

# imagine excellence

*The National Park Service Director's Awards*

NATURAL RESOURCES • CULTURAL RESOURCES • WILDERNESS

*The 2011 George Wright Society Awards*

RETHINKING PROTECTED AREAS IN A CHANGING WORLD

*The 2011 George Wright Society Conference  
on Parks, Protected Areas & Cultural Sites*

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA • THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2011

**Rethinking Protected Areas in a Changing World**

*The 2011 George Wright Society Conference  
on Parks, Protected Areas, and Cultural Sites*

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

**The 2011 George Wright Society Awards**

*Presented aboard the Steamboat NATCHEZ  
New Orleans, Louisiana • Thursday, March 17, 2011*

**Master of Ceremonies**  
Brent A. Mitchell  
*President, George Wright Society*

**Guests of Honor**  
Luis Fuego MacDonald  
*Commissioner, CONANP  
(Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas), Mexico*

Jonathan B. Jarvis  
*Director, US National Park Service*

Alan Latourelle  
*Chief Executive Officer, Parks Canada Agency*

7:30 PM — Cruise departs

8:15 PM — Seating for dinner

9:00 PM — Presentation of awards

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**

**BRUCE WEISMAN**

*Director of Resource Management, Mount Rushmore National Memorial*

Bruce Weisman led all efforts to plan, organize, and implement the successful completion of the 2010 Forest Health and Fire Management projects at Mount Rushmore. These efforts were designed to mitigate the devastating impacts associated with the mountain pine beetle (MPB) epidemic currently raging throughout the Black Hills. And if some of you folks have not heard of the controversy or seriousness of the impacts, the National Park Service was involved in many con-



*Bruce Weisman (r) explaining resource issues at  
Mount Rushmore*

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gressional briefings and even hearings on both the Hill and in the field on this issue. Mount Rushmore was in the spotlight of many of these discussions.

Bruce's extensive efforts ensured effective and efficient use of all resources, and ultimately achieved optimum outcomes in the project's core functional areas, including operations, planning, logistics and finance-administration.

Working with area agencies, including local and regional specialists from Custer State Park, South Dakota Department of Agriculture-Wildland Fire Suppression Division, South Dakota State University, United States Geological Survey, United States Forest Service, and entomology and forest health professionals, the Memorial, under the direction of Weisman, developed an aggressive plan to slow and mitigate the movement of the MPB into the Memorial. Integrating scientific research information, current condition reports, and experience from area specialists, the Memorial's action plan combated the infestation and implemented wildland fire reduction efforts on multiple fronts. Tree mortality has reached nearly 100% in much of the affected area, and the oncoming infestation has recently been observed within the Memorial. Weisman's systematic interdisciplinary approach has allowed for successful design and implementation that are effectively addressing the critical elements of the project.

Bruce Weisman is a powerhouse leader with untapped abilities. Weisman's accomplishments realized through this commitment to natural resources will be invaluable for generations.

Bruce's undaunted drive for natural resource management excellence, coupled with his proven leadership skills, have validated him as a leader in natural resource management in the NPS.

*I would like to express my sincere thank you for being selected a recipient of the NPS Director's Award for Natural Resource Management. The healthy forest initiatives at Mount Rushmore National Memorial were a team effort, and there were many others involved in the work that are also deserving of our thanks and recognition.*

*It would be impossible to list everyone that helped on the initiatives. However, I would like to recognize some of the key players that were instrumental and helped get the projects off the ground, secured funding, and were directly involved in the implementation and successful completion.*

*A heartfelt thank you to Dr. John Ball, Coe Foss, Jim Strain, Joe Lowe, Sandhya Soni, Kevin Kohlhapp, Kurt Allen, Tom Troxel, Carson Engelskirger, Bill Coburn, the Society of American Foresters, Chris Holbeck, Jim McMahill, Cody Wenk, Amy Bracewell, Steve Rogers, Erv Gasser, Jon Freenen, Eric Allen, Jason Devich, Aaron Nellen, Duane Bubac, Michelle Kerns, Ron Kesterson, and Superintendent Cheryl Schreier. In addition, the entire team at the Memorial deserves a thank you.*

*Lastly, a special thank you to Ernie Quintana, former MWR Regional Director. Without his support, these initiatives never would have happened.*

*I have outstanding partners in these efforts, and we'll continue to work together toward the end goal of preserving and protecting a sustainable forest.*

*I feel privileged to work for the Department of Interior, National Park Service, and I am honored and humbled by the faith and confidence shown in my work. Thank you.*

 **Bruce Weisman**

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

**JACKIE MESSER**

*Facility Manager, Chickasaw National Recreation Area*

Over the past year, Facility Manager Jackie Messer has taken maintenance actions that have significantly enhanced natural resource values at Chickasaw National Recreation Area. Jackie is the type of facility manager that all superintendents wish they had: innovative, does more with less, always cheerful and with a “can do” attitude. Although he has played a leadership role in the areas of recycling and water conservation, his accomplishments extend well beyond those two very important areas.



Although Jackie has served as facility manager of Chickasaw National Recreation for just slightly over one year, he has had a tremendous positive impact in moving the park's maintenance program in a more environmentally friendly direction. In so doing, he has not only contributed toward bringing the maintenance program into closer alignment with current NPS “green” initiatives, but also he has made a significant contribution by using maintenance activities to advance the park's natural resource goals as well as serve as a model to other parks. A few of these of these accomplishments include:

- » Purchased and began installing seven Big Belly trash compactors to reduce trips and fuel used to collect visitor trash. These are also being used as education tools for solar power.
- » Purchased 100 animal-proof recycle and trash containers for three campground areas; these will be installed in FY2011.
- » Began project to remove overhead electric lines to improve the visual landscape associated with the park's Bromide Hill area.
- » Purchased and began installing improvements to comfort stations in campgrounds. These include motion sensor lights, photo cells for energy savings, and replacing 40 urinals with waterless types.
- » Began recycling Nicad, carbon, and alkaline batteries. Also began recycling light ballasts.
- » Worked through the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program to bring an urban youth group from Dallas, Texas, to assist with a trail reroute.

