

AWARDS

Presented at the
2021 General Meeting
of the ASSBT

Virtual Meeting

March 1 – March 4, 2021

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

41st Biennial Meeting

Joe Huff - Joe was hired by Amalgamated Sugar in 1980 as a Student Engineer. Joe has a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Idaho and a Master of Business Administration from Boise State University. Joe is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Idaho. Joe has served in many positions with Amalgamated over the past forty-years including Electrical Engineer, Plant Manager, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, and Executive Vice President and Chief Business Development Officer. Joe enjoyed working with factory personnel, and the Board of Directors, and being part of a large agricultural and industrial effort. Joe enjoys golfing, fly fishing, grilling, water skiing, traveling, and reading. He looks forward to the opportunities and adventures life might bring during retirement.

Dr. William S. Niehaus - Dr William S. Niehaus was born in southern Indiana and raised on a small farm with sheep and Christmas trees, the start of his interest in agriculture. He helped his grandmother pick green beans on their farm and rode in the 1950 Chevy sidestep pickup truck with his grandfather when delivering produce in town. In the fall, he helped shuck and shell five acres of black popcorn which was sold in local grocery stores. While working on his BS degree in Agricultural Science from Purdue University, he worked part time crossing alfalfa plants in the breeding program furthering his interest in agricultural research. Bill attended graduate school at North Dakota State University studying plant breeding and researching durum wheat for his thesis.

After attaining his PhD in Agronomy in 1980, Bill started his career with American Crystal Sugar Co as a plant breeder and researched alternate crops including chicory and Jerusalem artichokes. He implemented changes in data handling processes and statistical analysis including more efficient field designs. After several position changes, he became Official Trial Manager in 2000. As sugar beet production evolved to Rhizomania varieties and Roundup Ready technology, the Official Trial program underwent numerous changes. Approval rules were reviewed and revised on a regular basis and additional nurseries including Aphanomyces, Cercospora, Rhizoctonia, Fusarium and root aphids were developed to provide shareholders additional information on hybrids. Providing consistent and reliable information to shareholders to aid in selecting hybrids for their farm remained a consistent goal during his career. Bill is proud for his role in maintaining the reliability of the Official Trial Evaluation program at American Crystal Sugar Co during his 40 year career which ended with his retirement in February 2021. Bill appreciates the support of his wife Mary and sons Aaron and Andrew along with many co-workers and industry associate

Jay Miller – Jay was born and raised in Minnesota. He received his Bachelor of Science in Agronomy from University of Minnesota-St. Paul and his Master of Science in Agronomy (Plant Breeding) from University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Jay started at Betaseed, Inc. April of 1982–worked in the plant breeding and sugar beet research group in developing varieties for the North American market. In the 1990’s continued to work with the breeding and research group in developing varieties and in establishing nurseries such as the Aphanomyces field nursery and the root aphid greenhouse screening program at the Shakopee, MN research station. During the early years of the 2000’s helped the breeding and research group introduce cyst nematode tolerant varieties to the North America market. Our team made a major contribution to variety development by bringing Roundup Ready varieties to the industry. More recent programs include the next generation of herbicide tolerant varieties, the “HT2” program. Over the last twenty years worked with the product management group in seed supply of our sugar beet varieties for North America. In addition, worked with the regulatory affairs and stewardship groups. Retired from KWS Seeds, LLC. (formerly Betaseed, Inc.) at the end of 2020. Jay laments, “It has been very gratifying to be part of the North America sugar beet industry and in having worked for KWS Seed, LLC. over my career. The many interactions with colleagues and friends in the industry will be considerably less and will be missed.”

Jay has been a member of ASSBT since the late 1980’s and has presented several papers and posters over the years. He is also a member of IIRB and Crop Science Society of America.

Jay is married, has three children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

41st Biennial Meeting

Robert (Bob) Hatch - Bob has served the sugar industry for over 40 years. During this time, Bob and his wife Karen traveled across North America and to over 17 countries in support of the US sugar industry. It's difficult to adequately do justice to this long and prosperous career and to fully realize the magnitude of his impact on our industry and society. Many of the innovative technologies and products supplied by or improved by Bob have enabled our industry to make white sugar more efficiently and profitably from beets.

It was after earning a BS degree in Limnology from New Mexico State University in 1973 that Bob joined Perolin, a chemical company that supplied materials to the sugar factories. While there, he attended his first ASSBT meeting in 1981 and by 1983, presented his first ASSBT paper. At Perolin, Bob headed a project with Ciba Geigy to get FDA approval of glutaraldehyde for the control of mineral scale in beet sugar evaporators and with Union Carbide to get FDA approval for this compound as a microbiological control in beet sugar processing.

Upon taking a position with Mazer Chemical, Bob managed the Defoamer and Process Chemical division that researched and provided products to industries including the beet sugar industry. At Mazer, he sought FDA approval of polyacrylate and polymaleic acid to control scale in beet industry evaporators. He also conducted many evaluations to support the FDA's approval for carbamate-based microbiological control agents.

Bob and his wife Karen established KABO Chemicals in 1991. KABO supplied important processing aids to the sugar industry. By 2002 Bob and Karen sold KABO and established the American Charcoal Company serving the cane sugar industry.

In 2005 and 2006, Bob served as the chairman of Sugar Processing Research Institute (SPRI) located at the USDA Southern Research Center in New Orleans. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Bob facilitated the temporary relocation of badly impacted SPRI staff to Baton Rouge. This organization would later award him the SPRI Science and Technology award in 2016.

Bob and Karen established the Organic Defoamer Group (OAG) in 2007 and once again supplied products used in processing by the sugar industry. After ten years, Bob sold OAG to Hydrite, a company that remains involved and dedicated to the sugar industry. Bob maintains his relationship with the sugar industry as he continues as a consultant to Hydrite.

Throughout his career, Bob has supported the sugar industry through his involvement and activity in many industry organizations including the Sugar Industry Technologists (SIT), Sugar Processing Research institute (SPRI), American Sugar Alliance (ASA), European Society of

Sugar Technologists (ESST), the International Sugar Association (ISA), and the forementioned SPRI where his service on the board began in 1997 and continues today.

In support of our own BSDF and ASSBT, Bob has supported the BSDF Beet Sugar Processing School, Beet End and Sugar End. He has shared his enthusiasm for the ASSBT and encouraged fellow industry members to present technical papers at the ASSBT meetings. He has also served as the Operations Program Chair for the ASSBT. From 2015 to 2017, Bob served as ASSBT president during which time he presided over the 39th Biennial Meeting of the American Society of Sugar Beet Technologists in Greenville, SC. In addition, we would like to acknowledge and thank Bob for the many decades of generosity and hospitality at the ASSBT meetings. Many have enjoyed starting mornings at these meetings with a pastry and a cup of coffee donated by Bob and his companies.

Bob has challenged people to not merely think “outside the box”, but to freely think as though there is “No Box”. It is with great pleasure and great respect from the ASSBT that Bob Hatch is recognized and awarded Honorary Membership.

40 YEARS IN THE INDUSTRY

American Crystal Sugar Company

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 Richard C. Ringstad
 Richard D. Jorgenson
 Richard D. Krull
 Ross J. Perrin
 Tammy L Evenson
 Timothy W. Torgeson
 Wayne E. Plencner
 William S. Niehaus
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