

BREAKING THE COLOR BARRIER
IN THE GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS



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Legacy on the Land:

A Black Couple Discovers Our National Inheritance and Tells Why Every American Should Care

A Legacy on the Land

*"It is difficult to get a man to understand something
when his livelihood depends upon his not understanding it."*

Upton Sinclair, (1878-1968)

Across the country, environmental leaders of color are struggling against almost insuperable odds to sustain programs that expose members of their communities to the benefits of the great outdoors. Only a miniscule percentage of the dollars that corporations, philanthropists and foundations pour into the environmental sector go to these groups, and opportunities with the public land management agencies are in short supply. Simultaneously, leaders continue to hear the common and demeaning refrain that "People of color are not interested in the outdoors" and "have too many other survival issues," among other things.

The future of our public lands system depends upon the extent to which the growing demographic groups – people of color and Generation WE, born since 1978 – support them. But the career and revenue stream remain dominated by white Americans, many of whom insist they cannot 'understand' why people of color are virtually missing from this arena.

In "A Legacy on the Land," author and environmental consultant Audrey Peterman will share the rich history of the contributions of African Americans to the public lands system, and profile some of the dynamic leaders who are working assiduously to create opportunities for all Americans to enjoy and be stewards of our natural treasures.

Attached you will find representation of some of these leaders - and DOI official Bob Stanton - who were featured at the 'Breaking the Color Barrier in the Great American Outdoors' conference (www.BreakingtheColorBarrier.com) recently held in Atlanta, as well as a sampling of their credentials.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

“Queen Quet”

[Marquetta L. Goodwine](#)

In addition to being the Chieftess and Head-of-State for the [Gullah/Geechee Nation](#) on the Sea Islands from North Carolina to Florida, she is a published author, computer scientist, lecturer, mathematician, historian, columnist, preservationist, and "The Art-ivist."

Her people have maintained their traditional connections - brought from West Africa - for more than 300 years -- petitioning Congress to designate the Gullah Geechee National Heritage Area within their lands.



[Robert G. Stanton](#)

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Policy, Management, and Budget

Concluding a long career with the National Park Service, he served as the agency's director from 1997 to 2001.

As director, he oversaw major planning and resource preservation programs at the White House, Yellowstone, Yosemite, Gettysburg, and other national parks and inaugurated and oversaw the National Resource Challenge, a plan to revise/expand the agency's natural resource programs.



[Majora Carter](#)

Founder of [Sustainable South Bronx](#)

Majora provided a model for the world by transforming the polluted landscape of the South Bronx through horticultural infrastructure improvements with social, [environmental benefits](#) for the city and its residents.

A recipient of the MacArthur Genius Award, she traveled to the North Pole in the summer of 2008 with President Jimmy Carter. Majora has also founded the [Majora Carter Group](#).



SPEAKERS



Tony C. Anderson



Kim Anaston-Karas



Tom Blue Wolf



Park Ranger Jerry Bransford



Hermes Castro



Jim Chu



Carol B. Daniels, PhD



Dudley Edmondson



Mauricio Escobar



Anaelou Ezello



James Ezello



Carolyn Finney, PhD



Iantha Gantt-Wright



Wayne Hare



Jarid Manos



Rue Mapp



Juan D. Martinez



Brenda Palms-Barber



Angela Park



Nadine Patrice



Darryl Perkins



Jamie Pinkham



Captain Bill Pinkney



Nina Roberts, PhD



John C. Robinson



Alan Scott



Audri Scott-Williams



Jack Shu



Kaylynn Sullivan Two Trees



Ken Stewart



David Hale Sylvester



Charles Thomas



Savannah Williams



Julia Yarbough

Tony Anderson:

A recent graduate of Morehouse College, is a protégé of [Van Jones](#) and a Fellow with the [Compton Foundation](#). While Student Body Vice President at Morehouse, Tony initiated a campus level dialogue about sustainability and climate change by championing the work of environmental justice.

From this, Tony founded the [Let's Raise A Million Project](#) (LRAM)—a student-led, nonprofit charitable and environmental justice- focused organization committed to introducing energy saving solutions to low-income households.

