

**Protected Areas in a Changing World**

*The 2013 George Wright Society Conference  
on Parks, Protected Areas, and Cultural Sites*

**The 2012 National Park Service Director's Awards  
Natural Resources • Wilderness**

**The 2013 George Wright Society Awards**

*Sheraton Downtown Denver Hotel  
Denver, Colorado • Thursday, March 14, 2013*

**Master of Ceremonies**

Brent A. Mitchell

*President, George Wright Society*

7:15 PM — Seating for dinner

8:45 PM — Presentation of awards

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WHAT IS OUR *praise and pride*  
BUT TO *imagine excellence,*



AND *try to make it?*

— RICHARD WILBUR

**Trish Patterson Student Conservation Association Award for  
Natural Resource Management in a Small Park**

**TROY W. MORRIS**

*Integrated Resources Program Manager, Stones River National Battlefield*

Troy Morris has directed a broad range of programs with an emphasis on using multi-disciplinary approaches to management of at this historical park. Programs have been intentionally integrated with work conducted by maintenance and interpretive staff, which has led to a group awareness of natural resource conditions throughout park operations. Troy is an integral part of the Stones River NB management team and helps guide the direction of park planning and operations.

Troy has coordinated a variety of research, inventory and monitoring projects, vegetation management, exotic species management, prescribed fire management, and cultural resource management activities. Mr. Morris has developed and led a vegetation management program that balances the need for (1) molding a cultural landscape that closely mimics that of the period battlefield, (2) preserving the park's historic earthen structures, and (3) incorporating landscape management practices that benefit plant and animal communities. Troy commonly uses economical labor sources, interns, and volunteers to accomplish goals in both natural and cultural resource management.



Troy has reached out and led or coordinated collaborative projects with the Southeast Regional Office, the Cumberland Piedmont Inventory and Monitoring Network, the Natchez Trace Parkway, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, and Kings Mountain National Military Park. He has also established new relationships with federal, state, and local government agencies and non-governmental organizations to further the NPS mission. Through these partnerships, Troy has helped extend the NPS identity and mission beyond the park boundary.

## Director's Award for Excellence in Natural Resource Stewardship through Maintenance

**PHILIP GOETKIN**

*Maintenance Worker Supervisor, Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts*

The Director's Award for Natural Resource Stewardship through Maintenance has been awarded to Phil Goetkin. Phil is a leader and enthusiastic trailblazer in support of natural resources and the National Park Service mission. He has a deep passion for nature, sustainable design, and maintenance of the park's grounds. Phil has demonstrated this by creating two extremely popular and successful venues for engaging the public at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts (WOTR): a native plant garden and a dimple meadow.



The crowning achievement is the recent transformation of two lawn areas at the entrance to Wolf Trap's main stage, the Filene Center. One area was transformed into a native plant demonstration garden and the other into a native meadow called the "dimple meadow." The native plant garden incorporates public education on issues including invasive plant species, pollinators, stewardship, and proper landscape and gardening techniques, while the dimple meadow transformed a water catchment area into a visually appealing illustration of water and soil conservation efforts. These friendly venues invite and encourage discussion of topics ranging from gardening and beautification, to the bigger issues such as biological diversity, conservation, stewardship, invasive species, and climate change.

Phil worked with the National Capital Region's (NCR's) natural resource team to vet ideas and hone the most compelling arguments for the projects to present to park leadership. He negotiated for donated plant materials, leveraged limited funding to purchase supplies, and collaborated with Wolf Trap's volunteer coordinator and outside student and service groups to get labor to install the garden and meadow.

In addition to the establishment of the highly visible native plant demonstration garden and the dimple meadow, Goetkin also initiated an inventory of woody plants in conjunction with the botanist of the regional Inventory & Monitoring network in order to better understand Wolf Trap's forests. Goetkin has also repeatedly reached out to and consulted with members of the NCR natural resource team and has worked with staff at the region's Center for Urban Ecology on issues including invasive plants, white-tailed deer impacts on vegetation, and integrated pest management. Mr. Goetkin's efforts reflect well on Wolf Trap and the National Park Service.

## Director's Award for Natural Resource Management

JOHN R. SPENCE

*Research Coordinator and Terrestrial Natural Resources Branch Chief,  
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area*

John Spence has provided the leadership to establish the Escalante River Watershed Partnership, an innovative collaboration of over twenty-five partners working on the Escalante River watershed in south-central Utah. The Escalante River is one of the last free-flowing small rivers in the Intermountain West, and flows through some of the most spectacular scenery in the world. The Partnership consists of major federal land management agencies, including the Dixie National Forest, Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, several Utah state agencies, numerous nongovernmental organizations, local governments, businesses, and individuals. This watershed-level, cross-boundary thinking has resulted in significant improvements in the management of this ecosystem resulted in the ability to apply for grants and leverage resources, and serves as a model for other managers.



