

The George B. Hartzog, Jr. Environmental Awards Program 2022



HARTZOG – THE MAN

1920 - 2008

Often called “America’s Greatest Idea,” our national park system protects and showcases our most important natural, cultural, and historical resources. Yosemite, Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, and Great Smoky Mountains are easily recognizable names to most Americans. Muir, Mather, Albright, Hartzog are not so recognized. Generally, the parks are known, but not the people behind them.

Indeed, our system of national parks were established and perpetuated as a result of the efforts and ingenuity of a select group of individuals. These individuals are as significant to the cultural well-being of this country as any of those persons more recognizable in our history texts.

George B. Hartzog, Jr. was one such “man behind the scenery.” As the seventh Director of the National Park Service from 1964 to 1973, his administration led the largest expansion of the national park system, adding 72 units. The many accomplishments of the “Hartzog Years” include:

- Initiated an Amendment to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 reserving 80 million acres of State and Native Interest Lands for possible inclusion in national park, forest, wildlife refuge, and wild and scenic rivers systems. From these and other lands, Congress in 1980 more than doubled the size of the national park system, adding more than 43 million acres.
- Instrumental in the development and passage of: The Wilderness Act; The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act; the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act; and the National Trails System Act.
- Developed recruitment, training, and promotion initiatives for women, minorities, and Native Americans in national park management programs.
- Created the Volunteers in Parks (VIP) program. Volunteers currently outnumber full-time employees and many services could not be provided without these individuals.
- Initiated the “Bring Parks to People” urban park programs; “Summer in the Parks” and “Parks for All Seasons” youth programs in partnership with public schools, local governments and citizen organizations; “Living History” programs that link generation to generation; and “Environmental Education Landmarks” curricula to foster a sense of community in our society.

Director Hartzog is listed in *Who’s Who in America*, *Who’s Who in the World*, and profiled in *Exemplary Public Administrators, Character and Leadership in Government*. The Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis, Missouri houses the George B. Hartzog, Jr. Visitor Center.

After leaving government service, he continued to provide leadership as Director (1973–1998), President, and Chairman (1995–1998) of the White House Historical Association, Chairman of the Trustees of the White House Endowment Trust (1998–2004), the Wolf Trap Associates (Chairman), National Trust for Historic Preservation, and numerous other cultural and environmental groups. His legacy may be best summarized by the Secretary of the Interior’s Advisory Board:

“There will never come an end to the good he has done.”





THE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS PROGRAM

Each award may be conferred upon honorees that meet one or two of the related criteria for that award. A description of each award's history along with its recipient follows:

THE BENTON H. BOX AWARD

The Award is named in appreciation of Dr. Box's distinguished career as an educator/ administrator, especially as Dean of the College of Forest and Recreation Resources at Clemson University, which he led to national and international recognition for academic excellence and for leadership in fostering innovation in resource management. The Award recognizes the teacher who by precept and example inspires in students the quest for knowledge; or the administrator who fosters a learning environment and encourages curriculum innovation to inculcate an "environmental ethic" as the rule of conduct involving resource management, development and utilization; or the private practitioner whose management over a sustained period demonstrates leadership in preserving, enhancing, renewing and restoring a livable environment.

Benton H. Box Award

is presented to

Dr. Eric Dinerstein

Director of WildTech at RESOLVE

for recognition as a leader in preserving our natural environment and teacher who inspires in students the quest for knowledge and encourages curriculum innovation to inculcate an "environmental ethic" as the rule of conduct.

Dr. Eric Dinerstein is the Director of WildTech at RESOLVE and the co-developer of TrailGuard AI. Eric has extensive experience conducting field research on rhinos and tigers in Asia beginning in 1975 in the Bardia National Park of Nepal and then from 1984-1989 as a biologist with the Smithsonian where he led field research and monitoring of rhinos and

tigers in Nepal's Chitwan National Park. For twenty-five years (1989-2014) he was Chief Scientist at the World Wildlife Fund. Eric has also played a central role in creating the conservation plans for many iconic landscapes—including the Terai Arc in Nepal, the panda mountains of China, and the Galapagos. Eric has published widely on the biology and conservation of tigers, rhinos, and elephants and authored several books on these species and on biological rarity. More recently, he led two publications calling for a Global Deal for Nature aimed at saving life on Earth and stabilizing the climate and another paper to operationalize it, called The Global Safety Net, both published in Science Advances. He is also a co-author on a new paper to provide the scientific basis for a pragmatic approach to rewilding large mammal species to restore intact vertebrate assemblages globally.

