

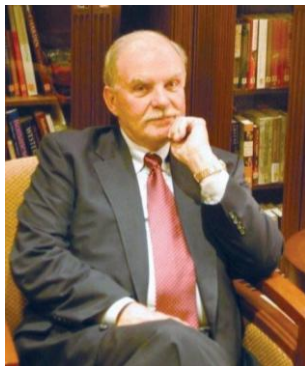


NEWS RELEASE
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Lee Orton to Receive 2011 Maurice Kremer Groundwater Achievement Award

Lee Orton has been selected to receive The Groundwater Foundation's 2011 Maurice Kremer Groundwater Achievement Award. The Kremer Award was established in 1985 to recognize Nebraskans who have made a substantive contribution to the conservation and protection of Nebraska's groundwater. Orton will be presented with the Kremer Award at the Foundation's National Conference to be held October 4-6, 2011 at the Omaha Marriott Hotel in Omaha, Nebraska.



Selection Committee member, Bob Kuzelka said, "Lee has, for more than forty years, promoted stability, consistency and professionalism not only in Nebraska's government water agencies but even more importantly in public organizations such as the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts, Nebraska Well Drillers Association, Nebraska Irrigation Association and Nebraska Water Resources Association."

Groundwater Foundation President Jane Griffin described the selection of Lee Orton as the 2011 Kremer honoree as "highly deserving, Lee has dedicated himself to protecting and conserving groundwater throughout his distinguished career, what has moved him above and beyond is his passion for his work on behalf of the resource."

Orton has been actively involved in water issues in the State of Nebraska since 1969. Beginning his career as legal counsel for the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Commission which later became the Natural Resources Commission, Lee was actively involved with the law portions of the framework study of the Nebraska Water Plan and with several special recommendations of the plan. His work involved many aspects of Nebraska Water Law Study and extensive activity with the implementation of Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts.

Lee served as the first executive director of the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts for 10 years before entering private practice which he devoted to water resources matters, representing business and agribusiness on all nature of water resources problems.

Today Lee is principle of the Orton Law Office and remains actively involved with natural resources and environmental issues. Lee also serves as the executive director of the Nebraska Well Drillers Association, the Nebraska State Irrigation Association, and the Nebraska Onsite Waste Water Association and works with the Bureau of Reclamation, irrigation and public power districts and other environmental programs and issues.

The Kremer Award is chosen by a selection committee appointed by The Groundwater Foundation Board of Directors. Selection committee members include: Don Kraus, Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District; Jim Goeke, University of Nebraska Conservation and Survey Division; Bob Kuzelka, University of Nebraska School of Natural Resources; and, Jane Griffin, The Groundwater Foundation.

Past Kremer recipients include: 1986, Vincent Dreeszen; 1987, Maurice Kremer; 1988, Eugene Reed; 1989, Val Kuska; 1990, Warren Fairchild; 1991, Ralph Marlette; 1992, Ted Filipi; 1993, Robert B. Crosby; 1994, Virginia Smith; 1995, Fred Salmon and Family; 1996, Frank A. Smith; 1997, Robert B. Daugherty; 1998, Les Sheffield; 1999, Richard Harnsberger; 2000, Wayne Madsen; 2001, Jim Goeke; 2002, Eugene Haarberg; 2003, Chris Beutler; 2004, Darrell Watts; 2005, Roger Patterson; 2006, Senator Ed Schrock; 2007, Jim Cook, 2008, Ann Bleed; 2009, Vance Anderson; 2010, Michael Jess.

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The Groundwater Foundation is a nonprofit organization based in Lincoln, Nebraska that works to educate people and inspire action to ensure sustainable, clean groundwater for future generations. Since its inception in 1985, the Foundation has offered various educational programming for youth and adults. For information about The Groundwater Foundation and its programs, please visit www.groundwater.org; call 402-434-2740, or e-mail info@groundwater.org.