



**Contact** Kimberly Fletcher,  
COO, Banovich Wildscapes Foundation  
**Mobile** 307.200.1622  
**Email** [info@wildscapesfoundation.org](mailto:info@wildscapesfoundation.org)  
**Website** [www.awardforconservationexcellence.org](http://www.awardforconservationexcellence.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FEBRUARY 8, 2018

Banovich Wildscapes Foundation and Southeastern Wildlife Exposition  
present  
AWARD for CONSERVATION EXCELLENCE (ACE)



sponsored by Cabela's Outdoor Fund, the Cabela Family Foundation & Bass Pro Shops  
February 14, 2018, Gaillard Center, Charleston, SC

### **Award for Conservation Excellence (ACE)**

ACE is a non-profit award rewarding and acknowledging exceptional contributors to wildlife conservation. The first ACE Award will be presented at a premier awards ceremony during the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition February 14, 2018 at the Gaillard Center in Charleston, SC.

The ACE Award, sponsored by Cabela's Outdoor Fund, Cabela Family Foundation and Bass Pro Shops, was created to recognize the exceptional contributions made by some of the world's leading conservationists and is intended to become the most significant award in the conservation arena.

The mission of ACE is to honor and appreciate a legacy of conservation through recognition of men and women who share their passion to conserve the great outdoors, and have made extraordinary contributions to the sustainability of nature and wildlife. The Award will recognize a conservationist's long-term commitment to making our planet a better place, and empower people in both local and international communities to advance wildlife conservation.

### **OVERVIEW**

Many of the world's leading conservationists, biologists and scientists are working tirelessly in the field of conservation to save the world's remaining species. These unsung heroes dedicate their lives to the preservation of flora and fauna, often working in remote, unforgiving wilderness areas under extreme and challenging conditions. In committing to this lifelong journey, they often subject themselves to what some might consider a vow of poverty. With their astute minds and diligent work ethic, they could potentially be the top earners in private industry had they not chosen the unheralded work of the nonprofit world. Instead they are driven by their passion for saving wildlife and making the world a better place.

Today, there is a large public chasm between the hunter/sportsman conservation world and the non-hunting environmental/conservation world; in some circles this disconnect is widening. Banovich Wildscapes Foundation, with support from Southeastern Wildlife Exposition (SEWE), believes that the ACE will not only acknowledge and honor an outstanding individual working for conservation, but will create an awareness of the need for everyone to work together to protect and preserve the earth's wild places and wildlife.

### **FIRST ACE AWARD CEREMONY OVERVIEW**

The first ACE ceremony will honor the world's leading conservationists and provide sponsors and guests the opportunity to experience gourmet cuisine and world-class entertainment. Five finalists have been chosen from across the globe and the First place winner will be awarded a \$100,000 cash prize (donated by The Cabela's Outdoor Fund & Cabela Family Foundation) and a \$5,000 Cabela's gift certificate. Four finalists will receive a \$5,000 Cabela's Gift Certificate donated by Cabela's Outdoor Fund and a \$5,000 cash reward, donated by Bass Pro Shops.



### **Award For Conservation Excellence (ACE) 2018 Award Finalists Announced**

#### **George Archibald, PhD. (United States)**

Co-Founder & Senior Conservationist, International Crane Foundation

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/2v1HOHmJ5vU>

#### **Joel Berger, PhD (United States)**

Senior Scientist, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

Barbara Cox Anthony University Chair in Wildlife Conservation

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/perZm36TR8s>

#### **K. Ullas Karanth, Ph.D, F.A.Sc. (India)**

Director for Science-Asia for the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/vvMHFnYCSH4>

#### **David Macdonald, PhD (United Kingdom)**

Founder & Director of WildCRU, Zoology, University of Oxford, The Recanati-Kaplan

Centre VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/Td4nbvC7I94>

#### **Timothy McClanahan, PhD & Nyawira Muthiga, PhD (Kenya)**

Founders, Wildlife Conservation Society's (WCS) Coral Reef program

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/b50OwcoggaI>

**VIEW FINALISTS:** <http://www.wildscapesfoundation.org/ace-award/conservation-heroes/c/ace-award-nominees>

#### **ACE OVERVIEW VIDEO**

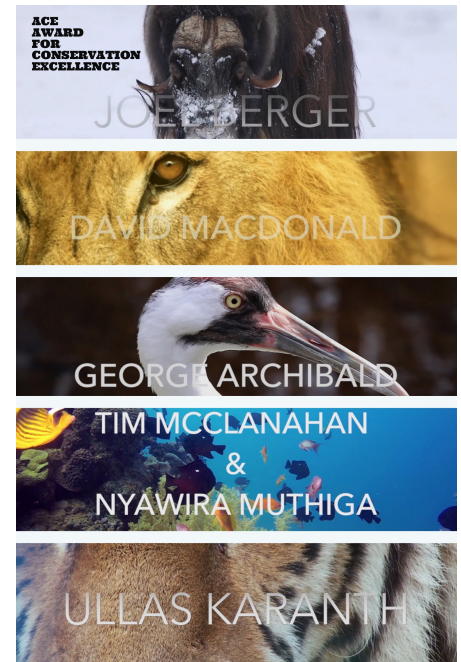
<https://youtu.be/90kcxcYPoQ>

#### **John Banovich, Banovich Wildscapes Founder on the ACE Award Video**

<https://youtu.be/QWoUJUrSqmE>

#### **ABOUT THE AWARD FOR CONSERVATION EXCELLENCE**

WEBSITE: <http://www.wildscapesfoundation.org/ace-award/about>



VENUE: Gaillard Center, Charleston, SC

*"The Award for Conservation Excellence brings a critical focus to the world's dedicated conservationists, and the common ground shared by sportsmen and conservationists. Historically, responsible hunters and fishermen were the first conservationists in all cultures around the world, and today responsible sportsmen contribute significantly to game and fish management and research. This award honors the basic science and conservation upon which modern wildlife management is based. When sportsmen, scientists, and conservationists act together we comprise an enormous constituency that can protect public lands, habitat, and fish and wildlife populations."*

Dr. Frank Lance Craighead, Craighead Institute

#### **ABOUT BANOVICH WILDSAPES FOUNDATION:**

*The Banovich Wildscapes Foundation is a nonprofit (501c3) organization fostering cooperative efforts to conserve the earth's wildlife and wild places benefiting the wildlife and the people that live there.*

*BWF supports a total of twelve projects in seven countries. A portion of the sale of Banovich limited edition giclée canvases and Wild Accents benefit the foundation.*

*Founded in 2007 by John Banovich, BWF is the culmination of tireless conservation efforts over the past two decades. Through his career as an artist, Banovich has inspired a deeper understanding of the world and its wildlife, encouraging successful conservation efforts and awareness of endangered species and their habitats. Traveling across the world seeking inspiration for his work, Banovich has utilized these opportunities to research wildlife and to learn about associated conservation challenges at the local, regional, and national levels. Through his career, artwork and his publishing company, Banovich Art, Banovich has developed effective ways to help implement and support conservation programs and is utilizing his imagery to promote a message of wildlife preservation and to initiate real change - BWF is making a difference.*