

1992
Freeman Tilden
Awards

WINNERS



1992 National Recipient Southeast Region

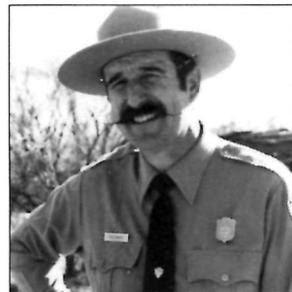
David Kronk received the National Freeman Tilden Award for work he accomplished while Manager of Hidden Lake Environmental Education Center in Everglades National Park. The award was given in recognition of the work he accomplished in creating a series of exciting and inventive environmental education programs for children. In particular was a most successful videotape on critical resources made by and for children. The students worked closely with park researchers on various projects including the capture of a Florida panther. The video is currently used in more than 300 schools. Concerned that critical reasoning skills were not always being used in the park's education program, Dave perfected the skills and then conducted workshops for 200 park staff and educators. To further enhance student learning, Dave created the character of "Alligator Jack" under whose guise he interacts with students. To ensure that students realize their own responsibilities he developed a certificate of appreciation for those attending day programs which lists ten ways to conserve water. Dave's ingenuity and inexhaustible inventiveness have ensured that a whole generation of Florida children better understand their responsibilities to the world around them. Now working at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Dave Kronk recently reflected upon his award and said, "I feel the areas I have been recognized for, outreach to the community and improved education efforts involving the teaching of critical thinking skills are two areas I hope the NPS looks at more closely in the future as being important to the overall mission of interpretation."



Melinda Day
Harpers Ferry NHP



Joe Decker
Glacier NP



Donald Garate
Tumacacori NHP



Eleanor Hall
Jefferson NEM



Rol Hesselbart
Shenandoah NP



Marie Marek
Nez Perce NHP



Bruce Paige
Glacier Bay NP



Andrea Sharon
Bandelier NM



Hazel Tremblay
Salem Maritime NHS

Congratulations!

Congratulations to all ten 1992 Freeman Tilden Award Recipients in this eleventh year of the award. And a special salute to David Kronk the overall National Award Winner for his work at Everglades National Park. The award is sponsored by the National Park Service and the National Parks and Conservation Association. The 1992 judges included former Director, NPS Mr. James M. Ridenour, Mr. Paul Pritchard, President NPCA, and Dr. Paul H. Risk, Stephen F. Austin State University.

Their decision was based upon degree of creativity displayed by the nominees and the amount of impact that their work had upon the participating public. As in the past, the task though pleasant was difficult due to the high quality of the candidates.

The National Award Ceremony was held during the November, 1992 National Association for Interpretation Workshop in Santa Clara, California. David Kronk, the National Award Recipient received a bronze bust of Freeman Tilden from the National Park Service, and a \$2500 award from the National Parks and Conservation Association. A large contingent of interpreters were on hand to witness the ceremony and celebrate with the winners.

Alaska Region

Bruce Paige, Chief of Interpretation at Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve, received the Alaska Regional Tilden Award in recognition of the unique interpretive program which he designed and implemented for cruise ships and tour boats visiting the Bay. Bruce has managed to create an outstanding and highly popular program that provided interpretation on board 369 cruises and tours operated by 10 different companies in 1992. This is no simple task, requiring coordination with irregular boat schedules & complex logistical & staffing concerns. Bruce's unique approach includes the use of P.A. systems, information stations, roving contacts around decks, formal talks, slide programs, children's programs, portable exhibits, and the use of NPS patrol boats for logistical support. The Glacier Bay interpretive program on vessels has been so successful that it has been much emulated by the cruise and tour boat industry and other parks. Thanks to Bruce's energy and creativity, the Park has been able to provide knowledgeable & inspiring interpretation to more than 2 million visitors over the last five years, a figure representing 90% of the park's visitation.