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The success of the Partnership has extended beyond the National Park Service (NPS), and has significantly enhanced management success in other federal agencies and local organizations within the watershed. The US Forest Service received a large grant in 2012 to restore native Colorado River cutthroat trout in the watershed as a result of being a member of the Partnership. The Partnership has also allowed the NPS to reach out to local youth organizations and tribal communities to hire young people to work on restoration projects, through organizations such as Dine Power, Coconino Rural Environmental Corps, and Utah Conservation Corps.

Existence of the Partnership has allowed the NPS to leverage significant financial, technical, and personnel support from other agencies to restore the Escalante River and its riparian committees. Currently it is anticipated that the NPS portion of the river corridor will be completed within three years. Through collaboration and interactions in the Partnership, new methods and best management practices have been developed for exotic plant control monitoring of restored areas, and improved management of the resources through adaptive approaches and scenario planning.

In May 2012, the Escalante River Watershed Partnership was selected by the secretary of the interior as one of the top ten river-based projects to be highlighted under the Great American Outdoors Rivers Initiative. It has also been nominated by the NPS as a successful collaborative in the state of Utah under the National Water Trails System.

## Director's Award for Superintendent of the Year for Natural Resource Stewardship

**SHERIDAN STEELE**

*Superintendent, Acadia National Park*

Sheridan Steele is being recognized for his proactive efforts to protect the unique natural resource values of Acadia National Park from development impacts and provide innovative educational opportunities. Superintendent Steele organized a community partnership to establish protective alternatives to development of a resort adjacent to Acadia lands on the Schoodic Peninsula and is protecting multiple park inholdings through a "land bank" agreement, which benefited from more than \$6 million of private funds. Multi-million-dollar partnership improvements at the Schoodic Education and Research Center (SERC), the use of media outreach, and development of youth programs and internships have occurred through Steele's management.



Through Superintendent Steele's community leadership and perseverance, a 3,200-acre tract of the Schoodic Peninsula located along the largest contiguous undeveloped habitat of coastal Maine was protected from fragmentation by hotels, golf courses, villas, and an air strip. These lands are listed as critical Maine Natural Areas for vegetative and faunal communities that would have been ecologically separated had development occurred as planned. Steele also established an agreement to allow park acquisition of more than 500 acres of privately owned lands within the park through a "land bank" supported by owners and a land conservation buyer. Dark night skies and viewsheds at Acadia have increased protection through collaborations, resulting in zoning ordinances for lighting and communication towers.

Superintendent Steele helped establish the SERC Institute, developing a campus and educational programs and enlisting the former NPS associate director for natural resource stewardship and science as CEO. Focused planning efforts allowed SERC to establish a state-of-the-art outdoor-based learning environment using NPS, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and private partner funds totaling more than \$22 million. Youth programs established by the superintendent at Acadia include intern positions and electronic media outreach that are supported through Friends of Acadia and private donors.

## Director's Award for Professional Excellence in Natural Resources

### TODD KNOEDLER

*Geologist, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area and Obed Wild & Scenic River*

Todd Knoedler is receiving this award due to his outstanding accomplishments during the last three years in the field of minerals management and numerous other accomplishments in the park. He was the key player at Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area in managing two important American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) projects, totaling over \$2 million; the ARRA mine closure project and the ARRA oil and gas plugging and reclamation project. Todd provided supervision, leadership, and field technical oversight for these projects.



The mine closure project closed 37 high-priority mine openings to protect visitors and wildlife. The oil and gas plugging and reclamation project plugged and reclaimed 39 orphaned or abandoned oil and gas wells, resulting in reclaimed pads and access routes. Both projects were completed on time and with a perfect safety record. In 2011, Todd managed a contaminated pit mitigation project, which led to the removal of contaminated soils and reclamation of the site. Todd also coordinated a plugging and reclamation project for 14 wells through a cooperative agreement with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. The last well was plugged in mid-August 2012, thus completing all 14 reclamations.

Todd assisted with the Southeast Region's abandoned mine land inventory and assessment project in 2011 and 2012. He created a tracking system based on a park-wide re-inventory of all existing oil and gas wells to insure regulatory compliance and served as the parks' safety officer. Todd performed as the contracting officer's technical representative for a wide range of projects and was acting deputy chief of resource management for 120 days.

## Director's Award for Excellence in Natural Resource Research

**DONNA J. SHAVER**

*Chief, Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery, Padre Island National Seashore*

Dr. Donna J. Shaver has dedicated her life to helping ensure the future of Kemp's ridley and other sea turtles that occur at Padre Island National Seashore, elsewhere in the U.S., and in Mexico. During the last three decades, she has demonstrated exemplary commitment to stewardship of these threatened and endangered species.

Dr. Shaver has developed and led a widely acclaimed sea turtle program involving integrated conservation, research, and public education activities. She has partnered and collaborated with many other biologists and researchers in the U.S. and Mexico to enhance the program at Padre Island National Seashore and expand it beyond the boundaries of the park. She provides training, leadership, and reporting for the detection, documentation, and conservation of nesting sea turtles, sea turtle nests, and stranded sea turtles in Texas.



