



VISIONARY LEADER AWARD

2021 Nomination Announcement

About the Award: The Visionary Leader Award (VLA) is presented by PARC's Joint National Steering Committee (JNSC) to recognize an individual who exemplifies extraordinary leadership, vision, and commitment to PARC in a manner that has elevated PARC to new heights. Award recipients will receive a cash prize of \$1,000 and an engraved, commemorative plaque. Please visit <https://parcplace.org/about/parc-awards/parc-visionary-leader-award/> to learn more about the award and past recipients.

Eligibility:

Current JNSC members (Table 1.) are not eligible to receive the Visionary Leader Award. At this time, only U.S. citizens are eligible for receiving the cash award associated with the Visionary Leader Award.

Award Criteria:

Nominations for the VLA will be made **by the JNSC members, in collaboration with regional, federal, state, and other member partners.** The award shall be presented no more than once per year (though not necessarily each year) based on the merit of candidates nominated. Please work with your Regional JNSC representatives (see Table 1 below) if you would like to be a part of a nomination. Nominees must meet at least one of the following criteria:

1. Has made distinguished, sustained contributions (i.e., multi-year, valuable, repeated contributions/efforts) that carried PARC to new heights.
2. Has demonstrated **extraordinary** leadership, vision and commitment to PARC in a manner that is inspiring to their peers while forwarding the PARC mission. This award targets individuals who go **above and beyond.**

PARC is committed to our Core Value of Inclusivity and Collaboration including a strategic goal of enhancing inclusion and equity within the herpetofaunal conservation community. PARC strives to provide inclusive spaces and a diverse network for participating in herpetofaunal conservation. Further, PARC's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Team works to bring equity and inclusion to all aspects of PARC. In addition to meeting one of more of the two criteria listed above, the Nomination must also include:

3. A statement regarding the Nominee's perspective, experience, or contributions to increase diversity and advance inclusion of under-represented groups of people in herpetofaunal conservation.

Nominations should be for individuals whose efforts at the **REGIONAL** or **NATIONAL** level broadly contributed to or benefited PARC in terms of accomplishment(s) and leadership provided and resulting impacts of the work, regardless of age or professional experience of the nominee.

Nominees must observe and uphold the highest standards of scientific integrity and professional behavior, and must uphold [PARC's Code of Ethics and Meeting Code of Conduct](#):

Nominee:

Name:
Mailing Address:
PARC Area(s) of Contribution (Region(s) or National):
Phone:
Email:

Nominated by:

Name:
Address:
PARC Region:
Phone:
Email:

Nomination:

Please adhere to the word and page limits (6 Total), or the nomination will not be considered.

1. **In 200 words or less**, please describe and provide examples of:
 - a. The distinguished, sustained contributions (i.e., multi-year, valuable, repeated contributions/efforts) that carried PARC to new heights,

AND / OR

 - b. How the nominee has displayed extraordinary leadership, vision and commitment to PARC in a manner that is inspiring to their peers while advancing the PARC mission.
2. **In 2 pages or less**, please provide brief biographical information that documents long-term efforts, accomplishment(s), leadership provided, and examples of the resulting impacts of the work initiated by the nominee.
3. **In 200 words or less**, describe the nominee's perspective, experience, or contributions to increase diversity and advance inclusion of under-represented groups of people in herpetofaunal conservation.
4. [OPTIONAL] **Using no more than 6 pages total**, you may provide a letter or letters of support. This page limit is inclusive of signatures (i.e., you cannot

submit a 6-page nomination with 2 pages of signatures for 8 pages total).
 Required format: 12-point font and 1-inch margins.

Please note that nominees are evaluated on the merit of the nomination, not on the number of letters of support or the number of supporting signatures per each letter.

Submission:

Please send the completed nomination package to parc_coordinators@parcplace.org

Deadline for submission: December 13, 2020

Nominations received after this date and incomplete forms will not be considered.
 The award winner will be notified by late-January 2021.

Selection Process:

PARC JNSC members (Table 1.) will review nominations, evaluate carefully against the criteria, and vote anonymously to determine the selection.

JNSC MEMBER	PARC ROLE	TITLE AND AFFILIATION
<u>Executive Committee</u>		
Alex Novarro	JNSC Senior Co-chair	Conservation and Outreach Manager at Mashomack Preserve - The Nature Conservancy
Brian Zarate	JNSC Junior Co-chair	Senior Zoologist New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, Endangered and Nongame Species Program
Chris Petersen	JNSC Co-Chair Ex-Officio	Senior Natural Resource Specialist-U.S. Navy/DoD PARC National Representative
Mark Mandica	DEITT Representative	Executive Director, The Amphibian Foundation
Michelle Christman	National Federal Coordinator	PARC National Federal Coordinator, hosted by US Fish and Wildlife Service
Vacant	National States Coordinator	Program Manager, Amphibians & Reptiles, and Invasive Species, Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

JNSC MEMBER	PARC ROLE	TITLE AND AFFILIATION
<u>Midwest PARC</u>		
Jennifer Buchanan	Senior Co-chair	Assistant Natural History Biologist, Missouri Department of Conservation
Vacant	Junior Co-chair	
<u>Northeast PARC</u>		
Andy Adams	Senior Co-chair	Assistant Professor of Biology, Harford Community College
Vacant	Junior Co-chair	
<u>Northwest PARC</u>		
Katy Weil	Senior Co-chair	Senior Management Analyst, Oregon Metro Parks and Nature, Conservation Program
Vacant	Junior Co-chair	
<u>Southeast PARC</u>		
Vanessa Kinney-Terrell	Senior Co-chair	Research Coordinator, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia
Todd Pierson	Junior Co-chair	Assistant Professor of Biology Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology, Kennesaw State University
<u>Southwest PARC</u>		
Cristina Jones	Senior Co-chair	State Turtle Biologist for the Arizona Game and Fish Department
Joe Ehrenberger	Junior Co-chair	Ecologist, Adaptation Environmental Services
<u>DoD PARC</u>		
Dave McNaughton	DoD PARC Representative	Natural Resources Specialist, US Navy

JNSC MEMBER	PARC ROLE	TITLE AND AFFILIATION
<u>At-large Members</u>		
Vacant	Industry Representative	
Michael Starkey	Non-governmental Organization Representative	Co-Founder and Executive Director, Save the Snakes
Shelly Grow	Zoos and Aquariums Representative	Director of Conservation Programs, Association of Zoos & Aquariums
<u>Federal Agencies Steering Committee</u>		
Jim Castle	Federal Agencies Steering Committee Senior Co-chair	Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District
Mike Westphal	Federal Agencies Steering Committee Junior Co-chair	Wildlife Biologist Program Lead, US Bureau of Land Management, Central Coast Field Office
<u>AFWA Amphibian and Reptile Committee</u>		
Vacant	Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Committee Chair	
Thomas Eason	Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Committee Vice Chair	Assistant Executive Director, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission