

Wildcatter of the Year ^[1]



The Wildcatter of the Year award is bestowed on only the most prominent leaders in the western oil and natural gas industry whose entrepreneurial spirit and exploratory work have contributed significantly to America's energy security. Wildcatter of the Year recipients are also role models in the western community who have contributed significantly to the betterment of society.

The term "wildcatter" originates from the 1880s when independent oilmen ranged across the West in hopes of discovering new or unproven oil reserves. The Wildcatter of the Year award was created in 1981, and nominations are based on the unique contributions and accomplishments of an industry leader, particularly in successful longtime oil and natural gas exploration and production in the West; community service; and support of industry activities and organizations.

Each year the winner is announced during Western Energy Alliance's annual Wildcatter of the Year Gala attended by leaders in the independent oil and natural gas industry in the West.

Wildcatters of the Year

Recipients	Year
Paul Rady ^[2]	2018
Barth Whitham ^[3]	2017
Harold Hamm ^[4]	2015
Ted Brown ^[5]	2013
James (Jim) Volker ^[6]	2012
Neal Stanley ^[6]	2011
Peter Dea ^[5]	2010
James Lightner	2009
Neil (Mick) McMurry	2008
William Ballard	2007

Harry Trueblood	2006
Kenneth Luff	2005
Thomas Petrie	2004
Cortland Dietler	2003
F.H. (Mick) Merelli	2002
Donald Wolf	2001

Rex Monahan	2000
Robert Nance	1999
Raymond Duncan	1998
Robert Bayless	1997
George Fancher	1996
John Snyder	1995
Edward Ackman	1994
William Barrett	1993
George Anderman	1992
Wayne (Dusty) Biddle	1991

Harvey Yates	1990
Conely Smith	1988
William Goodin	1987
James Wallace	1986
Thomas Vessels	1984
Samuel Gary	1983
Frederick Mayer	1982
H. A. True	1981

Feature content:

No

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[Rocky Mountain Hall of Fame](#) ^[7]

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[2] <https://www.westernenergyalliance.org/press-room/western-energy-alliance-honors-antero-resources%25e2%2580%2599-paul-rady-%25e2%2580%2598wildcatter-year%25e2%2580%2599>

[3] <https://www.westernenergyalliance.org/node/22508>

[4] <https://www.westernenergyalliance.org/node/20607>

[5] <https://www.westernenergyalliance.org/node/17634>

[6] <https://www.westernenergyalliance.org/press-room/accuracy-administration%25E2%2580%2599s-role-increased-oil-and-natural-gas-production-questioned-denver>

[7] <https://www.westernenergyalliance.org/alliance/our-members/rocky-mountain-hall-of-fame>