

80th Anniversary Issue

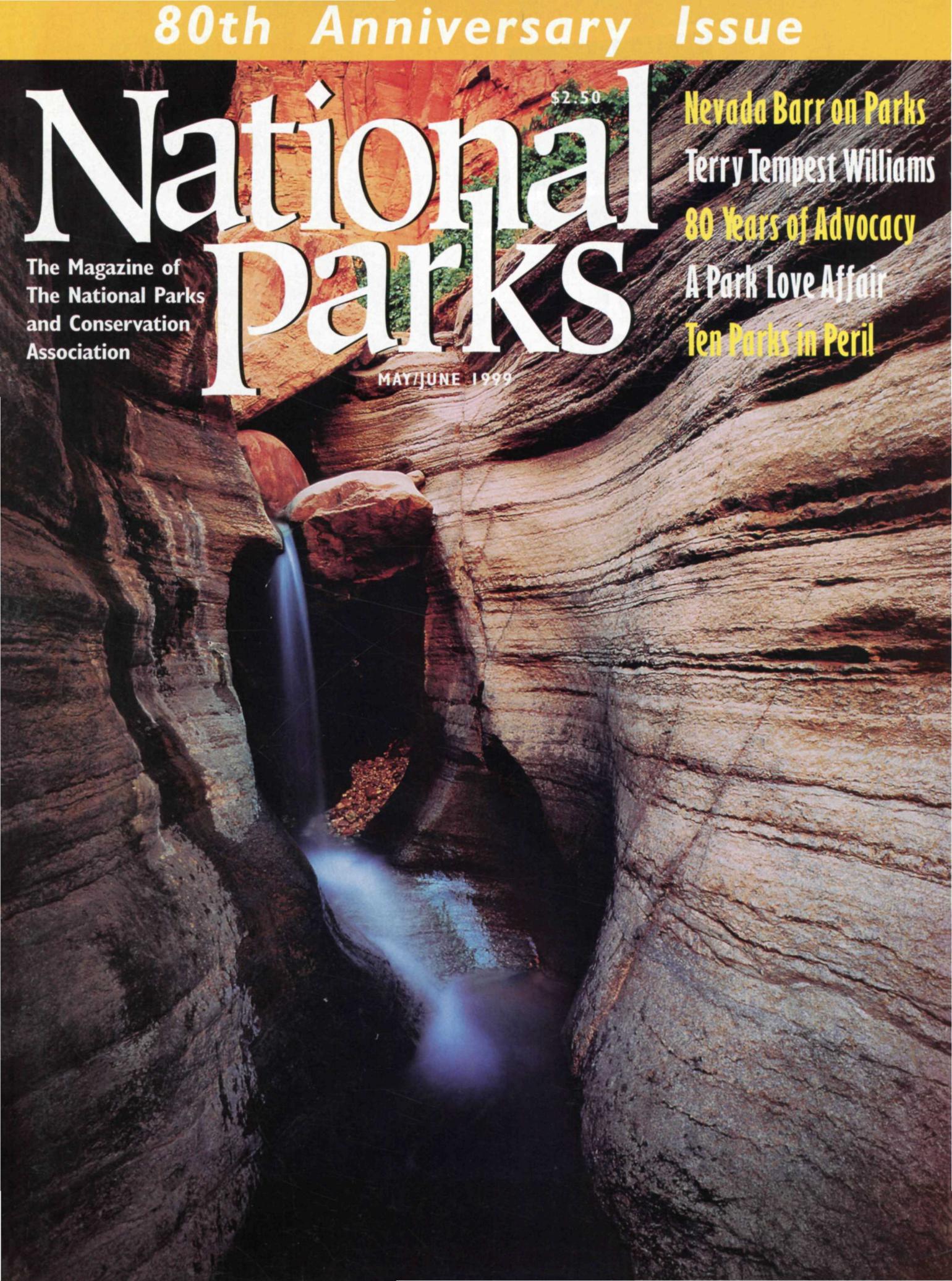
National Parks

The Magazine of
The National Parks
and Conservation
Association

\$2.50

MAY/JUNE 1999

Nevada Barr on Parks
Terry Tempest Williams
80 Years of Advocacy
A Park Love Affair
Ten Parks in Peril



Ancient Indian mounds. Wildlife preserves. Mangrove canopies. There's more to Florida's Lee Island Coast than white sand.

Come, escape to a world that is as rich in history as it is in natural beauty. It's a world of exotic tropical wildlife, spectacular sunsets and hundreds of uninhabited islands. Sites which have remained mostly unchanged since first viewed by the ancient Calusa Indians thousands of years ago. The Lee Island Coast is a paradise waiting to be found. And don't worry, there are still miles of white sand beaches to relax on after all that exploring. For free vacation information call 888-231-5990 or visit our Web site www.LeeIslandCoast.com.

LEE ISLAND COAST
Florida's Tropical Island Getaway



Kayaking uncharted Lee County islands

SANIBEL & CAPTIVA ISLANDS · FORT MYERS BEACH · FORT MYERS · CAPE CORAL · BONITA

SPRINGS & BEACHES · NORTH FORT MYERS · PINE ISLAND & BOCA GRANDE · LEHIGH ACRES



BEST WESTERN BEACH RESORT
Savor world-class sunsets from your private balcony or on our white sandy beach. Stroll to restaurants and shopping or relax at our heated pool. All rooms face Fort Myers Beach and the Gulf of Mexico.
800-336-4045



BEST WESTERN PINK SHELL BEACH RESORT
Surrounded by water on Estero Island, this resort features beachfront villas, studios and cottages. Immerse yourself in fun with water sports, a fishing pier, family recreation programs and photo safaris.
800-522-5552



NEW! CASA PLAYA RESORT
Relax in style at Ft. Myers Beach's newest AAA ♦♦♦ all suite beach resort. Gulf front studios, one and two bedroom suites, full kitchens, balconies, heated pool, private beach and cabanas.
800-569-4876



GRANDVIEW RESORT
Fantastic views await you at our secluded tropical resort at Ft. Myers Beach adjacent to Lovers Key. Amenities include; 75 spacious and fully equipped suites, pool, Jacuzzi, water sports, private beach and a recreation program.
800-625-4111



HOLIDAY INN SUNSPREE RESORT
Ft. Myers only riverfront resort located on the Caloosahatchee River. 146 rooms & suites. Dining & incredible sunsets at Shooters Waterfront Café. Close to area attractions, fitness room & European Day Spa.
800-664-7775



RADISSON INN SANIBEL GATEWAY
Located between the beaches of Sanibel/Captiva Island and Ft. Myers Beach offering 158 resort-style rooms, casual dining in Rio's Bar & Grille, heated olympic size swimming pool and giant whirlpool. Ask for Super Saver Rates.
800-333-3333



SANIBEL & CAPTIVA ACCOMMODATIONS
Representing the islands finest vacation rental accommodations. Gulf front condominiums and private beach homes. Complete accommodations and travel service.
877-2SANIBEL



SANIBEL INN
Set amidst more than 500 palm trees, Sanibel Inn is a natural refuge along the Gulf of Mexico. Discover topiary, butterfly and hummingbird gardens and embark on eco-themed recreation diversions.
800-522-5552



SANIBEL'S SEASIDE INN
This secluded refuge offers the simple pleasures of island life. Savor our breakfast basket, splash in the Gulf, bicycle along island trails - and return home with memories of paradise.
800-522-5552



'TWEEN WATERS INN
A Captiva Island beach & bay resort - escape, unwind, indulge... beach, sand, shell, bird, fish, paddle, sail, swim, dance, dream. All your vacation choices come true.
800-223-5865



VIP REALTY GROUP, INC. RENTAL DEPARTMENT
Offering a delightful variety of vacation homes, villas, condos or beach cottages on Sanibel & Captiva Islands, Ft. Myers and Ft. Myers Beach for your ultimate holiday enjoyment.
800-237-7526



WEST WIND INN
The West Wind Inn - your Sanibel Island resort. Miles of beach to explore, pool, tennis, golf nearby. Closest resort to canoeing, the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Refuge & Shell Museum.
800-824-0476



National parks

Vol. 73, No. 5-6
May/June 1999

The Magazine of the National Parks
and Conservation Association

FEATURES

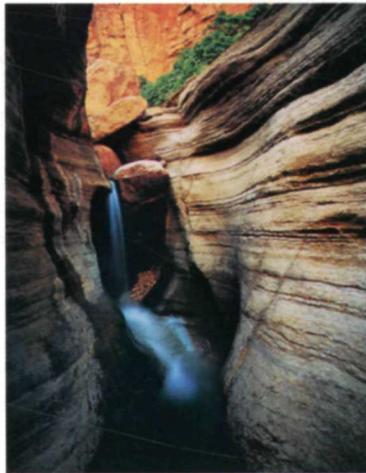
26 We Can Go Home Again
The parks are places where we, our children, and grandchildren can go to find a sense of who we are and to celebrate the wonders of nature.
By Nevada Barr

29 Places of the Heart
Grand Teton National Park holds a sacred store of memories for a conservationist and nature writer.
By Terry Tempest Williams

32 Eighty Years of Advocacy
NPCA and its members have, since the association's inception, worked to preserve the natural and cultural significance of our national parks.
By Todd Wilkinson

37 A Magnificent Obsession
Considered one of the country's foremost experts on the National Park System, Robin W. Winks has had a life-long love affair with the national parks.
By Linda M. Rancourt

National Parks (ISSN0276-8186) is published bimonthly by the National Parks and Conservation Association, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20036. Single copies are \$2.50. Title registered U.S. Pat. and TM office. ©1999 by NPCA. Printed in the United States. Periodicals postage paid at Washington, D.C., and additional mailing offices. Articles are published for educational purposes and do not necessarily reflect the views of this association. POSTMASTER: Send address changes and circulation inquiries to: National Parks, Member Services, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20036, USA. Newsstand Distribution by Eastern News Distributors, Inc., 1 Media Way, Milan, OH 44846.



COVER: The Grand Canyon represents the essence of the national parks for many people. Designated as a national park in 1919, it pervades the pages of our 80th Anniversary issue. Photograph by Larry Ulrich.



PAGE 32

DEPARTMENTS

6 Outlook
Selecting only ten parks for our most endangered list presented a challenge for NPCA, and addressing the needs presents a challenge for all of us.
By Thomas C. Kiernan

8 Editor's Note

10 Letters

12 NPCA Park News
Sierra Nevada bighorn face extinction; sandboarding; and Mesa Verde transportation proposal.

24 Special Report
A new NPCA report focuses on ten of the 378 park units suffering threats that face the entire system.
By Kim A. O'Connell

42 Excursions
Over the years, hiking has remained one of the most popular ways to see the national parks.
By Yvette La Pierre

45 EcoOpportunities

50 Rare & Endangered
The Tennessee coneflower.
By Elizabeth G. Daerr

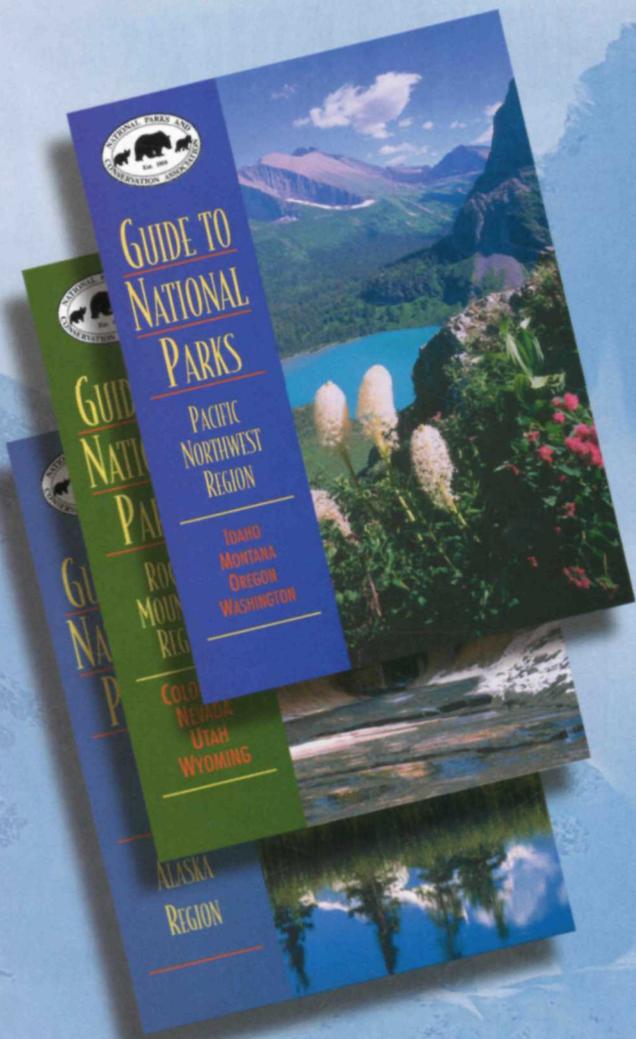
51 Notes

53 You Are Here

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

New and Improved
Only \$11.95*

NATIONAL PARK DISCOVERY GUIDES



All the information
you need to plan a great visit
to our National Parks

EACH GUIDE INCLUDES:

- Nearby points of interest with regional and individual full-color park maps.
- When to go, fees and permits, entrances, parking, pet information, visitor centers, museums and gift shops
- A complete activities listing (including hiking, fishing, bicycling, horseback riding, tours and much more).
- Details on lodging, camping, dining and services. Checklists for hiking and camping (to help make your visit both fun and safe).
- Dramatic color photography throughout of your favorite park settings, highlights and views.

CALL TODAY!

1.800.395.PARK
7 2 7 5

Regions, Highlighted Parks and States Covered

ALASKA. Denali and 15 additional parks. Alaska.

PACIFIC. Yosemite and 30 additional parks. California, Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST. Glacier and 23 additional parks. Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN. Yellowstone and 29 additional parks. Colorado, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming.

HEARTLAND. Badlands and 44 additional parks. Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin.

SOUTHWEST. Grand Canyon and 50 additional parks. Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas.

SOUTHEAST. Great Smoky Mountains and 70 additional parks. Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virgin Islands.

NORTHEAST. Acadia and 105 additional parks. Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia.



YES! send me the ___ National Park Discovery Guide(s) that I've checked to the left. I understand the price per guide is \$11.95* or \$85.75 for all eight (*plus \$4.25 shipping and handling per order). NPCA members receive a 10% discount

My check or money order for \$ _____, payable to NPCA is enclosed. Or charge my: Visa MasterCard AMEX

Cardholder Signature _____ Card Expiration Date _____

Account Number _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

NPCA Member ID Number _____

MAIL TO: NPCA • P.O. Box 188, Federalsburg, Maryland 21632

Citizens Protecting America's Parks

Founded in 1919, the National Parks and Conservation Association (NPCA) is America's only private non-profit citizen organization dedicated solely to protecting, preserving, and enhancing the U.S. National Park System



National Parks and Conservation Association

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CHAIRMAN

*William G. Watson, Wichita, Kansas

VICE CHAIRMEN

*Gretchen Long Glickman, Wilson, Wyoming

*H. William Walter, Minneapolis, Minnesota

*Robin W. Winks, Ph.D., Northford, Connecticut

TREASURER

*Donald Murphy, El Dorado Hills, California

SECRETARY

*Wallace A. Cole, Denali National Park, Alaska

PAST CHAIRMAN

G. Robert Kerr, Atlanta, Georgia

Susan H. Babcock, Pasadena, California

*James E. Bostic, Jr., Ph.D., Atlanta, Georgia

Martin Brown, Nashville, Tennessee

Don H. Castleberry, Little Rock, Arkansas

Steven A. Denning, Greenwich, Connecticut

James S. Hoyte, Lexington, Massachusetts

Robert B. Keiter, Salt Lake City, Utah

Dennis Takahashi Kelso, Berkeley, California

*Robert N. Leggett, Jr., Great Falls, Virginia

*Maryon Davies Lewis, San Francisco, California

Stephen Mather McPherson, New York, New York

Dwight C. Minton, Princeton, New Jersey

Marie W. Ridder, McLean, Virginia

John B. Roberts, New York, New York

Thomas F. Secunda, Croton-on-Hudson, New York

Dolph C. Simons, Jr., Lawrence, Kansas

Roland H. Wauer, Victoria, Texas

*EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Thomas C. Kiernan, *President*

Carol Aten, *Executive Vice President*

Sandra A. Adams, *Senior Vice President for Development and Communications*

Stephanie Murphy, *Vice President for Finance and Administration*

Jessie A. Brinkley, *Vice President for Development and Marketing*

William J. Chandler, *Vice President for Conservation Policy*

Jim Pissot, *Vice President for Regional Programs*

Elizabeth Fayad, *Counsel*

Linda M. Rancourt, *Director of Publications*

Jennifer B. Robertson, *Assistant to the President*

Kristianne Taweel, *Director of Membership*

Jerome Uher, *Associate Director of Communications*

Phil Voorhees, *Director of National Programs*

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Don Barger, *Southeast*

Chip Dennerlein, *Alaska*

Brian Huse, *Pacific*

Lori M. Nelson, *Heartland*

Mark Peterson, *Rocky Mountain*

David J. Simon, *Southwest*

Eileen Woodford, *Northeast*



A Difficult Choice

Selecting only ten parks for our endangered list presented a challenge for NPCA, and addressing the needs presents a challenge for all of us.

LET'S FACE FACTS—all of our 378 national park units are in danger for one reason or another. That's why the article in this issue paring that list to "Ten Parks in Peril" was so hard to write.

Whenever I see a "Ten Most" list, I always wonder whether it is a public relations gimmick, or whether the list truly highlights issues that are a priority for the group that developed it. Frankly, in NPCA's case, it's both. We want to focus attention on the major problems facing our National Park System by picking ten that, for a variety of reasons, urgently require public action. We also have selected parks where we are hard at work, bringing our expertise to bear, devoting time and resources to solving the problems we have identified.

Selecting only ten was a struggle. Right down to the deadline for this publication, staff were making compelling cases for additional parks in need. Just one such example is Glacier Bay in Alaska—the largest protected marine ecosystem in the National Park System. We thought we had already won a hard-fought battle to phase out commercial fishing in sensitive areas. Now this battle could be reopened by state challenges to jurisdiction over submerged lands in the park as well as by congressional actions. I don't want to detract your attention from the ten we finally selected—but you can see how difficult the process was.



SCOTT SUCHMAN

Our final roster represents the most egregious examples of threats, such as overcrowding, poor air quality, deteriorating artifacts, commercial development near park boundaries, invasive non-native plants and animals, and, in general, a crumbling infrastructure resulting from a multi-billion-dollar backlog in park maintenance. It also serves as a wake-up call to NPCA members and other park activists, because, working together, we can save these parks. With your continued support, we can win not only these important park-specific battles, but also pursue our action-oriented agenda. More funding for the park system, better use of existing dollars going to the parks, innovative approaches to overcrowding and transportation—all of these system-wide initiatives will eventually help us pare down the number of parks in need.

We plan to make this an annual process because the pressures continue to mount, even as we look for long-term solutions.

You may have your own suggested "park in peril." Please let me hear from you, so we can consider your suggestion for next year. I welcome your reactions to our "Ten Most" and your help in spreading the word to others who care about our nation's treasures.

Thomas C. Kiernan
President

NPCA Checks

Save Our Parks!

Every order helps preserve our country's most precious areas. Every time you order, royalties go directly to the National Parks and Conservation Association.



Beautiful rotating series features the Great Smoky Mountains, Yosemite, Arches, Yellowstone, Acadia, and Everglades National Parks.



Return Address Labels - six scenes match your checks!



Hemp Checkbook Cover features the NPCA logo



Cotton Covers - select your favorite scene

NATIONAL PARKS CHECKS ORDER FORM

Check Your Choice Below:

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Parks Check Series (6 designs) (NP) | <input type="checkbox"/> 200 Singles | <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Duplicates | Total |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 240 National Parks Labels (6 designs) (NP-LB) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15.95 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$17.95 | \$ _____ |
| | | Add \$12.95 | \$ _____ |

Checkbook Covers:

| | | |
|---|-------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hemp Logo Cover (HNP-UQLO) | Add \$14.95 | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cotton Cover (CNP-UQLO) | Add \$11.95 | \$ _____ |

Select Scene: Acadia Everglades Yellowstone
 Arches Smoky Mountains Yosemite

SUBTOTAL \$ _____

Add 6.5% tax for Minnesota residents only \$ _____

Delivery \$1.95 per item **OR PRIORITY** \$3.95 per item \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

IMPORTANT! Include the following with this form:

- Voided check indicating a starting number # _____ for your new order
(If none given we will start your order at 101)
- Deposit ticket from the same account
- Three lines of personalization for matching labels: (see left side!)

Daytime Telephone Number: (_____) _____
(CONFIDENTIAL - in case of questions about your order only)

Please allow 3-5 weeks processing & delivery OR 1-3 weeks for PRIORITY delivery

Payment type

- Check enclosed-make payable to: Message!Products™ No COD's
- Debit my checking account (CHECK ORDERS ONLY) Signature _____
- Charge to: Visa Mastercard American Express Discover

Acct. No. _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____ Signature _____

To order, send complete form to:
Message!Products or fax to:
P.O. Box 64800 1-800-790-6684
St. Paul, MN or order online!
55164-0800 www.messagecheck.com

QUESTIONS? 1-800-243-2565



80 Years of Vigilance

CONSIDERED ONE OF THE greatest natural wonders of the world, the Grand Canyon evokes for many the essence of a national park. This 1.2-million-acre park encompasses a canyon that averages ten miles from rim to rim and is more than 15 miles across at its widest.

