

Keokuk teacher receives conservation award

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KEOKUK — Miles Brewer of Keokuk was honored for his education leadership and received Iowa's 2002 Ruth Wagner Conservation Award at the 56th Annual Conference of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners held in Marshalltown.

Brewer and his wife, Carolyn, were guests of honor at the 2002 conservation awards banquet held at the Best Western Regency Inn and hosted by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. This special award is presented annually to one outstanding assistant commissioner in recognition of his or her service to their local conservation district. All 100 soil and water conservation districts in Iowa are invited to submit a nomination. The award was established in 2001 in memory of Johnson County assistant commissioner, Ruth Wagner, for her dedicated service to conservation education.

District Chairman John Bonar of Denmark

announced Brewer's election for the conservation award, saying, "The commissioners wanted to recognize Brewer for his dedication to our conservation education program and for his many contributions to the Lee Soil and Water Conservation District. We thought the Ruth Wagner Award was a most fitting honor."

Brewer, an elementary educator, has served as assistant commissioner and education committee chairperson for the Lee Soil and Water Conservation District for the past 12 years.

As education chairperson for Lee SWCD, Brewer directs the district's annual poster contest in which nearly 200 poster entries are judged annually. He also guides the yearly stewardship program through which the district distributes free educational materials to area churches and organizations. In 1998 Brewer created a teacher database for the district identifying over 240 local educators who teach conservation concepts to their classrooms. Additionally, Brewer serves on the dis-

trict's senior high school scholarship selection committee.

Brewer began his career as an educator in 1958 after graduation from Northeast Missouri State University. He received his master's degree from the same school and did additional graduate work at the University of Iowa, the University of Northern Iowa and Florida State University. He taught in the Keokuk school system for 42 years until his retirement from teaching in 2000. He was awarded the "Teacher of the Year" award in 1992. Miles and Carolyn are the parents of three grown children and they have five grandchildren.

A state panel of judges representing the State Soil Conservation Committee, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and the Conservation Districts of Iowa, selected Mr. Brewer for the Ruth Wagner Award in October. Lee SWCD commissioners nominating Miles Brewer for the award are John Bonar, Patricia Koller, Larry Lang, John Pomberg, and Melvin Sanders.



Miles Brewer of Keokuk (right), recipient of the 2002 Iowa Ruth Wagner Conservation Award, is congratulated by John Bonar, chairman of the Lee Soil & Water Conservation District.