Mid-Atlantic Region

Education Specialist and South District Interpreter **Rol Hesselbart**, was awarded the Mid-Atlantic Regional Tilden Award for establishing a highly successful education program at Shenandoah National Park in a very short period of time. When Rol began in September 1990 to create an education program, he had no support staff and no funding. In spite of these somewhat discouraging conditions, he forged ahead, and began interviewing educators in the surrounding 8 counties to determine their interests and needs, and expanded the park's cooperative agreement with the Wildlife Center of Virginia to include joint education programs. By June of 1991, Rol was already able to offer a program for nearly 3000 students. The program has since expanded to include regular teacher's workshops and specific programs entitled "Tools of the Trade," "Of Fields, Forests & Streams: Habitats of Shenandoah," and "The Variety of Life." By the end of 1991, a teacher's guide was available, 64 educators had attended 3 workshops, and the education program was established as a critical part of park operations with park funding. Under Rol's skillful leadership, the education program saw a 34% increase in participation in 1992, and was able to train an additional 35 educators, becoming one of the premier programs in the park.

Midwest Region

If you've ever wondered what traveling the Oregon Trail would have been like, Park Ranger **Eleanor Hall** of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial is definitely the person to see. Eleanor received the Midwest Regional Tilden Award for the exciting and innovative programs she instituted at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis. Eleanor's unusual ability to help students and visitors journey back to 1848 in an imaginary time machine makes her programs uniquely stimulating and popular. She conducts school children on an Oregon Trail journey through the Museum of Westward Expansion, during which they load and unload their own "covered wagon," and engage in a series of role-playing scenarios typical of an overland journey. For visitors who cannot come to the Museum in person, Eleanor greatly expanded the park's Traveling Trunk program to include schools, senior citizen centers, scout camps, & libraries throughout the Midwest. She has also reached out to a national audience by developing an outstanding curriculum guide in honor of the Trail's Sesquicentennial which includes materials for kindergarten through high school. In all these activities, Eleanor's own enthusiasm and thorough knowledge of her subject makes her journeys along the Oregon Trail an eye-opening adventure for all.

National Capital Region

Park Ranger **Melinda Day** of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park received the National Capital Regional Tilden Award in recognition of the extensive and outstanding work she has done in researching African American history and incorporating that history into the park's education and interpretive programs. Melinda played a critical and instrumental role in the creation of the new permanent exhibit "Black Voices from Harpers Ferry," and introduced new content into already established education programs. She spent hundreds of hours (much of it her own time) digging through documents & microfilm to piece together the stories of people that otherwise might have been forgotten. She also saw to it that this new material was incorporated into existing park tours, school programs, and a new traveling exhibit. She further enriched the park's programs by designing a temporary exhibit called "Personal Battlefields," and preparing a self-guided walking tour. Some of her other original programs include presentations on African American genealogy, costumed storytelling, and directed research projects with students. Since 1979, Melinda has immeasurably improved the park's interpretive programs through her valuable leadership, energy, and deep historical knowledge.

North Atlantic Region

Although one would certainly expect to see interpretive programs based on cultural history themes at Salem Maritime National Historic Site, Park Ranger **Hazel Trembley** received the North Atlantic Regional Tilden Award for the innovative endangered species education program she designed that skillfully illustrates the connections between natural and cultural resource issues. Hazel created a unique education program that connects Salem's historic maritime trade with today's world-wide dealing in endangered species products. Students learn about Salem's early trade for spices, coffees, teas and porcelain, but also examine the popularity of such items as ivory figurines and coral necklaces, and the dire consequences that demand for these products have had on different species. By using examples of both early and modern trade products, Hazel helps students explore the dynamics of consumer demand and its role in the extinction of species both historically and today. Thanks to Hazel's dedication, insight and encouragement, many children now better understand the responsibility they carry as consumers, and the importance of their role in protecting endangered wildlife.

