2020 Nomination Guidelines

The Refuge Employee of the Year Award, which includes a $1,000 check, was established to recognize the outstanding work of the men and women who serve the National Wildlife Refuge System. This award is presented each year to an individual whose career has shown a commitment to the conservation of our natural resources, superior management and/or technical skills, innovation, effectiveness in dealing with outside organizations and the public, and a background that has advanced the cause of wildlife conservation.

The Refuge Volunteer of the Year Award, which includes a $1,000 check, was established to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of volunteers in the operation and management of the Refuge System. The award is presented to volunteers who demonstrate dedication to the goals and objectives of the Refuge System, superior organizations skills, innovation in handling refuge assignments, effectiveness in dealing with the public and dependability.

The Molly Krival - Refuge Friends Group of the Year Award, which includes a $2,000 check, honors a Friends organization that demonstrates innovation and excellence in advancing the mission of the Refuge System, provides a positive community influence, works as an independent advocate to protect the natural resource, and strives to influence support for the local refuge and the Refuge System as a whole. This award is given in honor of Molly Krival, a pioneer in the Friends movement who mentored new and existing Refuge Friends groups all across the country.

The Paul Kroegel - Refuge Manager of the Year Award, which includes a $1,000 check, was established to recognize outstanding accomplishment in the protection and management of our National Wildlife Refuge System. This award is given in honor of Paul Kroegel whose dedication and effectiveness set a high standard for those who followed.

The Refuge Advocate award recognizes outstanding accomplishments in support of the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System by people or groups other than FWS employees or Friends groups. This award is presented to honor innovation and excellence in advancing the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System through successfully advocacy for a refuge or the entire Refuge System, resulting in the reduction or elimination of the threat while maintaining a relationship of cooperation and mutual respect with refuge personnel.