

Lecture Series

10TH ANNUAL GEORGE B. HARTZOG, JR. LECTURE

Wednesday, September 20th 2:00 p.m.

Strom Thurmond Institute Auditorium

Speaker: James Ridenour, Director of the National Park Service

Topic: The Expanding World of Science in the Management of the National Park Service
and
Science Based Decision Making

(Reception Following Lecture)



Sponsored by:
Clemson University
College of Forest and Recreation
Resources
Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism
Management



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013-7127

IN REPLY REFER TO:

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

June 1989

JAMES M. RIDENOUR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DIRECTOR

James M. Ridenour, 47, of West LaFayette, Indiana, was sworn in as the 13th director of the National Park Service in April 1989. He comes to NPS' top post from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, where he was director from 1981-89, and from the staff of Purdue University.

As director of the 73-year-old National Park Service, Ridenour has management responsibilities for 354 natural, cultural, historical, and recreational sites throughout the United States, encompassing 80 million acres, and for more than 12,000 permanent employees.

"Jim Ridenour has demonstrated superior management skills in very ably carrying out the many and diverse responsibilities required of the Director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources," said Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan at the swearing-in ceremonies. "I am delighted that we will have not only his management skills, but his commitment to protecting the environment available to us as we move to meet the challenges of the next century."

In Indiana, Ridenour managed the state system of parks, forests, reservoirs and fish and wildlife areas. He was also responsible for state museums and memorials, historical resources, coal mine reclamation and protection of Indiana soil, forests, water and wildlife.

During his 8-year tenure as Director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Ridenour was credited with the following accomplishments: Natural Heritage Protection Campaign - private conservation organizations raised \$5 million, matched by state, for wetlands and critical habitat locations--now more than 45 critical natural areas are protected under this program; creation of the Charles Deam Wilderness Area--the first and only Federally-designated wilderness area in Indiana; acquisition of critical waterfowl areas, and additional State parks; and initiated the spending of \$40 million to clean up abandoned coal mine sites and worked with coal companies to lease tens of thousands of acres of land for fish and wildlife protection.

(over)

Ridenour--two

During his directorship and, by virtue of his position at the Department of Natural Resources, Ridenour was active on numerous boards, commissions, and councils.

Appointed by President Reagan in March of 1983, Ridenour was one of four American commissioners on the international Great Lakes Fishery Commission. On this commission, he held vice chairman and chairman positions until his resignation in April 1989.

He also served as chairman of the Great Lakes Commission from 1984-1986; chairman, Indiana's delegation to the Great Lakes Commission and Ohio River Basin Commission; chairman of State Professionals Review Board on Historic Preservation, and chairman, Indiana Consulting Committee to the National Register of Historic Places.

Among his other memberships were those on Indiana's Environmental Management Board, Stream Pollution Control Board, Air Pollution Control Board, Lt. Governor's Tourism Advisory Council, and the Administrative Rules Oversight Committee.

Before taking the Natural Resources position in 1981, Ridenour was director of Personnel Administration for the Great Lakes Chemical Corp., LaFayette, Indiana. From 1975 to 1978, he was Director of State Services for the Council of State Governments.

A Vietnam war veteran, Ridenour served in the U.S. Army (1966-1969) as commander of a medical company in Denver, Colo., as commander of a medical detachment in Vietnam; and in Valley Forge (Pa.) General Hospital, as chief of the Welfare and Recreation Branch.

A Wabash (Indiana) High School graduate, Ridenour holds bachelors and masters degrees in parks and recreation from Indiana University. He also earned a masters degree in public administration from the University of Colorado.

He and his wife, Ann, have two children.

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