

The Honorable Cornelius Amory Pugsley 2021 Awards



Virtual Presentation

**The American Academy for Park and
Recreation Administration**

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A description of the Pugsley Award and biographies of past medal recipients are available at <http://www.aapra.org>

Sponsors of the Pugsley Award

American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration

The Academy was created in 1980 to advance knowledge related to the administration of recreation and parks; to encourage scholarly efforts by both practitioners and educators that would enhance the practice of park and recreation administration; to promote broader public understanding of the importance of parks and recreation to the public good; and to conduct research, publish scholarly papers, and to conduct research, publish scholarly papers and sponsor seminars related to the advancement of park and recreation administration.

Membership in the Academy is limited to 125 practicing professionals, of whom no more than 20% may be educators. In addition, members can hold emeritus status after they retire. Membership qualifications include serving not less than 15 years in a high level of administration in a park and recreation agency and/or an institution of higher education or as the politically appointed leader of an entity of more than 500,000 population. Members must have demonstrated leadership and a desire to contribute to the advancement of parks and recreation through participation in the affairs of the Academy.

Prominent among its projects is the Academy's sponsorship of the *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*, which is designed to bridge the gap between research and practice for administrators, educators, consultants, and researchers. The *Journal* provides a forum for the analysis of management and organization of the delivery of park, recreation, and leisure services. The Academy has established a videotape library of interviews with top professionals in the field. In addition to being of historical value, the tapes in the Legends of Parks and Recreation Library offer insight into the field from its recognized leaders. The Academy was instrumental in developing and launching an accreditation program for park and recreation agencies, which is now being administered in cooperation with the National Recreation and Park Association. The Academy is the sponsor of the National Gold Medal Award program given annually to the outstanding park and recreation agencies (local and state) and armed forces recreation.

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The American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration gratefully acknowledges The Davey Tree Expert Company for its continued support of the Cornelius A. Pugsley Award.

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Sponsors of the Pugsley Award



Our national parks tell the story of America. From our geography, our lands, our culture, and our people, they embody the essence of a nation forged by the powerful forces of nature, the chronicles of conflict, a spirit of innovation, and an enduring vision of democracy for all. They document our nation's milestones and hold them in perpetuity for the enjoyment and enlightenment of generations to come. With each generation, our parks protect and add to our story, safeguarding our nation's most sacred treasures, and honoring the American spirit that is embodied within them all. Bigger than one place, one story, or one person, America's national parks represent a profound idea—that the very best of this nation will be protected and preserved for everyone—always.

Chartered by Congress in 1967, the National Park Foundation is the official nonprofit partner of the National Park Service. The Foundation's mission is to generate private support and build strategic partnerships to protect and enhance America's national parks for present and future generations.

The National Park Foundation raises private funds to help protect more than 84 million acres of national parks through critical conservation and preservation efforts, connect all Americans with their incomparable natural landscapes, rich culture, and vast history, and inspire the next generation of park stewards.

In concert with the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, the National Park Foundation has proudly supported the Pugsley Award program since 1985. Today, the award remains an excellent example of partnership for the betterment of parks and recreation across this nation.

The National Park Foundation carries forth a legacy of support that began more than a century ago when private citizens took action to establish and protect our national parks. Today, that work continues with the generous support and contributions of individuals, corporations, and foundations, protecting America's treasures in perpetuity, and captivating the minds and imaginations of generations to come. Learn more about the National Park Foundation and how you can get involved at www.NationalParks.org.

Throughout its history, the National Park Foundation (NPF) has played a leadership role in raising philanthropic support for priority projects and programs of the National Park Service. This model of public-private partnership underscores our belief that we all share in the responsibility to protect our parks as a living inheritance for future generations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Shafer".

Will Shafer
President and CEO, National Park Foundation

The Honorable Cornelius Amory Pugsley



Cornelius Amory Pugsley was born in 1850 on a farm in Peekskill, Westchester County, New York. He attended public schools in Peekskill and lived his whole life in that community. He had an undergraduate degree from Harvard University and also attended Harvard Law School. From 1867 to 1870, he was a clerk and then assistant postmaster in Peekskill. In 1870, he started work at Westchester County National Bank.

At the bank, he was promoted to teller, cashier, vice-president, and in fall 1897, he was appointed president; a position which he held for the next 46 years. During his tenure as president, Westchester County National Bank became “one of the foremost in the United States in earning power and standing.” According to the *New York Times*, “he accumulated several millions, only to be wiped out in 1933 by the Depression. This forced his bank to close its doors temporarily, pending reorganization.”

In 1895, Pugsley was the first resident from New York State to be elected as a member of the Executive Council of the American Bankers Association. He was elected to three, three-year terms on the Council, and in 1913 was elected president of the New York State Bankers Association.

Pugsley was a commanding figure in the Democratic Party in Westchester County and New York State in the early years of the twentieth century. In 1901, he served a two-year term in the 57th Congress, where he was characterized by the Republican Speaker of the House as a “vigorous talker and thinker ... perhaps the ablest Democrat in the House.” Indeed, the Republicans seemed so impressed by Pugsley’s talents that they devoted extensive resources to orchestrating his defeat after his first term. He was prominently mentioned as a candidate for the vice-presidency of the United States in the campaign of 1908 and as a candidate for New York State Governor in 1918, but declined to run for either office. In 1925, a historian reviewing Pugsley’s career, commented:

Few men of any community hold a higher place of honor and distinction in the regard of the people generally than does Cornelius Amory Pugsley of Peekskill, New York, whose life-long prominence in public affairs, as well as in professional circles, has made his utterances on many subjects of more than passing significance to the people.

