

AWARDS

Presented at the
2007 General Meeting
of the ASSBT

Little America Hotel
Salt Lake City, UT

February 28 - March 3, 2007

Savitsky Memorial Award

The Savitsky Memorial Award is among the most prestigious awards in the sugar industry. It memorializes the contributions of Viacheslav and Helen Savitsky for their discovery and development of the monogerm gene in sugarbeets. This discovery has provided for the near-elimination of hand-labor for thinning sugarbeets throughout most if not all sugarbeet growing countries. There are no specific criteria for this award and it is given at the discretion of the ASSBT Board of Directors to individuals who have had a significant impact on the national and international beet sugar community. The recipient of the Savitsky Award can be from any nation and does not have to be a member of the ASSBT. Nominations are submitted by members of the ASSBT to the Savitsky Award Committee. After review by the committee, the nomination is submitted to the ASSBT Board of Directors where it requires unanimous approval by the Board. The Savitsky Award is not necessarily awarded at each biennial meeting.



Alan G. Dexter

For the biennial year 2007, Dr. Alan G. Dexter was the recipient of the Savitsky Memorial Award. Dr. Dexter graduated from the University of Nebraska with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agronomy in 1963. He also completed his Master of Science Degree in 1966 at the University of Nebraska. In 1969, he received a Ph.D. in Agronomy at the University of Illinois. His entire 38 year career (starting in 1969) has been dedicated to serving the sugarbeet industry as an Extension Sugarbeet and Weed Control Specialist with North Dakota

State University and the University of Minnesota. A few of his many contributions to the sugarbeet industry over the years include:

- Conducted research and developed best management practices for all sugarbeet herbicides registered since 1969 (which is all but 2 of our current products).
- The first to demonstrate that reduced rates of postemergence herbicides applied more than once could provide better weed control and less crop injury than full rates applied once.

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- He is best known for developing the micro-rate system of postemergence herbicide application in sugarbeet. The significance of this research is borne out by the adoption of micro rate weed control programs not only in North Dakota and Minnesota, but also across the North American sugarbeet industry. This system has given sugarbeet growers more flexibility in their spray programs and has reduced production costs by millions of dollars.

Although not the only professional society he has been involved with, Dr. Dexter's contributions to the American Society of Sugarbeet Technologists have been significant. He was editor of the *Journal of Sugarbeet Research* between 1995 and 2003. He has presented numerous scientific papers and led a number of weed forums. He has been on the publications committee, the Board of Directors and was the ASSBT President from 1991 to 1993. He presented information at over 1150 extension meetings and plot tours since 1969 and has provided personal consultation to thousands of growers and colleagues across the sugarbeet industry.

The following remarks, which were cited in support of Dr. Dexter's nomination and his subsequent presentation of the Savitsky Memorial Award, are a testimony to his outstanding career and service to the sugar industry:

“He is a world renowned authority on sugarbeet weed control, an excellent communicator and educator, and a wonderful individual. He has done as much for the sugarbeet industry as anyone I can think of. He meets and exceeds all qualifications for the Savitsky Award and only adds credibility to the list of previous winners. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this award. His legacy will be to be considered the “George Washington” of extension sugarbeet weed control. He has done it all well.”

Honorary Membership

The ASSBT awards Honorary Membership to individuals who have rendered outstanding service to the beet sugar industry or have by virtue of scientific accomplishment acquired the admiration and respect of the Society.

This year the Society awarded two Honorary Memberships:

RALPH C. BURTON

Ralph Burton is a graduate of the University of Utah with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting. He joined Amalgamated over 36 years ago and has served in several capacities within the Accounting Department, as well as having been Agricultural Manager and General Agricultural Manager. In 1988, he was appointed Vice President of Agriculture. On May 1, 2002, he became President and Chief Executive Officer of The Amalgamated Sugar Company LLC. He retired from the Company on October 1, 2006. Mr. Burton is past President of The West Coast Beet Seed Company and The Beet Sugar Development Foundation. He has held the position of a Trustee of the U.S. Beet Sugar Association, Director of the Sugar Association and Director of Northwest Food Processors Association. Mr. Burton is a resident of Island Park, Idaho, and he and his wife, Judy, have five children and fourteen grandchildren.

DR. A PHILIP DRAYCOTT

Philip Draycott received his Bachelor of Science Degree, with honors, in chemistry from Leicester University, and a Ph.D. in Agricultural Science from Leeds University. He was appointed Scientific Officer in 1965 and then Head of Chemistry at Broom's Barn in England. He left Brooms Barn after 17 years to start a consulting company, which he still operates. Dr. Draycott is a member of the IIRB and the ASSBT and has contributed and participated in many meetings over the years. He is also a member of the National Institute of Agricultural Botany and is a Trustee of Suffolk Agricultural College. Dr. Draycott is a prolific writer. He has published more than 80 papers in international refereed journals and another 80 in trade and popular journals. His book titled "Sugar Beet Nutrition", published in 1972, has served as the standard reference for nutrition of sugarbeet for over 30 years. This book was updated and replaced in 2003 by a book co-authored with Dr. Donald Christenson, of Michigan State University, titled, "Nutrients for Sugar

Beet Production: Soil Plant Relations". He served as Editor of a book entitled "Sugar Beet", published in 2006. This is part of Blackwell Publishing's World Agriculture Series. Dr. Draycott is married and, with his wife, Joyce, lives in Newmarket, Suffolk, England.