Even though it was not the first national park—Yellowstone was—it was among the earliest sites set aside. Even so, protection has come in stages. In 1908 President Theodore Roosevelt used the Antiquities Act to proclaim the Grand Canyon a national monument. In 1919, the Grand Canyon was transferred from the U.S. Forest Service to the National Park Service and became a national park. It was the same year that the National Parks and Conservation Association got its start.

When Nevada Barr and Terry Tempest Williams were asked to write essays about the importance of the national parks for our 80th anniversary issue, both conjured up images of Grand Canyon. It is a park that pervades not only the history of NPCA, but the hearts and memories of our members and supporters.

Glancing through the pages of this issue, you will see several images of the park and read many descriptions. You will also note that it is among our choices for the ten most endangered parks. Air tours shatter the tranquillity and air pollution mars the spectacular views of the ancient chasm that has been formed through centuries of wind and water erosion.

Even though the Grand Canyon and all of the parks are by law protected, vigilance is needed to achieve true protection. NPCA has been fighting the good fight for 80 years now, and probably will continue to do so for another 80 years. We are here to protect and enhance these special places for ourselves and those who will come after us.

Linda M. Rancourt
Editor-in-Chief

National parks

PUBLISHER: THOMAS C. KIERNAN

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: LINDA M. RANCOURT

PRODUCTION MANAGER: BRIGGS CUNNINGHAM

ASSIGNMENT EDITOR: MARILOU REILLY

NEWS EDITOR: KATURAH MACKAY

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT: ELIZABETH G. DAERR

DESIGN CONSULTANTS: SUE E. DODGE AND INGRID GEHLE

NATIONAL PARKS

1776 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20036
202-223-6722; npmag@npca.org

NATIONAL ADVERTISING OFFICE

ADVERTISING MANAGER: BRIAN ZIFF

ADVERTISING COORDINATOR: CHRIS BEALL

202-223-6722; advertise@npca.org

ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES

NORTHEAST

EDMAN & COMPANY, LLC:

JEFF EDMAN & RICK EDMAN: 203-656-1000
ANNABELLE JACOBSON: 847-256-6850

MIDWEST

MURPHY MEDIA GROUP:

MELISSA MURPHY: 816-587-8548
PAT MURPHY: 512-396-1586

SOUTHEAST

CONSTELLATION ENTERPRISES:

GREG NOONAN: 607-264-3359

WEST

WESTERN MEDIA:

STUART KESSEL & PAUL CONSER
818-906-1816



PRINTED ON 20% POST-CONSUMER WASTE RECYCLED PAPER

ABOUT NPCA

WHO WE ARE: Established in 1919, the National Parks and Conservation Association is America's only private, nonprofit citizen organization dedicated solely to protecting, preserving, and enhancing the U.S. National Park System.

WHAT WE DO: NPCA protects national parks by identifying problems and generating support necessary to resolve them. Through its efforts, NPCA has developed a base of grassroots support that has increased effectiveness at local and national levels.

WHAT WE STAND FOR: The mission of NPCA is to protect and enhance America's National Park System for present and future generations.

HOW TO JOIN: NPCA depends almost entirely on contributions from our members for the resources essential for an effective program. You can become a member by calling our Member Services Department, extension 215. The bimonthly *National Parks* magazine is among the benefits you will receive. Of the \$25 membership dues, \$3 covers a one-year subscription to the magazine.

EDITORIAL MISSION: The magazine is the only national publication focusing solely on national parks. The most important communication vehicle with our members, the magazine creates an awareness of the need to protect and properly manage the resources found within and adjacent to the parks. The magazine underscores the uniqueness of the national parks and encourages an appreciation for the scenery and the

natural and historic treasures found in them, informing and inspiring individuals who have concerns about the parks and want to know how they can help to improve these irreplaceable resources.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE: A critical component in NPCA's park protection programs is members who take the lead in defense of America's natural and cultural heritage. Park activists alert Congress and the administration to park threats; comment on park planning and adjacent land-use decisions; assist NPCA in developing partnerships; and educate the public and the media about park issues.

For more information on the activist network, contact our grassroots coordinator, extension 222.

HOW TO DONATE: NPCA's success also depends on the financial support of our members. For more information on special giving opportunities, such as Partners for the Parks (a monthly giving program), contact our Membership Department, extension 215. For information about Trustees for the Parks (\$1,000 and above), bequests, planned gifts, and matching gifts, call our Development Department, extension 146 or 243.

HOW TO REACH US: We can be reached the following ways: National Parks and Conservation Association, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20036; by phone: 1-800-NAT-PARK; by e-mail: npca@npca.org; and <http://www.npca.org/> on the World Wide Web.





Winter Retreat

“The Whitetails Pause”
Plate One

“Alert to the Sounds”
Plate Two

“In Their Wintry World”
Plate Three

“Where Beauty Abounds”
Plate Four

Permission for reproduction of Ms. Weirs's artwork has been granted by Wild Wings.

FREE* PLATE DISPLAY!
Custom hardwood plate rack (a \$40.00 value)
is included at no extra cost with the collection

Winter Retreat

Welcome to a woodland sanctuary



**YOUR BRADFORD
EXCHANGE BENEFITS:**

- Persis Clayton Weirs's four-plate panoramic collection takes you to the peaceful world of whitetail deer, and merits the Bradford Exchange Mark of Excellence
- With FREE \$40-value display rail
- With Certificate of Authenticity and one-year money-back guarantee

Fired on the back of each plate is an official BRADEX™ number; this number guarantees that it is a genuine limited edition that can be traded on The Exchange™.

Imagine walking through the peaceful winter forest, and coming upon a clearing inhabited by eight magnificent whitetail deer that seem to welcome you into their private, tranquil world draped in a fresh layer of pristine snow. What a thrilling discovery—more than two feet of nature's majesty for your wall!

Each 6¼ by 8½-inch plate featuring art by Persis Clayton Weirs is a masterpiece by itself. But when grouped together on a custom designed hardwood display, the view is breathtaking. And what's more, the rich walnut-finish plate rail is free when you purchase the four-plate set.

Start your collection with Plate One, “The Whitetails Pause.” Backed by the Bradford Exchange 365-day money-back guarantee, this hand-numbered, porcelain limited edition can be yours for just \$39.95. Send no money. Just mail the coupon and begin your close encounter with nature.

© 1997 BGE 19891BD

THE BRADFORD EXCHANGE

9345 Milwaukee Avenue Niles, IL 60714-1393

THE *Heart* OF PLATE COLLECTING®

Please Respond Promptly

YES. Please enter my reservation for the four-plate *Winter Retreat* collection and free hardwood rack, beginning with “The Whitetails Pause.” I need **SEND NO MONEY NOW.** I will be billed \$39.95* for each plate when it is shipped, approximately one every other month. *Limit: one per order.*

Signature _____

Mr. Mrs. Ms. _____ Name (Please Print Clearly)

Your Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____

Check one: Are you purchasing this
 For yourself? 40648-E26391 or as a gift? 40648-E26392

* Plus \$3.99 postage and handling, and 5.95 for postage and handling of plate rail. Illinois residents add state sales tax. Pending credit approval. Editions limited to 95 firing days.



Cultural Diversity, Global Warming, and Airports

Managing Elk

I read with great interest the article "What to Do About Elk" [January/February, 1999] on the challenge of elk management in the national parks. There has long been a myth about what the 1963 Leopold Report recommended, and unfortunately, the article perpetuates it. Contrary to the article, and to the belief of many in the National Park Service (NPS), Leopold did not recommend that the service "let nature take its course." In fact, the report stated that while the maintenance or restoration of natural systems should be the goal of park management, it clearly urged NPS to undertake a significantly increased level of manipulation to achieve that objective when nature was unable to do it. Since natural predation at Yellowstone was unable to control the elk population, the report specifically recommended that the Park Service continue elk reduction activities.

The Leopold Report is probably the most important policy statement ever written on natural resource management in the national parks. It urged the service to develop an ecological expertise and use the "utmost in skill, judgment, and ecologic sensitivity" in efforts to sustain, re-create, or mimic natural processes. It also recommended that "above all other policies, the maintenance of naturalness should prevail." Many have interpreted the latter to suggest a "hands-off" policy, but anyone who reads the original report would have no doubt that this referred to how the parks should appear rather than how they should be managed.

Policies are much more easily changed than are actual practices. Ecological intervention must always be done with humility, but NPS must not be afraid to take action when scientific information clearly indicates it is necessary to restore ecological integrity.

Bob Krumenaker
Deputy Associate Regional Director
NPS Northeast Region

Every now and again an article hits a nerve. Certainly, "Breaking Barriers" [January/February, 1999] was one of these articles. Some readers were offended by what they perceived to be the use of stereotypes; others do not see the importance of encouraging greater numbers of African, Hispanic, and Asian Americans to visit the national parks. NPCA believes diversifying the population that visits the parks is as vital to the parks' future as boosting funding. Because of changing demographics, in just a few years Caucasians will be the minority in this country. If the park system does not reflect the values, contributions, and history of a broad American public, these sacred lands will not have the constituency necessary for protection. What follows is a sampling of the letters we received on this topic.

I missed the connection between the national parks and the fear of being the only African-American woman in the backwoods of California where mostly "white men" drive around in pickup trucks with rifle racks. I find the stereotype offensive. I think your articles should stress how everyone can share and benefit from our national parks instead of discussing our country's social problems and then say it's the National Park System's responsibility to resolve them; we need to do that ourselves.

Bill Lebensorger
Gurnee, IL

In reading "Breaking Barriers," it seems evident that the writer did not live in 1941 when we were savagely attacked by the Japanese. The attack and loss of American lives naturally turned us against the Japanese people. The United States put Japanese Americans into detention camps to protect us from internal aggression.

I do not consider it a "shameful episode" in our history. It was a natural

human response to such a cowardly attack by the Japanese. America is diversified, and that's good. Yes, open the parks to all, but let's not now degrade what happened in the past.

Walter Kepler
Media, PA

I think that as cultural groups are absorbed into society and as they have greater income and leisure time, some of their members explore a wider cultural scene, including hiking. I am not at all sure that we need to hold a sort of affirmative action plan for the national parks. It seems more important to spend funds to protect our resources and to acquire more land for when our growing population will want it.

Kathleen Williams
Great Barrington, MA

You have allowed a shameful legacy of 1990s politics to soil your organization and its publications. I feel sorry for NPCA that its leaders do not think more of its cause that it would allow something so inconsequential as this to warrant an entire article in the magazine, let alone an entire conference.

Ken Kirsch
Audubon, PA

Thanks for addressing an important and controversial issue in a very professional manner. An avid outdoorsman, I am often the white southern male in the pickup truck with a gun, at least while hunting. In countless hours afield recreating and in my professional life, I have noticed fewer women and minorities enjoying similar activities. And fewer still pursuing careers in the natural resources, environment, and public lands fields.

Long-term protection of public lands requires a broader constituency.

Hugh Bullock
Columbia, TN

Global Warming

I found the article "The Heat Is On" [January/February 1999] interesting and informative. However, while many are concerned about greenhouse gases trapping heat in the atmosphere, few seem to recognize the importance of the tremendous growth of the heat we put into the atmosphere.

As the combustion of fuels takes place, potential energy changes to kinetic energy—heat—which has nowhere to go but into the atmosphere. When we drive our car down the road, the heat is used to provide mechanical force to move the car. But the heat does not disappear; it dissipates into the atmosphere through the exhaust pipe, the radiator, wind resistance, and the brakes. It is a law of physics that it takes as much energy to stop a car as it does to get it moving. This fact applies not only to cars but also to boats, airplanes, ships, and elevators, to name a few. Of equal importance is the energy we use to heat and cool our homes, offices, and factories. Most of this is still being done with fossil-fueled power plants. All of this heat has no place to go but into the atmosphere.

As the industrial revolution spreads to developing nations, so will the consumption of fuel. How long will the people of China and India, for example, continue to ride their bicycles? I don't know the answer, but it is obvious that something must be done soon. Clean-burning fuels and atomic energy will not help the heat generation problem. But if the heat energy can be dissipated into outer space, disaster can be postponed perhaps until there is no more fossil fuel to burn.

Ted K. Rossiter
Pompano Beach, FL

I am tired of hearing the excuses of the media and government for the weird weather patterns around the globe. Instead of facing the very real problems of climate change, head on, we simmer around with the lame excuses of El Niño or La Niña. They are the symptoms—we are the cause.

How many more world conferences will it take to bring around corporations and Congress from denial to deciding that the fate of our world is

more important than dollars? It is their world too.

Hilde K. Cherry
Eugene, OR

Airport Lies

I read with quite some interest your article in News [March/April 1999], about overflights and the onslaught upon the national parks. I am not surprised in the least by actions of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regarding proposed airport expansions.

My parents live in Elbert County, Colorado, in a small town 30-45 minutes southeast of Denver, and they and the residents of the surrounding counties have been greatly affected by the noise of the new Denver International Airport. Their battle with the FAA to resolve the noise problem has met with little, if any, success. The various government officials and the FAA have evaded the problem, skewed the noise data, and passed the buck.

In the midst of a battle over commercial air tours, the FAA continues to press forward with additional proposals to build and expand major airports near fragile natural areas. How the FAA has dealt with the residents of Colorado indicates quite clearly how it will deal with other concerns.

I fully intend to keep our elected representatives aware of our concerns. There must be other ways to bring the matter to attention and to bring the FAA under some form of accountability. The number of bent regulations and eyes looking the other way must stop. And if it means the FAA doesn't get to build anymore airports, then so be it.

Sarah Elmassian
Chino Hills, CA

After reading all of your recent issue, including the "letters" column, I can safely say that all the issues that were raised therein can be solved quite simply: fewer people!

When will citizens of the United States (and the world) pull their heads out of the sand to see what overpopulation does to the Earth and to all living creatures?

In regard to the airport issue in Jackson Hole, how about this for a solution? Fewer people can fit on smaller

planes that can take off from shorter runways. Why is expansion the only solution? How about less!

Larry Mishkar
St. Paul, MN

I had to write to correct some erroneous information in your "letters" section [January/February 1999] concerning the runway expansion at Jackson Hole Airport. John Calmes claims that he was in two incidents on our runway in which his planes came to a screeching halt at the end of the runway and that there are trees and a large hill at the end. Nothing could be further from the truth. Both ends of our runway end in sagebrush flats. Most over-runs (and there are few) are the result of pilot error, such as landing too far down the runway. I sincerely doubt that even a long over-run would result in a serious crash.

Most of us who live in Jackson Hole oppose the runway expansion because it would only mean much larger aircraft landing here. Tell Mr. Calmes to check his facts, and I wish your publication would do the same.

Mrs. John J. Heberger
Jackson Hole, WY

CORRECTIONS

The "Settlement" on Cumberland Island National Seashore in Georgia was not built to house workers employed at Plum Orchard [News, March/April 1999].

Write: Letters, NPCA, 1776 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036. Letters can be sent via e-mail to npmag@npca.org. Letters should be no longer than 300 words. Letters may be edited.

"YOU ARE HERE"

As a senator from Indiana, Benjamin Harrison introduced three bills into Congress to protect the canyon. He was successful only as president in 1893 when, through presidential proclamation, he made the area a forest reserve. Congress approved its national park status in 1919.

Answer: Grand Canyon NP, Arizona

Park News

BY KATURAH MACKAY

WILDLIFE

Sierra Bighorns Need Protection

Last 100 of dying breed exposed to illness and lion predation.

BISHOP, CALIF.—Suffering decades of domestic sheep intrusion and a more recent threat from mountain lions, the Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep population now hovers on a ledge as precipitous as the crags on which they live. Approximately 100 animals are all that remain of this noble mountain breed.

The Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep is a genetically and morphologically distinct subspecies from any other bighorn sheep variety. They range only on the crest and eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountain range, close to both Yosemite and Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks.

“There were undoubtedly at least ten times the number surviving today,” says John Wehausen, a research biologist based in Bishop, California, who works closely with the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Interagency Advisory Group. Wehausen has studied Sierra bighorn herds for decades and is considered the leading expert on the animal.

NPCA, the Natural Resources Defense Council, The Wilderness Society, the Friends of Inyo National Forest, and the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Foundation recently petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to issue an emergency listing of the animals as endangered, thereby protecting them by federal law under the Endangered Species Act. In addition, the Sierra



Nevada Bighorn Sheep Foundation petitioned the California Department of Fish and Game to change bighorn status on state lists from threatened to endangered. The department responded by changing sheep status to endangered in early March and writing a letter to USFWS requesting that it do the same.

A combination of human-induced causes has drastically affected the bighorn's population. Domestic sheep grazing became widespread by the mid 19th century, when settlers turned the animals loose into the Sierra Nevada hills by the hundreds of thousands. Carrying a strain of pneumonia fatal to wild sheep, domestic varieties infected bighorns through nose-to-nose contact. After their near extirpation during the mass settlement of California's Gold Rush, legislation was passed in 1876 protecting these sheep from hunting. Yet

by the turn of the century, half of the population was gone. Wehausen believes that prohibitions on hunting the sheep did nothing to slow the loss of Sierra bighorns because hunting wasn't the real problem. “Domestic sheep grazing has probably been the greatest decimating factor on Sierra bighorns,” says Wehausen.

Today's domestic sheep allotments, permitted on U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management acreage, have been removed from bighorn habitat, but several populations are close enough that contact may still occur. Domestic sheep have illegally strayed onto bighorn habitat on multiple occasions in the last decade: in 1995, more than 20 sheep from the Bloody Canyon allotment near Lee Vining Canyon were found in bighorn sheep range within the boundary of Yosemite National Park. Reports of sheep from the same allotment trespassing in this area extend to 1988. Conservation groups agree that, at the very least, the Forest Service must modify grazing allotments to prevent any possibility of contact between wild and domestic sheep and implement those changes immediately.

“If we hadn't fragmented the herds and their habitat by grazing domestic sheep,” says David Graber, science advisor for Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks, “they'd be far less susceptible to mountain lion predation.”

Biologists see a relationship between artificial manipulation of lion populations and bighorn decline. When a California ballot initiative placed a moratorium on lion hunting in 1990, lion numbers were on an unprecedented upward swing. The initiative, known as proposition 117, forbade the destruction of lions except when they harmed



Homeless?

The National Parks and Conservation Association is partnering with ATCALL to protect America's wild places and wild things.



Every creature, no matter how great or small, needs a home.

Sign up today for ATCALL and you will support NPCA's National Parks and habitat preservation efforts every time you make a long distance call.

*It's simple. Take advantage of our low **10 cents per minute rate any time** on state-to-state long distance calls within the continental U.S.—and **ATCALL will donate 8% of your monthly phone bill to benefit the efforts of NPCA.***

Best of all, you'll enjoy the satisfaction of protecting our National Parks, so wildlife will have a home —now and in the future.

***Protect our wildlife and wild places—
and save on your phone bill.***

Call ATCALL today toll-free, 888.288.4655.

ATCALL®

The best long distance service on Earth.

domestic animals. A federal endangered listing for the sheep could give California wildlife managers the authority to reasonably control individual mountain lions that prey on vulnerable bighorn herds.

The loss of a single sheep to a mountain lion is significant—particularly in the Bloody Canyon population, which has only two adult females. In the Mount Williamson population, only three females remain. In 1998, a mountain lion killed one of the most valuable and productive ewes in the Lee Vining Canyon winter range.

Mountain lions also tend to drive bighorn sheep to higher altitudes, where food is scarce, weather is harsh, and the sheep are susceptible to avalanches. Low bighorn numbers can force inbreeding, which causes genetic defects, weak offspring, and increased vulnerability to disease. According to Wehausen, this indirect effect has been a much more insidious cause of bighorn collapse than direct predation losses.

The sheep's precarious position has

forced Wehausen and state fish and game officials to consider a captive breeding program for the sheep. The California condor was saved from the brink of extinction by a similar program.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks may play a pivotal role in bighorn reintroduction: there are historic ranges along the Kern River in Sequoia National Park where domestic sheep do not threaten bighorn habitat.

According to Wehausen, Alaska and Canada wild sheep populations are good examples of healthy bighorn populations, untainted by interaction with domestic sheep. In these regions, wild sheep still roam on all of their historic range because domestic sheep never grazed this far north, keeping the wild bighorn populations healthy.

TAKE ACTION: For more information on bighorn status and to be placed on a mailing list for updates as protection efforts continue, e-mail NPCA's Pacific regional office: <hwagenvoord@npca.org>, or call 510-839-9922.

Sand Sport Threatens Plants

Sandboarders seek thrill ride in handful of parks.

DEATH VALLEY, CALIF.—A sport called sandboarding is coasting into the wilderness areas of several national parks, threatening endangered plants at Death Valley National Park in California and bringing chemical substances to Great Sand Dunes National Monument in Colorado.

Sandboarders, like their snowboarding brethren, coast down the face of a steep, colossal slope at between 30 and 50 miles per hour. Other thrill seekers use plastic or cardboard sleds and sand skis, and sometimes enhance speed with furniture polish.

Eureka Dunes in Death Valley National Park is becoming a popular spot for sandboarding. Formerly managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the dunes were added to Death Valley National Park in 1994 as part of the California Desert Protection Act. BLM banned off-road vehicle (ORV) use from the dunes in 1976, but sandboarding has emerged as the area's new thrill sport.

Eureka Dunes is part of the park's designated wilderness area and is home to two federally listed endangered plant species, Eureka Valley dune grass and the Eureka Dunes evening primrose, which grow nowhere else on Earth.

Dr. Bruce Pavlik, professor of biology at Mills College in Oakland, California, published several papers on Eureka Valley dune endemics in the 1980s and is perhaps the foremost expert on Eureka dune vegetation. "The dune grass is an ancient species with its closest relatives found in North Africa," says Pavlik. "It has persisted in California for millions of years in response to the rare summer thunderstorms in Death Valley that mimic its ancestral tropical environment."