Pugsley was a genuinely likeable and generous individual. His popularity in the community was exemplified by a widely reported incident in 1926 when he returned from a European trip. He was greeted with a bouquet thrown onto the deck of his ship from an airplane as the vessel steamed into New York Harbor. The plane bore a banner proclaiming in large letters "Greater Peekskill welcomes you home, 20,000 strong."

Pugsley was active in a large number of non-profit and charitable organizations. For example, in 1906, he was elected national president-general of the Sons of the American Revolution. His interest in parks was stimulated by his involvement as vice-president of the Westchester County Park Commission. The Commission was formed in 1923, making it one of the earliest local park systems in the U.S. Its early focus was on the development of parkways and it was a pioneer in this area. Pugsley was a member of the inaugural Commission and remained on it for a 10-year period. In the 1920s, he made several donations to the Peekskill community, including Pugsley Park and buildings for the YMCA, YWCA, and associated charities.

Evolution of the Pugsley Award

Cornelius Amory Pugsley's interest in parks was perpetuated by a medals program endowed with \$7,000 by his son, Chester D. Pugsley in 1929. Chester Pugsley was a graduate of Harvard Law School, and like his father, was active in politics, seeking the Democratic nomination for governor of New York State in 1936 and 1938. The purpose of the medals was described by Chester Pugsley in his directions governing the Pugsley Medal Fund Indenture:

The income of this fund shall be applied annually for the maintenance of a gold medal award by the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society for the most eminent public park service in the United States, a silver medal award for noteworthy public park work in the nation, and a bronze medal for a worthy contribution to public parks in the country, during the previous calendar year.

These awards shall be known as the "Honorable Cornelius Amory Pugsley Medals," in recognition of the interest of my father in public parks as evidenced by his service since its organization as a member of the Westchester County Park Commission and his gift of a public park to the municipality of Peekskill.

In witness Whereof, I have hereto set my hand and seal this 14th day of February 1929.

Chester Pugsley's purpose statement indicated that the gold, silver, and bronze medals would reflect different magnitudes of contributions, analogous to finishing first, second, and third in a competitive event. The medals appear to have reflected this interpretation for the first 35 years or so in which they were made, and during this time period, honorees were almost all associated with National or State Parks. Indeed, in the early years, the medals were awarded at the annual meeting of the National Conference on State Parks. The indenture specified the medal should reflect contributions made "during the previous calendar year," but this appears never to have been interpreted literally. Rather, the criterion has been "lifetime" contributions.

In 1967, the following criteria were suggested to guide the selection of medal recipients:

1. They have preserved, enhanced, or created park values, which significantly enriched the lives of people.
2. They reflect originality, intelligent selectivity, courageous decisions and actions, dedication to the public weal, sensitivity to the feelings and interests of all concerned, and a sound philosophy of public service.
3. They significantly developed or refined techniques, which will advance the effectiveness of park programs.
4. Their recognition by conferring the award will give encouragement and inspiration to others.

In the 1940s, the George McAneny Historic Preservation Medal was introduced by the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society to recognize contributions in the historic preservation area, so the Pugsley Medals became more narrowly focused on park and conservation contributions.

In 1953, a new pattern appeared to emerge of recognizing one individual at the national, state/regional, and local levels, who was awarded the gold, silver, and bronze medals, respectively. With a few exceptions, this general pattern has been retained since that time. Thus, the medal designations no longer attempt to recognize different magnitudes of contributions. Rather they recognize equally excellent contributions often at different levels of government. For this reason, all three medals are now gold.

The medals were awarded by the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, which was formed in 1895 by an act of the legislature of the State of New York. The Society was established for the protection of national scenery and the preservation of historic landmarks. Its office was in the historically notable Federal Hall in New York City and in the 1940s, '50s, '60s the annual luncheon at which recipients were presented with their medals was traditionally held in the great "Dome Room" of Federal Hall. In 1985, the National Park Foundation accepted responsibility for administering the awards on behalf of the Society, and in 1990 the entire resources of the Society were transferred to the Foundation, which is the official nonprofit partner of the National Park Service.

In the late 1980s, the president of the National Park Foundation, at the suggestion of former Director of the National Park Service, Conrad Wirth, requested assistance from the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration in identifying nominees for the medal. It was agreed that the Academy would identify worthy nominees and the National Park Foundation would make the final selection. In 1996, the Foundation invited the Academy to also make the final selections. The Foundation's role is now limited to producing the medals for the Academy with funds from the original Pugsley endowment. Out of respect for the impressive history of the Pugsley Medals, they are still cast from the original mold. They feature Mr. Pugsley's facial profile on one side, and the crest and name of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society together with the name of the recipient on the other.

2020-2021 Pugsley Awards Committee

Ralph Cryder-Chair

Beverly Chrisman

Ron Dodd

M. Kathleen Perales

John Potts



Elizabeth S. Kessler

Throughout her personal and professional life, Elizabeth S. Kessler has developed the reputation of a relentless warrior and innovator in the field of conservation, community involvement, and recreation. She is a champion for change, overcoming adversity, and advocating for marginalized voices—including people, plants, and animals. At the local, state, regional, and national levels, Kessler has been, and continues to be, a mentor to emerging professionals, a protector for open space and wildlife, and a consensus-builder. She engages communities and citizen advocates, launches big and bold ideas, and leads the charge to transform agencies, teams, programs, and services to be the best they can be.

Kessler is a life-long resident of the prairie state of Illinois, born in Oak Park and raised in Evanston. Interest in the outdoors and involvement in Girl Scouts led to a passion for nature, arts, and humanities. Kessler received her B.S. in Recreation and Park Administration with Honors from Illinois State University, MBA from Keller Graduate School of Management with Distinction, and is a graduate of Achievers™ from the Bell Leadership Institute.

