

# 2003 Award Recipients

The Benton H. Box Award - not awarded this year

The William C. Everhart Award - Michael A. Allen

The Dwight A. Holder Award - Kathy Mengak

The Walter T. Cox Award - Dr. Margaret "Gina" McLellan

The Fran P. Mainella Award - Ms. Laura Rotegard

## **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 private 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.

**The Benton H. Box Award is awarded for recognition as a teacher who by precept and example inspires in students the quest for knowledge and encourages curriculum innovation to inculcate an "environmental ethic" as the rule of conduct.**

This was not awarded this year.

## **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 was presented to Michael A. Allen for sustained achievements in interpretation that have illuminated, created insights to, and fostered an appreciation of our cultural and historic heritage.**

**Michael A. Allen** grew up in Kingstree, South Carolina, and is a 1982 graduate of South Carolina State University with a degree in History Education. He began his public career as a Cooperative Education Student with the National Park Service in 1980. Mr. Allen has served as a Park Ranger and is now the Education Specialist for Fort Sumter National Monument, Fort Moultrie and Charles Pinckney National Historic Site. Mr. Allen is also the husband of Latanya Prather and father of Brandon 15, Shaelyn 9 and Isaiah 4. He lives in Mount Pleasant, SC and is active in community affairs and his church.

Michael Allen has been a community activist for most of his professional life. He has a deep-seeded interest in our nation's spiritual growth as it relates to the history and culture. He played a major role in the National Park Service's Gullah-Geechee Special Resource Study. The Gullah people, also known as Geechee in some areas, are the descendants of enslaved Africans brought from West Africa to work on plantations in the fertile coastal crescent from the St. Johns River in Florida to the Cape Fear River in North Carolina. The language, food and religion of their native Africa was integrated with the circumstances forced on them in America to form a distinct culture. The Gullah-Geechee Special Resource Study examines the feasibility and suitability of establishing educational centers as well as determining ways to increase interpretation and preservation of this valuable culture. The final

report will be presented to Congress in December of 2003.

Mr. Allen has also been involved in designing exhibits and presenting interpretive programs that involve local communities and history. These programs are designed to attract non-traditional audiences to National Park Service sites. An additional focus of his career has been the inclusion of the socioeconomic and political influences that brought the country to Civil War.

Mr. Allen is currently involved in an innovative project designed to engage new audiences in understanding and appreciating African and American history. He is working with the International Museum of African American History, which is slated to open in 2007 in Charleston SC. It will offer a glimpse of Africans and African Americans contributions in the making of the modern world.

Finally Michael's motto is, "to understand the present and move toward the future, you must first know and accept your past."

## **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 candidates in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management; a member of the Department 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 the Department faculty. (Mr. Holder passed away in Spring 2006).

**The Dwight A. Holder Award is awarded to Kathy Mengak for outstanding work as a doctoral student in PRTM and sustained achievement after graduation, management, wise use, and conservation of natural and cultural resources.**

**Kathy Mengak** grew up roaming the fields and woods of her parent's beef farm in Lebanon, Ohio. After two years at an Ohio college, she moved to North Carolina where she worked briefly for the U.S. Forest Service before earning a botany degree at Clemson University in 1980. Inspired by a summer internship with South Carolina naturalist Rudy Mancke, she found employment with Brookgreen Gardens, a sculpture garden and wildlife park in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina. Drawn back to Clemson by her future husband and by graduate work in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management (PRTM), she worked with the National Park Service's Cooperative Park Study Unit and in 1985 earned the department's first M.S. degree.

After a year as an outdoor recreation planner with the Corps of Engineers in Vicksburg, Mississippi, she and her husband moved to Ferrum College, located in the foothills of Virginia, where they remained for 15 years. At Ferrum, Kathy taught in and later coordinated the school's recreation and leisure program.

In 1994, she took a year's leave to begin work on her Ph.D. It was during that year's Hartzog Lecture that she discovered her research topic—the colorful and innovative George B. Hartzog, Jr., seventh director of the National Park Service (NPS). While the extensive collection of personal and official papers that Hartzog had donated to Clemson proved useful, she found the greatest treasure of information from Hartzog himself. During interviews, Hartzog enthralled her with his gift for storytelling as he described his directorate and expressed his passion for the national parks and the people who visited them. Hartzog's insights into his administration could have been found nowhere else.

Although few choose to do historical research, Kathy stresses the importance of understanding the evolution of our park and recreation movement, especially before its legendary figures who helped shape and direct it are gone. Kathy currently lives in Athens, Georgia with her husband and two children and is collaborating with author and former NPS Chief Historian, Robert Utley, on a book about George Hartzog and his legacy.