Pavlik says that sandboarding is potentially worse for dune grass than

Cumbres & Toltec Railroad Photo by Mark Noht

Respect The Land We Love

Move Your Caboose!

Leave rush hour behind and get back on track in New Mexico.

Put yourself in a State of Enchantment.

NEW MEXICO
LAND OF ENCHANTMENT

Free travel guides 1-800-733-6396 ext. 9156 www.newmexico.org

ORV use because sandboarders aim for higher, steeper slopes where Eureka dune grass grows.

NPCA, the California Native Plant Society, and many concerned individuals have written to the National Park Service (NPS) about the issue. One group, the Southwest Center for Biological Diversity, a nonprofit environmental group, intends to file a lawsuit against NPS if managers at Death Valley National Park refuse to sign a conservation agreement proposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The proposed agreement could help preserve dune life by restricting some types of visitor access to the dunes, including prohibition of sandboarding and horseback riding.

Daniel Patterson, desert ecologist with the center, points out that there are several other dunes in the Mojave Desert, administered by the Bureau of Land Management, where sandboarding can occur without harming endangered species. Dumont Dunes, for example, is located outside Death Valley National Park.

The park's inability to concur on an acceptable conservation agreement may constitute a direct violation of the Endangered Species Act and the Park Service's own mandate, proclaimed in the Organic Act of 1916, to preserve park resources unimpaired.

"NPS should err on the side of resource protection and restrict sandboarding until more is known instead of waiting until more plants are lost," says Helen Wagenvoord, associate director in NPCA's Pacific regional office.

Putting recreational access ahead of resource protection is also in direct conflict with the Natural Resource Initiative (NRI) called for by National Park Service Director Robert Stanton late last year (see News, November/December 1998). Two of the NRI's developing goals: require current park management plans to reflect strict resource protection standards and hold managers accountable to those standards.

"The NRI is simply lip service unless it is accompanied by real accountability for decisions that degrade park resources," says Frank Buono, former assistant superintendent at both Mojave National Preserve and Joshua Tree



The evening primrose (above left) and the Eureka Valley dune grass (above right) are vulnerable to damage from sandboard use at Death Valley National Park.

National Park and winner of NPCA's Stephen Tyng Mather award in 1994.

Until proof that the activity harms vegetation is convincing, the superintendent at Death Valley plans to allow the sport to continue. "My job is to manage this park based on facts, not feelings," says Death Valley Superintendent Richard Martin. "There are a lot of folks out there who are saying that this activity is putting some sensitive plants in jeopardy, but we just don't feel that's the case."

Martin says he is "unable to discern

the amount of activity out there"—partly because Eureka Dunes is nearly two hours from the nearest ranger station. However, other staff at the park report that sandboarding is occurring most times they have patrolled Eureka Dunes. One employee says that visitors are stunned and inquire about why sandboarding is allowed in the dunes.

Another obstacle: the plants themselves reproduce irregularly, especially the dune grass. "These are species that may reproduce only once every eight to ten years during El Niño," says Arnie

OUTDOOR CAREERS IN CONSERVATION!

Professional-level home study course prepares you for one of today's most important career fields

Prepare now to qualify for an exciting, *worthwhile* future. We'll start you on a great career in the great outdoors—without the hassle and hustle of an ordinary desk job.

Graduate in only a few months. Our accredited course gives you professional-level training so you can help preserve our environment and natural resources in a forest, park, nature conservancy, wildlife sanctuary, environmental program, or other area.

Learn at home, at your own pace. Easy-to-follow, self-paced lessons cover the management and conservation of wildlife, forests, fisheries, grasslands, wetlands, coastal areas, lakes, and rivers.

Now you can do what you love—and get paid for it! **Find out more: send or call 24 hours a day.**



**FREE LITERATURE:
CALL 800-223-4542**

Name _____
Age _____ Phone (____) _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

THE SCHOOL OF CONSERVATION
PCDI, 430 Technology Parkway
Dept. NNF442, Norcross, Georgia 30092





BETH SCHNEIDER (2)



Although officials at Great Sand Dunes in Colorado claim sandboarding does not occur where vegetation grows, these photos indicate otherwise.

Peterson, biotechnician at Death Valley National Park. "We don't know how quickly the plants could recover after an impact was determined to be reducing the population."

Almost invisible to the eye, tiny seedlings are difficult to avoid even on foot, let alone on a moving board. "Germination and establishment of dune grass seedlings is quite rare, and the young plants are highly susceptible to damage from recreational activities," says David Tibor, rare plant botanist with the California Native Plant Society.

Beneath its stark appearance, this long-misunderstood ecosystem actually harbors diverse life, including a variety of moths, lizards, beetles, bees, and bats.

Martin says the park has recently taken a number of measures to increase protection of the dune area, including installing temporary signs that instruct visitors to take care while exploring the dune environment. The signs, however, do not point out the endangered plants specifically, says Martin.

At Great Sand Dunes National Monument in Colorado, nearly 90 percent of the park was established in 1976 as wilderness, but 23 years later, the park has yet to develop a specific management plan to govern how that wilderness is used. As a nonmechanized activity, sandboarding appears permissible under the Wilderness Act.

However, sandboarders at Great Sand Dunes are known to slick furniture polish on the bottom of their boards to enhance their acceleration down the dune face. Park officials say they "discourage" the use of polishes but offer no real public education—other than chance encounters visitors may have with

rangers—on the inappropriateness of the substances in park wilderness. Officials at Great Sand Dunes say that if and when the sport becomes more popular, they will consider intensifying public awareness of appropriate dune use.

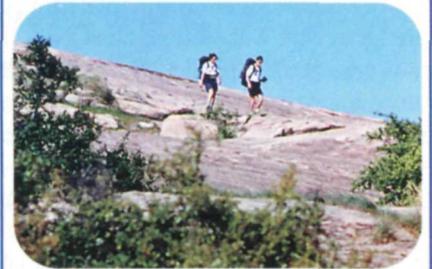
A web site for *Sandboard* magazine promotes locations all around the world to enjoy dunes. In addition to the two parks mentioned, the site advertises White Sands National Monument in New Mexico, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in Indiana, and Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Michigan. Both units in Indiana and Michigan protect isolated but fertile ecosystems that are susceptible to excessive trampling.

"The Organic Act provides for visitor enjoyment, true," says Buono, "but enjoyment that harms resources is not part of the Park Service mission. 'Enjoyment' as used in the Organic Act refers to the enjoyment of resources in such a way that they are preserved, not destroyed by thrill sports. Before this activity seriously takes hold, NPS must not allow its managers to acquiesce in, and become apologists for, sandboarding."

TAKE ACTION: Write to the director of NPS, alert him to this inappropriate use, and support NPCA's position that sandboarding should be restricted until research can be completed on potential impacts to natural resources. Addresses: Robert Stanton, Director, National Park Service, 1849 C St., N.W., Washington, DC 20240. Copy your letters to: Superintendent Richard Martin, Death Valley National Park, Death Valley, CA 92328; and Superintendent Steve Chaney, Great Sand Dunes National Monument, 11500 Highway 150, Mosca, CO 81146.

TEXAS TRAVEL PLANNER

Come for the bratwurst. Stay for the backpacking.



Fredericksburg, in the Texas Hill Country, is famous for German festivals and cuisine. Did you know we also boast unparalleled outdoor activities? Wineries? A wild-flower farm? Antiques? Major museums? Romantic accommodations? Come enjoy the German heritage. You'll be surprised at what else you will find!

FREDERICKSBURG

CONVENTION & VISITOR BUREAU

Toll-free: 1-888-997-3600

106 North Adams-Fredericksburg, Texas 78624

www.fredericksburg-texas.com

LAJITAS RESORT
in the Big Bend

BIG BEND'S COMPLETE RESORT

HC 70, Box 400
Terlingua, Texas 79852
Tel (915) 424-3471
Reservations 800-944-9907
www.lajitas.com
Come on down
for fun in the sun, and
bird watching in the Big Bend!

L O C A L C O L O R

Texas



The Wildlife

"Texas" means friend.

Texas was a country before it was a state.

25 languages.

65 nationalities.



Texans believe life is too important to be dull.



The Wildflowers

The state flower is the Bluebonnet.

Over 5,000 species of wildflowers.

There's even a Wildflower Center (Thanks to Lady Bird Johnson).



Texas does not have blue grass. It just seems that way.

It's like a whole other country.®

Even the vacations are bigger in Texas. From the yarn-spinning charm of our native citizenry to hills carpeted with our native flowers, you'll find it all in Texas. It's more than you think. It's like a whole other country. For your free Texas travel guide, you can visit our web site at  www.TravelTex.com or call us at  1-800-888-TEX (Ext. 1141). So give us a call, y'all.



REGIONAL REPORT

News Briefs from NPCA's Regional Offices

ALASKA Chip Dennerlein, Regional Director

► Last fall, Congress established several large "no take" marine reserves in the upper arms of Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, which set in motion a plan to phase out all commercial fishing from the bay proper. The legislation also established a cooperative state and National Park Service fisheries conservation plan for the outer coastal waters. These safeguards are now threatened by state legal action and the efforts of Alaska Sen. Frank Murkowski (R) to overturn the fishing closures approved by Congress last year. **TAKE ACTION:** Write letters that oppose Murkowski's attempt to reopen commercial fishing in wilderness or areas inside Glacier Bay that Congress closed by legislation last fall. Addresses: Sen. Ted Stevens, 522 Hart Bldg., Washington, DC 20510; Governor Tony Knowles, P.O. Box 110001, Juneau, AK 99811; Secretary Bruce Babbitt, Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C St., N.W., Washington, DC 20240.

HEARTLAND Lori Nelson, Regional Director

► In its recently released general management plan (GMP), Isle Royale National Park has instituted five no-wake zones in the waters around the island, of which 99 percent is protected as wilderness. No wake zones protect wilderness quiet, underwater resources, and sensitive amphibian populations. NPCA supports the park's no-wake zone policy, but also urges resource managers to continue scientific research to support wilderness management decisions, particularly those that regulate land and water recreational activities. **TAKE ACTION:** Write to the park and support the implementation of no-wake zones, but urge that the park continue gathering data on the impacts of motorized uses on its natural resources and the visitor experience. Address: Superintendent Douglas Barnard, Isle Royale National Park, 87 North Ripley St., Houghton, MI 49931.

NORTHEAST Eileen Woodford, Regional Director

► NPCA would like to thank its members for writing letters on behalf of parks in the Northeast region. Your letters showed tremendous support for Gettysburg National Military Park's farsighted preferred alternative under its general management plan. The Acadia National Park commercial services plan was successfully refocused to remove irrelevant items from the park gift shop. Comments on Boston Harbor Island National Recreation Area's management alternatives showed broad public support for preservation of park resources and values over intensive development on the islands. NPCA's members have significantly advanced greater protection of these parks.

PACIFIC Brian Huse, Regional Director

► Rep. Jim Gibbons (R-Nev.) is developing legislation that would force the transfer of several thousand acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land to Clark County, Nevada, for the construction of a new airport outside Mojave National Preserve. This effort continues despite BLM's protests that the land should remain public because of its value to wildlife and public recreation. There is no foreseeable way to mitigate the degradation of Mojave's natural quiet, fragile resources, and night sky that would result from this development. **TAKE ACTION:** Write to your congressional members and urge that they stop the transfer of BLM lands to Clark County, Nevada. Address: U.S. House/ U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20515/20510.

continued

NPCA Scrutinizes Restoration Plan

Forest at Grand Canyon needs careful consideration.

GRAND CANYON, ARIZ.— NPCA is closely monitoring a forest restoration experiment at Grand Canyon National Park intended to produce a more natural forest ecosystem, preserve remaining old-growth trees, and protect biodiversity within the park.

The research proposal envisions using two 80-acre forested parcels within Grand Canyon National Park and a third in the adjacent Kaibab National Forest for experimental forest restoration projects. The treatment would include tree cutting and use of prescribed burning.

NPCA supports the goals of the project, except for one restoration treatment that calls for the removal of too many trees and creates a simplified forest that lacks diversification of tree size.

"Since the science of forest restoration is new, the project should be done carefully," says Dave Simon, NPCA's Southwest regional director. "We want to make sure this project comes out right."

Grazing, logging, and fire suppression, combined with climate change in the last two centuries, has reduced natural variation in the forests of the Southwest. Regional studies by the Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) have shown that consumptive practices have created dangerous fire hazards and diminished old-growth habitat for forest dwelling creatures. In the 1800s, millions of sheep, cattle, goats, and horses began grazing on much of the open grasses that fueled natural fire. Logging eliminated the old-growth trees that survived centuries of frequent low-intensity fires. Tree ring evidence shows that large, hot fires have replaced the historical pattern of small, less catastrophic ones.

Old-growth pines, native grasses, and free flowing streams once flourished in

shifting patterns of vegetation in Southwestern forests. Today, few open meadows exist between tree stands to break up natural forest fires and provide crucial wildlife habitat.

NPCA, the Southwest Forest Alliance, and the Sierra Club Grand Canyon chapter have worked collectively on this critical issue. The goal of forest restoration at Grand Canyon is to re-create historic diversity in forest vegetation by breaking up flammable, dense thickets with more patches of grassy meadow that serve as feeding grounds for wildlife.

In addition, preserving uneven distribution patterns of old-growth trees would provide more canopy habitat for birds and small mammals. Approximately 120 species of plants and animals are currently endangered in the Southwest.

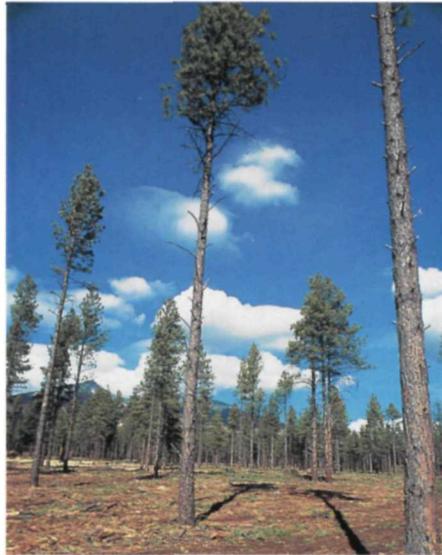
The treatment that NPCA opposes would leave between one and three of the trees that have grown up around old-growth ponderosa pine stumps, but all others would be cut. The result is an inflexible, stark contradiction to the natural, group-like distribution of ponderosas that once flourished in the Southwest. Historic forests contained open areas between stands, but the stands themselves were probably dense clumps in which the canopies of the trees were closely intertwined.

Martos Hoffman, director of the Flagstaff-based Southwest Forest Alliance, questions the underlying assumptions of the proposed treatment and its applicability in national parks.

“The net effect of using this highly aggressive forest restoration thinning model is a forest of more stumps than trees,” says Hoffman. “This model is too intense for use in a national park setting, even as an experiment.”

An integrated approach to ecological restoration would include prescribed burning, limited thinning of undergrowth, grazing deferment on Forest Service lands, road closures, removal of exotic vegetation, native seed planting, and ecological monitoring.

“Replacing one homogenous forest type with another won’t benefit species that require a diverse habitat,” says Jeremy Kruger, program assistant for



MARTOS HOFFMAN/SOUTHWEST FOREST ALLIANCE

NPCA opposes a forest treatment option at Grand Canyon National Park that eliminates too many trees.

NPCA, who has done research on forest restoration in the Southwest and worked for the U.S. Forest Service. “Not only would too many trees be cut in the proposed plan, but the survivors would not be close enough to each other to provide the intertwining canopies that many forest dwellers require.”

NPCA supports a cautious, conservative approach to restoration that avoids applying experimental treatments too

rapidly to large areas of forest in Grand Canyon National Park, especially in those sections that are proposed for wilderness designation. Restoration methods for wilderness lands should be tested outside the proposed wilderness.

Since this kind of experimentation may lead to further forest treatments and may set precedents for restoration of national park forest ecosystems overall, NPCA supports changes to the restoration method that specifically consider the special needs of Grand Canyon National Park.

NPCA is opposed to commercial sale of the wood removed from restoration sites but supports the proposal’s plan to give the wood to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for distribution to American Indian families.

TAKE ACTION: Write to the Park Service to support the Grand Canyon restoration experiment, but only if the most intensive proposed treatment is replaced with a new one that cuts fewer trees. Oppose the experiment in areas of the park that are proposed for wilderness designation. Address: Bob Winfree, Senior Scientist, Grand Canyon National Park, P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023; or e-mail: <robert_winfree@nps.gov>.

NEWS UPDATE

► **OLYMPIC WOLVES:** Reintroduction of gray wolves to Olympic National Park is biologically feasible, according to a study released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Native to Olympic Peninsula but eliminated by early settlers, gray wolves are one of the few natural links missing from the peninsula ecosystem. Under contract, researchers from the University of Idaho considered the historic status of wolves in the region, the availability of sufficient habitat, and the abundance of suitable prey. Based on existing data on deer and elk populations, researchers concluded that the park offers the appropriate conditions to support approximately 56 wolves. Their report also noted, how-

ever, that more data must be gathered on prey sources and on wolf responses to roads and other pressures of national park management before reintroduction can begin.

► **PERSONAL WATERCRAFT:** The National Park Service (NPS) continues to review proposed regulations for personal watercraft (PWC) in national park units. Thousands of NPCA members have urged the Park Service to rethink its proposal to allow PWC use to continue unregulated in many parks for at least another two years. This feedback from park users must continue. **TAKE ACTION:** Please write to: NPS Director Robert Stanton, Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C St., N.W., Washington, DC 20240.

REGIONAL REPORT *continued***PACIFIC NORTHWEST**

► Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve (NHR), on Whidbey Island in northern Puget Sound, preserves important chapters in 18th- and 19th-century Pacific Northwest history. The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife is running a \$3 million deficit and is looking to sell some of its land within Ebey's Landing NHR to relieve debt. Despite an agreement between state and federal agencies to protect the property, the Smith Prairie Game Farm could be subdivided into 16 parcels, with up to 128 homes and guest houses. **TAKE ACTION:** Write Washington's Governor Gary Locke and ask why he is permitting the sale of these public lands and the defacement of this special rural landscape. Address: P.O. Box 40002, Olympia, WA 98504-0002.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN Mark Peterson, Regional Director

► NPCA will soon be launching a campaign to complete Canyonlands National Park. As envisioned, the adjusted boundaries would take in the entire erosional basin and follow topographical lines to include whole watersheds rather than the straight-line political boundaries that currently exist. Adjacent lands would receive more protection. Currently managed by the Bureau of Land Management, these lands are open to mineral development and exploding recreational use, which have substantial resource impacts in some areas. **TAKE ACTION:** If you wish to keep informed about this new campaign by placing your name on a mailing list, contact Stephany Seay, NPCA grassroots coordinator, at sseay@npca.org, or call 800-NAT-PARK, ext. 229.

SOUTHEAST Don Barger, Regional Director

► Funds to purchase the remaining two parcels on Cumberland Island National Seashore were finally released by the House Interior Appropriations Committee, after critical negotiations between Rep. Jack Kingston (R-Ga.), the National Park Service, and private property owners on the island. NPCA's Southeast Regional Director Don Barger helped facilitate the agreement, which calls for the release of the last \$5.5 million in federal money necessary to buy the Greyfield North tract (see News, March/April 1999). The appropriation will be matched by \$6 million in private funds from The Nature Conservancy, which avoids reappraisal of the final two parcels that could have doubled their \$11.5 million price tag.

SOUTHWEST Dave Simon, Regional Director

► The New Mexico State Land Office (SLO) owns lands north of Carlsbad Caverns National Park inside a "cave protection zone" established by Congress to protect world-renowned Lechuguilla Cave. Commissioner Ray Powell would prefer to exchange lands near Carlsbad Caverns for others instead of permitting oil and gas drilling on the state lands, which might threaten Lechuguilla. A state representative attempted to derail the exchange this spring by trying to subject all SLO exchanges to acts of the New Mexico legislature. NPCA, Commissioner Powell, and other conservationists worked successfully to defeat the bill and now hope to see the exchanges move forward in 1999. **TAKE ACTION:** Write the New Mexico congressional delegation in support of land exchanges that will protect Lechuguilla Cave. Addresses: Sen. Pete Domenici (R-N. Mex.), Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-N. Mex.), Rep. Joe Skeen (R-N. Mex.), U.S. Congress, Washington, DC 20510.

TRANSPORTATION

Tram Proposed at Mesa Verde

Futuristic options could supersede pre-Columbian park setting.

CORTEZ, COLO.—A preliminary proposal at Mesa Verde National Park to improve the visitor experience includes installing two aerial trams. NPCA believes gondola-style sky trams would intrude on the ancient setting of the park and compromise sweeping views of the Colorado plateau.

In an effort to complete an economic impact study and a critical needs assessment contracted by the park, a group of master's students from the University of Denver's Daniels School of Business completed design recommendations for Mesa Verde managers. In their preliminary presentation of a new visitor facility and transportation alternatives, professors C. LaRue Boyd and R. Bruce Hutton suggested the construction of an aerial tramway to relieve vehicular traffic on the park road and improve the visitor experience.

"We would consider an aerial tram—yes," says Will Morris, chief of interpretation at Mesa Verde National Park, "as we would consider a bus system or other options. It is a small part of a larger improvement package that includes protecting and cataloguing artifacts, improving air quality, and maximizing the quality of the visitor experience." Morris says the park is far from deciding on any specific proposal. They have hired a community planner who will begin the process of developing park options for the public to consider.

"It's important, even in these early stages of studies, that our members be made aware that a major planning process is now in motion at Mesa Verde," says Mark Peterson, NPCA's Rocky Mountain regional director. "This process could lead to big changes in the park's facilities and transportation systems, and ultimately alter the experience that you, I, and future generations

will have when we visit this park.”

