

**Rethinking Protected Areas in a Changing World**  
*The 2009 George Wright Society Conference on Parks,  
Protected Areas, and Cultural Sites*

**The 2008 National Park Service Director's Awards  
for Natural Resources**

**The 2009 George Wright Society Awards**

*Thursday, March 5, 2009  
Governor Hotel, Portland, Oregon*

Master of Ceremonies  
*Rolf Diamant  
President, George Wright Society*

7:15 PM — Seating for dinner  
8:15 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**

**MARC ALBERT**

*Natural Resource Manager, Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site (resource sharing with Salem Maritime National Historic Site and Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area)*

Marc Albert attended Tufts University and the University of California at Berkeley, where he studied plant ecology. While working on his Master's Thesis he was introduced to the NPS as an intern in the Site Stewardship Program of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy. There in the coastal scrub, working with community volunteers to restore the ecosystems of the endangered Mission blue butterfly, he had his epiphany—realizing that in national parks he could both do meaningful science and share his passion for nature with others in the community, working and discovering together on public lands.



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He soon joined the grey and green as a natural resource specialist and coordinator of the Presidio Park Stewards Program at Golden Gate National Recreation Area until 2002, when he moved east to be near family and work with the Northeast Coastal and Barrier Network of the Inventory and Monitoring Program. In 2006, Marc began working as the natural resource specialist, and now as the stewardship program manager, serving three parks: Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area, Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site, and Salem Maritime National Historic Site. He has been working with a large team from both inside and outside the NPS to plan and implement the Saugus River Turning Basin project, which is restoring the park's historic waterfront structures as well as a rare freshwater intertidal marsh community. This was a \$3.5 million project that called for the removal of approximately five acres of contaminated soils deposited in the aftermath of a 1957 dam breach. The project also reconstructed the park's historic dock and bulkhead structures, removed exotic plant species, and re-vegetated the borders of Saugus River's with native species.

Marc has worked diligently with multiple state and federal agencies, as well as a diverse array of stakeholders to overcome a myriad of compliance hurdles. Working closely with contractors and subcontractors, Marc provided conscientious oversight for the project's implementation. His work resulted in a highly successful project that has re-established the cultural landscape, restored native wetlands, revitalized habitats, and dramatically transformed the visitor experience. Park rangers no longer hear the heretofore invariable visitor query, "So, where's the river?"

Additionally, Marc secured funding to conduct multiple resource monitoring studies within the Saugus River tidal basin, including water quality parameters, channel morphology, vegetation, nekton, benthic invertebrates, and wildlife utilization. This is a five-year data collection, data management, and reporting effort.

Marc's passionate advocacy for the river environment was evident at every step, whether his wading into the river to salvage native plants or to monitor fish species, or his leading countless tours to educate the stakeholders and the general public about this special environment, or his ability to inspire volunteers to dedicate their time to provide stewardship of river habitats.

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

**SONYA CAPEK**

*Solid Waste Coordinator, Pacific West Regional Office, Seattle*

Sonya Capek has worked for 16 years in the Pacific West Regional Office for Facility Management on issues that have a positive impact on the region's natural resources. In implementing Environmental Management Systems (EMS), Integrated Solid Waste Alternative Plans (ISWAPs), and other sustainable practices in parks, Capek has reached out to every park, offering her assistance and expertise to help improve their operations.



Because of Sonya's work, all parks in the region have completed their initial year of EMS. EMS integrates all divisions of a park towards reducing their environmental impacts, so her work on this important program has improved parks' operations and resources stewardship.

By implementing ISWAPs in Pacific West Region parks, Sonya has assisted parks in finding funding to reduce their environmental impact through alternative waste solutions.

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Sonya has taken on a number of initiatives in the region to encourage parks to make purchases that have a lesser impact on our environment. In 2002, she led the effort to create an *Environmental Purchase Handbook*. She also created the *100+ Best Management Practices Guide*, *Green Janitorial Products & Practices Guide*, and *Green Office Guide*, along with numerous specific product guides. She has also hosted green purchasing workshops at several parks.

As an advocate for sustainability in facility management practices, she helped set the goal of LEED silver standards for every new construction project in the region, and has helped some parks reach that goal.

With over 29 years of service with the National Park Service, Sonya Capek has worked in numerous divisions and has always shown a dedication to resource stewardship. Whether working on Section 106 compliance, working on fires as a public information officer, or managing hazardous waste, protecting park resources is her goal. Sonya is married to Rob West, a scientist. They love to climb and ski in the mountains, both in neighboring parks and in other parts of the world.

