



ELEMENTARY TEACHER

Caleb Shehane

Being an elementary science teacher may not have been the vocation Caleb Shehane thought he would choose for himself, but he is so happy he did.

Shehane has been chosen as the Best of the Best elementary school teacher. He is a Warren County native who attended school at Centertown. After completing his undergrad work at Tennessee Tech, he earned a master's degree from Middle Tennessee State University.

At Centertown he teaches fifth- and sixth-grade science, a grade level he enjoys.

"I really enjoy teaching the middle school children and feel like I found my niche," said Shehane. "They are like sponges and absorb everything so well."

He is going into his eighth year of teaching, with seven of them at Centertown.

"It is fun to teach at the same school you grew up in," said Shehane. "When I



was in college, I wasn't 100 percent sure what I wanted to do, and was searching for a field I might be good in. I love teaching, and want children to achieve their potential and to be lifelong learners."

Shehane's wife, Heather, is also a teacher. They have a daughter, Arie, 2, and are expecting a son in October.

"Education is important to us," said Shehane. "You might say it's in our blood, and is what we do."

As many Best of the Best recipients, he was very humbled with accepting the honor.

"I am surprised, because there are so many outstanding educators in the county, and are more deserving than me," said Shehane. "You want people to think you are doing a good job, especially as a teacher when you have the children in your hands."

Teacher Christie Madewell received second-place honors, with Stephanie Ward receiving third place.



LOCAL NURSERY

Randall Walker Farms

Competition is high for Best of the Best nursery where Warren County is known to be the Nursey Capital of the World. Randall Walker Farms takes home first place out of many area nurseries.

Located at 8240 Manchester Highway, the nursery is owned and operated by Randall himself along with Sharon, his wife, son Nick, and son-in-law Chris Slaughter. The nursery has been up and running for 42 years.

Randall says, "It is an honor to be recognized for doing something you enjoy."

Randall grew up on his family nursery and eventually grew it to what it is today.

The Walker family operates a 6.5-acre sales yard that's open and fully stocked year round with trees, shrubs, evergreens, ground covers, perennials and berries both in season and frozen. Today he produces a wide variety of finished nursery stock on about 300 acres in Warren and Grundy counties and also Viola Valley Berry Farm where he produces crops of strawberries, blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, grapes and muscadines.

When asked what separates Randall Walker Farms from the rest of the local nurseries he commented, "We are a family business that just works hard every day. We are



blessed with employees who really care about the part they contribute to this business. We all work together to produce the best plant materials to provide for our customers."

Future plans for Randall Walkers Farms are to continue in what they do best and that is to grow trees, shrubs and berries.

Business hours are Monday thru Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 931-635-9535.

Taking second place is Turner and Sons Nursery. Following in third is Triple B Nursery.

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