

2018 Hartzog Award Recipients

The Benton H. Box Award – Stephen F. McCool

The William C. Everhart Award – Nicole M. Ardoin

The Walter T. Cox Award – Stan Austin

The Dwight Holder Award – Lauren S. Pile

The Robert G. Stanton Award – Brent Leggs

The Benton H. Box Award



Stephen F. McCool with Dr. Wayne Freimund

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 was awarded to Stephen F. McCool 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.

Stephen “Steve” McCool is Professor Emeritus, Wildland Recreation Management, in the Department of Society and Conservation at The University of Montana. Steve began his professional career by investigating biophysical impacts of wilderness use in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in Minnesota during the mid-1960's and has continued working with wilderness and protected area managers his entire career, focusing principally on management of visitors and tourism, public engagement processes and new paradigms of planning. He believes that societies flourish when their members are connected to their natural and cultural heritage. Protected area managers help maintain those connections with stewardship which occurs within the context of messy situations—conflicting goals, uncertain cause-effect relationships. These settings require substantially different approaches—in process, focus, public engagement and institutional design—compared to conventional tame problems. Thus, he focuses on “messy” issues associated with protected area planning, including the conflicts between recreation opportunities, integrated resource management, and application of frameworks to resolve competing demands.

Recent publications include those focusing on reframing the notion of sustainable tourism, approaches to enhance the capacity of protected area managers, frameworks for thinking about protected area management, an assessment of various visitor planning frameworks, and discussions about the relationships between tourism and protected areas. He has authored over 200 publications dealing with protected area management and provided advice and service to a number of park and protected area agencies in the U.S. and abroad including Canada, South Africa, Namibia, Mozambique, Belize, Brazil, Iceland, Poland, Croatia, China, and New Zealand.

He has held faculty positions at Utah State University and the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. He received a B.S. Forestry degree from the University of Idaho and holds M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Minnesota. From September 1987 through August 1993, he served as the Director, Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research at the University of Montana. Steve retired from formal work with the University of Montana in 2007 but has continued with teaching and service with protected area managers since then. Beginning in 2012 he has worked in Brazil with a USAID and Forest Service funding project on capacity building. From January 1993 until August 1995 he worked as Co-leader, Social Sciences staff of the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project, a large-scale ecosystem assessment process for the US Pacific Northwest. He is a member of the World Commission on Protected Areas and currently serves on its Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist Group.

The William C. Everhart Award



Nicole M. Ardoin with Dr. Robert Powell

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 Nicole M. Ardoin for recognition of sustained achievements that illuminate, provide creative insights, and that foster an appreciation of our natural and cultural heritage.

Dr. Nicole Ardoin is an associate professor at Stanford University with a joint appointment in the Graduate School of Education and the Woods Institute for the Environment. She is the acting faculty director of the Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources (EIPER) in the School of Earth, Energy, and Environmental Sciences. Nicole's research focuses on environmental learning and sustainability practices, with an interest in informal and everyday-life settings, integrated social-ecological systems, and sense of place. She also researches how learning opportunities engage individuals and communities in collaborative decision-making related to the environment.

Nicole's research collaborators include nonprofit environmental conservation organizations; parks and protected areas; museums, zoos, and aquariums; public and private, independent K-12 schools; and philanthropic foundations; among others. She uses a mix of methods and approaches in her work—including ethnography, social network analysis, and targeted case studies—and enjoys developing long-term relationships with community partners and organizations in both her research and through the courses she teaches, which also often incorporate community-engaged learning.

Nicole has a PhD in Social Ecology from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, where her scholarship focused on sense of place and environmental behavior at an ecoregional scale. Through her Social Ecology Lab Group at Stanford, Nicole enjoys mentoring her own graduate students who have diverse interests centered on applying social science theoretical frames to pressing environmental challenges in a range of domestic and international settings. With more than two decades of nonprofit conservation experience, Nicole is committed to community-engaged research as well as supporting the research/practice interface. She is an Associate Editor for the Environmental Education Research journal; a trustee of the George B. Storer Foundation; chairs the Education Advisory Council of NatureBridge; and is an advisor to the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE). Nicole is the 2017 recipient of the NAAEE award for

Outstanding Contributions to Research in Environmental Education and the Haas Center for Public Service's 2018 Miriam Aaron Roland Volunteer Service Prize.

The Walter T. Cox Award



Stan Austin with Dr. Brett Wright

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 awarded to Stan Austin for sustained achievement in public service providing leadership in administration of public lands and for policy formation affecting our natural and cultural resources.

