

2022 NASPD Awards presentations

Executive Director
Lewis Ledford



Healthy Park System Award

Presented by

Cindy DeBlauw

Bureau of Community Health and Wellness
Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services



2021 Survivors Award

Presented annually to any director who has held their position for five years or more, beating the national average.





Grady Spann



2021 Presidents Award Recipients

The Presidents award is presented each year to individuals, groups and organizations who have made an extraordinary contribution to America's State Parks at the local, state or national level.

Presented by Paul McCormack and Phil Bryce



Charles & Anna Lutz Foundation



Friends of Harriman State Park



Beltzville State Park & The Friends of Beltzville



Black Folks Camp Too



William “Bill” Doan

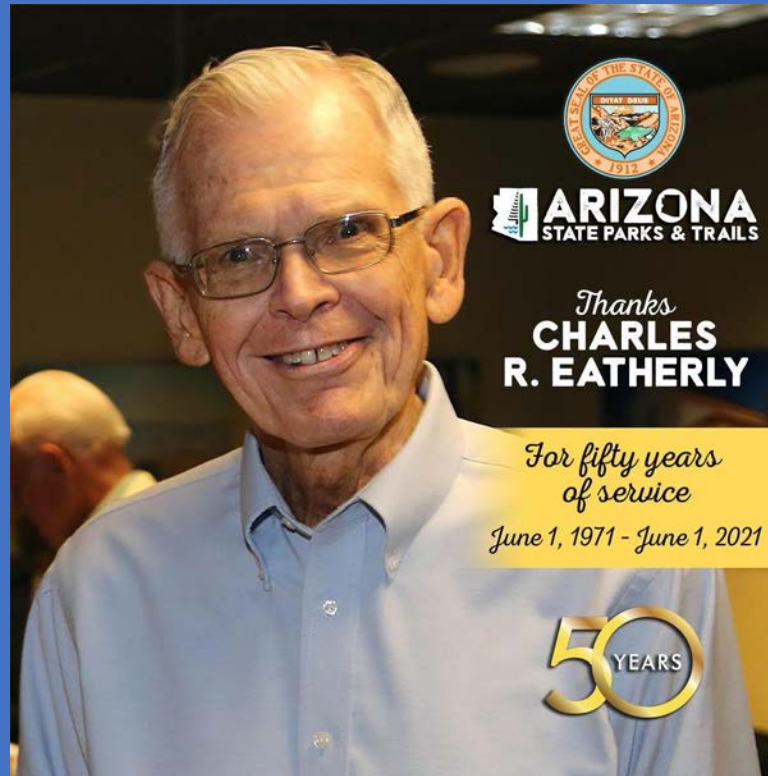
Why...

For the love of the tree;
For the song of the bird;
For the fragrance of the wild;
For the taste of the sounds;
It's MY RAM;
It's MY me;
It's MY my;
It's MY mine.

For the father of nature;
For the mother of time;
For the kindred of spirits;
For the past and the future;
It's MY world;
It's MY job;
It's MY life;
It's MY why.



Charles Eatherly



Healthy Kidz Inc...



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Ney C Landrum History Award

Recognizes individuals, teams and organizations that have displayed outstanding efforts in original research and presentation of state park history.

Presented by Todd Cofelt



Texas State Park Interpretive Services

Road to Equality

Breaking Point

The injustice of segregation could not be ignored. In 1949, Tyler resident T. R. Register wrote a letter to the State Parks Board seeking access to the park. Though the board denied his request, Register began a legal challenge that would allow African Americans to access their park. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People took on the lawsuit and won. Following the "separate but equal" standard, African Americans could only visit a certain area of the park, accessed by the road ahead of you.