She began her career with the Skokie Park District in 1987 as Special Events Coordinator and quickly went on to serve as supervisor, manager, and ultimately Superintendent of Recreation. Kessler helped lead the District through extensive redevelopment, restructuring, growth, community engagement, and diversity initiatives. She worked closely with stakeholders to complete a \$45 million comprehensive redevelopment program of 11 facilities and 49 parks. Through her commitment to excellence, the agency received numerous awards, including the prestigious National Gold Medal Award; various accreditations such as the Illinois Distinguished Agency, American Camping Association and National Association for the Education of Young Children; and created programs including the nationally recognized Skokie Festival of Cultures, chaired by Kessler which was the driving force behind the systemic changes on diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives within the community.

In 2006, Kessler became the first female Executive Director of the McHenry County Conservation District. By 2007, she led the District in the passage of a \$73 million voter-

approved referendum for the preservation of open space, wildlife habitat, ecological restoration, and public access improvements leading to the protection of 5,600 acres of land, 12 miles of regional trails, and 14 sites with public access. The District now has a U.S. Green Building Council LEED Certified Gold Visitor Center and welcomes over one million site visitors annually to safe, accessible spaces on more than 25,600 acres of protected lands.

Repeatedly, Kessler led courageous and sometimes contentious efforts to provide additional protections for public lands under threats. She oversaw the creation of the District's Conservation Congress, which engaged and empowered advocates for conservation resulting in the Declaration of Fundamental Conservation Principles, "We are McHenry County Public Lands" Campaign, Conservation Stewardship Pledge, Conservation Bill of Rights and Wide Open Spaces Radio Podcast.

Kessler's continued pursuit of excellence is reflected in the District's land management practices, fiscal stewardship, educational programming and advocacy which have led to numerous local, state, regional and national awards, including the

2013 NRPA Barb King Excellence in Environmental Stewardship Award; Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting and Distinguished Budget Presentation Award; Park District Risk Management Loss Control Accreditation, and various intergovernmental cooperation, public/private partnerships and environmental sustainability/stewardship awards.

With a reputation for large landscape projects, adoption of conservation-forward practices and one of the most robust research agendas in the region, the District collaborated with regional and national partners to establish a national wildlife refuge. As a member of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Environmental Assessment Study Team, Kessler helped bring the Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge, a project of President Barack Obama's America's Great Outdoors Initiative, to the Chicago, Illinois and Milwaukee, Wisconsin metropolitan area. The project received the U.S. Department of the Interior's Partners in Conservation Award and was formally established as the nation's 557th refuge (11,200 acres envisioned) on November 6, 2012.

As a member of the four-state Chicago Wilderness Alliance, her work to promote conservation and holistic approaches to environmental health continued. To ensure the long-range success of open spaces in the region, she was instrumental in the creation of the Excellence in Ecological Restoration Site Accreditation Program based on the *Atlas for Biodiversity and Biodiversity Recovery Plan: A Blueprint for Protecting and Restoring Natural Communities in the Region*. In 2017, the Alliance nearly ceased operations due to financial insolvency of their fiscal sponsor. Kessler reestablished the Alliance and was elected Chair in 2019. Today, the Alliance is

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a thriving regional network leading strategy of a green vision to preserve, improve, and expand nature and quality of life for all people.

State-level leadership roles included the Suburban Parks and Recreation Association, the Illinois Association of Conservation & Forest Preserve Districts and the first Chairman of the Board of the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association. Her focus on diversity helped to create the first ethnic minority-focused park and recreation special interest group in the United States, known today as the Ethnic Minority Section. Her passion for inclusion helped secure passage of SB 1881 (PA 93-0612), amending the tax code to provide additional funding for Special Recreation Associations that serve individuals with disabilities.

Kessler has advocated on all levels for funding/legislation for parks, recreation and conservation, including the Land Water Conservation Fund, Open Space Land Acquisition Development, Natural Areas Acquisition Fund, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, among others.

Nationally, Kessler was inducted into the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration in 2006, later serving on the Board of Directors, appointed to AIPE/Academy Foundation Board, chairing the Extern Program and Advocacy Task Force, and brought new members into the Academy. In addition, she has served on the Great Lakes Regional Council, American Park and Recreation Society, Council for State Affiliate Presidents, and the NRPA Board of Trustees (President, 2010). During her presidency, she championed structural changes and technological advancements, including the Park and Recreation Operating Ratio and Geographic Information System, NRPA Connect, various research studies, participated in President Obama's White House Conference on America's Great Outdoors Initiative, and reconnected conservation as a core pillar of NRPA through the creation of the Conservation Task Force.

Recognition includes awards from the Illinois State University Recreation and Park Administration Distinguished Alumni, McHenry County Women of Distinction and Illinois Park and Recreation Association: Young Professional of the Year, Al Hattendorf Professional of the Year, Meritorious Service, President's Award, Professional Recognition, Fellow Award, and Robert Artz Lifetime Achievement Award, recognized by the Illinois House of Representatives.

Kessler's passion for community service is supported by her family, including her husband Ken of 34 years, sons Chris and Andy, daughter-in-law Briana and grandson James. Her life story is full of examples of how she has connected to nature and overcome obstacles. From restoring an 1850s farmhouse and turn-of-the-century barn, developing global friendships and promoting humanitarian efforts in Kawuku, Uganda, by creating the SSUBI Community Wellness Center NGO, and successfully battling the rare Stevens-Johnson syndrome at age four and two types of thyroid cancer. Her devotion to promoting diversity, enhancing equity, and fostering inclusive settings is part of her DNA, and she has continued to make an impact in her community and across the nation.