Dr. Shaver's efforts to determine the results of the experimental project to re-establish Kemp's ridley sea turtle nesting at Padre Island National Seashore to form a secondary nesting colony as a safeguard for the species has received worldwide media attention and generated widespread public appeal. She has been featured prominently in the national and international media for her outstanding efforts at turtle conservation.

Dr. Shaver's pioneering research results have been used by numerous federal and state agencies to help protect sea turtles on Texas lands and in Texas waters. In addition to her on-going efforts, Dr. Shaver is the principal investigator for a natural resources damage assessment study to determine potential injury to the Kemp's ridley population from the MC 252 (Deep-water Horizon) oil spill, and has helped lead development of restoration activities proposed by the Department of Interior for sea turtle nesting and stranding in Texas and Tamaulipas, Mexico. The integrated efforts led by Dr. Shaver are helping ensure a lasting future for these five magnificent species of sea turtles that live and nest at Padre Island National Seashore and elsewhere in the Gulf of Mexico region.

**Wes Henry Award for National Excellence in Wilderness Stewardship:  
Group Award**

**WILDERNESS CHARACTER INTEGRATION TEAM**

The Wilderness Character Integration Team (WCIT) has provided leadership within the NPS for integrating and using wilderness character in park planning, management, and monitoring. The work of the WCIT over the last two years has and will continue to play a critical role in achieving a greater understanding of and a deeper commitment to preserving wilderness character throughout the NPS. This has been accomplished by the development of two key products: the document *Keeping It Wild in the National Park Service: A User Guide to Integrating Wilderness Character into Park Planning, Management and Monitoring*, and a newly revised *NPS Wilderness Stewardship Plan Handbook*. It has also been accomplished by the diligence of team members actively assisting parks in wilderness character integration even as the products were being developed.

Led by Peter Landres of the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute and Suzy Stutzman, the Intermountain regional wilderness coordinator, this team of 20 represented a breadth of NPS positions and grade levels. Each team member devoted extensive energy and time toward completing tasks, which were at times complex and difficult, and collectively the WCIT realized its goals within the two-year deadline for crafting professional products. Together, the team exchanged ideas and supported each other while embracing differences in approach or perspective. NPS wilderness parks pilot-tested the products and provided valuable input, which the team used to further refine the final products. The WCIT proved a highly successful vessel for inspiring a new direction for NPS wilderness preservation; the team has developed products that will directly support this new direction and serve as a model for how an interdisciplinary team can successfully function.

The *User Guide* is the primary tool by which the NPS can accomplish wilderness character integration within the NPS. The *Wilderness Stewardship Plan Handbook* is a primary source for assisting parks in developing Wilderness Stewardship Plans. The work accomplished by the WCIT provides invaluable resources and direction for years ahead in ensuring wilderness character is preserved in the NPS.





**The Wilderness Character Integration Team**

Mike Bilecki, *Chief of Resource Management, Fire Island National Seashore*

Carol Cook, *Program Analyst, Park Planning and Special Studies, WASO*

Sarah Craighead, *Superintendent, Mammoth Cave National Park*

Jeremy Curtis, *Chief of Maintenance, Chiricahua National Monument, Fort Bowie National Historic Site, Coronado National Monument*

Tim Devine, *Wilderness Stewardship Division, WASO, Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center*

Sandee Dingman, *Biologist, Lake Mead National Recreation Area*

Michael Haynie, *Park Ranger Interpretation, Guadalupe Mountains National Park*

Chris Holbeck, *Natural Resource Program Manager, Midwest Regional Office*

Chip Jenkins, *Superintendent, North Cascades NPS Complex*

Peter Landres, *Ecologist and WCIT co-chair, Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, Rocky Mountain Research Station, USDA–Forest Service*

Adrienne Lindholm, *Regional Wilderness Coordinator, Alaska Regional Office*

Melissa Memory, *Chief of Cultural Resources, Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks*

Christina Mills, *Wilderness Fellow, Wilderness Stewardship Division, WASO (WCIT co-chair, 2nd year)*

Ray O’Neil, *Plateau District Ranger, Zion National Park*

Ruth Scott, *Wilderness Specialist, Olympic National Park*

Miki Stuebe, *Environmental Protection Specialist, EQD, NRSS*

Suzy Stutzman, *Regional Wilderness Coordinator and WCIT co-chair, Intermountain Regional Office*

Karen Trevino, *Director, Natural Sounds and Night Skies Program, NRSS (WCIT, 1st year)*

Frank Turina, *Planner, Natural Sounds and Night Skies Program, NRSS (WCIT, 2nd year)*

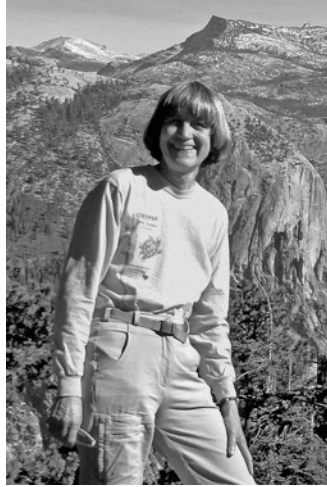
Wade Vagias, *Management Assistant, Yellowstone National Park (WCIT co-chair, 1st year)*