According to Boyd and Hutton’s analysis, a tram could significantly alleviate traffic and prevent further road damage by depositing visitors closer to cliff dwellings. Morris says that visitors spend between 30 and 45 minutes in the car from the time they enter the park until they reach the Far View Visitor Center. He says the park has been looking for a way to improve the visitor experience and offer interpretation of the park landscape before visitors get to the top of the mesa.

A proposal in 1972 by the Wantanka Lift Company—which Boyd and Hutton’s recommendation reintroduced—offered building a tram system to run from a staging area outside the park to the current Far View Visitor Center. The route could potentially make use of the park’s existing water line route, a thin strip of land that separates two designated wilderness areas. Although apparently legal under the Wilderness Act, the tram could intrude on the wilderness character of the area that would surround it.

For safety purposes, lights or blinking beacons would be required atop the tram’s towers, a significant disruption to the park’s night skies. Since most of the park’s vegetation only reaches approximately 30 feet high, and any aerial tram system would need to clear this height, park trees would not conceal it.

“Psychologically, a gondola prepares people for getting to Space Mountain at Disney World, not an intimate, personal encounter with the society that built these dwellings 1,000 years ago,” says Peterson.

According to Morris, 24 different native cultures claim affiliation to the structures and lands within the park, including Rio Grande Pueblos, Navajo, Ute, and Hopi. However, no study of the park’s ethnography has ever been completed to warrant status for a Traditional Cultural Property, which can offer additional protection for historic and cultural resources against unnecessary development. Morris says park planners will consider the tribes’ concerns as transportation alternatives develop.

Boyd and Hutton’s proposal suggests an additional tram could run from Wetherill Mesa to the park headquarters and museum at Chapin Mesa. Helicopter use involved in constructing this tram could disturb the nesting and hunting ability of golden eagles and peregrine falcons. The latter species is protected by the Endangered Species Act.

Both proposals were driven by the deterioration of the park road—a heavily traveled and unstable route on which the park spends approximately \$400,000 every year to repair and maintain. A series of towers, imbedded into the same shifting mancos shale upon which the road now lies, would be used to support both trams.

Bruce Hutton says part of what led them to propose an aerial tram was its potential to reduce the human footprint on the park. NPCA believes the exact opposite may be true by installing a permanent aerial tramway.

“Putting a tram in Mesa Verde would utterly violate the park’s dignity of place and its historical context,” says William

“The Yosemite, the Yellowstone, the Grand Canyon are National Properties in which Every Citizen has a Vested Interest; They Belong as Much to the Man of Massachusetts, of Michigan, of Florida, as They do to the People of California, of Wyoming, of Arizona.” —Stephen Mather

Stephen Mather was among a handful of visionaries who were the national parks’ first trustees. NPCA invites you to advance *your* role in protecting the parks through membership in a growing group:

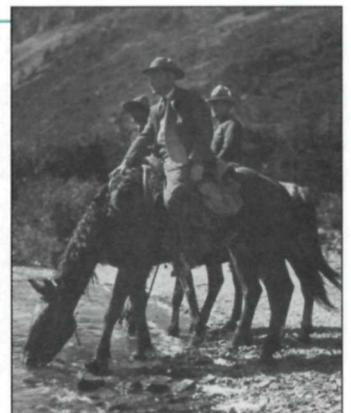


THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PARKS

Membership in this special society of NPCA supporters is conferred through an annual contribution of \$1,000 or greater and offers exclusive privileges. As national parks guardians, Trustees play a key role in NPCA’s urgent grassroots, land protection, advocacy, and education initiatives.

Please send me information about **TRUSTEES FOR THE PARKS** membership and benefits.

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____



Stephen Mather (foreground), first National Park Service director (1917-1929) and a NPCA founder, pictured with Yellowstone Superintendent Horace Albright (right), c. 1920

Contact: Jennifer Bonnette,
Coordinator, Trustees for the Parks,
National Parks and Conservation
Association
1776 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.,
Washington, DC 20036
(800) 628-7275, ext. 243.
jbonnette@npca.org

Chandler, NPCA's vice president for conservation policy. "Should we run a tram across the Grand Canyon to make it easier to get from the South Rim to the North Rim?"

Most visitors would be encouraged to ride the tram to the top of the mesa and then board another mode of transportation to carry them to various areas of the park. Hutton says eventually the road could mainly be used for maintenance purposes rather than visitor access, despite the location of one of the National Park System's largest campgrounds along that road. But NPCA argues that park money would still be required to maintain the road for safety of park staff use, regardless of whether the tram proves effective in moving people around the park.

Statistics indicate that recreational visits at Mesa Verde have been declining slowly in the last decade from a high point of 772,000 in 1988 to approximately 620,000 visitors in 1998. The park has yet to determine its true carrying capacity, which is supposed to regulate how many visitors the park can handle

without damaging cultural or natural resources, degrading the visitor experience, or straining public services.

NPCA believes a tram would usher more people at a faster rate into a limited and fragile environment, where visitors must already wait their ticketed turn to view popular dwellings. Rangers at the park report that many visitors, wishing to "kill time" until their scheduled tour, attempt to hike around the mesas on their own—an activity that damages mesa ecology and semi-arid vegetation. Fencing and reseeding often does little to prevent this activity or repair plant and soil damage, according to park resource management staff.

In their economic analysis, Boyd and Hutton's students recommended a new visitor center—with a projected cost of approximately \$35 million—outside the park at its entrance on Highway 160. The park plans to fund the new facility through private donations and grants from the Mesa Verde Foundation. New curatorial facilities, interpretive exhibit space, and staff support offices are sorely needed at Mesa Verde, according

to Morris, but Boyd and Hutton's suggestion also included commercial enhancements such as a movie theater and the potential for an upscale lodging facility. The lands north of Highway 160 encompass a critical wildlife corridor that links the park with the San Juan National Forest. A commercialized new visitor center could encourage more development along the road and threaten wildlife movement.

"The Anasazi of Mesa Verde created an infrastructure and way of life that visitors find beautiful in its simplicity," says NPCA's Peterson. "As we plan for the future of this endangered park—the only one of its kind on the planet—let us not overwhelm it. If we seek simpler designs, we may find our sense of place enhanced and discover that less is more."

TAKE ACTION: To be placed on Mesa Verde's mailing list and kept apprised of the park's visitor improvement plans, write to the park's community planner. Address: Patty Trapp, Mesa Verde National Park, P.O. Box 8, Mesa Verde, CO 81330.

DID YOU KNOW?

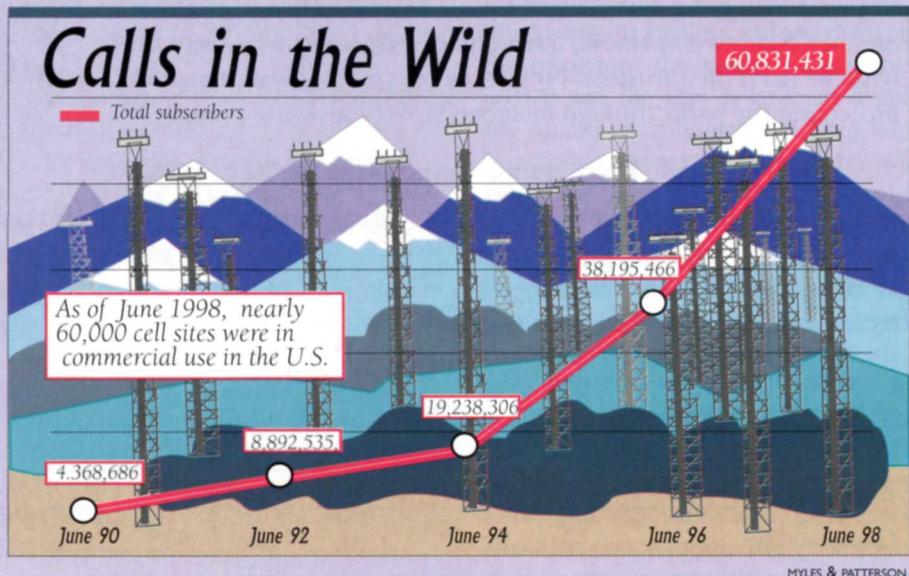
Telecommunications companies are increasingly seeking permission to build cellular towers and antennas on or adjacent to national parkland. These towers, often more than 200 feet tall and with roads and utility lines servicing them, can dominate natural landscapes. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 made it easier to locate cellular communications towers on federal property if they will not directly conflict with an agency's mission, such as the protection of national parks. However, the cellular communications industry is now pressing for additional legislation that would give the Park Service even less authority over the types and locations of towers that would affect parks.

"Part of the national park experience is leaving your everyday world behind you," says Eileen Woodford, NPCA's Northeast regional director, "and that includes your cell phone.

Parks are not a communications network, and cellular towers are not nationally significant resources."

TAKE ACTION: Please write your member of Congress and ask them to oppose legislation that takes away the Park

Service's ability to adequately review these applications. Address: U.S. House/ U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20515/20510. You can find your representative in Congress by using your zip code and visiting <www.vote-smart.org/>.



From the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
—An Important World Premier!

The Official
**10-Point Buck
Pocket Watch**

A precision timepiece created by
world-renowned wildlife artist Rick Fields.



Quartz movement.
Spring-action lid.
Handsome pouch and chain.
Rich with 24 karat gold accents.



Shown actual size of approximately
2 1/4" (5.72 cm) in diameter.



Only in the wilderness are there moments when time seems to stand still. When a magnificent 10-point whitetail buck pauses in a forest glade, brown eyes shining, antlers held high. When the only sound is a gentle breeze rustling leaves. Now, in a powerful tribute to the great outdoors, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation commissions world-renowned wildlife artist Rick Fields to create its first-ever pocket watch.

The Official 10-Point Buck Pocket Watch. Richly accented with 24 karat gold. The face dramatically portraying a majestic whitetail. The spring-activated lid featuring an etching of a buck, custom-designed to capture the distinctive look and feel of scrimshaw. And the minted medal of Franklin Mint Precision Pocket Watches set into the reverse of the watch.

Complete with golden watch chain and a handsome pouch. Give yourself the gift of time. Just \$69.

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED. If you wish to return any Franklin Mint purchase, you may do so within 30 days of your receipt of that purchase for replacement, credit or refund.

The Collector's Choice in Precision Pocket Watches.

Please mail by June 30, 1999.



The Franklin Mint
Franklin Center, PA 19091-0001

Please accept my order for *The Official 10-Point Buck Pocket Watch* by Rick Fields.

I need SEND NO MONEY NOW. I will be billed for my watch in 2 equal monthly installments of \$34.50* each, with the first payment due prior to shipment.

*Plus my state sales tax and a one-time charge of \$3.95 for shipping and handling.

SIGNATURE _____ ALL ORDERS ARE SUBJECT TO ACCEPTANCE.

MR/MRS/MISS _____ PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

ADDRESS _____ APT. # _____

CITY/STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE # (_____) _____

21371-49-001

THE FRANKLIN MINT



Ten Parks in Peril

A new NPCA report focuses on ten of the 378 park units suffering threats that face the entire system.

BY KIM A. O'CONNELL

THREATS TO THE National Park System have been around for as long as the parks themselves. Earlier in this century, only a few years after the National Park Service was created in 1916, conservationists successfully fought legislation to dam Yellowstone Lake. The next decade saw a heated fight to protect what is now Olympic National Park, whose lush forests were coveted by the timber industry. The post-war years were marked by intense battles over vandalism, grazing, and mining in other parks. As the nation's population boomed, interest in the national parks skyrocketed—and with increasing interest came more threats.

Today, the park system is undeniably at risk. Not one of the 378 units under the Park Service's jurisdiction is untouched by development, overcrowding, or questionable park uses. To protect these special areas, conservationists must be more vigilant than ever.

"It is easier to understand the threats to many national parks by looking at how individual parks are suffering," says NPCA President Thomas C. Kieran. "We hope this list will highlight the urgent problems facing our parks and bring home the message of protection to a greater number of people."

This spring, NPCA will publish a report highlighting parks facing threats that could be damaging to that area and to the whole system. For each park, the report details the threat and its back-



CONNIE TOOPS

Trees damaged by pollution at Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

ground, what NPCA is doing to protect the park, and what citizens can do.

Both crown jewels and smaller gems adorn the list, but threats have dimmed some of their luster. Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona, for example, faces a host of problems, including visitation pressure, traffic congestion, air pollution, and airtour overflights as well as wilderness impacts and the effects from adjacent development.

NPCA believes the park must improve and relocate park facilities and complete the proposed mass-transit system to reduce traffic, in accordance with a 1995 plan. NPS is making progress on these projects but needs

more support from Congress. Other essential actions include tightening air tour restrictions, designating 1.2 million acres of wilderness, reducing emissions from the Mohave power plant, approving Canyon Forest Village (a proposed high-quality gateway facility), and ending groundwater pumping near the park to protect park springs.

But just as increased visitor pressure affects this popular park, it also affects the lesser-known Voyageurs National Park in Minnesota. Today, local and Wise Use interests continue to push to open more of the park to motorized recreation. The park's tranquillity is routinely disrupted by the din of motorized vehicles such as snowmobiles. These machines are noisy and dirty and disturb both wildlife and park visitors. Just as the Park Service is attempting to deal with personal watercraft—a growing threat—it should re-examine the use of snowmobiles and other motorized craft to protect the wilderness characteristics of the park.

Snowmobile use for nontraditional activities is a growing problem at Denali National Park in Alaska. This problem is compounded by the threat to build an 80-mile road through the northern part of the park. NPCA believes the road is costly, unnecessary for park access, and a threat to park wildlife and habitat. Other threats to the park include potential commercial lodge development, mining claim acquisition, and—as at Grand Canyon, Voyageurs, and elsewhere—aircraft overflights.

Airplanes may be putting world-re-

KIM A. O'CONNELL is a former news editor for National Parks magazine.

nowned Haleakala National Park in Hawaii at risk in a different way. The Federal Aviation Administration has approved a project to expand Kahului Airport near the park, which would bring in larger commercial airlines. An increase in international flights is likely to bring more non-native plants, insects, reptiles, and viruses, which will further threaten the biodiversity of the Hawaiian Islands. More native species have been driven to extinction on Hawaii than in any other state.

Airport expansion is also placing the already besieged national parks of south Florida—Everglades and Biscayne—at increased risk. A plan to redevelop the nearby Homestead Air Reserve Base into a commercial airport will further degrade valuable resources in an area already deprived of water. For decades, the state has diverted water for irrigation, and these two national parks have suffered from disrupted water flow, increased water pollution, a 90 percent decline in the wading bird population, invasion of non-native plant and animal species, and shrinking habitat for such creatures as the Florida panther. NPCA supports a plan recently proposed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to rebalance this delicate ecosystem and will continue to work with other groups to ensure that the plan is implemented.

On the other side of the country, development is edging ever closer to Mojave National Preserve in California, protected in the National Park System only since 1994. Directly to the north of the park, real estate developers have plans for a subdivision with several hundred homes, a lighted golf course, and a recreational vehicle park. Also, the U.S. Army wants to expand a nearby tank-testing range by an additional 193,000 acres, even though previous operations have torn up more than 1,000 square miles of fragile desert. Clark County officials also are hoping to build a new airport to serve Las Vegas only 30 miles away from the eastern edge of the park. Lastly, the Molycorp company is continuing efforts to expand its nearby Mountain Pass Mine, which extracts lanthanide, a metallic element used in glass-making and considered one of California's top pollution sources.

Although development may be a



A health warning at Everglades National Park in Florida.

dirty word at Mojave and other parks, at Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania, some carefully planned development is needed to protect fragile park resources. NPCA is monitoring and working with a public/private partnership to build a new museum and visitor center at the park, although special interests are trying to thwart this plan. The new facilities would replace the existing visitor center and cyclorama center, both of which lie on what was the Union line on the last day of the famous 1863 Civil War battle. The current visitor center inadequately houses the park's extensive collection of uniforms, guns, swords, saddles, and photographs, which are suffering from mold, rust, and rot. Once the artifacts are protected, the old visitor center would be removed and the area restored to its historic 1863 appearance.

Threats to Chaco Culture National Historical Park in New Mexico—where ancient Anasazi culture reached its peak expression—are different from those at Gettysburg, but no less dire. These include weather damage to structures and archaeological sites, inadequate funds for preservation and maintenance, tourism impacts, vandalism and looting, and potential resource development on adjacent lands.

Finally, the future of two outstanding

parks is as murky as their air and water. Only 50 years ago, the views from Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina and Tennessee were considered superlative. Today, air quality at the park has suffered so measurably that the "superlatives" are far different. The park has the highest amount of nitrate deposition of any monitored site in North America, and 1998 was the park's worst recorded year for ground-level ozone—proven to be damaging 30 species of plants. The park's upper elevations are saturated with acid deposition, meaning the land is so damaged that a natural buffer no longer exists to mitigate the effects.

And at Yellowstone National Park, a crumbling sewerage system has caused spills into Yellowstone Lake and near Old Faithful, the most recognizable natural feature of the park. Two spills last year sent more than 225,000 gallons of sewage into the park's waterways. The spills are threatening the park's compliance with the Clean Water Act, and the National Park Service has announced that some facilities may be shut down while the park works to fix the problem.

But at Yellowstone, as at the other nine parks on the list, it will take more than a quick fix to protect these areas.

For a copy of the complete report, call 800-NAT-PARK.

WE CAN GO

The parks are places where we, our children, and grandchildren can go to find a sense of who we are and to celebrate the wonders of nature.

BY NEVADA BARR



CARR CLIFTON

WHEN I WAS asked to write an article on why it is important to preserve our national parks, I was a tad shocked. The question seemed unanswerable in its outrageousness—as if I had been asked why is it important to inhale after exhaling, why is it important to drink plenty of liquids when hiking in the desert, why is it important for the sun to rise in the morning?

To those few wretched souls who have been locked away in a box on the moon for the past 50 years and so did not know this, what could be said? I didn't know where to begin. Should I dwell on the gifts these places bestow: the microbes in Lechuguilla Cave that might prove invaluable to the medical community; the clean water and air; the wealth of plant and animal life? Maybe I should focus on the sheer beauty of the parks, or the historical treasures that preserve our story as humans.

Though I know of these things, this is not what speaks to me on a deeper level. Right now, snug in my little house, near the supermarket and the video store, microbes hold little interest for me, and from here, I cannot see the Grand Tetons or hear the water in the Virgin River Gorge. So I crawled into my easy chair, invited my dogs to sit on my lap (an invitation they take for granted whether I make it or not), and let the Why of the national parks sink into my bones.

It came to me that I would leave microbes and watersheds to the experts. What I want to talk about is home.

Most of us have had the experience of not being able to go home again. Returning to our childhood haunts to find a gas station where the orchard once was, a concrete culvert usurping the

Fog and sunlight at the Lady Bird Johnson Grove, Redwoods National Park, California.

HOME AGAIN



TOM TILL

creek where we built forts out of stickier-weeds and brush. There is a terrible sense of loss, of seeing who we were in our innocence and our youth being wiped away, replaced with things that have no heart, no intrinsic human worth. The parks, as near as we can make them, are places we have decided to take out of time. The Anasazi ruins in Mesa Verde, the Civil War battlefields in Virginia, the sunken ships of Isle Royale, the mud pots in Lassen, the meadows of Yosemite—each a place where we stopped the clock, preserving it as it was, as it is, and as it can be. Making them places that will not disappear under the tread of progress.

The parks, in every imaginable way, are our home. America is one of the

only countries in the world that saw the magnificence of our chunk of the Earth and had the wherewithal to begin setting aside places that speak to us as a nation and a people. Places that will remain unchanged. Places we can go home to, places our children and grandchildren and their grandchildren can go home to, and find a sense of who we are still in our innocence and youth. Even if we choose never to go, we know it is there, that nobody slunk in and trashed it while we were growing up or getting old or making a living. Nobody turned the meadow where we hunted for four-leaf clovers into a trailer park. Nobody dammed up the river where we skipped rocks or cut down the trees we picnicked under the

Sunlight breaks through the morning clouds at Yavapai Point, Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona.

day we decided to get married.

We can't stop time, but if we can slow it down enough, we can form those wonderful memories. I have vivid memories of my first experience in the misty cathedrals of the redwood forests. At seven, I discovered the towering trunks filled my visions. On the soft padded carpet of damp-smelling needles I could track the illusive and magical beings from *Wind in the Willows* and *Peter Pan*.

That visit painted my backdrop for stories and books for years. Now here's the interesting part. My next visit, 20

CELEBRATION *Continued*

some-odd years later, held the same magic for me. Redwood trees really are the tallest living thing, and the padded carpet does have a wonderful damp and mysterious smell. The redwood forests will always be a part of who I am, what I feel, and how I look at life. Part of my scrapbook of life.

The parks are our home of the magic. For ten years, I have written about them, finding mystery in each park, always different. In the northern forest the Windigo can still ride the night skies; in the south, Pogo wanders among the mangrove roots. Not all the wildlife to be preserved are readily apparent to the eye.

I've seen a winter day, shortly after sunup, at the South Rim of the Grand Canyon, with crystalline blue skies, the sun pouring into the canyon, its low angle lighting the underside of storm clouds flowing off the North Rim into the depths, like the greatest Niagara imaginable. I will never forget it and, as long as the canyon is preserved, the possibility exists that I shall see it again.

The parks are the home of beauty, the incredible sights that are unique to America, that were the stuff of legend and the tall tales two centuries ago—tales so incredible they were laughed at and wondered over: Yosemite, Yellowstone, Lassen. Unbelievable. And true.

