

The recipient of the 2018 Rich Cailteux award is Chuck Cichra.

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Chuck Cichra became a Florida Chapter member in 1986, over 30 years ago, when he came to the University of Florida from Texas A&M.

Chuck Cichra has worked in Florida's lakes, rivers, springs, canals, coastal systems, and wetlands; with fish, invertebrates, and aquatic plants; with water chemistry and water quality; with fisheries management and human use of aquatic habitats; with aquaculture; with fish ecology and non-native species. He has left his mark in all these areas. His extension programs have been highly successful, including Fishing for Success and other youth education programs, recreational fishing pond management, and his work with Florida LakeWatch.

Chuck Cichra has excelled in classroom education, in graduate student education, and in extension. He co-teaches Introduction to Fisheries Science/Fish and Limnology, a fixture in both the undergraduate and graduate curriculum at the University of Florida. His Introduction to Fisheries Statistics also is a popular course. It is difficult to say how many graduate students that Chuck has produced because it almost seems to be a "rule" that he sits on everyone's committee. His students range (at least) from Washington State to Florida and hold a variety of professional positions in agencies, academia, and industry. Even more difficult is to number the many thousands of school children who have attended his aquatic ecology and fishing programs.

When Chuck Cichra came to Florida he noticed little participation of students in the Florida Chapter; he set out to help address this issue right away. Chuck was part of the original effort to initiate the Roger Rottmann Memorial Scholarship, the highest honor we bestow on our students. He also helped initiate the student travel awards which cover the room and board of students attending the annual meeting. He has been the chair of the student awards committee from the beginning and still presents these awards at the annual meeting. He also organizes the best student paper and poster judges. He has noted such an increase in student participation that at meetings about half of all presentations are by students and frequently more than 60% of the posters.

Chuck Cichra is a past President of the chapter, past Shellcracker Editor, and was a vital part of the organizing committee for the 1994 American Fisheries Society annual meeting in Tampa.

In closing, Chuck exemplifies the award criteria as well as the legacy of prior award recipients.