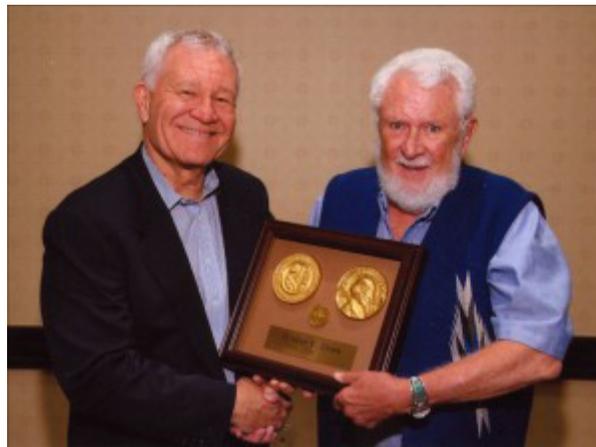


SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology) Twenhofel medal awarded to USGS Scientist Emeritus Walter Dean

On April 12, 2011, in Houston, TX, USGS Global Change Emeritus Scientist [Walter Dean](#) accepted the highest award given by the [Society for Sedimentary Geology](#) (SEPM) — the Twenhofel medal.



Walt Dean accepts the William F. Twenhofel Medal from
SEPM President Mitch Harris

Walt joins an illustrious [list of past Twenhofel recipients](#), which reads as a veritable “Who’s Who” of sedimentary geology. He is one of only three USGS scientists to receive the award, first Edwin (Eddie) McKey in 1975 and most recently Gene Shin in 2009.

Based in Denver, Walt specializes in paleolimnology and paleoceanography, focusing on paleoclimatology. He describes himself as a “rare combination” of paleoceanographer and paleolimnologist, studying the sediment cores collected from oceans and lakes. After completing his doctoral dissertation on the Permian Castle varved anhydrite of the Delaware Basin of west Texas and New Mexico, Walt went on to become one of the world’s most cited

authors in the field of geochemistry of both lacustrine and marine sediments deposited from the [Permian](#) to modern times and has published over 200 papers.

Walt received his undergraduate degree in geology from Syracuse University in 1961, and his Ph.D. in geology and geochemistry from the University of New Mexico in 1967. He joined the USGS in 1975. He is a member of several professional societies, including the Geological Society of America, American Geophysical Union, American Society of Limnology and Oceanography, American Association for the Advancement of Science, and Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists. In 2009, Walt also received the [International Paleolimnologic Association Lifetime Achievement Award](#).

The Twenhofel medal recognizes “outstanding contributions to paleontology, sedimentology, stratigraphy, and/or allied scientific disciplines” that “normally involve extensive personal research, but may involve some combination of research, teaching, administration, or other activities which have notably advanced scientific knowledge in Sedimentary Geology.” The award description emphasizes that “A record of sustained high achievement is an essential qualification.”

This is certainly a significant achievement, and we hope you will join us in congratulating Walt. He says it best himself: “This is an award that I never would have dreamed worthy of. This is big.”