



The Friends Network 2013 DCR Friend of the Year Award Recognizing Rangers Ray McKinnon and Tom Bender DCR Bureau of Ranger Services

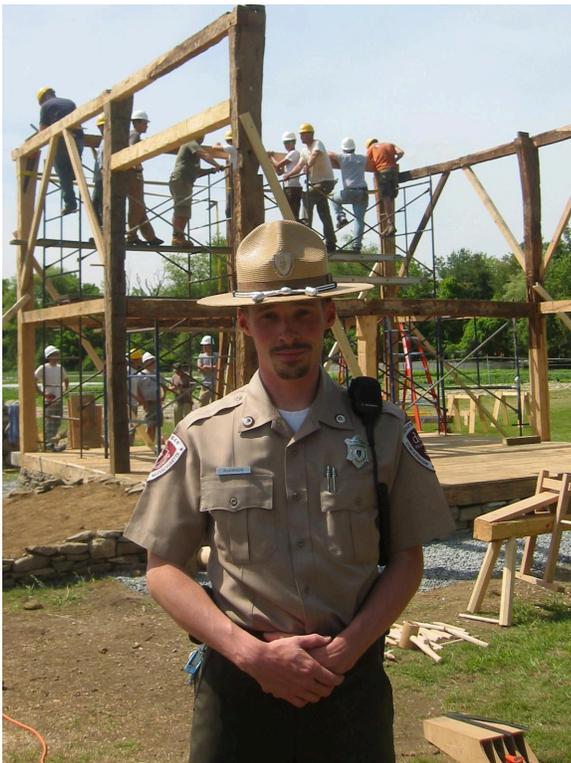
Nominees: Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Bureau of Ranger Services Ray McKinnon and Tom Bender

Nominated by: Judy Lehrer Jacobs, Executive Director, Friends of the Blue Hills Reservation

Rangers Ray and Tom are always there when you need them. And whenever they're there, they give it their all. Working with Rangers Tom and Ray, we are able to engage volunteers in removing dozens of bags of invasive species, with the knowledge that one of them will collect and dispose of the bags later. We're able to do more complex trail work, because we can rely on Tom and Ray to provide gravel or dirt when necessary. When we partner with DCR to organize events that engage hundreds of people, and Ranger Tom and Ray not only help coordinate DCR staff, but help make all parts of the event go smoothly.

We are so grateful to partner with such good-natured, dependable DCR employees in helping to maintain the park and encourage others to enjoy and value the Blue Hills.

DCR Information



Ranger Ray McKinnon

McKinnon began his career at the Blue Hills Reservation, Milton in 2002, as a volunteer through a home schooling program that required 200 hours of service. Though quite young at the time, he helped with the Trail Watch program and collected data that helped determine the dosages for hemlock woolly adelgid inoculations (a topic under discussion at today's conference).

From 2004 through 2007, McKinnon signed on as a seasonal ranger, completing his studies at North Bennett Street School, Boston on the off-seasons. Fortunately for all, McKinnon's relationship with the school helped bring North Bennett Street School students to Brookwood Farm in the Blue Hills Reservation, where they are renovating the Gatekeepers House and a hay barn constructed in 1791.

McKinnon became a full-time Ranger at the Blue Hills Reservation in 2008. Among his other duties, McKinnon helps run the DCR Southeastern Massachusetts Adult Walking Club, which is holding its annual holiday toy drive on Dec. 8, 2013.