

# National parks

The Magazine of  
The National Parks  
Conservation  
Association

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2003

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Denali Wolves  
Water Woes in  
the East

Thinning the  
Ranks

Ghost Tours





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# National parks

Vol. 77, No. 9-10  
September/October 2003

The Magazine of the National Parks  
Conservation Association

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Cover: Wild, unpenned wolves can be spotted roaming Denali National Park and Preserve.

*Photo by Leo Keeler.*



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## OUTLOOK

# Healthy Parks

*We have to take care not to squander the qualities of parks that make them natural magnets for visitors and residents.*

During a stay at Denali National Park two summers ago, we received word that wolves had cornered a moose and were slowly taking it down. Sometime later on a park tour aboard a shuttle bus, we saw wolves feeding on a moose carcass.

Although we could not know for certain, the wolves we saw were most likely members of one of the packs described in Bill Sherwonit's cover article, page 21. We were fortunate to see wolves that day, an experience that is shared by more than 20,000 people every year. The wolves of Denali are among the most viewed and studied in the world.

With more than 300,000 visitors annually, Denali is one of Alaska's premier visitor attractions, and most people travel there for two main reasons: to see Mount McKinley and to watch wildlife. According to Sherwonit's article, a citizens advisory group reported to the Board of Game in October 2000 that "Wolves are one of the most highly sought species of wildlife by visitors to the park....If just each wolf sighting were valued at one dollar, then the value of these wolves for viewing vastly outweighs their value as furbearers for trappers and hunters."

NPCA's recently released report, *Healthy Parks: Healthy Communities* acknowledges that there is a growing recognition across the United States of the link between attractive public lands such as national parks and the well-being of the communities that provide access



CHAD EVANS/WYATT

to them. The parks are more than simple magnets for visitors. Many nearby gateway communities have thriving, diverse economies that are not primarily dependent upon tourism and recreation. Yet the natural

appeal of these areas is at the heart of their economic success.

Parks are not islands unto themselves; they are living, breathing parts of our communities, and it is beholden upon us to understand them on a scientific, economic, and moral level. NPCA has just released a State of the Parks® assessment on Denali, and overall the park is in good shape. But one of the key challenges on the horizon is dealing with the park's increasing popularity. Denali's landscape is relatively undisturbed, with one major roadway running through it. Traffic on that roadway is tightly controlled through a shuttle system. But some politicians and developers are pushing to add another road or railway—for as much as \$100 million to \$200 million, an economically foolhardy project that would significantly alter Denali's wilderness character and disrupt the fragile park ecosystem.

As the report *Healthy Parks: Healthy Communities* states, "Let's not squander our resources. Our environment, our economy, and our community are treasures we can't afford to waste."

**Thomas C. Kiernan**  
*President*

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

# Seasonal Change



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With September, comes the end of summer. Leaves begin to yellow and wither, cascading in increasing numbers onto the forest floor as nature prepares itself for winter. Spring is nature's time for rebirth and renewal—fitting then that *National Parks* magazine will emerge next spring in a new form.

With the Spring 2004 issue, *National Parks* magazine—published in its current form since 1942—will become a quarterly publication. Although you will be seeing the magazine less frequently, we will be making changes that we hope will encourage you to keep current issues in your must-read stack longer.

The new and improved *National Parks* will enhance some of the best-loved and well-read sections in the magazine, including our Rare & Endangered and Historic Highlights columns. We plan to enhance and expand the travel section to bring you more information about visiting the parks you love. We also plan to grace the pages with more photographs as well as some new sections. One, in particular, that has captured the imaginations of the staff would explore some of the mysteries of the parks: How do the geysers at Yellowstone National Park really work? And how do the rocks in the Raceway at Death Valley National Park move across the desert floor?

We will continue to bring you in-depth coverage of the issues and challenges facing the National Park System and direct you to opportunities to help us protect these special places for generations to come. Please feel free to send a letter or e-mail to let me know what you think about these upcoming changes.

**Linda M. Rancourt**  
Editor-in-Chief

# National Parks

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## About NPCA

### WHO WE ARE

Established in 1919, the National Parks Conservation Association is America's only private, nonprofit advocacy 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 to resolve them.

### WHAT WE STAND FOR

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

### EDITORIAL MISSION

The magazine is the only national publication focusing solely on national parks. The magazine creates an awareness of the need to protect and properly manage park resources, encourages an appreciation for the natural and historic treasures found in the parks, and informs and inspires individuals to help preserve them.

### MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Members can help defend America's natural and cultural heritage. 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. For more information, contact our grassroots coordinator, extension 222.

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For more information on Partners for the Parks, contact our Membership Department, extension 213. For information about Trustees for the Parks, bequests, planned gifts, and matching gifts, call our Development Department, extension 145 or 146. You can also donate by shopping online at [www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org), where 5 percent of your purchases is donated to NPCA at no extra cost to you.

### QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about your membership, call Member Services at 1-800-628-7275. *National Parks* magazine is among a member's chief benefits. Of the \$25 membership dues, \$6 covers a one-year subscription to the magazine.

### HOW TO REACH US

National Parks Conservation Association, 1300 19th St., N.W., Suite 300, Washington, DC 20036; by phone: 1-800-NAT-PARK; by e-mail: [npca@npca.org](mailto:npca@npca.org); and [www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org).

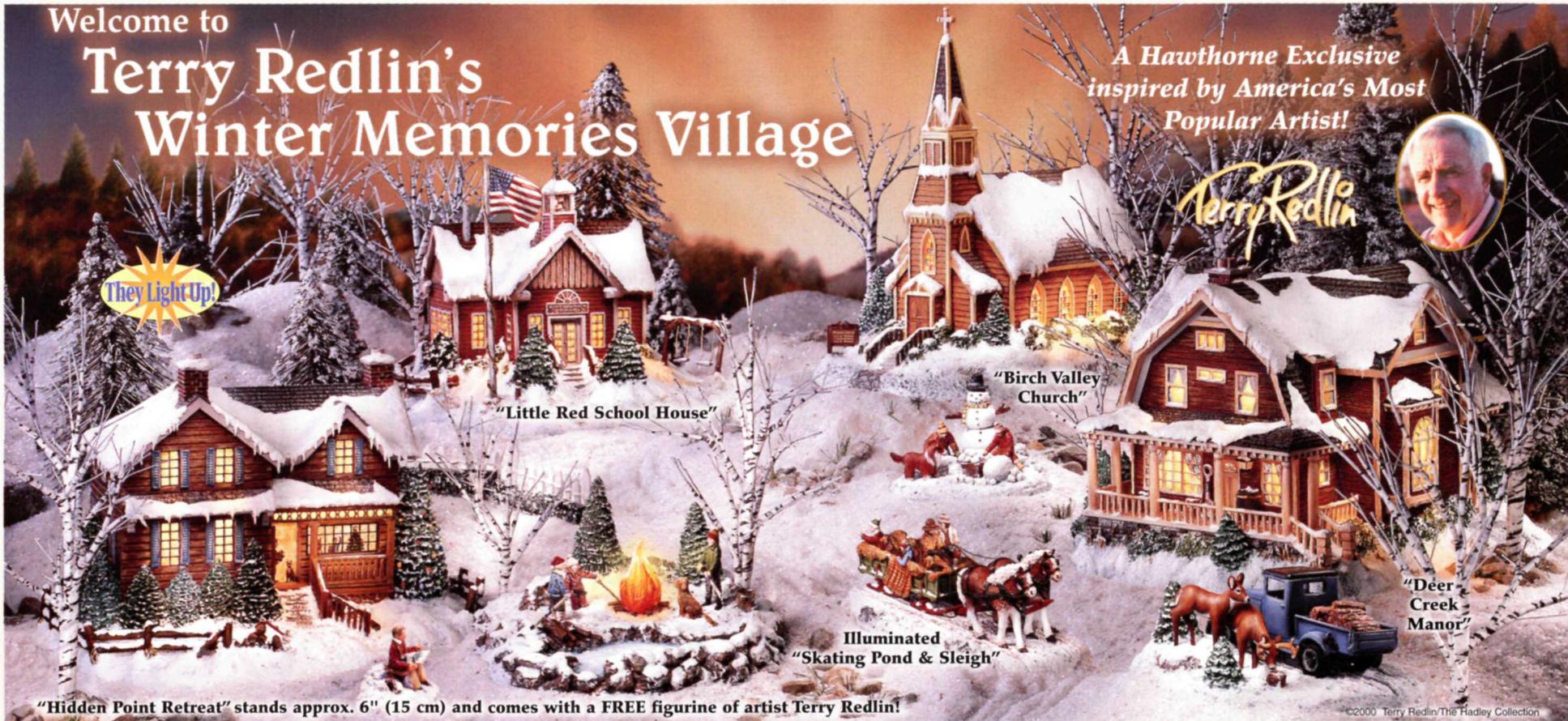
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# Privatization and Making the Grade



## A View on Privatization

The cartoons satirizing privatization in national parks [July/August 2003] were right on target. During a recent visit to Grand Canyon National Park, I toured Phantom Ranch at the bottom of Bright Angel Creek and was disappointed by what I saw. Knowledgeable Park Service rangers were nowhere to be found. Instead, a group of sullen teenagers working as contract employees staffed the facility, apparently unsupervised. Buildings seemed dilapidated and unkempt while the aroma of unclean toilets tinged the air. Heavy metal rock music blared loudly in the cantina.

This was hardly what I considered a quality experience in a major national park. I couldn't wait to leave. Proponents of privatizing park functions might do well to consider the low bidder mentality that comes with contracting out work. Hire quality employees and pay them enough to care about their work.

*John Saltenberger  
Oregon City, OR*

## A Republican's 'Outlook'

I was shocked and dismayed when I read in "Outlook" [July/August 2003] that Thomas Kiernan is a "Republican and an environmentalist." That is an oxy-

moron! In my lifetime—and I am a lot older than Mr. Kiernan—we never have had a Republican administration that was pro-environment. Backing Republican candidates will do nothing but create anti-environment, anti-conservation administrations. They don't believe in science; they believe in leaving the environment up to big business. It is scary that NPCA's president doesn't realize this fact.

*Elizabeth Berner  
Joshua Tree, CA*

**Editorial Reply:** Although using *Republican* and *environmentalist* in one breath may seem like an oxymoron, some Republican members of Congress are very concerned about the environment and the national parks. And don't forget that Republican President Richard Nixon presided over some of our landmark conservation laws, including the Clean Air Act, which President Bush is working to weaken.

## Bush Fails to Make the Grade

I couldn't agree more with your article "Bush Administration Failing the Parks" [July/August 2003]. President Bush and the National Park Service are failing the environment, the national parks, and the people they serve. Their actions constantly neglect the parks and show what their real priorities are. The U.S. government under President Bush has forced the Park Service to become a great figurehead that only serves itself, not the people. I don't see this changing until Bush is out of office and the United States elects a Democratic president.

*Jonathan Lotz  
Herndon, VA*

## A Letter to the President

I heard the broadcast about the national parks over our local National Public Radio station. It prompted me to write a letter to President Bush. We subscribe to

your magazine and try to help the parks whenever we can afford it. Thanks for keeping us informed. Many voices in many places may help stir more people to write. By the way, you publish a great magazine.

*Jeanne Lubey  
Baton Rouge, LA*

The following is an excerpt from Jeanne and Darrel Lubey's letter, dated July 14, 2003, to President Bush and members of Congress.

"...We regard [the national parks] as so special as to be sacred grounds and a reflection of everything good that is America....It is very upsetting that our federal government doesn't hold the same regard for our national parks and monuments....Rangers are in short supply, buildings need repair, roads need maintenance....It is insulting to the intelligence of the American people when you made the rounds of some of the western parks for photo opportunities, while at the same time cutting funding for these national treasures....Appropriate the necessary funding!...We urge you to help our parks before it becomes too late and the price for remedy is out of reach."

To see more letters on these and other topics, please visit our web site at [www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org).

### WRITE TO US

Send mail to: Letters, *National Parks*, 1300 19th St., N.W., Suite 300, Washington, DC 20036. Letters can also be e-mailed to [npmag@npca.org](mailto:npmag@npca.org).

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# ParkScope

News and Notes

BY RYAN DOUGHERTY

## RESOURCE THREATS

### Sugar Deal Sours 'Glades Restoration

*Legislation backed by the sugar industry delays pollution laws.*

EVERGLADES N.P., FLA.—The restoration of Everglades National Park is in serious jeopardy, following passage of a sugar industry-backed bill to ease pollution rules.

The bill, passed by Florida's state legislature and signed by Gov. Jeb Bush, gives polluters another ten years to meet more stringent phosphorous standards, pushing the deadline from 2006 to 2016. Phosphorous runoff from sugar farms and suburban sprawl kills grasses, plants, and wildlife habitat within the 8-million-acre Everglades ecosystem, of which 1.5 million are parkland.

And, despite a provision of the state's constitution requiring polluters to pay for cleanup, the bill continues to charge taxpayers for removing phosphorous.

"The state of Florida bowed to pressure from industry," said Mary Munson, NPCA's Sun Coast regional director. "Big Sugar's political influence and back-room deals overwhelmed good sense."

Following the landmark Everglades Forever Act of 1994, Florida and the federal government have worked together on the \$8-billion plan to clean up and restore the "River of Grass." The effort has been described as an unprecedented federal-state partnership to address the Everglades' pressing problems, such as its



*The legislation threatens the restoration of the Everglades' 8-million-acre ecosystem.*

plummeting wildlife populations and degrading water quality.

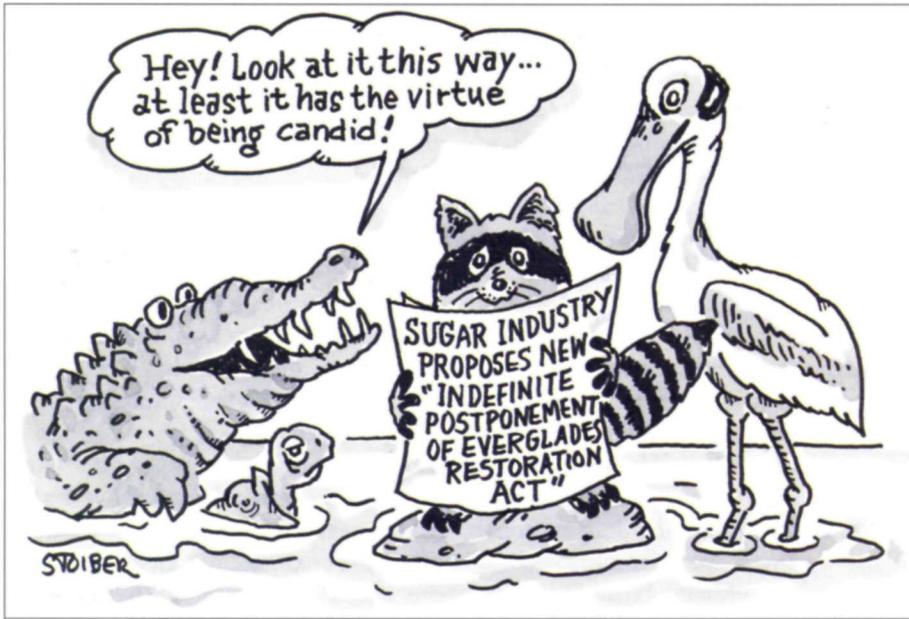
Some state officials and representatives of the sugar industry argued that meeting deadlines set by the Everglades Forever Act presented technical challenges too great to overcome by 2006. Bush signed the bill into law in May, stating: "This is the tough choice, but it is the wise choice ... Everglades restoration is a 30-year journey which has had and will have many bumps in the road."

Members of Congress disagreed, said Munson. Rep. Clay Shaw (R-Fla.) and Rep. Porter Goss (R-Fla.) led successful efforts to craft legislation tying federal funding to the state's efforts to follow through on Everglades cleanup. For the most part, said Munson, the federal-state partnership has run smoothly—but the state bill could strain it.