Arnold Randall

Arnold Randall is the General Superintendent of the Forest Preserves of Cook County and is responsible for the day-to-day management of one of the nation's oldest and largest forest preserves systems.

He was appointed to this position by Forest Preserves of Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle in December 2010. During General Superintendent Randall's tenure, the Forest Preserves has made notable strides in becoming a more transparent, accountable, and strategic government agency, with an increased focus on restoring and protecting Cook County's most precious natural areas.

Key accomplishments to date include the ambitious Next Century Conservation Plan; a multi-year centennial celebration to bring new and diverse audiences to the Preserves; developing and launching strategic plans for camping, recreation, trails and habitat restoration; creating an independent advisory Conservation and Policy Council comprised of civic and business leaders; and opening five new campgrounds that re-establish the legacy of camping in the Preserves.

Randall previously served as Director of the Office of Civic Engagement at the University of Chicago, where he helped plan and coordinate major public projects undertaken by the University, working as a liaison between the University and the City, neighbors, and other concerned parties. He was a key part of the Chicago 2016 Olympic Bid Committee's community outreach team and previously worked as Commissioner of the City of Chicago's Department of Planning and Development, where he directed the department's leadership responsibilities for promoting economic development in Chicago by helping new and existing businesses meet their goals for growth while creating new jobs for city residents.

In addition, Randall served in a number of roles with the Chicago Park District between 1995 and 2007, including Director of Legislative and Community Affairs, Director of Planning and Development, and Lakefront Area and South East Region Manager. Highlights of his tenure included leading the District's efforts to coordinate and host an urban parks summit featuring

representatives from the 25 most populated cities in the United States, which resulted in an urban parks federal agenda; overseeing the Park District's capital improvement plan, including the initial planning and community workshops for the development of Northerly Island; and managing the operation of 126 park locations on the south side of Chicago.

Randall holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and he attended the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration.

Randall has been active in numerous civic and professional organizations, including Chicago Community Development Commission (serving as the chair), Chicago Wilderness (serving as the chair), The Chicago Plan Commission, Commission on Chicago Landmarks, the Public Buildings Commission, the Woodlawn Children's Promise Community, Woodlawn New Communities Program (NCP), American City Planning Directors' Council, American Planning Association, Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA), the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the South East Chicago Commission (SECC) Executive Committee, the Harper Court Foundation Board, and the 53rd Street TIF Advisory Board.

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John J. Reynolds

John Reynolds was born a park ranger's son in Yellowstone National Park and has spent his life growing up in and being dedicated to parks, conservation, and youth. He had what he describes as “the most fun and satisfying career of anyone he knows” during his nearly 40-year career with the National Park Service.

Following student landscape architect jobs in Yellowstone and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks in 1966, he became a landscape architect/park planner working on and leading long-range planning for a wide variety of locations including Saratoga National Historical Park, Acadia National Park, Cape Cod National Seashore, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park and Yosemite National Park. During implementation of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, he led a team whose efforts resulted in authorization of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, Kobuk Valley National Park, and large additions to Denali National Park. He then headed two different park planning sections of the Denver NPS Service Center.

In a major career change, in 1979 he was assigned as assistant superintendent for planning and resource management of the newly authorized Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, in California. He led creation of the park's first long-range plan, to be accomplished in large degree in partnership with California State Parks and other park, county, and city jurisdictions within the boundary.

In 1984, he became superintendent of North Cascades National Park, Washington, with a mandate to lead the park through a major management reorientation and professionalization, a more conservation-focused long-range plan, and inclusion of partnerships to accomplish major goals. In partnership with others, he championed creation of the North Cascades Institute, one of the most respected educational organizations in the National Park Service.

In late 1988, he became Manager of the Denver Service Center, leading it through one of the Service's largest planning, design, and construction periods. He also conceived of and led the creation of the *NPS Guidelines for Sustainable Design*, the forerunner of broad and inclusive

sustainability policies for the Service. During this assignment, he also served as the head of an Environment and Sustainability Task Force for the American Society of Landscape Architects.

In early 1993, he served as director of the Mid-Atlantic Region, based in Philadelphia. Unexpectedly, the new National Park Service director, Roger Kennedy, asked him to become his deputy director, beginning in mid-1993. During this assignment, in addition to being responsible for all operations of the entire Service, he led a massive reduction of central office staffs, transfer of those positions to parks, and reducing the number of regions from ten to seven, with boundaries based on ecological relationships.

In 1997, following six months as Interim Manager of the Presidio of San Francisco, he became director of the Pacific West Region. While there he led negotiations with the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe to create a reservation including part of Death Valley National Park and other federal lands within the tribe's ancestral homelands. He also championed activation of Manzanar National Historic Site and Rosie the Riveter National Historical Park.

During his career, Reynolds championed National Park Service involvement and leadership in international conservation, advising on park issues in 12 countries including Saudi Arabia, Poland, India, and the USSR. He strongly supported the advent of the "sister park" agreements between parks with commonalities in the United States and other countries. He represented the United States for six years to the World Heritage Committee.

Following retirement in 2002, John has worked for the National Park Foundation as Senior Fellow and as Executive Vice President and for the Student Conservation Association as Government Relations manager. He served on the boards of several nonprofits, including the Student Conservation Association, Landscape Architecture Foundation, George Wright Society, Partners for Public Lands, Shenandoah National Park Trust, and as a founding board member of the Friends of the John Smith Trail, the Chesapeake Conservancy, Global Parks, the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership and the Friends of Flight 93.

