, contributing to multiple efforts that serve our wildland fire community and remain mostly hidden from public view. She began as an Associate Editor for the International Journal of Wildland Fire in 1992, and then joined the Editorial Advisory Board in 1998. After her retirement in 2008 from the US Forest Service she became the Co Editor in Chief, with Stefan Doerr, and remains in the position today. She began her 25-year USDA Forest Service career in wildland fire research in the western United States, conducting fire ecology and effects research as a research scientist and project leader at the Pacific Southwest (PSW) Research



Station in Riverside CA serving from 1983 to 1996. She served as the National Research Program Manager for Fire Ecology Research with USDA Forest Service in Washington DC from 1996 until her retirement in 2008. During her tenure she served in a long-term assignment to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, where she had an instrumental role in influencing U.S. national and international science policy. She played a key leadership role to increase US Forest Service wildland fire Research and Development funding from \$15 million in 1997 to \$50 million in 2002 through two new programs – the Interagency Joint Fire Sciences Program and the National Fire Plan. She also led the development of program priorities and strategies and oversaw allocation of funding as the first Chair of the Governing Board for the Joint Fire Sciences Program. As JFSP Chair, she guided development and installation of ongoing JSFP governance consistent with Congressional mandates. She has been a leader in establishing new collaborative research initiatives with Russia after the former Soviet Union opened to western fire scientists in the early 1990s. To this day she remains very active in supporting Russian scientists for research and publications. She is the author of more than 80 scientific publications on fire ecology and effects, vegetation structure and dynamics, vegetation management, and climate change impact studies in the United States and Siberia. For your very distinguished service, we congratulate Susan!