"If Congress is not convinced that the state is doing its part to clean up the Everglades," said Munson, "it has a right to ask what it is getting for its \$4 million investment in federal funds."

Scientists have long said that phosphorous pollutes the Everglades and should be limited to ten parts per billion. The deadline for polluters to adhere to that limit was set in the Everglades Forever Act. Critics say that the recent state legislation, however, allows polluters wiggle room and an opportunity to average phosphorous measurements over the course of several years. The Everglades Coalition, a group of 41 conservation associations chaired by NPCA and Audubon of Florida, calls the bill the "Everglades Whenever Act."

Besides extending the deadline for cleanup, the state has also weakened its



phosphorous standard, said Munson. In July, a state commission set that standard at ten parts per billion, but it allowed the measurement of pollution levels to be averaged over time and at many different measuring stations—allowing one area to drastically exceed the standard as long

as other areas remain below it.

“The rule only presents the illusion of ten parts per billion,” said Charles Lee, a lobbyist for Audubon of Florida.

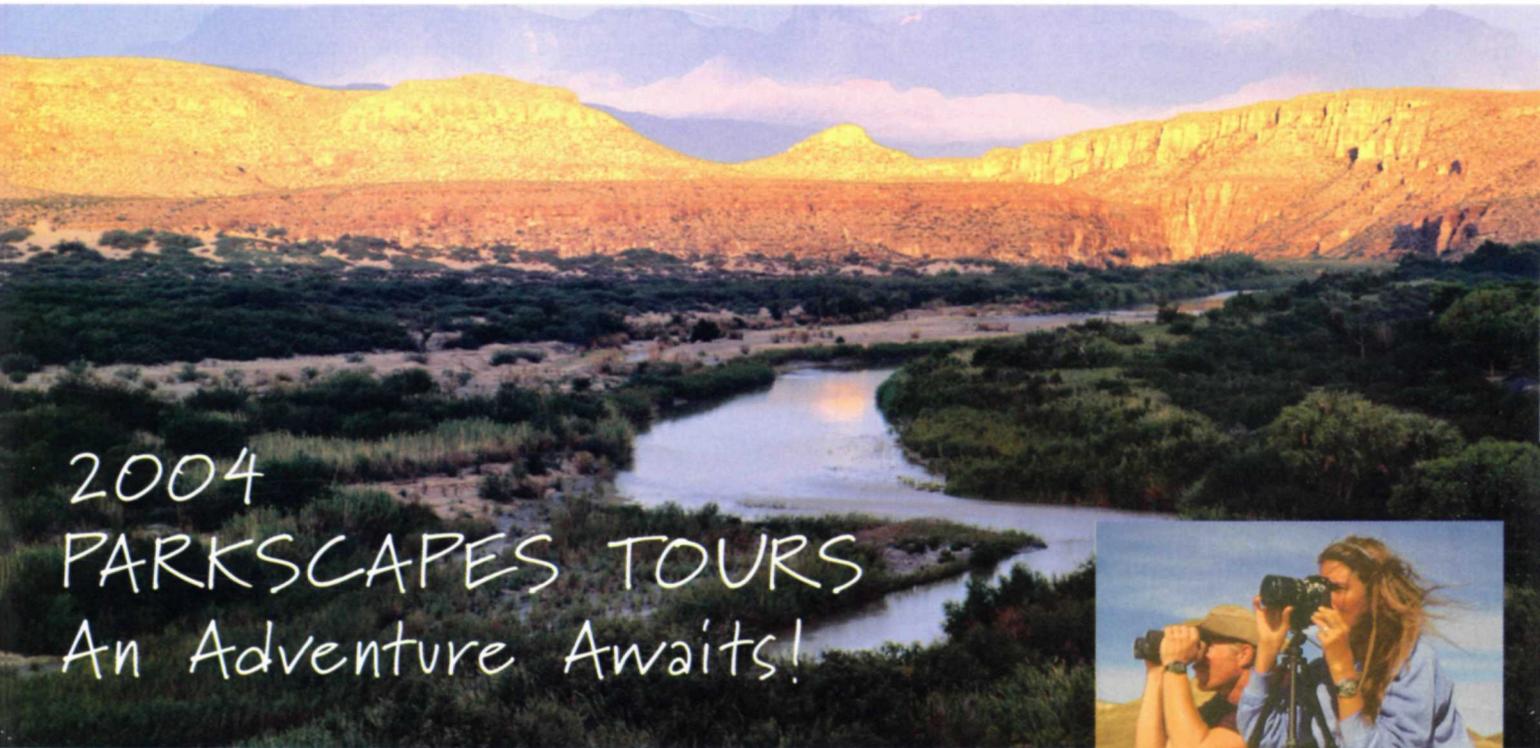
Everglades National Park now has phosphorous levels at or below ten parts per billion. Sections of the Everglades

have higher levels, however, and some fear that pollution will travel south and into the park.

Despite the grim news, there are three rays of hope for the Everglades, said Munson. The first is a federal lawsuit, settled in 1993, requiring Everglades National Park to achieve a phosphorous level of ten parts per billion by 2006. Second, the state bill must be reviewed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to see whether it is consistent with the national Clean Water Act. Finally, the conditions attached to congressional funds require federal agencies to report on the state’s compliance with phosphorous standards.

“We are looking to the EPA and [the federal judge] to overturn these new laws and get restoration back on track,” said Munson, adding that she believes the state wants to clean up the Everglades but was misled by sugar interests.

“The state has an excellent citizen advisory process in place,” she added. “We just need them to listen to all of the stakeholders—not just granular ones.”



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# Q&A

## A Fine Design

*The dazzling Gateway Arch, part of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis, was designed to represent the spirit of western pioneers. The 630-foot, stainless steel monument, its foundations 60 feet into the ground, offers visitors a tram ride to its peak. The arch's design arose from a national competition created to draw as many bright and audacious ideas as possible for the judges to choose from. National Parks recently spoke to Bob Moore, a site historian, about the competition and the enduring impact that the monument has had on its city.*

**Q: How did the arch's design develop?**

**A:** A competition was held in 1947 to determine what the memorial would look like. The memorial had been designated in 1935, but because of a lack of money and World War II, among other reasons, a design was not chosen then. The competition was open to any architect who was a U.S. citizen, and it was

the largest competition held up to that time, in terms of prize money, with a first prize of \$50,000—quite a chunk of change in those days. The competition drew 172 entries from all over America and some very interesting designs. Some of the designers were famous, such as Walter Gropius, Edward D. Stone, Louis Kahn, Percival Goodman, and Charles Eames.

**Q: What types of designs were submitted, and how were they chosen?**

**A:** An esteemed panel of judges made it known that they favored the modern idiom of architecture, so the designers knew that a classically styled design, like the design of the Jefferson Memorial, was not going to please the judges. Almost all submissions were in the "International Style," very boxy, concrete and glass—but nothing as audacious as the arch. The entries were pared down to five semi-finalists, who then

had a chance to go back to the boards, accounting for the criticisms of the jury, and re-do their designs. Almost all five completely re-did their designs—all except for Eero Saarinen. He made only minor modifications, such as opening up the view from the courthouse to the river. There were no names on any of the designs, so that they would not influence the judges' decisions. In February of 1948, the judges unanimously chose [Saarinen's] design.

**Q: What set his design apart?**

**A:** I once interviewed a guy who was an intern at the time, brought in to unpack the boxes of all the entries as they arrived. They were really large boards, encased in wooden crates, which had to be unscrewed. He and another intern had the same reaction when they saw the arch: "This is an incredible design, but will the jury have the guts to choose it?" That is not just a story based on hindsight; after seeing most of the designs myself, I can say that there really aren't any others that compare with the arch. There's just nothing that stands out the way that design does. All the other plans are pedestrian. One runner-up looks like a drive-in movie screen. Others have a series of pylons or some other features. But the competition called for the memorial to have a central feature that people would be attracted to. The committee actually hinted at an arch, but few of the architects paid attention. Hardly anybody created something like that. The others just don't stand out like Saarinen's arch does.

**Q: How much was known of Saarinen?**

**A:** He was relatively young, 38, and unknown at the time; he had worked mostly in his father's architectural office. At first, the competition committee sent congratulations to his well-known father, Eliel Saarinen, who had also submitted an entry, saying that he was one of the semi-finalists. It wasn't until later that they realized the error and retracted it with a great deal of embarrassment. Although Eero Saarinen died before the construction of the arch, he and his



CORBIS

*The arch's design initially drew criticism, but before long the city of St. Louis embraced it.*

"[The arch] revitalized the downtown, an area that had been dying, bringing businesses, hotels, and life back to the city."

office saw the project through to completion, which had not been guaranteed; the Park Service was initially interested in designs only. But Saarinen was persistent and overwhelming. George Hartzog [a former Park Service director and superintendent of Jefferson National Expansion Memorial] told me that he considered Saarinen one of the greatest salesmen who ever lived, with an answer for everything. He was an aesthetic artist who could carefully explain any nuance of his designs.

**Q: What was Saarinen's vision?**

**A:** Saarinen toyed around with architectural forms, noticing that the Washington Monument was an obelisk, the Jefferson Memorial, a dome. He actually created a soaring monument, with three legs, but thought it looked ungainly. So, he took off one of the legs and was left with an arch. He looked at it and said, "Wow, not only is this a very neat form but it symbolizes St. Louis' role as a gateway to the West." He saw it as a symbolic gateway, and he envisioned people taking a "sky ride," as he called it, up to the top of the arch to take in a great view.

**Q: How did the public react to the design?**

**A:** When the pictures were first published in the paper, some thought it looked dumb or like a big croquet wicket. There was some opposition. One critic dug out an arch designed for Mussolini in World War II and said that Saarinen had copied it, which he cer-

tainly did not. At first there was some skepticism about whether this could be built. But over the 15 years before they even started to build the arch, the people of St. Louis started to embrace it. Saarinen remembered coming to town and seeing logos on the sides of vehicles and in the telephone book that had already incorporated the arch into them. Before the arch was even built, it was becoming the symbol of St. Louis. So by the time they started building it, people had completely embraced it, and it was a huge happening in St. Louis to watch as the arch was built. It was even televised locally, and on the final day of construction, schoolchildren were allowed to watch it in their classrooms. It revitalized the downtown, an area that had been dying, bringing businesses, hotels, and life back to the city.

*For further information on the arch, visit the National Park Service's web site at [www.nps.gov/jeff](http://www.nps.gov/jeff).*



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## NEWS IN BRIEF

KNOXVILLE, Tennessee—Leroy Fox of Knoxville, a tireless protector and friend of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, died June 25, 2003, at the age of 85. One of last year's winners of NPCA's Marjorie Stoneman Douglas Award, Fox moved with his family to Knoxville in 1943 and began his work to protect the integrity of the park. He joined the Smoky Mountain Hiking Club in 1963 and later became president. He served on many committees, such as the Appalachian Trail Maintainers and Conservation committees, and volunteered for a number of park activities. In 1979, then Gov. Lamar Alexander appointed Fox to the Tennessee Great Smoky Mountains Park Commission, which he chaired from 1984 to 1986. Fox was instrumental in blocking attempts to build a second trans-mountain road through the park in the 1960s, and over the next several decades earned awards such as the Harvey Broome Distinguished Service Award and the Interior Department's Conservation Service Award. "His friends and family in and around the park will sincerely miss Leroy," said NPCA's Gregory Kidd.

HAWAII VOLCANOES N.P., Hawaii—The National Park Service recently bought a more than 115,000-acre ranch and added it to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, boosting the park's size by 50 percent in the biggest land conservation deal in state history. By adding Kahuku Ranch, the Park Service incorporates into the park one of the most active parts of the Mauna Loa volcano, as well as a variety of endangered plant and animal species, such as the Hawaiian goose. The Park Service describes the formerly private property as a "sprawling natural wonder of lava flows, forests, ancient archaeological sites, and pasture land." Said park Superintendent Jim Martin: "Adding Kahuku Ranch will enable visitors to experience the natural, cultural, and historic treasures unique to this special place." Congress allocated \$16 million for the land purchase, and The Nature Conservancy provided additional money to finance the transaction until Congress can appropriate the final \$6 million. Park officials plan to soon schedule meetings to help determine how to manage the land.

MOJAVE N.P., California—Eight citizen and conservation groups, including NPCA, recently opposed a proposal in San Bernardino County to expand a rare-earth metals mine at Mountain Pass, California, in large part because the company that will do the work has a long history of polluting the region's air, land, and water. Molycorp Inc. wants to expand and operate its Mountain Pass mine, bounded on the north and south by the Mojave National Preserve, for 30 more years. The conservation groups have decried the expansion, stating that Molycorp's environmental analysis failed to fully address the effects to human health, air quality, and water resources. They also argue that Molycorp merits extra scrutiny because of what they say is the company's history of violating environmental laws, and that the county's Draft Environmental Impact Report omitted major parts of the project.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—An interactive program from the National Park Service called "WebRangers" allows children to learn more about the national parks. Available at [www.nps.gov/webangers](http://www.nps.gov/webangers), WebRangers brings parks to the computer screen. It is an extension of the Junior Rangers program that is available to in-person park visitors. WebRangers offers three levels of activities, grouped by age into "Ranger Stations," that teach children how to care for our parks and world. These activities include word puzzles and a "Name That Park" game. Children are encouraged to get started by visiting the web site and taking the WebRanger pledge.

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION

### Sacred Canyon Mined for Profit

*Rock-mining stripping beauty from sacred stretch of Route 66.*

CROZIER CANYON, ARIZ.—The beauty and character of Crozier Canyon, a stretch of historic Route 66 sacred to the Hualapai Indian tribe, is being slowly stripped away. For several years now, landowners in the canyon have been mining its scarlet rocks to sell as yard decorations for homes in Las Vegas.

Although legal, this practice has raised the ire of many in the region, particularly the Hualapai tribe. They say that the area is a sacred, old tribal burial ground that is now being destroyed.

"It really bothers the elders, because they hardly get out anymore and when they do, they see [the mining]," said Man Susanyatame, a tribal spiritual leader. "They're hurt by it. When you take something from the earth, you're supposed to give something back. But we're not seeing that here."

Mining of the rocks in Crozier and nearby Truxton canyons is one of the pressing challenges facing the Park Service's Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program—not only because of what the area means to the Hualapai, but also its place in Route 66 lore, said Michael Taylor, a program manager.

"We are trying to protect the views that Americans saw as they traveled up and down the road," said Taylor. "In the old travel guides for Route 66, Crozier Canyon was spoken of quite often. People talked about how beautiful and important it was.

"The more that area is stripped of its beauty," he added, "the less people will take that route and add money to the local economy."

Although saddened and frustrated with the mining, the tribe and other critics say they realize that the miners own the canyon property and have a legal



MATT KANHA

right to do what they wish there.

"We are not in a good position to try to stop this," said Susanyatame, "because it will take lots of money and time. But

we will do whatever we can to maintain the countryside that means so much to us."

Taylor has been working to find a way to help the tribe but realizes that there is no easy answer.

"We have indigenous beliefs and values that conflict with the beliefs and values of the property owners," he said.

In the past, the federal Environmental Protection Agency issued storm water runoff permits for mining operations with a consideration for the National Historic Preservation Act,

which required the agency to consult with local American Indian tribes and give them an opportunity to identify and limit impact to culturally sensitive

properties. Arizona's Department of Environmental Quality now issues those permits, however, and does not require compliance with the preservation act, said Greg Glassco, of the tribe's cultural resources department.

One way to protect and preserve the area would be for the tribe or another group to buy the land and develop a conservation easement for it. Whether the landowners are willing to sell, however, remains unknown.

In an interview with the *Arizona Republic*, Bob Linsell, whose company mines decorative rock from the area, called the dispute "a sticky situation."

"The [Hualapai] probably have legitimate concerns," he said, "but this is private property."