He represented the Secretary of the Interior on the board of the Presidio Trust for eight years. He chaired federal advisory groups for Flight 93 National Memorial, the John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and Fort Hancock 21st Century at Gateway National Recreation Area. He was Virginia Citizen Representative to the Chesapeake Bay Commission for six years and an active member of the California Parks Forward Commission, formed to provide a roadmap for the system into the future. He currently serves on the board of the Fort Monroe Authority and the Chesapeake Conservancy.

He is a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects and a recipient of its Alfred B. Lagasse Award for "management and conservancy" in public service. He has been awarded

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the Department of the Interior Meritorious and Distinguished Service awards for his leadership within the National Park Service. After high school at the Phillips Exeter Academy, he earned a Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture degree from Iowa State University and a MLA from the State University College of Forestry at Syracuse University. He served six years in the New Jersey National Guard and the Army Reserve.

He lives in Crozet, VA, and is married to Barbara (Bobbie) Reynolds, who was born and raised in Yosemite Valley, where she worked for the park concessioner and then the National Park Service. Their son, Mike, is National Park Service regional director of the Intermountain Region. His brother, Bob, was a highly respected career interpreter and biologist, superintendent of several national parks, and deputy regional director of the Intermountain Region.

Past Recipients

- 1928 **Gold Medal**—Stephen T. Mather, Director and Founder of the National Park Service
Silver Medal—Duncan McDuffie, San Francisco, California member of the California State Parks Commission
Bronze Medal—Beatrice Ward Nelson, Charlottesville, Virginia, Secretary of the National Conference on State Parks
- 1929 **Gold Medal**—Mary Averell Harriman, Philanthropist
Silver Medal—Nathaniel Lord Britton, New York Botanical Garden
Bronze Medal—Thomas W. Hardison, Morrystown, Arkansas
- 1930 **Gold Medal**—Horace M. Albright, Director, National Park Service
Silver Medal—Theodore Wirth, General Superintendent of the Park Commissioners of Minneapolis, Minnesota
Bronze Medal—Charles G. Sauers, Indiana State Parks and Superintendent of the Cook County Illinois Forest Preserve
- 1931 **Gold Medal**—Richard Leiber, Director of the Indiana Conservation Department
Silver Medal—Albert M. Turner, Connecticut State Park and Forest Commission
Bronze Medal—Stella M. Leviston, San Francisco, California
- 1932 **Gold Medal**—Chauncey J. Hamlin, President of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences
Silver Medal—Peter Norbeck, United States Senator from South Dakota
Bronze Medal—Margo K. Frankel, Chairman of the Iowa Board of Conservation
- 1933 **Gold Medal**—William W. Niles, Chairman of the Taconic State Park Commission
Silver Medal—Tom Wallace, Kentucky State Park Commission, Editor of the *Louisville Times*
Bronze Medal—David E. Colp, Chairman, Texas State Parks Board
- 1934 **Gold Medal**—William A. Welch, General Manager and Chief Engineer, Palisades Interstate Park, New York and New Jersey
Silver Medal—William E. Carson, Riverside, Virginia, Director of the Virginia Department of Conservation
Bronze Medal—Philip W. Ayres, Chief Forester of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests
- 1935 **Gold Medal**—Howard B. Bloomer, Detroit, Michigan, Chairman of the Michigan Conservation Department
Silver Medal—John McLaren, Park Superintendent, San Francisco
Bronze Medal—Will O. Doolittle, Superintendent of Parks, Tulsa, Oklahoma
- 1936 **Gold Medal**—Robert Moses, Commissioner of Parks for the City of New York
Silver Medal—Roger W. Toll, Superintendent of Yellowstone Park
Bronze Medal—George M. Wright, Founder and Chief of the Wildlife Division of the National Park Service
- 1937 **Gold Medal**—J. Horace McFarland, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, President of the American Civic Association
Silver Medal—Charles P. Wilber, State Forester and Director of Department of Conservation and Development of New Jersey
Bronze Medal—William H. Carr, Director of the Trailside Museums at Bear Mountain

- 1938 **Gold Medal**—Arno B. Cammerer, Director National Park Service, Washington, D.C.
Silver Medal—Raymond H. Torrey, Journalist and Secretary of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society
Bronze Medal—Alvin E. Reeves, Director of Division of State Parks, Oklahoma
- 1939 **Gold Medal**—Robert Fechner, Director of the Civilian Conservation Corps
Silver Medal—Charles C. Deam, Indiana State Parks
Bronze Medal—William P. Alexander, Buffalo, New York
- 1940 **Gold Medal**—Hermon C. Bumpus, President of Tufts University; Chair NPS Advisory Board
Silver Medal—Newton B. Drury, Secretary, Save the Redwoods League of California
Bronze Medal—William A. Stinchcomb, Director, Cleveland Metropolitan Park District
- 1941 No medals were awarded
- 1942 **Gold Medal**—Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior
Silver Medal—Arthur E. Demaray, Assistant Director, National Park Service
Bronze Medal—Harlean James, Executive Secretary of the American Planning and Civic Association
- 1943-1946 Medal awards discontinued during World War II
- 1947 **Gold Medal**—Conrad L. Wirth, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.
Silver Medal—Thomas J. Allen, Regional Director, National Park Service, Richmond, Virginia
Bronze Medal—Samuel H. Boardman, Oregon State Highway Commission, Salem, Oregon
- 1948 **Gold Medal**—Percival P. Baxter, Portland, Maine
Silver Medal—Minor R. Tillotson, Regional Director, National Park Service, Santa Fe, New Mexico
Bronze Medal—Ellwood B. Chapman, President, Pennsylvania Parks Assn., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 1949 **Gold Medal**—Waldo G. Leland, National Park Service Advisory Board
Silver Medal—Hillory A. Tolson, Assistant Director, National Park Service
Bronze Medal—Jay Downer, Chief Engineer, Westchester County, New York
- 1950 **Gold Medal**—Newton B. Drury, Director, National Park Service
Silver Medal—Frank A. Kittredge, Chief Engineer, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.
Bronze Medal—William N. G. Haynes, Stonington, Connecticut
- 1951 **Gold Medal**—Arthur E. Demaray, Director, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.
Silver Medal—Victor W. Flickinger, Chief, Division of Parks, Department of Natural Resources, Columbus, Ohio
Bronze Medal—Frank D. Quinn, Chairman, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Austin, Texas
- 1952 **Gold Medal**—Harlean James, Executive Secretary, American Planning and Civic Association and the National Conference on State Parks, Washington, D.C.
Silver Medal—Ronald F. Lee, Assistant Director, National Park Service and Secretary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Washington, D.C.
Bronze Medal—Jerome C. Dretzka, Milwaukee County Commission, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- 1953 **Gold Medal**—Frederick L. Olmsted Jr., Palo Alto, California
Silver Medal—Edward J. Burns, Washington, D.C.
Bronze Medal—Olaus J. Murie, President, Wilderness Society, Moose, Wyoming

