

The Magazine of  
The National Parks  
Conservation  
Association

# National Parks

WINTER 2005

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***Returning the Land to Giants***

*Raiding the Parks*

*Warming to Kenai Fjords in Alaska*

*Visiting Lodges in Winter*

*Rewarding Park Champions*

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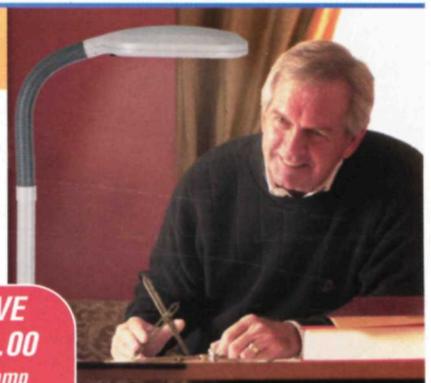
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### Returning the Land to the Giants

The Park Service has removed 282 buildings, one million square feet of asphalt, and miles of overhead power lines to return Giant Grove to the 2,000-year-old trees Sequoia National Park was established to protect.

*By Bruce Leonard*

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### Raiders of the Last Parks

In a struggle with elements of a Hollywood blockbuster, park rangers are matching wits with poachers in a battle over some of the most valuable plant and animal species on earth.

*By Connie Toops*

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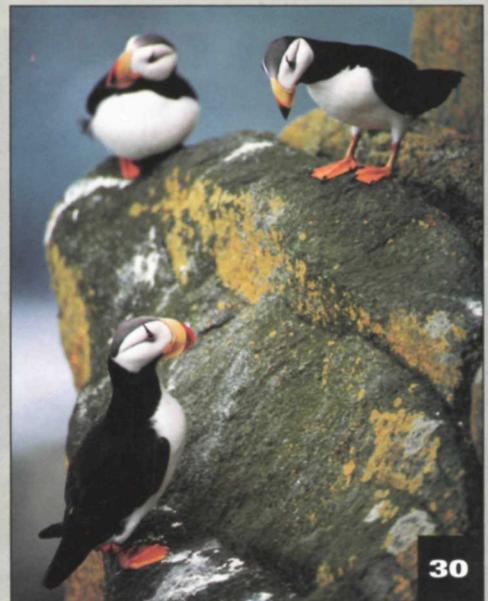
### A Warming Trend After A Chilly Reception

Residents of Seward, Alaska, didn't embrace Kenai Fjords National Park when it was first created, but in the years since its inception they've warmed up to the national park in their own backyard.

*By Bill Sherwonit*



Cover photograph of snow-dusted sequoias along Congress Trail in Sequoia National Park, *by Fred Hirschmann*



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## PRESIDENT'S OUTLOOK

# A Centennial Vision



CHAD EVANS WYATT

Nearly 90 years ago, as the world careened toward all-out war, President Woodrow Wilson signed into law the National Parks Organic Act, creating a national system of parks. Less than three decades later, the country was again on the verge of war and pressures mounted to mine, log, and extract valuable resources from the parks. But protections for our nation's parks prevailed.

The nation and its leaders believed then—as many do now—that the national parks, these touchstones of our history and our most significant landscapes, are our heritage and legacy. These places represent the soul of our nation and deserve the highest form of protection.

In just 12 years, the National Park System—described by author Wallace Stegner as the best idea America ever had—will celebrate its 100th anniversary. NPCA is committed to creating, by that anniversary, a National Park System that sets the highest examples in sound management, superlative resource protection, and innovative public initiatives that other agencies and organizations would seek to emulate. The world's wealthiest nation has an obligation to meet the challenge of creating this system. The American people—who respect and cherish our nation's parks—deserve nothing less.

For more than 80 years, NPCA has focused on protecting the nation's parks, ensuring that these special places are preserved for current and future generations. In simple terms, our mission is to ensure that the parks tell the American story and protect America's heritage.

We have described our vision for a fully funded National Park System and shared that vision with Congress and the administration. For more than three years, we have made improving the funding of our parks a primary goal. You have helped us in this effort by writing to your representatives and senators to encourage them to support additional funding and sharing your stories about the importance of having money to pay for rangers.