"It is a difficult situation," agreed Taylor. "But I still don't think it's too late—I think there's time to find a compromise to preserve those scenic, cultural, and sacred qualities."



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## NPCA Notes

**Environmental Protection**

The National Park Service presented Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts with its 2002 Environmental Achievement Award for its work at Grand Canyon, Sequoia, and Yosemite national parks. The New York-based company, a leading hospitality and food service provider, which owns world-class resorts and manages guest services in state and national parks, traces its concern for the environment to 1992 and its bid for Yosemite, its first national park contract.

In 1999, the company developed GreenPath® to preserve and protect natural resources. GreenPath® incorporates environmental considerations and sustainable practices into all of Delaware North's business decisions. The system promotes environmentally friendly cleaning products and comprehensive waste-reduction and recycling programs, and stewardship among guests and associates.

**Conservationist of the Year**

Richard Watkins has been named NPCA's citizen conservationist of the year. Watkins was presented with the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award for his tireless long-term efforts to create, protect, and preserve Congaree Swamp National Monument in South Carolina. Don Barger, NPCA's senior director of the Southeast region, nominated Watkins because of his "eternal vigilance." Watkins has been the guiding force behind the expansion and protection of Congaree Swamp, says NPCA's Ron Tipton, adding, "Richard is passionate, relentless, and effective."

—Jenell Talley

## WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

**Black Bear Sighted at Point Reyes**

*Species returns to seashore for first time in more than 100 years.*

POINT REYES N.S., CALIF.—For the first time in more than 100 years, a black bear roamed Point Reyes National Seashore.

Two employees of the park's hostel near Limantour Beach watched what they thought was a black bear search through trash bins during Memorial Day weekend.

"The lid flipped open and there he was up by those trees munching trash," Greg King, one of the employees, told the *Point Reyes Light*.

To confirm whether it was, indeed, a black bear, the park sent hair samples to a lab in British Columbia, analyzed teeth marks, and installed cameras on field trails in an effort to snap a photo of a foraging bear. Park officials assumed they were dealing with a juvenile male black bear, which can be pushed out of its group during breeding months and forced to forage for new habitat. Results from the hair test confirmed that it was a male black bear.

"We're very excited, but we don't know if the bear will stay," said the park's chief naturalist, John A. Dell'Osso. "This goes to show you that when you preserve native ecosystems, species that depend on them can return. That's what we're seeing here."

Black bears were once common at the park, but unregulated hunting in the 1800s eliminated them. Park officials are not sure why the bear suddenly reappeared after all these years, but they note that the number of black bears in the state has risen from about 10,000 to 30,000 in the last 20 years.

Black bears have also been spotted at Muir Woods National Monument and Golden Gate National Recreation Area. A bear sighting was also reported in



**Analysis of hair samples confirmed the appearance of black bear at Point Reyes.**

Occidental, an area 40 miles north of Point Reyes.

"That's where we thought this bear originated from," said Dell'Osso. "All of the pieces of the puzzle are starting to come together."

Aside from intriguing park scientists, the sighting of the black bear has created a buzz among visitors and the Bay Area media. "People are very excited about it," said Dell'Osso. "It caused quite a stir from visitors and the newspapers and TV stations here."

Because of the park's popular backcountry campgrounds, rangers posted signs alerting visitors to the bear's possible presence, reminding them to be sure to not leave food out. The bears can coexist with park visitors and nearby communities, but they can become problematic if dependent on human food sources, park officials said.

Although the bear's visit has been confirmed, whether it will stay at the park remains uncertain. Park officials believe that Point Reyes' rich biodiversity—which NPCA recognized in a State of the Parks® report—could eventually draw the bear back.

"The park has plenty of food sources, so there's no reason why this shouldn't be a habitat for black bear," said Dell'Osso.

## Ancient Sequoias Fall at Yosemite

*Scientists examine why the 300-foot trees plummet to forest floor.*

YOSEMITE N.P., CALIF.—Two trees fell in the forest, and no one was there to hear them—but from the looks of things, there must have been quite a racket.

“If you look at the damage to the area around where [the trees] fell, you see that everything in their path was affected,” said Deb Schweizer, a ranger at Yosemite. “It is a very impressive sight. It must have been something to see for the squirrels and birds. Just imagine what it must have sounded like.”

The two trees, each standing nearly 300 feet tall and as much as 1,000 years old, plummeted in early spring in the Mariposa Grove area along Yosemite’s southern border. The fallen trees were cross-sectioned but otherwise left alone on either side of a public trail.

Park scientists think that the root or soil system of the first tree failed, causing it to fall, and that tree brought the other one down with it.

“The first tree had a stream going through its system—which is bad for sequoias,” said Schweizer. “We’re still look-

ing into whether that water was diverted from something that we did,” such as constructing a nearby trail 50 years ago, “or whether it was a natural meandering of the stream that eventually brought the tree down.”

Another theory is that heavy foot traffic around the bases of the trees contributed to their fall by damaging root systems. To be safe, the park fences off its oldest sequoias.

“There are some stresses to the grove,” said Schweizer, “but we feel pretty happy about the health and regeneration of the sequoias. They are doing pretty well.”

Park officials did not find many sequoia saplings prior to the 1970s, but starting a prescribed fire program has proved beneficial; fire helps giant sequoias to regenerate. “We’re seeing those saplings now,” said Schweizer. “They may have skipped a generation, but we’re seeing a lot of those saplings coming back up now.”

Fallen sequoias are rare at Yosemite, according to park statistics. The most recent was in 1998, after a 30-year hiatus. Probably because of that rarity, visitors to Yosemite have been asking plenty of questions.

“It’s been a huge story here,” said Schweizer. “People are really interested in the trees. They want to know about why they fell and how often. They’re fascinated. It is just a great opportunity for us to teach them about how special these trees are.”



*The fallen trees were as much as 1,000 years old and stood 300 feet tall.*

## Arizona State Parks

### Riordan Mansion State Historic Park



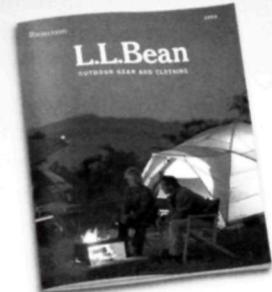
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## HISTORIC PRESERVATION

## Lack of Funding Plagues Hot Springs

*Bathhouse Row is added to list of most endangered historic places.*

HOT SPRINGS N.P., ARK.—Six of the eight buildings that comprise Hot Springs National Park's historic Bathhouse Row are dilapidated and in need of repair; only two of the structures are operational, according to the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP).

The National Trust included Bathhouse Row on its annual "America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places" list in hopes of calling attention to the need to preserve the buildings.

"Bathhouse Row has been languishing for decades," says Daniel Carey, director of NTHP's southwest office in Fort Worth, Texas, "but the problems lie within or underneath [the structures], so they are not always obvious to the casual observer."

Lead paint, water infiltration, humidity, and vapors from the bathhouses' basement-level hot springs are among the buildings' biggest problems. The staff have done work on the roofs to halt leaks, but their efforts offer only a short-term solution. Roger Giddings, Hot Springs' superintendent, says that park staff work hard to ensure that the bathhouses' have, at least, a respectable surface appearance.

Carey applauds the Park Service's maintenance of the buildings' exteriors; however, the structures require extensive interior work. Hot Springs staff have removed asbestos from the bathhouses, which still need new roofs and floor coverings as well as electrical, air conditioning and heating, and plumbing systems. The buildings also suffer from rusting metal concrete beams and bath stall panels, broken windows, and spawling plaster and paint.

"We certainly don't point the finger at the Park Service," says Carey. "With her-



**Buckstaff, one of two operational bathhouses at Hot Springs, is used as a spa.**

itage tourism on the rise...we look at [adding Bathhouse Row to NTHP's 2003 list] as an opportunity to bring attention to a very significant set of historic buildings—the nation's attention, Congress' attention."

The masonry and stone edifices constructed along a four-block stretch of Hot Spring's thoroughfare between 1911 and 1922 were at one time the Arkansas park's most celebrated architectural features. Therapeutic baths made The Row a popular tourist attraction. Babe Ruth, Jack Dempsey, and Al Capone were all visitors.

Today, only the Buckstaff, used as a spa, offering massages and therapeutic soaks in hot springs water, and the Fordyce Bathhouse, a Spanish Renaissance Revival structure that serves as the park's visitor center, are open to the public. The others—Superior, Hale, Quapaw, Ozark, Lamar, and Maurice—stand vacant.

Total restoration costs for the bathhouses are estimated at \$17 million. The price tag for renovating the three-story, 23,000-square-foot Maurice, which closed in 1974 and is in the worst condition of all the bathhouses, may be as high as \$6 million.

"Hot Springs is in hot water," says Blake Selzer, director of NPCA's Americans for National Parks campaign,

a coalition of more than 250 groups working with Congress and the administration to increase funding for all of the parks by \$600 million annually. Selzer says that annual funding for Hot Springs has remained flat for several years. "If the park doesn't get the annual funding it needs to maintain the park—as well as money to restore the historic buildings—the problems will boil over."

The chronically underfunded Park Service has lacked the necessary money to renovate all of the bathhouses. Giddings believes that the construction-funding program planned for the bathhouses in the next three years will be a giant step in their preservation and in making them available for lease or concession operations.

Leasing the bathhouses, an option proposed by the park, would allow some of the rehabilitation costs to be covered by the private sector. In the past, though, private investors have not been willing to commit to the project because of the high costs involved.

Although Hot Springs hopes to attract outside developers to refurbish Bathhouse Row, it must be careful to balance legitimate, well-funded offers with those that may not prove to be in the park's best interest.

"The Park Service is waiting for a good, sensitive adaptive use proposal," says Carey, adding that the structures along The Row need not be turned into "a slew of T-shirt shops." Its legacy must be preserved, he says.

Superintendent Giddings remains hopeful. Giddings says the park will soon award a \$3.8 million stabilization contract for the vacant buildings and that Hot Springs is in the process of accomplishing nearly \$1 million worth of lead-based paint removal. "I believe we are on the edge of doing great things with the bathhouses."

Carey, too, is optimistic. "I think with the '11 Most' list the message will be clear to Congress and other donors and entities that might assist that these are important American places that need to be properly treated."

—Jenell Talley

## Plan to Aid Glacier's Native Fish Delayed

*Spring runoff throws wrench in plan to block non-native species.*

GLACIER N.P., MONT.—A plan to block non-native fish from one of Glacier National Park's purest lakes was washed out by excessive spring runoff.

Park officials designed a \$20,000 barrier to stop non-native lake trout from replacing the west slope cutthroat trout and bull trout in the Quartz Creek drainage. Native fish have been dwindling at Glacier for decades, replaced by the non-natives that were deliberately introduced to the park in the early 1900s. Although Glacier received relatively high grades in NPCA's State of the Parks® report, invasive species were highlighted as a pressing threat.

Park officials planned to protect the native fish by installing the barrier to block non-natives from swimming up the drainage from the Flathead River.

But biologists from the Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), who visited the site in June, balked when they saw how much water was flowing down from the creek. Because of surprisingly strong runoff, they felt that a barrier would not handle the water flow, and that it may have washed away. They also believed that the non-native fish could go around the barrier at high water.

Superintendent Mick Holm said that although the project was canceled, the threat to the lakes—and their fish—remains.

"It is still agreed that under the right circumstances, non-native fish such as lake trout and rainbow trout would still

be able to migrate into the upper Quartz drainage," he said. "Because of [that threat], we will continue to explore alternatives that may be used in the future to prevent fish migration up Quartz Creek without destroying the wilderness qualities of the area."

The Quartz Lake basin in the park's northwestern North Fork area is the last drainage that remains free of non-native fish, and Quartz Lake is one of the last in the Columbia River Basin still boasting all its native fish, said Deputy Park Superintendent Jerry O'Neal.

The lake's native bull trout are listed as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act, and the west slope cutthroat is "a species of special concern," in Montana.

The park's plan called for large rock-filled cages across the stream, creating a four-foot waterfall. The thought was that the height of the fall would prevent lake trout and other non-native species from reaching the upper lakes. Funding for the barrier would have come, in part, from the Glacier Fund, a nonprofit that raises money for currently under-funded park projects.

Although park officials are not certain of their next step, they know that it must happen soon. In drainages adjacent to

Quartz Creek, non-native lake trout are close to replacing bull trout. Since 1910, when Glacier became a national park, native fish populations have dwindled as non-natives prospered, in part because of a policy from the park's early days to stock non-natives.

"As a result, native fish began breeding with non-native fish—native west slope cutthroat trout bred with non-native Yellowstone cutthroat or rainbow trout," said O'Neal. "In more recent decades, the major impact on native fish has been from the invasion of non-native species through the Flathead River system into the lakes and streams of Glacier."

## NPCA Notes

### National Public Lands Day

On September 20, thousands of Americans will participate in the tenth annual National Public Lands Day. The daylong event focuses on protecting and restoring the nation's native habitats, forests, mountains, wetlands, and other places that are home to a variety of plants and animals. An estimated 80,000 volunteers from across the country will build bird-nesting boxes, plant trees, sow seeds, clear weeds, and clean streams and waterways at nearly 500 locations spread across all 50 states. The National Environmental Education & Training Foundation, the National Park Service, and many nonprofit organizations, including NPCA, coordinated the event. Volunteers and their community partners are expected to contribute \$8 million.

### Celebration of Flight

Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts will celebrate the 100th anniversary of flight on September 6. The park's Face of America series, a multi-media artistic adventure sequence that uses performing arts to explore the relationship between the natural stage and the creative process, will pay homage to three national parks and historic sites that inspired the development of aviation: Wright Brothers National Memorial, Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, and Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site. Face of America 2003: A Celebration of Flight will feature low-flying F-16 and World War II aircraft, live song and dance performances, and an original film honoring air travel.

—Jenell Talley

### NEWS FLASH!

*Since Glacier became a national park in 1910, its native fish populations have dwindled and been replaced by non-natives.*



# A Salamander's Sanctuary

*Severely restricted distribution and competition with rivals threaten the Shenandoah salamander's numbers.*

BY JENELL TALLEY

**S**henandoah National Park supports more than 2,000 species, estimated to be more than in all of Europe. Seventy-four rare species have been recorded in the park, testament to its rich biodiversity, but the seldom-seen Shenandoah salamander is the site's sole federally listed endangered species.

The small terrestrial creatures, first described in 1967 and federally listed in 1989, are found only in the central district of Shenandoah National Park in Virginia. The salamanders occupy the rocky hillsides of the The Pinnacle, Hawksbill, and Stony Man mountains.

James Atkinson, a fisheries and wildlife biologist at the park, says the salamander has fairly dense populations in the specific areas it inhabits. But he adds, "The species has an extremely restricted geographical range, which is the principal cause for concern."

Even though the species' entire geographic range lies within a national park, its long-term security is not guaranteed. Potential threats include acid deposition, forest defoliation caused by exotic insects, and fire.

The *Plethodon Shenandoah* resembles a lizard on first glance, but its skin is moist and lacks scales. Because salamanders breathe through their skin, the species typically inhabits cool, moist



ANN & ROSE SIMPSON

*After eight months of gestation, Shenandoah salamanders find secure, moist areas to give birth.*

areas and is most active during periods of darkness and high humidity. The creature's slender body grows to be about two to four inches long. They usually have a narrow mid-dorsal stripe extending from the neck to the tail, and range in color from reddish to brown.

The Shenandoah salamander is often confused with the similar-looking red-backed salamander, one of the Shenandoah species' principal threats. Preliminary research suggests that aggressive encounters between the two species hinder the Shenandoah salamander's potential to expand its range. The two species also compete for food such as spring flies, worms, and other small invertebrates.

Ring-neck snakes, garter snakes, and other native predators are known to prey on the salamanders, but Atkinson says predation does not have a significant

effect on the species' numbers.

Shenandoah, the topic of NPCA's recently released State of the Parks® report, harbors more than 200 resident and transient bird species, 50 mammal species, 30 fish species, and 51 reptile and amphibian species. Shenandoah National Park is the largest fully protected area in the mid-Appalachian region.

