George B. Hartzog, Jr.

2020 Environmental Awards
Event Program
Often called “America’s Greatest Idea,” our national park system is unique and has been copied around the world. 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 river 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.
- 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.


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 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 2020 Benton H. Box Award is presented to

Drs. Kelly S. Bricker & John W. Day, Jr.
for recognition as a leader in preserving our natural environment and a teacher who inspires in students the quest for knowledge and encourages curriculum innovation to inculcate an “environmental ethic” as the rule of conduct.

Over the past four decades, Dr. Kelly S. Bricker has served a variety of professional organizations and associations that focus on preserving and conserving natural resources while also providing quality outdoor recreation and visitor experiences. Before entering higher education, Dr. Bricker spent 20+ years serving public land management agencies (NPS Interpreter, BLM River Ranger), environmental education organizations (Atwood Outdoor Education Center, British Virgin Islands marine sailing and scuba program, Florida Keys marine sciences program); and nature-based recreation (OARS River Guide, scuba and sailing instructor) and tourism companies (SOBEK Guide Nepal & Indonesia, World Heritage Travel Group, Vice Pres. and guide global programs) — all of which were formative to the work she engages in today.

With her husband, they started an ecotourism program focused on river conservation and community well-being called Rivers Fiji — located in the Republic of Fiji. With the collaboration of local communities, they were able to conserve 28 kilometers of wetlands and pristine river habitat in the highlands of Fiji, in concert with traditional and subsistence uses by local communities. Through interdisciplinary collaboration and community outreach, they established the country’s first conservation area of its
kind and Fiji’s first internationally designated Ramsar site, or Wetland of International Importance. This effort and other early practitioner-based experiences contributed to her life’s work in higher education. All have included conservation work and her belief that the health of natural resources is absolutely foundational to the health and well-being of society.

Dr. Bricker’s research program focuses primarily on nature-based recreation and tourism endeavors as tools for conservation and their role in sustainable management and development of protected areas and nearby communities. Examples of this work include research conducted in Yellowstone National Park, Theodore Roosevelt National Park and Fiji, among many others. This work has elucidated how sustainable tourism and recreation endeavors can effect positive change for protected areas, people and the economic structures which support poverty reduction and increased quality of life, especially in natural amenity communities.

Dr. Bricker’s research also investigates the effectiveness of different land management actions/policies for mitigating visitation impacts to natural resource areas. This work has included nationwide research on managers’ perspectives of recreation and tourism on public lands and evaluating statewide sustainable tourism certification programs as a management tool for minimizing environmental impacts caused by recreation. The results of this research have assisted planners and managers in understanding the sustainability and effectiveness of outdoor recreation management strategies and policy formation in protected areas.

Dr. Bricker’s program of research is closely tied to her service work with international organizations focused on sustainable tourism development and management (e.g., the Global Sustainable Tourism Council [GSTC]) and utilizing tourism as a tool for conservation, with the Tourism and Protected Area Specialists, within the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas. Service to these organizations has positively enhanced both her research program and her teaching. In sum, from her early professional beginnings with the United States’ National Park Service as an Interpreter, to her current role as Department Chair, Dr. Bricker has dedicated her life to enhancing humankind’s relationship with the natural environment, and assisting individuals in finding ways to ignite their passions and realize their dreams.
John W. Day, Jr. is Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences, College of the Coast & Environment at Louisiana State University, where he has taught since 1971. He has published extensively on the ecology and management of coastal and wetland ecosystems, with emphasis on the Mississippi delta and deltas worldwide. He is editor of Estuarine Ecology 2013; editor of Ecological Modeling in Theory and Practice; editor of the Ecology of Coastal Ecosystems in the Southern Mexico: The Terminos Lagoon Region; co-editor of Ecosystem Based Management of the Gulf of Mexico; editor of Perspectives on the Restoration of the Mississippi Delta (2014); author of Americas Most Sustainable Cities and Regions – Surviving the 21st Century Megatrends (2016), editor of Mississippi Delta Restoration – Pathways to a Sustainable Future; and co-editor of Coasts and Estuaries – The Future (2019).

Professor Day received his Ph.D. in marine sciences and environmental sciences from the University of North Carolina in 1971 working with the noted ecologist Dr. H.T. Odum. Since then, he has conducted extensive research on the ecology and management of the Mississippi Delta and for the last 40 years, has studied coastal ecosystems in Mexico. He was a visiting professor in the Institute of Marine Sciences of the National University of Mexico in 1978-1979, at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands during 1986, at the Laboratoire d’Ecologie, Université Claude Bernard in Arles France during 1992-93, and in the Department of Geography at Cambridge University in 2000-2001. He has also worked at the University of Campeche and the Institute of Ecology in Xalapa, Mexico. From 1992-2017, Professor Day worked in the Mediterranean studying the impacts of climate change on wetlands in Venice Lagoon and in the Po, Rhone and Ebro deltas. He has worked on using wetlands as a means of removing nitrogen from the Mississippi River. Dr. Day served as a member of the hypoxia reassessment taskforce.

