

The Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Conserving and Protecting the Soil and Water Resources of Texas



2017 State Award Winners



BONO RECEIVES 2017 PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Ben Bono was surprised as the recipient of the 2017 President's Award, the highest award bestowed by the Association of Texas SWCDs. Volney Hough, president of ATSWCD, made the announcement at the 77th Annual Meeting of SWCD Directors held Oct 23-25 in Galveston, TX.

Bono served on the Board of ATSWCD for 10 years, holding the office of Vice President. In congratulating Bono, Hough said, "I am very proud to have had the opportunity to serve on the Association Board with Ben. I can assure you, he was never too busy to attend a meeting or help in any way. This includes some very direct, yet effective testimony before the Texas Senate Finance Committee."

Currently serving as Chairman of Coastal Plains SWCD #317, Bono has served more than 45 years as a District Director. He has been very active in all conservation issues, attending Annual State Meetings, Committee of 100 meetings in Austin and national meetings, including trips to Washington D.C., in addition to events hosted by his local district.

Bono and his wife Pat manage a cattle and hay operation. "Ben personally participates in many different conservation programs such as EQIP and the state's 503 program across four Texas counties. His varied conservation practices have included weed and brush control, planting improved grasses and wildlife management," Hough said.

In presenting the plaque commemorating the 2017 President's Award, Hough further noted "Ben always has a smile on his face, and has never met a stranger. It was always an adventure traveling with Ben to our nation's capital to meet with our elected officials to discuss conservation issues. Even in the parking lot."

The prestigious President's Award was presented by Hough during the Awards Luncheon held in the ballroom of the Moody Gardens Hotel Spa and Convention Center. In recognition of his efforts and as a testament to his reputation in the conservation community, Bono received a standing ovation from his peers, SWCD Directors from across Texas.