## Director's Award for Natural Resource Management

### FRED BUNCH

*Chief of Resource Management, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve*

Fred Bunch has championed resource protection at Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve for more than 20 years. Fred helped found the resource management division and was the first resource management specialist at Great Sand Dunes and has been involved in the development and implementation of the park's resource management strategy. The following shows the breadth of his influence:



- » Obtained for the park historic groundwater rights in a successful 2008 court case, which had developed over a 10-year period.
- » Collaborated with a large network, including USGS, USFWS, The Nature Conservancy, USFS, and BLM, on a variety of bison research and conservation issues.
- » Worked with local and Rocky Mountain Inventory and Monitoring Network partners to obtain Colorado "Outstanding Natural Waters" designation for the park's aquatic systems.
- » Completed a joint NPS-EPA Ecosystem Sustainability Project to document and monitor the long-term sustainability of the park and the San Luis Valley (2004-2008).
- » Established a long-term, integrated groundwater and wetland ecological health monitoring pilot program.
- » Established a Global Research Initiative in Alpine Environments (GLORIA) monitoring site in the park and on the adjacent Pike National Forest, as well as an alpine lake monitoring program.
- » Began dark night sky and natural sounds inventory and monitoring.
- » Completed a Native American Tribal Activities Ethnographic Overview and Assessment, and then led the park in tribal consultation as a result of the archeological discovery of several burial sites in the dune.

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A native of Alamosa, Colorado, Fred studied biology, chemistry, and anthropology at the University of Colorado and Adams State College. In addition to Great Sand Dunes, where he has been since 1988, he has worked seasonally at the Mesa Verde, Zion, Rocky Mountain, Great Basin, Dinosaur, Yellowstone, and Klondike Gold Rush national park areas. He is currently vice-president of the Alamosa County Tourism Development board, and is president of the Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway. He is also a founding member of Friends of the Dunes. Fred is able to share his passion for his work at Great Sand Dunes and our national parks in a way that leaves people with a sense of joint ownership of these special places. The National Park Service has no finer ambassador for its resources and purposes.

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

**PATRICK H. REED**

*Superintendent, Mammoth Cave National Park*

Patrick Reed, superintendent of Mammoth Cave National Park, is a 38-year career veteran of the National Park Service. Reed transferred to Mammoth Cave in January 2006, from Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park (Tennessee and Georgia), where he served as superintendent for 14 years.

Pat has led Mammoth Cave National Park by establishing a collaborative framework for science-informed decision making, which includes dissemination of scientific information to park staff, other NPS areas, area citizenry, academic and government partners, and international constituents to better manage world-class natural resources.

Highlights include enhancement of the Mammoth Cave International Center for Science and Learning to increase scientific research and provide increased access to knowledge gained through scientific research; full integration and partnership with the Cumberland Piedmont Inventory and Monitoring Network (14 NPS areas); development of sister park agreements with cave and karst areas in China and Spain; support for the formation of The Friends of Mammoth Cave National Park, Inc.; collaboration with area gateway communities in enhancing native vegetation management in transportation corridors; and further development of an experimental facility to propagate threatened and endangered mussel fauna for release into the Green River.

He engaged numerous statewide partnerships with universities, other NPS areas, state agencies, and other federal agencies to enhance federally listed threatened and endangered mussel species in the park and at other places in the commonwealth of Kentucky. With Pat's support, Mammoth Cave National Park is a full participant with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for operation of a Climate Reference Network station for long-term climate change monitoring.

Pat's establishment of a collaborative framework among multiple institutions has greatly enhanced the park's ability to manage natural resources within the boundary, assist local partners, and assist other cave and karst areas within the state, around the NPS, and even internationally. His collaborative style of leadership serves as an example for others to emulate in successfully managing complex natural ecosystems.

Reed is a native of Iowa and a 1971 graduate of Iowa State University, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Resource Development for Outdoor Recreation. Mammoth Cave is the eleventh park for Reed and Darit, his wife of 35 years. They have two grown daughters, Shannon and DJ, who both reside in Colorado, and two grandsons.



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

**KATHY JOPE**

*Natural Resources Program Lead, Pacific West Region*

Kathy Jope has been a tireless advocate for natural resource preservation for her entire professional career of nearly 30 years. During the last seven years she has quietly, but persistently, raised awareness within the agency on the issue of global climate change, and provided a wealth of resources on the subject to park managers and interpreters.

The NPS view of climate change has developed rapidly since 2001 due in no small part to Kathy's actions within the agency. In 2006, Pacific West Regional Director Jon Jarvis endorsed the need to include climate change in park planning, and that year's regional zone meetings focused on climate change. Kathy identified and connected subject matter experts and leaders from all regions of the National Park Service, as well as partners from other agencies, to bring the best science forward. She took on the task of communicating the science of climate change as well as the NPS legal and policy framework.

