

Natural resource stewards honored

Two resource managers, a researcher, a park superintendent, and an exhibit specialist were honored among their peers last summer at three different awards ceremonies as recipients of the prestigious Director's Awards for Resource Stewardship for 1996. All winners were recognized for their outstanding contributions to technical expertise, continuity,

and innovative thinking in research and resource management.

Gary Davis, Senior Scientist and Research Marine Biologist

at Channel Islands National Park, California, was given the 1996 Director's Award for Natural Resource Research. Davis is a champion of ecological monitoring and scientifically based ecosystem management. He has shown these strategies to be reliable



Gary Davis

and cost effective and has developed monitoring protocols used widely by others. He is an inspiration among colleagues and a mentor of young scientists. His research, which has contributed to marine conservation in the Caribbean, Florida, and California, has explored the role of maritime parks as refugia to sustain and restore coastal fisheries and protect biodiversity. Davis is also a leader and has served as president of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences and the George Wright Society; he was a board member of the Natural Areas Association. He returned to the National Park Service recently after serving with the USGS Biological Resources Division, California Science Center, since 1993. His research insights and broad understanding of marine resources have been very valuable assets to the National Park Service and the Biological Resources Division. "To be recognized among peers feels good," Davis said. "These awards remind us all of what a job well done looks like."

The 1996 Director's Award For Natural Resource Management was awarded to Ken Czarnowski, Hydrologist at Rocky Mountain National Park,

Colorado.

Through his creativity and persistence, Czarnowski has resolved numerous complex natural resource issues at the park, primarily those dealing with water rights. For example, he negotiated with the Bureau of Reclamation and other

parties to redirect water back into a park drainage, providing for natural park processes and restoring a high altitude park wetland. Working with the Department of the Interior Office of the Solicitor, the Department of Justice, and the NPS Water Resources Division, Czarnowski developed agreements to protect the park from future litigation on water issues. Additionally, Czarnowski's broad understanding of park resources, negotiation skills, and ability to work with attorneys and technical staff from other agencies have helped to address aircraft overflight issues at the park.

Winning the 1996 Director's Award for Superintendent of the Year for Natural Resource Stewardship was Alan O'Neill of Lake Mead National Recreation Area. O'Neill is a visionary who has built a professional resource management program

at the Arizona-Nevada park. His commitment to resource protection is evident from his support of the park's burro management program, the razorback sucker recovery plan, and the federally listed desert tortoise habitat protection endeavor. O'Neill also excels as a leader. He helped bring to-



Ken Czarnowski

gether numerous partners during the initial phases of the California Desert Ecosystem

Management Initiative, a complex interagency framework for managing over 25 million acres of public lands. As chairman of the Pacific-West Region resource management and science task force, he leads by example, providing support to parks engaged in strate-



Alan O'Neill

gic planning efforts. His leadership has enhanced the NPS role in cooperative ecosystem management and sets an excellent example for all land managers.

For the first time, the Director's awards included the Trish Patterson-SCA Award, which recognizes excellence in natural resource management in small parks, where staff are often especially limited.

Continued on page 4

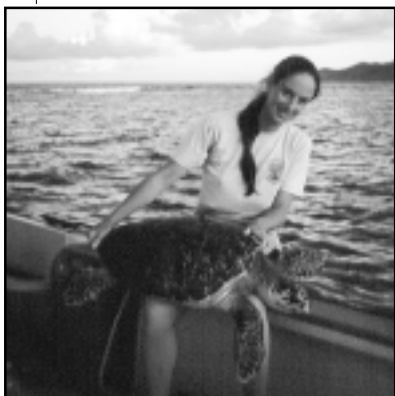
Continued from page 3

Patterson was a Southeast Region resource manager who died in a 1995 car accident; she was well known for her efforts to assist small parks in her region. Sponsored by the Student Conservation Association, the award provides extra assistance to the winning park by supplying a seasonal resource assistant to help complete important resource management projects.

The first Trish Patterson-SCA honoree is Zandy-Marie Hillis-Starr, Biological Technician at Buck Island Reef National Monument in the Caribbean. The sole resource manager at Buck Island Reef, Hillis-Starr has established an internationally renowned sea turtle monitoring program at the park and nearby

tect the hawksbill sea turtle under the Endangered Species Act. With a knack for getting things done, Hillis-Starr instituted a program with volunteers and visiting scientists to document the effects of Hurricane Hugo (1989) and monitor subsequent reef recovery. She also arranged cooperative agreements with government and private organizations to assist in reef and turtle projects.

The Ray E. Appleman-Henry A. Judd Award, which recognizes achievement in cultural resource management, went to Jake Barrow, a Supervisory Exhibit Specialist with the Intermountain Cultural Research Center in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Barrow has been instrumental in several multiyear projects to conserve historic structures at Fort Union National Monument and Hot Springs National Park and other cultural resources in the Southwest. His efforts have advanced the conservation of cultural resources made of earth, stone, and wood. Whatever the need, Barrow marshals researchers, conservators, and funds to initiate projects and keep them



Zandy-Marie Hillis-Starr

Christiansted National Historic Site; she also has established coral reef monitoring at Buck Island Reef. Her preparation of the Buck Island Hawksbill Turtle Research Program Manual has served to standardize data collection methods for endangered turtles and reef monitoring. Information derived from the sea turtle program has been used to pro-



Jake Barrow

going until completion. In almost every case, the lessons learned at one site are applicable elsewhere.