When I was a ranger at Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado, I wandered the cities of the earliest Americans. I sat where they sat, saw the same mountains they saw, maybe wanted the same things they wanted. One night, as I was closing, unbeknownst to me, the superintendent had taken a visiting flutist into Spruce Tree House, a delicate and beautiful ruin in a sharp-edged canyon. Catching tunes floating up through the firs and the piñons, I heard Kokopelli, and was brought closer to a god I might never have known.

Parks are our spiritual home, the place where God lives in a real and unequivocal way, where we remember that we are here, not to serve ourselves, but to serve Him and celebrate his wondrous works.

On Isle Royale I searched for wolves. In six months I found spoor and fur,

scat and moose bones with bite marks. I saw wolf tracks in the sand along the lake's edge, and I heard them howl at night. Never, not once, did I see a wolf, though I feel sure that they saw me. But I dreamed of wolves and I wrote stories of wolves and I studied and spoke to the visitors about wolves, of their monogamy, family values, courage, endurance. Because they let me live in their home for half a year, I could know the wolves, celebrate the wolf-like parts of myself, without ever laying eyes on one.

Our parks are the home of our wildness, our pioneer spirit. Seeing them we know we can do much, go far, withstand the harshest punishment. We know we can make it; we can survive and thrive and flourish.

The parks embody not only who we are as individuals, but who we are as a people. At Appomattox Courthouse I have seen the stub of the pencil that General Grant used to write the terms of surrender for the Army of Northern Virginia, thus ending America's greatest struggle and setting the tone for healing. This chewed piece of wood and lead made it real to me. I know the reality viscerally. I saw it. In the cannon balls we fired in the bloodiest of our wars, the one we fought against each other, I knew the pain and the destruction and was reminded that we can stand whole and strong as a nation if we stand undivided and dedicated to the creed that all people are created equal.

National parks are the home of our history, dyed in our blood, warmed by our hopes, inspired by our accomplishments.

Memories of who we were, knowledge of who we are, and dreams of who we can hope to become.

Unless, of course, we sell them for a quick buck.

NEVADA BARR, a former national park ranger, has written eight mysteries, all set in the parks. Her latest book, due out this spring, is titled *Liberty Falling*.



Mud pots, steaming fumaroles, and sulfurous vents are evidence of active volcanism at Lassen Volcano National Park, California.

JOHN ELK III

Places of the Heart

Grand Teton National Park holds a sacred store of memories for a conservationist and nature writer.

BY TERRY TEMPEST WILLIAMS

IT IS A LANDSCAPE I know by heart, every canyon, every peak, each season's changing light. It is the most restorative place I know as I collapse in its arms of beauty: the mountains, the lodgepole forests, the sagebrush flats. And it is the place where my first memory resides: kneeling at a pool of water near the base of Hidden Falls with my mother and father behind me, my grandparents and aunt and uncle there also. It was 1959. I was four years old. Grand Teton National Park has been my source of inspiration ever since. Each year I return as a migrating bird.

Just the names evoke the spirit of rejuvenation: Cascade Canyon, Amphitheater Lake, Taggart and Bradley, Cottonwood Creek, String Lake, Leigh Lake, Blacktail Butte, Oxbow Bend, Signal Mountain, Moran, Teewinot, the Snake River.

These words, each one, hold an image and a story. I carry them with me, pull them out when needed like prayer beads made of wood and run them through my fingers.

Cascade Canyon: Early autumn, crisp air, gold aspens against blue sky; granite walls, talus slopes, pikas gathering and curing grasses for the winter;

black and glistening moose hidden among the willows; a stream meandering, pooling, clear; a table rock to dream on.

Amphitheater Lake: Hiking a steep flank of the Tetons largely through pines; switchback after switchback; breaking into the full view of the valley below; once there, we share the alpine lake with three black bears.

Taggart and Bradley: Two secret lakes at the base of the Tetons; the blow-down of 1984 followed by fire; the charred skeletons of trees; the last walk my mother took before she died; new green growth.



JEFF FOOTT

GRAND TETONS *Continued*

Cottonwood Creek: The shadowed creekbed where Brook and I made love on a long summer day; newly-weds, working at the Teton Science School; a reprieve.

String Lake: Clear water, so clear you can see its white sandy bottom; the site of baptisms; canoeing with my grandmother alongside a family of mergansers.

Leigh Lake: Swimming with my nieces, watching them perch on a granite boulder like mermaids; picking huckleberries on the way back and eating them; purple smiles.

Blacktail Butte: The haunt of mountain lions; where my father hikes each Memorial Day to leave a wreath of wildflowers in memory of his wife, our mother; artifacts.

Oxbow Bend: Otters in the river, heron rookeries, osprey; an island of animals where one treads lightly.

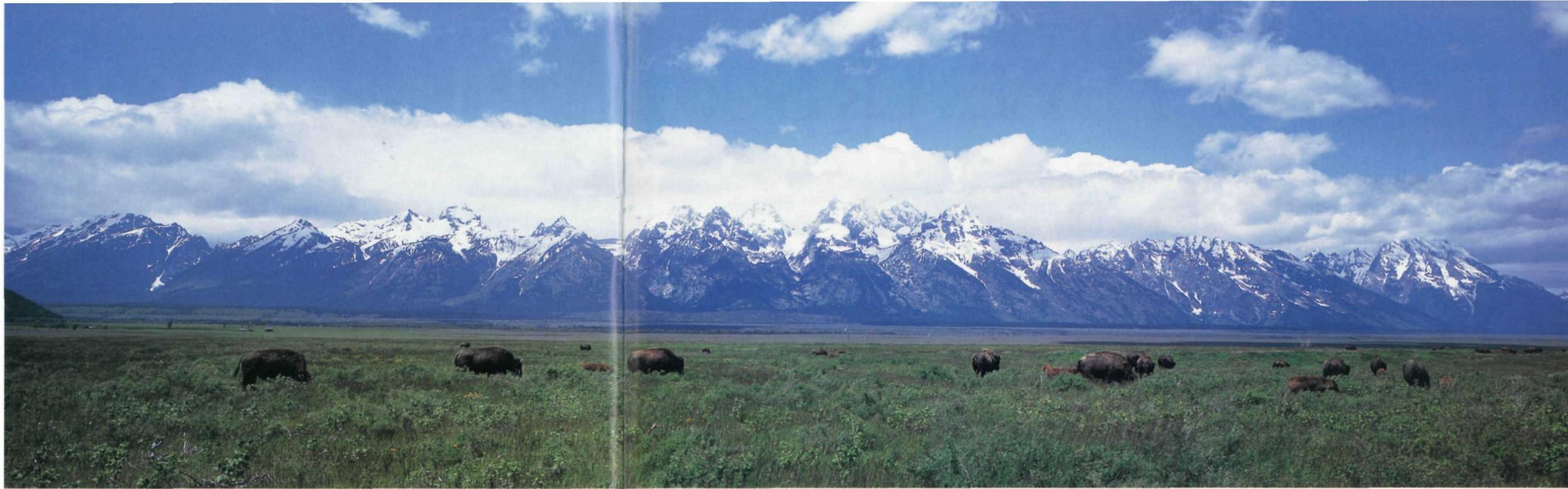
Signal Mountain: Spider webs glistening in chokecherry branches at dawn; a blue grouse strutting at dusk; elk bugling; Orion.

Moran: Matron of the Tetons.

Teewinot: My niece's middle name.

The Snake River: Morning fog crawling, curling above the river; a clearing; bald eagles fishing, a corridor of flight.

Each name becomes a visual postcard I can send. Having a wonderful time—



JEFF FOOTT

wish you were here. When I close my eyes, this is the place I return to.

The redrock desert of home provokes me, reminds me what is essential. It is hard-edged and angular, unforgiving in the heat of its passionate displays. Wind erodes the sandstone. Rain washed it away. Bones litter the land. There is little place to hide.

The Tetons provide shelter. Even in the harshest of winters, a snow cave can be dug where the cool blue shine of the moon filters through the ice. Northern

Lights dance. One blows on fingers to keep warm, warm-blooded. I have been raised in these mountains. Their portraits hang in my imagination like family photos on a wall. Every facet of these peaks nurtures me.

Let me bow to the national park ideal born in the neighboring wildlands of Yellowstone in 1872. Let me kiss John D. Rockefeller's ghost for secretly keeping this Teton landscape protected for decades by purchasing more than 30,000 acres while an ambivalent and sometimes hostile Congress pondered and debated the value of these lands. (Later he would deed his land to the National Park Service, having kept it out of developers' hands.) Let me raise a glass of champagne to Horace M. Albright and all the other valiant individuals who worked tirelessly to secure the Grand Tetons as a refuge, never allowing their vigilance to waiver until these holy lands finally received park status in 1950. And let us toast, today, individuals such as Terri Martin, a long-time NPCA activist, and other grassroots organizers who continue to press for an environmental ethic when Jackson Hole Airport keeps expanding in the Tetons and bison are being slaughtered on the border of Yellowstone.

The Cathedral Group colored with the golden aspens of autumn.



JEFF FOOTT

We can take nothing for granted.

If there is any place sacred in America, worshiped from all walks of life, it is our national parks. Yellowstone, Yosemite, the Great Smokies, Olympic, Zion, Bryce, Acadia, the Everglades, and Grand Canyon—all of them cathedrals of natural beauty and wonder. It is here in these shrines of majesty that we are brought to our senses in the post-modern world.

When I thought about where I wanted to be on the 200th birthday of our nation, it was an easy decision: somewhere in Grand Teton National Park. On July 4, 1976, my husband and I backpacked into Marion Lake, a sweet alpine lake lodged in a diamond in the crown of the Teton backcountry. We set up our humble camp, made dinner, and celebrated freedom—freedom from noise, freedom from smog, freedom from crowd and crime. We opened a bottle of champagne and toasted our founding fathers and mothers and those brave conservationists who had a vision of less civilization, not more.

Shortly before dusk, we pulled a dozen sparklers from our backpacks. We stood on the edge of the lake, then a mirror of pastel clouds, and lit them. One by one, sparks flew this way and that, until finally they became beacons in the wilderness for all that remains,



JEFF FOOTT

Bison graze in Antelope Flats along the Teton Range. Left, a blooming calypso orchid.

preserved and protected and enjoyed, affirming that this too is a cornerstone and legacy of democracy. And then the erratic fire was over. Darkness and silence returned. We didn't sing any anthems or fly any flags; we only needed to stand with our hands over our hearts in awe.

Some say our national parks are run-down and run over with people. Ask them what comes to mind, and they say crowds and rangers with guns. Others say parks have a star-crossed mandate that asks them to accommodate both preservation and development, that the well-being of wildlife and the well-being of humans will always be at odds with one another, that the health of an ecosystem and the maintenance of the roads are just two of the schizophrenic paths to be found there.

I don't see it that way. I see our na-

tional parks as places of pilgrimage, one sure place where the marriage of nature and culture can be consummated. Here, we have a direct opportunity to reimagine our relationships with creatures of other species. We can experience eye contact with the ravens, red-tailed hawks, and coyotes that have paused momentarily in their day. We can sit quietly and observe a beaver building a dam, a bull elk gathering a harem, a herd of bison moving in the spring, the courtship behavior of sandhill cranes, or the solitary bloom of a calypso orchid in the woods. We can slow down and breathe deeply, taking into our bodies and souls the very essence of what a "reverence for life" really means.

We make pilgrimages to our national parks for what we have forgotten. This is why we go and why we return—why I migrate seasonally to Jackson Hole.

The Grand Tetons will outlast us; so will Yellowstone and the Grand Canyon and Mount Rainier. Our national parks are monuments of humility, akin to the moment one kneels in prayer.

TERRY TEMPEST WILLIAMS is a Utah naturalist and writer.

EIGHTY YEARS of ADVOCACY

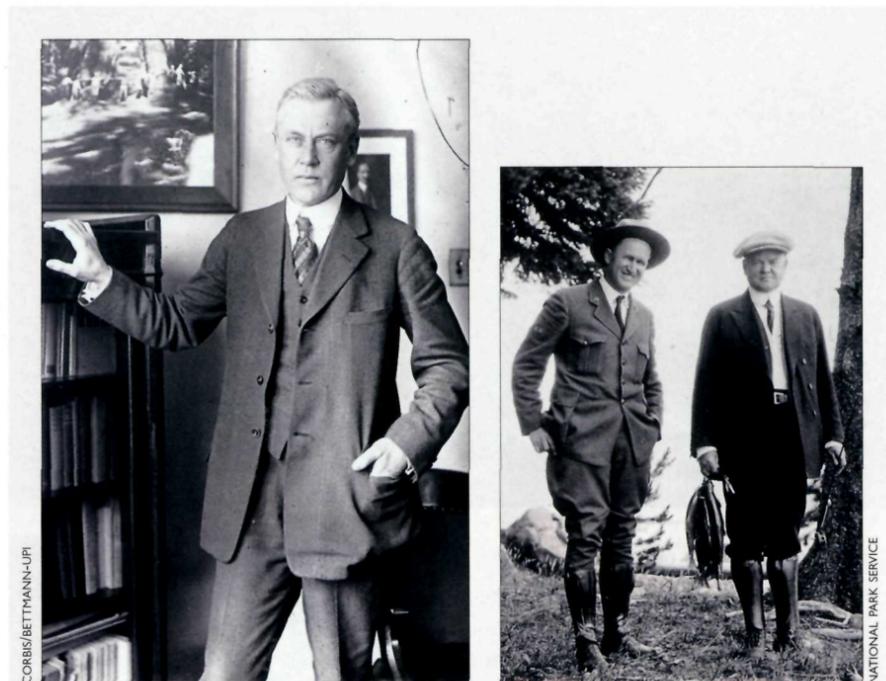
NPCA and its members have, since the association's inception, worked to preserve the natural and cultural significance of our national parks.

BY TODD WILKINSON

WHEN WESTERN historian and environmental writer T. H. Watkins recounts conservation milestones of the 20th century, he places the growth of America's National Park System at the top of his list. Upon further reflection, Watkins adds a lament, however, sighing that no achievement, however noble, is permanent without sustained vigilance. Watchdogs, Watkins says, exist to hold the line, to continually remind the public why some places need to be revered as sacrosanct and inviolate.

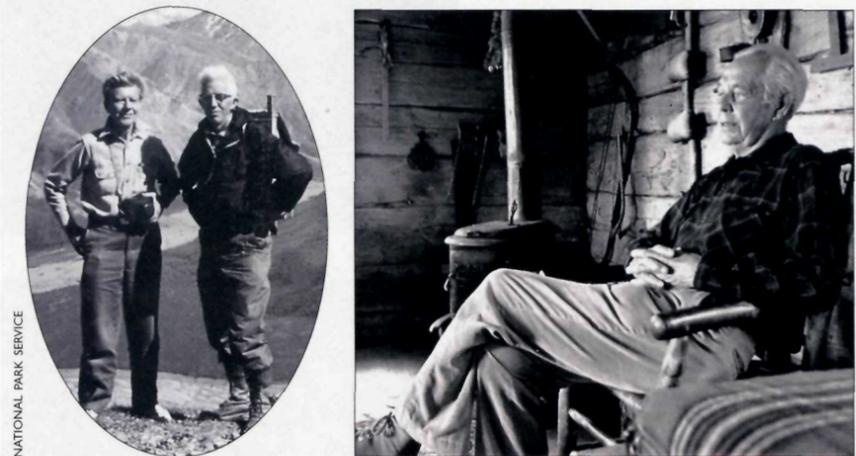
For 80 years, the National Parks and Conservation Association (NPCA) has operated on this principle as the only private nonprofit organization in the United States devoted solely to defending the higher purpose of the national parks.

From the moment it was founded in 1919, three years after the Park Service was created, NPCA has attracted a remarkable list of leaders and supporters including George Bird Grinnell, Herbert Hoover, Frederick Law Olmsted, Bob Marshall, Sigurd Olson, and Olaus and Mardy Murie. NPCA has served all that time as a sentry, scrutinizing Park Service management decisions that might degrade the quality of parks from within. It has opposed the creation of new parks on the argument that certain places do not meet the high standard of the National Park System.



CORBIS/BETTMAN-LUPI

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DAN ALBRECHT

A host of NPCA members and leaders have been at the forefront of park preservation over the years. From top left, clockwise, first director of NPS Stephen Mather, second Park Service director Horace Albright and past NPCA president Herbert Hoover, NPCA member Sigurd Olson, and Olaus and Adolf Murie, lifelong conservationists.

And has since the beginning encouraged Congress to set aside the funds necessary to care for the parks.

While fighting for sufficient park budgets has always been at the forefront of NPCA's mission, the chronic problem of forcing parks to do more with

less continues. Mark Peterson, NPCA's Rocky Mountain regional director, notes that when the threats to parks are ubiquitous, the need for vigilance increases. That's why NPCA relies heavily on a network of regional grassroots conservation organizations as local ad-

vocates and has helped found such groups as the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, the Grand Canyon Trust, and Everglades Coalition.

Peterson says NPCA brings a national perspective to local issues. The same kind of transportation and air quality problems affecting Great Smoky Mountains might be present in Yellowstone, Acadia, and Grand Canyon; but because of geographic separation, activists are unaware of their common challenge. In several cases, NPCA has been at the forefront of pressing for legislation in Congress to remedy systemic problems instead of addressing them piecemeal.

Drifting air pollution, logging clearcuts pushed up against park borders, rivers that flow across jurisdictional boundaries, wildlife that migrate in and out of parks, are all examples of the symbiotic relationship. "We used to think that when you set aside a park, the resource was automatically protected," Peterson says. "But over the last 15 to 20 years, as we've learned more through scientific investigation, we now realize that protected areas often are no better or worse than the condition of the lands surrounding them. Parks are part of a larger matrix and their boundaries function like the walls of a permeable cell."

Much has been made of external threats based on a congressional study, spearheaded by NPCA, that identified 2,000 different types of human pressure coming to bear on parks nationwide. But Terri Martin, a legendary NPCA activist and former regional director, says the association was also the first to scrutinize the equally important issue of internal threats. NPCA emerged early as a national leader trying to build public awareness about the formidable issue of overcrowding.

Attention to the problem began with fierce verbal debates with Park Service director Stephen Mather in the 1920s over proposals to turn parks into re-

sorts. Half a century later, with nearly 300 million park visitors, NPCA publicly dared to push for limits based on the question: "How much tourism is too much before resources are negatively impacted?" In the 1990s, NPCA worked with the Park Service to pioneer ways to prevent damage to sensitive re-



LAURENCE PARENT

Vigilant Everglades advocate, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, in the park.

sources based on Visitor Resource Protection Planning or VRPP. Martin says VRPP was "the culmination of public concern that parks were becoming overcommercialized. There has been enormous pressure exerted upon parks to take on the ambiance of Disneyland. We say look past the pressures of convenience and those who want to make money off of parks, and remember why they were set aside."

Over the years, NPCA has represented its members in a variety of national park issues that now serve as important touchstones for the conservation movement. Here are just a few.

Protecting the River of Grass

Marjory Stoneman Douglas, the grand dame of natural field observation in

south Florida, penned a paean to the Everglades long ago in her classic book, *River of Grass*. But Douglas, who died last year at 108, was not the first to marvel at the splendor of the Everglades or to offer a plea for its protection.

Within months of NPCA's founding in 1919, the fledgling organization rated the creation of Everglades National Park one of its top agenda items. At the time, the Western Hemisphere's greatest freshwater marsh was in trouble from poachers laying waste to its renowned bird populations, from agri-



MIAMI HERALD

culture that had begun diverting water, and from the opinion of some that the vast network of sloughs was simply a wasteland and cesspool for breeding mosquitoes.

Although the level of ecological understanding would be considered prosaic by today's standards, NPCA in 1930 called upon Congress to declare the Everglades a park no less worthy than the other crown jewels of Yellowstone, Yosemite, and Grand Canyon. The or-

gанизation commissioned Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and William P. Whar-ton to prepare a study and then led a campaign based on articles published in *National Parks*.

After years of wrangling, the Ever-glades Act set aside 2,000 square miles of what would eventually become a national park. In the 1990s, NPCA supported Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt when he announced an unprecedented plan to restore the Everglades.

C & O Canal

Nothing typifies the power of grass-roots mobilization better than the fight to save the C & O Canal, a portion of which lies within Washington, D.C. The C & O, named after the historic Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, is a remnant from the era when canals were built for inland shipping.

This human-made river, which extends for 189 miles between Great Falls and Cumberland, Maryland, was created for commerce, but by the middle of the 19th century, after its shipping role had ended, the canal had become a corridor of biological and aesthetic richness. By the 1950s, the C & O towpath had become a popular walking retreat for urban dwellers needing a break from metropolitan Washington. But then a political tug of war erupted when planners for the National Park Service, which had acquired jurisdiction over it, proposed building a high-



WILLARD CLAY

NPCA fought to keep Echo Park and most of the fossil beds in Dinosaur National Monument from being flooded by a proposed dam.

way through the wooded corridor. Horrified by the implications, conservationists led by NPCA and The Wilderness Society took a campaign for protection to the public.

When that wasn't enough to stop the National Park Service from moving forward, NPCA board member and later executive director Anthony Wayne Smith and The Wilderness Society's Howard Zahniser called on an old friend. Within weeks, U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas began his now-famous hike of the entire length of the canal. Not only did Douglas lend credibility to the conservationists' cause, but his profile attracted media attention that resulted in a congressional vote to create the Chesapeake and Ohio National Monument, later redesignated a national historical park.

Battle Cry at Echo Park

The location was Colorado's rugged western edge. The place, Echo Park, was formed by a series of deep-cut canyons flanking the Green River, but it was better known for a remark-

able collection of dinosaur fossils nearby. The battle was waged over a pair of proposed dams at Echo Park and Split Mountain, designed to bury Dinosaur National Monument under billions of gallons of water.

