

1990  
Freeman Tilden  
Awards

# WINNERS



## 1990 National Recipient Southeast Region

**Maureen H Loughlin**, an interpreter at Everglades NP, is recognized for her ability to integrate her natural science and education background into the park's research, resource management, and interpretive programs. She has found a creative vehicle by which to share with visitors the park's strong bond with the community of South Florida. She has reached school children who would not have the opportunity to attend education programs. She designed and implemented a 1989 Everglades Poster Contest for grades K-8 with a "Biodiversity" theme and a 1990 Everglades Essay Contest for grades 3-12 with the emphasis "Everglades in the Year 2000." Her efforts made a positive difference in the experience of park visitors by designing a special exhibit for the main visitor center titled "Children of the Everglades" featuring the 33 winning posters and essays. Maureen also created and organized the first annual Biodiversity Guest Lecture Series which enhanced the public's understanding of the Everglades and the NPS. The series invited state naturalists, artists, and musicians to present programs in the park reaching over 20,000 visitors last winter. Her efforts have resulted in greater community and visitor awareness of and respect for the park resources of Everglades NP and its ecosystem.



Karen C Gustin, KEFJ



David L Larson, HAFE



David Cowan, YELL



Constance A Rudd, JOFL



Randy W Turner, GATE



Mark E Herberger, BIBE



Robin White, INDU



Detlef Wieck, SAJH



Kathryn D Cook, DEVA

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to all ten Freeman Tilden Award Recipients and to National Tilden Award Recipient **Maureen Loughlin**. This is the ninth year that the Freeman Tilden Award has been presented. The award is jointly sponsored by the National Park Service and the National Parks and Conservation Association. This year's judging team consisted of Mr James M Ridenour, Director, NPS; Mr Paul C Pritchard, President NPCA; and Mrs. Frances Seiberling Buchholzer, Member, National Park Service Advisory Board. The judges based their decision on degree of creativity displayed by the nominee and amount of impact upon the participating public by the nominee's interpretive activities. They found their deliberations to be quite challenging due to the extraordinary quality of this year's ten Regional nominees.

The National Award Ceremony was held in Charleston, South Carolina, in November during the National Association for Interpretation National Workshop. The National Tilden Recipient received a bronze bust of Freeman Tilden from the NPS, and a \$2500 award from the NPCA. I urge all interpreters to nominate outstanding candidates for the 1991 Tilden Award this spring—the Tenth Anniversary of the Tilden Award will coincide with the 75th Anniversary of the National Park Service, two noteworthy celebrations.

**Michael D Watson**, Chief, Division of Interpretation

## Alaska Region

**Karen C Gustin** is recognized for her work as the Chief of Interpretation at Kenai Fjords NP. She assumed this newly created position just days after the grounding of the oil tanker *Exxon Valdez*. In response, Karen developed and produced a three-panel standing exhibit for the Visitor Center depicting the impacts on the park of the oil spill; wrote handout material and regular factual updates to help visitors better understand the spill; and created a slide presentation untangling the complex web of oil, our country's dependence on it, and its effect on pristine Alaska shorelines. Karen also developed an environmental education program for the Kenai Peninsula schools. She organized a Coastweeks essay contest which included developing an information packet for all participating classes. This led to her creation of an original game, "Fjordword," which uses habitat, bird, and mammal clues to teach children about the wildlife of Kenai Fjords NP. In response to concerns about the impacts of increased tour boat activities on sea birds, whales, and other sea mammals, Karen organized an interagency seminar for all commercial tour boat operators emphasizing interpretation, information, and cooperation.

