

# GWS News+Notes: GWS Teams With Clemson On Park Break Program

[Campaign Preview](#)

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*A new name and new directions for our popular learning fellowship*  
**GWS & Clemson University join forces to offer the Gary E. Everhardt Park Break Program**

We're pleased to announce that we are joining with Clemson University's Institute for Parks (CUIP) to offer a new incarnation of our long-running Park Break service learning program. The week-long, park-based fellowship and field seminar for graduate students has been rechristened as The Gary E. Everhardt Park Break Program, honoring the ninth director of the US National

## Park Service.



Since being created by GWS in 2007, over 100 students have participated in Park Breaks. During a Park Break, graduate students explore topics of importance to the host park and interact with park researchers, natural and cultural resource managers, and policymakers. The students work to fill park-identified needs, thus gaining real-world managerial experience.



Robert Powell, the director of CUIP, says that going forward "the program will focus on addressing two pressing needs: developing diverse future leaders and expanding the capacity for leaders to identify, manage and resolve complex issues. Our goal is to coordinate 2 Park Break programs a year and to have sustainable funding so that we can provide scholarships for all participants."

Working together, Clemson and GWS will focus on:

1. Developing long-term sustainable financing.
2. Developing a consistent number of Park Break Programs each year.
3. Coordinating with NPS to identify suitable locations for Park Breaks.
4. Coordinating marketing with NPS.
5. Streamlining the application and selection process.
6. Identifying and staffing Park Breaks with suitable expertise/mentors (faculty and professionals).



"Our vision is to further develop the program so that it becomes the preeminent

service, science and stewardship program that provides graduate students from diverse backgrounds with direct and applied experiences in parks," Powell said.

For more information, visit the GWS Park Break [webpage](#), or [download Clemson's 1-page flyer](#) on the program.

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## *GWS President Reynolds elected to executive committee of US governing body for IUCN*

The President of the George Wright Society, David Reynolds, was recently elected to the Executive Committee of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) US National Committee (USNC). The GWS (<https://www.georgewrightociety.org/>) is a long-standing member organization of IUCN (<https://www.iucn.org/>).

David's participation on the Executive Committee is expected to raise the profile of the GWS in the national and international conservation community, keep the GWS abreast of critical conservation issues, and promote protected areas stewardship within the USNC. Other persons elected to the Executive Committee at the June 24 USNC meeting in Washington, DC are Christopher Dunn (Chair), Cornell Botanic Gardens; Deb Hahn, International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies; Healy Hamilton, NatureServe; Scott Hajost, Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition; and Jennifer Luedtke, Global Wildlife Conservation.

Many countries, including Canada and Mexico, have IUCN National Committees. See: (<https://www.iucn.org/about/members/national-and-regional-committees>). They serve as a way for Member organizations to participate in IUCN processes and to organize themselves to act on priority issues such as participation in the World Conservation Congresses. National Committees can serve as coordination and influencing mechanisms, communication platforms, discussion forums, and implementation mechanisms.

IUCN is a membership organization uniquely composed of both government and civil society organizations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organizations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together. Created in 1948, IUCN has evolved into the world's largest and most diverse environmental network. It harnesses the experience, resources and reach of its 1,300 Member organizations and the input of 14,500 experts who support seven Commissions.

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## **Announcements & opportunities**

**Major new release of North American Protected Areas Database.** The U.S. Geological Survey has announced the release of its [Protected Areas Database of the U.S.](#) version 2.0 – a major advance toward the long-term goal of a geospatial inventory that contains every public park and other protected area in America.

PAD-US is America’s official national inventory of lands held by cities, counties, special park and open-space districts, state parks and preserves as well as national parks and forests, national wildlife refuges, public lands and more. The inventory includes more than 360,000 individual named units, managed by more than 18,000 public agencies and non-governmental organizations, totaling more than 9 billion acres of land and marine areas. It features management designations for conservation and for multiple uses such as forestry, energy, grazing and recreation.

“PAD-US 2.0 brings us closer to our vision of a complete inventory of protected areas by 2020,” said Kevin T. Gallagher, USGS associate director, Core Science Systems. “This release includes approximately 95% of federal lands and waters and 60% of state, regional and local park and other preserved lands.” [Learn more](#)

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