In many ways, Echo Park represented a turning point for conservation activists who, empowered with a growing public awareness about the value of wildlands, drew a line in the sand, suggests John C. Miles, author of the book *Guardians of the Parks*, an authoritative history of NPCA.

By launching a national campaign in Washington, D.C., and combining it with an appeal to their large, growing memberships, NPCA, the Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, and other groups challenged the destructive push for dams sweeping the country. The conservation community had been simmering for half a century following the decision to dam a river in Yosemite and turn the Hetch Hetchy Valley into a reservoir to serve San Francisco. Never again, activists declared. What emerged in opposition to the Dinosaur dams—and others proposed for Grand Canyon, Glacier, and Mammoth Cave national parks—was one of the most formidable coalitions of national environmental groups in the history of the country.

For NPCA, the effort to stop dams in



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

At the request of NPCA and other organizations, U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas intervened to protect the C & O Canal in 1954.

Dinosaur marked the beginning of a new organizational consciousness. In testimony before the U.S. Senate, NPCA member Sigurd Olson declared: "The founders of the National Park System would be shocked to realize what is proposed...the most serious and threatening attack yet launched against these great reservations... . If Echo Park is built, or any other [dam], the sanctity of the entire National Park System will be endangered."

Although conservationists prevailed in Dinosaur, the victory was bitter-sweet. They prevented the damming of the Colorado River in Grand Canyon National Park, but were forced to concede a dam built at Glen Canyon, a site that many said also deserved protection as a national park.

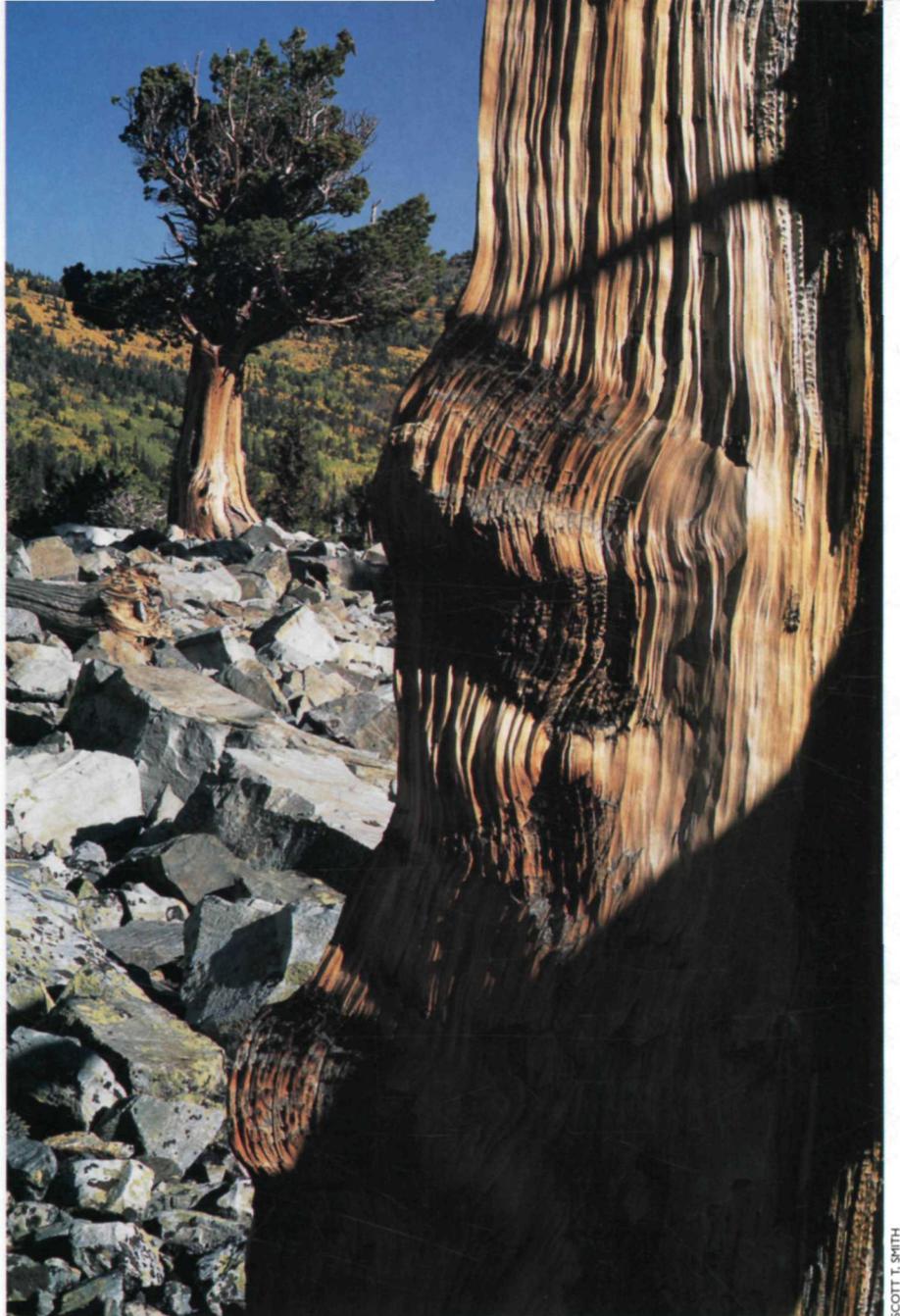
The Gift of Great Basin

Although urgency may be the operative watchword of modern conservation, another distinguishing feature, demonstrated time and again, is the value of persistence. Consider the protracted struggle to give Nevadans their first national park.

The creation of Great Basin National Park was decades in the making, spanning three generations, a handful of presidential administrations, and the product of methodical, Job-like patience. For NPCA, it involved a dream begun by a father, then-NPCA executive director Devereux Butcher, and fulfilled, in part, by his son, Russ Butcher.

The idea for Great Basin National Park was formally adopted by the NPCA board in 1958. Besides the area's varied and breathtaking topography, priceless archaeology, and wildlife diversity, one tree species made it stand out all the more: the bristlecone pine. Portions of the pine are capable of living a thousand years. And it is found in only a few crannies of the inner West. The mountain slopes now encompassed by Great Basin protect the largest grove of bristlecone pine in the world.

But protecting the bristlecone and the other values of Great Basin continually met with political resistance. Nevada—four-fifths of which is owned by the federal government—had beaten back national park status over fears that landscape preservation would take



SCOTT T. SMITH

The creation of Great Basin National Park took decades but saved an area where the bristlecone pine, which can live 1,000 years or more, is protected.

precedence over resource extraction. For decades, conservationists complained that Congress seemed willing to lavish funds on the military to play war games in Nevada, but turned frugal whenever creation of a national park was mentioned.

After three decades of effort, and thanks in part to a series of meetings among groups such as NPCA, the Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, and members of Nevada's congressional delegation, Great Basin, which encompasses Lehman Cave, became a reality. In October 1986, the 77,000-acre Great Basin National Park was finally born.

A New Era of Parks

History, it could be argued, is really the sum of what an enlightened society is willing to remember about its past. From the beginning, NPCA has regarded the ongoing preservation of natural wonders and cultural sites as an organic, dynamic process that must continually grow to remain relevant. The organization also believes that the National Park Service should use its icons as touchstones for teaching park visitors contemporary lessons about the relevance of the past and the meaning of liberty and freedom.

Often that process requires project-

ing ourselves into the future. "It isn't enough only to think of where we are now," says Laura Loomis, a senior program manager at NPCA. "We need to imagine that we've journeyed 100 years into the future, and we're looking back. Was the park system complete in 1999? What pieces did we need to add?"

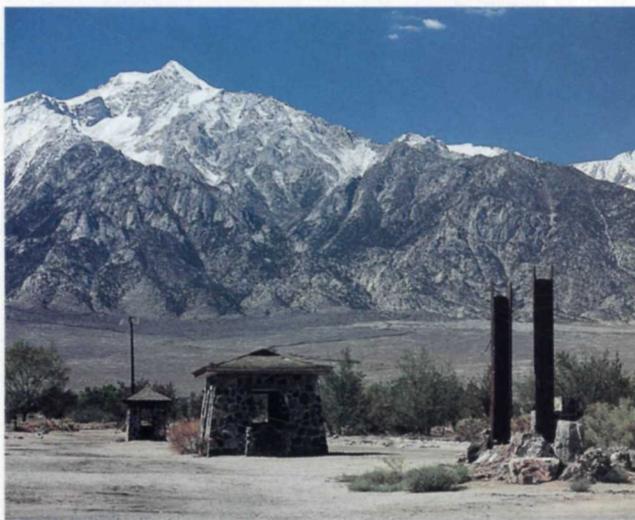
Loomis says a major gap in the system involves cultural sites that reflect important events of the 19th and 20th centuries for America's women and the achievements of its African-American, Hispanic, American Indian, and Asian populations. A second priority was a preserve on the prairie to recognize the ecological and historic importance of America's heartland. Within the last five years, a push to remedy both of these gaps began in earnest with Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve and a series of sites to commemorate the Underground Railroad.

The Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve has suggested a way to resolve one of the ultimate paradoxes for national parks and the people who enjoy them: how to balance the desire by all Americans to have parks protected, with the local economic interests of gateway communities. On the Kansas prairie, a possible model was established for how local communities can view parks as assets instead of obstacles when, in November 1996, the largest remaining expanse of tallgrass prairie was added to the National Park System.

Just 150 years ago, half a million square miles of prairie covered the plains, but intensive agriculture, led by sodbusters, changed the character of the landscape forever. Over local ambivalence and fierce distrust of the federal government, conservationists led by Barbara Zurhellen of the National Park Trust, a group founded by NPCA, took their case to the farm communities immediately surrounding the proposed reserve, an 11,000-acre parcel encompassing the Spring Hill-Z Bar Ranch in Kansas' Flint Hills.

Tours of the Spring Hill-Z Bar Ranch were organized, and citizens from the local community were recruited to serve as guides and assist with development of a 1.5-mile nature trail. "A lot of people were sitting on the fence, but the outreach turned many of them around," Loomis says. Under the terms of agreement struck in Congress, the Park Service now owns 180 acres while the National Park Trust has title to the remainder.

The uniqueness of the Tallgrass preserve is that visitors can see what the prairie looked like before the arrival of



Manzanar National Historic Site commemorates the World War II internment of Japanese Americans.

white settlers. The area has American Indian artifacts dating back at least 2,000 years, and archaeologists say there is evidence of prehistoric buffalo hunting. The preserve also commemorates the cattle ranching tradition, equipped with rustic ranch buildings and cattle that graze portions of the land each year. Eventually, the goal is to reestablish a bison herd as well as the dozens of other prairie species associated with a tallgrass ecosystem.

Commemorating the Underground Railroad, another recent project, benefited from creative thinking about the multifaceted nature of history. The legendary Underground Railroad was a secret network of safe houses established in the middle of the 18th century to help African-American slaves escape oppression in the South. So, in contrast to other parts of the National Park System, its story involves many locations,

not one; a path followed not in a single linear direction but several; and a dramatic human narrative best told by numerous voices rather than a few. Add to this the fact that key components of the railroad are still being uncovered nearly a century and a half after the Civil War ended.

Embracing the novelty of the challenge, Iantha Gantt-Wright, NPCA's manager of cultural diversity, knew that without federal funding to document key pieces of the railroad, the knowledge might be lost forever. "Gantt-Wright did a fabulous job of educating Congress and articulating the importance of having a framework for identifying key sites," says Elaine Sevy, spokeswoman for the National Park Service. "I believe she was instrumental in getting legislation passed that accomplished this end."

In 1998, Congress passed the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act in recognition of the railroad's historical importance and the special challenges of keeping its spirit alive. The act itself is novel in that it doesn't focus on a specific site, but instructs the Park Service to assemble a comprehensive inventory of locations that provided havens for thousands of slaves along the route to freedom. Some 35 sites have been authenticated to date, each one bearing a plaque.

"Support for this new park concept is flourishing," Sevy says. "It is a grass-roots effort that broadens the definition of how history is interpreted. It would not have happened without NPCA."

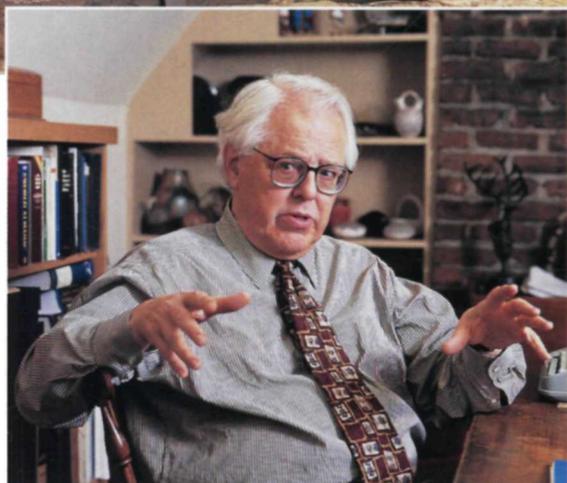
As Robert Sterling Yard, the charismatic leader of the original National Parks Association declared in the 1920s, and as all of his successors leading up to current NPCA president Thomas C. Kiernan recognize, preservation is a virtuous fight in a changing world.

TODD WILKINSON is a regular contributor to National Parks. He lives in Bozeman, Montana, and is author of *Science Under Siege: The Politicians' War on Nature and Truth*.

A Magnificent OBSESSION



TOM TILL



ROBERT A. LISAK

BY LINDA M. RANCOURT

WHEN ROBIN W. Winks visits a national park, he tours each of the visitor centers, reads all of the signs and interpretive displays, watches all of the films, stops at every overlook, hikes the nature

trails, and walks around each campground and picnic area. Then he goes back to the visitor center and listens to what others are saying about the park, jots down their comments on the parks' pamphlets, reads the pamphlets, and finally afterwards, settles down for an evening of reflection on what he has seen and heard.

Considered one of the country's foremost experts on the National Park System, Robin W. Winks has had a life-long love affair with the national parks.

Winks' visit is not typical of the nearly 280 million people who tour the national parks each year, but, then, Winks is not a typical visitor. He has been de-

scribed as one of the country's foremost experts on the National Park System, as well as on the Organic Act that established the National Park Service in 1916. Winks has served on the National Park System Advisory Board, twice as its chair, as well as on the Presidio Council, the Underground Railroad Study Commission, and the Ellis Island-Statue of Liberty Advisory Committee. In March, Winks received an award from NPCA established in his name to recognize the kind of contributions in education and awareness he has brought to the park system.

His opinions on parks are sought after by senators and representatives as well as by scholars, students, and conservationists. At an interview in one of his three offices at his 17th-century home in Northford, Connecticut, Winks pointed to a pile of correspondence he had received on the parks. The letters come from a variety of sources, including National Park Service personnel. Winks' opinions are solicited by everyone from Park Service Director Robert Stanton to the interpretive staff at Cane River Creole National Historical Park, the Louisiana plantations site established as a park five years ago. All seek advice on park topics. The staff at one new unit, for instance, wanted to know how to dispose of the stacks of *National Geographic* left behind by the previous owners.

"To which my answer would honestly be, 'I think you should throw them out,' but, of course, you can't do that," Winks says. "It's against the law."

Although his initial reaction might be humorous, Winks gives each question careful consideration before replying. And when Winks does answer, as undoubtedly he will, he types his letter on one of six Hermes 3000 manual typewriters he still uses for all of his writing and correspondence. And he is a man who loves not only to type—he holds one of the highest recorded speed typing scores in Colorado where he attended school—but he loves to write.

"I saw typing as an absolutely essential skill for what I wanted to do," he says. "I was very clear on what I wanted to do with myself. I wanted to travel, and I wanted to write. And I had this romantic notion that I would travel by writing. And I had the doubly romantic notion that one way to do it was to be a war correspondent. And when I actually first went to college, I was planning to major in journalism because I also had the romantic notion that that's how

you became a war correspondent."

Although he did not draft news briefs on wars around the globe, he has written or edited an impressive list of more than 17 books. His titles range from *A History of Malaysia*, to *Detective Fiction*, to *An American's Guide to Britain*. He has received two Pulitzer nominations, one for *Cloak and Gown: Scholars in the Secret War* and the other for *Blacks in Canada: A History*, a study of fugitive slaves who used the Underground Railroad to reach



JOHN ELK III
Winks suggested the Park Service revise its interpretation of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Above, the USS Arizona.

Canada. *Cloak and Gown* won the 1998 award for the best book on intelligence from the National Intelligence Study Center. He also received the Edgar Award for *Modus Operandi*, and *The Historian as Detective* continues to be a bestseller.

He has written, in addition, hundreds of articles and essays for journals on topics ranging from the Cold War to British imperialism to the U.S. bicentennial to slavery, and he regularly reviews mystery novels, spy thrillers, and detective fiction. Among his more academic pursuits, Winks has written two biographies, *Frederick Billings: A Life* and *Laurance S. Rockefeller: Catalyst for Conservation*. Winks became interested in Rockefeller while writing the book on Billings, grandfather of Mary Billings Rockefeller, Laurance's wife. Rockefeller's philanthropy, including the donation of the farm that is now Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park in Vermont, intrigued Winks. The one area of his many interests that he has NOT written a book about is the national

parks, although he is in the process of producing two. One is titled *The Rise of the National Park Ethic*.

"If I were hit by a truck tomorrow, the book could be published, so in that sense it's finished, but I would like to work on it a bit more," he says, estimating that it will be on the shelves in another 18 months to two years.

The second book is a visitors' guide to the national parks that will rate a visitor's park experience using the Michelin star equivalent—a ranger hat.

For the immediate future, Winks has accepted a year-long assignment to teach American history at Oxford, where he has also taught British history. When he returns to this country, he plans to resume full-time teaching at Yale, following his three-year stint as chair of the university's history department, its largest. And, he says, he hopes to teach a course on the national parks.

His interest in the parks goes beyond the academic. Winks has described his passion for the parks as second only to his love of Avril, a native New Zealander and his wife of 46 years. The couple met when Winks was in New Zealand as a Fulbright scholar studying the Maori people for his masters' thesis on ringatuiism. He received his doctorate with distinction from The Johns Hopkins University in 1957. He had earlier dropped the notion of becoming a war correspondent, and his plan after graduate school was to pursue a career in the diplomatic service.

However, "at the time, the State Department would not hire anyone who was married to a foreigner, regardless of the country," he says. "I wasn't about to pressure Avril to become a citizen. So after I got my doctorate, we returned to the States, and I taught for a year at Connecticut College for Women in New London. I was there for a year, then Yale offered me a position. I imagined I'd be there for three or four years, and go into the diplomatic service. It

just never happened. I found I liked Yale, and Yale gave me the freedom to do what I wanted to do, so I expanded my interests.”

Some have called him a Renaissance man for enjoying such a wide range of interests, but Winks sees them as “reinforcing.” “I am fascinated with how various groups that represent power, in some sense, attempt to control information.” This, he says, is why he is interested in historical plaques and counter-intelligence. “Counter-intelligence has to do with leading people to wrong conclusions; so does the manipulation of historical facts on many so-called historical plaques.”

Concern with historic interpretation led Winks to one of his first acts for the National Park Service: encouraging the agency to rethink its presentation at the USS *Arizona* Memorial, where on December 7, 1941, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, sparking the United States’ entry into World War II. At the time that Winks made his suggestion to change the interpretation, the memorial was still in the hands of the U.S. Navy.

“It seemed not to occur to most of the people there that over half the visitors were Japan-



NPS employee Kevin Fox presents Winks with a gold pan engraved with the words, “You saved the best for last,” at Yukon-Charley Rivers, Alaska.

ese, many of whom did not understand English, so they weren’t getting anything out of this,” says Winks, who encouraged the Navy and then the Park Service to add bilingual signs, and “to interpret what happened at Pearl Harbor without losing sight of ‘the day of infamy.’ Don’t whitewash any of that, but find some way to interpret what happened there without trying to turn everybody into a frenzy of hatred against the Japanese, which frankly, and perhaps understandably, was the Navy’s interpretation.”

With interpretation and history constant interests, Winks at one time considered becoming a park ranger, but he jokes that he couldn’t stand the “sound of buzzing mosquitoes.” Instead, he has made the parks a life-long subject of study. Many elements in his formative years stimulated that interest.

Born December 5, 1930, in Lafayette, Indiana, to two teachers, Winks grew up during the Depression and World War II, when the prospect of better jobs drove the family to move more than a dozen times in as many years. The one constant throughout these moves was the arrowhead symbol of the National Park Service.

“The parks represented a kind of sta-



FRED HIRSCHMANN



Robin Winks in front of a Hum-Vee on the Hawaiian Island of Lanai Hale—a site under study by the Park Service.

bility and continuity from place to place, because there was that common symbol of the Park Service," Winks says. "Fairly early on, I saw the parks as a symbol of continuity, and I think it may be the reason I earlier and a little more acutely than some people saw all of the national parks in a kind of linkage."

Winks also traces his interest in parks and history to his parents, who had "a tremendous wanderlust and interest in seeing the country. Their form of patriotism was to love America by seeing it."

His mother was fascinated by American Indian culture. His father was interested in western ranching, mining, and "cowboy cultures." So the family would head for the parks whenever they had a chance. His parents allowed Winks to plan side trips on these family vacations, and more often than not, he would choose to visit the smaller, more obscure historical sites.

One trip brought a particular insight. "I would say it was at Mesa Verde that I suddenly realized that I was really interested in why the parks existed," says Winks. "It was the adventuresome climbs, the discovery that there had been pre-Columbian life there, and the realization that it was the same people looking after this site as had looked after Scotts Bluff, or Yellowstone, or Grand Canyon, that I got really interested in the Park Service." Mesa Verde National Park, which launched the 14-year-old Winks into his long love affair with the parks, is still among his "top

five or six favorites in this country."