Protecting the park's habitat from human intrusion and gaining an increased understanding of the salamander's needs and its interactions with the red-backed salamander could serve to maintain and protect the species' current populations; however, Atkinson notes that de-listing the Shenandoah salamander is highly unlikely because of the threats associated with the species' geographic isolation.

"It doesn't look like the animal has the potential for range expansion, and there's certainly potential for acidification to ultimately pose a much greater threat," he says, adding that it's difficult for Shenandoah staff to prescribe remedies to increase the species' numbers and range. "They're in such a hostile type of setting—difficult to access and work in—that meaningful monitoring is going to be a difficult proposition."

Even so, Atkinson says, park staff "provide protective measures in terms of planning the timing and scope of proposed maintenance activities within or near known Shenandoah salamander habitat." 

JENELL TALLEY is a staff writer.



# *Protecting the Wolves of Denali*

CARR CLIFTON; INSET, KENNAN WARD

By Bill Sherwonit

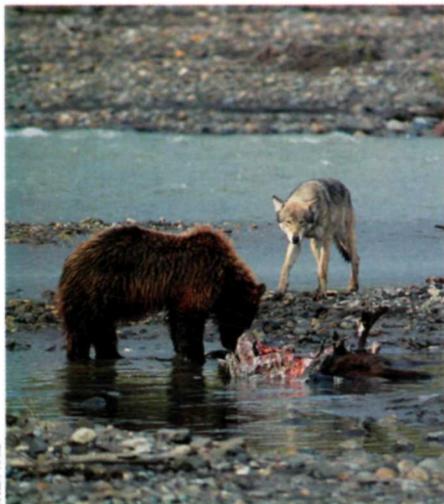
If you want to see a wild, unpenned wolf up close, there is no better place to go in Alaska—and perhaps the world—than Denali National Park and Preserve. This summer, if recent trends held true, some 20,000 to 30,000 people saw Denali wolves without ever leaving their cars or vans or the shuttle and tour buses that travel the park's one road.

On average, about 10 percent of visitors who travel the Denali Park Road see wolves; those are the best odds you can get in any of our nation's parklands. The luckiest tourists may hear wolves howl, or see them nap, stalk and kill prey, or shepherd litters of pups within yards of Denali Park Road. Or even walk upon it.

What makes the Denali experience unusual—some would argue, unique—is the presence of wolves that have become habituated to humans and their vehicles. Anywhere from 50 to 170 wolves have inhabited Denali's 6.2 million acres since the mid-1980s, in a dozen to two dozen packs. But only a small portion of those wolves pass within sight of the park road. Nowadays, two families account for nearly all roadside sightings: the East Fork or Toklat pack and the Margaret pack, named after Mount Margaret.

There's only one problem—but to wolf advocates, it's a big one. The territories of those two packs extend beyond Denali's boundaries onto state land, and when they venture outside the park, America's best-known and most fre-

***Denali National Park  
contains America's  
best-known and most  
frequently viewed wolves,  
and for the last decade,  
a growing number of  
people have sought  
greater protections for  
these animals.***



KAREN WARD

**A wolf observes a grizzly and its moose kill.**



KAREN WARD

**Moose are often sighted in Denali.**

quently viewed wolves are sometimes killed by hunters and trappers. Occasionally in the past, entire packs have been decimated.

From a population-biology perspective, the human take of a few Denali wolves, or even an entire pack, is not cause for concern. Research done between 1986 and 2002 showed that Denali's parkwide wolf population is "vigorous and viable," as L. David Mech and his team of scientists reported in their 1998 book, *The Wolves of Denali*. It is also in constant flux. During that 15-year period, biologists identified 44 different packs; most lasted three years or less. Twenty-five packs "died out" from natural causes, while only two were destroyed by human harvest.

"There's constant turnover, of both individual wolves and packs," says Layne Adams, who worked on the project from its start and was its leader from 1993 through 2002. "As some packs die out, others are forming."

Overall, researchers say, humans annually kill about 3 percent of Denali's wolves. A much higher percentage die from other "natural" causes: avalanches, drownings, starvation, disease, old age, and, above all, other wolves. About 60 percent of the wolves that die are killed by neighboring packs.

"As a scientist, my stand has always been that human harvest is largely insignificant to the functioning of wolf packs park-wide," Adams says. "There's simply no biological reason to give

Denali's wolves additional protection. I recognize that other values and arguments come into play; it's just not my job to enter that philosophical realm."

Other Alaskans who've watched and studied Denali's wolves are less hesitant to mix ethics, philosophies, and value judgments with science.

Since the early 1990s, a growing number of residents, including NPCA's Alaska-based staff, have sought greater protection for Denali's highest-profile wolves. As regional director Jim Stratton says, "Where else can the average visitor hope to see wolves? It's obvious these

*Overall, researchers say, humans annually kill about 3 percent of Denali's wolves. A much higher percentage die from other "natural" causes: avalanches, drownings, starvation, disease, old age, and, above all, other wolves.*

*About 60 percent of the wolves that die are killed by neighboring packs.*

wolves have great value. We need to do what we can to protect them."

In 1992 the Alaska Board of Game approved a 600-square-mile, no-harvest wolf "buffer" zone around Denali, as part of a statewide plan to balance consumptive and non-consumptive uses of wolves. But the board quickly rescinded its action when a proposed wolf-control



LEO KEITER

**Wolves habituated to humans and their vehicles provide visitors with a novel experience.**

program elsewhere in Alaska was abandoned because of public opposition and tourism-boycott threats.

Despite repeated requests, the Board of Game refused to consider new buffer proposals until November 2000, when it approved a 19-square-mile closure near Denali's northeast corner to protect the East Fork wolves. It expanded that closure to 89 square miles in May 2001, but with a condition: The buffer would terminate in March 2003, unless extended.

Last October, the pro-wolf Alaska Wildlife Alliance returned with new proposals that would eliminate the sunset clause; double the size of the northern buffer; and add a second, 146-square-mile buffer along Denali's eastern edge, to protect the Margaret wolves when they leave the park. By a 4-2 vote, the board settled on a compromise: 53 square miles would be closed to hunting and trapping along the park's eastern boundary, and both buffer areas would become permanent.

Initially, the Alaska Wildlife Alliance seemed satisfied by the action. In an email to supporters, the group proclaimed, "WE DID IT," and thanked those who'd helped to send "over 8,000 petitions, faxes, emails, and letters" to the board. (At that meeting, NPCA's Durelle Smith reported that the association had received another 4,300 signed petitions and 2,000 emails supporting the buffer.) The alliance also thanked the Park Service, which "spoke out eloquently on behalf of these wolves." More recently, however, the group's conservation biologist, Paul Joslin, has admitted the buffer is "far less than ideal. It doesn't do what we'd hoped."

Other wolf supporters have been far more critical. Professional wildlife photographer and wolf activist Dorothy Keeler came to the board seeking "full and complete protection for the Toklat and Margaret wolves," while hauling 2,600 letters of support from all 50 states and 57 countries. She left the meeting "shocked and terribly disappointed" by the compromise. "That chopped-up buffer is wholly inadequate," Keeler explains. "It's only a matter of time before the Margaret pack is eradicated, just like the ones before it."

First identified by researchers in 2000, the Margaret pack is the fifth to inhabit Denali park's entrance area since the early 1980s. Its territory, like those of the four previous families—the Savage, Headquarters, Jenny Creek, and Sanctuary packs—stretches onto state land east of the park. Experience suggests that some Margaret wolves are likely to be trapped. And that human kill may contribute to the pack's ruin.

"The packs that occupy the eastern end of the park have a proven history of being trapped and shot, of being eliminated," says Vic Van Ballenberghe. A

than what's needed to do the job right."

Van Ballenberghe agrees that, in the bigger, park-wide picture, the loss of the Margaret pack would not be terribly significant because eventually other wolves would fill the void. But he believes that more than population biology must be considered. In the early 1990s, when the Headquarters pack was at its peak, its members were frequently seen along the park road. After the pack disintegrated in 1995, wolves were rarely spotted along that 15-mile stretch for several years. "Clearly," he says, "pack disruption affected the wolves' viewability."



*Some argue that wolves are protected at the expense of moose and caribou.*

wildlife biologist who's studied Denali's mammals, primarily moose, since 1980, Van Ballenberghe was among the Board of Game members to seek maximum protections for the Margaret pack.

"If there's any pack that deserves protection, it's this one," he says. "These are the wolves that people see along the first 15 miles of road [open to private vehicle traffic]. The benefits of preserving that experience are enormous, while the costs are minimal; only a few trappers would be affected. But we kept paring the buffer down, until we got something less

Most arguments for a buffer center around that "viewability," including its economic effects. With more than 300,000 visitors annually, Denali National Park is one of Alaska's prime visitor attractions, and most people travel there for two main reasons: to see Mount McKinley and to watch wildlife. As a citizens advisory group reported to the Board of Game in October 2000, "Wolves are one of the most highly sought species of wildlife by visitors to the park...if just each wolf sighting were valued at one dollar, then the value of



KENNY WARD

**Only about 10 percent of people traveling Denali Park Road are lucky enough to spy a wolf.**

these wolves for viewing vastly outweighs their value as furbearers for trappers and hunters.”

In fact, an Alaska Department of Fish and Game study done in the early 1990s showed that visitors place great economic value on wolf viewing. On average, nonresidents indicated a willingness to spend \$212 for a day trip to see a pack of wolves. And where would they go, except Denali? Economically, it's no contest: viewable Denali wolves bring in lots more dollars to Alaska than trapped or hunted ones.

There are other, more philosophical, arguments for no-harvest buffers. In sharp contrast to Mech and Adams, Gordon Haber insists that certain wolf families—most notably the East Fork—are scientifically invaluable. (Haber dislikes the use of “pack”; “family,” he says, is the proper scientific term.) Besides being the world's most-viewed wolves, the East Fork or Toklat pack, says Haber, “is the world's oldest known family lineage of any nonhuman social vertebrate in the wild and by far the longest studied among wolves.”



ART WOLFE

**A group of wolf pups stays out of tourist eyeshot while safely tucked inside a den.**

## *An Alaska*

*Department of Fish and Game study done in the early 1990s showed that visitors place great economic value on wolf viewing. On average, nonresidents indicated a willingness to spend \$212 for a day trip to see a pack of wolves.*

An independent wildlife scientist, Haber has followed the East Fork wolves since 1966. There's been plenty of turnover in those 37 years, but the East Fork family has never disintegrated, though during the winter of 1997-98 it shrank to only two members, in part because of trapping. Haber believes the family group he's tracked for nearly four decades is descended from the East Fork pack that naturalist Adolph Murie studied intensively from 1939 to 1941 and later described in his wildlife classic, *The Wolves of Mount McKinley*.

In his introduction to *The Wolves of Denali*, David Mech praises Murie as “the legendary pioneer of wolf studies...Murie actually observed a pack of wolves around its den, a rare feat even to this day, and watched individually recognizable pack members interact with each other. He also recorded their interactions with prey, and with other community fauna.” Among other contributions, Murie “laid the foundation for understanding the wolf pack as basically a family.”

Mech and Adams agree with Haber that today's East

Fork pack inhabits the same area it did in Murie's time and carries "the legacy of Murie's study and writing." But they don't buy his notion of a long-lived family lineage. "There's no evidence of any genetic link to Murie's East Fork pack," Adams says. "Gordon's contentions just don't hold up against the preponderance of evidence that we've accumulated."

Haber replies that he's never claimed the lineage is genetic; rather, it's based on learned behavior and traditions. "I'm talking about a social group that has persisted in a cultural sense," he says, "in much the same way that generations of an established Nebraska family have continued to work an old farmstead. There's so much to be learned from a family lineage that's existed for up to 60 years or more." For that reason and others, Haber advocates "full, 100 percent protection" for the East Fork [as well as the Margaret] wolves. Anything less is "a feel-good, but ultimately useless strategy."

Though the park's wolf-research team has rejected Haber's ideas, others say they have merit. "The way I see it, Layne [Adams] and Mech are presenting one view, that emphasizes population biology, while Gordon offers a different, but legitimate, scientific argument," Van Ballenberghe says. "The idea of long-term cultural transmission of behaviors seems valid."

Denali superintendent Paul Anderson remains unconvinced, however. He stands firmly behind the conclusions of Mech's team: From a parkwide perspective, the human kill of Denali wolves is not a problem. "The research of the past 16 years and other work before that," says Anderson, "have shown that things are in pretty good shape." And no pack merits special protection, because none is unique. Anderson also questions whether a buffer will actually enhance visitors' chances of seeing wolves. So he, like past superintendent Steve Martin, has stayed neutral on the buffer issue.

Anderson, it turns out, is bothered by a different worry: that Denali's wolves have become too comfortable around people. "Contrary to what Gordon Haber and some others have to say, I don't agree that habituation is good,"

Anderson says. "I'll be the one held accountable if someone is threatened or harmed, and we have to kill a wolf."

In the end, it seems almost no one is happy with the current buffer. Wolf advocates say it's too small to be effective; others, including trappers and some Alaska sportsmen's groups, argue that wolves are overly protected, at the expense of moose, caribou, and traditional rural lifestyles.

The ongoing buffer debate is likely to take a new turn in March 2004, when Denali's wolves will again be on the Board of Game's agenda. Alaska's new governor, Frank Murkowski, has appointed several new members to the board, and its current make-up is decidedly less friendly toward wolves; already

the board has approved new wolf-control programs in three different areas. People on all sides of the issue are predicting the buffer will be removed. If that happens, vows photographer-activist Dorothy Keeler, "All hell will break loose." 

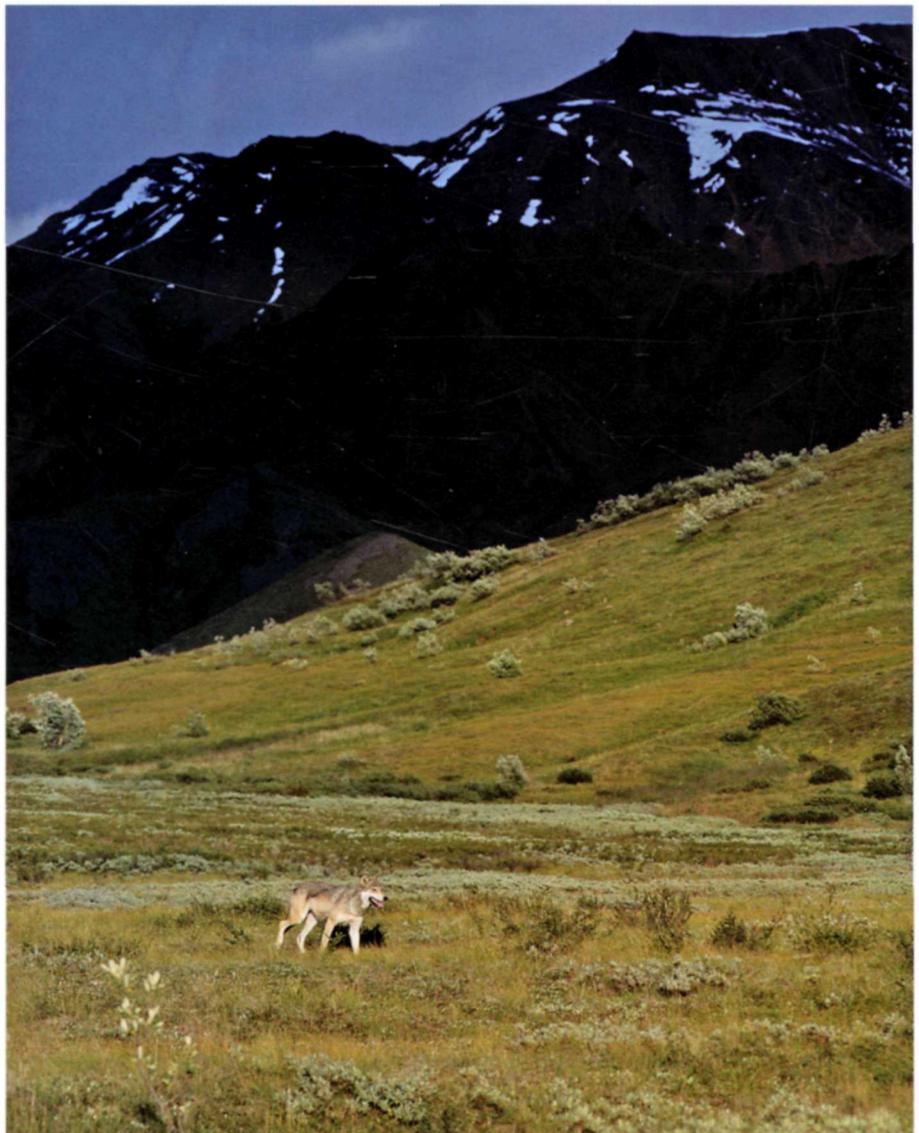
Anchorage writer **Bill Sherwonit**

is the author of three books about

Denali, including

*Denali: A Literary Anthology* and

*Denali: The Complete Guide*.



