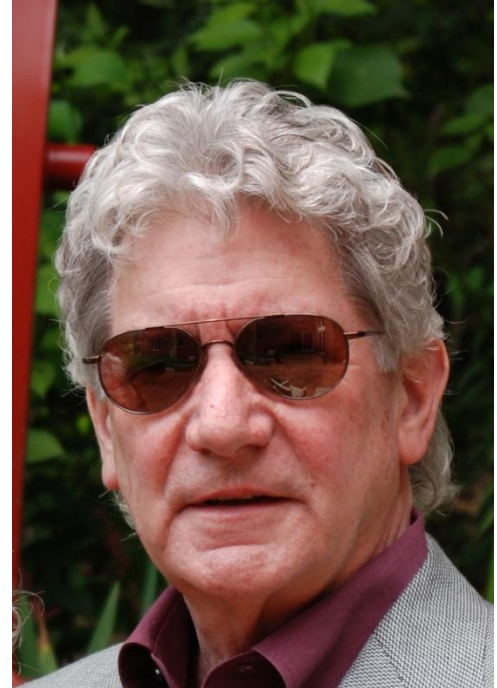


DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD HISTORY

The IAWF's *Distinguished Service Award* recognizes individuals, groups, or organizations for their outstanding contributions to furthering the goals of the Association.

To honor the 20th anniversary of the *International Journal of Wildland Fire*, the Association is proud to announce that Dr. William T. Sommers, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia, USA, as the Association's first recipient of the *Distinguished Service Award* in 2011. Bill was the Forest Service Director of Forest Fire and Atmospheric Sciences Research in 1991 and through his vision and leadership the *International Journal of Wildland Fire* was created.

Dr. Sommers spent 30 years in the Research division of the U.S. Forest Service, serving as a Director of national research programs. In that capacity his research area responsibilities included: Forest Fires, Global Change, Carbon Cycle, Invasive Species, Quantitative Ecology, Ecological Risk Assessment, and Sustainable Forest Management. He was a member of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG), International Boreal Forest Research Organization (IBFRA) and the Roundtable on Sustainable Forests; and was active in the White House science committees on Global Change and Ecological Systems.



Following his distinguished career in US Forest Service Research leadership, Bill joined the staff at George Mason University, where he serves as a Research Professor and Chief Scientist at the College of Science Center for Climate and Society, and as the co-Director of the EastFIRE Laboratory. Dr. Sommers is currently engaged in research on fire history and climate change, and fire emissions of GHG and black carbon.

Bill continues to be active in forwarding the Association's goals through research and education and by previously serving on the IAWF's Board of Directors and as Vice-President of the Association. Bill represented IAWF as a member of the U.S. delegation to the XIIIth World Forestry Congress in Argentina.

Dr. Sommers' academic training is in the fields of Atmospheric Science and Geophysical Fluid Dynamics with degrees from the City College of New York (CCNY), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and State University of New York at Albany (SUNYA); with additional training at the MIT Sloan School of Management.