## Mid-Atlantic Region

**Constance A Rudd** of Johnstown Flood NM was selected as the Mid-Atlantic Regional Tilden Recipient for the creativity, professionalism, and leadership she has displayed as the Park's new audio-visual technician. The dramatic new 35mm movie quickly became the focal point of the site's interpretive experience and the demand to enter the theater quickly exceeded the available space. She instituted a ticket system to restore order to the process of allowing hundreds of visitors to enter the 95-seat theater. She formalized interpretive "window talks" to the hundreds of visitors waiting, sometimes for hours, for their turn to see the movie. Connie planned and staged a special tribute to the 1889 Flood victims by presenting an evening ceremony featuring music written and played by the staff and lining the dam abutments with 2,209 luminaries in honor of the 2,209 victims of the Flood. Connie has used her experience and endless energy and enthusiasm to develop original and creative solutions to the many operational facets of the new site. Through her efforts Connie has elevated the interpretive image of Johnstown Flood NM from obscurity to prestige.

## Midwest Region

**Robin White** is an interpreter with a vision—to enhance positive qualities in the youth of the inner cities by developing an understanding and appreciation for the natural environment and cultural heritage that is preserved at Indian Dunes NL. She has followed this vision by developing relationships with at least twenty community groups in the Chicago-Gary corridor. In 1989 Robin arranged for 1500 people from over 25 urban groups to attend environmental education programs. Many were non-traditional park visitors such as probationary juveniles from Michigan City's Youth Service Bureau; gang members sponsored by Chicago's Department of Human Services Intervention Network; groups from Gary's low income housing projects; special population groups from the Gary Mental Health Center. Creative programs for these groups emphasized the value of the natural environment and cultural heritage preserved at the Lakeshore. One example: rival gangs from Chicago participated in "Moonlight Dunelight," an overnight camping trip, which taught participants about nature, and helped break down barriers between gangs. Robin has built bridges of understanding between these groups and the NPS, bridges that could only be built by her initiative, dedication, and hard work. Her vision has become a reality.

## National Capital Region

**David L Larsen** at Harpers Ferry NHP is the National Capital Tilden Recipient. David was one of three key coordinators for the park's "1864: A Soldiers' City" a weekend-long special event that included 450 participants and illustrated Harpers Ferry's role in Phil Sheridan's 1864 Valley Campaign. David was in charge of all interpretive activities including an 1864 mock election, political speeches, parades, music, exhibits, and the feeding of all participants. This required David to work with volunteers to create appropriate exhibits and impressions for refugees, townspeople, Provost Guard, Confederate prisoners, farmers' market, and Soldiers' Rest. Much of David's other work in 1989 was devoted to planning three park exhibits. David is also heading an African-American history research team. The data base created by this research along with input from the local black community enabled David to direct the planning of an African-American history exhibit that will be opened in August 1991. David is the creative and driving force behind the park's efforts to develop the nationally significant black history theme at Harpers Ferry NHP.

## North Atlantic Region

**Randy W Turner** was chosen for his work as the Chief of Interpretation at the Sandy Hook Unit of Gateway NRA. One of his strongest assets is his interest, skill, and ability to organize, coordinate, and present training. At Sandy Hook, Randy did all of the organizational work necessary to conduct "mini-training" sessions geared toward providing specialized skills and information to a wide variety of employees. After receiving much positive feedback at the September 1989 Interpretive Skills II course, Randy volunteered to organize and present two Site Bulletin Workshops. Randy's experience and expertise in interpretation was evident at the 225th Anniversary of the Sandy Hook Lighthouse in June, 1989. He was the overall coordinator for the complete festivity—his duties ranged from selecting and working with speakers, as well as cooperating groups, to organizing the events and arranging for outside funding. The two-day celebration was attended by Secretary Lujan, Senator Bradley, and Congressman Pallone. Randy is a dedicated interpreter whose commitment to the advancement of the profession is demonstrated daily.