*Since the 1980s, anywhere from 50 to 170 wolves have inhabited Denali's 6.2 million acres.*



# WATER WOES

By Chris Fordney

**I**n the summer of 2002, the Rappahannock River in central Virginia dwindled to a drought-ravaged trickle, its level so low that outfitters had to shut down because canoes could not run it. Up and down the East Coast, reservoirs sank to record lows, governments instituted conservation measures, and lawns and gardens withered in the harsh grip of one of the worst dry spells on record.

By mid-April 2003, the scene could

not have been more different. Fed by above-average winter snow and rain, streams were swollen and fast, including the Hogcamp Branch in Shenandoah National Park, which tumbled headlong down the granite stair steps along Dark Hollow Falls—one of dozens of creeks and small rivers that begin in the mountain park and feed river systems that provide drinking water to millions of people.

That transformation in the water picture took the drought out of the headlines—not that many people in the

greater Washington, D.C., area realize that some of their tap water originates from mountain springs and streams in a national park. But like the inexorable flow of a stream, the steady population growth in the East and the relentless suburban sprawl around its major cities promise to propel water into the foremost environmental flashpoint of the future.

Since national parks hold important water resources—national recreation areas often surround rivers, and other parks' surface and groundwater are cov-

***National parks in the water-rich East are increasingly caught in a tug-of-war over water supplies at the same time that they are being subjected to increased pollution from runoff, rising populations, and relentless suburban sprawl.***



***Big South Fork is trying to clean its up old coal mines.***

eted by fast-growing communities—they are being pulled into a tug-of-war over water supplies. At the same time parks are dealing with the pollution generated by rural septic systems, acid mine drainage, and runoff from farm fields, new subdivisions, and commercial strips.

Parks in California, Texas, and Florida have long been ensnared in water politics. Now the struggles over water are spreading, with implications for other national parks as well.

At Cape Cod National Seashore in Massachusetts, growth in the number of vacation homes and visitors is straining fragile water sources. At Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, the federal government must work with three states—Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey—to manage the Delaware River. In Atlanta, Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area is on a collision course between finite water supplies and the city's heedless expansion in pop-

ulation and new housing.

"Name a park in the East, and I could probably tell you it has water issues," says Mark Flora, chief of planning and evaluation at the Water Resources Division of the National Park Service in Denver.

Nowhere is water a more critical issue than around Atlanta. In 1991, the city opened a new water treatment plant that pulled 3.8 billion gallons from the Chattahoochee, the city's main water supply. Then, as the

city's population exploded from 2.2 million in 1980 to 3.7 million in 2000, the plant's needs grew to nearly 20 billion gallons a year. "If, as expected, Atlanta's population reaches 5 million by 2025, the Chattahoochee won't be able to handle the load," water expert Jeffrey Rothfeder has written. "The river will be bone dry, at least as a water source, and the city will run out of fresh water."

Along the river, which begins in northeast Georgia and travels 542 miles to the Gulf of Mexico, Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area holds 48 miles of land. Created in 1978, the national recreation area is also dealing with several kinds of pollution: sewage spills from overloaded plants, runoff from the furious pace of construction, and "thermal pollution." This last one is caused when rainwater lands on hot pavement and runs into the river while still hot enough to kill organisms and fish. Its effects reach as far as Apalachicola Bay, for now one of the most

productive fisheries in the nation.

The states of Alabama, Georgia, and Florida are negotiating over how to allocate the flow from the Chattahoochee, but have been unable to produce an agreement despite several deadline extensions. "Each has somewhat incompatible demands for the water," says David Ek, chief of science and resources at the national recreation area.

Although the Atlanta park faces problems in the future, many other parks are dealing with water problems from the past. The Park Service estimates that 145 parks contain a total of more than 2,500 abandoned mining sites, and that's just a fraction of the estimated 1 million abandoned mining sites on lands of the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. Along the Cumberland Plateau in Tennessee, many of these mines have filled with water and are responsible for stream-killing acid mine drainage.

One park that's been trying to clean up abandoned mines for years is the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area along the border of Kentucky and Tennessee, long an area of intensive coal mining. A premier canoe and kayaking destination, the 125,310-acre park is facing new proposals by the Tennessee Valley Authority, which operates 11 coal-fired power plants, to open new mines in the watershed. Communities around the Big South Fork are also making attempts to tap the park's water sources.

"We're barely getting an understanding of how to fix it, and now we're getting more pollution," says Steve Bakaletz, a biologist at Big South Fork. "We don't need the pollution, and we don't need people taking the clean water."

The park has at least 120 underground entries along the steep walls of the Big South Fork gorge, but nine are causing the bulk of the pollution, each leaking at a rate that can fill a five-gallon bucket in 23 seconds, Bakaletz said.

Acid mine drainage occurs through a series of complex geochemical and microbial reactions that occur when the mineral pyrite is exposed to air and



KRISTA SCHULTZ/NAVYARRIE PHOTOGRAPHY

**Local communities are pressuring Big South Fork to tap into Clear Fork River, shown here.**

water. The runoff—which is essentially sulfuric acid—is the chief suspect in the devastation of freshwater mussel species in the river. According to a survey conducted in 1987, these mussels have declined from 45 species found at the beginning of the 20th century to 22 species, several of which are endangered. In some parts of the river, no mussel species were found. “The water quality and the biology of the river are suffering,” Bakaletz says.

Early efforts at controlling this discharge involved adding expensive chemicals to mine discharges to buffer the acid in the drainage. Now the trend is to use passive treatment systems, such as aerobic or compost wetlands, open limestone channels, diversion wells, or anoxic limestone drains. The park worked with a consultant to complete blueprints for treatment systems for the nine mine openings responsible for the worst pollution. After that, the only barrier will be the \$10-\$15 million required to put the systems into operation. That money would come from the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund, which has been locked up for years to offset the federal deficit.

Some promising work has been done in the Big South Fork watershed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) of the U.S. Department of

Agriculture. Using funds from the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, the NRCS has installed passive treatment systems on private land in the watershed of Bear Creek, which flows into the Big South Fork. “It’s one of the first efforts I’m aware of to treat an entire watershed,” says biologist Carol Chandler of the NRCS. Residents have reported seeing minnows and other signs of aquatic life in a stream that was considered dead, she says. “It has a long way to go, but I think we’re making progress.”

Even as it struggles with acid mine drainage, Big South Fork is also facing growing demands from surrounding communities to tap into the river that runs through the gorge or its two headwater streams: Clear Fork and New River. Fentress County in Tennessee has one reservoir on the Clear Fork and would like to build another. The Park Service has been able to rebuff attempts by the city of Oneida to tap into the Big South Fork, but “they never really did accept no for an answer,” Bakaletz says, and the park expects to get only a breather from such demands.

There’s plenty of water in nearby Lake Cumberland to serve the needs of the communities around the park, but some communities would have to

*The goal now is to get the various communities to plan together to develop water sources rather than acting in competition.*



FRED HRESCIMANN

**Trash piles along Cumberland River’s edge.**

purchase water from others to tap into the lake, raising issues of political independence and competition for new industry. Cities and counties without their own water sources see themselves at a disadvantage for economic development, Bakaletz says.

With different water districts attempting to build dams on headwater sources of the Big South Fork, the river’s natural flow would be harmed, threatening its value as a canoeing and kayaking destination. The goal now is to get the various communities to plan together to develop water sources rather than acting in competition. Such has been the case at the nearby Obed Wild and Scenic River, where local communities are looking at expanding existing impoundments rather than drawing water from the river. “The watershed has got to learn to think as a watershed,” says Don Barger, NPCA’s Southeast regional director.

Getting towns to work together is also a goal at Cape Cod, where the 44,600-acre national seashore must deal with six separate towns: Chatham, Orleans, Eastham, Wellfleet, Truro, and Provincetown. A pioneer in including local communities in the land management process through the “Cape Cod Formula,” the seashore recently updated its water resources management plan with the assistance of the Park Service’s Water Resources Division.

Although it was among the first environments to be explored by Europeans, scientists are still learning about the cape’s environment, including its 20 unique “kettle” ponds, a glacial feature. The public, whose numbers have increased to close to five million per year, also continues to learn about this special place. At the same time, all those people draw their water from a single aquifer—made up of four “lenses”—and most of the houses on the cape use septic systems. Another concern is two landfills within the seashore’s boundary. Pulling too much fresh water out of the supply raises the threat that it will be replaced by ocean water. There are already elevated levels of salt in some drinking water, according to Nancy Finley, chief of natural resources at the seashore.

Of particular concern for the Park Service is its relationship with the town of Provincetown at the extreme tip of the cape. Since the 1970s, this town of 3,500 people has drawn well water from



**Cape Cod draws water from a single aquifer.**



**Delaware Water Gap provides a stunning view of Silver Thread Falls.**

an old Air Force station that became part of the national seashore in the mid-1990s. The withdrawals have continued since then even though they conflict with Park Service policies that prevent a single municipality from consuming national park resources that belong to all Americans, says Finley.

The Cape Cod situation is sensitive for the Park Service because it could set precedents for other parks that hold water resources coveted by outside interests. The Park Service “wants to be part of the solution” for the water-strapped towns along the cape, Finley says, but “our goal is to reduce their reliance on National Park Service water.”

As a first step, Provincetown has been able to plug leaks in its system that accounted for up to 30 percent of its water use. The Park Service is also encouraging the towns on the cape to approach the water problems as a regional issue, while the most expensive option would be the construction of desalination plants. “We’re trying to get them to look at rea-

sonable alternatives,” Finley says.

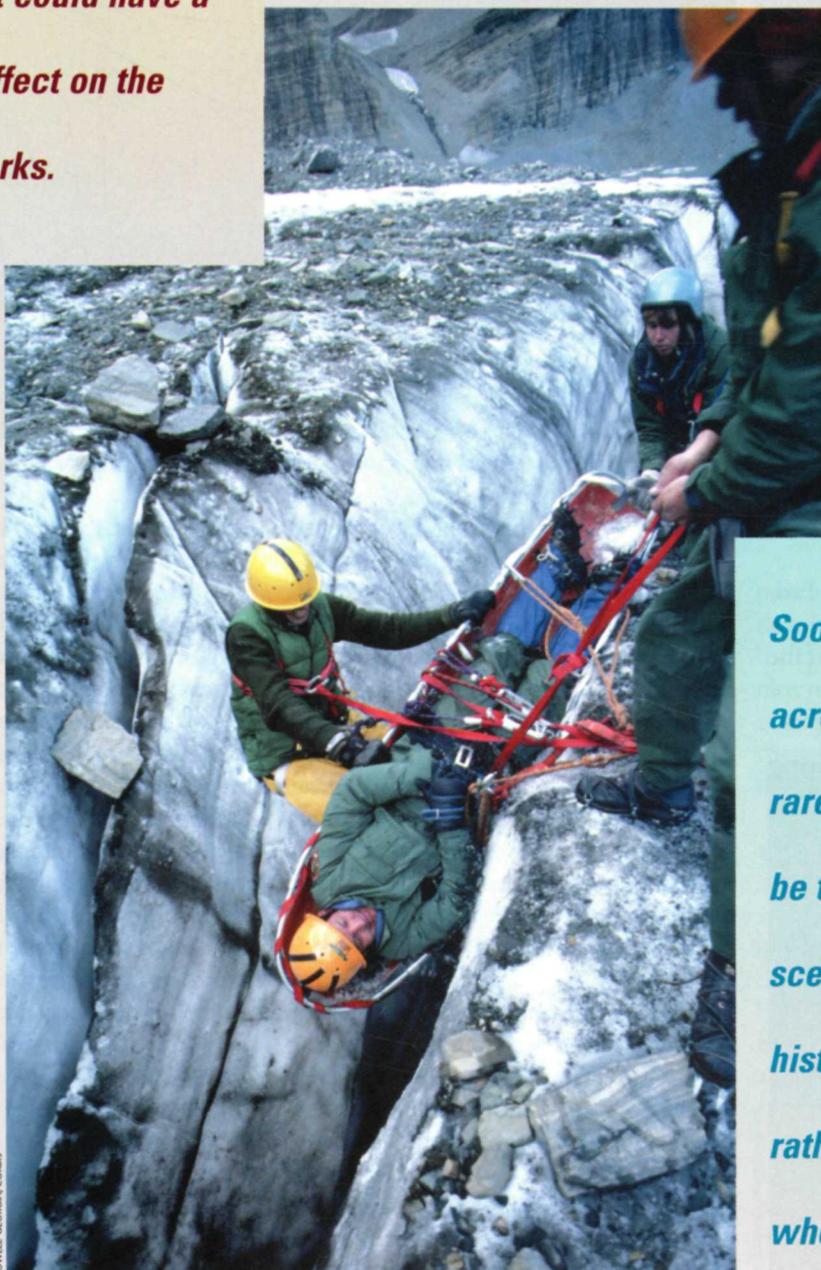
The water issue has far-reaching implications for the national seashore. Wildlife habitats depend on a steady discharge of freshwater into wetlands and marshes, with some fish species dependent on a specific mix of fresh and saltwater to spawn. The freshwater supply is critical for the local oyster fisheries.

How the situation at Cape Cod evolves may have ramifications at other national parks. Cautions Eileen Woodford, NPCA’s Northeast regional director, “We have to make sure this doesn’t encourage municipalities to look at national parks as water sources.”

Freelance writer **Chris Fordney** is based in Winchester, Virginia. He last wrote for *National Parks* about touring Civil War battlefields.

*The Bush administration has proposed privatizing as many as 70 percent of all the jobs in the National Park Service—a move that could have a profound effect on the national parks.*

# THINNING *the* RANKS



LOWELL GEORGIA/CORBIS

*A Park Service rescue team simulates a rescue mission at Glacier NP.*

*Soon, at national parks across the country, the rarest treasures may not be the beloved wildlife, scenic wonders, and historic artifacts, but rather the special people who safeguard them.*

By Todd Wilkinson

Imagine Ron Kerbo's surprise when he read in a newspaper story that a right-wing think tank had identified National Park Service jobs like his as candidates for "outsourcing."

Kerbo, the agency's top cave expert, is internationally renowned for his passion and knowledge about subterranean ecosystems. Over the course of three decades as a civil servant, he, along with hundreds of ranger-speleologists that he has trained, have spent their careers protecting such natural wonders as Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, Wind Cave in South Dakota, and Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico. "When most people take a job with the Park Service, they're not doing it for the money," Kerbo says. "They're doing it because they love the natural and cultural treasures under their care, and they take pride in being stewards of them on behalf of society."

Yet not long ago, the president of the Competitive Enterprise Institute, which has influenced a number of Bush administration policy initiatives, suggested that jobs like Kerbo's could be farmed out to younger, less-experienced workers from the private sector who could work far more cheaply.

