

NC DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Locke Craig Award **Harold Russell** **2010**
Private Citizen **MOMO**

Harold Russell has helped carry Crowders Mountain State Park's natural image through his painting since 1994. Specifically, Harold has painted numerous landscapes of the park, including the Tower Trail, David's Castle, Rocktop Trail, the Pinnacle and the lake. Once completed, Harold often donates the pictures to the park. Examples of his work are on display throughout the visitor center and at the Boulders visitor center.

Harold has also volunteered at all but one Fall Festival since 1998, providing his own supplies to present a kid-friendly leaf printmaking workshop. In 2009 he and his assistant helped visitors do over 90 prints in four hours. Each year Harold provides prizes to the winning painters, at his own expense. Harold is one of many examples of the personal, sacrificial commitment local citizens have to Crowders Mountain State Park.

Locke Craig Award **George Ball** **2010**
Private Citizen **MOMO**

George Ball has been instrumental to Crowders Mountain State Park in promoting the park and sustaining the Friends of CRMO. George was a member and past president of the Gaston Conservation Society, a group instrumental in the early 1970s to protecting the park in perpetuity. George was also a founding member of the Friends of Crowders Mountain, Inc. and since its inception in 2000 has served many roles, including president, vice-president and treasurer.

In addition, George has been instrumental in assisting park staff locate several areas of the park with significant cultural resources through his knowledge and investigation of areas around Linwood College, All Healing Springs and old home sites. Finally, since 1999 George has volunteered his time and special skills to produce high quality, creatively designed hiking sticks, which he donates to the Friends of Crowders Mountain for sale at the park's visitor center, providing a direct benefit to the park. George is one of many, but is also a leading, example of a local citizen committed to the promotion and preservation of Crowders Mountain State Park.

Locke Craig Award **Robbie Lowman** **2011**
Private Citizen **SOMO**

Mr. Robbie Lowman, a high school senior at Burke Middle College, provided a wonderful and unexpected present to South Mountains State Park in December. North Carolina requires all high school students to do a service project prior to graduating. They work with a mentor, who is generally someone established in the community, and helps guide their project. Robbie chose to work with South Mountains State Park, and wanted to do his project on the financial difficulties that state parks are facing. Park Ranger Michael Eisch served as Robbie's mentor, and had Robbie help with all manner of park projects, including volunteering all day at the park's annual Nature Day event. "The ambition that Robbie demonstrated while volunteering in the park is exactly what will make him an exceptional Ranger candidate" said Michael.

The group's president, Walt Gravely, had this to say about Robbie's gift, "It is refreshing to witness the type of selflessness Robbie has demonstrated. His participation in this manner inspires others, both young and old, to get involved in helping our State Parks".

Heroism	Phil Howell	2010
JORD Ranger		

Heroism	Jody Kelly, Robin Kalish, Rob Preston and Phil Howell	2010
JORD Ranger		

Special Achievement	William Davis	2010
CLNE Maintenance Mechanic		

William Davis is a Maintenance Mechanic I at CLNE State Park. Over the course of the last three years William has developed a skill that has proven beneficial to all parks in the Division. He has learned to operate the Division's Sign Machine. He has also set up the Division's first sign shop that is dedicated to the consistent, timely and cost effective production of recycled plastic signs. He runs this production sign shop while still

accomplishing all of the duties listed in his job description as MMI. William has produced signs for all four districts of the Division.

He has created and engineered special signs for gate hours that are changeable without complete sign removal. He has also created special signs for the CRS system that allow for site notices to be changed without a lock and key. He has also created many one of a kind signs that allow for the park message to be presented in a consistent way that pays homage to park traditions in a new “green” material.

William’s dedication to the Division shows in his willingness to take the sign design work home so that he can produce signs during the time he is at the park. William’s sign work does not end when the sign machine stops cutting. He has also made many special trips in order to get signs to their destinations in time for special events or grand openings. William is always looking for creative ways to make the production process more efficient. In the first year of sign production the sign shop saved the division \$84,000 if compared to buying the same signs commercially. The second year of operation resulted in a savings of over \$135,000 as related to the same signs purchased commercially. These figures do not take into account the cost savings related to the longevity (approximately 20 years) of the material and the cost of refurbishing that was related to our old hand carved signs.

