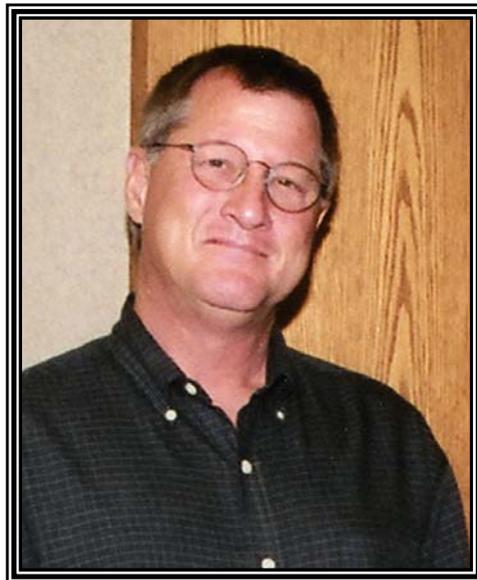


## **Elizabeth Jester Fellows Award Announcement**

Elizabeth J. Fellows headed the Assessment and Watershed Protection Division in USEPA's Office of Water. She dedicated her career to natural resources management and environmental protection including envisioning the creation of the National Council. She was an effective advocate for developing a nationwide framework for coordinating, collecting, assessing, and communicating water quality monitoring information and results. In her memory, the National Water Quality Monitoring Council has established the **Elizabeth Jester Fellows (EJF) Award** to recognize individuals for outstanding achievement, exemplary service, and distinguished leadership in the field of water quality monitoring.

*In recognition of his contributions to water quality monitoring, the NWQMC is pleased to present the 2004 Elizabeth Jester Fellows Award to*



**Daniel R. Butler**

Monitoring Coordinator, Water Quality Division  
Oklahoma Conservation Commission

Dan Butler has been a leader and pioneer in water quality monitoring for over 20 years. He is an innovator and planner. His focused vision and perseverance is responsible for many of the biological and habitat assessment methods that are now the basis for biocriteria implementation in Oklahoma. Streams that Dan surveyed for early statewide Nonpoint Source Assessments remain the focus of many of the state's water quality programs almost two decades later.

In the late 1980s, Oklahoma's ambient monitoring programs were discontinued due to lack of funding. Dan's leadership helped overcome these problems by forging inter-agency approaches. His recent efforts are leading Oklahoma towards a monitoring strategy with its first-ever probabilistic monitoring program. The renewed recognition of the value of monitoring programs in Oklahoma has led to an additional \$1.5 million annually to state monitoring programs for assessment of beneficial use attainment.

Dan's leadership has built a solid foundation for monitoring in Oklahoma. This includes a comprehensive set of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for monitoring and an aggressive quality assurance (QA) program for field collections and bio assessments. He has instituted an aggressive QA program for data entry and management for his monitoring programs. These SOPs form the backbone of OCC's monitoring efforts, but have also been widely adopted with minimal adaptation by other state agencies and Oklahoma tribes.

Dan is an exceptional teacher, training both professional and volunteer monitors in OCC's Blue Thumb Program and other educational programs directed towards teaching the general public about water quality. He has also served as a science mentor for gifted high school students at the Oklahoma School for Science and Mathematics.

Dan has provided interagency training for habitat assessment and fish identification. He is involved with training tribal environmental staff in Oklahoma and has helped several tribes develop the framework of their environmental monitoring programs. Water quality professionals fortunate enough to work with Dan fondly recall the unique learning opportunities that working with him afforded.

Dan is usually a first choice for any technical working group addressing water quality in Oklahoma. Dan has participated in several national workgroups dealing with lake and reservoir bioassessment, nutrient criteria guidance, and biocriteria development. He has also participated in the Oklahoma Water Monitoring Council's Quality Assurance and Monitoring Work Group.

*Dan's work in water quality monitoring has influenced environmental programs across Oklahoma.*

*His colleagues nominated him for this award as an expression of their great admiration for him.*

***Congratulations, Dan!***