The point here is that some of these challenges are complex and require thoughtful strategies, but some are quite easy—it just takes a little effort and motivation.

One last accomplishment for which Jackie is responsible is the successful effort to reduce the flow of water from the park's Vendome Well. The Vendome Well is an artesian well, and this situation is complicated by the fact that the well is located on a parcel that was acquired by the park relatively recently. The situation is further complicated because the adjacent town and visiting public like this plume of water that spouted several feet in the air 24 hours a day and had become something of a landmark for the community. Capping the well would have been extremely controversial in the community, but to conserve water in the same underground aquifer that feeds the springs and streams that led to the establishment of the park in 1906, Jackie found a way to install an actuator valve that regulates the flow of the well. The result of these efforts was a 36% reduction in the flow of water from the well, which translates into a remarkable reduction of 110 million gallons of water flowing out of the aquifer each year. Jackie is exactly what the National Park Service defines as a dedicated and innovative employee and leader.

*I would like to thank the National Park Service and the Service Selection Committee for choosing me for this award. I am very honored. I would like to recognize the Chickasaw National Recreation Superintendent and staff that are very committed to Resource Protection. I would not be here today without their outstanding support. In addition I also would like to recognize the Facilities Division that has met every goal and supported every endeavor we have launched. The recycling center and programs we have started will have an impact in the community as well as in the park for years to come. We hope to continue to improve and build the program with even more initiatives. Thank you very much.*

 Jackie Messer

## Director's Award for Natural Resource Management

**P.J. WHITE, PH.D.**

*Chief of Wildlife Resources, Yellowstone National Park*

In an earlier century, Marine Corps Battalion Captain P.J. White reviewed his tactical situation and decided on a strategic shift towards wildlife ecology. P.J. seized the momentum and rapidly proceeded to Yellowstone to advance the science of elk ecology. Having achieved this objective, and with a Ph.D. in hand, P.J. then proceeded to a career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological Services in Carlsbad, California, where he became known as a stalwart and energetic advocate for wildlife resources.



In 2002, P.J. was recruited back to Yellowstone to serve as the park's ungulate biologist. Immediately, P.J. exhibited his defining character and began aggressively building upon the ungulate science of his NPS predecessors Glen Cole, Doug Houston, Mary Meagher, Francis Singer, and John Mack. Through tenacious dedication, P.J. developed a portfolio of applied and theoretical wildlife science yielding over 50 lead and co-authored peer-reviewed articles and book chapters in the next eight years.

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P.J. excels at leadership through building relationships between groups of scientists to conduct mission-critical research, making science accessible to managers and visitors by creating understandable products, and formulating and negotiating effective plans to conserve and restore species and processes, such as wildlife migration across jurisdictions and management paradigms.

P.J.'s commitment to science-informed management of park resources culminated in four significant accomplishments in 2010:

- » An adaptive management plan that significantly increased tolerance for Yellowstone bison migrating to essential winter ranges in Montana;
- » An environmental impact statement for remote brucellosis vaccination of bison without capture;
- » Convincing legal responses to a federal lawsuit against the U.S. Forest Service and Department of Interior alleging impairment of the Yellowstone bison population; and
- » A comprehensive critical assessment of ecological process management in Yellowstone (with a book version possibly forthcoming).

P.J.'s work at Yellowstone defines the caliber of excellence in NPS natural resource management.

*I thank the staff at Yellowstone National Park for their dedication and passion at conserving natural resources and the ecological processes that sustain them. This award is evidence of their ingenuity, leadership, and perseverance in tackling challenging conservation issues. Also, I thank the leadership of the National Park Service and the George Wright Society for their unwavering support and this memorable evening.*

***✍ P. J. White***



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

MIKE MURRAY

*Superintendent, Outer Banks Group (Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, Wright Brothers National Memorial)*

Since Cape Hatteras National Seashore was established, off-road vehicle (ORV) use substantially increased and populations of native shorebird species, including the federal-listed threatened piping plover and several state-listed species, have significantly declined. In particular, unrestricted night driving on Seashore ocean beaches has had adverse effects on sea turtles nesting there.

Upon his arrival in 2005, Superintendent Murray committed himself to the completion of an ORV management plan—environmental impact statement (EIS) and special regulation to preserve and protect significant natural resources, thereby meeting a long-standing legal requirement that had languished for over 30 years, and allowing visitors to enjoy a unique and special locale.



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Superintendent Murray strived to build consensus with local and regional stakeholders, incorporate the best available science into management decisions, and establish a plan that allowed for continued visitor use. However, significant hurdles needed to be overcome, including a lack of trust by local stakeholders, intense public interest and scrutiny of management decisions, and the perception among ORV proponents of a lack of credible scientific data. Additional challenges were litigating and implementing the resulting settlement; undertaking a negotiated rule-making process with highly polarized stakeholders; completing multiple planning actions; handling interest and involvement from local, state, and federal elected officials; and overcoming a staffing and funding shortage to adequately address resource management needs.

After five long years, a final ORV management plan, its associated EIS, and a draft ORV management regulation have been completed. For the first time in over 30 years, the NPS will meet its legal requirement for ORV use at Cape Hatteras National Seashore and significantly improve the nesting success of protected shorebirds and sea turtles. This success is due in large part to the dedication and actions conducted by Superintendent Murray. Without his tenacity, sense of inclusion, political knowledge, resource understanding, and overall intense dedication to see the ORV plan completed, significant natural resources at Cape Hatteras would have continued to be affected by ORV use and potentially may have become extirpated from the Seashore.

Superintendent Murray is a highly dedicated NPS employee who believes deeply in the Service's mission to preserve and protect natural and cultural resources. Mike is a strategic thinker who believes strongly in making science-based management decisions. Like much of what he has contributed towards the ORV management plan, Mike has provided consistency, perspective, understanding, and guidance to Seashore staff dealing with these and other topics.