THE DWIGHT A. HOLDER AWARD

The Award is named in honor of Mr. Holder's illustrious career as an entrepreneur and public servant. As Chairman of the South Carolina Parks, Recreation and Tourism Commission he led South Carolina's parks into a new era of service to the people of South Carolina and the nation. The Award recognizes outstanding work by doctoral graduates from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management and the Department of Forestry and Environmental Conservation; a member of either Department's faculty for original research, scholarly writing, and innovative and inspired teaching; the faculty adviser and graduate student as a team, for initiatives that foster understanding of and provide new insights into the promotion, management, wise use and enjoyment of South Carolina's natural and cultural heritage in perpetuity; and distinguished academic leadership by a member of either Department's faculty and staff.

The Dwight A. Holder Award

is presented to

Dr. Maria Whitehead

Vice President and Director of Land (Southeast) at Open Space Institute
*for outstanding work and sustained achievement that foster understanding,
wise use, and conservation of natural and cultural resources.*

Dr. Maria Whitehead is an ornithologist, professor, and conservation professional. She has worked for 15 years in land and water resource protection in the Southeast and the interdisciplinary realm of climate adaptation and community resilience. As a coastal program manager for The Nature Conservancy, she helped initiate a water fund program to establish oyster restoration sites, protect tidal wetlands and address wetland migration in South Carolina. Today, as Vice President and

Director of Land for the Southeast at Open Space Institute, she guides the strategic direction of land conservation to realize OSI's mission of protecting scenic, natural and historic landscapes. She serves as the lead on varied conservation projects and initiatives including landscape-scale conservation projects, comprehensive community engagement strategies, and conservation finance tactics. In less than six years she has assisted in the permanent protection of more than 55,000 acres of some of the most important and imperiled Southeast landscapes.

In recent years, Whitehead has worked with community leaders, conservation professionals and state agency staff to establish a park network along SC's Black River which includes the first state park in SC in over 20 years. The visionary project seeks a new paradigm for conservation in the Southeast. In addition to habitat and cultural resource protection, the Black River Initiative focuses on rural economic opportunity, improving access to nature-based recreation in underserved communities, and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Whitehead received her BA in Biology from Davidson College, her MS from University of Georgia's Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, and her Ph.D. from Clemson University's Department of Forestry and Environmental Conservation. She has taught as an adjunct professor at Furman University, The Citadel, and the College of Charleston. She currently teaches for Clemson's Master of Wildlife and Fisheries Resources Program.

THE WILLIAM C. EVERHART AWARD

The Award is named in appreciation of the distinguished career of Bill Everhart as field interpreter, researcher, administrator, author, and creator of the National Park Service's Harpers Ferry Center for creative design and communication, which has received national and international recognition for excellence. The Award recognizes sustained achievements during a career or in a specific episode that illuminate, provide creative insights to, and that foster an appreciation of our natural and cultural heritage.

The William C. Everhart Award

is presented to

Katie Bliss

Deputy Division Manager of Training, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
for recognition of sustained achievements that illuminate, provide creative insights, and that foster an appreciation of our natural and cultural heritage.

Katie serves as the Deputy Division Manager for the Division of Training at the US Fish and Wildlife Service's National Conservation Training Center. Although she just moved to the FWS in February after serving as the US Forest Service's Director of the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center, Katie's conservation career spans three continents and 25 years, starting with a BS in Wildlife Ecology from University of Florida. In college, Katie worked for a turtle hatchery on a remote island in Japan before joining the Peace Corps as a Parks and Wildlife specialist in Uruguay. There, despite conducting surveys of the endangered Pampas Deer by horseback through the rolling countryside and rescuing oil-covered Magellanic penguins along the otherwise-pristine coastline, she found herself gravitating away from fieldwork towards environmental education. Upon her return stateside, Katie joined the National Park Service and worked as an interpreter, educator, and supervisor in Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Antonio Mission National Historical Park, and Everglades National Park before becoming a full-time trainer and instructional designer. After earning her M.S. in Resource Education from Stephen F. Austin State University in 2005, she joined the instructional team at Indiana University's Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands on a long-term intergovernmental agreement. There she established an interpretation and education distance learning platform, award-winning online courses, and coaching network before moving to the Stephen T. Mather Training Center in 2010.