Special Achievement Garry Hoover and Gary Pippen 2010
HARO Maintenance Mechanics

Hanging Rock State Park has always relied on outside service technicians to maintain the parks 23 heating, ventilation, and air conditioning units. Job descriptions of the park maintenance mechanics do not require any knowledge or skills in HVAC trades. Due to their concerns over the expense and time delays resulting from use of outside services, Maintenance Mechanic II Gary Pippen and Maintenance mechanic II Garry Hoover took extraordinary steps to learn HVAC maintenance and repair for the benefit of the park. On their own time and at their expense, they completed Forsyth Technical Community college’s HVAC I & II classes during the spring and summer of 2010. When the HVAC II class lost its Stokes County Location, these two conspired and came up with a plan to host the class at the park. After necessary approval, this class on a weekly basis during three summer months this class provided service to all park units and necessary emergency repair at no cost to the park. With these two qualified HVAC Technicians on staff, the park has seen a drastic reduction in repair costs and has had no lost cabin rental days due to loss of heating and cooling capabilities.

Special Achievement Martin Kane 2010
ARCH Art Exhibit Technician

With a limited budget, Martin took a project with an immense amount of interpretive information and condensed it into an aesthetically pleasing, very educational exhibit for the Morrow Mountain State Park museum. He developed schematics, design drawings and construction drawings, and designed all the graphics. Much of the photography in the exhibits is his work. He also designed and created the Morrow Mountain Wintertime Bird Identification Guide, a computer interactive that allows visitors to explore and learn more

about birds in the park. He spent countless hours at the park assisting with installation of the exhibits. The end result is a beautiful exhibition that neatly summarizes the park.

Special Achievement **Larry Trivette, Jay Greenwood and Lance Huss 2011**
ELKN Superintendent, MEMI Superintendent and SOMO Ranger

These three employees served voluntarily, as all of our division instructors do, as law enforcement Subject Control and Arrest Techniques (SCAT) instructors providing instruction to the Division's rangers and superintendents in law enforcement subject control and arrest techniques, defensive tactics, unarmed defense, and etc.

The Division's Annual Law Enforcement Refresher Training (ALERT) program has developed a goal of having eight SCAT instructors in its cadre of law enforcement instructors. Due to recent resignations, the division currently only has five SCAT instructors and for the division's recent ALERT 2011 refresher training, only these three instructors (Huss, Trivette and Greenwood) were able to facilitate this training due to instructor injuries and medical leave of the other two instructors.

Subject Control & Arrest Techniques is one of the most important in-service training topics that the Division provides to our officers in that it helps prevent officer and suspect injuries, protects against civil liability and helps to provide officers with the skills and confidence to affect an arrest through a suspect's physical resistance. Over the past several years, we have strived to increase the realism of this in-service training by including the use of Redman® Training Suits, practice batons, simulated weapons and scenario based practical exercises. Based on positive student evaluations and an effort to continue this realistic training, the ALERT 2011 curriculum included a four hour block of refresher techniques taught over the past few years. This block included reviews on ground fighting tactics, handcuffing and baton techniques and simulated arrest scenarios against the Redman®.

Due to the physical demands place on the SCAT instructors, the size of the classes and the need to provide the recommended instructor to student ratio, all three of these instructors participated in each of the four hour SCAT training classes each week. With ten (10) weeks of ALERT, this resulted in over 40 hours of instruction by each instructor. In addition, each of these instructors had a 3-5 hour drive (one way) to the NC Justice Academy where the in-service training was held.

A combination of their actual instruction time, countless hours of traveling, time away from their parks and regular job duties and impacts on their personal lives, all three made significant commitment towards the division's field staff's safety. By their own initiative and willingness to improve the division's law enforcement training program Lance Huss, Larry Trivette, and Jay Greenwood should garner due recognition for their significant contributions beyond the expectations of our volunteer instructor cadre.

