



# Paul F-Brandwein Institute

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Paul F-Brandwein Institute Awards Brandwein Medal to Nikita Lopoukhine

**ICUN-World Parks Congress, Sydney, Australia—November 18, 2014** – Today the Paul F-Brandwein Institute bestowed its highest award, the International Brandwein Medal, to Nikita (Nik) Lopoukhine, at the closing session of the “Inspiring a New Generation” Stream at the IUCN-World Parks Congress in Sydney, Australia. The award is given to individuals and organizations whose focus is in keeping with Paul and Mary Brandwein’s commitment to education, life-long learning, nature, and community.

Nik Lopoukhine was selected as this year’s awardee for his lifetime work in protecting the special places of our planet and inspiring new generations of people to experience, embrace, and love nature firsthand. Throughout his career, Nik has promoted the importance of youth and supported efforts to ensure that there is increased awareness and understanding of the value and role of protected areas in meeting global challenges.

Nik began his professional career with the Forestry Canada in 1968 and later moved to the Lands Directorate of Environment Canada. He took a leading role in bringing broad ecological thinking to the Government of Canada in the developing field of land mapping of ecosystems. In the 1980s, Nik was recruited by Parks Canada and initiated their fire management program that insures healthy ecosystems in the national parks. In the 1990s, Nik served as the Chair of the International Society for Ecological Restoration.

Nik was the first Executive Director of the Ecological Integrity Branch. In 2001, he became the Director General of National Parks. He was responsible for establishing new parks and marine conservation areas as well as establishing the ecological integrity monitoring program and implementing the Species at Risk Act. In 2004, at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Bangkok, Nik was elected Chair of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA). He stepped down from this role in 2012 and now serves on the board of the Wildlands Network and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society.

In Feb 2012, Nik was honoured with the J.B. Harkin Award for his life-long commitment to Canadian conservation and in 2013, he was awarded a “Golden Leaf” by the Canadian Council for Ecological Areas in recognition for his contributions to conservation. (More information is found at [www.brandwein.org](http://www.brandwein.org).)

### *About the Paul F-Brandwein Institute*

Guided by Paul and Mary Brandwein’s work in science and conservation education, the Institute, incorporated in 1995, has supported teacher field science in partnership with Toyota, endowed the Brandwein Lecture at the National Science Teachers Annual Meetings, and convened a gathering of leading conservationists to focus national attention on the decline of the conservation workforce and conservation education. It has also developed a cadre of “Brandwein Fellows,” from the nation’s best science educators, for the purpose of spreading best practices in field-based science. On November 5, 2015, the Paul F-Brandwein Institute will convene a three-day Summit, “**North American Actions to Inspire a New Generation,**” at the National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, West Virginia. The Institute is headquartered in the Town of Greenville, Orange County, NY with an administrative office in Milford, PA in the historic National Park Service Callahan House.