Fortunately, decision makers realized the folly of such thinking and backed off targeting key natural resource positions—at least for now. Still, it hasn't stopped the president's advisors from moving forward with a controversial plan to put thousands of other Park Service jobs—as much as 70 percent of all jobs in the agency—on the auction block in an attempt to supplant government workers with contract laborers.

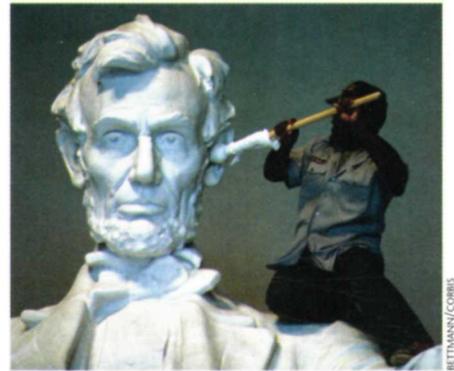
"The Bush administration's plan to downsize the Park Service and privatize the federal workforce has profound implications for the future of our National Park System," says Craig Obey, NPCA's vice president of legislative affairs. Obey has been closely tracking the downsizing-outsourcing plan even though much of it has been crafted behind closed doors at the highest levels of government.

While few Americans have ever heard of the Governmental Performance and Results Act of 1993, and even fewer know about "Circular A-76" (a directive dating to 1955 being used by the federal Office of Management and Budget [OMB] to justify eliminating Park Service positions), both figure prominently in what could become the greatest human resource shakeup in the Park Service's storied history.

According to observers, OMB—the fiscal nerve center of the government—is poised to whittle down the ranks of the Park Service and has ordered the agency to identify jobs that are inherently "commercial" in nature and to make those posts available for competition from the private sector. The initiative is based on OMB's reinterpretation of Circular A-76, which compels the government to identify all "commercial" jobs. It also cites the Government Performance and Results Act, crafted with bipartisan support and signed into law by President Clinton in 1993.

The intent of the law is simple: It was created to make the federal bureaucracy more efficient and accountable to taxpayers. But the net result may gut one of the proudest and most beloved conservation agencies in government.

Of the 20,000 people who work for the Park Service, seven of every ten jobs



**Maintenance positions were among the first to be targeted for outsourcing.**

are potential candidates for outsourcing. Scroll down the list of Park Service positions that the Competitive Enterprise Institute says could be replaced by consultants and day laborers from the private sector, and it covers 60 pages and may involve as many as 6,500 jobs.

The first round includes archaeologists, historians, museum curators, and engineers, as well as maintenance and security positions. "While it is perfectly appropriate to seek the lowest bidder for the uniforms our park employees wear or the equipment they use, seeking the lowest bidder to replace their expertise and experience is wrong," warned Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.), ranking member of the House Committee on Resources, who has introduced legislation



**A ranger at Yosemite lights a controlled burn to provide clear ground for new tree germination.**

*“Veteran workers are able to work magic because they know where all of the trouble spots are . . . the idea that they can be easily replaced is a recipe ripe for disaster.”*

to stop the administration’s outsourcing plans. “National Park Service employees are not overpaid, and hiring people to replace them based only on their willingness to do the job for less will only lessen the value of the work being done in our national parks.”

The House of Representatives may have dealt a mortal blow to the administration’s plans in July by voting to stop privatization among agencies under the Department of Interior. The Senate is expected to act on this version of the bill in September.

Although senior-level administrators within the Park Service deny they are being pressured, a memo from Lynn Scarlett, assistant Interior secretary for policy, management, and budget, sug-

gested the job performance of superintendents would be based, in part, on how quickly they acted to identify jobs that could be outsourced.

Bush administration officials claim their intentions are virtuous, though Park Service employees and park advocacy groups like NPCA decry the fact that political operatives at OMB and the White House, who have no conservation experience and apparently little respect for the proud tradition of the agency, are calling the shots.

Part of the anger stems from their perception that the White House and Interior Secretary Gale Norton—a vocal supporter of privatization—don’t fully appreciate the level of expertise and commitment career park employees bring to their jobs. In one offhanded comment, OMB director Mitch Daniels demeaned the Park Service as “the world’s largest lawn care service.”

In the beginning, Park Service Director Fran Maniella defended outsourcing, but after realizing its potential effect and conferring with numerous agency career professionals, she has turned more ambivalent. In a recent memo, she noted that merely studying the process of



opening up 1,708 agency jobs to the private sector could cost \$3 million, more than \$2,000 per job. Ironically, to pay for that review, some parks may have to cut services or have fewer rangers available to assist visitors.

Outsourcing also has the potential to set back a major Park Service initiative to broaden racial diversity within the agency workforce. A focus in recent years has been on recruiting more Hispanics and African Americans, especially in urban areas. Park Service Director Maniella acknowledges there could be problems and that outsourcing in general could have “serious consequences” for the quality of services visitors expect. So why do it?

Answer: Jeff Ruch, executive director of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, believes that although the administration denies it, the reason has to do with the president’s blind adherence to a campaign pledge.

When he came into office, Bush pledged not to grow the size of the federal government. But after September 11, 2001, came the decision to create a federally managed security force at airports, and civil service ranks ballooned. Federal agencies hired 135,978 new full-time employees last year as part of homeland security. Moreover, Baby Boomers have not retired in as great numbers as predicted—as much as 23 percent less than expected.

Now the president is trying to shrink the size of government by privatizing more than 850,000 jobs in the federal workforce. Some have suggested that without this reduction, the Bush administration will be responsible for the greatest increase in the size of the federal workforce in recent history.



**A ranger talks to a class of youngsters exploring Olympic National Park’s rainforest.**

Aside from sheer numbers, OMB accountants fail to factor in the fact that individual Park Service workers wear many different hats and thus exemplify the notion of “value-added” employees.

Maintenance rangers who care for many western parks in many cases also double as firefighters or perform emergency rescue functions. Those who mow the lawn on the Mall in Washington, D.C., or fix picnic tables in Yellowstone also are available to knowledgeably answer tourists’ questions. “They are dedicated to ensuring the public has the best experience, but they are painfully aware of the mission of the agency, which is to pass the parks on to the next generation unimpaired,” says Jeff McFarland, executive director of the Association of National Park Rangers. “Will someone who is punching a time clock care as much?”

Consider the overworked, underpaid maintenance workers at Yellowstone, who, because of their devotion to the park, have kept its ancient sewage system functioning at major destinations like Old Faithful. On several occasions in recent years, operational failures of treatment systems have resulted in effluent being flushed into the same geothermal systems that produce the park’s amazing array of geysers and hot springs.

“Veteran workers are able to work magic because they know where all of the trouble spots are,” Ruch says. “The idea that they can be easily replaced is a recipe ripe for disaster.”

In addition, Ruch says outsourcing may provide a subtle mechanism whereby current employees who have a conservation ethic and a bias against further development in parks could be replaced by contract labor more in tune with the administration’s ideology.

## What You Can Do

Contact your Senators about this issue and urge them to support efforts that exempt the National Park Service from wholesale outsourcing. Visit NPCA’s Take Action Center at [www.npca.org/takeaction](http://www.npca.org/takeaction).

Critics and proponents of outsourcing agree that the Park Service has already been a model of how to make the private sector a partner in delivering services to visitors. Today, nearly 60 percent of all employees in national parks are private-sector workers employed by larger companies involved with running hotels, restaurants, auto service stations, and gift shops. The other 40 percent who wear Park Service uniforms serve essential agency functions.

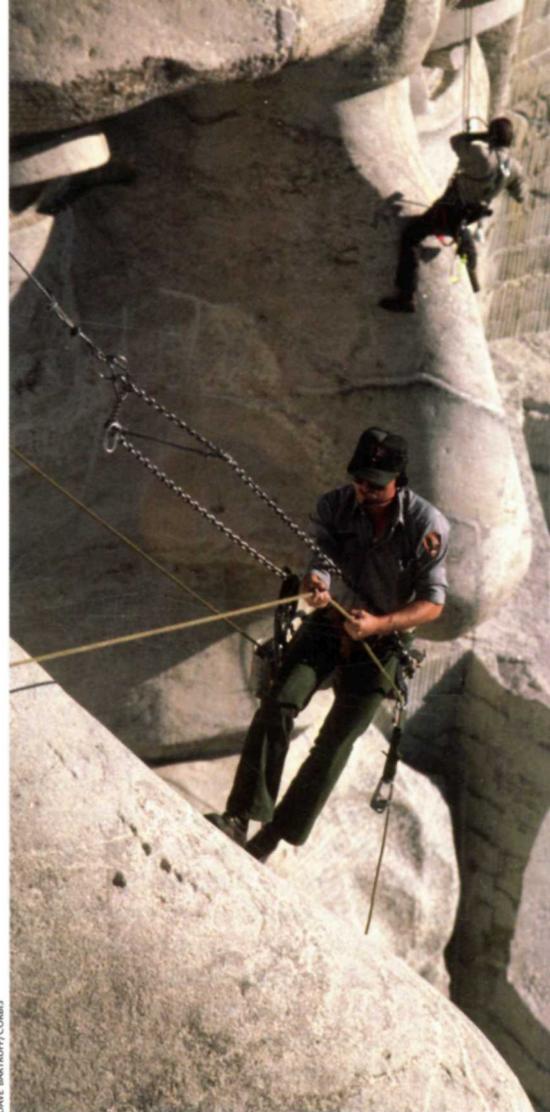
According to the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, there were 1,841 permanent and 616 seasonal law enforcement rangers in 1980. In 2001, those levels had shrunk to 1,539 permanent rangers, a 16.4 percent decline, and 469 seasonal law enforcement specialists, or a 23.9 percent reduction. At the same time, visitation to Park Service sites grew by more than 10 million, 62 new Park Service units were added, and park acreage grew from 77 million acres to 84.5 million acres.

Parks today also are increasingly in a pinch because many law enforcement rangers receive temporary reassignments to perform homeland security duties, creating a need for experienced personnel to interact with the public.

“In essence, the archaeologists, historians, and maintenance workers also function as park interpreters,” says David Barna, the Park Service’s chief spokesman in Washington, D.C. “They are certainly one of the reasons why this agency has such a high public approval rating. Can we replace them with contract workers from the private sector and deliver the same level of service and resource protection?”

Ruch believes the National Park Service is on a slippery slope that could lead to commercialization of parks. “Consultants aren’t going to tell their employer unpleasant or inconvenient things if they want to get their contracts renewed. Under civil service laws, employees feel not only an obligation but they’re protected when they point out things,” he says.

On February 4, 2003, 23 senators wrote a letter to OMB director Daniels expressing concern over the administration’s overall privatization plan. Law-



**Routine upkeep at Mount Rushmore.**

makers also tried to prevent OMB from simply imposing numeric targets without assessing their impact, but their opposition went down by a vote of 50 to 47. NPCA has joined dozens of conservation organizations in calling for congressional hearings, but so far those requests have been rebuffed.

In the future, NPCA’s Obey says, the Bush administration may come to realize that not only do parks have a special place in the hearts of Americans, but so do the special people who wear the uniform. 

Writer **Todd Wilkinson** lives in

Bozeman, Montana, and is a regular

contributor to *National Parks*.



# Heroism and Villainy

*The expansion of the National Park System's historic landscape to include contemporary sites of violence has brought with it new challenges.*

BY EDWARD T. LINENTHAL

Some of the most emotionally compelling and physically beautiful historic sites in the National Park System are places of violence: American battlefields. They are dynamic sites, where, as I wrote some years ago in *Sacred Ground: Americans and Their Battlefields*, “Americans of various ideological persuasions come, not always reverently, to compete for the ownership of powerful national stories and to argue about the nature of heroism, the meaning of war, the efficacy of sacrifice, and the significance of preserving the patriotic landscape of the nation.”

More recently, the expansion of the park system's historic landscape to include sites of violence has brought new challenges. Sometimes even a name is a razor's edge issue. Many Cheyenne people consider Washita Battlefield National Historic Site in Oklahoma, location of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer's attack on Black Kettle's village in 1868, not a battlefield but a massacre site. A world of interpretive difference hinges on the choice of terms. Lawrence Hart, Cheyenne peace chief and executive director of the Cheyenne Cultural Center, argues that the event was both:

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EDWARD T. LINENTHAL is the Edward M. Peterson professor of Religion and American Culture and Chancellor's Public Scholar at the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh. His most recent book is *The Unfinished Bombing: Oklahoma City in American Memory*. He is a member of the Flight 93 Memorial Task Force.

“The early attack [on] the village was a massacre of children and women and tribal elders...[the] engagement between the 7th Cavalry and Cheyenne warriors...was a fair battle.”

The recently designated Sand Creek National Historic Site commemorates the attack led by Col. John Chivington on an Arapaho and Cheyenne village in Colorado Territory in 1864 that killed approximately 150 people, mostly women, children, and elderly. The park system's historic landscape also includes different sorts of battlefields: sites recalling heroism and courage during the civil rights movement and constitutional violence done to Americans of Japanese ancestry, interned at the beginning of World War II.

Still underrepresented are sites of labor violence, perhaps a sign of how resistant Americans are to thinking of themselves as driven by class. The time may come when sites of lynchings will be preserved and interpreted by the National Park Service. Long forgotten, such sites are being recalled by local communities engaged in acts of commemoration, from the cleaning of gravestones to interracial rituals of reconciliation. Within the last year, historic and disturbing photographs depicting lynchings were shown at Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site in Atlanta.

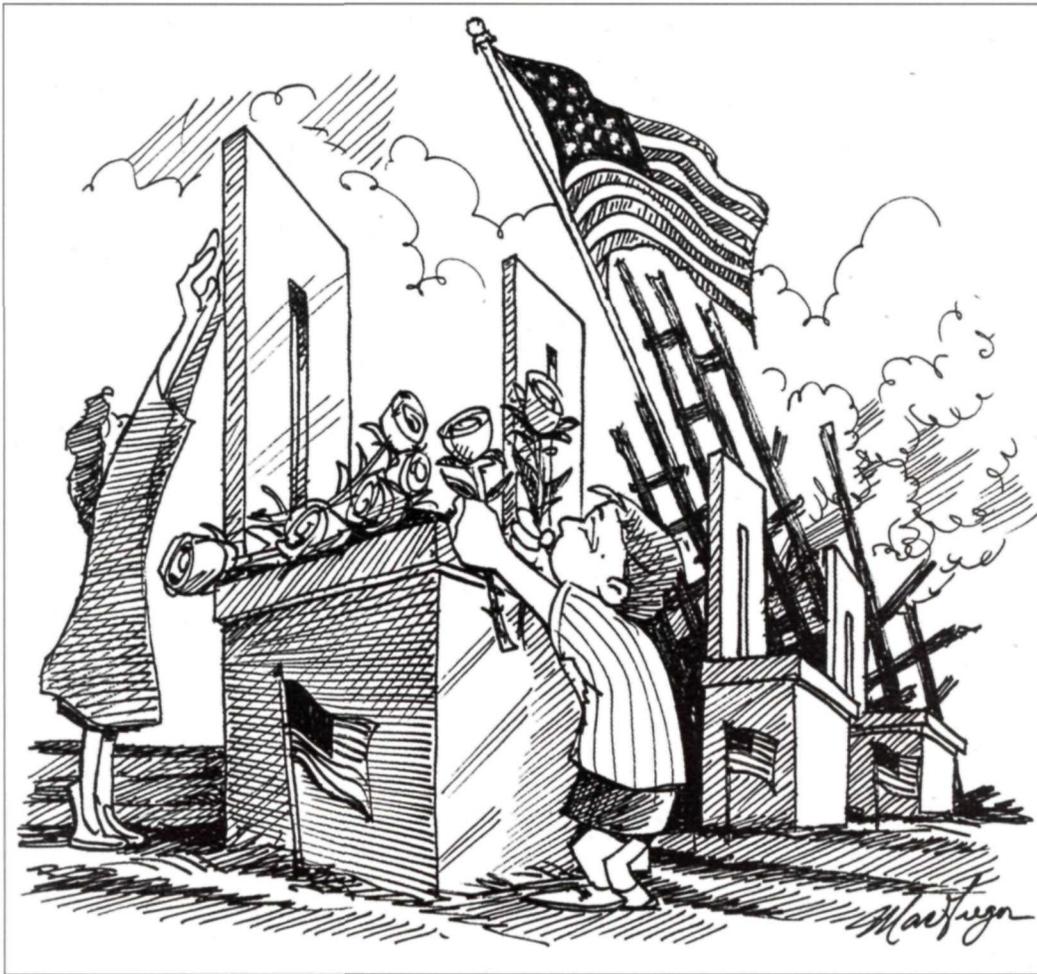
Sites of recent terrorist acts are also now part of the park system's landscape. The Park Service has entered a public/private partnership with Oklahoma City

National Memorial, in which the agency interprets the outdoor “physical” memorial, but did not create nor does it interpret the exhibition in the Memorial Center. In Shanksville, Pennsylvania, the Park Service will be creating an entirely new unit to commemorate the September 11th story of Flight 93, believed to have been crashed by those on board before it could reach its target in the nation's capital.

