

# SOCIETY NEWS, NOTES & MAIL

## **Three new members join GWS Board**

Three new members are joining the George Wright Society Board beginning January 1, 2018: Jerry Emory, Bill Walker, and Mike Walton, profiled below. They take over from Nathalie Gagnon, David Graber, and Lynn Wilson. The GWS Board officers for 2018 are Jerry Mitchell, president; Dave Reynolds, vice president; Armando Quintero, treasurer; and Jennifer Thomsen, secretary.

### ***Jerry Emory***

Following work with several conservation organizations based out of both Latin America and the Western US in the 1980s, Jerry became a professional writer and communications consultant. He is the author of five books and numerous magazine articles. He worked as a consultant with The Nature Conservancy of California, the Packard Foundation's Conservation Program, and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, where he was a senior communications officer. Mostly recently Jerry was the vice president for communications, programs and government affairs at the California State Parks Foundation, where he worked the past 10 years. He has served on the boards of the George Wright Society and the Rose Foundation's Northern California Environmental Grassroots Fund. A graduate of Stanford University and University of California-Berkeley, he lives with his family in Mill Valley, California.

### ***Bill Walker***

Bill is the cultural resources program manager for Three Rivers Park District, a 27,000-acre "Special Park District" serving the Twin Cities metropolitan region (Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota). In this role, he manages all aspects of cultural resources monitoring, preservation and legal compliance, and oversees the operation of the Park District's public historic sites.

Bill began his career in parks and protected areas with the National Park Service, serving as an interpretive park ranger at Salem Maritime National Historic Site (Salem, MA), Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site (Saugus, MA), and Virgin Islands National Park (St. John, USVI). From this early experience, Bill strongly believes that effective interpretive programming is one of the most powerful preservation tools available to resource managers, as it connects visitors with the meaning behind a park's protected status, and empowers them toward a personal stewardship ethic.

Bill holds a BA in History and Museum Studies from Gordon College (Wenham, MA) and a Masters of Education from the University of Minnesota. He is a New Yorker by birth, a New Englander by association, and a Minnesotan by marriage.

### ***Mike Walton***

Mike grew up in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, at a time when parents directed children to "go outside and play." This resulted in unsupervised mounted (bicycle) and pioneer (foot) ex-

ploration of parks, ravines, rivers, ponds, paths, and tracks across the city. Getting dirty and bloody in nature resulted in a life-long passion about wilderness and what parks and institutions do to protect it. Presently, as the senior manager for the Regional Parks system with the Capital Regional District, on Vancouver Island in Victoria, British Columbia, Mike oversees the protection and use of 13,000 hectares (32,124 acres) of parklands and regional trails that welcome 7 million visits annually.

Previously, Mike worked with Parks Canada for 23 years including as field unit superintendent, Northern Ontario; resource conservation manager, Yukon Field Unit; Aboriginal relations and federal relations business unit leader with Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries (on secondment from Parks Canada); director, parks liaison, Secretary of State (Parks); superintendent, Georgian Bay Islands National Park; and manager, visitor services, Pukaskwa National Park. Mike was also an assistant park superintendent, head of interpretation, and park warden with the Ontario Provincial Park System.

Mike recently completed his PhD with the University of Victoria in British Columbia. His PhD research investigated the governance of protected areas, particularly sharing power and decision-making. Dr. Walton also holds a M.Sc. in Parks and Recreation Resources Management from Slippery Rock University, Pennsylvania; an Honours Degree in Outdoor Recreation from Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario; and a Diploma in Economic Development from the University of Waterloo, Ontario. Mike lives in Victoria, B.C., with his wonderful and patient partner of 37 years, Sylvie. They have three grown children and two grandchildren. Mike now directs his grandchildren to “go play outside” with him.