Throughout her career, Kathy has led or participated in many servicewide efforts. She is known for promoting professionalism and employee development, and co-authored the NPS's Natural Resource Professional Development Program, which was a precursor to Resource Careers. In the late 1980s, she was instrumental in initiating annual meetings of the regional chiefs of natural resource management and WASO to tackle resource management issues of national concern. Hers was one of the early voices expressing the need for the NPS to take action on the topic of climate change.

Kathy has been an unwavering proponent of interpretation and communication of scientific information. In the Mid-Atlantic Region, where wildland fire was one of her responsibilities, she supported the development of public information officers. She has used the Pacific West Region's library program—unparalleled in the NPS—as a vital tool in park resource stewardship, and, since 1993, has tracked scientific journals and sent periodic listings of "Current Literature in Natural Resources" to a long email list of people across the Service. Her career-long efforts to mentor and empower others were exemplified in the grant proposal-writing training course, a three-day course which she, together with one or two other instructors, presented 20 times to 487 employees and partners across the country.

Kathy has worked at Glacier, Denali, Katmai (where she entered the inaugural class of the Resource Management Training Program), the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office in Philadelphia, and the Pacific West Regional Office in Seattle. She has a B.S. in Wildlife & Fisheries at the University of Idaho, and an M.S. from Oregon State University.

In recognition of the consistent excellence of her professional achievements, Kathy is hereby awarded the 2008 Director's Award for Professional Excellence in Natural Resources.



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

**WILLIAM C. MALM, PH.D.**

*Air Resources Division, Fort Collins*

Dr. William C. Malm is a research physicist in the National Park Service Air Resources Division, where he is program coordinator for the visibility/particulate research and monitoring program. He received a B.S. in physics with a minor in mathematics from Mankato State University and his M.S. and Ph.D. in physics from the University of North Dakota and the University of Missouri, respectively. He has previously worked as an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) research scientist and as a professor of environmental science at Northern Arizona University. He is also an affiliate scientist in the Cooperative Research Institute for Research at Colorado State University. He is currently serving as a science advisor to the EPA as a member of the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee.



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Bill's expertise is in the general area of visibility and related topics. He made some of the first visibility and air quality measurements in the National Park System at Grand Canyon in 1972. Since then, he has designed and built instrumentation to measure the effects of atmospheric aerosols on the scenic qualities of landscape features, as well as their optical and chemical properties. He formulated radiation transfer algorithms that allow pictorial visualization of aerosol scattering and absorption effects on scenic landscape features. He pioneered studies of visibility perception that elicit human responses, in terms of both psychophysical and value assessment, to changes in scenic quality as a function of aerosol optical properties. He has initiated and carried out large field campaigns to better characterize aerosol physical and optical properties, especially as they relate to aerosol hygroscopic properties, and to assess the relative contributions of various source types to visibility impacts in a number of national parks and wilderness areas. He has also pioneered a number of back-trajectory receptor modeling methodologies that allow estimates of the relative contributions of source areas to aerosol concentrations or visibility effects at selected receptor sites. Many of the results from this work have been incorporated into the Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments (IMPROVE) program and the EPA Regional Haze Rule (RHR).

Bill is currently a member of the IMPROVE steering committee and its lead science advisor. The operation of the IMPROVE monitoring network is funded by the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Environmental Protection Agency. He is also currently the principal investigator on a Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) research project titled "Characterizing Particulate Matter Emissions by Wildland Fires Relevant to Visibility Impairment and PM Nonattainment" in support of the needs of wild-

land fire managers and policy makers in determining the contribution of biomass burning to PM2.5 and visibility on a regional basis.

For 30 years, Bill has demonstrated leadership, outstanding achievement, and a lasting commitment to promoting clean air and helping to achieve better air quality. The steadily improving visibility we enjoy in many parts of the United States is in large part due to his research and advocacy.

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

**YVONNE MENARD**

Achieving natural resources management goals always requires teamwork and, often, broad public support. Without the strategic public relations and public affairs efforts of Yvonne Menard, many of the complex and controversial ecological restoration products envisioned by Channel Islands National Park may have been stalled—and possibly thwarted. It is clear that the park has been successful in achieving many of its visionary ecological restoration goals because of the professionalism and dedication demonstrated by Menard and her colleagues, especially their collective ability to be up-front in engaging the public.



