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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **TENNESSEE STORMWATER ASSOCIATION**

### **Announcing the 2017 Tennessee Stormwater Association “Exceptional Quality” Awards Winners**

**Pikeville, TN, October 24, 2017** – The Tennessee Stormwater Association (TNSA) announces the 2017 “Exceptional Quality” Award Winners. TNSA recognizes individuals and stormwater professionals that have devoted time and energy into making TNSA a success and have accomplished great strides within the Tennessee stormwater arena.

Nominations were accepted by TNSA members and voted on by their peers for two specific awards.

**Person of the Year:** An individual who displays Exceptional dedication and commitment to TNSA.

**Organization of the Year:** An MS4 or other Organization that displays Exceptional stewardship of Water Quality in Tennessee and provides Exceptional education and assistance to MS4s. Individuals are not eligible for this award; only the member organization is eligible.

The TNSA Board of Directors voted to change the name of TNSA Lifetime Achievement Award to the “Dr. Bruce Tschantz Lifetime Achievement Award”.

*“Dr. Bruce Tschantz received the BS in civil engineering from Ohio Northern University and MS and PhD from New Mexico State University. ... In 1965 he came to the University of Tennessee, where he taught water resources courses in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and received numerous teaching awards. He retired in 2002. ...As Professor Emeritus, he taught workshops in urban hydrology throughout Tennessee. In the early 1970s he worked to establish Tennessee's first dam safety policy, leading him to take a sabbatical after being appointed as the first Chief of Federal Dam Safety in 1980. He continued his national advocacy for dam safety until his death. He was initiated as a Fellow in the American Society of Civil Engineers, and in 2016 he was recognized by the American Society of Dam Safety Officers (ASDSO) for lifetime achievement.” – Knoxville News Sentinel*

Dr. Tschantz also assisted the stormwater community in Tennessee immensely- with, among other efforts, his contribution to the development of the first statewide guidance on stormwater best management practices: *the TDEC Permanent Stormwater Management Manual*.

The “Dr. Bruce Tschantz Lifetime Achievement Award” is TNSA’s highest honor for outstanding, longtime stormwater professionals with a minimum of 25 years of service. These individuals’ long-term contributions have made a noticeable impact on stormwater management efforts in the State of Tennessee. Dr. Bruce Tschantz was given the award posthumously this year. In following years, the Board will review nominations and make selection of recipient. This lifetime achievement award will not be voted on by the TNSA membership.

The 2017 awards were announced at the Tennessee Stormwater Association’s Annual Conference on October 17, 2017 at Fall Creek Falls State Park.

Person of the Year was awarded to John Chlarson with the University of Tennessee's Municipal Technical Advisory Service, in cooperation with the Tennessee Municipal League. John has been instrumental to the inception and continued success of the Tennessee Stormwater Association. He has been an integral component of the stormwater world in Tennessee since 2003 when he helped TDEC draft the very first Phase II permit and NOI, and the Annual Report. John also co-authored a statewide Model Stormwater Ordinance and a statewide Model Stormwater Utility Ordinance for municipalities in the State of Tennessee. He helped compile all the necessary paperwork and documents to formally incorporate the TNSA in 2008. He has helped countless communities across the state with municipal operations, traffic, and public works needs. He has assisted many stormwater programs and presented before a multitude of city councils on the importance for responsible stormwater management and has served as TNSA Ad-Hoc Secretary since TNSA's inception. Mr. Chlarson is always willing to schedule an array of training classes including municipal housekeeping, administrative hearings, SWPPP development etc. John plays a significant role in the continual growth of TNSA and we are ever grateful for his generous time and commitment to the Association.

The TNSA Organization of the Year was awarded to The University of Tennessee Stormwater Department. Words from the nominator: "We recently took a trip to Knoxville to see the installation of 60 Urban Bioretention along Volunteer Blvd. While there Garrett Ferry preceded to take us on a tour of all the other LID and BMP installation UT has done over the last couple years. I was astounded at all the other practices they have implemented on campus. Garrett also went through a lot of effort to get the new 1" capture regs implemented on campus."

Please help us recognize and congratulate the 2017 TNSA award winners. All of these folks work tirelessly to help keep the Tennessee waterways clean for years to come!

The Tennessee Stormwater Association is Tennessee's premier membership organization for stormwater professionals. TNSA's mission is to assist members with their local efforts to comply with State and Federal clean water laws; including stormwater regulations through EPA and TDEC (Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation). TNSA's goal is to protect and improve the quality of the waters of Tennessee through the exchange of information and knowledge regarding design, construction, maintenance, administration and operation of stormwater facilities.

For more information about TNSA contact Executive Director, Charlene Desha at [charlene@tnstormwater.org](mailto:charlene@tnstormwater.org) or visit [www.tnstormwater.org](http://www.tnstormwater.org).

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