

CORPORATE AWARD



The Corporate Award of the ESA is made to recognize and honor a company for accomplishments in incorporating sound ecological concepts, knowledge, and practices, and is made

in one of six categories. The Award in 2000 is for environmental education, in recognition of educational programs, publications, or other activities that show a strong foundation in basic ecological or environmental science. The winners of the 2000 ESA Corporate Award are Bill Baker, Environmental Specialist, and his employer, Reliant Energy of Houston.

Bill Baker was nominated for the award by the Environmental Institute of Houston, affiliated with University of Houston-Clear Lake. Reliant Energy is a utility corporation specializing in the generation and transmission of electrical power and the long-distance and local delivery of natural gas. It operates in several states (from Texas and Louisiana to Minnesota), and in Europe. Reliant Energy's operations in the Houston area include generation and transmission activities in or adjacent to coastal and inland wetlands; these wetlands are the focus of the corporation's environmental and educational programs.

Bill Baker is recognized for his K-12 school presentations on the ecological importance of wetland and coastal

habitats, and for developing a "Traveling Wetlands" exhibit that allows children and adults to experience a wetland firsthand. He has worked with other Texas groups to establish schoolyard habitats, and has published an educational guide for their use by schools. The company has also been actively involved in wetland habitat restoration in the Houston area, and Baker is known for his participation and leadership in various natural resource management and advisory groups in the region. Through his activities, Reliant Energy has played an important role in both formal educational efforts and informal public appreciation of the ecological importance of the Texas wetlands.

The ESA is very pleased to recognize these efforts and their impact on public understanding of wetlands in awarding Bill Baker and Reliant Energy the Corporate Award for 2000.

*Corporate Award Subcommittee:
Laura Foster Huenneke (Chair),
Gregory Aplet, Joan Ehrenfeld, Susan
Galatowisch, Carolyn Hunsaker,
Kate Lajtha, Kurt Teichert*

AWARD OF SPECIAL RECOGNITION AND MERIT

This year, ESA is making a unique Award of Special Recognition to honor the Organization for Tropical Studies for its unique role in educating generations of students and others in tropical biology. OTS, a nonprofit consortium of over 50 universities and research institutions from the United States, Costa Rica, and Australia, has offered intensive field courses since 1963, introducing thousands of ecologists to tropical ecosystems, conservation biology, and ecological thinking. It offers short courses in English, Spanish, and

Portuguese for policy makers, community and corporate leaders, park managers, and journalists to reach those who shape policy throughout Latin America and the United States. OTS has recently added a short course for secondary science teachers to enhance understanding of field-based science instruction and international environmental issues. OTS has played a critical role in creating a cadre of scientists, educators, and policy makers who work in the ecology of tropical regions of the world.

To acknowledge the breadth and excellence of OTS educational programs in tropical biology and management, the Corporate Award subcommittee recommended that it be granted an

Award of Special Recognition. Through this Award, ESA expresses its appreciation for the unique and important role that the Organization for Tropical Studies has played in the education of tropical biologists, educators, and policy makers. In the absence of Laura Huenneke, Chair of the Corporate Award subcommittee, Alan Berkowitz, ESA Vice President for Education, presented the award to Gary Hartshorne, President and CEO of OTS.

*Corporate Award Subcommittee:
Laura Foster Huenneke (Chair), Gregory Aplet, Joan Ehrenfeld, Susan Galatowisch, Carolyn Hunsaker, Kate Lajtha, Kurt Teichert*