Menard is charged with the lead in all aspects of media relations, from planning a press event, to making recommendations on who should be interviewed, to preparing talking points for various members of the park staff. As evidence of her success, in 2007 there were over 700 articles which featured the Channel Islands in a wide variety of publications, including several major national newspapers. Magazine articles were featured in *Sunset*, *Sierra*, *SCA Quarterly*, *eSchool News*, *Statesman Journal*, and *American Birding*. There were at least 34 television segments that were produced and aired on stations across the country, and numerous radio spots, including a national broadcast on NPR's *Morning Edition*. Filming activities included Animal Planet, Florentine Films, BBC, and Discovery productions.

What is most important to note is not the number and variety of these articles and broadcasts, but their content. They were not run-of-the-mill travelogue stories: over 90% addressed natural resources issues, accomplishments, and NPS values.

Due to her excellent working relationship with the media, Menard has always been able to guide the press in a direction that clearly and fairly articulates the park's position. All can learn from her proactive and open approach to dealing with the media and the public.

— *nominated by Russell Galipeau*

## The George Wright Society Cultural Resource Achievement Award

EDWIN COLÓN

Under Facility Manager Edwin Colón's guidance, the preservation and masonry crew at San Juan National Historic Site has developed an innovative Lime Laboratory and Workshop. Through years of hands-on experience, Colón recognized that damage to historic fabric was being caused by modern materials, such as cement. Cement traps moisture, does not allow the historic fabric to breathe, and causes the structure to rot and collapse from the inside out. Colón recognized the need to restore the older materials and methods to adequately preserve these structures. He researched traditional techniques and materials. Materials and methods used to build these facilities over the past 400 years are not readily available. Working with park cultural resources staff and others, he developed a program that is focused on traditional techniques and materials used by the Spanish to build fortifications. This research resulted in our ability to match materials used in the building of the park's fortifications with source materials from throughout the island of Puerto Rico. A database has been established to preserve this information for future use and as a reference for continuing work.



**Top:** Edwin Colón. **Bottom:** The San Juan National Historic Site preservation and masonry crew.

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Directed by Colón, the preservation and masonry staff now has the necessary knowledge of and skills in traditional methods of construction to allow them to preserve the resources in the best possible manner. Their skills and knowledge are being handed down to others in the masonry field at the park and beyond so that they can be used in preservation for years to come. The masons at San Juan National Historic Site—perhaps more appropriately called artisans—are leaders in the field of traditional lime masonry. The accomplishments of Colón and his masons are recognized locally, nationally, and internationally. Their knowledge and skills are constantly requested by local preservation professionals and by others in the National Park Service. Interpretive programs have been developed featuring the preservation and masonry crew. The program, under the direction of Colón, provides significant support for cultural resources preservation within the park, in Puerto Rico and the area, as well as the National Park Service.

— nominated by Walter Chavez

## The George Wright Society Natural Resource Achievement Award

KATE FAULKNER

Kate Faulkner is being recognized for her leadership in the ecological restoration of Santa Cruz Island at Channel Islands National Park. This project, undertaken in close cooperation with Lotus Vermeer (The Nature Conservancy's director of the Santa Cruz Island Project), was multifaceted: the re-establishment of bald eagles, the eradication of feral pigs, and the recovery of the endangered island fox. Faulkner has played key roles in each.



Historical records indicate that bald eagles bred on all islands within the park. Persecution by humans and the effects of organochlorine chemicals such as DDT eliminated breeding bald eagles on the Channel Islands by the mid-1950s. In 2002, Faulkner began a program to re-establish bald eagles to the northern Channel Islands. Sixty-one young bald eagles were introduced between 2002 and 2006. In 2006, the first eaglet chick to hatch unaided by humans on the Channel Islands in over 50 years made headlines across the country.

<12> Pigs were introduced to the island during the 1850s. Feral pigs were destroying archeological sites; rooting the ground, resulting in the spread of invasive plants; and serving as the primary prey for golden eagles. Through extensive planning with The Nature Conservancy, the feral pigs were eradicated in 2007. This is the second-largest island in the world that has successfully eradicated pigs.

In 2007, island fox recovery at Channel Islands National Park achieved two major milestones. Recovering fox populations on Santa Cruz Islands reached levels at which captive breeding was no longer required. The captive breeding facilities were closed and all foxes released. The Santa Cruz captive breeding program—again, a cooperative venture with The Nature Conservancy—produced 85 pups and released 91 foxes to the wild. The Santa Cruz wild fox population numbered just 60 in 2001, but now is well on its way to recovery, with over 300 individuals in the wild.

