

***Central Coast State Parks Association Presents the***  
**John Laird**

**Lifetime Achievement Award**

***To honor those who have dedicated their lives and careers to supporting the conservation of the State of California's natural and cultural resources, parks and open spaces.***

**OUR MISSION**

The Central Coast State Parks Association (CCSPA), in partnership with the California State Parks in San Luis Obispo County, supports interpretation, education and volunteer efforts while promoting public awareness and stewardship of our natural resources and cultural heritage. Our organization is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit. We are one of 85 similar cooperating associations across the state who work in partnership with the State Parks.

**OUR VISION**

We envision the development of a robust variety of programs focused on inclusive environmental education and interpretation in collaboration with California State Parks in San Luis Obispo County. By supporting these programs, we aim to foster a community of environmental stewards who understand the importance of our natural resources, how our society and ecosystems are interconnected and the role humans play in their preservation. By expanding audiences and increasing funding, our efforts will result in a stronger engagement within our ethnically diverse community. Together, we will recognize the importance of our connections to our State Parks and open spaces along the Central Coast, "where the land meets the ocean."

**We award the John Laird Lifetime Achievement Award for exceptional contributions to the conservation profession and the advocacy for preservation of the State of California's natural and cultural resources, parks and open spaces over the course of one's career.**

**Guidelines**

- Write a letter to the CCSPA Awards Committee outlining why the nominee deserves this award.
- Collect letters from at least three additional co-sponsors.

**Criteria**

- Distinguished service to the field of conservation, advocacy for the preservation of natural and cultural resources and/or parks and open spaces over the course of one's professional career.
- Exceptional contributions with significant impact to the functioning or advancement of the conservation, interpretation and/or outdoor recreation professions
- Outstanding and sustained dedication to the field in a manner consistent with the highest standards of the profession.
- Distinction as an eminent authority in some aspect of conservation practice, scholarship, research, education, or management of nationally recognized initiatives.

### **Additional Guidelines**

- Nominations should describe conservation and preservation activities that demonstrate the candidate's lifetime of contributions to the advancement of the conservation profession.
- Nominations should include visual documentation (photos, slides, etc.).
- Nominations should show how the candidate has broadened their community's understanding of the goals of conservation.
- Nominations may come from candidates themselves, but we encourage additional letters of support.
- Nominators should know that CCSPA may sometimes award more than one person in the same year when merited.