## **Wes Henry Award for National Excellence in Wilderness Stewardship: Individual Award**

**SUZY STUTZMAN**

*Wilderness Coordinator, Intermountain Region, National Park Service (Retired)*

For much of the past decade, Suzy served as the NPS Intermountain Region (IMR) wilderness coordinator and chaired the IMR Wilderness Executive Committee, where she contributed substantially to the structure and success of the IMR Wilderness Program. She developed, distributed, and promoted wilderness communication pieces such as *Wild Matters* (an all-employee topical message on wilderness issues ranging from cultural resources management to visitor safety) and the quarterly *IMR Wilderness Information Update* (an electronic news, current events, and training “newsletter”).



Suzy helped NPS staff realize that wilderness stewardship is part of everyone’s job. She helped to integrate wilderness stewardship into park operations by promoting wilderness awareness and assisting parks with minimum requirements analysis. Suzy established the regional wilderness awards program, and regularly nominated and recognized staff for these awards.

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Suzy’s efforts to initiate and manage the 2010 and 2011 IMR Wilderness Fellows Program resulted in support to six parks by completing wilderness character baseline assessments. In 2012, she secured funding for four additional wilderness fellows who assisted parks with their wilderness planning and stewardship responsibilities. She was recognized as an “IMR Leader in Wilderness Stewardship” in 2011 for her work as project manager on the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park wilderness/backcountry stewardship plan (a group award) and as the “IMR Wilderness Champion” in 2012.

She inspired NPS employees to communicate wilderness benefits to the public and developed tools to assist them, such as the Ambassadors for Wilderness Program at Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve and the Wilderness Junior Ranger Program and booklet, which was adopted and implemented by several parks and more recently by other land management agencies. These programs are cultivating a new generation of wilderness stewards; her creative ideas for promoting wilderness awareness (the annual “Design a Wilderness Bandana” contest and mini-awards such as wilderness lanyards, flash drives, and temporary tattoos) have made wilderness more appealing to younger audiences.

Suzy facilitated best practices of wilderness stewardship among NPS employees by sharing their skills, enthusiasm, and know-how at the local, regional, and national level. Serving on

steering committees, developing and delivering several wilderness training sessions to parks and other federal land management agencies, and coordinating regional wilderness character forums demonstrate just some of her efforts to increase wilderness stewardship capacity within the NPS.

She substantially contributed to the success of the national NPS Wilderness Program by serving on three national NPS teams: the Regional Wilderness Coordinators Network, the National Wilderness Leadership Council, and the Wilderness Character Integration Team. Suzy coauthored the new *Wilderness Stewardship Plan Handbook*, and wrote key sections of the *NPS Wilderness Character User Guide*.

## **The George Wright Society Communication Award**

**CHARLES JACOBI**

Jacobi is a resource specialist for visitor use at Acadia National Park, serving in this role for many years. Acadia may be the most intensively used national park in the United States, with its 2.3 million visits concentrated on only 45,000 acres of park land. Consequently, managing the potential impacts of visitor use is a challenging and increasingly urgent issue.



Jacobi has addressed this issue aggressively by steeping himself in the science and resulting principles developed by the Leave No Trace (LNT) Center for Outdoor Ethics and finding innovative and effective ways of communicating this technical information on a potentially controversial issue to park visitors, park staff, and others.

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First, he completed the master class on LNT in 1997 taught by the National Outdoor Leadership School. Then he initiated an ambitious program of communication and public education on the concept of LNT and its seven basic principles. The centerpiece of Jacobi's program is his innovative team of "ridgerunners." For many years, Jacobi has hired, trained, and supervised a four-person team at Acadia that for 12 weeks each summer contacts and educates hikers and other visitors about the potential impacts of outdoor recreation, why these impacts are important, and how to minimize impacts on park resources and the visitor experience. This program averages an estimated 4,000 educational contacts each year. Other elements of Jacobi's program of education and communication include the following:

- Since 1999, he has hosted and recruited participants for 15 two-day LNT trainers' classes.
- He co-founded the LNT in Maine Steering Committee, a group of LNT practitioners and advocates working across agency and organization boundaries.
- He hosted the successful Backyard LNT Workshop in 2010 and the follow-up Best Practices Workshop in 2011.
- He integrated LNT into Acadia's park signs, brochures, website, research guidelines, special use permits, and business permits.
- He has written countless newspaper articles and op-ed pieces on LNT for local and regional media.

- He appeared on the Martha Stewart TV show, advising the hostess and her audience how to minimize visitor impacts at Acadia.
- He has ensured that LNT principles have been included in commercial guidebooks to Acadia.
- He published a paper on LNT in the *International Journal of Wilderness*.

