

Biography – Dr. Mamie Parker

Dr. Mamie A. Parker, President of Ma Parker and Associates and an executive coach and facilitator in the Washington, D. C. area was inspired by her mother, a maid and sharecropper, along with one of the legendary singer/songwriter Marvin Gaye's hit songs, to help others and promote clean water and air. At an early age, Parker's mother took her fishing and shared life lessons that helped her when she was the first to integrate her segregated elementary school in Arkansas and the first African American Chief of Staff at the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Dr. Parker has worked as a fish and wildlife biologist and executive in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri, Georgia, Massachusetts and Washington, D. C. She started her career at a Wisconsin fish lab and hatchery and has extensive experience in Clean Water Act permits, ESA, NEPA compliance, NRDA contaminants clean-up projects, invasive species, fish passage, and Farm Bill and wetland restoration activities.

The Governor of Arkansas enshrined her into the Arkansas Outdoor Hall of Fame honoring her as the first Arkansan to serve as the Head of Fisheries in this country. As a Senior Executive Service career employee, the President of the United States awarded her the Presidential Rank Award for her work on building powerful partnerships for the National Fish Habitat Plan, the Partners For Fish and Wildlife Program, and with organizations such as the American Pharmaceutical Association and Wal-Mart where she promoted a national campaign of smart disposal of medicine and unwanted aquarium fish and plants. The Kellogg Foundation awarded her and the Green Schools Alliance a grant to organize workshops and share the Ma Parker Journey, her life story as a pioneer in conservation touching the lives of many minority students throughout the world.

Parker's work has been featured on the NPR's Morning Edition, the Steve Harvey Show, and in Dudley Edmundson's "Black and Brown Faces in America's Wild Places." Parker was awarded the American Fisheries Society's Emmaline Moore Award for personally mentoring over 50 women and people of color in her profession and is a co-author on the AFS's book entitled "The Future of Fisheries."

She is an avid angler and spends her time working in the community as a member of the American Fisheries Society, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc, the Links, Inc. and the Rotary Club of Dunn-Loring.

The Governor of Virginia appointed her as a commissioner for the Virginia Game and Inland Fisheries Board where she was recently elected as Vice Chair. Dr. Parker also serves on the Board of Directors of the Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment, Northland College, American University School of Public Affairs, The Nature Conservancy-Virginia Chapter, the Student Conservation Association, Ducks Unlimited Conservation Policy Advisory Council, Board of Directors for Brown Advisory Sustainable Investment, Marstel-Day Consulting Company Board, Defenders of Wildlife, the Potomac and the Chesapeake Conservancy.

She has spoken at international conferences in the U.S. and China, among others. Former Secretary Madeleine Albright and the Council of World Women Leaders awarded her an Aspen

Institute Fellowship where she worked at the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy and in the Kingdom of Lesotho and Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa.