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**ANDY YUEN WINS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM 2014  
PAUL KROEGEL REFUGE MANAGER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**WASHINGTON, D.C., FEBRUARY 5, 2014-** Andy Yuen, Refuge Manager for the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex in California, is this year's recipient of the 2014 Paul Kroegel Refuge Manager of the Year Award from the National Wildlife Refuge Association.

The Paul Kroegel award is the most prestigious of all honors for Refuge System staff, given to those who demonstrate leadership and bold vision emblematic of Kroegel's lasting legacy as the System's first refuge manager.

"Andy is a true leader who provides vision and direction, and then gives his staff the space to learn, grow and ultimately do great work," said National Wildlife Refuge Association President, David Houghton. "His track record speaks volumes about who he is as a conservation leader and a friend to wildlife."

Yuen began his career in his native Hawaii in 1984 as a Cooperative Education Program student with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In 1992, Yuen helped to establish the Kealia Pond National Wildlife Refuge and the Guam National Wildlife Refuge. Even after leaving Hawaii, his early work set the stage for the establishment of the Oahu Forest and Palmyra Atoll National Wildlife Refuges.

Always an out-of-the-box thinker, Yuen was one of the first U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service managers to provide work experience opportunities for wounded military service members as they transitioned from the military to the civilian workforce. Yuen worked with the local Veterans Administration hospital to bring service members onto the refuges and expose them to civilian jobs where they could use their background and training.

Yuen's ability to work cooperatively with other agencies and organizations, as well as his willingness to reach out and provide support to these groups to achieve mutual goals and objectives, has led to the completion of many successful projects on the refuges and into adjacent communities. His successful coordination with NOAA, EPA, California Coastal Conservancy, Port of San Diego, U.S. Navy, and the Cities of Imperial Beach and Coronado resulted in the completion of a 300-acre coastal wetland restoration project that restored 230 acres of tidal salt marsh on San Diego Bay NWR and enhanced an additional 70 acres of coastal uplands and wetlands on Port property in San Diego Bay. A similar partnership resulted in grant funding to implement a trail project that runs parallel to Bayshore Bikeway and improves access for observing wildlife in south San Diego Bay. By engaging refuge neighbors – agencies and organizations, the military and private landowners – Yuen helps build and maintain support for the Refuge System's ongoing conservation mission.



National  
**Wildlife Refuge**  
Association

For more information about the National Wildlife Refuge System awards and the amazing conservation work done by refuge staff and volunteers, please visit:

[refugeassociation.org/people/awards/2013awards/](http://refugeassociation.org/people/awards/2013awards/)

*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.*

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