David Speth, 2020 Snyder Award Recipient
Text Byron Baxter and Ron Elardo

David Speth is the 2020 winner of the Marvin and Emilie Snyder Award of Merit for Dedicated Support of the American Conifer Society. Byron Baxter and Ron Elardo nominated David for this award.

David has served for five years as an officer of the Central Region, as director of the Central Region and also as its treasurer. During that time, David has been an outstanding member of the Board of Directors of the ACS. In the past year, David assembled members for the ACS’s Research Committee, which had been inactive for many years. He then wrote the policy defining the group’s mission and responsibilities.

David has chaired or co-chaired the organization of the last three ACS National Conferences held in the Central Region. He has implemented advanced planning for future Central Region Conferences that, in the past, were cobbled together in an annual scramble. His work in this regard has established, in advance, locations and teams to do the work for the Conference.

He has assisted and managed the plant auction check-outs at Central Region and ACS National Conferences. He has been co-chair for the next planned Conifer College.

While David and Sherry, his wife, are familiar faces at Central Region Conferences, they also attend many other ACS events. They are ever-present at National Conferences, as well as the pre- and post-meeting tours, Iowa rendezvous, Ohio’s Conifer Connection Weekend, and the Indianapolis Circle Garden Tours. David not only donates his time to these meetings and events, but he also actively supports the ACS by participating in the fundraising auctions. He has made other financial contributions to the ACS for specific purposes too.

David’s organizational skills, personal dedication, and substantial time commitment have been important and essential for most Conference activities that have occurred in the Central Region for the last eight years.

David served with distinction at both the regional and national levels. The ACS has benefited greatly from David’s efforts. His support of the ACS matches the high standard established by prior recipients of the Snyder Award.