



For Immediate Release
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Harold Fairfield II named the 2019 National Wildlife Refuge System Volunteer of the Year

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 4, 2019) – Harold Fairfield II, a volunteer at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Nevada, has been announced as the 2019 Volunteer of the Year recipient. This award is presented annually by the National Wildlife Refuge Association and recognizes outstanding accomplishments of volunteers in support of the operation and management of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

“The Refuge Association could not be more proud to recognize Mr. Hal Fairfield as our 2019 Volunteer of the Year,” said Geoffrey Haskett, President of the National Wildlife Refuge Association. “Mr. Fairfield exemplifies what it means to give back to community and country. The Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, and indeed the entire National Wildlife Refuge System, is lucky to have such an advocate in their corner.”

Hal’s dedication to a number of threatened or endangered species has led to improvements in methodology for monitoring these critical species. His work on fish trap designs has increased effectiveness while minimizing stress and mortality of the refuge’s endangered fishes and a threatened aquatic invertebrate.

A volunteer since 2011, Mr. Fairfield dedicates his time to be at the refuge weekly, rain or shine, and even in the heat of the Mojave Desert summer. Through September 2018, he has volunteered 7,521.5 hours total at Ash Meadows -- 1,437 hours in the last 12 months alone. Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge Manager Corey Lee observed, “Our refuge, which boasts of three endemic fish and two endemic insects, hasn’t had a full-time permanent biologist since 2014. We are very fortunate to have Hal voluntarily serve as an aquatic biologist.”

The National Wildlife Refuge Association is proud to present this award to the very deserving Hal Fairfield.

Mr. Fairfield’s award will be presented on February 27, 2019, at the National Wildlife Refuge Association’s Annual Gala Awards Dinner in Washington, D.C.

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The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge Association is to conserve America’s wildlife heritage for future generations through strategic programs that protect, enhance, and expand the National Wildlife Refuge System and the landscapes beyond its boundaries that secure its ecological integrity. For more information, visit www.refugeassociation.org or contact [Kristen Berry](mailto:Kristen.Berry@refugeassociation.org), National Wildlife Refuge Association, 202-417-3803.