Initially the agency expressed some reservations about granting park status to Oklahoma City so quickly, bypassing the “50-year rule”—a policy developed to ensure that historical designation was not based merely on contemporary desire but on enduring importance. But the event seemed so horrific, its impact so widespread, how could it not be under the Park Service's stewardship?

Such status declares that this site is not just of local or regional significance but of national importance. Although some thought it problematic to include Shanksville so soon after the event, even one as significant as September 11th, there could be, of course, no public opposition.

Why the push to memorialize Oklahoma City and September 11th so quickly? Some of the answers are found in changing attitudes toward memorialization. As cultural geographer Kenneth Foote informs us in *Shadowed Ground: America's Landscapes of Violence and Tragedy*, sites of mass murder that cannot be remotely connected with larger



DOUGLAS MACGREGOR

example, acts of terrorism, domestic or foreign? One of the influential memorial environments for Oklahoma City is the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, with its memorial, exhibition, archival, and educational spaces. It sought, in so many instances, to balance the commemorative desires of Holocaust survivors with historical and educational imperatives. This museum, however, was done with the separation of half a century from the Holocaust.

In Oklahoma City, and in upcoming September 11th memorials, is this balance possible? One of my close Park Service friends, moved by the power of the Oklahoma City Memorial and admiring of the compelling story of April 19, 1995, told in the Memorial Center, was, nevertheless, troubled by the lack of historical context, as if the

cultural conflicts have usually been rendered invisible (structures where murders took place torn down, for example) or sometimes simply restored to previous use without any material expression of remembrance. Creating memorials of such sites is not only a public eulogy but also an act of protest against the anonymity of mass death.

Fearing that these dead will become statistics in the ever-increasing body count of violence, memorial expression insists that they will not be forgotten. Their deaths will count in some publicly measurable way, redeemed perhaps through the rhetoric of "never again." Consequently, families may be comforted that such deaths are of enduring concern to the wider public. So, at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Yaffa Eliach's tower of faces personalizes murder by immersing visitors in the remarkable photographs of the villagers of Ejszyski, Poland, all murdered in 1941. In Oklahoma City, visitors see

names of those murdered on empty chairs on the footprint of the Murrah Federal Building, see their faces and hear their stories in the Memorial Center.

The urge to memorialize reveals something more problematic: The unstated longing that somehow memorial design can resolve what can never be resolved about an act of murder, mass or otherwise: the unjustified loss of a life. Might our urge to memorialize such sites reveal not so much our wish to remember intensely but, rather, our heartfelt desire to forget quickly? If a memorial can remember for us, there is little need to struggle with the event or its aftermath. Perhaps a memorial offers the illusory consolation that an event is truly over, because it has been contained, its meaning determined, fixed on the land.

Is it possible for memorial environments to offer not only a place for intimate and public mourning, but also more dispassionate discussion about motive, context, and impact of, for

event just happened, just dropped out of the sky. "It is as if the memorial begins part-way through the museum," he said.

Is it enough for now to mourn and to be silent in memorial space in the face of great loss? Or, will the need for museums and visitor centers reveal not only a need to explain, but even engender bitter controversy? I could imagine, for example, a September 11th visitor center exhibition explaining the motive for the attack. Was it, as many believe, an attack on American freedoms, reflecting a clash of civilizations? Was it, as some believe, "blowback" from ill-advised American foreign policy decisions? Was it a crime against humanity? An act of war? Perhaps in 50 years this will still be just as contentious, but it is certainly the case that just now, it would be difficult to engage. Such issues reveal something else about contemporary memorial culture: They open wounds and divide people as much as they heal and bring them together.



# Haunting History

*Ghost tours offer visitors a spooky but entertaining look at the past at a variety of national park sites*

By Ryan Dougherty

Leave it to the spirits of the dead to help bring history alive. A handful of “Ghost Tours” held on the boundaries of national park units are doing just that, captivating visitors and making history fun by bringing long-dead soldiers and historical figures to life again.

Those who believe in ghosts relish the supernatural tales, while others suspend their disbelief long enough to enjoy spooky interpretations of a site’s history.

If you are looking for ways to get in

the right frame of mind for Halloween, the national parks may offer the opportunity you’ve been seeking. From haunted houses and angry ghosts roaming the streets to mysterious shapes said to appear in visitors’ photographs, ghost tours offer a rare brand of haunting entertainment at a low price.

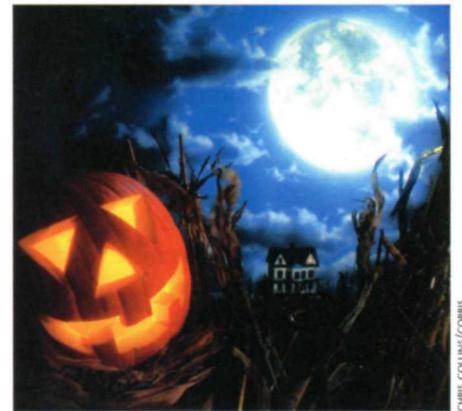
Halloween is rapidly becoming one of the country’s most popular holidays—today Americans spend an estimated \$6.9 billion a year on Halloween—and listening to ghost stories is a time-hon-

ored way to enjoy the season, one that dates back to colonial times. Although the tours are not run by the National Park Service and for the most part do not occur within national park units, ghost tours incorporate the stories told at parks, giving them a supernatural twist. Not surprisingly, haunted sites include two battlefields—what’s Halloween without a graveyard or two—as well as the birthplace of the country.

The tours are more educational than scary—so don’t hesitate to bring the chil-

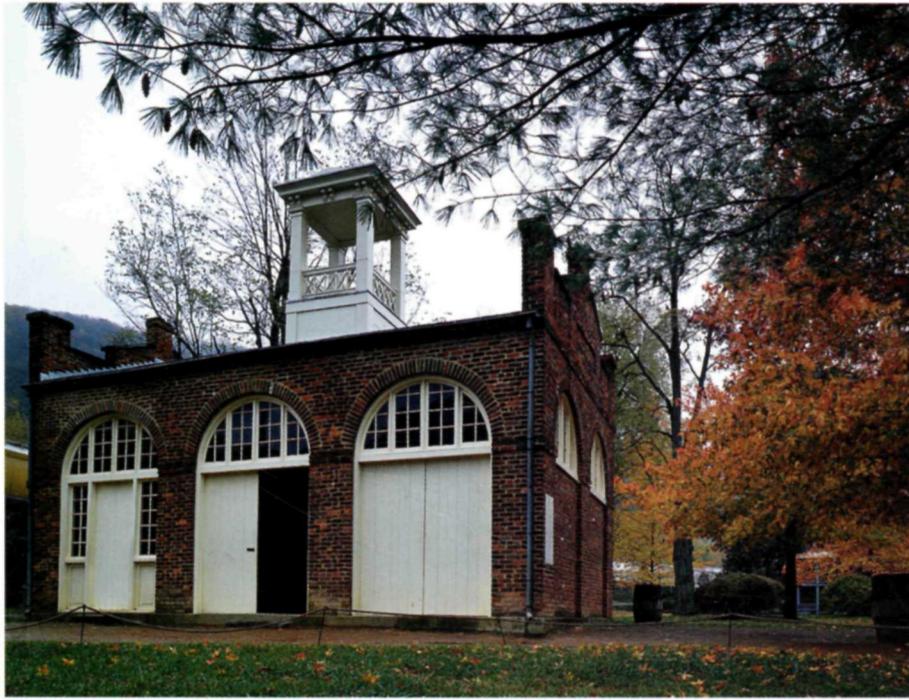


*The town of Harpers Ferry has a long history of gruesome and sudden deaths.*



dren—but tour-goers may wish to bring along a mask. Legend has it that centuries ago the living would don masks to keep roaming spirits from recognizing them.

Although some of the tours are offered year-round, families looking for an offbeat experience this Halloween season might enjoy a day-trip to one of



FRED HRECHMANN

**John Brown's Fort is where he and his followers barricaded themselves during the raid.**

the four national parks described below, followed by an evening ghost tour. The spirits—and fun—await you.

### **Harpers Ferry National Historical Park**

A long history of violent and sudden deaths at Harpers Ferry fuels speculation over the presence of ghosts in this West Virginia town at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers. From John Brown's raid to free slaves to the bloody Civil War and the town's string of disastrous floods, Harpers Ferry has a history of gruesome deaths rivaled at few other places.

For three decades, the "Myths and Legends" ghost tour has offered visitors a haunted journey through time. The tour, led by enthusiastic guides dressed in 19th-century garb, begins at 221 Potomac Street, a residence in which Union soldiers stayed during the Civil War. Legend has it that a Confederate spy once entered the house and was promptly shot, his bloodied body banging down the main stairwell. Some now say that on a quiet night, they hear doors slamming and knocking noises on those stairs. Is it the ghost of the fallen Confederate?

The tour then moves to Hog Alley,



FRANCIS G. MARTEL/CORBIS

**An artist's take on John Brown.**

where the body of Dangerfield Newby was taken after he was killed. Newby, the first African American killed during the John Brown raid, died when a six-inch spike from a powder-loaded gun struck his throat; he had been fighting to free his enslaved wife and children. Townspeople opposed to the Brown raid moved Newby's body to the alley to be destroyed by hungry dogs, but that may not be the end of the story. Some say

that a man clad in baggy trousers and an old slouched hat with a horribly scarred throat can sometimes be seen walking the town's streets, crying out for his family's freedom.

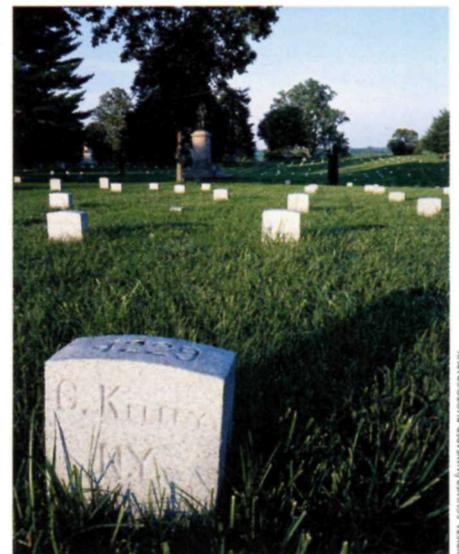
These are just two of the chilling tales of Harpers Ferry told on this ghost tour. To experience them all, call 304-725-8019. Tours are given on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights at 8, or as requested. The cost is \$4 per person, and reservations are recommended.

### **Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park**

Fredericksburg, Virginia, is considered one of the bloodiest landscapes in America, for good reason—more than 15,000 men were killed there during the Civil War. Most have been buried in graves unknown, but some residents believe that the spirits of fallen soldiers still roam the town.

"With all the intense street fighting that happened here, it's no wonder that the town and its buildings are haunted," says Helen Marler, historian for the "Phantoms of Fredericksburg" tour, which aims to teach history in a memorable way.

The tour offers visitors a chance to step back in time, as historians bring to life a real citizen or soldier from Fredericksburg's past. Visitors can meet and photograph the town's ghosts, and "strange things have been known to happen," said Marler. Shoelaces come un-



KRISTA SCHULTER/WYNFARMER PHOTOGRAPHY

**Fredericksburg National Cemetery.**



tied, alarms go on and off, untouched lights come on, and apparitions are said to appear in windows. There are said to be spots along the “Phantom” tour where cameras will not work, and photographs that are taken and developed have sometimes included ghostly images.

The tour winds through Fredericksburg’s streets and along its graveyards. One of the stories told is that of General Hugh Mercer, a hero of the American Revolution and a doctor who lived in Fredericksburg for many years. Some think that he remains here still, haunting the Mercer Building, named in his honor.

The “Phantoms of Fredericksburg” tour costs \$15 for adults and \$8 for children between the ages of six and 16. Those under the age of six participate in the tour for free. To schedule a tour, call 540-899-1776. Reservations are recommended.

### Gettysburg National Military Park

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, is the site of one of the most epic and bloody battles of the Civil War, where more than 51,000 soldiers were wounded or killed. According to the “Ghosts of Gettysburg” web site, “the [soldiers’] presence

on Earth was silenced forever by death—or maybe not.”

Three ghost tours of Gettysburg are offered. The first, of Baltimore Street, takes visitors to the National Cemetery, where spirits of the buried soldiers are said to linger. Tales are told of an apparition known to descend the Gatehouse’s stairs, as well as the cries of babies heard from the site of a long-gone orphanage. It has been said that spirits of Union and Confederate soldiers sometimes appear to frighten guests at the house that Abraham Lincoln traveled past to deliver the Gettysburg Address.

On the Carlisle Street tour, guides talk about the “bizarre poltergeist activity” that has occurred there since the Civil War. They take visitors to a building where actors have said they saw ghostly visions of “The General” watching them perform. Another building features a modern elevator that is said to have taken unsuspecting passengers back in time to a Civil War hospital.

On a third tour, along Seminary Ridge, visitors learn about the house in which a young soldier was buried alive beneath a pile of corpses for many days before he was removed. Many years after the soldier’s death, however, his spirit is said to have remained in the

house until a priest came to bless it.

Information on “Ghosts of Gettysburg” tours can be obtained at 717-337-0445 or on the web at [www.ghostsofgettysburg.com](http://www.ghostsofgettysburg.com). Reservations are recommended. Tours cost \$6.

### Independence National Historical Park

This ghost tour journey ends where our nation began—historic Philadelphia. Located in the city’s downtown, Independence National Historical Park is considered the birthplace of America, offering such attractions as the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, and the site where Benjamin Franklin’s home once stood.

The web site of the “Ghost Tour of Philadelphia” urges visitors to “help us push aside the cobwebs and discover what lurks in the shadows of [Philadelphia].” Questions pondered on the tour include whether Franklin’s ghost still haunts the “City of Brotherly Love” and whether the ghosts of other Founding Fathers occupy Independence Hall. A mysterious guide with a masked face recounts these and other ghostly tales.

The guide takes visitors to Library Hall, where a statue of Franklin is said to have once come alive. At Independence Hall, visitors hear stories about park rangers who once reported hearing foot-



The Gettysburg tour offers spooky tales of soldiers who died at Seminary Ridge.



FRED HIRSCHMANN

Benjamin Franklin statue in Philadelphia.

steps of the soldiers that had long ago died in the hospital upstairs. At Washington Square, tour-takers hear about "Leah," the woman said to have watched over the graves of those buried there hundreds of years ago. The tour then winds through Saint Peter's Churchyard, where the pale image of an unknown woman is said to have appeared in a photograph taken by a tour visitor.

The "Ghost Tour of Philadelphia" will be offered Monday through Saturday in September and every night in October. The cost is \$12 per adult and \$6 for ages 3-12. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 215-413-1997. The tour begins at 7:30 p.m.