Although Winks' family moved around a lot during his youth, most of the trips centered around Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, and Colorado, where Winks would eventually go to college. He received his undergraduate degree in history from the University of Colorado in 1952 and a master's a year later. He had also attended high school in Colorado and, as a quarter-miler on the track team, participated in a state meet at the university. During a break, he wandered around the library and found a copy of *National Parks* magazine.

"I sat down and read it. It had never occurred to me at that point that there would be a magazine devoted solely to this subject. What does a 16-year-old who's growing up in a small mountain town know about that? So, I copied down the address, and I joined for \$3."

He has been a member of NPCA ever since.

Over time, Winks' love of the U.S. parks has driven him to visit every one. Given his own description of a typical visit, it is no wonder the task took him two decades to complete. On June 26, 1998, Winks completed a trip to Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve in Alaska, the last of the 376 (at the time) park units to be visited. Of course, the system never ends, as Winks himself would be happy to remind us, because history never ends. So after the last session of Congress, he will have to visit two newly designated sites,

Tuskegee Airmen in Alabama and Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas. In fact, Winks says he already has visited the school and undoubtedly plans to visit Tuskegee Airmen. Winks has also visited parks in more than 50 foreign countries, and counts at least seven other countries, including Great Britain, New Zealand, South Africa, and Kenya, where he has visited all.

Since parks have been a constant in Winks' life, it seems fitting that he be a constant in the formation, planning, and creation of the parks. His membership on NPCA's Board of Trustees is among the few he maintains, as he pares down his extracurricular activities. And he believes that one of his most important contributions is to help dispel what he believes is among the parks' greatest threats: public ignorance about how the system works.

Last December, a group of friends gathered in Washington, D.C., to celebrate the latest of Winks' visits to the national parks. Then, he offered what may best describe what for him has been a "magnificent obsession": "Those of you who know me," he said, "know that the national parks are the closest thing to religion that I have."

The National Park Service rewarded that devotion at the same December gathering with a rare gift for a civilian: a ranger hat.

LINDA M. RANCOURT is editor-in-chief of *National Parks* magazine.

We thank these advertisers who support NPCA in its 80th year!

ALASKA

National Parks Checks by
Message!Check™
www.messagecheck.com

ATCALL®

Del Webb's Sun Cities®

Grand Island, Nebraska
Hall County
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

MAGGIE VALLEY
WAYNESVILLE

GEVALIA KAFFE
FINE COFFEES OF EUROPE

Georgia
STATE PARKS
& HISTORIC SITES

Visit **BIG BEND**
OF TEXAS
www.visitbigbend.com

Windjammer
Maine
Association

LEGENDARY
LUBBOCK
Discover a Texas Legend

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAPS
TRAILS ILLUSTRATED™

Arizona
State Parks

Center for
Arizona-Sonora
Regional Tourism
Development

AMERICAN WEST
STEAMBOAT
TRAVEL COMPANY

South Carolina
Smiling Faces. Beautiful Places.™

Universal
Travel Protection
TRAVEL INSURANCE

McALLEN
New Mexican Experience

BRYSON CITY
PASSAGE TO THE GREAT SMOKIES

HIKE INN
AT AMICALOLA FALLS

LEVELLAND
Discover A Texas Treasure

Discover Both Sides Of Nevada
Nevada Commission
On Tourism

THE FRANKLIN
MINT

GreaterGood.com

MISSOURI
Where the Rivers Run

CAMP MOR

80th

1919 NATIONAL PARKS AND
CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION 1999
Established 1909
Citizens Protecting America's Parks

IRVING

Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau

CENTRAL FLORIDA
VISITORS & CONVENTION BUREAU

EARTHWATCH
FINDING SOLUTIONS FOR A
SUSTAINABLE FUTURE INSTITUTE

LAJITAS RESORT
The Blue Flag Awarded
www.lajitas.com
Reservations 1-800-944-9907

TEXAS

LEE ISLAND COAST
Florida's Tropical Island Getaway

ALASKA
HERITAGE
TOURS

Holland America
A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

KENAI FJORDS
TOURS

NEW MEXICO
LAND OF ENCHANTMENT



Stanford University Libraries
Sunset Magazine: A Century of
Western Living

Chevron

Fredericksburg ...An Enduring Heritage...



A Walk in the Parks

Over the years, hiking has remained one of the most popular ways to see the national parks.

BY YVETTE LA PIERRE

EIGHTY YEARS AGO, when NPCA was founded, the National Park System was very different from what it is today. One thing that's remained the same, however, is the popularity of hiking in the parks.

Among the most popular places to hike is Grand Canyon National Park. Few better ways exist to experience this park, one of the natural wonders of the world. The dust, trickling sweat, throbbing legs, weight of a pack, a never-ending incline—all seem to vanish when you gaze from a narrow dirt trail out into the yawning abyss and fiery colors of the Grand Canyon. Weary, burning feet and sore knees find soothing remedy in the rushing flow of the Colorado River—a blessed coolant for hikers reaching the canyon floor. Spend the night in the lingering heat of a sun long since set; gaze at a sky swirling with millions of stars; and emerge the next morning triumphant and bewitched by one of nature's finest sculptures. It is an experience both empowering and humbling, exhausting and invigorating, earthly and sublime.

What hikers see in the Grand Canyon spectacle has changed little over the decades, but much has changed about the sport of hiking. Decades ago, organized hikes were major excursions, including as many as 200 hikers, a

YVETTE LA PIERRE lives in Madison, Wisconsin, and last wrote for National Parks magazine about white abalone.



Hiking in Grand Canyon National Park is an exhausting but rewarding activity.

cook, and wagons to haul camping equipment. Early hikers also chopped wood, burned fires, buried trash, and stomped new trails without worrying about the environmental impact. Today, visitors are more likely to view hiking as a way to escape crowds, so most hike solo or join small, ranger-led walks. Today's hikers understand the need to protect the wilderness from their actions and follow such rules as staying on the trail and packing out everything packed in.

Hiking in national parks is a cherished part of our history and a time-honored way for visitors to escape the trappings of civilization and reconnect with nature. You can do the same, enjoying the same spectacular scenery those early visitors did, at the following parks, all of which have been in the sys-

tem for at least as long as NPCA has existed. For information about more trails in the national parks, visit National Park Service Trails at <http://www.nps.gov/trails>.

Grand Canyon

For several million years, the Colorado River has been carving an immense chasm through the desert of the Southwest. Today, millions of people come to the Grand Canyon to admire the spectacular view and to hike along the rim and into the canyon. It's important to remember that there are no easy trails into the canyon. The descent is a bone-jarring, knee-taxing experience. And the climb out can be even tougher! In addition, summer temperatures can be life-threatening.

Day hikers should consider hiking just a portion of the Bright Angel or South Kaibab Trails, both of which lead into the canyon from the South Rim. Wear sturdy boots and carry plenty of water; the park recommends one gallon per person per day in hot weather.

The park also strongly recommends that you not attempt to hike from rim to river and back in one day. This is a strenuous two-day hike for most people. For hikers prepared to stay overnight, hiking to the canyon floor allows you to escape the crowds and discover hidden springs, multicolored layers of rock, and Anasazi ruins.

All overnight camping below the rim requires a backcountry permit. Over-



TOM BEAN

night hikers into the canyon may also arrange to stay and eat at Phantom Ranch. You can request a Backcountry Trip Planner by contacting Grand Canyon National Park at P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023; 520-638-7888. For camping and lodging on either rim and at Phantom Ranch, call 303-297-2757. Make all reservations for lodging, permits, and activities well in advance of your trip.

Denali

If you enjoy high adventure, set your sights on Denali. At 6 million acres, Denali is larger than the state of Massachusetts, and much of the land is unspoiled.

Denali is a place of extremes. It contains Mount McKinley, the highest point in North America; large wildlife, including caribou, moose, and grizzly bear; and miniature tundra plants. Denali was originally established as Mount McKinley National Park in 1917 and was

A hiker walks through the tundra above Polychrome Pass in Denali National Park, Alaska.

the first park created after the founding of the National Park Service. The park also contains Mount Mather, named for Stephen T. Mather, one of NPCA's founders and the first director of the Park Service.

The park is largely trail-less, but numerous day hiking and backpacking options are available through different types of terrain. The taiga forest, found in the lower elevation areas, consists of spruce trees, willow, and other brush. The dense cover can be hard going, but the stunning vistas make it worthwhile. Hiking in moist tundra is like walking on a sponge of mosses and small plants. You may see fox, caribou, and bear here.

In higher alpine areas, visitors can find dry tundra, where spectacular wildflowers bloom. Hiking along the

wide gravel bars of Denali's rivers is relatively easy and provides good views. Ranger-led Discovery Hikes provide a good introduction to backcountry day hiking in Denali; sign up at the Denali Visitor Access Center. The only maintained trails are a series of short, easy loops near the Denali Park Hotel.

Denali is a true wilderness, so before heading out on a hike, stop by park headquarters for safety information. Even around the populated park entrance, you may encounter bear and moose. For reservations on shuttle buses and campsites, call 800-622-7275. For park information, contact Denali National Park and Preserve at P.O. Box 9, Denali Park, AK 99755-0009; 907-683-2294.

Rocky Mountain

The Estes Park area was a popular spot for hiking and camping even before Rocky Mountain was declared a national park in 1915. Today the park pre-



serves 415 square miles of the Rockies' Front Range, where peaks tower higher than 14,000 feet.

More than 350 miles of trails explore alpine tundra, forested mountainsides, and wildflower-strewn meadows. Some trails are extremely strenuous, such as the one to the top of Long's Peak (14,255 feet). But the park has many moderate and easy trails too, where it's a good idea to start as you acclimate to the high altitude. In addition, visitors can learn about both the natural and human history of the area by taking self-guided nature trails.

Some of the trails are very busy, especially in the summer when most of the park's 3 million annual visitors come. Ask a ranger to recommend lightly used trails. Or consider visiting in September or October when the leaves are golden and the crowds are thinner.

The park has no hotels or motels. For information about facilities nearby, write to the Chamber of Commerce in Estes Park, CO 80517, or in Grand Lake, CO 80447. Campgrounds in the park fill up early in the summer. For park reservation information, contact Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park, CO 80517-8397; 970-586-1206.

Acadia

In the early 1900s, Maine residents and summer visitors worked together to ensure permanent protection of the state's beautiful coastland. In 1916, the area of Acadia was proclaimed Sieur de Monts National Monument. In 1929, it was renamed Acadia National Park. Today the park preserves, nearly unchanged, 47,000 acres of Maine's coast, coastal mountains, and offshore islands—a unique combination of seashore and mountain scenery. One hundred and twenty miles of hiking trails take you into the natural beauty and seafaring history of the park. Trails range from easy surf walks to the steep Precipice Trail. From late May to mid-October, rangers lead hikes that highlight the area's geology, plant and animal life, and cultural history. In addition, the park has 45 miles of carriage roads, free of motor vehicles. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.,

financed and directed the building of the roads between 1915 and 1933, which were designed by Frederick Law Olmstead Jr.

Acadia is open year-round, but some facilities and services close in the winter. Be prepared for cool weather, even in the summer. The park has two campgrounds; one is first-come, first-served. Blackwoods campground requires reservations (call 800-365-2267). Other camping and lodging are available in nearby towns. For more information about the park, contact Acadia National Park, P.O. Box 177, Bar Harbor, ME 04609-0177; 207-288-3338.

Scotts Bluff

Four or five million years ago, the Great Plains began to erode. In certain spots, patches of more durable material protected the land from erosion. One such spot now rises 800 feet above the valley floor in western Nebraska. Scotts Bluff became a familiar landmark to settlers traveling the Oregon Trail to the Pacific area. When they reached the promontory, they knew that one-third of the trail lay behind them. Scotts Bluff was declared a national monument in 1917.

Visitors can hike to the top of the bluff on the Saddle Rock Trail. The trail is 1.6 miles long and begins at the visitor center. A self-guided trail on the summit takes you to the scenic overlooks; a guidebook is available at the visitor center and at the trailhead. Stay on the paved path, for the rock along the Summit Trail is soft and crumbly.

Visitors can also explore the land around the bluff, which varies from ponderosa pine forests on the northern slopes to short prairie grasses on the valley floor. The area is home to prairie dogs, foxes, badgers, coyotes, and mule deer. Poisonous prairie rattlesnakes, also found in the area, are shy, but will strike if threatened.

Camping is not available at Scotts Bluff; the nearby towns of Gering and Scotts Bluff offer food and lodging. For more information about the park, contact Scotts Bluff National Monument, P.O. Box 27, Gering, NE 69341-0027; 308-436-4340.

ALASKA



Alaska's Denali Backcountry Lodge
800-841-0692
www.denalilodge.com/np

adventure ALASKA truly unique 5 - 17 day small group journeys

- River Adventures
- Sightseeing Tours
- Dog Sledding Trips
- Combination Trips
- Wilderness Explorations
- Natural History/Cultural Tours

(800) 365-7057 P.O. Box 64 Hope, AK 99605 www.AdvenAlaska.com

ALASKA GHOST TOWN & GLACIERS

Join us on Main Street Kennicott to step back in time and into adventure.



KENNICOTT Glacier Lodge
1-800-987-6773
www.KennicottLodge.com

CAREERS • EDUCATION

Environmental Careers

Environmental & natural resource vacancies nationwide from nonprofit, private, & government employers. 6 issue/3 month trial subscription is only \$19.50. **Subscribe today!**

The Job Seeker
Dept NP, 28672 Cty EW, Warrens, WI 54666
http://www.tomah.com/jobseeker

HAVE FUN BUILDING THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL: A.T. Conference needs volunteers for seasonal trail crews. Experience the beauty of the Appalachians, help preserve the Trail, learn trail-building skills. Work is physically demanding, outdoors; we provide food, shelter, FUN! EOE. Send postcard: Crews, ATC, NP-99A/C, P.O. Box 10, Newport, VA 24128 or e-mail to crews@atconf.org

National parks

Advertise in National Parks

Please contact Chris Beall, Advertising Coordinator, at 1-800-628-7275 extension 144 or advertise@npca.org for more information.

ECO OPPORTUNITIES

PRODUCTS • GEAR

Screen Savers

Bring the National Parks to your Windows or Macintosh computer. Over 30 titles, each with 33 stunning images. Choose from Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Great Smoky Mountains, and many more.



softstuff.com

\$14.95

To order, or for a FREE catalog, call toll-free: 888-763-0775 #41001 Yellowstone National Park

JUNGLE HAMMOCK: Hanging pack tent! Light-weight. No stakes, poles, or pads. Bug screen and rain flap. No backache! 800-468-4635
www.junglehammock.com **Clark Outdoor Products**

REAL ESTATE

35 acres - Colorado mountain views - \$29,900.
38 acres - Rocky Mountain Lake - \$79,900.
47 acres - creekside cabin - \$89,900. Colorado's best buys! Free closing costs, EZ financing. Call now! 970-882-7707. **Redstone Land Company**

SERVICES

Investment Portfolios that make a difference

Reap the rewards of socially responsible investing with the TSA STAR Program.

Call today for our informative brochure:

1-800-786-1598

(on Long Island call 516-671-1099)



725 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Head, NY 11545

TSA is a Registered Investment Advisor

TRAVEL • TOURS

ARCHAEOLOGY TOURS. Oaxaca: Zapotec/Mixtec sites. Cliff Dwellers: Mesa Verde, more. Midwest/Southeast Moundbuilder Tours. Expert guides.
Archaeological Conservancy, 5301 Central NE, #1218, Albuquerque, NM 87108. 505-266-1540

ACTIVE WALKING HOLIDAYS in natural areas, lodging in B&Bs, Inns, and Lodges. Weekends and longer in the Midwest, California, New England, New Mexico, Smokies, Mexico, Finland, Ireland.
Earth Is Yours Walking Tours, 930 Washington #1 Earth, Evanston, IL 60202-2272. 877-869-5745, <http://www.mcs.net/~teiywt>

LANGUAGE, SPORTS, ARTS LEARNING VACATIONS: Don't vegetate... edu-Vacate! Explore great places, foreign languages & cultures, watersports, skiing, walking, bicycling, photography, painting, cooking—you name it! Beautiful settings, France, Italy, Spain, Guadeloupe, more.
eduVacations 202-857-8384

SWISS ALPS—Dayhiking Our 22nd Year
Two guides per tour allow choice of moderate or strenuous hike daily - Basing weekly in charming mountain villages -
Call for a free color brochure
1 - 8 8 8 - 4 7 8 - 4 0 0 4
www.swishhiking.com



THE TIMBERS



intimate lodging on the river
columbia river gorge national scenic area
509/427-5656 • <http://www.TimberInTheGorge.com>



New in 1999 - the John Muir Lodge



Sequoia Kings Canyon

PARK SERVICES COMPANY
P.O. Box 909 - Kings Canyon National Park, CA 93633

Authorized Concessionaire of The National Park Service
"A yet Grandier Valley" John Muir

Reserve Now!
(559) 335-5500
* Special Rates (mention Ad #386)
* Nightly Campfires
* Daily Programs

discover the **AMAZON** with **EXPLORAMA**
USA (800) 707-5275

Fax (51-94) 252533 P.O. Box 446
Iquitos - Perú

<http://www.explorama.com>
E-mail: amazon@explorama.com

Outdoor Adventures for People 50 and Over

Specially designed walking/hiking programs to U.S., Europe, New Zealand. Great scenery, company, food! Call/write for 1999 brochure.
WALKING THE WORLD
PO Box 1186-N, Ft. Collins, CO 80522
1-800-340-9255

A REFRESHING ISLAND GETAWAY.

For a Sailing Adventure, 13 Historic Schooners depart Camden & Rockland. 3,4 & 6-Day Cruises from \$335.

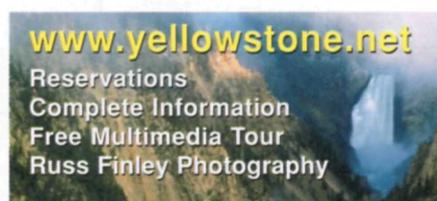


www.sailmainecoast.com

MAINE WINDJAMMING 1-800-807-WIND

www.yellowstone.net

Reservations
Complete Information
Free Multimedia Tour
Russ Finley Photography



s.a.f.a.r.i. YELLOWSTONE AND GRAND TETON

Natural Guided 1-7 day Safaris • Wildlife & Photo Safaris • Wolf & Bear Safaris • Hiking & Walking Safaris • Natural & Cultural History • Small Groups • All Ages & Abilities • FREE Brochure

www.safarinyellowstone.com

1-800-SAFARIS



Five-Star Adventure World-Class Fun

Distinctive biking, walking, cross-country skiing and multisport vacations to 90 destinations worldwide. Luxury inn and camping trips for all abilities since 1979.



The world's #1 active travel company.

Request your free catalog today
800-GO-ACTIVE (800-462-2848)
www.backroads.com

Postcards from the Past

By Connie Toops

Last year a cousin sent me a box of old photos and memorabilia. Among the treasures was a letter written in 1910 by my great-aunt, who with her family left Ohio for western Colorado. They settled a few miles south of what is now Colorado National Monument.

Aunt May wrote: "I sit on the back steps every day and look at the mountains. I never get tired looking—as they are different colors nearly every time I look. ... If you would see the colors in a picture, you'd think they were too vivid to be natural."

At the time my ancestors headed west, only a few well-known "jewels" such as Yellowstone and Yosemite had been preserved as national parks. Acadia, the first eastern national park, was established as Lafayette National Park in 1919, the same year NPCA was founded. That year, thanks to the increasing availability of automobiles after the First World War, 750,000 hearty souls actually visited the national parks.

Faded photographs and dog-eared postcards hint of the adventures these nature-lovers encountered. One shows campers enjoying a brief respite inside their tent.

Another shows a group preparing a meal by the fire. No low-impact camping here. Lodgepole pines surround the group as they cook with heavy pots and pails, their coffee pot suspended over the fire by sticks in the ground.

Camping in Comfort

Let's fast-forward to that same Minnesota lakeshore, part of Voyageurs National Park, today. Canoeists still ply the water, now in nimble craft made from synthetic materials. Today's polyethylene canoe and kayak hulls



National Park Service (2)

"Uncle Tom Richardson" feeding lunch to visitors on his guided trip to the bottom of the lower falls of the Yellowstone River.



Tourist car, Wasatch Mountain Club of 1924.

are strong and hold their shape well, bouncing back from accidental encounters with submerged logs or rocks. Their foam cores provide excellent flotation and insulation. These state-of-the-art watercraft are light enough for comfortable portages, yet boast capacities 12 to 15 times their own weight.

That allows campers to bring along many comforts of home but still cast light impact on the land. A typical two-person tent these days packs up scarcely larger than a loaf of French bread and weighs about five pounds. Snap-together poles and pop-up design make these tents so self-supporting you can pick them up with one hand. With separate wind- and water-shedding rainflies and ventilation panels, these snug rain- and insect-proof refuges can also offer views rivaling a planetarium on starry nights. As the night turns chilly, you can snuggle into a traditional sleeping bag stuffed with down, the best insulator in dry conditions. In rain or snow, sleeping bags made from Thermolite® polyester insulate effectively even when wet. Thermolite, which is 60 percent pre-consumer waste, is quite durable and, like down, boasts a good warmth-to-weight ratio. This synthetic blend of microfibers compresses and lofts well. Choose a bag with overlapping baffle construction to avoid cold spots. A closed-cell foam sleeping pad provides a buffer against chilly ground and rocks and roots underneath.

