

The logo for asta, featuring the word "asta" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font. A small green leaf is positioned above the letter 'a'.

asta

LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

SACRAMENTO, CA, JUNE 10 — 14

2023

AWARDS RECEPTION
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Program

- Welcome Remarks: Jim Schweigert, ASTA Chair
- Heritage Awards
- Seed Science Foundation "Excellence in Science" Award
- Distinguished Service Award
- Lifetime Honorary Member Award



Heritage Awards

The Heritage Award was created to preserve and build history and to honor and recognize individuals who have significantly impacted ASTA and the seed industry. It seeks to inspire the next generation of leaders, and instill a sense of pride in the rich history of the seed industry and ASTA.



■ Dr. Richard "Dick" Crowder

Dick Crowder has spent more than 50 years in senior executive and policy positions in the food and agriculture industry, advancing the interests of farmers, ranchers, and the industries that produce food and fiber.

He earned B.S. and M.S. degrees from Virginia Tech and a Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University in Agricultural Economics. Before joining the U.S. Trade Representative office, he served as CEO of the American Seed Trade Association. His 30 plus years of domestic and international private sector experience includes senior management positions in a number of companies throughout the food industry including The Pillsbury Company, Armour-Swift Eckridge, DEKALB Genetics and Wilson & Co.

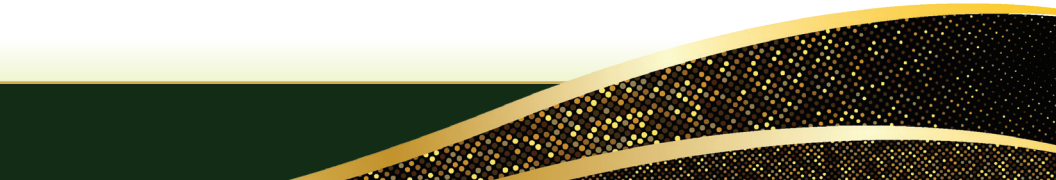
From January 2006 until May 2007, he served as the U.S. Chief Agriculture Negotiator where he was responsible for directing all U.S. agriculture negotiations worldwide including multilateral negotiations in the WTO as well as regional and bilateral negotiations. He served as a senior advisor to the United States Trade Representative from May 2007 until April 2008.

He served as Under Secretary International Affairs and Commodity Programs for the United States Department of Agriculture from 1989-1992. In this role he was responsible for all USDA agencies dealing with international trade and development as well as domestic farm programs.

He led the agriculture negotiations for the United States in the Uruguay Round and managed the 1990 Farm Bill process.

Dr. Crowder joined ASTA as Executive Vice President. During his tenure he significantly raised the awareness and stature of the Association with the USDA, the White House as well as the Agriculture Committees of the US Senate and House of Representative. Managing the affairs of the Association, Dick implemented policies, negotiated agreements, and managed staff to strengthen financial stability and productivity. Dick worked tirelessly to enhance ASTA relationships and effectiveness with state, national and international seed industry organizations as well as related agricultural entities. Relying on guidance from ASTA General Counsel, while seeking to strengthen the organizational structure of the Association, the Board voted to designate the leader selected and elected by the membership as Chair. Thus, Dr. Crowder became the first management professional to be named as President and CEO of ASTA. During and since his tenure, Dr. Crowder's leadership as well as his vast connections in government, the seed industry and agriculture in general brought ASTA into a new era of prominence and effectiveness.

Dr. Crowder has received numerous awards, including the Virginia Tech Alumnus of the Millennium award in 2000, the Virginia Tech Agriculture Alumni Hall of Fame, and Outstanding Alumni Award from the Virginia Tech Graduate School. He also received the Distinguished Service Award from the Office of the United States Trade Representative. In 2013, he received the American Farm Bureau Federation's Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his career of service to agriculture. Richard received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Virginia Tech University and earned his doctoral degree from Oklahoma State University.



Heritage Awards



■ **Bill Latham** | Latham Seeds, Inc.

Bill Latham, born in 1941, was raised on a grain and livestock farm in north central Iowa. He is a 1963 graduate of Iowa State University with a degree in agronomy, where he was a member of Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity and initiated into Alpha Zeta agricultural honor society. For several years after college, he served as a sales representative and agronomist for Monsanto Company with territories in Louisiana and eastern Nebraska.

