

From the AOWC 2010 meeting website:

<http://www.aow.lsu.edu/AOW%20Prog%20041310.pdf>

Deon D. Stuthman
Award for Distinguished Service to Oat Improvement



Dr. Deon Stuthman grew up on a farm and received his early education in eastern Nebraska. During his sophomore year in high school, he set a goal of earning a Ph.D. in either plant genetics or soil chemistry. Fortunately for the oat improvement community, plant genetics was his chosen area of interest. In pursuit of this interest, he entered the University of Nebraska and worked three summers in the Winter Wheat/Small Grain Breeding Project with notable plant scientists such as V.A. Johnson and J.W. Schmidt. After completing his B.S. in Technical Agronomy in 1962 he proceeded to Purdue University where he received his M.S in 1964 and Ph.D. in 1967 in Plant Breeding and Genetics. Dr. Stuthman joined the faculty of the University of Minnesota Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics in 1966 working in the area of Oat Breeding and Genetics. He retired officially in June 2009, but remains active in oat research as Professor Emeritus.

During his 43 years at the University of Minnesota, Dr. Stuthman advised more than 50 graduate students for 1 or 2 degrees and remains an important mentor for former students. He has become a mentor to oat scientists around the world through his activities in international agriculture. He made his first trip to Mexico as a consultant for oat improvement programs and continued annually until 1994 when he began travelling to oat research programs in the southern cone of South America as a consultant with the Quaker Oat Improvement Program in South America. As a mentor to these

programs, he contributed to the development of more than 25 oat cultivars in Mexico as well as approximately 20 cultivars in Brazil, Argentina, and Chile.

Dr. Stuthman's breeding program released 19 successful cultivars in Minnesota beginning with 'Otter' in 1970 and most recently 'Winona' in 2005. His program continues to produce superior lines that will be the foundation of further Minnesota cultivar releases. His research program demonstrated the effectiveness of recurrent selection for improvement of traits as diverse as grain yield and crown rust resistance. He and his long time colleague in Plant Pathology, Matt Moore, were early proponents of durable nonspecific crown rust resistance to protect the oat crop and he developed germplasm with nonspecific resistance that provides a genetic basis for oat cultivars with durable resistance to crown rust. He collaborated with grain quality scientists to provide fundamental information on oat milling quality. Dr. Stuthman provided research leadership for sustainable agriculture groups and is a strong advocate for sustainable agriculture practices.

Dr. Stuthman received many awards during his career which include selection as a fellow of the American Society of Agronomy (1987), Crop Science Society of America (1987) and American Society for the Advancement of Science (2009). He served as president of the Council of Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST), President of Minnesota-Uruguay Partners of America, a member of the Organizing Committee for the National Plant Breeding Workshop Planning Committee. He served as chair of many important University committees including one of his other passions, the University of Minnesota Athletic Committee.

He is an active participant in national and international oat organizations. He is an effective advocate for increased oat research funding and is a charter member of Oat Research Lobby Group working in conjunction with American Oat Association/North American Millers Association. In this capacity he traveled to Washington, DC annually since 1981 to explain the importance of oat research to members of congress. He has served on nearly all committees involved with oat improvement in North America, was Chair of the Local Host Committee for the 8th International Oat Conference held in Minneapolis in 2008, hosted an American Oat Workers Conference in St. Paul, and is the current Chair of the International Oat Committee through 2012. Deon Stuthman's service to local, national and international oat improvement is ongoing and he is a friend and mentor to all in the oat community.