Ryan Dougherty is news editor for

National Parks magazine.

## Side Trips

For those seeking other kinds of spooky experiences in a national park, the 11th annual "Haunting in the Hills Storytelling Festival" inside Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area is an option. The festival runs September 15 through 20 and offers arts and crafts, dulcimer workshops, music, and family-oriented ghost stories near Bandy Creek Visitor Center. For more information, call 423-286-7275.

The Park Service also offers a popular candlelight tour at Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site (see page 40), where Poe wrote some of his most famous tales of terror. Tours will occur at 3 p.m. daily in October. Reservations are required, but the tour is free. For more information, call 215-597-1586. The tour is not recommended for children under age 12.

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# Once Upon a Midnight Dreary

*Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site in Philadelphia tells the dark story of one of American literature's greatest innovators and masters of horror.*

BY RYAN DOUGHERTY

Edgar Allan Poe is celebrated for tense, heart-pounding stories and poems such as *The Raven* and *The Tell-Tale Heart*. He is considered a master of horror who turned short stories and poetry into art forms, and Poe's stories of obsession, paranoia, fantasy, and death have inspired such literary giants as Vladimir Nabokov, Ray Bradbury, and Jules Verne.

Often overlooked, however, is the story of Poe's life: the heartbreak, financial struggles, success, and mysterious death. That story casts light on his actual identity, helping us to understand what inspired the man whom many consider America's most influential writer.

Poe was born in Boston in 1809 but abandoned by his father and orphaned at two when his mother died. John and Frances Allan of Virginia took Poe in. Between the ages of six and 11, he lived in England and attended boarding school, where he was unpopular and teased for being an un-adopted stepson.

In 1826, he enrolled at the University of Virginia, where he shone academically but incurred gambling debts. At 18, Poe moved to Boston and published his first volume of poems. Unable to support himself, Poe joined the army. He achieved the rank of sergeant-major after only 17 months and was accepted into the West Point military academy.



*Poe spent his most productive years in Philadelphia and lived in this house, now a national historic site.*

At this time, Poe's foster mother died, and his foster father disowned him. Tired of West Point's rigors and in a rebellious act of self-sabotage, Poe sought to be court-martialed, ending his military career. At the age of 22, he faced a life of struggle and poverty.

In 1831, Poe moved to Baltimore to live with his aunt and her daughter, Virginia, and he began his professional writing career. A few years later, his prospects brightened. He worked in Richmond as an editor, critic, and contributor for a series of journals, all of which thrived. He married Virginia—then just 13 years old—and they moved to New York City. Two years later, the couple moved to Philadelphia. There, Poe spent his most productive years. One of his homes was a small brick house now a national historic site.

In 1840, he published *Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque*, whose sales were surprisingly poor. Many critics,

whom Poe alienated in his criticism of them, refused to review it. Poe invented the modern detective story with *The Murders in the Rue Morgue*, before returning to New York, where he wrote *The Raven*. The success of the ominous poem gave Poe a steady income and cemented his legacy.

Virginia died of tuberculosis in 1847. Watching her wither was, in Poe's words, "a horrible, never-ending oscillation between hope

and despair" that caused him to abuse alcohol. Poe returned to Richmond in 1849, then left to visit Philadelphia. For unknown reasons, however, he stopped in Baltimore. In October, he was found lying half-conscious in the street and taken to a hospital, delirious. Poe died on October 7 of "acute congestion of the brain."

Historians say that Poe's literature and criticism were ahead of his time, and that his more than 70 pieces of fiction display an impressive range of genres that he helped forge, including murder mysteries, science fiction, and treasure mysteries with built-in clues.

Poe will probably always be best known, however, for his thrilling tales of terror, or "arabesques," as he called them, which showcased his extraordinary imagination. As written in National Park Service literature, "Poe stands as one of the great innovators in American literature...an original, creative force."

RYAN DOUGHERTY is news editor.

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Been There designs each certificate to incorporate pictorially the highlights from destinations listed on the certificate. Each tasteful certificate displays the traveler's name and the name of every national park that individual has visited. Certificates are printed on a light cardstock-weight paper that has a slightly off-white finish and are available in two sizes—the standard 8.5 by 11 inches and the deluxe 11 by 14 inches. Been There offers framing service as well, with frames three-quarters of an inch wide and a gently rounded wood-like panel emanating a mahogany wood grain effect.

Along with the certificate, travelers receive a free Destination Registry, which displays all the destinations they hope to visit one day. The Registry

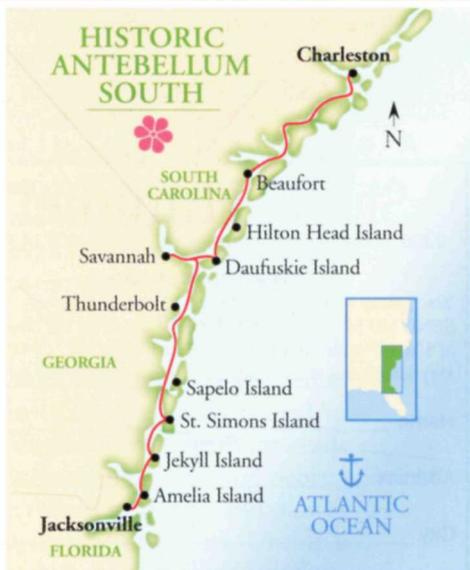
Sound enticing? Check out Been There certificates and other services on its web site at [www.mytravels.com](http://www.mytravels.com). This is a fun way to create a living record of national park journeys. It's easy to update by mail or on the Internet. It's affordable. It's unique. And there's more where that came from.

Been There offers similar products for Lewis & Clark Trail Explorers, USA 50 States Travelers, The Rover Ranger (covering more than 300 U.S. National Park Service properties), Jewels of the Caribbean, Major League Ballpark buffs, and global country "collectors."

These varied travel certificates make great gifts for other traveling adventurers in the family or among a circle of friends. Each product is available as a Gift Pak, which is particularly helpful when it's not known which destinations the recipient has visited. Recipients simply redeem the Gift Pak for a certificate on the Web site or by mail.



makes it easy for travelers to keep track of new places they visit, and it's useful for planning future trips and ordering updated certificates.

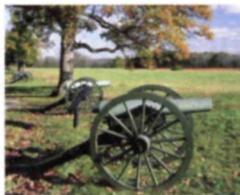


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# HISTORIC TRAVEL PLANNER

## Not the usual cruise: American Cruise Lines offers tours of South's inner byways

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These images can become a real experience by taking the seven-night Historic Antebellum South Cruise from American Cruise Lines. Vacationers hop aboard either one of two 49-passenger cruise ships, the *American Eagle* or the *American Glory*, which provide a relaxing, casual environment for sightseeing-filled days, complete with onboard lecturers and naturalists and special visits from local experts.



The Historic Antebellum South Cruise departs from either Charleston, South Carolina, or Jacksonville, Florida, with spring and fall departure dates. Charleston itself ranks as one of the top cruise destinations because of its magnificent historic district with spectacular gardens and 18th century architecture and its famous Fort Sumter National Monument.



And then there's Savannah, one of the nation's largest historic districts known for its vast collection of 18th and 19th century buildings and homes, as well as beautiful streets, spacious squares, and azalea-laden parks.

Other notable attractions along the way include St. Simons Island, complete with a lighthouse, Christ Church and Retreat Plantation, and Jekyll Island, famous for winter homes of the Rockefellers and Vanderbilts. The final cruise destination is pristine Amelia Island, Florida, near Jacksonville with its historic Centre Street and charming Victorian homes.

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# HISTORIC TRAVEL PLANNER

## All aboard American Orient Express for two fall Foliage Tours

Autumn in New England and the Pacific Coast is breathtaking, and fall foliage enthusiasts like to take in as much of it as time will allow. American Orient Express (AOE) can help. AOE offers two routings with fall in mind: Autumn in New England & Quebec and the Pacific Coast Explorer.



The Autumn in New England & Quebec tour covers noted attractions in Montreal and Quebec City in Canada. In the United States, the train travels through rural Vermont, upstate New York, the historic Western Berkshires of Massachusetts, and the Hudson and St. Lawrence River valleys. Prices for the eight-day, seven-night tour start at \$3,190.

The Pacific Coast Explorer traverses striking coastlines, canyons, and mountain regions on what is one of the most autumn scenic rail journeys in America. The journey takes travelers from Los Angeles to Seattle through Napa Valley Wine Country, the Golden Gate Bridge overlook, Multnomah Falls, and the Columbia River Gorge. Prices for this eight-day, seven-night tour start at \$2,890.

Selected fall itineraries offer a \$300 to \$500 saving per person. For more information, contact American Orient Express at 800.320.4206 or visit the web site at [www.americanorientexpress.com](http://www.americanorientexpress.com).



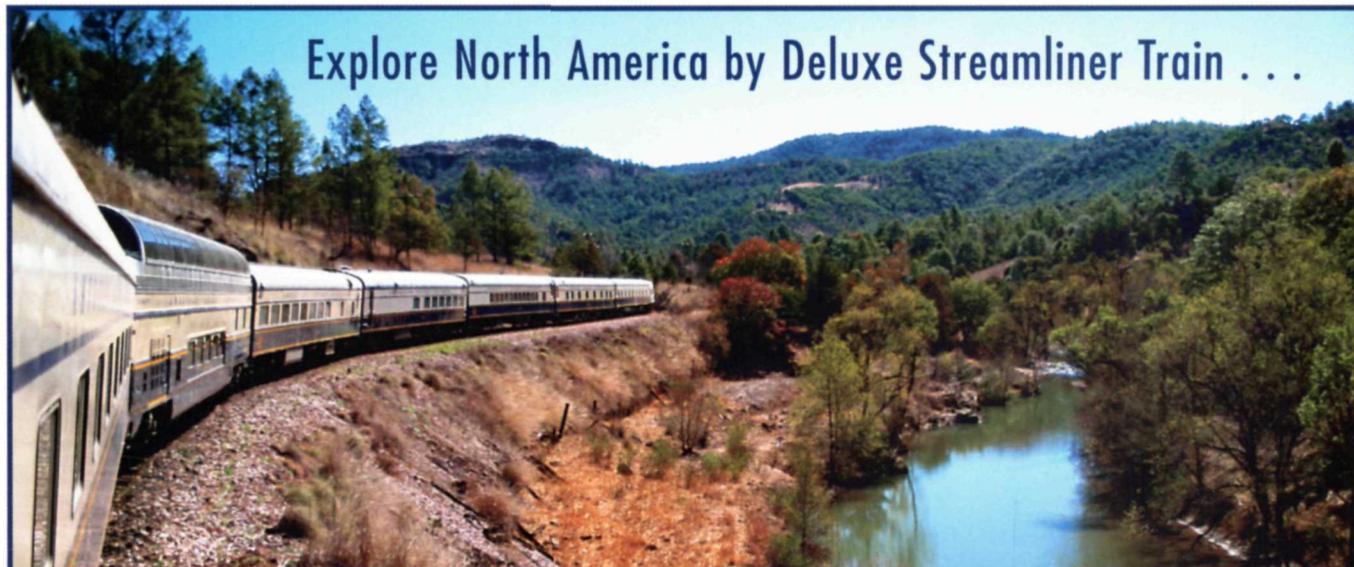
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# HISTORIC TRAVEL PLANNER

## Paha Qué announces debut of its Tepee Outhouse

Paha Qué, designer of a top-quality line of tents, introduces its Tepee Outhouse, which assembles within five minutes into a fully equipped portable outhouse and shower.

Stowed in an 8-inch by 26-inch zippered carry bag weighing 15 pounds, the Tepee Outhouse measures 54 inches by 54 inches of floor space, with a peak height of 94 inches. The portable outhouse's "no-see-um" mesh panels allow for both bug-free ventilation and complete privacy.

Paha Qué also offers a range of tent products to bring the comforts of home to the great outdoors—roomy family tents, the ScreenRoom to keep insects out, the 12-foot by 10-foot Cottonwood Shade Shelter, and the covered bedding Tent Cot.



Artist's rendering of the Civil War Interpretive Center, opening early summer 2004

## Corinth, Mississippi, to open new Civil War Center

Corinth, Mississippi's strategic importance to the Western Theater, will be a major theme of the 12,000-square-foot Civil War Interpretive Center opening there in early summer 2004. The \$9.5 million facility overlooks Corinth's historic railroad junction and downtown. With more than 5,000 square feet of exhibits, the 24-acre site will be the starting point for Civil War enthusiasts wishing to explore the 16 National Historic Landmarks located in and around Corinth. Call 1-800-748-9048.

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# A Battle Remembered

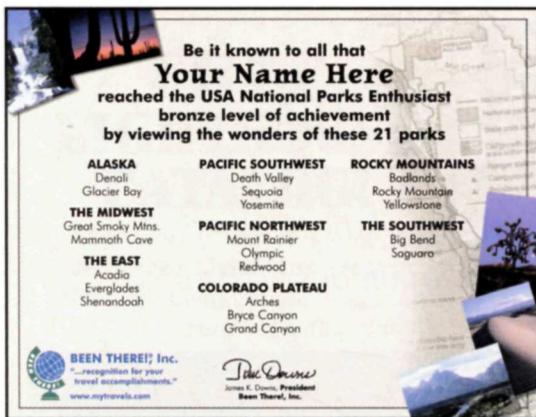
*This park unit memorializes one of the last armed efforts of the Northern Plains Indians to preserve their homeland and traditions.*



JOHN ELK III

**T**his site commemorates an infamous battle between the U.S. Army's 7th Cavalry and several Native American tribes, including the Arapaho. In 1876, after nearly 400 years of dissension, the two groups faced off in a bloody battle as the Native Americans fought to defend their nomadic way of life. Five years later, a memorial was erected over the graves of some 263 American soldiers, Arikara scouts, and other personnel killed in the fight. An Indian Memorial was recently commemorated there to honor the warriors who lost their lives. Have you visited this park? Do you know which one it is? [Answer on page 8.]

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#### THE EAST

- Acadia (ME)
- Biscayne (FL)
- Dry Tortugas (FL)
- Everglades (FL)
- Shenandoah (VA)
- Virgin Islands (VI)

#### THE SOUTHWEST

- Big Bend (TX)
- Carlsbad (NM)
- Great Sand Dunes (CO)
- Guadalupe (TX)
- Joshua Tree (CA)
- Saguaro (AZ)

#### COLORADO PLATEAU

- Arches (UT)
- Black Canyon (CO)
- Bryce Canyon (UT)
- Canyonlands (UT)
- Capitol Reef (UT)
- Grand Canyon (AZ)
- Grand Basin (NV)
- Mesa Verde (CO)
- Petrified Forest (AZ)
- Zion (UT)

#### PACIFIC SOUTHWEST

- NP of American Samoa
- Channel Islands (CA)
- Death Valley (CA)
- Haleakala (HI)
- Hawaii Volcanoes (HI)
- Kings Canyon (CA)
- Sequoia (CA)
- Yosemite (CA)

#### ROCKY MOUNTAINS

- Badlands (SD)
- Grand Teton (WY)
- Rocky Mountain (CO)
- Theodore Roosevelt (ND)
- Waterton-Glacier (MT)
- Wind Cave (SD)
- Yellowstone (WY)

#### PACIFIC NORTHWEST

- Crater Lake (OR)
- Lassen Volcanic (CA)
- Mount Rainier (WA)
- North Cascades (WA)
- Olympic (WA)
- Redwood (CA)

#### ALASKA

- Denali
- Gates of the Arctic
- Glacier Bay
- Katmai
- Kenai Fjords
- Kobuk Valley
- Lake Clark
- Wrangell-St. Elias

#### MIDWEST

- Cuyahoga (OH)
- Great Smoky Mtns. (TN)
- Hot Springs (AR)
- Isle Royale (MI)
- Mammoth Cave (KY)
- Voyageurs (MN)

#### NOTE:

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