This past fall, Congress took an important step toward our centennial vision by providing an unprecedented increase of nearly 5 percent for the operations of each of the 388 national parks across the country. This increase will stop the hemorrhaging of staff and programs, but doesn't yet enable parks to meet critical needs.

Because of this, NPCA needs your help to ensure that national parks remain a priority for the administration and Congress. NPCA will continue our work with the administration and national park champions on Capitol Hill. Our agenda for the coming year is clear, just as it has been for more than 80 years. With your help, we will continue to ensure that our parks are protected in perpetuity.

**Thomas C. Kiernan**

## A Giant Feat

Naturalist John Muir called sequoias “nature’s forest masterpiece” and the “greatest of living things.” These giant trees are so spectacular—some growing to 30 feet in diameter and 300 feet high—that we established a national park in 1890 to protect them.



CHAD EVANS WYATT

But ironically, people’s love of the trees soon posed a greater threat to Sequoia National Park than chainsaws ever had. Visitors were so enamored of the sequoias that they wanted to camp directly beneath them during their stay in the park. By 1930, four campgrounds, more than 200 cabins, retail stores, and dining halls stood beneath these extraordinary trees in a grove called Giant Forest. Each new building, every sunken pipe, and all the concrete parking lots did incredible damage to the sequoias’ shallow root system.

Our cover story explores the remarkable effort undertaken by the Park Service in recent years in removing buildings, concrete, and miles of power lines to return the land to these giants. The Park Service has since built a new lodge four miles from the grove so visitors can still sleep in the shadow of these giants—from a safe distance.

Although some visitors may long for the days when they could walk out the door of a cabin and stand beneath some of Muir’s “greatest living things,” few would disagree that the Park Service’s ultimate goal should be to protect these “masterpieces” for the future. We can also acknowledge, as Ranger Tweed does in the story, that you can both miss the old cabins and be glad they’re gone.

**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. *National Parks* 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. Please sign up to receive *Park Lines*, our biweekly e-mail newsletter. Go to [www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org) to sign up.

### HOW TO DONATE

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.

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Crater Lake National Park, Oregon

## America's future America's legacy

Booz Allen Hamilton salutes the National Parks Conservation Association for its nearly nine decades of protecting our nation's parks and ensuring a legacy for future generations.

We're proud to underwrite NPCA's annual awards dinner, which recognizes those who have made outstanding contributions to help protect and preserve America's national park system. We look forward to this year's celebration on April 13, *Salute to the Parks: Celebrating the National Park Ranger*, honoring the 2005 award recipients.

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# Rethinking Rocks, Chavez, and Hydrogen

## Solving Unsolved Mysteries

In reference to your article "Nature's Rolling Stones," [Fall 2004] there is no mystery. I have witnessed similar actions in my area—large steel buoys anchored by concrete blocks moved hundreds of yards by wind on the melting, ice-covered lake. The same thing happens to the rocks in Death Valley, I'm sure. Shallow water on the desert floor freezes, the weather warms, and wind moves the rocks across the surface. Changes in wind direction take them on crazy zig-zags, etching paths in the ground. The ice melts and water evaporates, and curious human onlookers are left to contemplate supernatural causes.

Larry Bennington  
Eden, UT

**Editorial Reply:** The National Park Service is entertaining a number of theories similar to this one, but none have been proven.

## Sequoia Roots Run Deeper

I was disturbed by the Historic Tidbits column [Fall 2004] where you listed several honorable Americans for whom sequoia trees were named. You neglected to note that the trees themselves were named in honor of Sequoyah, a great historic leader of the Cherokee people. I had thought, and hoped, that we were well past the day when Native Americans were given short shrift. Sadly, I guess I was wrong.

Glenn Himebaugh  
Murfreesboro, TN

**Editorial Reply:** The reader makes a valid point and we apologize for over-

## A HAIL TO CESAR CHAVEZ

*During his lifetime, Cesar Chavez led a national movement to better the lives of migrant farm workers; today, legislators and others consider ways to honor the man who helped lead that struggle for more than three decades.*

**By Alan Speers**

**I**n 1965, thousands of migrant farm workers earned 90 cents an hour—35 cents less than minimum wage—for the arduous and backbreaking work of picking food on the nation's dining tables. Hundreds of thousands of workers, primarily Hispanic, Mexican, or Chinese men, women, and children, followed the growing season to pick grapes, lemons, and other fruits and vegetables for wealthy agribusiness throughout California. They lived in unsanitary, unheated shacks that had no indoor plumbing or kitchen facilities and paid \$2 per day for the privilege. They earned six cents per "lug" or basket picked in the dusty, pesticide-sprayed fields that afforded no portable toilets. The average life expectancy of a farm worker was 49.