After a stint in the U.S. Marine Corp Reserve, Bill came home to the family seed business in 1966 where he became its president. Founded by his father, Willard, in 1947, Latham Seed Company was owned and managed by Bill and his brother Don. Another brother and owner, Tom, left the company to serve as U.S. Congressman in 1994.

Bill managed the soybean variety development program, as well as overall management. The company grew to become one of the most successful soybean seed producers and marketers in the upper soybean belt, with a dealer organization in seven North Central states.

Bill and his wife Linda have two sons, John, and Christopher. Both, along with John's wife Shannon, are now owners of Latham Hi-Tech Seeds. John and Shannon have two children, Elizabeth, and Ian. Chris and Ann also have three children, Will, Courtney and Morgan.

Bill was very active in community and professional activities. He is past president of the CAL Community School Board. Bill and Linda have served as co-chairs of the "Extra Edge for Excellence" Capital Campaign for the Educational Foundation of CAL Schools. He has served as president of his church, Sunday School Superintendent, church youth leader, and call committee chairperson. Bill has been president of the local community club and a director of the Franklin County Development

Association. He is member of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity at Iowa State and was recipient of its 50-year service award.

Professionally, Bill has served as president of the Independent Seed Association and has served two nine-year terms on its board of directors.

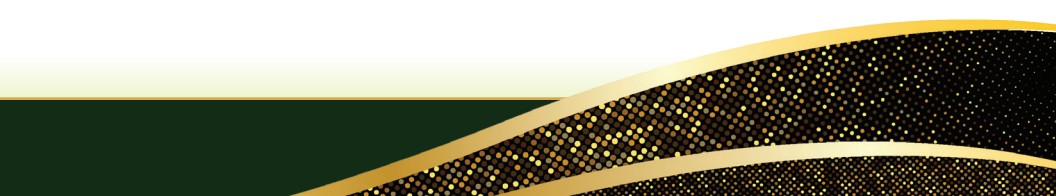
Bill served as Regional Vice President and Soybean Division chairperson of the American Seed Trade Association and became ASTA's national president in 1998. He has also served on the board of directors of the American Seed Research Foundation and represented ASTA on the advisory committee of the National Soybean Research Laboratory.

Bill has served as chairman of Friends of Agriculture at Iowa State University and as a member of the Dean of Agriculture's Advisory Committee. Bill is a past president of the Iowa Seed Association, past vice-president of the Iowa Crop Improvement Association, and past chairperson of the Iowa Committee for Agricultural Development, as well as serving on many committees within these organization. He was also a member of the agricultural advisory committee of North Iowa Area Community College.

Bill was the 1999 recipient of the Floyd Andre Award, given annually by the Iowa State University College of Agriculture. Bill and Linda are members of Order of the Knoll at Iowa State University. In 1992, Bill was the recipient of the Iowa State University Service Key Award by the ISU Club of Franklin County.

In 2008 Bill was named an Honorary Lifetime Member of the American Seed Trade Association. He is also an honorary member of the Iowa Seed Association. In 2010 he was recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Independent Professional Seed Association.

Nominations are being accepted now for the 2024 Heritage Award. Please see the ASTA registration desk for information on making a nomination.



Seed Science Foundation:

Excellence in Science Award

The Seed Science Foundation's Excellence in Science Award recognizes the outstanding achievement by a public or private researcher whose accomplishments have had an impact in the areas of Breeding Systems, Seed Quality, Seed Production and Technology, Seed Health and Pathology, Digital Agriculture, or Seed Applied Technology.



■ **Manjit Misra** | Iowa State University

Dr. Manjit K. Misra is the Director of the Seed Science Center, the founding Director of the Biosafety Institute for Genetically Modified Agricultural Products (BIGMAP), the Endowed Chair of Seed Science, Technology and Systems and a Professor of

Agricultural and Bio systems Engineering at Iowa State University. He also served as the Director of the Global Food Security Consortium at Iowa State University.