*I am honored to have been selected for this award, particularly given the outstanding work of so many park superintendents this past year. No major planning effort or management action is accomplished by one person. It takes a team! I've been very fortunate to have worked for over five years on this project with an outstanding team of dedicated individuals at the Seashore, the Environmental Quality Division, the Southeast Regional Office, the Washington Office, and the DOI Office of the Solicitor. Together we have been able to complete a much-needed and long-overdue off-road vehicle management plan for Cape Hatteras National Seashore. In accepting this award, I want my teammates to know how much I appreciate their capable assistance and support and many contributions over the past five years. Thank you very much!*

*✍ Mike Murray*

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

### GREGORY "MARK" ANDERSON

*Aquatic Ecologist, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area*

For over a decade, the primary driver in Glen Canyon NRA's successful efforts to keep Lake Powell free of the invasive zebra and quagga mussels has been the park's aquatic ecologist, Mark Anderson. Today, Lake Powell remains mussel-free despite a prediction made in 1998 that it would be the first western water body to succumb to the exotic infestation. Mark has provided a high degree of vision, leadership, resourcefulness, and technical proficiency to develop the park's unique and successful program that involves dozens of external partners and all park divisions.



As additional western waters develop infestations, the extraordinary nature of Mark's accomplishment is emphasized and its value demonstrated. Millions of dollars are saved every year and the benefits literally extend to all water and power users in the Southwest. Through Mark's efforts, the incredible resource of Lake Powell has been preserved, and it is demonstrated in the tangible benefits for every user group and resource value, and becomes more evident as infestations continue to advance in other waters.

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Mark has brought the same enthusiasm and professionalism to all aspects of the park's aquatic resources management.

Mark's success has been achieved through creative solutions such as:

- » Directing Glen Canyon's widely acclaimed Water Quality and Public Health Beach Monitoring Program—no other beach monitoring program in the world can claim to monitor 2,000 miles of shoreline;
- » Leading a group of scientists (with at least 40 members) that conducts research on Lake Powell annually; and
- » Establishing long-term partnerships with universities, including Duke and Caltech, which has led to cooperative studies of Lake Powell's sediment dynamics and several co-authored peer-reviewed publications.

While Mark has been the central figure in the zebra and quagga mussel prevention efforts at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area for the last ten years, his talents and dedication are far reaching.

*Thank you for the high honor of receiving this award. That hard work and commitment are recognized, appreciated, and rewarded speaks to the great quality of the National Park Service. It is especially gratifying to be recognized for excellence in this organization, where passion and belief in mission make excellence common. I am certain the Service selection committee had a very difficult decision.*

*Working for the Park Service has provided me with fantastic professional and personal opportunities for growth and adventure. I am incredibly fortunate to have been able to integrate my passion for science and love of nature into a career that is fun and rewarding. In this work, I find the questions interesting and the answers fascinating. The tasks often involve adventures through, and to, incredible places. Additionally and perhaps most importantly, I really care about passing our nation's most precious places undiminished to future generations.*

*I owe my success to many other devoted individuals within and outside the Service. They have supported and assisted me, collaborated to accomplish common goals, and stood next to me in the face of difficult challenges to carry out our mission. I share this honor with them, especially my many coworkers through the years and those who still strive with me to provide and protect Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and Rainbow Bridge National Monument. Our accomplishments have been great, but we are no different from so many dedicated employees across the Service that have a great time working for something they believe in!*

 **Mark Anderson**

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

DAN WENK

*Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park*

Dan Wenk served as the National Park Service deputy director of operations from 2007 through January 2011. During this time, which included serving as acting director from January through September 2009, he led the national parks through complex and challenging times.

Dan's career accomplishments have been recognized with numerous awards, including the Meritorious Service Award. As deputy director, he served the natural resources of our parks tirelessly, and for his efforts is being awarded the Director's Award for Natural Resources.



Dan's efforts to protect and preserve the natural resources entrusted to the care of the National Park Service have ensured that the decisions made are based on sound science and research. Often, he went out on a limb personally and professionally to meet complex challenges head on. His efforts behind the scenes, far from the view of parks, and often in the halls of Congress, did not go unnoticed:

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- » Negotiated for interagency conservation goals that protect park values and transcend agency boundaries;
- » Supported the parks' and regions' efforts to resolve complex scientific challenges, such as global climate change;
- » Organized the NPS response to catastrophic natural resource events and the invasion of exotic species;
- » Championed the retention of the natural resource icons (and their legacy) that inspired many of our parks over a century ago, and continue to inspire today;
- » Provided the organizational support necessary to provide both tactical and long-term responses to address the highest-priority needs of parks in regard to wildlife management, air quality and air tour management, water rights, and the capacity to build resilience in native organisms in order to adapt, migrate, and persist; and
- » Supported and enabled the parks, regions, and WASO to respond and contribute to, and effectively engage in, renewable energy development strategies.

Dan has built the trust necessary and has had the political courage and perseverance to see natural resource preservation become sustainable. He has made a lasting positive contribution to our legacy of science, stewardship and preservation.

*I am honored to not only have been selected to receive this award, but more importantly, to have been nominated and recognized by resource managers, superintendents, and WASO staff.*

*Today we face resource challenges of incredible significance in the form of global climate change, loss of biodiversity, and habitat fragmentation, due to widespread human-induced land and water use changes and growth pressures. No one person can tackle these issues alone. I have been most fortunate to have led and collaborated with informed, professional, and dedicated staff in the Regions and in Washington, D.C. I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with resource managers and superintendents who have expended incredible energy to resolve complex issues. For all of these moments, for all of these opportunities, I am grateful.*

*We must ensure that the National Park Service, the premier agency with the responsibility for America's lands, waters, wildlife, and historic and cultural resources, continues to transform how we conserve the resources in the 21st century. Postage-stamp protection must be replaced by a whole systems approach; and continental conservation must be in concert with our national and international partners. I am counting on all of us to continue the forward momentum.*

*And to receive this coveted limited-edition bison ... I can think of no better symbol of appreciation and motivation as I arrive in Yellowstone and work with the talented and dedicated staff on bison issues that can only be solved through collaboration of federal and state agencies with private and nongovernment organizations. Thank you all for this recognition.*

 **Dan Wenk**

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

**EDWARD O. WILSON, PH.D.**

*Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University*

Ed was nominated for this award by his National Park Service colleagues, in special recognition of the contributions his body of science has made to the National Park System. His achievements in this regard include, but are not limited to:



- » Conducting a large body of research in, and directly benefiting, the National Park System;
- » Being a profound influence on the National Park Service's dedication to science-based conservation management;
- » Being the world's most recognizable champion for preserving and understanding biodiversity, and lending his interest and reputation to bio-blitzes and all-taxa biodiversity inventories at units of the National Park System;
- » Being a member of the 2004 National Park Advisory Board's committee on science, and authoring a report that helped the NPS remain committed to maintaining the momentum behind the Natural Resource Challenge; and
- » Being a guiding light to professionals and managers, and leaders, past, present, and future, and by his willingness to engage the National Park Service in venues such as Discovery 2000 and the upcoming Executive Development Course at the National Park Institute at the University of California–Merced, in April 2011.