Jacobi's long-term program of communication and education on LNT aimed at park visitors, staff, and others is extraordinary.

— *nominated by Robert Manning*

*It is truly an honor to receive this award. Many thanks to the George Wright Society for selecting me (and Leave No Trace) from among many other well-deserving candidates. My supervisor David Manski gave me a lot of LNT rope with which, fortunately, I have not hung myself yet. Thank you, David, for the freedom to promote and teach LNT. My Acadia colleagues embraced LNT and tolerated my persistence with it good-naturedly year after year. My Friends of Acadia summer crews taught me how to better communicate LNT to visitors. My university-based colleagues and friends Bob Manning and Jeff Marion, each a national leader in his respective field, gave me the opportunity to collaborate with them on LNT research projects, and I look forward to more of the same. The LNT Center for Outdoor Ethics supported me in many ways, from Master Class Instructor Dell Smith to Dana Watts and the Boulder staff to more than a dozen teams of travelling trainers. Finally, I'd like to thank my good friends on the self-appointed Leave No Trace in Maine Steering Committee, especially Steve, Dave, Marcia, Gabe, Ward, and Jean. Together, we accomplished much for Maine by working across agency and organization boundaries. The commitment of all of these people to LNT continues to inspire me to make every visitor a park steward. Thank you one and all.*

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*Remember, all the skills and LNT knowledge in the world does nothing for wildlands without the motivation to practice them. Practice, practice, practice.*

*☞ Charlie Jacobi*

## The George Wright Society Cultural Resource Achievement Award

HUGH C. MILLER, FAIA

Hugh Miller has been a mentor and teacher to countless aspiring preservationists throughout his career as an architect and administrator. His efforts on behalf of the public legacy of parks, protected areas, and cultural sites began in 1960, when he went to work for the US National Park Service. Over the course of the next twenty-eight years, during which time he advanced to become the NPS chief historical architect, he helped shape the policies, practices, and techniques that are at the core of modern-day preservation. He played a key role in such nationally important projects as the preservation and restoration of the Assembly Room of Independence Hall, preservation planning for the Chicago School skyscrapers and Washington D.C.'s Pennsylvania Avenue, and the epic restoration of the Statue of Liberty.



Miller was also involved in preservation planning and design in the Middle East during the early years of his NPS tenure, and that experience awakened in him a desire to advance the study and appreciation of American cultural landscapes. His efforts led to the inclusion of cultural landscapes as part of the heritage resource legacy that the National Park Service is charged to protect and preserve. Moreover, drawing from his systematic approach to architectural forensics and preservation, he was instrumental in the development of practical strategies for assessing the integrity and values of cultural landscapes. The cultural landscape inventory and report methodologies that were born out of this 1980s initiative are today the fundamental tools of landscape preservation employed by public land management agencies at the federal, state, and local levels.

Upon retirement from the National Park Service in 1988, Miller embarked on a new career as the first director of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. His tenure in Virginia was marked by the implementation of new programs to protect and preserve Virginia's diverse array of architectural, landscape, and archaeological heritage from the increasing pressures of commercial development, population growth, and urban sprawl. He emphasized the identification and documentation of underappreciated heritage sites, and initiated efforts to recognize and celebrate African-American and Native American heritage places. He has been equally accomplished as a preservation consultant, and has also served the preservation cause through leadership roles with professional societies, including the American Institute of Architects, Association for Preservation Technology International, and the Alliance for the Preservation of Historic Landscapes.

As a teacher, Miller has been a longtime advocate for professional training of designers, planners, and craftsmen in the specialized field of preservation. He actively continues this commitment today as an adjunct professor and thesis advisor with the Historic Preservation Program at Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland.

His lifelong commitment to preservation of our cultural heritage has earned him the respect of colleagues and recognition as a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, along with numerous awards that attest to his work in the stewardship of public lands and the precious legacy of natural and cultural resources they harbor. Friend to many, generous in both spirit and act, unassuming in demeanor yet vitally dedicated and steadfast in the cause of preservation ... devoted to family and a really nice, personable guy to boot ... Hugh C. Miller is truly a national treasure of heritage conservation knowledge and service.

— nominated by Barrett Kennedy

*I wish to thank the Board of Directors and my nominator, Barrett Kennedy, for their recognition of my 49 years of accomplishments as a historical architect, preservation planner, program administrator and teacher. My successes have resulted from listening to experts and exchanging ideas with colleagues.*

*From an architect working on NPS "Mission 66" projects, I became a historical architect in 1964 when charged to "fast track" the restoration of the Assembly Room of Independence Hall to meet a scheduled opening. This was a daunting task since the research and planning were not finished. I learned about people and process through this immersion. "Thanks" go to many. Henry "Hank" Judd, EODC chief historical architect, for his faith in me. Superintendent M.O. Anderson for teaching me about the politics of high-profile projects. Departmental Solicitor Bernie Meyers for showing me how to legally reject a low bidder and prequalify a new general contractor. Historical Architect Lee Nelson for teaching me to use documents to authenticate building fragments and Penny Batcheler for emphasizing the use of full sized mock-ups to design details. Master woodcarver Johnny Pecoraio for showing me how the "hand teaches the mind." The whole crew of "exhibit specialists" for including me in their shop talk. General contractor Bill O'Connell for teaching me about trust in contracting. This iconic restoration was a learning experience for everyone in a collaboration for excellence.*

