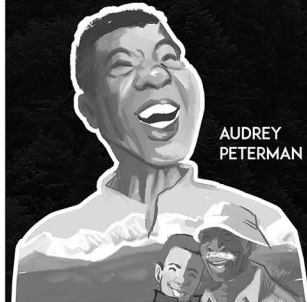


# HEROES OF THE Great Outdoors



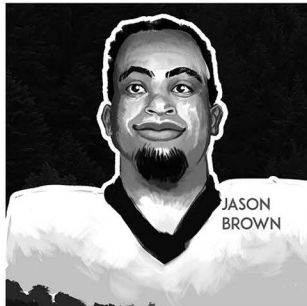
## AUDREY PETERMAN

Audrey & Frank Peterman became pioneers for integrating the great outdoors following a road trip across the country in 1995. Seeing less than a handful of Americans of color in the national parks from the Atlantic to the Pacific, they resolved to help change that and have been working to that end for 21 years.



## BETTY REID SOSKIN

Betty Reid Soskin is a Park Ranger with the National Park Service, assigned to the Rosie the Riveter/World War 2 Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond, California. As of January 2020, at age 99, she is the oldest National Park Ranger serving the United States (currently she's working part-time). She has been celebrated as : "a tireless voice for making sure the African-American wartime experience- both the positive steps toward integration and the presence of discrimination- has a prominent place in the National Park's history".



## JASON BROWN

Jason Brown chose to walk away from football in 2012 at the age of 29 to become a farmer in Louisburg, North Carolina. He maintains a 1,000-acre farm called First Fruits Farm where he grows produce such as sweet potatoes and inyari. He donates these crops to local food pantries, having given away over 46,000 pounds of sweet potatoes and 10,000 pounds of cucumbers. Brown began learning about farming practices in 2012 by watching YouTube videos.



## JOHN FRANCIS

Dr. Francis began his work in 1971, when after witnessing an oil spill in San Francisco Bay he stopped using motorized vehicles and took a vow of silence lasting 17 years. He earned three degrees including a doctorate in land resources during his walk across the US and length of South America. The founder of Planetwalk, an environmental awareness organization, he ended his silence on Earth Day in 1990, telling the assembled crowd, "Environment is about how we treat each other."



## LANCELOT JONES

Sir Lancelot Jones was born in a boat in Biscayne Bay near the turn of the 20th century as his dad "Pahson" Israel Lafayette Jones strove to get his mom to a Miami hospital. Sir Lancelot grew up to be a defender of his island paradise, choosing to sell his land to the National Park Service instead of developers. As a result we have Biscayne National Park, the largest marine park in the park system.

# HEROES OF THE *Great Outdoors*



## MAVYNEE BETSCH

Since 1975, Betsch made it her full-time mission to preserve and protect American Beach, her great-grandfather's investment, from development and destruction. She was famously named "Beach Lady," for her many efforts and dedication to the beach and its inhabitants. 'Beach Lady' gave her life savings, some \$750,000, to sixty environmental organizations and causes, ten of which she was a lifetime member, and most of them involved animals. 'Beach lady' was featured on CBS and CNN and in such publications as Coastal Living, Essence, Southern Living, Smithsonian, and over twenty-five others.



## QUEEN QUET

In addition to being the Chieftess and Head-of-State for the Gullah/Geechee Nation on the Sea Islands from North Carolina to Florida, she is a published author, computer scientist, lecturer, mathematician, historian, columnist, preservationist, and "The Art-ivist." Her people have maintained their traditional connections—brought from West Africa—for more than 300 years—petitioning Congress to designate the Gullah Geechee National Heritage Area within their lands.



## RUE MAPP

Rue Mapp is the CEO and founder of Outdoor Afro, a community reconnecting African Americans with nature through outdoor recreational activities. She oversees a carefully selected and trained national volunteer leadership team of 90 men and women who represent 30 states around the US. Outdoor Afro is a not-for-profit organization with offices in Oakland, CA and Washington D.C. and shares opportunities to build a broader community and leadership in nature. Her important work has generated wide-spread national recognition and support.



## SHELTON JOHNSON

For the last 30 years Mr. Johnson has worked as a National Park Ranger, mostly in the West, in parks such as Yellowstone, Great Basin, and Yosemite. Since 1998, Shelton has told the story of the Buffalo Soldiers in the national parks— in print, on camera, and in person. His passion is to connect people of color with their national parks. He served as an adviser and "talking head", for "The National Parks, America's Best Idea", an Emmy Award winning PBS Documentary film by Ken Burns, and hosted Oprah Winfrey during her celebrated visit to Yosemite in 2010. For his work with Ken Burns, Mr. Johnson won the 2009 Freeman Tilden Award for Interpretation, which is the highest National Park Service Award, among many other honors.



## TERESA BAKER

Teresa Baker spends time outdoors with the purpose of engaging communities of color in outdoor spaces. Her work aims to foster a shared sense of responsibility for environmental protection for all people. Teresa's current trajectory began through her online campaign, African American nature and Park Experience. This campaign provided communities of color across the country with opportunities to participate in planned events such as hikes, talks with environmentalists, national and state park engagement, stewardship and camping excursions, and more!