Pacific Northwest Region

The Pacific Northwest Regional Tilden Award was presented to **Marie Marek** while she was Supervisory Park Ranger at Nez Perce National Historical Park. Thanks to Marie's outstanding communications skills and untiring personal efforts, the park was able to mount a major art exhibit & greatly expand & improve its interpretive & educational programs. Marie has been unusually successful in creating partnerships with the Nez Perce community, including hiring individuals as park staff and VIPs. She was Project Manager for the park's first major exhibition, "Sapatq'aym: Twentieth Century Nez Perce Artists" which featured outstanding works of contemporary Nez Perce art. Marie ensured that this very exciting exhibition reached a national audience through the publication of a very striking catalogue, & by arranging for interviews with the Nez Perce artists on Northwest Public Radio & National Native News. Marie also spearheaded the park's effort to create a more coordinated education program by developing additional hands-on activities & materials, and a series of teachers' workshops. Marie's dedication and unusual sensitivity have enabled students & park visitors to better understand and appreciate some of the beauty and complexity of Nez Perce history & contemporary culture.

Rocky Mountain Region

Joe Decker, West Lakes District Naturalist at Glacier National Park, received the Rocky Mountain Regional Tilden Award for his extensive & innovative work on the park's environmental/heritage education program, particularly his creation of *Work House*, an environmental education program for Native American school children. This product is unique in that it was designed specifically for Native American children and presents environmental concepts in terminology and cultural contexts that are most meaningful to them. Working closely with more than 40 tribal advisors, Joe designed a curriculum package and associated activity kits which were distributed to the tribal and reservation schools. He also organized 2 teacher workshops on the Blackfeet & Flathead Reservations to introduce the material to teachers & give them hands-on experience. In addition to his efforts on *Work House*, Joe created the "Glacier National Park Environmental Education Guide" series which includes guides on various park themes. He wrote a site bulletin to explain the new & improved education programs. Thanks to Joe's inspiration, skill, & leadership, over 4000 children & their teachers have been served by these exciting programs.

Southwest Region

If ever there was an interpreter who did more with less, that interpreter is **Andrea Sharon**, Supervisory Park Ranger at Bandelier National Monument and recipient of the Southwest Regional Tilden Award. Determined to keep the Visitor Center open & improve the quality of the interpretive programs in spite of a discouraging budget situation, Andrea took the initiative to seek out grants from the New Mexico Arts Division & was able to offer a new series of on-site cultural awareness programs which showcased artists from local pueblos & helped to demonstrate the continuity of Pueblo culture from prehistoric times to the present. By soliciting help from various museum experts & pueblos, Andrea was also able to offer a new "Visit With the Artist" program. In order to assist the 346,000 visitors attracted to the park by these exciting new programs, Andrea aggressively recruited & trained a volunteer staff which provides more than half of the park's interpretive programs, & 80% of its roving contacts on park trails. She keeps the staff excited & involved with a series of enrichment seminars throughout the year on appropriate resource related themes. Because of Andrea's dedication, skill & unflagging energy, Bandelier is able to offer a full slate of premier interpretive programs.

Western Region

The Western Regional Tilden Award recipient is **Donald Garate**, the dynamic Interpretive Specialist at Tumacacori National Historical Park. Don has been extremely successful in expanding the park's outreach efforts across the border to Mexico. A highlight of these efforts was an International Quincentennial Conference entitled "500 Years After the Meeting of Two Worlds" which Don organized in Nogales, Mexico early this year. Don was also the driving force behind the park's Annual Fiesta and Christmas Eve Luminarias Program which attracted large numbers of visitors from both sides of the border. He has also been busy developing new interpretive programs on the mission garden, stories & songs of the Spanish frontier, & Tumacacori art & architecture. Don himself often appears as a Spanish missionary in a living history program. A new school program with an annual poster contest has been established, and foreign language handouts prepared in German and French. Don's outstanding efforts and sensitivity have furthered NPS goals to forge international partnerships & understanding, and to bring the history of Tumacacori to life.