

## **Ditch Rider Award**



### **Norm DeMott**

*Norm DeMott served as manager of the Goshen Irrigation District from 1980 to 2000. He has been involved with the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program as the Wyoming Water User Representative since negotiations began back in 1994. He was a member of the North Platte River Water Users of Wyoming. Norm has been heavily involved with the Four States Irrigation Council since 1982. Norm was raised in the Scottsbluff, Nebraska area and owned a gravel business in that area before he came to Wyoming in 1980.*

## **Nebraska Headgate Award**



### **Dennis Strauch**

*Dennis Strauch is the general manager for the Pathfinder Irrigation District since 1990, with more than 30 years of experience in irrigation system management. He oversees the operation of the largest irrigation district in Nebraska, serving over 865 irrigators with water for 103,000 acres. Dennis has been involved with the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (PRRIP) since negotiations began in 1994. Currently, he represents the water users above Lake McConaughy on the Governance Committee for the PRRIP.*

## **Wyoming Headgate Award**



### **Patrick T. Tyrrell, P.E.**

*Mr. Tyrrell is a Wyoming native who grew up in Cheyenne but has also lived in Casper, Gillette and Laramie, Wyoming, and Minneapolis, Minnesota. His experience was entirely within the private sector until taking the appointment as State Engineer in January of 2001. In his role as State Engineer, Pat serves as Wyoming's Commissioner to the Upper Colorado River, Bear River, and the Yellowstone River Compact Commissions, and he represents Wyoming on the North Platte Decree Committee, the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum, and the Western States Water Council, among other groups. He is past board member and past President of the Wyoming Water Association.*

### **EXPERIENCE**

2001-current Wyoming State Engineer  
1995-2000 Engineering Manager, States West Water Resources Corporation - Cheyenne, WY  
1991-1995 Regulatory Affairs Supervisor, Thunder Basin Coal Company - Wright, WY  
1989-1991 Project Manager, Wenck Associates, Inc. - Maple Plain, MN  
1981-1989 Engineering Coordinator, Western Water Consultants, Inc. - Laramie, WY

### **EDUCATION**

1979 BS, Mechanical Engineering, University of Wyoming - Laramie, WY  
1982 MS, Civil Engineering, Emphasis in hydrology & hydraulics, University of Wyoming - Laramie, WY

## **Kansas Headgate Award**



**Marvin R. Swanda, P.E.**

*Marv has been office manager of the McCook Field Office in the Nebraska-Kansas Area Office since April of 1999. Office responsibilities involve the direct operations and maintenance of eleven multi-purpose Bureau dams and reservoirs located in Nebraska, Kansas, and Colorado, and irrigation operations of one COE facility. In addition O&M oversight is provided to another four single purpose Bureau reservoirs in Nebraska.*

*Marv began his work with Reclamation in Huron, South Dakota and transferred to Nebraska's McCook Field Office in 1981 as a hydraulic engineer in the Water Operations Branch. From 1985 through 1995, Marv served as the chief of maintenance with maintenance responsibilities for 11 Bureau dams and oversight on an additional four dams. From 1995 to 1999 he served as the chief of water operations with operation responsibility for these same facilities and was then appointed the office manager. He began his career with Reclamation in 1980 and his experience includes planning, hydrology, water rights, engineering support, SCADA operations, emergency management, dam and canal maintenance, reservoir operations, contract administration, and Republican River issues.*

*Marv is a native of South Dakota where he grew up on a dry land farm. His formal education includes a Bachelor of Science in agricultural engineering from South Dakota State University in 1973. Marv is a registered Professional Engineer in South Dakota.*

*Marv and his wife Margie have been married for 35 years and have two sons and three grandchildren.*

## **Colorado Headgate Award**



**Jon Altenhofen**

*Jon has spent more than 30 years working with ranchers and farmers along the South Platte River in northeastern Colorado where he has become a recognized expert in water accounting. He has helped many farmers and ditch, reservoir and irrigation companies with the management of their groundwater augmentation and recharge projects.*

*Jon is currently a senior water resources engineer and the South Platte special projects manager for Northern Water in Berthoud, CO. He has worked for Northern Water since 1985 primarily in the lower South Platte River basin.*

*At Northern his responsibilities include augmentation and recharge development and accounting that helps farmers manage their plans and decrees. He has provided technical and expert witness support for water rights litigation.*

*Jon serves in many other capacities representing Colorado water user interests in the ESA Platte River Recovery Implementation Program efforts. He is an advisor and water accountant for the South Platte Water Related Activities Program working on developing and managing Colorado's Tamarack Plan – Colorado's managed groundwater recharge contribution to the Recovery Program.*

*Jon is a member of CSU and USDA-ARS advisory committees for the development and maintenance of groundwater and consumptive use computer accounting software and deficit irrigation research projects.*

*Jon is a registered professional engineer in Colorado and California. Jon holds a U.S. patent for an evapotranspiration instrument (ETgage) he developed during the 1980s. Jon is President and co-owner of the ETgage Co. in Loveland, CO, where he manufactures and sells the ETgage as a sideline endeavor.*

*Jon has a B.S. in Civil Engineering and an M.S. in Water Science both from the University of California at Davis. Jon came to Colorado in 1979 to work as an irrigation engineer for CSU Extension and later had his own irrigation consulting business. He lives in the foothills west of Fort Collins with his wife Susan and their many cats in an old log house they renovated.*