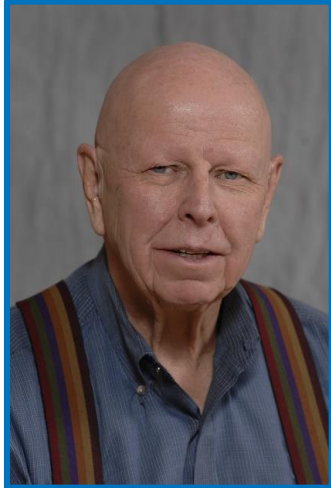


Robert Kuzelka

2014 Maurice Kremer Groundwater Achievement Award Winner



ROBERT KUZELKA

Robert D. Kuzelka, who has spent most of his professional life educating others about groundwater and natural resources, is the 2014 recipient of The Groundwater Foundation's Maurice Kremer Groundwater Achievement Award. Kuzelka received his award on October 7, 2014 at The Groundwater Foundation's Community-based Groundwater Protection Forum in Las Vegas, Nevada. 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. Recent honorees include Ron Bishop, Dayle Williamson, Lee Orton and Mike Jess.

Bob has been a consistent advocate for good things in Nebraska. He has always been a supporter for common sense relating to groundwater problems in Nebraska and is richly deserving of the Kremer Award," said Kremer selection committee member and past Kremer award winner Jim Goeke.

Bob Kuzelka is an Associate Professor Emeritus in the School of Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. As a full-time faculty member from 1979 to 2004, Kuzelka was affiliated with the Conservation and Survey Division; Department of Community and Regional Planning; Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife; University of Nebraska Water Center; and School of Natural Resources. From 2001 through 2008 he served as the director of UNL's interdisciplinary Environmental Studies program. Kuzelka has co-authored two state water policy issue studies, developed handbooks on groundwater management planning for quantity and quality, and served as co-editor of The Groundwater Atlas of Nebraska and Nitrate Contamination/Exposure, Consequence, and Control. During his time at Conservation and Survey, Kuzelka served as project manager and contributing author for Flat Water: A History of Nebraska and its Water. Through all of these actions and more, Kuzelka has ensured that Nebraskans have knowledge of the groundwater that nourishes them.

But that's not where Kuzelka's contributions end. Kuzelka became involved with The Groundwater Foundation from almost the very beginning believing wholeheartedly in the importance of educating people about groundwater. His biggest contribution to The Groundwater Foundation and to groundwater across the nation has been his role in the design, development, and implementation of the Groundwater Guardian program. Groundwater Guardian is a program that provides support and encouragement for communities to begin groundwater awareness activities, motivation to continue these

efforts, and recognition for their achievements. In the early 90's, Kuzelka took a sabbatical from UNL to help recruit communities into the Groundwater Guardian program. Over the course of a year, he worked with communities across the United States, including Seward, Nebraska. In 1994, eight communities were designated as the first class of Groundwater Guardian communities. Kuzelka, himself has been named a Groundwater Guardian for his dedication to the resource and to the program.

"I am proud to say that I introduced Bob Kuzelka to Susan Seacrest. Through their efforts the Groundwater Guardian program came into being and became the great success that it is today," Goeke said.

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