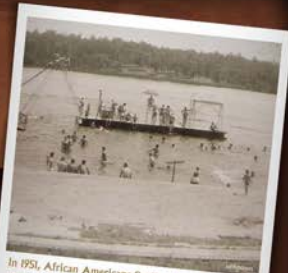


U. Simpson Tate of the NAACP argued the case for equal access. Tate is pictured here with future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall at a 1956 court hearing in Tyler.

The road ahead was once the segregated entrance to Tyler State Park. Today, it's a scenic hiking trail that everyone can enjoy.

No Admittance

Imagine paying for something and not being able to use it due to the color of your skin. During segregation, this was the reality for African Americans wishing to visit many Texas state parks. Racial discrimination was the law of the land, following the standard of "separate but equal." In reality, segregation was never equal. For example, no comparable park existed near Tyler that was accessible to African-Americans. So, although their tax dollars had helped build Tyler State Park, they were simply excluded.



In 1951, African Americans finally gained access to a portion of the park, visible across the lake in this photo. However, the main swimming area remained "whites only" until legal segregation ended in 1964.

The Road's Legacy

Legal segregation finally came to an end with the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. However, social customs continued for years to prevent real integration. This road reminds us of a bitter period in our history, but it is also a symbol of the hard path to justice taken by so many people during the Civil Rights movement. And that path continues today, as we work to make our wild places accessible and welcoming to all.



Repurposed from an old truck road, this separate entrance was only a stepping stone toward equality. Today, Tyler State Park is proud to invite everyone to enjoy the outdoors.

Path to Justice

Today, Bastrop State Park is here for all to enjoy, but it wasn't always welcoming to everyone.



No Admittance

Imagine being turned away from a park due to the color of your skin. During segregation, this was the reality for African Americans wishing to visit places like Bastrop State Park. Racial discrimination was the law of the land, following the standard of "separate but equal." In reality, segregation was never equal. For example, no comparable park existed near Bastrop that was available to African Americans. So, they were simply excluded.

Segregation made planning uncertain for African Americans wishing to travel. This guide promised, "Access and Recreation Without Segregation."



Soldier for Justice

The injustice of segregation endured for decades after the park was opened to the public. In 1963, the Austin NAACP staged an action to force integration of Bastrop State Park. Volma Overton, Jr. led his Boy Scout Troop #70 to the park to force the issue. Gaining entry to the park, the group swam in the pool and played through the golf course. As the first group of African Americans to use the park without being asked to leave, they declared the park integrated.

Volma Overton, Jr. is a local civil rights hero and the Austin NAACP for years.

Segregation and the CCC

Racial segregation at Bastrop State Park began during its construction. The Civilian Conservation Corps built the park during the Great Depression. At first, the program was racially integrated, but this didn't prevent racial prejudice. African American enrollees were relegated to menial service jobs. They were often denied the valuable job training opportunities given to their white counterparts. Bowing to social pressure, CCC administrators later segregated the camps. Conditions remained unequal, but segregation increased access to training for African American enrollees.



A visible reminder of the reality of segregation, this 1934 company photo shows that inequality existed even in integrated companies.

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

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Dr. Gary Wray



Dan Spegel

Signs start going up along Kal-Haven Trail 30 historical markers should be up by August

By KIM INGALLS - HP Correspondent Jul 6, 2019



The first of 30 historical markers was recently installed along the Kal-Haven Trail as part of the state's new Trail Heritage Project. The marker is located near the trail's covered bridge that spans the south branch of the Black River in South Haven Township. Shown from left are Dan Spegel, Heritage Trail Program coordinator for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Michigan History Center, Jeff Green, Friends of the Kal-Haven Trail board member, and Sue Hodapp, master gardener and Kal-Haven Trail wildflower specialist.

Photo provided



AMERICA'S
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2021 Innovation Award

Presented to the group, program or individual who exemplify innovation in America's State Parks by creating a best practice, demonstrating exceptional problem solving, improving outdoor recreational opportunities or enhancing cultural resources

Presented by Robert Mergell



Fort Owen State Park



Western Cultural archaeologists Dan Hall and Jay Vest prepare the magnetometer they used Thursday to gather from a site south of Fort Owen State Park that will eventually be a new parking lot.