A Shift in Criteria for the Medals

By 1954, park facilities and services offered by local and state agencies were expanding dramatically. For many Americans, the most important parks were now those closest to their homes because they used those most frequently. Hence, the Pugsley Medals were reoriented to recognize their important role. The gold, silver, and bronze medals indicating different levels of meritorious contributions were replaced by recognition of outstanding service at the local, regional/state, and national levels. These contributions were recognized as being of equal merit. This interpretation was confirmed in a 1959 letter written by Conrad Wirth, Director of the National Park Service, in which he stated, "The gold medal is usually awarded to someone in the national field of park development; the silver is someone in the state field of park development; the bronze is someone in the metropolitan or city field of park development. While they are in gold, silver, and bronze, they all have equal value in their respective spheres of influence." While this general framework has been retained, in many cases, Pugsley Medal recipients made contributions at multiple levels, so the practice of formally associating them with a single level was abandoned.

- 1954 **Adrian D. Barnes**, Dade County Park Department, Miami, Florida
Russell Reid, Superintendent, State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismark, North Dakota
Harold C. Bryant, Assistant Director, National Park Service, Ovinda, California
- 1955 **Loring McMellan**, Vice-President Statten Island Historical Society, New York
Ruth E. Peeler, Vice Chair State Parks and Research Commission, Des Moines Washington
Thomas C. Vint, Chief Design and Construction, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.
- 1956 **Harold S. Wagner**, Metropolitan Park System, Akron, Ohio
James F. Evans, Director New York State Park System, Albany, New York
Gilbert H. Grosvenor, Chairman, National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C.
- 1957 **Charles E. Doell**, Superintendent, Board of Park Commissioners, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Kenneth R. Cougill, Division of State Parks, Anderson, Indiana
Ben H. Thompson Division of Recreation Resource Planning, NPS, Glen Echo, Maryland
- 1958 **Walter W. Wirth**, Salem Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon
Thomas W. Morse, Superintendent, State Parks, Raleigh, North Carolina
Eivind T. Scoyen, Associate Director, NPS, Washington, D.C.
- 1959 **Homer W. Fish**, Superintendent of Parks, Wheeling, West Virginia
George L. Collins, Regional Chief of Recreation Resource Planning, National Park Service, San Anselmo, California
Alfred A. Knopf, Publisher, Federal Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments, New York, New York
- 1960 **Louis B. Houston**, Director, Dallas Parks and Recreation Department, Texas
Harold W. Lathrop, Director of Colorado State Parks and Recreation, Denver, Colorado
Edmund B. Rogers, Superintendent of Rocky Mountain National Park and of Yellowstone National Park, Denver, Colorado
- 1961 **Frank G. McInnis**, Director, Detroit Zoological Park, Royal Oak, Michigan
Charles A. De Turk, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento, California
Allen T. Edmunds, Recreation Resource Planning, Regional Chief, National Park Service, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

- 1962 **Elo J. Urbanovsky**, Texas Technological College, Department of Park Management, Lubbock, Texas
Sidney S. Kennedy, Division Cooperative Services, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, NPS, Washington, D.C.
Freeman Tilden, Author, Warner, New Hampshire
- 1963 **Thomas S. Jett**, Regional Director, National Capital Parks, Washington, D.C.
Edward J. Meeman, Conservation Editor, Scripps-Howard Newspapers
Conrad L. Wirth, Director National Park Service, Washington, D.C.
- 1964 **Daniel L. Flaherty**, General Superintendent of Chicago Park District, Chicago, Illinois
U.W. Hella, Director, Division of State Parks, Department of Conservation, St. Paul, Minnesota
Harold P. Fabian, Attorney for Jackson Hole Preserve, Salt Lake City, Utah
- 1965 **Frank C. Vaydik**, Superintendent, Board of Park Commissioners, Kansas City, Missouri
Russell B. Tobey, Director, Division of Parks, Concord, New Hampshire
Elbert Cox, Regional Director, National Park Service, Richmond, Virginia
- 1966 **Norman S. Johnson**, Superintendent of Parks, Los Angeles, California
Kermit McKeever, Chief, Division of Parks and Recreation, Charleston, West Virginia
James H. Evans, Chairman, National Recreation and Park Association, New York City
- 1967 **John P. Hewitt**, Director, The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Silver Spring, Maryland
Earl P. Hanson, Chief, California Division of Beaches and Parks, Sacramento, California
George B. Hartzog, Jr. Director, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.
- 1968 **Theodore Kazimiroff**, Historian, Bronx Borough, Bronx, New York
William M. Gosdin, Director, Department of Park Services, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Austin, Texas
Lemuel A. Garrison, Director, Region V, National Park Service, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 1969 **Nash Castro**, Regional Director, National Capital Parks, Washington, D.C.
Joseph J. Truncer, Director, Department of Conservation and Economics, Division of Parks, Trenton, New Jersey
Lawrence N. Stevens, Associate Director, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Washington, D.C.
- 1970 **Robert W. Ruhe**, Superintendent, Board of Park Commission, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Ben H. Bolen, Commissioner, Virginia Division of Parks, Richmond, Virginia
Harthon L. Bill, Deputy Director, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.
- 1971 **Earl E. Gaylor**, General Manager, Oglebay Park, Wheeling, West Virginia
Joseph W. Sousa, Director, Hawaii State Parks, Hawaii
Melvin M. Payne, Chairman, National Geographic Society
- 1972 **Howard W. Gregg**, General Manager, Milwaukee County, Park and Recreation Department, Wisconsin
William P. Mott, Director, California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento, California
Nathaniel P. Reed, Assistant Secretary, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C.
- 1973 **Horace Caldwell**, Executive Director, Jekyll Island Authority, Georgia
William A. Par, Superintendent, Maryland State Parks
Elbert Cox, Regional Director, National Park Service, Richmond, Virginia
- 1974 **Rhodell E. Owens**, Director, Peoria Park District, Illinois
Lawrence Stuart, Director, Maine State Parks
Russell Dickenson, Director, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