## Pacific Northwest Region

**Detlef Wieck** is the Volunteer-in-the-Park Coordinator at San Juan Island NHP. Increasing visitation and declining park staff required a full scale effort to recruit and train VIP's. Detlef was hired in the spring of 1988 to begin an intensive recruiting effort through national magazines and volunteer publications. In 1989, the park had 92 VIP's who worked nearly 2400 hours, providing over \$23,000 of services. Approximately three percent of the San Juan Island population was involved in park programs. The value of the program is not only measured in VIP hours, but also in the accomplishments of these volunteers: continued revitalization and maintenance of the British Formal Garden, the centerpiece of the park interpretive program; historical demonstrations and special programs; the July 4th Parade; the on-going Friday Harbor High School Dendrochronology Project, which helps determine the age and history of historic orchards within the two park units; the Pacific Northwest Trail Inventory and Directory Project; Volunteer Beach Litter Patrol; Park Watch Program; and the final drafting and printing of a VIP brochure. Without Detlef's work, the park programs and visitor enjoyment of the park would be severely limited. His expertise in getting the local population involved ranks with the finest in the NPS.

## Rocky Mountain Region

**David Cowan**, of Yellowstone NP, has taken full advantage of his varied skills to create both interpretive programs and outreach efforts that have met with enthusiastic praise and support from students, educators, the arts community, and the general public. In one portrayal, Dave becomes 150-year-old Thomas Moran who returns to Yellowstone to share tales and his perspective on travel through Wonderland with the 1871 Hayden Expedition. Dave is also the originator of the successful children's art festival, "Imagine Yellowstone." Now in its third year, "Imagine Yellowstone" has grown from a regional art contest to a national juried exhibition shown not only in Yellowstone, but at major museums such as the Denver Museum of Natural History. The 1989-90 exhibit received over 350 entries from 25 states. One of Dave's other responsibilities is that of temporary exhibit design and construction. He has developed several temporary exhibits including a media montage on the chronology of the 1988 Yellowstone fires. Dave continuously embodies in his work Tilden's principle of creating memorable experiences for the visitor and does so in a way that demonstrates creativity and sensitivity.

## Southwest Region

**Mark E Herberger** from Big Bend NP has contributed significantly to the interpretation of critical resource issues at Big Bend. As the park's resource interpreter and liaison with resource management, Mark developed an Interpretive Action Plan for critical resource issues; created a special supplement for the park newspaper, *El Paisano*; and produced site bulletins. He also presented interpretive programs; trained new employees in resource management issues; supervised the Persimmon Gap Visitor Center operations, including the design and coordination of resource-related exhibits and coordinated the dedication of the 57,000-acre Harte Ranch addition to the park. He created a biweekly column, "From the Gap," for the park's in-house news bulletin, produced a monthly *Interp Newsletter*, and aggressively used the VIP program to operate the Persimmon Gap Visitor Center. Mark's contributions reflect exceptional initiative and productivity. More important, his knowledge of the complex and often conflicting issues surrounding resource management allowed him to present balanced, in-depth presentations that build literacy, understanding, and support.

## Western Region

**Kathryn D Cook**'s ability to respond to isolation, effects of heat enervation, complex diversity of interpretive subjects, and just plain immensity of Death Valley NM are a few of her outstanding attributes. Kayci and her staff go out of their way to provide special "a la carte" interpretive programs for college groups and visiting professionals in the natural science fields. Her staff researched and produced programs on archeology, anthropology, history, Man and the Biosphere, in addition to natural history themes. In her programs, critical and often controversial issues, such as water resource management and conservation and bighorn sheep management, were deftly highlighted. In 1989 62 different interpretive topics were offered to park visitors, including 23 kinds of thematic evening programs, and 39 subjects covered in daytime activities. What makes Kayci's contribution even more striking is that she really did "do more with less." Budgetary limitation in the last four years reduced the Furnace Creek seasonal interpretive staff by 60%, and only Kayci's skill and determination in locating and recruiting talented VIP's to fill out the staff have made these programs possible. Her quick wit, good sense of humor, and when the occasion calls for it, healthy irreverence towards herself and her work make her an exemplary interpreter.