

## **Many, Many Thanks to Dan Gooch – Stepping Down as Executive Director**

At the October Board of Directors meeting in Atlanta long-time NACPRO Executive Director Dan Gooch formally announced his retirement from the position. Dan has been involved with the management of county parks since 1974 and spent about 30 years with the Forest Preserve District in Du Page County Illinois. At Du Page Dan served in most every position from Naturalist to Executive Director. Although Dan retired from Du Page he has not left the profession due to continuing work with the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board, the Chicago Wilderness Biodiversity Consortium and consulting in association with a National Park Service related project in Nevada and Utah.

During his long and successful career in regional park service Dan has also been very active in the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials. Dan served as NACPRO's President in 1999 and was on the NACo Board as the NACPRO Representative for several years after that. In 2005 Dan took over as the Executive Director of NACPRO and has worked over the years to improve the professionalism of the organizations and develop ways to assist members in improving their skills in regional park and open space management. Dan continues to pledge his support for the Association and will continue as NACPRO historian and assist with other small volunteer projects. Dan truly values the camaraderie provided through membership and want to maintain the rewarding personal relationships he has formed over the years with many county park colleagues across the country. Dan is a true professional and friend of the Association.