Meritorious Service Award

The ASSBT awards Meritorious Service Awards to members who have been outstanding in promoting the objectives of the Society or have made significant contributions to the beet sugar industry.

This year the ASSBT awarded three Meritorious Service Awards:

DR. LEE PANELLA

Dr. Panella joined the USDA-ARS, in Ft. Collins, Colorado, in 1992, as a Research Geneticist. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Michigan State University in 1984, his Master of Science Degree from Texas A & M in 1986, and his Ph.D. from the University of California, Davis, California in 1992. Lee is currently Research Leader at the Sugarbeet Research Unit in Ft. Collins. Dr. Panella's research on germplasm development and genetic resources of Beta is recognized worldwide and he Chairs the Sugarbeet Crop Germplasm Committee and the Crop Science Sugarbeet Registration Sub-committee. He has been North American representative to the World Beta Network and coordinated Germplasm collections and characterizations. Dr. Panella is an Affiliate Faculty Member at Colorado State University and Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Wyoming. He has been an active member of the ASSBT and IIRB, including serving on the Board of Directors in 2001 - 2003, and has just been elected to serve again. He has been an author or co-author on 25 presentations, abstracts and proceedings of the ASSBT and published in the *Journal of Sugar Beet Research*.

DR. STEPHEN R. KAFFKA

Dr. Kaffka has been an Extension Specialist in the Department of Agronomy and Range Science at the University of California - Davis from 1992 to the present. He has been active in the ASSBT since 1993. Dr. Kaffka received a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of California - Santa Cruz in 1979 and also from the Hohenhein University (Germany) in 1980, his Master of Science Degree and Ph.D. are from Cornell University in 1984 and 1986, respectively. Dr. Kaffka is a member of many organizations, including the ASSBT, IIRB, ASA, CSSA and the SSSA. Dr. Kaffka has researched methods for improved stand establishment, application and management of pesticides for insect and disease control, and the effects of soil salinity on sugarbeet production. Recently,

he has begun working with the industry on strategies for management for Cercospora Leaf Spot, a recent and serious threat to the California production. Dr. Kaffka has presented many papers at ASSBT, IIRB and ASA meetings, and has served on the Board of Directors of the ASSBT.

THOMAS K. SCHWARTZ

Thomas Schwartz graduated from the University of Wyoming with a Bachelor of Science Degree and a Master of Science Degree in 1976 and 1977, respectively. He worked for four years as an Extension Pest Management Specialist for the University of Wyoming. Mr. Schwartz then accepted a position with Union Carbide Agricultural Products Company as a Field Development Representative, where he worked until 1987. For the next year, he consulted for the US AID in Northern Africa. In 1988, Mr. Schwartz became Executive Vice President of the Beet Sugar Development Foundation (BSDF) and American Society of Sugar Beet Technologists (ASSBT), a position he presently holds. Mr. Schwartz led in the organization of nine ASSBT meetings, including one joint meeting with IIRB (International Institute of Beet Research). He serves as the Managing Editor of ASSBT's scientific journal, *Journal of Sugar Beet Research*. He also is co-author of *Sugar Technology* by Bartens. Through the BSDF and ASSBT, he represents the Beet Sugar Industry in many professional, technical and governmental meetings and workshops. Mr. Schwartz is a member of the Western Society of Weed Science, American Society of Agronomy, Sugar Industry Technologists, Agricultural Research Institute, Sugar Club of Washington, D.C., International Institute of Beet Research and the American Society of Sugar Beet Technologists. Tom is recognized, nationally and internationally, as an authority on all things having to do with sugarbeet production, technology and research.

Forty-Year Veteran Award

The ASSBT awards Forty-Year Veteran certificates to those individuals completing forty years of service to the beet sugar industry.

This year the ASSBT awarded 16 certificates:

Manfred Bieber, Shift Superintendent, Wyoming Sugar Company, LLC

Ken Commire, Sugar End Foreman, Michigan Sugar Company

Manfred Decker, Factory Maintenance Superintendent, Minn-Dak Farmers Cooperative

Roger D. Elston, Agriculturalist, Michigan Sugar Company

Donald Hendryx, Assistant Warehouse Leader, Wyoming Sugar Company, LLC

James Kosik, Heavy Loader Operator, Michigan Sugar Company

Richard Lagos, Machinist, Michigan Sugar Company

Robert Lewellen, Plant Breeder, USDA-ARS

William McGuffey, Retired, Michigan Sugar Company

Rick Mont, Retired, American Crystal Sugar Company

Bob Robertson, Facility Manager, Michigan Sugar Company

Leopoldo Salinas, Factory Piler Operator, Wyoming Sugar Company, LLC

Wenceslado Salinas, Factory Yard Piler Operator, Wyoming Sugar Company, LLC

Bruce Snider, Assistant Chemist, Wyoming Sugar Company, LLC

J. R. Stander, Manager of Research, Betaseed, Inc.

Louis I. Wolf, Retired, Western Sugar Cooperative