Stan Austin assumed his position as Regional Director of the National Park Service's (NPS) Pacific West Region in May 2018. In his capacity as Regional Director, Austin provides leadership for the more than 60 national park sites within the states of California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, portions of Arizona and Montana and the territories of Guam, American Samoa, as well as the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands.

The Pacific West Region's parks host 65 million visitors a year and contribute \$5 billion to local economies. He is responsible for leading more than 3,500 employees and managing a budget of more than \$300 million annually.

Previously, Austin served as the NPS Southeast Regional Director. During his five years in the role, he guided the region through many complex and sensitive issues, including restoration of the Everglades, multiple hurricanes and fires, and operational and workplace reform. He supported the expansion and name change of Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park and oversaw the introduction of four new parks into the National Park System.

Austin began his career with the National Park Service at Gateway National Recreation Area as an interpretive park ranger, resource management specialist, and law enforcement ranger. He later served as deputy superintendent of Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado, superintendent of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in Utah and Arizona, acting deputy superintendent at Yosemite National Park in California, and superintendent at Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Ohio.

As a Mike Mansfield Fellow, Austin spent two years in Tokyo, Japan working with the Government of Japan's Ministries of Construction and Environment. He also served on the Hurricane Mitch federal response team in Nicaragua providing hurricane relief assistance.

A New Jersey native, Stan Austin earned a Bachelor of Science in environmental sciences with a focus on biology from Rutgers University.

The Dwight A. Holder Award



Lauren S. Pile with Dr. Greg Yarrow

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 was awarded to Lauren S. Pile, for outstanding work and sustained achievement that foster understanding, wise use, and conservation of natural and cultural resources.

Lauren Pile is a research ecologist with the USDA Forest Service - Northern Research Station in Columbia, Missouri. Her research focuses on using silvicultural or vegetation management approaches to solve emerging ecological issues to natural resource management including plant invasion and disturbance. She has 12 peer-reviewed publications, 6 Governmental Technical Reports, and 2 extension publications. Prior to her current position, Lauren was a 2016 Presidential Management Fellow (PMF). During her two-year appointment as a PMF, she served as an ecological monitoring coordinator for a Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project on the High Sierra Ranger District – Sierra National Forest in California. There she worked with district staff specialists to coordinate and lead monitoring efforts to determine restoration success for a diverse collaborative membership across 154,000 acres. She also did a four-month detail with the Northern Research Station in Warren, Pennsylvania in 2017 examining growth characteristics of oak seedlings in response to soils of differing geological histories with implications for northward expansion with climate warming. In addition, Lauren did a detail in the USDA Forest Service - Washington Office in 2018 with Research & Development on a cross-deputy area “Wildlife Research Roadmap” to guide national wildlife research for the next five years.

Lauren is currently serving as the chair of the 2019 National Silviculture Workshop, has served at many levels within the Society of American Foresters, including currently serving on the national Quiz Bowl Committee. While at Clemson University, she served as the vice president and president of South Carolina – Exotic Pest Plant Council, senate secretary for Graduate Student Government, several officer positions in the Natural Resource Graduate Student Association, and on the board of Friends of the Reedy River.

Lauren has a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science with honors from American Military University, a Master of Forestry Resources (MFR) from Clemson University in 2011, and a Doctorate in Philosophy in Forestry Resources from Clemson University in 2015.

The Fran P. Mainella Award – Not awarded this year

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.

Awarded in Alternate Years

The Robert G. Stanton Award



Brent Leggs with Dr. Robert Stanton

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

Brent Leggs is the Director of the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund – a \$25,000,000 fundraising and preservation campaign of the National Trust for Historic Preservation to fill an important gap in the nation's cultural heritage landscape. A Harvard University Loeb Fellow, he co-authored the National Trust's booklet, *Preserving African American Historic Places*, which is considered the "seminal publication on preserving African American historic sites" by the Smithsonian Institution.

As the project manager for several National Treasure campaigns across the country, he led efforts to create the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument in Alabama, which President Barack Obama designated in January 2017. Other campaign successes include the perpetual protection of icons like Villa Lewaro, the estate of Madam C. J. Walker in Irvington, New York; Joe Frazier's Gym in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Hinchliffe Stadium in Paterson, New Jersey; A. G. Gaston Motel in Birmingham; and more. Brent is currently advising Historically Black Colleges and Universities at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland and Howard University in Washington, D.C. to ensure these campuses are preserved for future generations.

Currently, Brent is also an Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of Maryland's Graduate Program in Historic Preservation.