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*The five-year assignment as a supervisory architect for an USAID/NPS master planning team for internationally recognized antiquities sites in Jordan and Turkey introduced me to system thinking. Thanks go to: George Baggeley, chief of party, for teaching me about the old Park Service and new ideas about managing resources. Georgio Toracco, chief scientist at the Rome Center, for applying modern science and technology to the philosophy of architectural conservation treatments. Zekai Bayer, director of Turkish National Parks, for sharing his skills in using bureaucracy for desired outcomes. He understood the concepts of lived-in parks, the alternatives to fee ownership, and the values of preserving big landscapes. Professor Cevat Erder for encouraging me to teach the new NPS historic area policies to his METU graduate students and people living in Turkish heritage reserves.*

*Thanks again to Hank Judd for welcoming me to the Division of Park Historic Architecture in the Washington office in 1972. Those were heady days as the United States and NPS defined historic preservation and the meaning of cultural resource management. Hank encouraged me to engage my international network and develop new constituencies in North America. With this ever-expanding network of experts, mentors and colleagues, the possible became best practice. Even today my joy is finding new ways to solve problems. My pleasure is providing a working environment in which others can excel.*

✍️ **Hugh C. Miller**

## The George Wright Society Natural Resource Achievement Award

ROBERT WINFREE

Robert (Bob) Winfree exemplifies the GWS mission of advancing and promoting science and stewardship of protected areas, as seen through his efforts to advance understanding of climate change and facilitate scientific communication. Winfree led the development of a climate change response strategy for the National Park Service (NPS) Alaska Region, published in 2010, which synthesized state-of-science understanding into meaningful management responses. In the process of developing such a strategy for the



Alaska Region and supporting a subsequent NPS-wide effort, he realized the limitations that come with focusing on an applied scientific approach. Building upon this understanding, Winfree led the Alaska Region transition into scenario planning for climate change. This adaptation of military and industry planning for crafting flexible long-term strategies when there is substantial risk and uncertainty is ground-breaking in the NPS. It represents a novel approach that integrates the best available science with local knowledge and a protected area manager's practical reality. It provides tools for area managers, scientists, and the general public to envision the impacts of climate change and think concretely about the implications of change and opportunities for adaptation. This effort brought together not only parks and other federal land owners, but also numerous divergent community interests to a common purpose and understanding.

Winfree's leadership in facilitating communication is similarly understated, yet the impact equally profound. The publication *Alaska Park Science*, under Winfree's editorial guidance, is widely read and used as a model for communicating land management and protected area science throughout the Arctic and globe. His efforts in organizing a series of scientific symposia for Alaska greatly facilitated such recent events as the advancement of the U.S.–Russia Shared Beringian Heritage Program. Among Winfree's lesser-known avocations is that of artist, where he has, among other activities, served as president of the Alaska Watercolor Society and been a tireless promoter of art as a tool for inspiring, communicating about, and understanding resources and value of protected areas.

— *nominated by Fritz Klasner*



*I am sincerely thankful to the George Wright Society for this award. That my colleagues, who deserve such recognition themselves, chose to confer it to me today is humbling, and it moves me to reflect on experiences, people and places that guided me on this path. As a youth, I spent many days exploring lakes, bogs, forests, and stone remains of centuries-old settlements near home. Those experiences, which I would wish again upon any curious child, were some of the most memorable and influential of my life, and they moved me to pursue a career in the natural sciences. Some questioned the wisdom of my decision, but parents and influential teachers shared their confidence that hard work, integrity, and persistence could ensure success in any field. After many years of education and varied experiences across many organizations, in mid-career I was offered a position with the NPS, where I discovered a shared purpose and mission like none before. My service with NPS in Grand Canyon and Alaska, and with GWS as a life member, former director and liaison, have been among the most challenging and rewarding of my life. In an increasingly virtual world, I cannot help but wonder about the opportunities for current and future generations of children to discover themselves in nature and history. I'm confident that their opportunities will, to a very large extent, come about because of the commitment of the park stewards, scientists and scholars who I'm privileged to call my friends.*

**✎ Robert Winfree**

## The George Wright Society Social Science Achievement Award

PETER NEWMAN

Peter Newman is a national and international leader in the application of social science to park and protected area management. His record of accomplishment spans both research and teaching. For the past ten years, Newman has developed and conducted innovative research in parks and protected areas that has advanced the social science of natural resources field, while mentoring future researchers and park managers as associate professor of protected area management in the Warner College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University (CSU) and as director of the CSU Park Studies Unit.