Special Achievement	David Rodgers	2011
PIMO Maintenance Mechanic		

PIMO has around 430,000 visitors a year spread out over 2 counties with a permanent staff of 8 employees. During the past year 2 maintenance positions were vacant and 1

ranger was in BLET leaving the park short staffed and the maintenance program with 1 fulltime employee for the entire park.

This award recommendation is being made for Mr. David Rodgers. David is a MM I at PIMO and has served here permanently since the fall of 2007 after serving as a seasonal for many years. As PIMO's other 2 permanent Maintenance Mechanics went out on disability, David picked up additional duties of 2 permanent employees. Despite this increasing workload, David was still able to accomplish multiple projects by utilizing seasonal staff and volunteers to improve park facilities.

David assumed the responsibilities of the MMII which included trails maintenance, and camping areas and the responsibilities of the MM IV which included facility and utilities maintenance, and supervision of seasonal staff. During this time period the park had 8 water line breaks, with one lasting a week in duration, completed multiple major maintenance projects in house and informally contracted with no loss of service to the public due to David's dedication. David also built the park's new canoe camping area during this period utilizing seasonal staff, an operational improvement that has been needed for many years and the first significant improvement to the Yadkin River Section in 10 years.

David shows what can be accomplished with good steady work and pride in your job and is an example to other permanent and seasonal staff at PIMO. I am nominating David for the DPR special achievement award based on the above information.

Division Commendation Josh Hemric 2011
PIMO Ranger

Ranger Josh Hemric responded to the rock climbing area of the Ledge Springs trail due to report of a rock climber feeling sick to their stomach. Once on the scene Ranger Hemric identified that the climber needed medical attention and we began to coordinate a carry out rescue attempt. As Ranger Hemric was talking to the individual (the climber was a man in good condition in his early 40's) began to go into full cardiac arrest. Ranger Hemric immediately initiated CPR with the assistance of a rock climbing guide. Due to the remote location CPR continued for almost 10 minutes until I was able to reach Ranger Hemric with an AED and with the assistance of an EMT he and I continued CPR with 2 shocks delivered. On the second shock the patient regained a weak pulse and breathing and was transported by helicopter to the hospital.

After a week of treatment he made a full recovery. If Ranger Hemric had not been on the scene, and correctly identified the situation while remaining in control of the situation and initiated CPR until more advanced care arrived then the patient would have died of a heart attack on the trail that day.

Division Commendation Richard Keenan and David LePlante 2011
FOFI Rangers

On Wednesday- April 27, 2011 at about 1300 hrs a park visitor, Nicholas Austin came into the park office and reported a visitor having problems swimming. Rangers Keenan and LaPlante along with maintenance workers Lawson and Sheaffer responded to the

pedestrian beach. Upon arriving Ranger Keenan could see a woman in the surf he called to the woman and she signaled she was in trouble.

Ranger Keenan and Mr. Austin were the first to enter the water. Ranger LaPlante grabbed the surfboard and then entered the water. Mr. Austin reached Mrs. Madonna Cochron then handed her off to Rangers Keenan and LaPlante, who pulled Mrs. Cochron to shore with more assistance. Maintenance worker Sheaffer went to Ranger LaPlante's patrol truck to retrieve the EMS and O2 bags.

Mrs. Cochron was conscious, but not alert, though she did ask where her daughter was. Paramedics arrived and Mrs. Cochron was transported off the beach to the ambulance waiting in the parking lot. Mrs. Cochron daughter's Aleah Cochron age 16, Madison Cochron age 13, and two friends, Alex Mendoza age 17, and Alex Stewart age 16, were taken to the park office. Superintendent Owen transported the children to the hospital at 1600 hrs to meet their parents. The scene was clear of medical personnel at 1400 hrs.

The existing four members of the committee are all in agreement with these nominations and recommend that they be awarded. Your consideration of these awards is greatly appreciated and I look forward to discussing any of them.

JAO/jao