To date, LRAM's pilot programs have completed nearly 12,000 installs by canvassing low-income neighborhoods door-to-door. Since inception, LRAM has been championed by President Bill Clinton and the Clinton Global Initiative University as well as Campus Progress, the National Wildlife Federation, the Captain Planet Foundation, and Sustainable Atlanta.

Tony has been featured by multiple media outlets including local news — WABE 90.1FM and WSBTV-Channel 2— and those with national reach— the Online News Hour with Jim Lehrer, 1000 Voice Archives and Black Enterprise.

Kim Anaston-Karas:

An avid outdoor enthusiast and sportswoman, she has competed or participated in sailboat racing and long distance cruising; bicycle racing and touring, distance ocean swimming, scuba diving and equestrian pursuits including dressage and combined training. Her passion as an environmental educator has been implemented as an:

- adventure therapist with adolescents
- Director of Marine Sciences Under Sails School of Environmental Education,
- Senior Educator for National Audubon Society's Everglades office,
- National Parks Conservation Association
- South Florida Field Office Director and
- Ocean Conservancy's Florida Keys Program Manager, among others.

Tom Blue Wolf:

Born to the Poarch Creek Reservation in southern Alabama, Tom is an enrolled member of the Star Clan, Y'ufalla Band, of the Lower Creek, Eastern Muskokee.

For most of his life he has been a living demonstration and active educator on a way of life that promotes a sustainable future for his culture and the earth.

Founder and President of [Earthkeepers & Company](#), a non-profit organization founded on environmental integrity, community relations, tribal values and global peace.

Park Ranger Jerry Bransford

Imagine the longest underground cave system in the world with sections larger than six football fields and more than 100 feet high. Imagine the cave as a source of wonder for the world, attracting wealthy tourists and scientists from around the globe. Marriages are performed in its lofty halls, and a complete treatment facility is erected in its corridors for people suffering from tuberculosis.

Into this mix, place two young enslaved African men who explored the enormously complicated, dangerous cave system with nothing more than the pale light of unshaded lanterns. These "Sable Guides," of Mammoth

Cave were responsible for the comfort and the very lives of international scientists and visitors exploring the cave system.

Today, Jerry Bransford, the great great grandson of Mat Bransford, one of the original "Sable Guides" from 1834, has returned to guide at Mammoth Cave and continues a legacy spanning more than 100 continuous years.

Read his poignant story [here](#).

Hermes Castro:

A lifetime athlete and outdoors man had a life altering experience when he was hit by a drunk driver while cycling to work.

Told that he would never walk again, he battled his way back and was chosen by Sir Robert Swan to be part of the 2041 Expedition to protect the frozen wilderness of Antarctica.

His message is simple and powerful:

"If I can navigate some of the most inhospitable territory without use of my legs, you can turn off the light and put your cans in a recycling bin."

Carol B. Daniels, PhD:

A recently named Fellow of the National Conservation Leadership Institute and an advocate for the advancement of diverse students in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields, Dr. Daniels serves as a mentor and Chair of the National Park Service (NPS) Recruitment Futures Implementation Team (RFIT).

She coordinates research activities for the National Park Service in the South Florida Caribbean Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) partnership while also serving as an adjunct professor in Marine Geology & Geophysics at the University of Miami, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science.

In this capacity, she provides technical assistance in resource (natural and cultural) management and science research to NPS Southeast Region staff in parks throughout south Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Dudley Edmondson:

Author of "Black & Brown Faces in America's Wild Places," he has compiled an extensive archive of people of color in the outdoors. To view: [Raptor Works](#)

The acclaimed nature photographer is an avid cyclist, kayaker, and bird enthusiast.

Park Ranger Mauricio Escobar:

A National Parks Service Ranger in the ranges of Yosemite National Park, he uses the experiences from his own life to advocate the importance of involvement with the outdoors to youth and families.

By showing what the Park Service's outreach did for him, and gives specific examples on what students from high school to college can do to succeed in their respective institutions and in their lives.