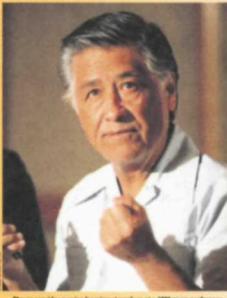
It was the middle of the 1960s, and social change was in the air. Congress passed the Civil Rights Act in 1964 and a Voting Rights Act in 1965, in efforts at

terminating voting rights and ending segregation in public places. During this same decade, the women's rights movement began in earnest. The times, as the saying from the era went, were a'changin'.

Into this mix of social change and reform stepped Cesar Chavez, originally from Yuma, Arizona, who would lead a fledgling, under-funded union on a strike against some of the largest agribusinesses in California. The action eventually won higher wages for the farm workers, allowed them to organize into unions, and led to a nationwide boycott of grapes—one that would last for years, elevating the nation's conscience about the plight of the farm workers.

The strike would cement Chavez's place in history as both a national hero and a labor leader. It would also eventually lead to a movement to commemorate Chavez's life and work, which could take a variety of forms. It may include a National Park System unit or National Historic Landmark designation for a variety of sites important to the man and his work. But more than a decade after Chavez's death, the debate over national recognition for the labor leader remains unsettled.

At the center of the dispute are two vastly different interpretations of the meaning of his legacy. Supporters reflect on Chavez's place in history as a social



Chavez provides a voice for migrant workers at a 1987 union conference.



A rival but determined Chavez works from his office in December 1980 during the height of a ground-breaking boycott.

"In this world it is possible to achieve great material wealth, to live an opulent life. But a life built upon those things alone leaves a shallow legacy, in the end, will be judged by other standards."  
—Cesar Chavez

justice advocate and labor reformer of such significance that he was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1994). Critics, including some of the more powerful leaders in California agribusiness, regard Chavez as a troublemaker who attempted to "dominate" all farmers "and weakened economic bases on their industry." After Chavez's death in 1993, the debate between his supporters (Chavezist) and the growers spilled from the fields into the towns of Central California, where efforts to restore schools and landmarks in the man's home were often opposed, although some succeeded.

On September 25, 2001, Rep. Hilda Solis (D-CAL) introduced a bill "to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of sites associated with the life of Cesar Chavez." Such a study would look at the suitability and feasibility of sites and alternatives that may include National Park System units or National Historic Landmarks. Passage of the legislation, announced in the 109th Congress, would be the first step toward recognizing Park Service preservation and interpretation of "places in California and Arizona [of] special significance" to Chavez's life. Despite the passage of a similar bill in the Senate, which was introduced by Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), no further action has been taken on the legislation,

which remains stalled in the House subcommittee on national parks.

The drive to designate and preserve landmarks associated with the life of the man many referred to as the Latino Martin Luther King has become more urgent because of the imminent demolition of the Salinas jail, where Chavez was incarcerated for 29 days after refusing to end a strike. If a unit is established in Chavez's honor, it would be the only one of 380 units in the National Park System that memorializes the contributions of a contemporary Latino.

Chavez began his rise to national prominence in 1952, when Fred Ross of the Community Service Organization

looking the deeper history behind the sequoia tree.

## Chavez Legacy Stirs Debate

Thank you for a consistently beautiful and interesting magazine, and for your article, "Hail to Cesar Chavez" [Fall 2004]. This unassuming man committed his adult life to better the conditions of farm workers. While he and his followers have achieved significant success, the sad fact is that the struggle continues even today to bring decent wages and conditions to the people who bring us our food. Just as the dangers facing our national parks call for an outpouring of private support, those who continue to work for justice in the fields need financing to meet their many challenges. Anyone willing to help can contact the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, P.O. Box 62, Keene, CA 93531.