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In summary, Dr. Wilson's lifetime journey of scientific inquiry has created novel voices for enlightened and innovative communication amongst the NPS workforce, and between the NPS and its many and varied constituencies and stakeholders. As a champion of scientific excellence, Dr. Wilson has provided volumes of invaluable insights into integrating the social, natural, political, behavioral, and humanistic sciences that are core to the long-term success of the NPS mission.

*The National Park System is America's greatest single achievement in culture and environment. Furthermore, the future of the NPS in scientific research and environmental education is boundless. I've been delighted to be associated with it, and am very proud now to receive the recognition of a Director's Award.*

***✍ Edward O. Wilson***



**Appleman-Judd-Lewis Award for  
Cultural Resource Stewardship through Maintenance**

**JIM BAKER**

*Maintenance Supervisor, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve*

Since 2000, Jim Baker, a local maintenance supervisor at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, has overseen work on the preservation of the Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark, which is located at the center of the park. Imagine a mill town complex with over 140,000 square feet of heavy-timber and wood-frame historic structures, which range in size from a 14-story mill building to a one-room school-



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house. Now imagine that they are located at the end of a 60-mile summer gravel road at the heart of the US's largest national park. Then imagine a site that is not accessible by road for seven months of the year and a project that must be completed during a five-month field season. Finally, picture the complexity of project management, logistics, access, federal budgets, material procurement, and OSHA compliance, and the challenges of locally hiring, mentoring, and supervising a crew of approximately 25 craftspeople, and you have an understanding of the enormous scale of Jim's accomplishments.

The Kennecott mill town complex was acquired by the NPS in 1998. The magnitude of the preservation effort required at Kennecott cannot be overstated. Abandoned in 1938, the mill town sat unmaintained for over 60 years in one of the country's harshest climates. Under Jim's day-to-day direction and mentoring, roofs and foundations have been repaired, collapsing walls realigned, and a railroad trestle rebuilt. In total, 18 historic structures and two bridges at Kennecott have been preserved. Although much work remains to be done, Jim's effort and the efforts of his team of local craftspeople at Kennecott have turned the "deterioration corner" in the preservation of this important National Historic Landmark.

Jim's "quiet competency," resourcefulness, skill as a respected supervisor, and creativity has led to the preservation of this important NHL property. Without Jim's expertise and emotional investment, the preservation of Kennecott would not have been possible. The quality of the work that Jim has overseen is commendable and will ensure that the Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark will be passed on to future generations.

*I am honored to receive the Appleman–Judd–Lewis Award and for the opportunity to be present at the George Wright Society awards banquet in New Orleans with family, peers, and friends. Thank you, National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis, and to all those who have worked with me in the preservation of the Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark over the last 12 years.*

*Seeing the results of this ongoing preservation work is a highlight of my career. I would not have received this award without the moral and technical support of staff at the Alaska Regional Office, my Kennecott crews, and the staff at Wrangell–St. Elias National Park and Preserve.*

 **Jim Baker**

**Appleman-Judd-Lewis Award for  
Excellence in Cultural Resource Management**

**SUSAN DOLAN**

*Historical Landscape Architect, Pacific West Regional Office*

This award recognizes Susan Dolan's efforts in the writing and publication of *Fruitful Legacy: A Historic Context of Orchards in the United States*. Susan has a special interest in the preservation and maintenance of historic fruit trees, and this peer-reviewed document reflects her expertise and keen understanding of the subject, while addressing a critical information gap in the national cultural resources program. Until her study was published in 2009, the National Park Service had been unable to properly identify and assess the significance of historic fruit trees and orchards within the national park system because of a lack of information in regard to their role in the broader agricultural history of the United States. As a result, many fruit trees and orchards representative of our nation's agricultural legacy were lost in national parks around the country.



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The kick-off for the project began when the need for a context study was identified as a result of a site visit to the historic Buckner Orchard in North Cascades National Park. Subsequently, Susan traveled around the country to visit various park sites, archives, and historic repositories necessary to conduct her research. She assumed the mantle of leadership on this project, and, despite the complexity of the task, was able to accomplish this work while performing her normal duties, which are split between Mount Rainier National Park and the Pacific West Regional Office in Seattle. Throughout the writing, review, and publication of the document, Susan worked collaboratively with resource managers, horticulturists, and other orchard experts from around the country to bring together the information contained in this document.

*Fruitful Legacy* will be invaluable to resource managers as well as interpretive staff throughout the parks because it will enable them to convey the significance of these resources to the American public. Nomination of historic fruit trees and orchards to the National Register of Historic Places will assist in the protection of these types of resources and will serve to educate and inform the public of the vital role that they played in the agricultural development of America since the early 17th century. Susan's leadership and knowledge related to historic orchards is nationally recognized, and publication of *Fruitful Legacy* provides guidance to national, state, and local parks throughout the country.

