



American Recreation Coalition

Dedicated to the protection and enhancement of everyone's right to health and happiness through recreation.

NEWS

Contact: Derrick Crandall

ARC SALUTES **LEGENDS** AWARD WINNERS

Washington, D.C. - Seven outstanding federal managers will receive **Legends** Awards from the American Recreation Coalition during Great Outdoors Week. "These exceptional individuals have made important contributions to outdoor recreation opportunities across the nation," said ARC President Derrick Crandall, "and we are delighted to showcase them and their work during Great Outdoors Week."

ARC presents its **Legends** Awards annually in recognition of the recipients' successful efforts to enhance outdoor recreation facilities, resources and experiences. Honorees are nominated by federal agencies which play central roles in providing public recreation opportunities: USDA Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Federal Highway Administration.

Recipients of the 2006 **Legends** Awards are Jim Burkhart, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Debbie Chavez, USDA Forest Service; Peter Field, Federal Highway Administration; Tom Folks, Bureau of Land Management; Bill Martin, Bureau of Reclamation; Bill Paleck, National Park Service; and Terry Ramsey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Jim Burkhart, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has faithfully served both the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge and the Fish and Wildlife Service for 28 years. He has been instrumental in achieving both visitor service improvements and local and national recognition for the area. Under his direction, the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Visitor Services Program has evolved into a successful nationally recognized program. His work with others to promote the Okefenokee Trail and the Georgia Nature-Based Tourism Association has resulted in state recognition of the area through highway signage, and the elevation of the GNBTA from a regional to a state level.

Debbie Chavez, USDA Forest Service, has more than 16 years of research experience in outdoor recreation for the USDA Forest Service. She is the Project Leader of the Pacific Southwest Research Station's "Wildland Recreation & Urban Cultures" research work unit. Ms. Chavez has an extensive list of outstanding accomplishments in the area of recreation research and application. Her work has contributed significantly to the improvement of recreation opportunities for Latinos at

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ARC Salutes *Legends Award* Winners Add One

national forests in the Los Angeles vicinity, including recreation facilities at the Applewhite Picnic Area (AWPA) on the Frontcountry Ranger District of the San Bernardino National Forest.

Peter Field, Federal Highway Administration, Transportation Planner for the Western Federal Lands Highway Division, is a designer, bridge inspector, and transportation planner who has participated in many projects that enhance recreation in the Pacific Northwest. Mr. Field has advanced transportation projects in important recreational corridors in Oregon and Washington such as the design and reconstruction of the Mather Memorial Parkway in Mount Rainier National Park, and projects tied to the Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery. His keen ability to work with people from diverse groups embodies the qualities of partnership and commitment that the *Legends Award* symbolizes.

Tom Folks, Bureau of Land Management, is the Recreation, Wilderness and Archaeology Team Leader for the BLM Arizona Strip District. As a visionary leader with high integrity, he motivates a team that continually and successfully produces quality recreation experiences and benefits for the public land visitor by anticipating recreation and technological trends, translating ideas into replicable models for managers, and pursuing creative public-private partnerships. His management of the public's changing recreation needs through the years has led to quantifiable improvements in recreation opportunities, increased reliance upon partnerships with for-profit and nonprofit organizations in the private sector, the use of creative solutions and programs, sharing of creative solutions within the agency, and community support for his work, especially in the destination tourism and community area markets.

Bill Martin, Bureau of Reclamation, has worked for the Bureau for 29 years in three different regions. He is always seeking innovative approaches and practical solutions to develop cooperative partnerships for the enjoyment of outdoor recreation experiences and is recognized for his work with non-federal partners. He was a primary facilitator for the planning and design of the Davis Dam Lands Study in Laughlin, Nevada, a major recreation complex on 3,000 acres of Bureau of Reclamation land with camping areas, golf courses, an amphitheater, an event center, day use areas, trails, and a river walk along the Colorado River. This partnership effort included Clark County, NV, the Town of Laughlin, NV, Mohave County, AZ, the City of Bullhead City, AZ, and the Las Vegas Convention and Visitor Authority. Mr. Martin has received the Secretary of the Interior's 4 C's Award and other citations from Reclamation's partners.

Bill Paleck, National Park Service, is Superintendent of the North Cascades National Park Service Complex. He has expanded and enhanced recreational opportunities in a wide variety of ways using creative approaches and his very considerable organizational talent. In 2003, he received

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ARC Salutes *Legends* Award Winners

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the Superintendent of the Year award for Cultural Resources Stewardship in the Pacific West Region. In addition, he has written various articles that have been published in the "Arizona Daily Star", "Journal of the Association of National Park Rangers", and "Partnerships in Parks & Preservation".

Terry Ramsey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has dedicated his 29 years with the Corps of Engineers to working to improve and enhance recreation opportunities, facilities and visitor experiences on public lands. He is currently Operations Project Manager for W. Kerr Scott Dam and Lake in Wilkesboro, North Carolina. Mr. Ramsey has worked tirelessly to insure that the Corps' resources and facilities meet the needs and exceed the expectations of the recreating public. Chosen to serve as operations project manager for W. Kerr Scott Lake in 2002, he immediately began growing its active recreation and outreach program, increasing the quality, quantity, and availability of recreational opportunities to the public, leveraging scarce federal funds while protecting the underlying natural resource base. Mr. Ramsey's achievements in partnering are a testimony to his outstanding leadership and his profound commitment to public service.

The American Recreation Coalition annually recognizes one individual from each major recreation-related federal agency during Great Outdoors Week in Washington, D.C. The ***Legends*** awards are presented to recognize extraordinary individual efforts that have expanded and enhanced recreational opportunities through public/private partnerships, or have increased participation in outdoor recreation through innovative programs based upon public/private partnerships. Award criteria include quantifiable improvements in recreation opportunities or participation in recreation by one or more categories of the American public labeled "non-traditional visitors"; reliance upon partnerships with for-profit and nonprofit organizations in the private sector; the use of creative solutions and programs, and demonstrated efforts to share news of creative solutions within the agency and community support for the work of this individual, as reflected in awards and roles on community boards and committees.

The 2006 ***Legends*** Award ceremony will take place on Tuesday, June 13 during a special function featuring key officials from the Executive Branch. The honorees will also be showcased during the Sheldon Coleman Great Outdoors Award Celebration later that same day. For more information about the 2006 ***Legends*** Awards, contact the American Recreation Coalition at 202-682-9530 or arc@funoutdoors.com.