John McCarthy  
Honolulu, HI

I wouldn't have included the article on

Cesar Chavez [Fall 2004], unless you didn't mind the price of table grapes tripling almost overnight and that of iceberg lettuce increasing by at least 50 percent in a fairly short time, at least in Alaska where it already was really quite expensive.

Bill Oakes  
Anchorage, AK

Thank you for the article on Cesar Chavez in your fall 2004 issue. He was and still is one of my heroes. It would make me, my family, and friends happy to have the National Park Service honor Chavez in a significant, visible way. Please do anything in your power to help make that happen.

Susan B. Chase  
Batesville, VA

It is stated that NPCA's mission is to protect and enhance America's National Park System for present and future generations. However, your article in the fall 2004 issue ["A Hail to Cesar Chavez"]

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WINTER 2005

appears to indicate that you are changing your focus to become a left-wing political organization that has nothing to do with your mission.

*Richard K. Robinson  
Orlando, FL*

**Editorial Reply:** *National Parks* recognizes the struggles of all Americans, no matter how controversial or what their cultural background, as a humbling celebration of our national heritage. The beauty of the National Park System is that it reaches beyond pretty landscapes to encapsulate the human spirit and experiences that made this country stronger. Currently there are no sites celebrating contributions of contemporary Latinos. This, in our view, is an unfortunate omission. A monument to Chavez would go a long way toward amending that.

### Energy—No Simple Matter

In your fall 2004 issue ["ParkScopes," pp. 12-13] you praise the use of hydrogen as an alternate fuel source for Alaska's Exit Glacier Nature Center. The article communicates the erroneous concept that by switching to hydrogen, we can solve pollution problems. Hydrogen is merely a vehicle for storing energy, and the processes for storing and retrieving energy will always be less than 100 percent efficient. If the source of energy used to generate the hydrogen is a hydrocarbon, the process needed to produce the hydrogen becomes the source of pollution. Before making claims about benefits of hydrogen-generated power, please take into account the overall system and the inefficiencies of the multi-step energy conversion processes.

*Michael Ernstoff  
Los Angeles, CA*

### The Last Hurrah?

As a former seasonal at Mount Rainier and Crater Lake, I can attest that our National Park Service is facing the most catastrophic change in its history. Over the past few decades we have witnessed a concerted attack on the structure of the professional rangers corps through forced transfers and retirements of seasoned professionals—now the same is happening to the dedicated park seasonals as well. Emphasis has been placed on law enforcement and fire fighting at the expense of resource protection. Morale has plummeted as threats of private enterprise running everything from entry gates to interpretation have edged ever closer. This may be the last hurrah for great heritage of the professional park ranger, unless an aroused public demands significant increase in funding and a reversion in management philosophies to protect resources while providing enjoyment for the public.

*Roger C. Garrett  
Corvallis, OR*

### Correction

In the editorial reply to the letter "Bountiful Bison" in the fall 2004 issue, some information was misrepresented. Although Yellowstone National Park has captured and sent nearly 500 bison to slaughter over the last two winters due to the fear of brucellosis transmission, the Park Service does not currently cull bison. NPCA does not support the policy of hazing, capture, and slaughter, and believes that bison, like other wildlife at Yellowstone, should be allowed to freely roam inside the park and on adjacent public lands which they have a critical need for, especially in winter, when Yellowstone's high country is covered in snow.