*I am honored to receive this award for writing a context of the history of orchards in the United States, entitled Fruitful Legacy. I would like to accept the award on behalf of the NPS Park Cultural Landscapes Program, who supported the preparation of the document and also my professional development since 1995. In particular, I would like to thank Dr. Stephanie Toothman, Randall Biallas, Robert Page, Cathy Gilbert, and Charlie Pepper, who provided me with the opportunity, the inspiration, and the means to sustain the effort over a period of years. I am extremely fortunate to be part of the legacy of the National Park Service and the Park Cultural Landscapes Program, which has grown in leadership of cultural landscape stewardship since the 1980s. I hope the document will lead to greater recognition of the significance of historic orchards, and a renewed commitment to their preservation in the future. Please accept my sincere thanks for this honor.*

*✍ Susan Dolan*

## Appleman-Judd-Lewis Award for Excellence in Cultural Resource Management

GARY W. JOHNSON

*Supervisory Landscape Architect, Blue Ridge Parkway*

Scenery is considered to be a “core value” of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Throughout the National Park Service, management of scenery, in the larger context of cultural resources, has been complicated by a lack of defensible standards. Gary Johnson, in his role as chief of resource management, planning, lands, and compliance for the Blue Ridge Parkway, has been advocating for the protection of visual resources for many years. His efforts paid off in 2009 with the advancement of several initiatives to protect visual resources within and outside the park’s boundary. All of these resources, argues Johnson, are part of the designed historic landscape of the Parkway that forms the basis of evaluating proposed changes.



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Images of the Blue Ridge Parkway invariably include the characteristic rustic stone walls edging the motor road. Wooden guardrails also line the Parkway as part of its historic landscape. Today, the stone walls and guardrails do not meet Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) standards for traffic safety. Johnson worked tirelessly to develop acceptable modifications that would meet safety standards while replicating the original designs. Ultimately, for the stone walls he was able to obtain a variance from FHWA standards by using as much of the original stone as possible as a façade over protective guardwalls. He also obtained approval to keep modified wooden guardrails by expanding a type of analysis used by transportation agencies, known as a “barrier warranty system,” so that it took account of impacts to the historic landscape of the Parkway. Thanks to Johnson’s hard work, images of the Blue Ridge Parkway will include rustic stone walls and wooden guardrails for many years to come.

Work on these projects led to development of the ground-breaking *Guidebook for the Blue Ridge Parkway Scenery Conservation System* (SCS). The SCS has a singular emphasis on conserving the “borrowed landscape,” as viewed from overlook and roadside vistas, through working with 29 county governments, private landowners, developers, and other agencies along the Parkway. The park uses the SCS evaluation process to determine impacts of proposed developments outside the park’s boundary, and it has proved very effective in defending decisions to oppose or ask for changes in proposals that might adversely affect Parkway viewsheds.

Dealing with intangible resources, such as scenery, is very difficult. Proven scientific data about preservation techniques, and likely consequences from changes, do not exist. To overcome these obstacles, Johnson based the SCS process on as much concrete information as possible. In doing so, Johnson has been able to relate to engineers, planners, and developers—individuals not typically accustomed to considering intangible factors. Through efforts like these, Gary Johnson has been a stalwart protector of the historic landscapes that add to the Blue Ridge Parkway’s significance.

*Receiving the 2009 Director’s Appleman–Judd–Lewis Award for Excellence in Cultural Resource Management is a great honor for me. I thank the selection committee and Director Jarvis for this recognition. As a career NPS landscape architect, I have had the privilege to work on planning, design, and construction projects in over 50 units of the National Park Service. Many of those parks were established to preserve the cultural heritage of this great country. Without the experience of working in those parks and all that I learned from talented and committed park, region, and Washington Office staff I would not have received this award. In particular I want to recognize Susan Dolan who set the standard for me to follow, Randy Biallas who provided advice and support, and Tim Davis who provided historical context within which to think about parkways. For the past 16 years serving as the chief landscape architect and planner for the Blue Ridge Parkway I have had numerous opportunities to apply the knowledge and skills that I learned about preserving cultural resources. Managing the Blue Ridge Parkway, one of the premier historic designed roadway landscapes in this country, has required persistence, tenacity, and being innovative. Preserving the integrity of the motor road landscape and its associated component features and conserving the more than 1,200 scenic views which lie outside the park boundary are the challenges that have been met and that have been acknowledged by my receiving this award.*

 Gary W. Johnson

## **Appleman–Judd–Lewis Award for Cultural Resource Stewardship for Superintendents**

**TOM BRADLEY**

*Superintendent, Jefferson National Expansion Memorial*

Tom Bradley became superintendent of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in 2008 at a time when powerful local interests threatened to impair the historic values of this international icon by sponsoring legislation to make the Gateway Arch grounds available for development. Tom orchestrated a positive response by supporting the effort to complete the park's first general management plan (GMP) in partnership with many public and private interests associated with the memorial and its complex urban environment.



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In a GMP planning process that carefully described the historic significance and character-defining features of the National Historic Landmark—the arch and its landscape as well as the historic Old Courthouse—Superintendent Bradley worked methodically with the cities of St. Louis and East St. Louis, interstate transportation officials, preservation groups, federal agencies (such as the Army Corps of Engineers), and others to gain support of the GMP's preferred alternative. The GMP proposed to revitalize the memorial through an international design competition. Publication of the GMP was completed in October 2009 after just 18 months—an unprecedented accomplishment. The local interests that had threatened the park became partners with the NPS and the many other public and private entities in developing the design competition.

By early December 2009, a competition manual, “Framing a Modern Masterpiece,” was published; it included goals for the protection of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial. Tom worked to ensure that the competition balanced the creative energy of world-class designers with the preservation mission of the National Park Service. He made sure the competition included such goals as “Honor the character-defining elements of the National Historic Landmark,” “Reinvigorate the mission to tell the story of St. Louis as the gateway to national expansion,” and “Weave connections and transitions from the City and the Arch grounds to the River.” He also ensured that compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and with the National Environmental Protection Act was factored into the competition. In 2010 a winner of the competition was announced. By continuing to manage the process toward a successful conclusion, Tom Bradley is setting a preeminent example for managers of cultural resources.

