

Learning from the Experts



NPS Fire Leaders

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[Bruce Kilgore: 'I am Glad I Shall Never be Young Without Wild Country to be Young In'](#)



Listen to reflective insights from this nationally renowned fire ecologist and important visionary who served as a strong proponent and force for reintroducing fire back into fire-prone landscapes.

[Jan van Wagtendonk: The Importance of Mentoring and Learning Out on the Landscape](#)



This former smoke jumper, who spent four years as a Lieutenant with the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam, went on to earn his Ph.D. in Fire Ecology—studying under Dr. Harry Biswell—at the University of California at Berkeley. Jan developed one of the first fire management prescriptions for Yosemite National Park—where he spent a noteworthy 36-year career. His insights here include two pivotal smoke-jumper stories.