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# ParkScope

## NEWS & NOTES

By Scott Kirkwood

## Western Expansion

*Legislation more than doubles the size of Petrified Forest National Park.*

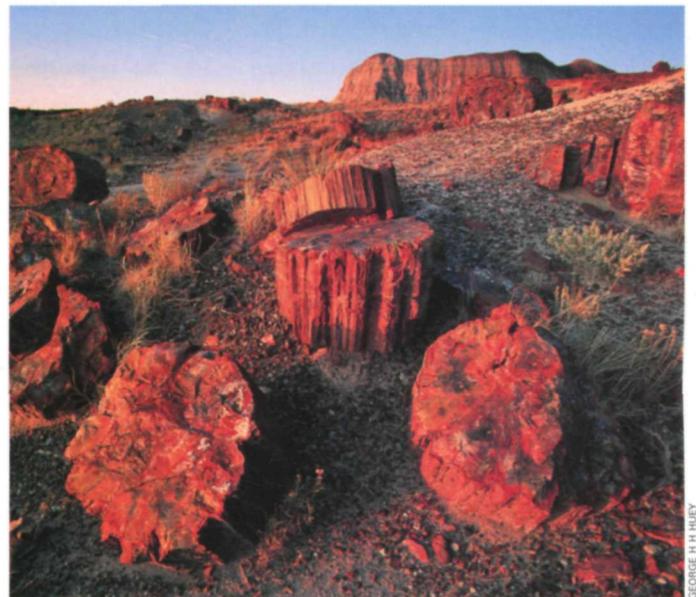
Legislation passed in the waning days of the 108th Congress has brought encouraging news to those interested in digging for natural resources in the newly expanded Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona. No, it's not the drills and heavy machinery of oil companies that will be moving in, but the brushes and trowels of paleontologists and archaeologists looking to unearth fossils and artifacts that hold the secrets to our own natural and cultural history.

Scientists have long recognized that Petrified Forest National Park is a treasure trove of unique geological features, a sort of time capsule containing historical relics that might answer mysteries about the Earth's climate and biodiversity. Legislation that recently authorized expansion of the park from 97,000 acres to 225,000 acres will open an incredible new area to countless visitors, whether they're scientists peering through a magnifying glass or tourists looking through a camera lens.

Originally proclaimed a national monument by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 and designated a national park in 1962, Petrified Forest was first set aside to preserve petrified wood, scenic landscapes of the Painted Desert, rare shortgrass prairie, and archaeological and historical sites that reflect a 10,000-year continuum of human history. But it soon became clear that the park and the land surrounding it comprised the world's richest repository for Triassic Period fossils—remains that may hold the secrets to the dawn of the dinosaurs.

Of the 128,000 acres included in the expansion, slightly more than half were privately owned; the remainder were in the hands of state and federal authorities. Most of this area was off-limits to scientists and archaeologists, meaning the only individuals with access were the landowners themselves and looters bold enough to trespass and make off with Indian artifacts and petrified wood.

"The discoveries made in this park in the last ten years are world-class, and we believe the additional lands will continue to increase this bounty of fossils, which have become a global standard for the time when dinosaurs originated in the late Triassic period," says David D. Gillette, Ph.D., Colbert Curator of Paleontology, Museum of Northern Arizona in



The expansion of Petrified Forest owes much to Congressman Rick Renzi and Senators John McCain and Jon Kyl.

Flagstaff. "This expansion represents a pristine opportunity for fieldwork, offering a unique environment for students and teachers in the earth sciences to get involved in excavations, geological mapping, and field sampling—all of the skills that are important in the field sciences."

What's more, the Society for American Archeology has said the park is national treasure, full of important sites that will contribute to our understanding of ancient Southwestern cultures, such as the tribal histories of the Hopi and Zuni people.

The movement to increase the park's size and scope lasted 12 years, and NPCA was a vital part of that effort. Much of the credit also goes to NPCA's members, who offered vital support through their donations, letters to the editor, and countless e-mails informing Congress of the importance of these lands. ❖

## CONGRESSIONAL WRAP-UP

Last year, Congress approved several measures that resulted in victories for national parks, including an overall increase of \$75 million for operations which included a significant, \$50-million increase earmarked specifically for individual park budgets, the largest ever. Congress also took measures that increased not only the size, but also the scope of many national parks. Here are a few of the most prominent achievements:

### Great Smoky Mountains

As an article in the Fall issue of *National Parks* noted, the Tapoco land swap in East Tennessee opened the way for federal relicensing of four power dams, providing low-cost power to Alcoa Aluminum, while protecting more than 10,000 acres of scenic land adjoining Great Smoky Mountains National Park. One hundred acres of submerged land within the park were exchanged for 186 acres of biologically sensitive land that Alcoa had owned. Alcoa also granted a permanent conservation ease-

ment on nearly 6,000 acres of land to the Tennessee Nature Conservancy, preventing logging, road-building, and other potentially destructive activities on the parcel.

### Harpers Ferry

In September, President Bush signed a bill expanding the boundary of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in West Virginia, increasing its size from 2,500 acres to more than 3,700 acres. The expansion includes lands where Confederate troops staged their successful siege in September 1862.