*I am most appreciative of the Appleman–Judd–Lewis Award for work at Jefferson National Expansion Memorial to implement the recent general management plan by conducting an international design competition followed by a huge partnership effort to better connect the park with the city, expand into Illinois, provide for much improved accessibility, create a sustainable landscape, and replace out-of-date exhibits. There are times in our NPS careers when we feel like we may have parachuted into an intractable, controversial, and nasty situation with no hope in sight. This has been the toughest challenge of my career with early community and political problems that have required the full concentration and fortitude of our resources. So far, however, it seems the tide has turned—when the dust settles we hope for a much improved urban National Park. Thank you, again, especially the many NPS team members, our stalwart NPCA regional director, the design and competition world, and many fine neighbors in the St. Louis community.*

“...But that’s not the way of it with tales that really mattered.... Folk seem to have been just landed into them, usually—their paths were laid that way, as you put it. But I expect they had lots of chances, like us, of turning back, only they didn’t. And if they had, we shouldn’t know, because they’d have been forgotten. We hear about those that just went on.... I wonder what sort of tale we’ve fallen into.” — *Lord of the Rings*, J.R.R. Tolkien

 **Tom Bradley**



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

**AMBASSADORS FOR WILDERNESS YOUTH PROGRAM**

*Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, Colorado*

The Ambassadors for Wilderness (AFW) youth program at Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve represents a considerable team effort which has led to a better future for wilderness appreciation and stewardship through an immersive, wilderness-based education experience for culturally diverse, local high school students from the San Luis Valley of Colorado, with emphasis on wilderness values and resources.



The program's format serves to give each student, regardless of his or her outdoor knowledge or experience, the best opportunities to succeed. Led by park staff and a myriad of partners, participants plunge into the park and preserve's wilderness areas to explore an intensive curriculum of park and wilderness management topics, "Leave No Trace," outdoor skills, risk management, field science, and service learning. They also complete activities and discussions surrounding the larger themes of leadership, communication, national park and wilderness values, and personal and civic responsibility.

AFW serves to develop understanding of and advocates for wilderness, not only with the students, but within the park staff and local community. It is truly a model for successful partnerships incorporating interdivisional cooperation from education/interpretation, maintenance, resources management, and protection, the Teacher-Ranger-Teacher program, students from two local colleges, the Student Conservation Association, the Friends of the Dunes, and the Western National Parks Association.

AFW's reach is further than just the park and local community. Through social media like the program's active Facebook page and Twitter, participants, parents, alumni, friends of the park, and regional and national audiences can stay updated about the program with photos, videos, discussions, and news. AFW sets a high standard for others to follow to engage our nation's youth in wilderness awareness and stewardship.

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

**JOEL L. HARD**

*Superintendent, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, Alaska*

After being selected as the superintendent of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve in 2003, Joel Hard immediately became educated on the Wilderness Act and its application to park management in the Alaska Region as well as on a national scale.

In 2006, Joel was selected to serve on the NPS Wilderness Leadership Council (WLC) as the Alaska Superintendent representative. His knowledge of and appreciation for Alaska's wilderness allowed him to be an extremely effective member, and in 2007 he was nominated for and accepted the chair of the WLC. Joel led the WLC with a steady hand and open mind while the WLC addressed a wide variety of difficult issues and challenges.



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At the regional level, Joel supported and expanded efforts to improve communication for wilderness stewardship by serving as the liaison for the Backcountry/Wilderness Advisory Group to the Alaska Council of Superintendents. He attended and encouraged other Alaska superintendents and employees to participate in wilderness stewardship training and is a tireless supporter of workforce development through training and education. Joel has consistently provided guidance, direction, and input to other park and regional managers regarding the complex wilderness issues in Alaska, including planning, climate change research, structures and installations to support science and subsistence uses, public access and access to private property, wildlife harvest, and management of commercial services in wilderness.

At the park level, Joel initiated backcountry and wilderness stewardship planning for Lake Clark National Park and Preserve and formally created positive requirements for wilderness coordinator duties in natural resources staff positions. He supports, encourages, and requires staff to assess wilderness impacts resulting from park activities using minimum requirements analyses. Under Joel's leadership, Lake Clark became the first park in Alaska, and one of the first parks in the US, to design and implement a wilderness character monitoring strategy in order to monitor trends in the qualities of wilderness character. Joel's wealth of expertise; no-nonsense, honest, effective, and compassionate approach to leadership; and passion for protecting wild places is well respected among his peers, employees, and partners.

Before coming to the National Park Service, Joel was the director of the Alaska State Troopers' Fish and Wildlife Protection Division. He has a deep love for and appreciation of what wilderness means to the American public in Alaska and across the nation.

*I am humbled by, but feel inadequate for, this extraordinary recognition. I know there are very many more deserving individuals working incredibly hard every day in the National Park Service and other organizations to care for our most special wild places. On their collective behalf I thank you for this award.*

*Wilderness designation is America's strongest declaration of concern for, and its desire to protect, its most special natural areas. It is both a privilege and a challenge to undertake that important charge. Not everyone has the benefit of thoughtful parents who appreciated the importance of conserving for others wild areas and wild things. Fortunately, I did and I have been able to make my living protecting the people and wild resources of Alaska ever since. That such work led me to the National Park Service and Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, the very epitome of wilderness envisioned by Howard Zahniser and other framers of the Wilderness Act, has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.*

*Only through the ongoing work of the National Park Service, its partners, and the broad American public will we make sure the special qualities and connections of wilderness landscapes endure for our grandchildren, their children, and beyond. On behalf of all those working hard towards that ideal, I offer my sincerest appreciation.*

 **Joel L. Hard**

## The George Wright Society Communication Award

PAUL SCHULLERY

Paul Schullery is a historian and author of more than 30 books and papers in historic and natural history journals about NPS history and management; about grizzly bears, wolves, and fish, especially in the Greater Yellowstone area but also in Glacier National Park and Alaska; and about other topics of relevance and interest to conservation and science—including Theodore Roosevelt and the history of hunting and fly fishing.

His book *Myth and History in the Creation of Yellowstone National Park* (2003; co-authored with Lee Whittlesey) honored the work of previous Yellowstone historian Aubrey Haines in gently debunking the legend of a park campfire around which early explorers magnanimously stood down from ideas to subdivide the Yellowstone plateau for their own purposes and fortunes.

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*Searching for Yellowstone* (1997), *Real Alaska* (2001), and *Mountain Time* (1984) combine his thoughtful musings about management of natural and cultural resources with stories of how the public and managers view and influence them over time. His seminal books communicating facts and history, including *The Bears of Yellowstone* (1980) and *Lewis and Clark Among the Grizzlies* (2002), have educated thousands of readers in Greater Yellowstone and beyond on the real nature of bears and their relationship to humans.