Newman has taken a systems-wide approach to visitor use research, considering visitor attitudes, beliefs, and values, and how these lead to behaviors and use patterns in parks. He has advanced the field by examining perceptions of visitor-related impacts, crowding, soundscapes, and transportation systems, and he continues to develop relationships with specialists in other disciplines because he understands that we must integrate and apply interdisciplinary research approaches to better solve the issues facing our parks and protected areas. His research is both academic and applied, advancing theory and research methods, and providing information that helps inform management and policies guiding the administration of parks and protected areas.

His research has helped guide management of many iconic units of the national park system, including Yosemite National Park, Rocky Mountain National Park, Muir Woods National Monument, and Denali National Park and Preserve, and has resulted in more than thirty peer-reviewed papers in scholarly journals. He has received substantial recognition for the quality of this work, including a 2012 National Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units Award for his innovative, cooperative program of research with the NPS Soundscapes Program Office, his appointment to the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, and numerous invited lectures in the U.S. and abroad.

His accomplishments in the area of education are equally impressive. As associate dean for academic affairs of CSU's Warner College of Natural Resources, he has revitalized the college's teaching program and directs the academic program in protected area management. He was awarded a Fulbright Senior Scholar Award and developed a masters-level graduate program in conservation leadership in collaboration with ECOSUR in Chiapas, Mexico. He regularly teaches courses on principles of protected areas management, social aspects of resource management, and conservation leadership. The quality of his teaching is evident in the

numerous awards he has won, including “best teacher” in the Warner College (four times), his appointment as “master teacher” for the Warner College by the CSU Institute for Teaching and Learning, and his appointment by the CSU vice provost as university senior fellow and advisory board member of the Institute of Teaching and Learning. Newman has successfully advised eight master’s degree and three doctoral degree students. Newman also serves on the Board of Directors of Leave No Trace: Center for Outdoor Ethics, chairing its education committee.

Peter Newman’s magnetic personality, modesty, integrity, and passion for parks and protected areas social science research make him an excellent choice for this well-deserved accolade.

— *nominated by Robert Manning and Derrick Taff*

*I am really honored to receive the 2013 George Wright Society Social Science Achievement Award. Over the past several years I feel very lucky to have worked with an amazing team of colleagues and friends in national parks and universities from Vermont to Alaska (Drs. Steve Lawson at Resource Systems Group and Chris Monz, Utah State University) and here in Fort Collins, Colorado, with Dr. Paul Bell, Karen Trevino, Kurt Fristrup, and the rest of the NPS Natural Sounds and Night Skies Division. I feel especially fortunate to have been mentored by Dr. Bob Manning who not only taught me about the research process but also about the mentoring process. Bob taught me to surround yourself by people smarter than yourself. My team of graduate students at Colorado State University, since 2002, have proven that model quite successful and I am most proud of who they are and what they have accomplished for the NPS and the field in general: Chad Schneckenburger, Kat Morgan, Ericka Pilcher, Ward McKonly, David Stack, Lelaina Marin, David Weinzimmer, Tim Archie, and Colin Leslie, Ben Lawhon, and Drs. Adam Gibson, David Pettebone, and Derrick Taff. Dr. Derrick Taff has been the backbone of our research program the last few years. The research we have done has truly been a team effort and I have learned so much from all of you. Since 2002, the Warner College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University has been my home and I am grateful for all of the support of Drs. Joyce Berry, Mike Manfredo, and the rest of the HDNR faculty.*

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 **Peter Newman**

## The George Wright Society Special Achievement Award

VERNON C. “TOM” GILBERT

Tom Gilbert is being recognized by the George Wright Society for his tireless work to support and reinvigorate the system of biosphere reserves in the United States. These protected areas are part of a global network organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization’s Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Program. Biosphere reserves are an innovative form of protected area: they promote a program of interdisciplinary research and management to promote biodiversity and cultural diversity that is linked to voluntary efforts to encourage sustainable development in neighboring communities.



Following a career with the US National Park Service, Gilbert went to Paris in 1973 to work with UNESCO as staff coordinator and planner for the international biosphere reserve program. He was a leader in developing the MAB program in which biosphere reserves were set up. He proposed and helped to implement the 1974 Nixon–Brezhnev (US–USSR) Summit Agreement on biosphere reserves, and was the United States MAB program coordinator. He has been involved with MAB since day one.

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Gilbert was also the first president of the George Wright Society, from 1980 through 1982. He later became the founding president of the U.S. Biosphere Reserve Association, predecessor to today’s International Biosphere Trust, and has had a long association with the Southern Appalachian Man And Biosphere (SAMAB) project, one of the U.S.’s best examples of the biosphere reserve concept.