### Mount Rainier

Vital river habitat in the Carbon River Valley adjacent to Mount Rainier will now become a protected part of Mount Rainier National Park thanks to NPCA's lobbying efforts and the work of a Washington-area coalition of citizens and organizations. The 800-acre tract is a rare inland rainforest, home to threatened and endangered species, including salmon and the marbled murrelet, a small seabird.

# National parks

The Magazine of  
The National Parks  
Conservation  
Association

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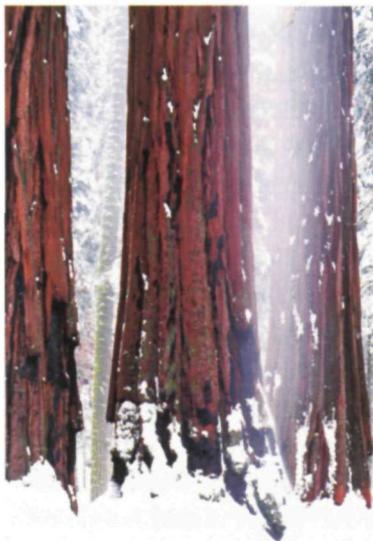


Photo by Fred Hirschmann

## News in Brief

**Chattahoochee River, Ga.**—The Fall 2004 issue of *National Parks* magazine highlighted budget cuts that put the Chattahoochee River in danger of losing funding for much-needed testing. Fortunately, a new partnership has preserved the testing program for another year.

Following severe rain, bacteria levels in the river often soar, increasing the chance of illness for those who come in contact with the water. For years, the Bacteri-ALERT website ([www.ga2.er.usgs.gov/bacteria](http://www.ga2.er.usgs.gov/bacteria)) was the only source of information about water quality available to area residents. When the Georgia Environmental Protection Division made budget cuts and withdrew its \$30,000 in funding, the program was in jeopardy. But Atlanta's Department of Watershed Management has joined the Cobb-Marietta Water Authority and the Cobb County Water System to make up the difference. For more information, visit [www.chattahoochee.org](http://www.chattahoochee.org).

# Thinking Green

*Park Service erects environmentally friendly Midwest headquarters.*

Just as the National Park Service urges visitors to take only memories and leave only footprints, it's doing all it can to preserve nature as it sets up camp on the banks of the Missouri, at the new site of its Midwest regional headquarters and Lewis and Clark Historic Trail headquarters. The new facility shows off advanced technology that's environmentally friendly, but also incorporates primitive design approaches that help the building fit into the natural landscape.

After 40 years in its previous facility, NPS had outgrown the space, and Midwest directors believed the long-

term savings made the investment in a "green building" worthwhile, and one consistent with the organization's mission. Fortunately, the city of Omaha was looking to reclaim its riverfront and attract corporate and residential development to an old industrial corridor, so municipal leaders offered incentives to developers, who were then able to pass some of the savings on to tenants. As the sole occupant of the building, the Park Service signed a 20-year lease for the space, which gave the organization plenty of say in the building's construction.

And that meant environmentally sound practices from the top down: The highest floor of the building features five huge glass bays and a raised ceiling with an abundance of natural light—as sunlight increases, artificial light is automatically lowered, maintaining a constant level of light and preserving energy. At ground level, there's not a blade of bluegrass to be found—native plants surround the building, and require little or no watering, thanks to containment ponds that capture run-off from the parking lot and drainage from the roof. In only a few months, the small wetlands area that's been created has already attracted animal life just beyond the building's doorstep.

From the moment employees and visitors arrive, they find a parking lot with priority spaces set aside for carpoolers and AC power outlets for electrical vehicles that haven't even been invented yet. And because of the way the building is situated on the riverbank, more than

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TOM KESSLER PHOTOGRAPHY/LEO A DALY



LEO A DALY

**From reserved parking for carpoolers to the use of unfinished wood, the building’s architects incorporated sustainable practices.**

90 percent of the employees have a view of the Missouri from their chairs—Greenguard-certified chairs, in fact, manufactured using sustainable processes, with recyclable materials.

But what do the employees think?

“We love it,” says Craig Kenkel, chief of cultural resources for Midwest Region. “The building has an industrial feel to it with the exposed concrete beams and natural wood, so it’s not a typical spec commercial office space. Its location on the river has a relaxing, calming effect on staff, who can look out and enjoy the scenery and the environment, which is constantly changing.”