His 1986 work, “Fishing Bridge: A Report to the [NPS] Director,” was crucial in summarizing the important science about critical habitat and the cumulative effects of human use on the then-declining population of grizzly bears, and making the case which resulted in the park’s environmental impact analyses and decision to close the popular Fishing Bridge Campground and remove additional buildings and infrastructure from the center of Yellowstone National Park after more than 60 years. With former Yellowstone resource chief John Varley, he created the semi-technical quarterly journal *Yellowstone Science* to share results of current research on natural and cultural topics relevant to the region. In 2009, he was seen on film in Ken Burns’ “The National Parks: America’s Best Idea” series, commenting on the history and evolution of park policy and management.

In the Yellowstone ecosystem and beyond, he is known for his scholarly analysis of conservation trends and actions, presented in thought-provoking speeches and writings. His work has won him many accolades, including the Center for the American West’s Wallace Stegner



Award (1998) for contributions to the history of American conservation. In 2009, he was named the first scholar-in-residence at Montana State University's Renne Library. From restoration of natural fire and wolves to true cross-boundary "ecosystem management," his verbal and written communications, combined with his thorough archival and oral history research, have influenced several generations of NPS and other agency managers to improve science-based conservation actions.

— *nominated by Sue Consolo Murphy*

*My gratitude for the high honor of this award is pretty much inexpressible. The George Wright Society has successfully institutionalized the knowledge, the values, and the wisdom that park professionals have needed to carry on the spirit of Wright's work while celebrating the vision he fostered for the parks. To all of you who share that vision, my thanks.*

 **Paul Schullery**

## The George Wright Society Cultural Resource Achievement Award

ERNIE GLADSTONE

Ernie Gladstone is the superintendent of Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and National Marine Conservation Area Reserve, British Columbia, a post he has held since 2001 when he was appointed as Parks Canada's first Haida superintendent. Gwaii Haanas is a National Park Reserve, National Marine Conservation Area Reserve, and Haida Heritage



Site. The area is cooperatively managed by the Government of Canada and the Council of the Haida Nation. Ernie is a co-chair on the Canada/Haida management board that oversees the protection and presentation of the natural and cultural heritage of Gwaii Haanas, which includes SGang Gwaii, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, a number of National Historic Sites, and Canada's first National Marine Conservation Area. In 2008, Ernie was awarded a Public Service Award of Excellence for his work in Gwaii Haanas.

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Ernie is being recognized by the George Wright Society for his leadership and vision in effectively weaving the Haida Heritage Site, the Haida Nation and its people, and the Haida culture so seamlessly into the fabric of the Park and NMCA Reserves. Parks Canada, as an organization, has embraced and effectively implemented this cultural integration throughout their national system of parks and protected areas and is, without question, a global leader in this important work. The protected areas of Haida Gwaii, under Ernie's leadership, are the embodiment of this idea. The Reserves serve as a model for demonstrating not only that co-management can be done, and done well, but that it can enrich and enhance both the visitor experience of those who come to the Reserves to learn, to be challenged, and to expand their horizons, but also help to support, engage, and preserve the culture of local communities that are deeply connected to that special place. Gwaii Haanas is the exemplar of the idea that preserving natural and cultural heritage are not two separate mandates, but one.

— *nominated by Brad Barr*

*I am truly honoured and am very pleased to accept the George Wright Society's Cultural Resource Achievement Award. I accept, as the current superintendent of Gwaii Haanas and on behalf of my many colleagues at Parks Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and the Council of the Haida Nation.*

*Gwaii Haanas is a protected area located in Southern Haida Gwaii off Canada's western coastline. Gwaii Haanas is renowned for its distinct island flora and fauna, rich marine environment, and the living culture of the Haida people. Gwaii Haanas protects and presents the inseparable connection between land, sea, and people through its unique cooperative management structure.*

*Gwaii Haanas is managed cooperatively by the Government of Canada and the Haida Nation through the Archipelago Management Board. In my opinion, this board has been very successful since it was first put in place in 1993, and I attribute this success to the personal commitment that each and every member of the board has brought into our decision-making process. This process works because the individuals, who are appointed by Canada and the Haida Nation, are truly committed to making the process work.*

*The success we have realized through the protection of Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and Haida Heritage Site, as well as the recently established National Marine Conservation Area Reserve, is the result of the collective efforts made by many committed individuals and organizations over the past twenty years.*

*Gwaii Haanas is now protected from mountain top to deep sea. This success is an example of what can be achieved when partners come together and work as one team towards one vision.*

 **Ernie Gladstone**



## The George Wright Society Natural Resource Achievement Award

DAVID N. COLE, PH.D.

David Cole has conducted almost 35 years of pioneering practical and applied research in recreation ecology, much of it in mountain wilderness areas under US Forest Service management. His work, characterized by an exceptional range, insight, and rigor, as well as by intense personal commitment to wilderness, has taken him to a position of authoritative leadership in this field. David's studies in impact processes on back-



country trails and campsites have acquired the status of classics, establishing fundamental principles that inform and underpin recreation site planning, management, and monitoring in wilderness and protected areas, not only across the US but internationally. The very wide dissemination and adoption of David's findings owes a good deal to his lucid exposition in hundreds of papers and presentations—as well as to the Forest Service's wholly admirable policy of making its researchers' work freely available in print and on the web.

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David's approach has never been narrowly ecological, but has always integrated social studies in recreation behavior and the values of the wilderness experience. Far from being dry abstract science, his work has consistently been directed to real management issues on the ground. He has also made major contributions to minimum impact recreation behavior by helping the National Outdoor Leadership School to develop and promote the principles and practical application of the "Leave No Trace" wilderness ethic. More recently, David has broadened his approach again, working with colleagues in the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute in fundamental scrutiny and re-evaluation of the whole philosophy and conservation of core values and management dilemmas in designated wilderness.

The international respect in which David is held has brought him invitations to give keynote papers at protected area workshops and conferences in the English Lake District, in Australia, and in Europe. As the global "guru" of recreation ecology, his influence has extended from Scotland's Footpath Management Project to the Track Management Strategy for Tasmania's South-West Wilderness World Heritage Area.

