

AAPRA 2015 Legend Biographies

Charles Eatherly

Currently Executive Consultant at Arizona State Parks (ASP), Charles Eatherly has been a devoted public servant for 54 years. He has been teaching, collaborating and leading in the field of Parks and Recreation since 1961. Forty-four years of his career have been spent at Arizona State Parks. In his career, Charles has brought robust public participation into the planning process of park systems in different jurisdictions and locations. He has also worked as a valued member of many teams and programs that resulted in the expansion of recreation opportunities available in states across the country. In fact, during discussion about his participation in these projects, he always starts with "I was part of the team that...." Because Charles Eatherly is a contributing team member, one will find him focusing more on accomplishing outcomes rather than amassing personal credit. Charles' optimism and commitment is infectious. He demonstrates the highest level of active listening skills and regularly puts others' recognition before his own and has been able to build a rich and varied network in the field. This network has oftentimes allowed projects to move forward that may not have otherwise. In advancing ASP's mission he continues to take great effort in encouraging and advancing the professional development of his fellow employees, and continues to faithfully serve the myriad of human and natural resource communities that make Arizona shine. He is an untiring keeper of institutional knowledge for an agency that has undergone rapid change from the beginning of the recession in 2008 to the present. His care, concern and enthusiasm for the system that he has helped to build has never wavered.

Nancy E. Lewis

Nancy Lewis, President, Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center, LLC, is a force of nature in Colorado Springs. She served the City for over 27 years in a variety of responsibilities from leading 4th graders on nature walks to becoming the first female Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation. Nancy worked to create the Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center, and she, along with a dedicated group of volunteers, created the Garden of the Gods Foundation which has contributed over 2.3 million dollars toward the capital improvements, maintenance, staffing and programs for the Park. The partnership she started between the Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center, LLC, the Garden of the Gods Foundation and the City has become a national model for how private and public entities can come together to manage an incredible natural resource. In 2011 Nancy wrote *The Parks of Colorado Springs: Building Community, Preserving a Legacy* as an effort to remind people of how this community was founded and the immeasurable role parks has had on the image and identity of the City of Colorado Springs. Her personal insight has been drawn from the over 50 years of commitment to this community and its outstanding park system. Nancy is known throughout this community for her advocacy and commitment to the Parks System, but she is equally known for her leadership of the Penrose-St Francis Health Foundation, the Chamber of Colorado Springs, the Symphony and the Convention and Visitors Bureau, all of which she chaired. She currently sits on the board of the Rocky Mountain PBS. She continues to mentor young people and was just last year named the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, Unstoppable Woman of the year for 2014.

J. Robert Rossman

J. Robert Rossman, Ph.D., Professor and Dean Emeritus, Illinois State University, Author, Speaker and Consultant, has been an advocate for developing excellent university programs in parks and recreation. He has been a university administrator for a significant part of his career serving as department chair for thirteen years at two different institutions and dean for ten years at two different institutions. Through his outstanding leadership, the program at the University of North Texas became the first accredited program in the State of Texas. Dr. Rossman has supported the accreditation process that helped

strengthen undergraduate programs in parks and recreation, having made twelve accreditation visits to universities over a twenty-two year period and serving on the accreditation council for one year. He has helped implement day-to-day operations of professional organizations, and his peers have elected him to key leadership positions. Examples of his diverse service contributions include serving as President of SPRE, serving on the SPRE Board, serving on the Board of the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, and co-developing, along with Dr. Gary Ellis, the NRPA Student Quiz Bowl. He performed various editorial responsibilities for journals in the field including *Scholar* and the *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*. Dr. Rossman has made numerous significant contributions to the park and recreation field during his career that have sustained for over 45 years. He made these academic and service contributions while carrying heavy administrative responsibilities as a department chair and dean. He is one of the most visible, accomplished and respected academicians in our field. His work has helped establish that parks and recreation is a knowledge-based profession, and it has improved professional practice throughout America and the World.