1975-1978 No medals were awarded.

1979 Max D. Ramsey, Director, Cultural Resources and Recreation for Tennessee Valley Authority
Nash Castro, Executive Director, Palisades Interstate Park Commission, New York-New Jersey
Daniel J. Tobin, Deputy Director, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

1980 No medals were awarded.

1981 Frank Vaydik, Director, Kansas City Parks, Recreation, and Conservation

1982 Graham A. Skea, Director, Parks, Recreation and Conservation, Orange County, New York
William P. Mott, Director, California Parks Foundation
John A. Townsely, Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming

1983 David O. Laidlaw, Director, Huron-Clinton Metroparks, Ohio
Charles Odegaard, Director, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Manus J. Fish, Director, National Capital Region, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

1984-1986 No medals were awarded.

1987 Robert F. Toalson, Director, Champaign Park District, Illinois
William C. Forrey, Director, Pennsylvania State Parks
Marc Sagan, Chief, Harpers Ferry Center, National Park Service

1988 William R. Bird, Director, Metropolitan Dade County Parks and Recreation Department, Florida
William C. Walters, Director, Indiana State Parks
William P. Mott Jr., Director, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

1989 H. C. Johnson, Director, DuPage County Forest Preserve, Illinois
Orin Lehman, Commissioner, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Philip O. Stewart, Assistant Director, Land Acquisition, National Park Service
Willis P. Kriz, Chief, Land Resources Division, National Park Service

1990 Richard Trudeau, Director, East Bay Regional Park District, California
William J. Hopkins, Director, Delaware State Parks
David G. Talbot, Director, Oregon State Parks
Gary Everhardt, Director, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

1991 Ronald H. Dodd, Director, Chicago Park District, Illinois
Ford W. Hughes, Director, St. James Foundation
Dennis P. Galvin, Deputy Director, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

1992 Ralph S. Cryder, Director, Los Angeles County Parks, California
Boyd Evison, Regional Director, National Park Service
Ray Murray, National Park Service, San Francisco, California

1993 James A. Colley, Director, Phoenix Parks, Recreation and Library Department, Arizona
Andrew Sansom, Director, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
William J. Briggles, Superintendent, Mt. Ranier National Park
James M. Ridenour, Director, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

1994 James A. Truncer, Director, Monmouth County Park System, New Jersey
Cordie O. Hudkins, Director, West Virginia State Parks
John Cook, Regional Director, National Park Service, Santa Fe, New Mexico

- 1995 Charles R. Jordan, Director, Portland Parks and Recreation, Oregon
Edward J. Koenenmann, Director, Vermont State Parks
- 1996 No medals were awarded.
- 1997 Ernest W. Nance, Director, Oaklawn Park District, Illinois
Ira J. Hutchison, Assistant Director, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.
- 1998 Ken Winslade, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, New Westminster, BC, Canada
Fran P. Mainella, Director, Florida State Parks
- 1999 Joseph Caverly, Director, Westchester County Parks Commission, New York
John L. Crompton, Distinguished Professor, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas
- 2000 Christopher K. Jarvi, Director, City of Anaheim, California
Carol M. Severin, Chair, East Bay Regional Park District, California
Bruce Babbitt, Secretary, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C.
- 2001 Anne S. Close, Fort Mill, South Carolina
Andrea S. Moore, State Representative, Illinois
Joseph J. Bannon, Professor Emeritus, University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois
- 2002 Eugene Young, Superintendent of the Recreation and Park Commission for East Baton Rouge Parish (BREC), Louisiana
Bernadette Castro, Commissioner, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Dean R. Tice, Executive Director, National Recreation and Park Association, Ashburn, Virginia
- 2003 Terry Hershey, Conservationist, Houston, Texas
Pat O'Brien, General Manager, East Bay Regional Park District, California
Robert G. Stanton, Director, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.
- 2004 Victor Ashe, Mayor of Knoxville, Tennessee
Brian O'Neill, Superintendent, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, National Park Service, California
Laurance S. Rockefeller, Conservationist and Philanthropist, Pocantico, New York
- 2005 Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson, Conservationist, Austin, Texas
Clifton E. French, Superintendent, Hennepin County Minnesota Park Preserve District
Patrick F. Noonan, Chairman, Conservation Fund, Washington, D.C.
- 2006 Tony A. Mobley, Dean Emeritus, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana
L.W. "Bill" Lane Jr., Retired Publisher of *Sunset*, Menlo Park, California
- 2007 Fran P. Mainella, Director, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.
Elizabeth Barlow Rogers, President, Central Park Conservancy, New York City
Stuart L. Udall, Secretary of Interior, Washington, D.C.
- 2008 Henry L. Diamond, Environmental Lawyer, Washington D.C.
Vern J. Hartenburg, Executive Director, Cleveland Metroparks, Ohio
Elizabeth Cushman Titus Putnam, Founding President, Student Conservation Association, New Hampshire
- 2009 George L. Bristol, President, Texas Coalition for Conservation
Huey D. Johnson, President, Resource Renewal Institute
Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Executive Vice-President, Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation
Anne M. Burke, Justice, Illinois Supreme Court

