

# 2007 WRPA Award Winners

## **President's Award: William M. Overby**

Administration of Justice Program Chair and Parks Law Enforcement Academy Commander, Skagit Valley College, Mount Vernon, Washington



President Peter Mayer and William Overby

Beginning in late December and running through March, the Skagit Valley College Parks Law Enforcement Academy annually provides students with more than 700 hours of quality reinforced instruction by top professionals conducted in both academic and field environments. Strict rules of conduct and decorum are enforced. Excellence in academics and all practicums is expected, and confidence-building and teamwork are emphasized.

## **About the Program**

The Skagit Valley College Parks Law Enforcement Academy is approved by the National Park Service (NPS) as a seasonal law-enforcement training program. It meets state, county and city parks requirements for law enforcement commissioning and also satisfies requirements for many police agencies. Graduates of this program receive 30 quarter credits and a certificate of program completion, provisional completion documentation and/or modular certification.

Graduates of the Parks Law Enforcement Academy gain a competitive edge in seeking jobs with the various agencies in the law-enforcement community. Graduates have been highly successful in securing employment with the National Park Service; Washington State Parks; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Everett City Parks; the Washington State Reserve Officer program; and many other federal, state, county and city organizations. First established in 1991, the program has flourished during the past 10 years, with more than 300 cadets

participating. Since 2002, William M. Overby has served as the Administration of Justice chair at Skagit Valley College and commander of the Parks Law Enforcement Academy.

Bill has been a WRPA member since 1970 (while enjoying his time as a Cougar and earning his parks and recreation degree at Washington State University), and he has committed his life's work to park resource management. Beginning as an entry-level park ranger in June 1969, he was recognized for his burgeoning potential and promoted through eight full-time commissioned park ranger levels while managing diverse sites in rural, suburban and urban areas in Washington state.

Until his recent retirement from Washington State Parks, Bill was responsible for the operations, management, budget and critical decision-making for Deception Pass State Park (Whidbey and Fidalgo Islands) for the past 20 years. Deception Pass State Park is a 4,134-acre marine and camping park with 77,000 feet of saltwater shoreline and 33,900 feet of freshwater shoreline on three lakes. Rugged cliffs drop to meet the turbulent waters of Deception Pass. The park is outstanding for breathtaking views, old-growth forests and abundant wildlife.

One of the most visited state parks, Deception Pass required a demanding set of people and incident response skills. Bill had them in spades! A graduate of the National Fire Academy's Unified Incident Command School, Bill also served as a firefighter, EMT, lieutenant, assistant chief and chief of Snohomish County Fire District #20 during a six-year period. He has served as a lead instructor, subject-matter expert and consultant on a number of committees and task forces. Since 1984, he has served on the Island County EMS and Trauma Council, providing pre-hospital emergency medical response planning and support to more than 100,000 citizens and visitors.

Throughout his 31 years of distinguished service to Washington State Parks and his mentoring of future park rangers, Bill has epitomized the words "integrity," "commitment" and "professionalism." What images or words do you associate when you imagine the ideal park ranger? "Courageous," "approachable," "caring," "calm," "protective," "steward" and "knowledgeable" likely are just a few. Bill Overby embodies those words and more and now serves to mentor future park rangers who are dedicating their lives to the protection of valuable cultural, historic and environmentally sensitive park lands.

For his commitment and dedication to the parks and recreation field, it is my pleasure to bestow the 2007 WRPA President's Award to William M. Overby, chair of Skagit Valley College's Administration of Justice Program and commander of its Parks Law Enforcement Academy. Please join me in congratulating Bill for his honored service.



### Honor Fellow Award

This is the Association's highest award and recognizes an individual's dedication and achievement in the parks and recreation profession. Nominee requires a minimum of 10 years of professional experience.

**Michael Dobb**

### Distinguished Service Award

This recognizes service in the field. The nominee must have been a member of WRPA for a minimum of five years and, if retired, no longer than two years of previous service.

**Ken Bounds**

**Tom Trueblood**

**Melna Skillingstead**

**Roy Lehner**

### Citation of Merit – Organization

This is the highest award given by WRPA to an organization for its contributions to the parks and recreation field.

**Redmond Board of Park Commissioners**



### Citation of Merit – Individual

This award recognizes a lay citizen's contributions to parks and recreation in his or her community or statewide.

**Vera and Ralph Rothrock**



### Citation of Merit – Professional

This award recognizes an individual's contribution to WRPA.

**Jessi Richardson**

### Young Professional Award

The award recognizes the contributions of future leaders in the profession who are 35 years of age and younger.

**Paul Simmons, CPRP, MBA**

**Casey Stanley**

### Citation of Merit – Legislative

This award recognizes official service on a local board, as a council member or as a state or federal legislator who has contributed to our profession through legislative action.

**Rep. Brian Sullivan, 21st District**

**Aaron Reardon, Snohomish County Executive**

## 2007 Spotlight Facility & Park Awards

Recognizing excellence in the design and development of parks and recreation facilities:

### Park

Taylor Dock and Park, City of Bellingham Parks & Recreation

### Facility

Eastsound Village Green Performance Stage, San Juan County Parks

Firstenburg Community Center, Vancouver-Clark Parks & Recreation

### Sports Complex

Gateway Complex at Kiwanis Park, City of Yakima Parks & Recreation

### Special Use

Sammamish Commons Youth Sports Area, City of Sammamish Parks & Recreation

## 2007 Spotlight Media Awards

Recognizing excellence in the following communications:

### Best Brochure

Auburn Community Calendar, City of Auburn Parks, Arts & Recreation Department

### Best Poster

City of Renton "Clam Lights," City of Renton

### Best Web Site

[www.vanclarkparks-rec.org](http://www.vanclarkparks-rec.org), Vancouver-Clark Parks & Recreation

## 2007 Spotlight Program Awards

Recognizing excellence in the following programs:

### Best Youth and Adult Programs

Farrel-McWhirter Park Pony Club, City of Redmond Parks & Recreation

### Best Events, Fairs and Festivals

Step Up to Health Summit, City of Kirkland Parks, Arts & Recreation Department

## Section Awards

### Outstanding Professional, Program Service Section

Tami Cobb, Recreation Program Coordinator  
City of Redmond Parks & Recreation

### Distinguished Service, Parks Resource Section

Lori Flemm, Superintendent Park Planning & Development  
City of Kent Parks & Recreation

### Outstanding Teen Program, Teen Service Section

Olympic Leadership Academy  
Charlie Groth  
Tumwater Parks & Recreation