Celebrating America's National Parks

And the Dedication of Those Who Serve

August 2, 2018
Welcome
Ruth Prescott
Chief of Staff, National Park Foundation
Lena McDowall
Deputy Director, Management and Administration, National Park Service

Awards Presentation
Louise Milkman
U.S. Department Of Interior,
Office Of The Solicitor
Accepting The Wes Henry Excellence In Wilderness Stewardship
Individual Award On Behalf Of Attorney-Advisor Dan Pulver

Roger Robinson
Representing The Denali National Park And Preserve Mountaineering Rangers
Accepting The Wes Henry Excellence In Wilderness Stewardship Team Award

Ashely Northcutt, Executive Director
Wilderness Volunteers Organization
Accepting The Wes Henry Excellence In Wilderness Stewardship Non-Government Partner Award

Doug Riddle
Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Accepting The George & Helen Hartzog Individual Volunteer Award
Nicholas Gilson
Ice Age National Scenic Trail
Accepting The George & Helen Hartzog Youth Volunteer Award

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument Volunteers-In-Parks Program
Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument
Accepting The George & Helen Hartzog Volunteer Group Award

Shark Stewards
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park
Accepting The George & Helen Hartzog Volunteer Youth Group Award

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Education Team
Santa Monica Mountains
National Recreation Area
Accepting The George & Helen Hartzog Park Volunteer Program Award

Georgene Charles
Antietam National Battlefield
Accepting The George & Helen Hartzog Enduring Service Award

William "Jeff" Sullivan, Assistant Special Agent In Charge
Yosemite National Park
Accepting The Harry Yount National Park Ranger Award

Closing Remarks
Reception to follow
The Wes Henry National Wilderness Stewardship Award recognizes outstanding contributions to wilderness stewardship by an individual, group, and non-government partner. Wes Henry dedicated his life to the preservation of wild lands. The former National Park Service Wilderness Program Manager was committed to finding innovative ways to educate others about the value of these special places and reflected an unwavering devotion to help connect people to their wilderness heritage.

Daniel Pulver, Department of Interior Solicitor
INDIVIDUAL AWARD

Dan Pulver, a Department of Interior Solicitor, has served as an invaluable resource and legal advisor to the NPS Wilderness Stewardship Division and the NPS National Wilderness Leadership Council (NWLC) by providing sound legal advice and expertise related to the Wilderness Act, wilderness case law, the nexus between wilderness law and policy, and legal considerations for park wilderness stewardship plans.

Denali National Park and Preserve Mountaineering Rangers
GROUP AWARD

The Denali Mountaineering Rangers have made tremendous progress in creating a "Sustainable Summit" experience for visitors to the highest peak in North America via the West Buttress Route, a route that travels almost exclusively through designated wilderness. The ranger staff educates the climbing public about the value of caring for wilderness on the highest summits and intends to reach the goal of complete pack out of all human waste on Denali.

Wilderness Volunteers Organization
NON-GOVERNMENT PARTNER AWARD

Established in 1997, the mission of this non-profit is "stewardship of America's wild lands through organizing and promoting volunteer service in cooperation with public land agencies," including the NPS. Volunteer leaders, ranging from ages 18 to 85, have implemented over 230 week-long service projects in national park units with wilderness and backcountry. The volunteer project work inspires participants to come away from the experience with a new or renewed knowledge and love for wilderness, fostered by the Wilderness Volunteer Organization's commitment to wilderness stewardship.
George B. Hartzog, Jr. served as the Director of the National Park Service from 1964 to 1972 and created the Volunteers-In-Parks (VIP) program in 1970. In retirement, he and his wife, Helen, established a fund to support the program and honor the efforts of volunteers. This national awards program began in 2002 to recognize the time, talent, innovation, and hard work contributed to national parks through the VIP program. In 2017, nearly 316,000 volunteers donated more than 7.2 million hours assisting the National Park Service in its mission.

Doug Riddle
Cape Hatteras National Seashore
INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEER AWARD
Since 2016, Doug has completely overhauled the parks fire cache, repairing equipment, tools, and vehicles, including restoring an E-461 fire engine to operational standards. Doug’s leadership brought life to the park’s fire management program and rejuvenated interest among park employees to renew their wildfire certifications.

Nicholas Gilson
Ice Age National Scenic Trail
YOUTH VOLUNTEER AWARD
For his Eagle Scout project, Nick raised funds for the materials needed to rebuild 120 feet of fencing, six interpretive sign posts, two benches, and two directional trail signs for a 1,050 foot-high overlook. He also recruited dozens of volunteers who devoted about 500 hours of time to craft, transport, and install these features atop Bald Bluff.

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Education Team
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM AWARD
The 25 volunteers on the park's education team provided the support needed to enable more than 14,000 Title 1 students to visit a national park for the first time last year. The volunteers help the students make memories and encourage them to become life-long park stewards.
Shark Stewards
San Francisco Maritime
National Historical Park

VOLUNTEER YOUTH GROUP AWARD

The Shark Stewards program works with local schools to educate students about the San Francisco Bay ecosystem and wildlife. A field component includes a park visit to perform surveys and clean marine debris. Since 2016, more than 650 youth have learned about the park and lessened human impacts on the environment through community service. The debris collected includes more than 35,000 cigarette butts which inspired the film, “Hang Onto Your Butts.”

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument
 Volunteers-In-Parks Program
Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument

VOLUNTEER GROUP AWARD

In 2017, volunteers enabled this small park with a staff of just nine employees to provide outreach to more than 70,000 visitors, including 4,000 junior rangers. The park's 457 volunteers staffed the visitor center desk, organized an extremely popular monthly Night Sky Program, surveyed 54 miles of boundary fencing, and improved 20 percent of the park's hiking trails.

Georgene Charles
Antietam National Battlefield

ENDURING SERVICE AWARD

For 30 years, Georgene has organized all of the volunteers, supplies, and logistics for the park's inspirational Annual Memorial Illumination. Each year, approximately 1,500 volunteers build and light 23,110 luminaries and place them on the field to represent the casualties of the battle. It is the largest illumination of its kind and draws more than ten thousand visitors annually.
The Harry Yount Award honors rangers whose "overall impact, record of accomplishments, and excellence in traditional ranger duties have created an appreciation for the park ranger profession on the part of the public and other members of the profession." Their leadership and willingness to do the tough jobs well—with style, grace, appreciation, and humor—serves as a role model for all park rangers.

William "Jeff" Sullivan

Yosemite National Park

William "Jeff" Sullivan is the recipient of this year's Harry Yount National Park Ranger Award. Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) Sullivan's career in the National Park Service spans more than 35 years and many different positions. He is one of the National Park System's premier investigators and security specialists. He has led numerous efforts to enhance and improve park safety across the country. In the words of his colleagues, "ASAC Sullivan is the calm one when there is turmoil." His accomplishments and reforms have indelibly shaped the National Park Service and will resonate far into the future.
The National Park Foundation is the official charitable partner of the National Park Service.