



2008 Award of Honor

John Lindstrom
Bonsall, CA

Award presented by
Len Francis

I have the privilege of presenting the world avocado industry's most prestigious award. The first one was given in 1938. The California Avocado Society's Award of Honor is given to individuals who have given so much of themselves to benefit California's avocado industry.

Today's recipient lives with his wife Jan on a hill covered with avocado trees that overlook Bonsall and most of Fallbrook. His life, however, began on a farm in Minnesota. His enjoyment of agriculture led him to attain a Bachelor's and then a Master's degree in agriculture from the University of Minnesota. The U.S. Navy took him to new heights, as a pilot. Flying has been a great joy for John. In addition to piloting military aircraft, for many years he flew for Delta Airlines. Before retiring from Delta, though, he found his Bonsall property so he could more conveniently fly internationally, and plant some avocado trees.

Thus, John Lindstrom's love of the avocado tree and its fruit began, as did his interest in our industry's search for new varieties and improved cultural methods. He became an avid cooperater for Dr. Bob Burgh and Gray Martin. I first met John at his grove where Dr. Burgh discussed the research results of his breeding program. John became the Chairman of our Society's Breeding and Varieties Committee.

John has served as an Avocado Society Board Member for 13 years. For many of those years he served as the Chair of the Nominating Committee. John has now served five years as an alternate

Board Member of the California Avocado Commission, and will probably be re-elected for another two year term next month. John is also serving concurrently as an alternate board member for the Hass Avocado Board.

John continues to promote improving our avocado trees and cultural techniques by serving on the Avocado Commission's Production Research Committee. He is the Chairman of the Plant Breeding and Genetics Sub-committee. His interests in avocados is international as he has attended every World Avocado Congress except the first one.

John has a great love of life and family and we need to mention his wife Jan and daughters Jana, Jill and Jodi, all whom have supported John's endeavors. There is a lot of snow in Minnesota. The Lindstrom family thoroughly enjoys cross-country skiing to the point of racing internationally. John is a past director of the Federation of International Skiing. He is still a director of the U.S. Skiing Hall of Fame.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is with great pleasure that I present the California Avocado Society's Award of Honor to John Lindstrom.