He is currently involved in research on the impacts of 21st century megatrends on sustainability of natural and human systems. He served as chair of the National Technical Review Committee, reviewing the restoration program for the Mississippi delta and is currently active in delta restoration as chair of the Science and Engineering Special Team on restoration of the Mississippi delta. He serves on the Scientific Steering Committee of the Future Earth Coasts program, an international coastal science effort. He served on a National Research Council panel on urban sustainability. He was recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship for study in France, the Estuarine Research Federation Cronin Award for excellence in teaching in coastal sciences, and the National Wetlands Award. He has served as major professor for 70 M.S. and Ph.D. students and has written and edited 17 books and monographs, and published over 400 peer-reviewed articles. His work has been cited over 25,000 times.
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 quality of life; and personal achievements during a career or in a specific episode that provides inspiration and leadership to others in serving the above purposes.

The 2020 Walter T. Cox Award is presented to

Dr. Kerri Cahill

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

Kerri Cahill, Ph.D. began her National Park Service career in 2003 and is currently a Branch Chief in the Denver Service Center Planning Division. The Denver Service Center is a central office that provides agency wide technical and project management support. During her almost 18 years with the National Park Service, Kerri has been able to work on a diverse array of projects in support of parks, regions, national programs, interagency initiatives and international collaborations. It’s been an incredibly rewarding and dynamic career.

Kerri began her work with the National Park Service after completing her Ph.D. at Virginia Tech in Forestry, specializing in recreation management. Prior to that time, Kerri had entered the planning field working for a county environmental management department in Florida on environmental species protection. She was inspired by planning as a forum for conversation to welcome a wide range of voices, along with integrating science and policy. Kerri received her master’s degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Florida State University and began work in the park planning department of Florida State Parks. She later employed her expertise in the private sector supporting park planning projects as a consultant for cities and counties. This range of planning experiences for resources and parks provided the drive to return to school for her Ph.D., with the eventual goal of working for the National Park Service.
Over the almost 18 years that Kerri has been with the National Park Service, she has been honored to work with many of the highly talented and committed staff across the agency. Kerri has appreciated the collaboration and expertise of her colleagues at the Denver Service Center Planning Division. She is particularly proud of the opportunity to have helped build an amazing technical team in the fields of visitor use management and socioeconomics. Although there are many experts and practitioners doing this important work in the agency, the centralized team at the Denver Service Center provides technical expertise and leadership to the ever-evolving needs related to providing for and managing use in parks and other land management agencies.

Kerri also helped build the Interagency Visitor Use Management Council from its inception in 2011. The formation of a council was spearheaded by staff that were passionate about the discipline and wanted to work across agency lines to share lessons learned and collaborate on best practices. Kerri chairs the council, which coordinates across six federal agencies to provide consistent guidance and tools for visitor use management. The council has produced several guidebooks on best practices and are currently in the process of developing related training. This guidance has been integrated into many projects, agency policy and is now being adapted for use in other local, state and federal agencies in the United States and around the world.

In addition to these accomplishments, Kerri co-led an NPS working group on visitor use management that developed tools and a central portal of resources for the agency. She also helped develop national planning guidelines for the National Park Service related to the topics of visitor use management and visitor capacity. She has authored several publications on these topics. Kerri has also collaborated with the international community, developing and sharing best practices for managing visitor use on public lands and waters. Kerri has been honored to receive other awards on her career path, including the 2017 George Wright Society Social Science Achievement Award and the 2016 Legends Award from the American Recreation Coalition. Kerri is forever grateful for these amazing career experiences and continues to be passionate about her work and collaborating with her talented colleagues in the National Park Service.
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 2020 Dwight A. Holder Award is presented to

Dr. Paul Leonard

for outstanding work and sustained achievement that foster understanding, wise use, and conservation of natural and cultural resources.

Paul Leonard is the Science Coordinator for the Arctic Program of the US Fish & Wildlife Service based out of Fairbanks, Alaska. Leonard earned his master and doctoral degrees at Clemson University and was a postdoctoral fellow at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service — Appalachian Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) before moving to Alaska in 2018. Most of his current work now involves identifying and mitigating the potential impacts of Oil & Gas exploration on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Working with multiple levels of government, NGOs and Alaska native communities, the goal of his research is to provide resource managers and partners with the information, science and translational tools necessary to be better stewards of functional ecosystems. His research investigates ecological pattern and process with applied, bottom-up questions that deal with everything from Caribou movement ecology to the recreational experiences in soundscapes and viewsheds of wilderness.

Before moving to Alaska, Paul was developing a conservation plan for a 15-state conservation cooperative centered around the Central and Southern Appalachians. This planning process incorporated thousands of private parcels, conservation easements, state and national parks, and other public lands and placed them into a framework for understanding their contribution to the regional network. This work was conducted during
his postdoctoral fellowship where he was first inspired by the power of federal agencies to bring people together to plan for future landscapes.

