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**GEORGE WRIGHT SOCIETY HONORS PEROT MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE
PALEONTOLOGIST DR. ANTHONY FIORILLO WITH THE *NATURAL RESOURCE
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD* FOR HIS GROUNDBREAKING CONTRIBUTIONS TO ALASKA'S
NATIONAL PARKS**

Natural Resource Achievement Award recognizes excellence in research, management, or education related to the natural resources of parks, reserves and other protected areas; Fiorillo is among eight winners of outstanding achievements in conservation of special places

DALLAS (May 6, 2019) – Honoring people who have made major contributions in natural and cultural resources, social sciences, communications and related fields, the **George Wright Society** (GWS) has selected **Anthony Fiorillo, Ph.D.**, chief curator and vice president of research and collections at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in Dallas, as the recipient of the **Natural Resource Achievement Award**. The award, as part of GWS's "Imagine Excellence" awards program, is given every two years in recognition of excellence in research, management, or education related to the natural resources of parks, reserves and other protected areas throughout the United States.

Dr. Fiorillo – a renowned paleontologist whose Arctic research and dinosaur species discoveries have changed what scientists know about dinosaurs – has been a major player in the field of paleontology for more than 25 years. Perhaps his greatest contributions have been to parks in the Alaska region, where he made the first discovery of dinosaur remains in any Alaskan national park and went on to establish their presence in three more National Park Service units in the state.

"We are so incredibly proud of Dr. Fiorillo and his internationally renowned work in the field of Arctic paleontology. The research of his team not only expands our global scientific understanding of paleontology and related issues such as climate change, but it also is shared directly and visibly with Museum guests through exhibits, hands-on experiences and programming," said Dr. Linda Silver, Eugene McDermott Chief Executive Officer at the Perot Museum. "We're delighted that the esteemed George Wright Society has recognized his significant contributions to science, which include the naming of more new Arctic fossil animal species than any other research team in the world."

Collectively, the 2019 GWS Award winners have distinguished themselves for protecting park resources, restoring natural conditions, promoting the understanding of human use of protected areas, supporting Indigenous peoples, addressing the impacts of climate change and fostering large-scale conservation across entire landscapes.

"I'm extremely pleased and humbled to be recognized by the George Wright Society, and I share this honor with the other scientists and federal land managers who partnered with me during our 20-plus years of research in Alaska," said Fiorillo. "And, in particular, I thank the staff of the National Park Service who not only lent their expertise and support but inspired a great and continuing passion for these public lands."

GWS also selected Jeffrey Marion, station leader and scientist at the US Geological Survey, and an adjunct professor at Virginia Tech University, as co-winner of the Natural Resource Achievement Award. Marion's research established the fundamental relationship between amount of recreational use of parks and protected areas and its impact to vegetation and soils, the understanding of which has profoundly contributed to effective visitor impact management programs.

Since 1980 the George Wright Society has built a community of conservation dedicated to better understanding and management of parks, protected areas and cultural sites. Through meetings, trainings, publications, and other activities, including the “Imagine Excellence” Awards Program, GWS brings together disciplines and bridges scholarly knowledge and management to help protect the world’s most special places.

Other recipients of GWS’s “Imagine Excellence” program are Louise Johnson and Abigail Miller, co-winners of The George Melendez Wright Award for Excellence; Melia Lane-Kamahele, winner of The GWS Cultural Resource Achievement Award; Steve Lawson, winner of The GWS Social Science Achievement Award; Brenda Barrett, winner of The GWS Communications Award; and Maria Caffrey, winner of The GWS Special Achievement Award.

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About the Perot Museum of Nature and Science. *The top cultural attraction in Dallas/Fort Worth and a Michelin Green Guide three-star destination, the Perot Museum of Nature and Science is a nonprofit educational organization located in the heart of Dallas, Texas. With a mission to inspire minds through nature and science, the Perot Museum delivers exciting, engaging and innovative visitor and outreach experiences through its education, exhibition, and research and collections programming for children, students, teachers, families and life-long learners. The 180,000-square-foot facility in Victory Park opened in December 2012 and is now recognized as the symbolic gateway to the Dallas Arts District. Future scientists, mathematicians and engineers will find inspiration and enlightenment through 11 permanent exhibit halls on five floors of public space; a children’s museum; a state-of-the art traveling exhibition hall; and The Hogle Foundation Theater, a National Geographic Experience. Designed by 2005 Pritzker Architecture Prize Laureate Thom Mayne and his firm Morphosis Architects, the Victory Park museum has been lauded for its artistry and sustainability. To learn more, please visit perotmuseum.org*

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