The Coleman lantern was invented in 1914, providing a safer, brighter alternative to torches or kerosene lamps. Updated versions—both white gas and battery-powered—still light campsites, but choices have now expanded to include eco-friendly candle lanterns and brilliant palm-sized flashlights in water-resistant casings.

It's no longer necessary to scour the woods for kindling to cook dinner. Clever little backpacking stoves operate on butane/propane cartridges or attach to refillable fuel bottles. For family camping, choose a compact two-burner



National Park Service

Sagebrushers at campground in Zion National Park, 1929.

model complete with windscreen. Nesting sets of stainless steel, titanium, or aluminum cookware triple the versatility of the old cast iron skillet at a fraction of the weight. Pocket multi-tools, with multiple blades and other features, take care of any tasks or repairs.

In the old days campers and hikers filled their canteens at springs and streams. But these may harbor *Giardia* or other unpleasant bacteria and protozoa. Most packable water treatment systems can now cleanse a quart of water per minute, and filters are good for about 200 gallons of water before cleaning or replacement.

Gone are the days when it took a pack mule carrying pounds of potatoes, jerky, flour, and beans to sustain campers on a long trip. Individually packaged dehydrated entrees now include gourmet selections such as lasagna with meat sauce, pasta primavera, or wild rice and mushroom pilaf. For quick energy, try convenience foods including nutritious granola bars, performance gels, or "electrolite recovery" beverages.

To carry all this gear, modern packs—many of which feature rugged internal frames of aluminum or polyethylene—are light, weatherproof, and comfortable. When selecting a pack, look for support without sag. Choose sizes and compartments appropriate for your load. Will top- or side-loading partitions be most convenient? Are there compression

straps to cinch the bag for smaller burdens? Some brands offer zip-off modular features or can convert into wheeled luggage at the airport. Insist on reinforced seams and heavy-duty bottom construction. Contoured shoulder straps and padded hip belts are also a must. Outside organizer pockets eliminate the need to take off your pack to reach for maps, snacks, and insect repellent.

Purchase of camping accessories no longer even requires leaving home. Suppliers including Campmor, REI, and L.L. Bean offer direct catalog sales and helpful Internet sites.

Outfitted for Style and Function

Outdoor attire has also enjoyed a quantum leap during the past hundred years. A key to dressing for outdoor comfort is understanding the laws of layering. For active sports such as backpacking, climbing, or skiing, clothing must "breathe." Undergarments made of silk, an excellent natural insulator, are soft, ultralight, and quick-drying. Synthetic polypropylene is highly breathable and wicks moisture away from the body. Several brands now offer antibacterial finishes to resist stains and odors.

The clustered fiber bundles of synthetic fleece trap warm air, making the material soft, durable, breathable,



National Park Service

Auto camp at Yellowstone Lake, 1925.

and warm even when wet. Manufacturers claim fleece absorbs no more than 1 percent of its weight when rain or snow falls on it. It dries with a quick shake. Fleece garments are available in several weights appropriate to outdoor activities. Ultra-light Polartec 100 is recommended for fast-paced pursuits like

running, hiking, and mountain biking because it quickly wicks moisture away from the body. Polartec 200 is an economical midweight choice, offering the warmth of wool at half the weight. The thickest and warmest is Polartec 300 Sherpa® shearling.

Outermost clothing should be wind-resistant, waterproof but breathable, and sized to fit over vests or sweaters. Choices range from light nylon shells with wind-blocking abilities to hefty parkas with detachable hoods and zip-out liners. Desirable features include snug elastic cuffs, inner chin guards, and storm flaps to seal out the wind; deep cargo and interior mesh pockets; back and underarm vents; and zipper tabs large enough to grab with gloves. Jackets should be compressible for easy carrying once removed.

Read labels carefully to determine whether clothing is water-resistant or waterproof. For several decades, Gore-Tex® has been the leading breathable waterproof fabric on the market, although other manufacturers now offer similar products. Gore-Tex micro-pores are large enough to allow water vaporized by body heat to escape but too small for a raindrop to enter. Quality rain gear should also have taped seams and storm flaps that mimic rain gutters to whisk rain away.

Composite outer garments provide extra protection from the elements.

BiPolar consists of outer fabric that resists wind and rain, coupled with textured interior fleece for warmth. Windbloc is a three-layered sandwich of fleece, hidden windproofing, and a mesh lining for breathability. Thermolite®, Thermoloft®, and Primaloft are other types of synthetic microfibers offering water-repellent insulation with down-like warmth.

Modern hiking shoes and boots should match the terrain where they will be used. For light loads on established trails, "hybrid" boots offer the look, lightness, and comfort of athletic shoes. Heavy loads and rough trails require leather or leather/fabric boots that protect ankles and cushion soles. Many brands have waterproofing tanned in or come with insulated, waterproof liners. Vasque boots feature a choice of footbed inserts that customize fit for wide or narrow feet. A new breed of amphibious shoes is designed for traction on beaches or in streams. These innovative sandals have rock-gripping rubber outsoles coupled with protective mesh uppers that drain and dry quickly.

All Aboard

On her journey west, my aunt May crossed Colorado by train five years before Rocky Mountain National Park was established. In those days, horse-drawn coaches and trains were the primary means of transportation to national parks. Amtrak continues this tradition on its Chicago-to-Portland Empire Builder, which stops daily at Glacier National Park in Montana. Other scenic rail destinations include Denali, served by the Alaska Railroad on its Seward-to-Fairbanks route, and the Grand Canyon. The Grand Canyon Railway makes daily round trips from Williams, Arizona. Few maps and little written information existed for park visitors a century ago. These days anyone with Internet access can peruse Park Service web sites for trip planning information. Maps destined to be carried into the backcountry are now available in waterproof, tearproof versions. Detailed maps are available from organizations such as Trails

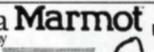


CAMP MOR
OUTDOOR
ADVENTURE GEAR

- BACKPACKING
- FAMILY CAMPING • CLIMBING
- RUGGED CLOTHING & OUTERWEAR
- BIKE TOURING • WATERSPORTS

For a Free Catalog,
Call 1-800-230-2151

or Write: **CAMP MOR**
PO BOX 700-9NP
SADDLE RIVER, N.J. 07458-0700
www.campmor.com
AOL keyword: **CAMP MOR**













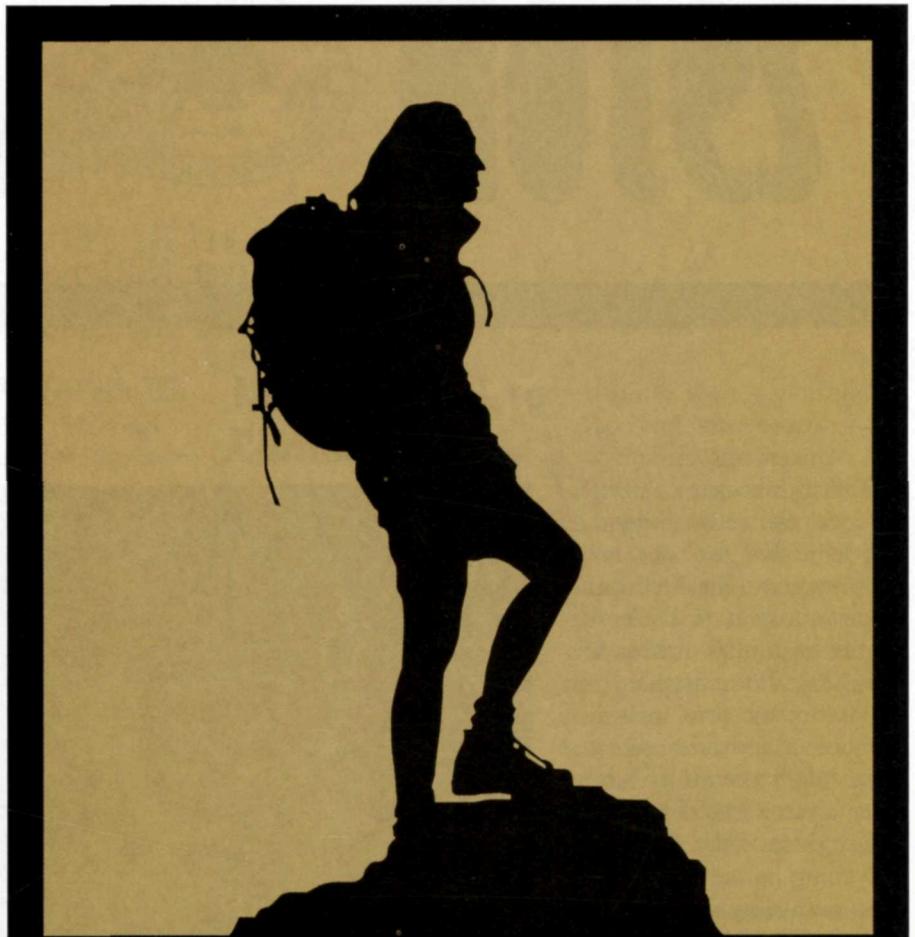
Illustrated, a division of the National Geographic Society. For those who are more computer savvy, they can also be obtained on CD-ROM. For example, Maptech® National Park Digital Guides include topographic base maps plus notes on attractions, accommodations, trails, geology, and wildlife viewing in 54 national parks. Using Maptech's Terrain Navigator software, users can plot their course, measure distance and elevation, check for landmarks, and then print customized maps.

Within the past decade, a state-of-the-art navigation system known as GPS (global positioning system) has become a convenient way to determine three-dimensional locations anywhere on Earth. Using a hand-held receiver that communicates with various satellites, the system pinpoints location within 100 to 300 feet. Users can summon built-in maps or create their own. More advanced GPS units compute rate of travel and identify points along a route with latitude and longitude readings.

Saving the Memories

To capture pictures of national parks early in this century, photographers lugged bulky cameras, massive tripods, and explosive flash powder with them. The pocket-sized cameras of today come complete with automatic exposure control and built-in flashes. Some models are weatherproof. Others offer the option of creating digital images. Binoculars, too, have improved optics. Sizes are handy enough to tuck into nearly any pocket or pack, while rubber armor minimizes bumps and keeps out moisture.

Clothing and equipment incomprehensible to our ancestors are now affordable and even essential. But look again at faces in the old photos and you will find a link with similar pictures today, as visits to national parks and monuments continue to generate great joy and appreciation.



THE ADVENTURE BEGINS WITH

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAPS TRAILS ILLUSTRATED™

- **National Park Maps** •
- **National Forest Maps** •
- **Worldwide Adventure Maps** •
- **Digital Mapping Products** •

www.trailsillustrated.com

1 . 8 0 0 . 9 6 2 . 1 6 4 3



Taking Root

Stones River National Battlefield provides crucial habitat for the endangered Tennessee coneflower

BY ELIZABETH G. DAERR

SCATTERED SPARSELY throughout the cedar forests of Tennessee are islands of limestone. There, temperatures rise 10 to 30 degrees higher than the surrounding area, and almost nothing can survive in the four inches of parched soil that carpets the rock. Often viewed as having little agricultural or aesthetic value, these cedar glades are becoming home sites, parking lots, and shopping malls to accommodate the burgeoning local population. But as the cedar glades lose ground, so does the chance for survival of the endangered Tennessee coneflower.

No place on Earth except the 30-mile radius surrounding Nashville, Tennessee, supports these flowers and up to 20 other threatened plant species. And while the areas may be deceptively barren in the winter, June and July yield wild grasses and a spectrum of daisy-like flowers that vary from pale pink to deep fuschia.

Development has been the most aggressive force pulling the species toward extinction, but local landscaping is creating added pressure. The purple coneflower, which is not endangered, is in style among landscapers, and some biologists fear that cross-pollination may cloud the genetic integrity of the endangered coneflower. Other popular exotic species, such as privet and shrub

ELIZABETH G. DAERR is editorial assistant for National Parks magazine.



The Tennessee coneflower is holding its own.

BYRON JORJIAN

honeysuckle, are invading some planted colonies and increasing soil deposition, which increases invasion.

What's most remarkable about this plant is that it was thought to be extinct in the late 1960s after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dammed the Stones River to create a hydroelectric facility, flooding most of the flower's habitat. But in 1973, Elsie Quarterman, a botany professor at Vanderbilt University, spotted a patch growing alongside a busy Nashville road. Quarterman had been studying cedar glades in her work and was amazed to see the plant.

One of Quarterman's doctoral students at the time, Thomas Hemmerly, now himself a professor of botany, studied the flower as his thesis project and planted the colony that survives at Stones River National Battlefield, a Civil War site in nearby Murfreesboro. The battlefield is one of the approximately

20 colonies that remain. But 20th-century sprawl has corraled the park, leaving the plant no room to expand and creating a perpetual assault of exotic species.

The Nature Conservancy has been buying up critical habitat, including the original piece of land where the plant was found. The Division of Natural Heritage, a state conservation program, is taking the lead in protecting the species and promoting the use of native plant species in landscaping. Four native plant nurseries in Tennessee are doing a brisk

business, says Andrea Shea, rare species protection coordinator for the division.

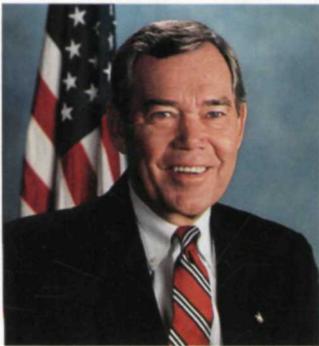
Shea says there is little hope that the flower will extend beyond its current boundaries because, even without human interference, the flower's natural habitat is quite limited. Fortunately, the naturally occurring, protected colonies thrive. "Where we do have them, we have 100,000 at some sites," Shea says. "They do quite well once they are established and managed."

Quarterman, now 88, still speaks regularly on the importance of saving these unique areas. "There are so many fascinating things to study out there," she says. "Some people say that the flower can't possibly be endangered because when you look at a colony of them, there are thousands," she said. "There may be 1,000 in one glade, but they're not present in any other area of the world." 

BY ELIZABETH G. DAERR

Senator Honored For Park Protection

► For his efforts to protect America's national parks by increasing federal funding, promoting scientific research as a management tool, and improving management strategies, Sen. Craig Thomas (R-Wyo.) has been named NPCA's 1999 William Penn Mott, Jr. Leadership Award winner.



As chairman of the Senate subcommittee on Parks, Historic Preservation and Recreation, Thomas has shown leadership in park preservation. In 1997, he launched his "Vision 2020" legislation, a comprehensive strategy to enrich and expand the National Park System into the next century. As part of that work, last year he negotiated a 96 percent increase in funding to improve park transportation infrastructure.

Thomas' efforts culminated in the 1998 "National Parks Omnibus Management Act," the first comprehensive rewrite of concessions language in more than 30 years.

Created to eliminate the past abuses by concessioners who reap the economic benefits of a captive audience while offering little return to park finances, the law establishes a competitive selection process among businesses desiring to operate in the parks. In addition to higher franchise fees, the money is for the first time directed into the national park budget instead of the national treasury, where it was often used for other purposes.

"Sen. Thomas was the driving force behind the National Parks Omnibus Management Act," said William J. Chandler, vice president for conservation policy. "He listened, learned, and acted decisively to solve the long-standing needs, such as concessions reform and science-based protection of park resources."

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt presented the award to Thomas at NPCA's annual dinner March 25. The award is given annually to a public official who takes significant steps to ensure park preservation.

NPCA Critical to Cumberland Island Success

► Both National Park Service Director Robert Stanton and Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Donald Barry offered personal thanks to NPCA President Thomas Kiernan for NPCA's involvement in facilitating a historic agreement to protect Cumberland Island National Seashore [News, March/April 1999]. Barry said that Southeast Regional Director Don Barger was critical to the success of establishing a visitor access plan that would not negatively affect the area's wilderness character.

On Line Service to Finance Park Efforts

► Online shoppers can now help the national parks every time they order a product. NPCA has joined GreaterGood.com, a cause-related electronic commerce company that donates 5 percent of every product purchased to NPCA or more than a dozen other nonprofit organizations.

Shoppers can buy mer-

chandise such as gourmet food and wine, sports equipment and apparel, flowers, electronics, office supplies, and garden tools. Amazon.com, Office Depot, and Orvis are just some of the vendors offering their wares through this service, which guarantees credit card security and privacy to buyers. The website also educates consumers about critical park-related issues. Visit the site at www.npca.greatergood.com.

Diversity Remains Focus for NPCA, NPS

► In a continuing effort to focus on diversity issues, NPCA and the National Park Service (NPS) are co-sponsoring the first training and development program discussing Latino citizens' concerns for protecting heritage resources within and outside park boundaries. It will be held in conjunction with the third training session devoted to African Americans' involvement in park issues.

Participants will tackle the issues and strategies needed to strengthen minority voices in the national park planning system.

The Park Service seeks to

identify the resources, perspectives, and preservation concepts with which minorities approach conservation and then aims to educate participants in additional techniques available to them, such as using the National Historic Preservation and National Environmental Policy acts. All minority groups are invited to attend the conference, "African Americans, Hispanic Americans: Community Involvement with Heritage Resources," to be held May 24-28 in Washington, D.C. For more information, call 800-NAT-PARK, ext. 258.

Separately, NPS has created a new website highlighting parks that reflect the rich cultural heritage of America. The site includes employment and educational opportunities, announce-

ments affecting diversity issues within NPS, and a look at the cultural parks that are included in the system.

Visitors to the site can learn about the archaeological finds from Eskimo communities dating back 4,000 years or about daily life in Hawaii before the arrival of Europeans. Other sites commemorate the completion of the first transcontinental railroad, the culture surrounding jazz music, and the Civil Rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. The address is www.cr.nps.gov/history/divst.htm.

Also look for NPCA's new web page on cultural diversity, which is scheduled to launch in June. NPCA will be asking for responses to monthly questions that will be used to shape the Park Service's and NPCA's cultural diversity program.



NPCA Thanks Members for PWC Letters

► NPCA members have been inundating the Department of the Interior with requests to take a tougher stance on personal watercraft (PWC) use in the national parks. The Park Service is considering a proposal that would allow PWC

use to continue in many parks for two more years while NPS considers how to address the damage caused by them. NPCA believes that a two-year period would give the PWC industry ample time to establish personal watercraft use as an acceptable activity within the parks. At press time, approximately 2,500 comments had been received.

NPCA appreciates the efforts of members who take the time to write letters or phone public officials on behalf of America's national parks. In response to requests to keep letter writing manageable, *National Parks* magazine is creating "Hot Picks," a system that will help readers identify two or three issues where their letter or call can make the greatest difference. Look for the ✓ in future issues!

TRAVEL PLANNER

GEORGIA

HISTORIC SITES

ON MY MIND

DISCOVER HAUNTING battlefields, historic homes & ceremonial Indian mounds.

For a free color guide to Georgia's State Historic Sites, call 1.800.797.9240 ext. PSP4 www.gastateparks.org

GEORGIA

© 1999 GDIIT

MISSOURI

BOLLINGER MILL STATE HISTORIC SITE

call toll-free
1-800-810-5500
ext. 261
for your free
Missouri
travel kit.

MISSOURI
1999
OFFICIAL TRAVEL GUIDE

MISSOURI
Where the rivers run

Missouri Division of Tourism, P.O. Box 1055
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Visit our website: www.missouritourism.org

NPCA

EVERY ISSUE, NATIONAL PARKS OFFERS THIS TRAVEL PLANNER SO THAT YOU MAY INVITE OUR READERS TO YOUR DESTINATION.



94% OF OUR READERS WILL TAKE A DOMESTIC TRIP THIS YEAR.

When they travel, their preference is to visit:

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| National Parks | 85% |
| State Parks | 63% |
| Historic Sites | 70% |
| Resorts | 40% |
| Museums/Cultural Sites | 56% |
| Beaches | 48% |

PHONE: 1-800-NAT-PARK
E-MAIL: ADVERTISE@NPCA.ORG



YOU ARE HERE

Towering Walls

This national park protects an area considered among the world's greatest natural wonders.



CARR CLIFTON

IT TOOK ONE MAN four attempts, three as a U.S. senator and finally as president, to set this area aside as a national treasure. The park has been a favorite subject of artists for 150 years—a Thomas Moran painting of it hangs in the Capitol today. Also, seven American Indian tribes claim sacred or ceremonial connections to the area. Have you visited this park? Do you know which one it is? [ANSWER ON PAGE 11.]

The Sanctuary That Was Saved.

Over 140 feet down, the ocean floor in the Gulf of Mexico looks like a desert. Offering marine life few places with ample shelter and food. But sanctuary comes from a surprising source: oil platforms. Over time, they become thriving habitats for entire populations of sea creatures. So when certain platforms are retired, people carefully clean, then place them. Maintaining an extraordinary oasis, and an ideal place for nature to call home.

www.pepledo.com



People Do.



Help Save Our Parks Every Time You Shop Online.

There's good reason to join the millions of Americans who go shopping on the Internet. First, there's the convenience of buying the same items you shop for everyday — without ever leaving home.

Now, there's the contribution you'll be making to the National Parks and Conservation

Association. Every time you make a purchase at our NPCA online Shopping Village, we receive 5% or more of the purchase price — and you don't pay an extra dime.

By logging on to www.npca.org, you have one-click access to some of the most trusted names in books, toys, office supplies, clothing, food, and many other items you routinely buy.



Amazon.com, eToys, J. Crew, OfficeMax.com, Orvis, and dozens of other Internet merchants have opened their doors to NPCA contributors — giving you the same low prices, high quality, and outstanding customer service they're known for.

So, think about saving a park. Or building a trail. Or preserving a habitat.

Visit the NPCA Shopping Village every time you shop online.



Help protect America's parks.

Begin all your online shopping trips at www.npca.org.

www.npca.org