In fact, the change in seasons has brought a few special guests to the building’s front door, helping the Park Service fit into the community as much as the building does.

“We had a wonderful summer and the plants on our grounds really took off,” says Kenkel. “One day, before our autumn frost, Lakota Indian tribal members came down and harvested sweetgrass for ceremonial use in the future. That’s the kind of interaction we expect to expand with Native Americans and others coming to the site.”

The building will also include a small satellite visitor center affiliated

with the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, so Park Service employees will be able to interact with the people who appreciate their work on a regular basis. The Western National Parks Association also agreed to install a bookstore adjacent to the lobby this summer, which should increase foot traffic as well.

And it’s not only park visitors who have been passing through—designers and architects from all over the country have toured the facility and asked about its features, so there’s a good chance this one-of-kind office building won’t be one-of-a-kind for much longer. ❖



## EXPLORE

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# A Slippery Slope

*St. Louis' Gateway Arch turns pink to promote breast cancer awareness.*

Last fall, the Park Service was faced with the difficult decision of choosing between a great cause and a great monument. Representatives from May Department Stores and Estee Lauder cosmetics approached officials at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis, Missouri, with their interest in illuminating the Gateway Arch pink to promote their cause. Estee Lauder had sought out similar publicity in previous years, illuminating major landmarks like the Empire State Building and Niagara Falls, but this was the first time they'd approached the National Park Service, which quickly rejected the initial appeal. Not to be dissuaded, savvy organizers behind the cause then turned to Congress, enlisting the help of Sen. Jim Talent (R-Mo.), whose mother had died of breast cancer in 1988.

As Talent introduced legislation to move the matter forward, Ernest Quintana, regional director of the Midwest region, issued a memo to National Park Service Director Fran Mainella noting his concerns that the move would likely diminish the significance of the memorial and set a troubling precedent: "If allowed to occur, the Arch in essence becomes a billboard to be used for purposes not consistent with the intent of the Memorial," Quintana said. "We have had dozens of requests over the years to light the Arch in a variety of colors

to support various causes, such as red for Heart Association month and a rainbow for Gay Pride... [and] we have successfully fended off all requests to date by citing the national significance of the monument. Many visitors to the park get only one opportunity to see the structure, and we believe they should see it as the architect intended."

The Arch became a slippery slope, quite literally.

"Our concerns are wrapped around the precedent that might be set," said Dave Barna, a spokesman for the National Park Service. "In a way, it's similar to people talking about carving another face in Mount Rushmore—these sculptures by these artists, architects, and engineers are also pieces of artwork, and we don't feel it's appropriate to modify their interpretation."

In spite of the Park Service's objections, Congress passed Senate Bill 2895 requiring that the Arch "be illuminated by pink lights for a certain period of time in October to be designated by the

Secretary of the Interior." President Bush signed it into law on October 20, 2004.

Once the decision was made, the Park Service was quick to throw its full support behind a special event that saw the Arch lit for several hours on the evening of October 25. Dozens of supporters and breast cancer survivors turned out for the event, wearing pink T-shirts and pink ribbons; many expressed the hope that women who saw the Arch lit in pink might seek out early testing that could save their lives.

But not everyone in the movement was happy. The National Breast Care Coalition criticized Congress's decision to focus on publicity efforts while the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act, seeking \$150 million in funding, continued to languish.

In the end, the controversial decision drew more media attention than the event itself. In the weeks leading up to the event, newspapers generally presented both sides of the argument and, in many cases, included public comments from visitors and editorials siding with the Park Service.

Even so, just as they'd predicted, the Park Service has received applications from other nonprofit groups hoping to advertise their cause, including a request from the Salvation Army, which was turned down.