In 2011, as the Servicewide Training Manager for NPS Interpretation and Education, Katie initiated a comprehensive revision of interpretation and education competencies. Working closely with field practitioners, non-profit and university partners, she designed and conducted a training needs assessment based on established and emerging practices, such as facilitated dialogue and audience centered experiences. The exploration of these practices, while designing the training needed to close identified performance gaps, led to philosophical and practical changes in how interpreters and educators engage the public. Katie was awarded the NPS Sequoia award in 2017 for her sustained, positive impact on the profession of interpretation. Today, Katie continues to explore the edges of personal and professional growth through new recreational pursuits, voracious reading, and seeking those who challenge her comfort zone.

THE ROBERT STANTON AWARD

The Award is named in appreciation of the remarkable career of Robert Stanton as the first African-American Director of the National Park Service. Among the many accomplishments of Director Stanton was expansion of the interpretation of diverse cultural meanings inherent in National Parks and increased participation by racial and ethnic minorities as both visitors and employees. The Award recognizes sustained and innovative achievement in promoting racial or ethnic diversity in the management of North America's natural, historic and cultural heritage.

The Robert G. Stanton Award

is presented to

Alan Spears

Senior Director for Cultural Resources National Parks
Conservation Association

for sustained and innovative achievement in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in the management of North America's natural, historic and cultural heritage.

Alan Spears uses real-life stories and a conversational style to connect with his audiences to promote NPCA's advocacy and the critical role the National Park Service plays in protecting, interpreting and managing this nation's historic and cultural resources. A veteran advocate and member of the Government Affairs department, Alan leads community outreach and legislative engagement on a variety of park protection issues. Recent victories include joining with NPCA colleagues, partners and allies to win the designation of the Fort Monroe, Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad, Colonel Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers, Pullman, and Birmingham Civil Rights National Monuments. Alan's current efforts include National Heritage Area program defense, serving as NPCA's lead coordinator for the Julius Rosenwald & Rosenwald Schools national park designation campaign, and work in Mississippi to create a new national park site commemorating the legacy of Emmett Till, Mamie Till-Mobley, and the foot soldiers of the Mississippi civil rights movement.

The Institute for Parks

The Clemson University Institute for Parks (CUIP) provides research, education, training, and outreach that enhances the management of the world's parks and protected areas. It accomplishes this by providing park and protected area managers with innovative research to support science-based decision-making; and by developing current and future leaders in the park movement by providing interdisciplinary and transformative education and training programs. Currently the CUIP has over 35 Clemson University Faculty affiliates (Fellows) from 4 colleges. For more information, see www.Clemson.edu/cuip

The Hartzog Fund

The Hartzog Fund began in 1978 when colleague William C. Everhart, through a gift to Clemson University, sought to honor George B. Hartzog, Jr. the seventh Director of the National Park Service. The Fund allows the Institute for Parks and the Dept. of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management to sponsor two annual activities and one graduate student fellowship. The Hartzog Lecture Series supports an annual presentation by leading figures in the field of conservation. In addition to the Hartzog Lecture Series, the Institute for Parks hosts the annual Hartzog Awards Luncheon and gives six awards to individuals for exemplary leadership in addressing environmental issues and concerns. The Hartzog Graduate Student Fellowship began in 2003 and supports a graduate student doing research in parks associated with the National Park Service.

Please help us promote excellence in park management and conservation by making your donation to the Clemson University Foundation – Hartzog Fund and mail to:
Clemson University Foundation, c/o Donna Incropera Dant
Clemson University, 110 Daniel Dr., Clemson, SC 29631-1520

