George Wright Society News & Notes

Honoring outstanding achievements on behalf of parks

2019 GWS Award Winners Named

Every two years the GWS recognizes people who have made major contributions to understanding and managing parks, protected areas, and cultural sites through “Imagine Excellence,” our awards program. The 2019 awardees are:

- **Louise Johnson** and **Abigail Miller**, co-winners of The George Melendez Wright Award for Excellence, our highest award, given in recognition of lifetime contributions. Johnson is being honored for her role in large ecological restoration projects at Redwood, Yosemite, Lassen
Volcanic, and Olympic national parks. Miller was a major contributor to the NPS Natural Resource Challenge, the massive effort at the turn of the century to retool agency’s natural resource management and protection program.

- **Melia Lane-Kamahele**, winner of The GWS Cultural Resource Achievement Award. Lane-Kamahele has distinguished herself for her work promoting a much greater appreciation of, and attention to, Indigenous participation in land management activities across the Pacific region.

- **Anthony Fiorillo** and **Jeffrey Marion**, co-winners of The GWS Natural Resource Achievement Award. Fiorillo has made important advances to the science of paleontology in the US national parks, while Marion is a founder of the field of recreation ecology.

- **Steve Lawson**, winner of The GWS Social Science Achievement Award. Through his work Lawson has generated a body of knowledge for parks that has bridged the gap between traditional recreation research and the transportation and urban planning disciplines.

- **Brenda Barrett**, winner of The GWS Communications Award. Barrett is honored for her work as the editor of *Living Landscape Observer*, an online forum and monthly e-newsletter that serves as a key source of news and opinion on contemporary landscape conservation.

- **Maria Caffrey**, winner of The GWS Special Achievement Award, given occasionally by the GWS Board of Directors to recognize timely accomplishments. Dr. Caffrey is being recognized for her numerous contributions to the understanding of climate change impacts on US national parks, particularly those in coastal environments.

The [full award citations](#) have more details of their achievements. Congratulations to all the winners!

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**Proposed revisions would make listings harder**

**GWS comments on National Register rules changes**

Important changes were recently proposed to the regulations governing the National Register of Historic Places, one of the US's principal means for encouraging preservation of historic buildings in communities across the country. As part of the official public comment period, on April 12 we sent a
letter expressing our concern over several proposed revisions. The upshot of the revisions would be to change the current process, which generally works well, to a more cumbersome one that we believe could discourage the nomination of worthy properties to the Register.

Announcements & opportunities

GWS members invited to be mentors for 2019 Student Conference on Conservation Science-NY. The American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) has reached out to us seeking GWS members to act as mentors for the 10th annual SCCS-NY at AMNH in New York City, October 2–4, 2019. SCCS-NY is a multidisciplinary conference designed to mentor students and early-career professionals in conservation. The audience includes primarily undergraduate and graduate students, recent post-doctoral fellows, and early-career professionals working in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities, as well as members of the general public. Participants receive feedback from dozens of professionals who attend especially to mentor. GWS researchers or practitioners can participate as mentors by: (1) remotely reviewing a few of the abstract submissions (during April), or (2) attending as a mentor during the conference itself (providing feedback to presenters, joining them for lunch etc., or offering a workshop). The registration fee is waived for mentors. For more information, contact Ana Porzecanski at AMNH, alporze@amnh.org.

Online survey of protected area finance needs. The Conservation Finance Alliance is asking GWS members to complete its online Survey of Protected Area Finance Capacity Needs. The goal is to better understand the knowledge and capacity development needs of the broad conservation community with regards to protected area finance. The results will help to inform the work of the Conservation Finance Alliance Working Group on Protected Areas Finance, and through the CFA, it will be used to inform the wider community of protected area finance practitioners. The survey takes about 15 minutes and results are strictly confidential, with only aggregate results shared. You can find the survey at https://www.conservationfinancealliance.org/needs-assessment. For more information, contact Charles Besancon at CFA, charles.besancon@gmail.com.

New partnership publications from the One Tam Initiative. One Tam is an alliance of five organizations (California State Parks, Marin County Parks, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, Marin Municipal Water District, and US National Park Service) working together to care for Mount Tamalpais (Mt. Tam) and lands around it. One Tam: Desk to Field Guide is now available.
Tam), an important conserved landscape in the San Francisco Bay Area. One Tam is known for the depth and richness of its partnership work, which is showcased in two new publications. The first, “Generating, Scaling Up, and Sustaining Partnership Impact: One Tam’s First Four Years,” explores the impact and value of partnerships. It led to the development of a Partnership Impact Model for developing, sustaining, and optimizing partnerships. The second, “The Partnership Impact Evaluation Guide,” provides an additional tool for practitioners to create and evaluate partnership impact metrics. You can learn more and download both publications at https://www.onetam.org/partnership-impact-model. For more information, contact Sharon Farrell at Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, SFarrell@parksconservancy.org.

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