His larger research interests are focused on recognizing and quantifying the spatial patterns in the distribution of natural resources and elucidating the drivers of those patterns. Using land use change, climate change, and other anthropological impacts in conjunction with landscape-level, systematic conservation planning, he strives to synthesize large, complex spatial data to develop decision support tools and conservation strategies for diverse communities.
The Robert G. 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 2020 Robert G. Stanton Award is presented to

Mr. George McDonald

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

Throughout his career at the National Park Service (NPS), George McDonald has played a key role in several projects designed to enhance and increase the number of underserved, minority and disadvantaged youth participating in park activities and engaging in employment and educational opportunities in parks. He developed a service-wide funding source for the Youth Partnerships Program in collaboration with the NPS’s budget office in 2007, in order to support youth development programming focused on education, recreation, volunteer service and employment, and that which engages diverse audiences.

His career focuses on building mutually beneficial partnerships, such as the NPS Boy Scouts of America Resource Stewardship Scout Ranger Program, established in 2007, which connects youth recreational, educational and volunteer service opportunities in national parks. He created an NPS Girl Scout Ranger program the following year. In 2014, he developed an NPS-YMCA Partner Program, which brings between 9,000 and 10,000 YMCA day campers per year into national parks for recreation and education and the following year (2015) he forged a partnership program with Boys and Girls Clubs. McDonald is now developing federal guidelines for a new Indian Youth Service Corps Program.

McDonald is also focused on creating pathways to employment for Black, Hispanic and Native American youth. He created the park service’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities Internship Program in 2011 and the Latino Heritage Internship Program in 2013, programs that make internship opportunities available to dozens of students throughout the
country every year. The Mosaics in Science Internship Program, developed in 2012, also provides science-based internship opportunities to racially diverse undergraduate and graduate students.

He has also led projects of major significance for the NPS, such as assisting in the development of the African Burial Ground National Monument and the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site as well as serving as the project manager for the National Museum for African American History and Culture Presidential Commission (2002-03), which led to the successful development of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture on the National Mall.
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 2020 William C. Everhart Award is presented to

Dr. Drew Lanham

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

Drew Lanham, Ph.D., is a native of Edgefield and Aiken, SC. He is a Clemson University Distinguished Alumni Professor, Provost’s Professor in the Department of Forestry and Environmental Conservation, and a Fellow in the Clemson University Institute for Parks. A faculty member since 1995, Drew is an internationally respected conservation and cultural ornithologist. He is a past board member of several organizations including the National Audubon Society, Aldo Leopold Foundation, the American Birding Association and BirdNote. He is also the former Chairperson of the advisory board for Audubon South Carolina and was a twelve year member of the SC Wildlife Federation, serving as the organization’s affiliate representative for most of that tenure.

Dr. Lanham is a widely published author and poet focusing on a passion for place and the personal and societal conflicts that sometimes put conservation and culture at odds. Drew was named the Poet Laureate for his home place county of Edgefield, South Carolina in 2018 and is the author of Sparrow Envy - Poems and Sparrow Envy - A Field Guide to Birds and Lesser Beasts (Hub City Press 2018; 2021). His award winning book, The Home Place-Memoirs of a Colored Man’s Love Affair with Nature (print by Milkweed Editions 2016/ audiobook by Tantor Media 2019; Burroughs Medal Finalist 2016; 2018 SELC Reed Environmental Writing Award; 2020 Scholarly Book of the Decade; 2020 Memoir of the Decade) exemplifies his passion to define environmental sustainability and conservation in new ways by bridging the gaps between advocacy, education, inspiration and conservation. His Orion Magazine essay, “Forever Gone” a lyrical treatise on extinction, was chosen as a Best American Essay for 2018 by Rebecca Solnit. He has been summer faculty at the Bread Loaf Environmental Writing Workshop (2019, 2020) and the Writing in the Ruins Workshop (2012).
Drew is currently a Contributing Editor for Orion Magazine. Recognized internationally by his peers, he is the 2019 winner of the National Audubon Society’s Dan W. Lufkin Conservation Award and the 2016 North American Association of Environmental Educator’s Rosa Parks and Grace Lee Parks Service Award. As a Black American, he’s intrigued with how ethnic and racial prisms bend perceptions of nature and its care. He is a naturalist, bird-adorer watcher and conservationist-hunter who lives with his wife Janice Garrison Lanham, in Seneca, South Carolina. They have two adult children, Alexis Shepard and Colby Lanham and three animal companions. Labs Chase and Luke and a 100% indoor cat, Zeke III (Tres).

His forthcoming book, Range Maps - Birds, Blackness and Loving Nature Between the Two, will be published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux (FSG) of New York.
The Fran P. Mainella Award
(awarded in alternate years)

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 recognizes sustained and innovative achievement by a woman in the management of North America’s natural, historic, or cultural heritage.
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.

Visit www.Clemson.edu/cuip for more information.

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 Department 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.

Donate

Please help us promote excellence in park management and conservation by making your donation to the Clemson University Foundation – Hartzog Fund and mailing it to:

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C/o John Pezdek
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