

# Recovery Champions

by Martha Balis-Larsen

*I*t often takes many individuals and organizations to accomplish the steps that move a threatened or endangered species away from the brink of extinction. Yet, it also takes the passion and dedication of individuals to promote and direct the action. To recognize some of the devoted biologists and leaders within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Service established an Endangered Species Recovery Champions recognition

campaign in 2002. Recovery Champions are individuals who were nominated by their peers because their hard work and dedication is resulting in significant progress towards the recovery of threatened or endangered species.

“Recognition counts most when it comes from the people who most understand what you do, from those who know what it takes to accomplish great things in your field—the people you work with

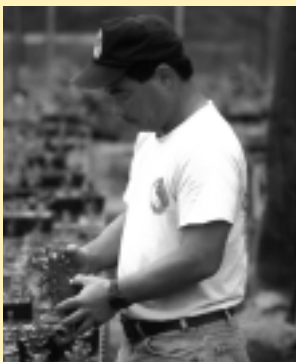
**Ed Bangs**  
**Paul Nickerson**  
**Ron Refsnider**  
**Robert (Bob) Currie**



**Paul Hartfield**  
**Sarah Dawsey**  
**Michael Amaral**  
**Pam Thiel**



**Baron Horiuchi**  
**Ralph Costa**  
**Linda Laack**  
**G. Vernon Byrd**



every day," says Gary Frazer, the Service's Assistant Director for Endangered Species. "We are giving recognition that comes from a sincere understanding that accomplishing great things in endangered species recovery is the result of accomplishing a million small things through persistence, hard work, and the kind of energy that comes only from devotion to a cause."

A list of all the individuals recognized as 2002 Recovery Champions with

information describing their accomplishments is available on the Internet at <http://endangered.fws.gov/recovery/champions/index.html>. Some of them are pictured below. It is important to remember, though, that the designated Recovery CHampions are a small portion of the many hard-working Service employees dedicated to endangered and threatened species recovery throughout the Nation.



**Marie Bruegmann  
Greg Balogh  
Ted Swem  
Dawn Zattau**



**Tom Augspurger  
Alan Clark  
Alison Whitlock  
Craig Koppie**



**Billy Brooks  
Joy Albertson  
John Robinette  
Linda Walker**