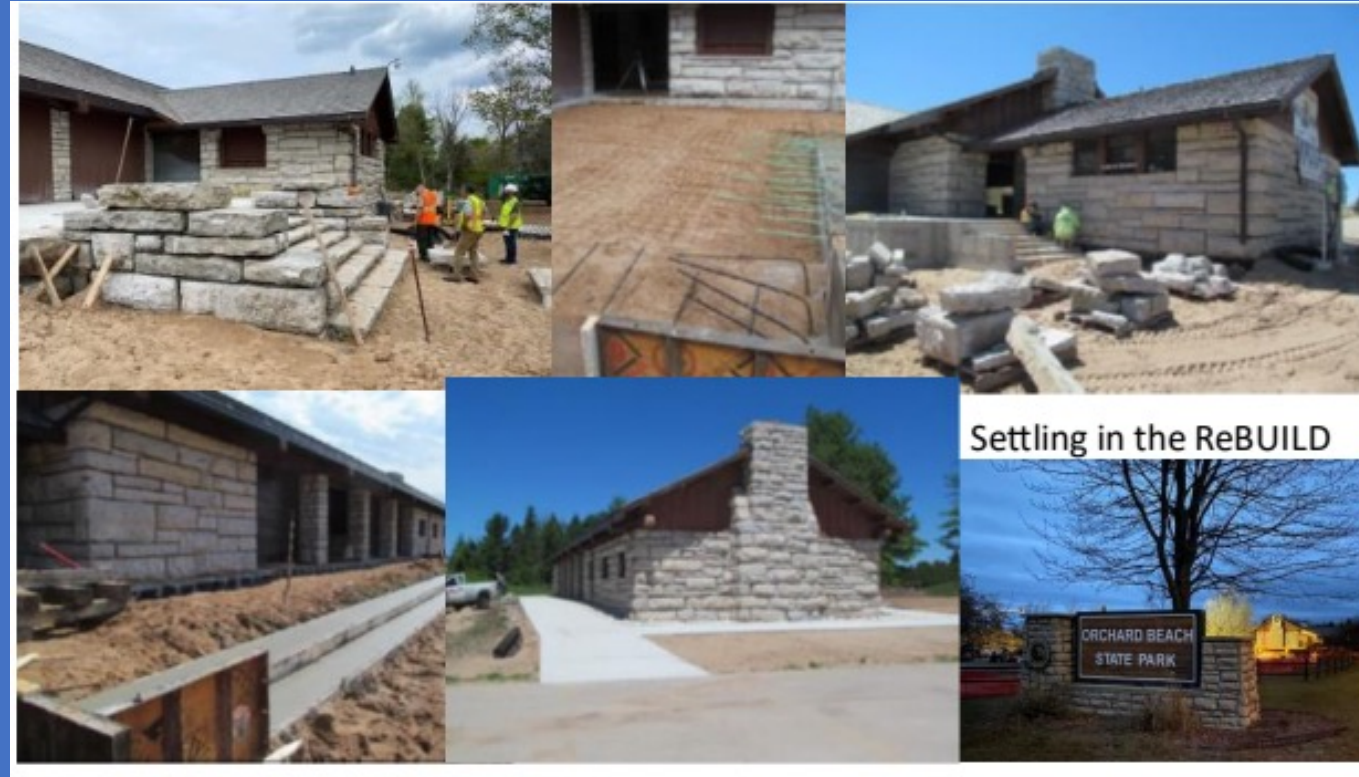
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MDNR Happy Little Trees Program



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Orchard Beach Project Team



2021 Distinguished Service Awards

This award is given to a State Park Director who has demonstrated a long-term, sustained record of professional accomplishment in the field of park and recreation management.

Presented by Ron Olsen