## **The Walter T. Cox Award**

The Award is so named in appreciation of Dr. Cox's distinguished career in education and public service, especially his tenure as President of Clemson University and as the Director of the Santee-Cooper Authority. The Award recognizes sustained achievement in public service on the firing line, where the public interest meets the private interest in public policy formulation and administration; distinguished leadership and support of innovation in conflict resolution of policy initiatives that enhance the quality of life; personal achievements during a career or in a specific episode that provides inspiration and leadership to others in serving the above purposes.

**The Walter T. Cox Award was presented to Dr. Margaret "Gina" McLellan for sustained achievement in public service providing leadership in administration of public lands and for policy formation affecting our natural and cultural resources.**

**Dr. Margaret "Gina" McLellan** is Associate Professor of Parks and Protected Areas Management within the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management. Equally important, Dr. McLellan has been Director of the U.S. Forest Service – Recreation Short Course for 25 years, offering leadership training to nearly 1000 professional foresters and recreation resource managers.

Dr. McLellan received her B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of South Alabama in Health, Physical Education, and Recreation and Recreation Administration, respectively. The Ph.D. was granted in 1981 from the

University of Maryland, with a major in Recreation Resource Management. Gina has been engaged in park and recreation education at Clemson University ever since graduating from the University of Maryland. Her career has spanned three decades, and with her retirement of June 2003 she leaves a legacy of students, professionals, and university-community service accomplishments that is truly outstanding and far reaching.

The recipients of Dr. McLellan's legacy are many, ranging from federal government to state universities to local schools. Gina began an intensive professional development program to train U.S. Forest Service employees in recreation management in 1981. This program has grown to become a model for mid-level and upper-level advanced training in recreation management. This year marks the 25th anniversary for the program. Both the U.S. Forest Service and Clemson University are honored to have had Gina's leadership with this program. In addition to the U.S. Forest Service Recreation Management course, Dr. McLellan has been immersed in service-learning activities developed as part of her courses in the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management. Her work in the area of sustainable environments led her to develop "sustainable schoolyard environments" at schools throughout the State of South Carolina. In recognition of her tireless and innovative efforts, Gina received the Governor's Palmetto Service Award in 2002 and was recipient of the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education Commendation of Excellence in 2001.

## **The Fran P. Mainella Award**

The Award is named in appreciation of the dynamic career of Fran Mainella as the first woman Director of the National Park Service. As Director, she focused some of her many efforts on creating systems of connected parks and developing innovative partnerships to expand services. Director Mainella was previously the Director of the Florida State Park Service and the Executive Director of the Florida Recreation and Park Association. The Award recognized sustained and innovative achievement by a woman in the

management of North America's natural, historic or cultural heritage.

**The Fran P. Mainella Award is awarded to Ms. Laura Rotegard for sustained and innovative achievement by a woman in the management of North America's natural, historical, or cultural heritage.**

**Ms. Laura Rotegard** has worked at the Blue Ridge Parkway for 8 years as the first Community Planner and currently as Management Assistant to the Superintendent. Her work has focused on protecting natural and historic views seen from the Parkway from visual intrusions from off-park development. To protect the 1,270 park views present along the Blue Ridge Parkway, she spearheads land use stewardship with 29 surrounding counties and coordinates partner activities with 8 major non profit organizations.

As Community Planner for the Blue Ridge Parkway she worked with colleagues to develop an innovative process for identifying scenic views along the parkway. With her leadership the Blue Ridge Parkway has completed citizen assessments of over 700 views. The results have influenced the decision makers and planning staff in the 19 completed counties plus land trusts that need data to prioritize acquisitions.

Proof of her success is what is not seen in parkway views. The process has been enthusiastically adopted by other parks and planners. An additional perspective on viewshed management comes from her having won funding for analyzing the "monetary value" of views, a subject never before tackled in Applied Economics. Termed the Scenic Experience Project, this ground breaking research presents choices to visitors about what kinds of scenic experiences they wish to have on the parkway and what they would be willing to pay to protect their choice. Their responses yielded the highest value recorded for any studied recreation asset, astounding the researchers and clearly showing how significant these views are to Parkway visitors.

Ms. Rotegard previously served as Acting Superintendent at Women's Rights

National Historical Park in Seneca Falls, NY and as a member and team leader at the Denver Service Center, where fledging applications of the parkway process were tested and developed for City of Rocks National Preserve and North Cascades National Park. She graduated with distinction in Landscape Architecture from the University of Minnesota, which is also her home state.

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