

What Constitutes a Hall of Famer?

Sometimes an editor's job is like college course work. The difference is, you never get to the end of the semester. For an editor, there is no such thing as a "final project," or an "aaahhh, it's all done" feeling because there's always next month's issue. However, there are times when a writer's job is absolutely satisfying and rewarding. Now is one of those times.

As part of *Pest Control's* Hall of Fame, I had the opportunity to spend time visiting with each of our inductees. The winners, in case you haven't heard by now, are John Osmun, Purdue University, Bob Russell, Arrow Exterminators and Dan Stout, Whitmire Micro-Gen.

These interviews weren't about some pressing, hard-core industry issue, as is sometimes the case in this business. No, these were different. They were more like conversations with old friends. For me, it was an opportunity to simply let someone tell his story, and it was wonderful to just sit and listen.

So, what was gleaned from these visits? Well, I learned from the masters what it takes to be a Hall of Famer. Along these lines, three words come to mind—unique, humble and earnest, all of which were demonstrated by this year's inductees.

Osmun spoke humbly about himself, taking credit for little and giving praise to many others, yet it was he who accomplished a feat such as establishing Purdue's entomology program. Russell took a "brass tacks" approach to his career, and stood up for the industry, working to make the Federal

Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) something with which we could all live; and the creative thinking of Stout inspired him to think "outside the box" and bring us more than 60 new pest control products throughout his career. Could these characteristics and contributions be the formula for making a candidate worthy of such an honor? Apparently so.

While each winner certainly has his own attributes that make him a winner (see related stories on pages 36, 50 and 56), the combination of all three is what makes the light from these men shine in our industry. The bottom line is that each used their strong points throughout their career histories to give this industry as much as possible. Couldn't we all do that somehow?

Think about it for a second. What's the one especially strong asset that you bring to the table? We all have some characteristic that stands out—the challenge is capitalizing on it.

Their passion provided their livelihood, but, fortunately, it gave this industry so much more. What these three men have left in their wake can serve as an inspiration for the rest of us.

Well, that's all for today's course work on "How to be a Hall of Famer: 101." **PC**

Lisa Shaheen

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