- 2010 **Martin J. Rosen**, Founding Member, Board Chairman, and retired President, The Trust for Public Land
Harry (Hal) G. Haskell, Jr., Life trustee, National Recreation and Park Association, citizen advocate, Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania
Charles E. Hartsoe, Professor Emeritus, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia
- 2011 **Roderick Frazier Nash**, Author and Professor, Santa Barbara, California
James Reed Ellis, Citizen Activist and Conservationist, Bellevue, Washington
John L. Nau III, Historic Preservationist, Houston, Texas
- 2012 **Pete Dangermond**, Previous Director of California State Department of Parks and Recreation, and President of Save-the-Redwood League, California
Roger K. Brown, Previous Parks and Recreation Director for seven different departments over 50 years, Former President of both NRPA and IFPRA, First Southeast Regional Director of NRPA; Greensboro, NC
Joe Crookham, Citizen Advocate for Youth, Family, and Community, President, Musco Lighting, Oskaloosa, Iowa
- 2013 **Beverly D. (Brandes) Chrisman**, Chairman of NRPA (1991–1995); Chairman of Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission (1987–2002) in Irmo, SC; Lexington, SC
John H. Davis, Executive Director of NRPA (1976–1986); Director of Dalton, Georgia Recreation Department (1957–1963); Culpepper, Virginia
Barry Sanford Tindall, NRPA Director of Public Policy (1967–2005) including assistance to The Nature Conservancy, NPS, and President’s Commission on Americans Outdoors; Falls Church, Virginia
- 2014 **Eric W. O’Brien**, Chairman of M.E. O’Brien & Sons; Chair of NRPA (1995–1999); Chair of Foundation for Sustainable Parks and Recreation (2014)
James A. Peterson, Professor Emeritus, Indiana University Department of Recreation and Park Administration; President of NRPA (1987–1988); Inducted into Indiana Football Hall of Fame (1993)
Kathryn A. Porter, Chair of NRPA (1989–1991); Past President of National Recreation Foundation
- 2015 **Lamar Alexander**, three-term U.S. Senator for Tennessee; former U.S. Education Secretary; former University of Tennessee president
John C. Potts, Illinois parks leader; 12-year Academy Executive Secretary/Treasurer; NRPA Directors School faculty charter member
M. Kathleen Perales, research biologist with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; leader in creation of Natural Resource Management Gateway
- 2016 **Richard L. Ash, Jr.**, former Director of St. Charles, MO Parks & Recreation, leader in formation of Great Rivers Greenway District, former President of Conservation Federation of Missouri
John Sutter, 20-year member of East Bay (CA) Regional Park District Board, three-term Board President, founding member of Greenbelt Alliance
- 2017 **Anita B. Gorman**, Kansas City, Missouri, longtime Park & Recreation Board Commissioner; driving force behind City of Fountains Foundation
Lewis Ledford, North Carolina State Park Director; executive director of National Association of State Park Directors
Peter G. Sortino, force behind City ArchRiver Initiative, St. Louis, Missouri
- 2018 **Robert E. Doyle**, General Manager, East Bay Regional Park District, Oakland, California; founding board member Save Mount Diablo, East Bay Conservation Corps, and Bay Area Ridge Trail Council
William C. Scalzo, (retired) Director, Maricopa County Parks & Recreation Department, Arizona; Chair Arizona State Parks Board

- 2019 **Renée E. Bahl**, former director San Diego County Park Department, California; former executive director Arizona State Parks Board; former Santa Barbara County's Assistant County Executive Officer, California
Richard J. Dolesh, former vice president conservation and parks and former vice president of strategic initiatives, National Recreation and Park Association
Dr. Phillip Rea, (retired) Professor, North Carolina State University; author
- 2020 **Dr. Daniel L. Dustin**, co-author *Stewards of Access, Custodians of Change* and author *The Wilderness Within: Reflections on Leisure and Life*; tenured faculty at San Diego State University, Florida International University, and University of Utah; environmentalist; advocate for the healing power of nature

American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration

Class of 2021

Sheila Canzian, Director, San Mateo, California
Homer Garcia, Director, San Antonio, Texas
Paul Gilbert, Executive Director, Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, Virginia
Edwin Gomez, Professor & Chair, East Carolina University, North Carolina
Scott Martin, Executive Director, River Heritage Conservancy, Indiana
Maria Nardi, Director, Miami-Dade County, Florida
Sonya Shaw, Director (Retired), Garner, North Carolina
Michael Shull, General Manager, Los Angeles, California
Katie Troline, Founder/CEO, Gold Medal Force, Roswell, New Mexico
Dina Trunzo, CRTS, Administrator, Somerset County Park Commission, New Jersey

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