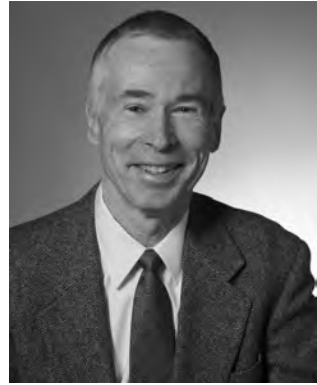
Faulkner's conservation ethic and commitment to ecosystem management and the mission of the National Park Service was summed up best by Scott Morrison of The Nature Conservancy and others in their acknowledgments section of an article recently published in the Ecological Society of America's *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*: "The [feral pig] eradication program would not have been possible without the steadfast conservation leadership of K. Faulkner."

— nominated by Russell Galipeau

## The George Wright Society Social Science Achievement Award

ROBERT MANNING

Robert Manning is being honored with the inaugural George Wright Society Social Science Achievement Award for his leadership in establishing and carrying out a long-term and nationally prominent program of applied research on visitor use and management in many units of the U.S. national park system, and for his distinguished record of teaching and published scholarship in park-related social science and outdoor recreation issues.



His program of applied research has a long history of effectively integrating research findings into decision-making. For example, he helped develop and test the National Park Service Visitor Experience and Resource Protection (VERP) framework, and is a co-author of the NPS VERP manual, now widely used throughout the national park system. He has developed novel solutions to the gathering and analysis of social science data, and to its use in addressing complex visitor management problems in parks such as Denali, Grand Canyon, Yosemite, and Golden Gate.

Manning's contribution to the scientific literature on protected area management has been substantial and includes landmark books such as *Studies in Outdoor Recreation*, *Reconstructing Conservation*, and *Parks and Carrying Capacity: Commons without Tragedy*. His academic career is also notable for the number of students that he has mentored who have continued on in careers in park management; several of his graduate students are now faculty members focused on park-related social science issues.

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He has developed a strong, productive relationship with the Conservation Study Institute, conducted an international symposium on conservation, developed a doctoral fellowship, and, through that fellowship, helped conduct a program of NPS-related research on conservation thought and practice, evaluation of national heritage areas, and racial and ethnic diversity.

Manning is one of those rare scholars who can perform at the highest academic levels, make his data available and useful for practical applications, and communicate with diverse audiences.

— nominated by William Valliere, Nora Mitchell, and Philip N. Hooge

*This award was established in November 2008 by the GWS Board of Directors to recognize outstanding achievements in social science research that influences management of parks, protected areas, and cultural sites. The Board feels that the ever-increasing importance of the social sciences in the management and understanding of protected areas is deserving of its own award.*

## The George Melendez Wright Award for Excellence

MICHAEL SOUKUP

Michael Soukup is receiving the Society's highest honor in recognition of his distinguished career-long contributions to the growth and evolution of science and natural resource management in the National Park Service.

Soukup provided a vision that became the Natural Resource Challenge, the most significant expansion of science and resource management capabilities in the National Park Service's history. Many people contributed to the success of the Challenge—a fact that demonstrates Soukup's wisdom. He developed the Challenge as a collaborative effort, organizing an advisory council, soliciting ideas from throughout the agency and its partners, and continually engaging others to make his vision their own. He understood what was required to make the Challenge not only a recipe for success, but one that had the grassroots and servicewide support needed to build momentum and weather uncertain storms. Soukup was the visionary, chief architect, and presiding officer of this, one of the most important endeavors in the history of the National Park Service.



<14> Through Soukup's vision, the Challenge provided science for parks, building on-the-ground stewardship efforts such as inventories of natural resources, monitoring networks, programmatic monitoring of park vital signs, exotic species management, Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units, and actions to protect and restore natural resources and processes. The Challenge also provided for "parks for science" programs: Research Learning Centers, Sabbaticals in the Parks, and Internet-based research permitting. Under his leadership, tremendous strides were made in institutionalizing programs in social science, ocean stewardship, the protection of natural soundscapes and night skies, and more.

Over his career, Soukup's commitment to parks, science, and public land stewardship provided inspiration to legions of scientists and resource professionals. He has been a steadfast defender of parks, a supportive provider of assistance, an effective park advocate, and a visionary leader. He has been both creative in articulating the need for improved natural resource management in parks, and innovative in developing programs and personnel as a way to accomplish this critical task. Such leadership—from articulating a visionary concept, to gaining support and funding from the administration and Congress, to producing on-the-ground results—is extraordinary public service and invaluable to the future of the nation's natural heritage.

— *nominated by Mike Scott, Gary Machlis, Jerry Mitchell, and others*



**DANIEL WENK**  
*Acting Director*

**HERBERT C. FROST**  
*Associate Director,  
Natural Resource Stewardship and Science*



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