Appointed as the chair of the USDA National Genetic Resources Advisory Council (NGRAC) for two terms by the USDA Secretary of Agriculture, Misra has served on more than 60 local, national, and international Boards and committees. These include the steering committee for Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Conference on Biotechnology, the Scientific Advisory Council of the American Seed Research Foundation, the Board of Directors of the Iowa Seed Association, the Iowa Crop Improvement Association, and the "First the Seed Foundation."

Misra earned a B.S. in Agricultural Engineering in India; and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He is a researcher with 137 publications and an innovator with 10 patents. During his tenure as the Director of the Seed Science Center, the faculty and staff conducted seed program in 79 countries including 34 countries of Africa.

Misra has received a number of awards for his leadership including the "Distinguished Service Award" from the American Seed Trade Association, the "Order of the Knoll Faculty Award" from Iowa State University, the "Global Agricultural Leadership Award" from the Indian Council of Food and Agriculture, the Sukup Global Food Security award and the AE50 award (given to top 50 product innovations in the areas of agricultural, food, and biological systems) from the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Association (ASABE) and the "Certificate of Appreciation" from the USDA Secretary of Agriculture for exemplary commitment and dedicated service to the USDA National Genetic Resources Advisory Council.

For the coming year, nominations will be accepted from July - December. Please see the ASTA registration desk for information on making a nomination.

ASTA DISTINGUISHED *Service Award*

The ASTA Distinguished Service Award recognizes those who have made significant contributions to the association and the seed industry.



■ **Donn Cummings** | National Association of Plant Breeders

During a 30-year career with Pfizer Genetics, DeKalb and Monsanto, Dr. Donn Cummings was a highly successful corn breeder, Station Manager and Area Research Director. Donn became Monsanto's Global

Breeder Sourcing Lead in 2007, where he provided overall leadership and global strategic planning to build and maintain a Ph.D. and M.S. level plant breeder talent pipeline for Monsanto until his retirement in 2015. One of Donn's early contributions to plant breeding was the first report of successful technology for routinely regenerating whole plants from tissue culture in oats. Subsequently, as a corn breeder and research manager he obtained 22 inbred and hybrid patents, with 11 having significant commercial impact. Dr. Cummings has been exceptionally active in a wide range of professional organizations, including the Crop Science Society of America, the National Council of Commercial Plant Breeders (Past President), the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) and the Plant Breeding Coordinating Committee. In 2003 Donn was named a Monsanto Scientific Fellow, that organization's highest honor. Donn is founding member of the NAPB), has served as NAPB Membership Committee Chair, initiated and serves as a mentor in NAPB's Borlaug Scholars Program. He received his B.S. in Biology Education from Purdue University in 1971, an M.S. in Plant Breeding and Genetics from Purdue in 1973 and a Ph.D. in Plant Breeding and Genetics from the University of Minnesota in 1977. Throughout his career, Donn has been a tireless and articulate advocate for the plant breeding profession. He not only initiated the NAPB Borlaug Scholar's Program, but continues to serve as a mentor for dozens of students and aspiring plant breeders globally, currently serving as a Liaison between NAPB and ASTA.

ASTA LIFETIME HONORARY *Member Award*

ASTA's Lifetime Honorary Member Award is one of the highest awards bestowed by the association and is in recognition of untiring service to ASTA as well as the seed industry.



■ **Craig Newman** | AgReliant Genetics/Finding Black Ink, LLC

Craig Newman is the former President & CEO of AgReliant Genetics. Craig's career began with seven years spent at Procter & Gamble in Ohio. He then entered the seed industry at Akin Seed Company, in 1979 in St. Francisville, Illinois, and has since spent over 40 years in our industry, with various positions at Akin Seed and AgriGold Hybrids, including General Manager.

He served as Vice President of Sales and Marketing for twelve years at AgReliant Genetics before ascending to his current role as President and CEO in 2012. He has also served as President of the Illinois Seed Dealers and as Central Regional Vice President and Chairman of the Board of Directors for the American Seed Trade Association.

Craig is a graduate of Purdue University where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Agribusiness Management. He also serves as the President of the Mount Carmel Area Economic Alliance. He and his wife, Sue, live in Mt. Carmel, Illinois and enjoys spending time with his children and ten grandchildren.



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