

NEWS RELEASE
August 11, 2005

V. Philip Rasmussen, Jr. Receives RNRF Award for Sustained Achievement

Bethesda, Maryland—The Renewable Natural Resources Foundation (RNRF) has selected V. Philip Rasmussen, Jr. to receive its 2005 Sustained Achievement Award. The Sustained Achievement Award recognizes the long-term contributions and commitment of an individual to the protection and conservation of natural resources. Rasmussen has spent his entire career striving for the wise and judicious use and conservation of natural resources while emphasizing agricultural productivity—earning the nickname “No-till Phil.”

Rasmussen spent the early part of his career establishing no-till research plots across the intermountain West, encouraging the use of innovative and sustainable technologies. Spending his career as an extension specialist and an administrator who worked with a “one-foot-in-the-field” approach to issues, Rasmussen has been able to win the respect of academics and farmers/ranchers alike. However, it was his penchant for technology that led him to work as the state extension computer specialist at a time when microcomputers were just beginning to be widely used in natural resource and agricultural management. Rasmussen became the nation’s first NASA-sponsored geospatial extension specialist in 1999, using modern technology for precision agriculture to ensure that resources were used in an environmentally friendly way.

Currently, Rasmussen is a professor in the Plant, Soils & Biometeorology Department at Utah State University; coordinator of the Western Regional USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program; the assistant director of Utah State University Extension; and assistant director of the Utah State Agricultural Experiment Station.

Rasmussen has published more than two hundred articles and book chapters covering the fields of: agronomic computer applications, soil physics/management/conservation, and sustainable agricultural techniques. He received a B.S. in soil science with a physics minor, and an M.S. in soil science and biometeorology from Utah State University, and his Ph.D. in agronomy from Kansas State University.

He will accept the award at the annual meeting of the RNRF Board of Directors, November 1, 2005, in Potomac, Maryland.

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NEWS RELEASE
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**Clemson University's *Life at the Water's Edge* Receives
RNRF's Outstanding Achievement Award**

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Bethesda, Maryland—Renewable Natural Resources Foundation (RNRF) is pleased to announce that *Life at the Water's Edge: A Shoreline Resident's Guide to Natural Lakeshore and Streamside Buffers for Water Quality Protection in South Carolina*, produced by the Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service, has been selected to receive the RNRF 2005 Outstanding Achievement Award. The award, established in 1992, recognizes outstanding interdisciplinary achievements in the renewable natural resources fields.

Life at the Water's Edge is the result of a three-year interdisciplinary effort to provide lakeshore and streamside residents of South Carolina with scientifically-based information and active guidance on shoreline landscaping practices to maintain water quality. The guide provides a seamless integration of contributions from scientists and professionals from across the South, including landscape architects, horticulturalists, soil scientists, coastal ecologists, marine scientists, and extension professionals.

The 150-page handbook is unusual for a lay-oriented guide because of the breadth of geographic and ecological background provided. The handbook enhances a reader's interest and understanding, while offering direct practical solutions to shoreline landscaping problems. It describes the importance of watersheds in affecting water quality, explores shoreline natural history along different types of lakes and streams, examines the life and ecology of healthy water bodies in contrast with those stressed by pollutants, and describes the advantages and functions of natural buffer vegetation.

The handbook is available from Clemson University Public Service Publishing (<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing>). The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control funded the project.

The award will be presented at the annual meeting of the RNRF Board of Directors on November 1, 2005 in Potomac, Maryland.

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WATER RESOURCES

***The Star Tribune's Invaded Waters* Receives
RNRF's Excellence in Journalism Award**

Bethesda, Maryland—The Renewable Natural Resources Foundation (RNRF) has selected *The Minneapolis Star Tribune's* “Invaded Waters” to receive its 2005 Excellence in Journalism Award. The award honors and encourages excellence in print journalism about natural resources and recognizes advances in public education and understanding of important natural resource issues through the dissemination of accurate and scientifically-based information about the environment. The three-part series, written by Tom Meersman, featured in-depth analysis and investigation of the introduction of alien species into the Great Lakes.

The first installment, published June 13, 2004, examined the vast number of exotic species threatening the Great Lakes ecosystem—179 alien plant and animal species have been discovered so far in the Great Lakes. The ecological and financial costs of these species are staggering—zebra mussels alone have cost industries, water companies, and power plants nearly \$2 billion. Part two of the series examined the introduction of invasive species into the Great Lakes through the ballast water of cargo ships from around the world. Nearly three out of four vessels are exempted from the Coast Guard's ballast monitoring program yet they may still harbor potential invaders. Part three of the series examined the government's response to invasive species control and the high cost of delays. The series prompted a significant response from readers eager to find a way to prevent further destruction of the Great Lakes ecosystem.

Tom Meersman has spent more than two decades reporting on environment, natural resources and energy issues in the Upper Midwest: currently for Minnesota's largest circulation newspaper and previously for Minnesota Public Radio. Coverage has included environmental legislation, air and water quality, pollution, nuclear power, forestry, agricultural feedlots, garbage and recycling, wind energy, motorized recreation, state and national parks, Lake Superior, the Mississippi River, lakes and streams, endangered species and other topics.

An online version of the special report is available at <http://www.startribune.com/stories/122/>.

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