The quality and importance of David Cole's lifelong service in applied research have been recognized by awards from the National Recreation and Parks Association, the US Forest Service, and the National Park Service. But the GWS Natural Resource Achievement Award is a fitting acknowledgment of his huge contribution to ecological understanding and sound management of recreation and its impacts in protected areas across the world.

— *nominated by Robert Aitken*

*It is hard to convey the profound sense of honor, gratitude, and humility I feel in being this year's recipient of the Natural Resource Achievement Award of the George Wright Society—the organization whose mission most closely matches my personal professional mission. I was further excited to learn that the nomination had come from Bob Aitken, a long-term colleague in Scotland—helping me realize that it is an international community involved in this work. Like so many of you, to work in such precious places, with such wonderful people, doing things we think are good and worthwhile—it just doesn't get better than that.*

*And speaking of thanks, I feel moved to express my appreciation to a few of the places and people who were instrumental in enabling me to be here now. There are really many more than I can possibly mention here. But much of it started with parents who loved camping—took me to places like Big Sur—and also taught me the value of giving, of serving, of exploring and thinking, and of striving to do the best one can do. There was a father and an uncle who took me on that first backpacking trip in Yosemite—where we broke every low-impact camping rule in the book. And there was Bob Lucas, who gave me my opportunity to work in wilderness research. I can remember like it was yesterday when my career goal was to maybe influence Bob's thinking. Grand Canyon, certain alcoves in Zion, the Eagle Cap—the list goes on. And finally, to all the park and wilderness professionals, stewards, and advocates, thank you for making me feel myself a valued member of our wonderful community.*

 **David N. Cole**

## The George Melendez Wright Award for Excellence

RICHARD WEST SELLARS

Dick Sellars began his career with the National Park Service in the mid-1960s as a seasonal ranger-naturalist in Grand Teton National Park. In October 1973 he accepted a position in the Southwest Regional Office in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He spent the remainder of his Park Service career in Santa Fe, although his research, writing, teaching, and other work have, in one way or another, involved virtually the entire National Park System. From 1979 to 1988, Dick oversaw programs in history, archeology, and historic architecture for the Southwest Region, as well as Servicewide programs in underwater archeology.



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Dick's articles on American history and on cultural and natural resource preservation have appeared in numerous publications, among them *The Washington Post*, *Wilderness*, *National Parks*, *Journal of Forestry*, and *Landscape*. He has lectured on preservation philosophy, policy, and practice at many universities and conferences, and for more than a decade conducted two-week courses in historic preservation for National Park Service managers. A keen traveler, he has visited more than 370 of the 390+ units of the National Park System.

Dick's book *Preserving Nature in the National Parks: A History*, published in 1997, set off a chain reaction of events that eventually led the Congress to fund the National Park Service's multi-year Natural Resources Challenge. Current estimates indicate that perhaps as much as \$750 million has been invested in park science and resources management because of this initiative.

Perhaps no book on National Park Service issues has had as profound an effect on agency culture as has *Preserving Nature*. Sellars' analysis clearly shows that the 20th-century NPS was oriented toward development and visitor services and resisted the input of its researchers and scientists. Now, the analyses of these people are routinely sought when park managers are faced with complex resources decisions. Moreover, park interest groups demand more rigorous research before decisions are made; they no longer are content with "this is the way we have always done it here."

As a retired NPS employee who worked in both the 20th and 21st century as a park manager, I can tell you that Dick's book forever changed the way I looked at park science and research. I know many of my colleagues had the same experience.

— nominated by Rick Smith

*I would like to thank the George Wright Society Board for this honor of receiving the George Melendez Wright Award for Excellence, and former National Park Service superintendent Richard B. (Rick) Smith for nominating me for the award.*

*Regarding the book Preserving Nature in the National Parks, I especially thank John E. Cook for his steadfast financial support and all-important political cover (inside and outside the Park Service) throughout the nine-year research, writing, and editing process; and, following publication, Director Robert G. Stanton for his leadership in using the book as a catalyst to bring the Natural Resource Challenge to fruition. I also thank Michael Soukup and Deny Galvin for their very positive, creative response to the book and their determined efforts to make the Natural Resource Challenge a reality.*

*Much earlier in my career, when I was a seasonal interpretive ranger in Grand Teton National Park, my interest in natural history and ecological systems was greatly enhanced by co-worker Jay Shuler, in a kind of tutorial that continued through Jay's lifetime. Since the mid-1970s, long before Preserving Nature, Dwight Pitcaithley has been a close friend who continues to share ideas on historic preservation and many other related Park Service matters. Dwight and I joined with Jane Scott and others in Santa Fe in a concerted effort to learn about the larger world of the National Park Service—an effort, I am pleased to note, that is still underway, regularly, among the three of us by conference call joined by other close friends. At Mather Training Center, Mike Watson worked with me and many others to preach the gospel of careful, policy-based cultural resource management through eleven training courses that I conducted from the early 1980s to the mid-1990s. Along the way, Bill Brown, Bob Krumenaker, Ron Kerbo, Dave Harmon, and many others have given me friendship, support, and advice for whatever I was doing, from writing a book to having a beer. I thank them all, very much.*

*But most of all, I thank my wife, Judith Sellars, who during a long drive down Interstate 25 from Cheyenne, Wyoming, to Santa Fe in August 1987 came up with the absurd idea that I write a history of biological management in the National Park System. Judy worked very closely with me in researching, writing, and editing Preserving Nature; and her advice and counsel has been invaluable throughout my Park Service career.*

*Since leaving the Park Service in March 2008, I have written a second preface and an epilogue for a new edition of Preserving Nature in the National Parks, published in 2009. Currently, I am writing a retrospective on my career—a policy memoir. After that, I plan to finish writing the history of cultural resource management in the National Park System, three chapters of which had been completed and published when I left the Service.*

*Finally, I want to thank Trucina, Normie, and Merle. Each in your own time: Most of your keyboard entries were deleted, but your smug, furry presence has always made my day.*

 **Richard West Sellars**



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