

# Announcing the Richard West Sellars Fund for the Forum

*Jennifer Palmer*

Dear GWS members and friends,

AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, our community recently lost one of our most beloved and devoted friends of parks, protected areas, and cultural sites. Richard West Sellars dedicated 35+ years of his life to the National Park Service and continued to expand his leadership through many esteemed publications, most notably his 1997 landmark book, *Preserving Nature in the National Parks: A History*. His ongoing contributions and service truly shined a light on the preservation of historic sites and parks management and he will be dearly missed by all of us.

In honor of his legacy, the Richard West Sellars Fund for the Forum has been established to recognize the long association between Dick Sellars and the George Wright Society. The fund celebrates his personal interest in *The George Wright Forum* as a reader and a regular contributing author. As a life member of the George Wright Society, Dick served as our president for two years, and faithfully participated in many GWS conferences. In 2011, he was awarded the prestigious George Melendez Wright Award for Excellence.

As our Society goes through some necessary transitions in the coming year, this fund will ensure that *The George Wright Forum* continues to maintain its standard of excellence with professional editorial direction, and that through 2018 it will continue to be published in both a hard-copy as well as an electronic format for the benefit of all Society members. It is our expectation that the Richard West Sellars Fund for the Forum will also ensure a smooth transition to an even better, redesigned *George Wright Forum* in the future.

The Richard West Sellars Fund for the Forum will be used to strengthen the programs of the George Wright Society and specifically enable *The George Wright Forum* to continue as the preeminent interdisciplinary park and protected areas journal. *The George Wright Forum* stands alone as a journal that addresses natural and cultural heritage issues, social science, and the state of current research and stewardship. The *Forum* is now more essential than ever to support a network of park and protected areas professionals and contribute to the critical work of conservation scholarship.

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We are pleased to report that we are launching the Richard West Sellars Fund for the Forum with an anonymous lead challenge gift of \$10,000. We can think of no better tribute to his lifelong commitment to scholarship and park professionalism.

Together let's make a tangible contribution in honor of this remarkable legacy and the future of the George Wright Society! To make a donation to the fund or to the GWS in general, please visit <https://www.georgewright society.org/donate>.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jm', with a large, sweeping initial 'J'.

Jennifer Palmer, Executive Director  
George Wright Society