AUDREY BATSON MEMORIAL AWARD

"TENNESSEE MEMBER OF THE YEAR"

This article is meant to be a history of this award: How it came about and what it means.

In the beginning…During the year of 1989 a group of Tennessee State Staff members began to explore possible ways to honor a Tennessee member, Audrey Batson.

This lady's dedication to her husband's chosen avocation was well known to the Tennessee Members. Her dedication, zeal and commitment to GWRRA went far above the call to duty. In spite of a debilitating illness, her spirit was an inspiration to many.

THE TENNESSEE MEMBER OF THE YEAR award was created. Audrey Batson was to be first recipient of this annual award. This was to be presented to her in the presence of as many of the Tennessee members as possible to assemble, the Tennessee State Rally.

In November 1989, Audrey succumbed to her illness. In order to honor and perpetuate her memory, the name of the award was changed to: THE AUDREY BATSON MEMORIAL AWARD-TENNESSEE MEMBER OF THE YEAR.

A Special award was presented to her posthumously at the Tennessee State Rally in April 1990. Her husband, Ron Batson was honored by being the first recipient of the AUDREY BATSON MEMORIAL AWARD-TENNESSEE MEMBER OF THE YEAR at the same Rally.

Since then 17 other Tennessee Member's, or couples, have been selected to receive this award…the highest honor that can be bestowed on any Tennessee GWRRA Member.

THE SELECTION PROCESS:

There will be only one award given in the any year. The person receiving the award does not have to prove himself/herself by any type of test or oral presentation. He or she does not have to present himself/herself in any way after he/she has been nominated. An effort will be made to keep the nomination secret from the person/persons chosen.

RULES FOR THIS AWARD:

1. The nominee **must** be a full or associate Member of Tennessee GWRRA with Membership fees paid in full.
2. The nominator **must also** be a full or associate Member of Tennessee GWRRA with paid up membership fees.
3. The nominee **does not** have to be an officer in any capacity.
4. The nominator must submit a written nomination letter stating why he or she believes the person should be considered for this prestigious award. Try to be as comprehensive as possible as to why they feel this person should be considered.
5. The nominator's membership number, as well as the nominee's membership number, along with the nominator's address and phone number, should be included.

6. A committee will then choose from the written nominations a recipient of the award before the next Tennessee District Rally.
7. The written nomination should be mailed to the current District Director:

Ken Zahn, at 243 Cedarwood Drive, Sevierville, TN 37876 or may be sent via email to ken.zahn@smokymtnit.com. Not responsible for nominations not received. Please verify your nomination letter is received. For questions, call 865-774-7740.

NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 15TH 2010

HOW THEN, DOES ONE QUALIFY FOR THIS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD?….

"BY THEIR WORKS YOU SHALL KNOW THEM"

TENNESSEE MEMBERS WHO WERE HONORED WITH THIS AWARD

1989	Ron Batson
1990	Shirley Burton
1991	Opal Lee
1992	Diane Stang
1993	Houston & Kathy Brown
1994	Zearl & Jane Black
1995	John & Louise Koty
1996	Bob & Ann Willoughby
1997	Brenda & Joe Neeley
1998	Gary & Cheryl Sanford
1999	Tom & Carolyn Jarrell
2000	Sam & Nancy Winters
2001	William & Sondra Simmons
2002	Richard & Jeanell Banner
2003	Ray & Sheila Massengale
2004	Tom & Kathy Peck
2005	Bill & Margaret Roland
2006	Boots & Phyllis Streetman
2007	Jerry & Leisa Childers
2008	Norm Sorrell