In recent years, Gilbert has worked continually to reinvigorate the biosphere reserve system in the United States, where it has languished as a result of fierce political opposition by groups opposed to the United Nations and the sporadic support for UNESCO from the U.S. government. Significantly, Gilbert did the difficult but necessary work of reaching out to the so-called sovereignty movement to try to assuage its concerns about what biosphere reserves are and what they really do, and was able to make some inroads with the movement’s leadership. He also has been involved in numerous meetings with the U.S. State Department, federal agencies, UNESCO, and nongovernmental organizations to push for a lasting and meaningful commitment from the U.S. government to MAB’s biosphere reserve program. At this very conference, Gilbert has been instrumental in convening a session on creating an biosphere reserve information exchange network, in which, it is anticipated, the George Wright Society will play a role.

Tom Gilbert has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the biosphere reserve concept and its success in the United States, and for his hard work and dedication he is very deserving of being recognized by the George Wright Society with this Special Achievement Award.

— *nominated by David Harmon*

*I am very pleased to receive this award, especially because it is from the GWS. Among many who inspired me in this work were Bob Linn and Ted Sudia, co-founders of the GWS.*

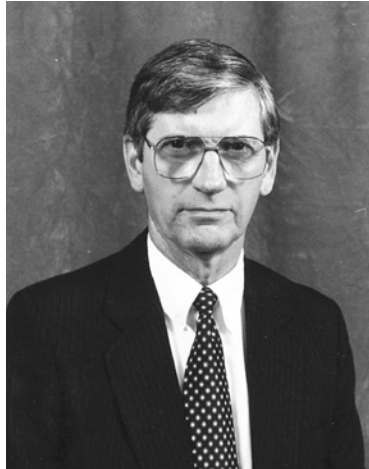
*The award motivates me to keep trying to achieve what we started. With your help this may be possible.*

** Tom Gilbert**

## The George Melendez Wright Award for Excellence

DENIS P. GALVIN

Denis Galvin is a legend in the field of national parks and protected areas—arguably the most influential National Park Service leader since Director George Hartzog. In his capacity as associate director, deputy director and acting NPS director, spanning a period from 1985 to 2001, Galvin was involved in almost every major policy and operational issue facing the NPS. He employed his vast institutional knowledge, mastery of detail, and superb communication skills and built enormous professional credibility inside and outside the NPS. He earned the respect of congressional oversight committees and established extraordinarily strong and productive working relationships with key members of Congress and congressional and committee staff members. Upon his retirement in 2001, Congressman Nick Rahall praised Galvin as “one of the National Park Service’s greatest resources.”



Even a partial listing of Galvin’s signature accomplishments would have to include:

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- Establishment of the Natural Resource Challenge initiative (in response to Richard West Sellars’s landmark book, *Preserving Nature in the National Parks*), which dramatically ramped up professional resources management capacity in the parks and created a national inventory and monitoring program.
- Collaboration with the National Park System Advisory Board and its then-chair, historian John Hope Franklin, to produce the landmark report *Rethinking the National Parks for the 21st Century* (2001), laying out a foundational vision for a more modern and inclusive agency.
- Setting up leadership programs for professional development and advancement, including the intake and mid-level intake programs and the natural resource trainee program (of which the current NPS Director, Jon Jarvis, is a graduate).
- Championing the National Heritage Area Program (now up to 49 areas) as a more flexible and inclusive tool to conserve lived-in landscapes with high preservation values.

This list should also include the many innovative new national parks that Galvin guided into the system, including Lowell, the Presidio at Golden Gate, New Orleans Jazz, and Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller and the NPS Conservation Study Institute, to name only a few.

In retirement, he has exerted a strong positive influence on the NPS through his pivotal involvement with the National Park System Advisory Board and National Parks Second Century Commission.

Denis P. Galvin is one of our most respected colleagues and a national conservation leader. When he was serving as NPS deputy director, Galvin once observed, “We need to be recognized as the stewards of our heritage, rather than managers of parks.” These words clearly resonate with the George Wright Society mission, and indicate the worthiness of his being named the recipient of the Society’s highest honor.

— *nominated by Rolf Diamant*

*In 1934 George Melendez Wright wrote, “Fifty years from now we shall still be wrestling with the problems of joint occupation of national parks by men and mammals, but it is reasonable to predict that we shall have mastered some of the simplest maladjustments.”*

*I wonder if we have mastered the “simplest maladjustments.” Simplicity gives way to complexity. The maladjustments of his imagined future are now global in scale. We wrestle with the problems of joint occupation of the PLANET by people, mammals, and all other living things.*

*Yet his life and counsel still point the way forward. Only through knowledge and love will we reconcile the conflicts and understand the “maladjustments.”*

*This, his namesake organization, promotes that pursuit of knowledge. He would be proud. I am humbled to accept this award and thank all, past and present, that made you think I deserve it.*

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*He said, “Consecration to the task of adjusting ourselves to the natural environment so that we secure the best values from nature without destroying it is not useless idealism; it is good hygiene for civilization.”*

*So his words from the past remain the beacon for our future.*

**✎ Denis P. Galvin**



**JONATHAN B. JARVIS**

*Director*

**HERBERT C. FROST**

*Associate Director,  
Natural Resource Stewardship and Science*

**GARRY OYE**

*Chief, Wilderness Stewardship*



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