

Conservation Awards go to Putnam Farmers  
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By Mike Richardson – Putnam District Soil Conservationist  
HC Photos/Shawn Sidwell

Mike Richardson retiring from SCD; here nearly 14 years.

For the 55<sup>th</sup> year, Putnam County farmers and their families and farm supporters have gathered to recognize those who have made outstanding contributions in the form of conservation practices – it was the Soil Conservation District annual awards banquet.

And it was one of the largest gatherings for a SCD banquet in recent memory, attended by more than 175 people at Tennessee Tech's Hyder-Burks Pavilion.

Noted were farmers, students and others for their contributions to the wise use of natural resources who received their awards following a meal prepared by Deborah Bogard of the Golden Corral restaurant and served by SCD supervisors and Earth Team volunteers.

A number of door prizes donated by supporters of the awards program were presented.

Joe Nash, chairman of the SCD board, acted as emcee for the event.

Awards presented were:

The Master Conservation Farmer award, sponsored for the 51<sup>st</sup> time by First Tennessee Bank, went to Clodus Randolph.

Brothers Barry and Gary Bush of the Fairview community received the Pasture Farmer of the Year award, sponsored by Union Planter's Bank.

Two Distinguished Cooperator awards were presented, sponsored by Community Bank of the Cumberland – these went to Dr. George Boyd and to D.C. Holman.

**The Kiwanis Club of Putnam County honored brothers Mike, Martin and Don Medley as the Farm Family of the Year.**

The Backyard Conservationist award, sponsored by the Bank of Putnam County, was presented to the grandfather and grandson team of Willard Cantrell and Mason Harville of Cookeville.

Kyle McDonald, a home school student involved in Putnam County 4-H won the Youth Conservationist award, presented by the First National Bank of the Cumberland.

The Putnam County Farm Bureau recognized Putnam County's top land judging teams from both the 4-H and the Future Farmers of America clubs.

Following the awards program, the audience viewed a picture series highlighting each of the conservation category award winners, presented by Mike Richardson, District Soil conservationist.

The Conservation Awards program is an important Putnam County tradition that highlights how the wise use of natural resources in our everyday lives, especially on farmlands, benefits our economy and quality of life.

With our ever-expanding national population and the shrinking number of people that actually farm the land – less than 2 percent nationwide – it is important for all of us to encourage the prudent use of natural resources, including land and water used to produce food and fiber as well as wildlife habitat.

By recognizing outstanding conservation farmers and others that promote good land use, the Soil District hopes to encourage many others to follow the examples set by these award winners.

From awards to other contributions, many donors underwrote the awards banquet and aided in countless ways, and they include:

Kathy Tilton, SCD office manager, and SCD supervisor Carole Moss who coordinated the entire project:

Mitzi Dunham, Elizabeth Williams, Clarence Richards, George Williams, Tom Pointer, Joe Nash, George Williams, Ben Moss, Paul and Mathew Tilton, Barry Daniel, Sam Tays and Jim Lansford, all of whom gave valuable service.

Linda Burgess who provided the music;

And Henrietta Williams, recently retired SCD secretary, who returned for the evening's festivities to see her old friends and to help Kathy with her first banquet.

For more information about the Putnam County Soil Conservation District, call 528-6472/ext. 3; or come by the office in the Putnam Agriculture Building at the west end of the Fairgrounds, 900 South Walnut Avenue, in Cookeville, TN.

Note: District Conservationist Mike Richardson, who is retiring from the Natural Resources Conservation Service at the end of December and has been responsible for much news coverage of SCD activities over the years, was surprised with a plaque honoring his nearly 14 years of service to the Putnam County district. His career includes more than 31 years of government service.



Clodus and Low Randolph, at center, receive the Master Conservationist Award, sponsored by the First Tennessee bank, represented by Davis Watts, at Left, and Nelson Forrester.  
H-C Photos/Shawn Sidwell



Three brothers were honored this year with the 'Farm Family of the Year' award, from left, Martin, Don and Mike Medley – an award sponsored by the Kiwanis Club, represented by Walter Crawford, at right.  
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