In many ways, the Park Service was fortunate enough not to be cast as the villain in a public debate that pits it against a noble cause. But the issue is one that may pose a challenge in the future. Put another issue before hundreds of senators and representatives, and see how many of them leap forward to vote against breast cancer, or children in poverty, or AIDS research, and there's a good chance the nation's monuments may be seen in a different light yet again. ❖



**Should monuments ever be used to promote causes, no matter how admirable?**

# Relaxation therapy for your feet

*Visco-elastic foam has changed the way people sleep, now it helps the way you walk.*

by Leigh Ligon

**M**y feet hurt! How many times have you heard or said that...standing in line at the grocery store or simply while doing daily routine tasks? I feel like the older I get the more my feet ache. I've tried elevating my feet, soaking them in hot water and expensive massage therapy—but to no avail. That's why I'm so excited to tell you about my recent discovery—CLOUD 10 Slippers!

**How did a NASA invention save my feet?** From the moment I slipped them on, they molded to the shape of my feet like I had a custom fit pair of slippers made especially for me! The slipper's insole is made from visco-elastic memory foam originally created by NASA. This foam equalizes pressure, reduces stress and tension and provides incredible comfort.

According to the American Podiatric Medical Association, as people age, their feet tend to spread, and lose the fatty pads that cushion the bottom of the feet. Additional

weight can affect the bone and ligament structure. These slippers mold to the contours of my feet through my body's heat and weight, literally cushioning every single step I take.



*Technologically advanced slippers mold to the contours of your feet making each step feel like your walking on Cloud 10!*

Did you know that the average person takes 8,000 to 10,000 steps a day, which adds up to about 115,000 miles over a lifetime? That's enough to go around the circumference of the earth four times. No wonder we all have tired, aching feet.

I've heard about similar kinds of slippers, but I couldn't afford to spend nearly \$70 a pair. The Cloud 10 Slippers were a much better fit for my budget. The outer material of these stylish slippers is beautiful tan faux suede and they feature a cozy, fleece-lined interior and collar to provide added warmth. The durable rubber sole is perfect for my quick trips outdoors to grab the morning paper.



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- ❖ Inner sole is constructed from visco-elastic memory foam
- ❖ Body heat molds foam to cushion feet for maximum support
- ❖ Super-soft, fleece lining provides added warmth
- ❖ Durable rubber sole—perfect for quick outdoor trips!

If you have arthritic feet like I do, you suffer from inflammation and pain in your joints. Our feet have to last a lifetime and I've decided to stop neglecting the part of my body that keeps me mobile.



These slippers have a unisex design making them great for both men and women. I wear my Cloud 10 Slippers every chance I get and my feet have never felt so pampered.

**Sink your feet into luxury.** We are so confident that CLOUD 10 slippers will cushion your feet in complete

comfort that we will offer you a no-questions asked in-home trial for 30 days. If you're not 100% completely satisfied just return them for a full refund of the purchase price.

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## NPCA Notes

### HONORING PARK HEROES

In November, NPCA honored three of the park system's greatest advocates. Martin Hanson, the Wisconsin conservationist whose advocacy for the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore and Saint Croix National Scenic River inspired Congress to create the two parks, received the prestigious **Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award**. Hanson's lifelong efforts range from guiding President Kennedy during his 1963 visit to the islands to the creation of Friends of the Apostle Islands last year.

NPCA bestowed the **Stephen T. Mather Award** on former Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve superintendent Gary Candelaria for his dedication to the park, commitment to staff and volunteers, and efforts to ensure that thousands of park visitors enjoy a memorable experience. Candelaria is now deputy manager of the Harpers Ferry Service Center. At more than 13 million acres, Wrangell-St. Elias is the largest site in the National Park System.

Sue Fischer, a park ranger and exhibits specialist at Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument in Flagstaff, Arizona, received the **National Freeman Tilden Award** from NPCA and the National Park Service for her commitment to education and fostering stewardship of the national parks. Fischer's interactive educational exhibit about Sunset Crater Volcano engages visitors by inviting them to "make their own earthquake," learn about native species, and even see the volcano's crater up close thanks to a computer tour.

NPCA was also on the receiving end of an award itself: The first-ever **Association of National Park Rangers (ANPR) Partner Award**. The award was created to recognize an organization or individual that has worked alongside ANPR to accomplish a goal or complete a project that furthers the missions of ANPR and the National Park Service.

## Fending Off Threats From Every Side

*Diverse interest groups protect Glacier National Park from harmful energy initiatives. So far.*

Even as Congress and the president return to Washington and a political atmosphere that has many worried about the future of the environment, events in Montana illustrate the fact that diverse groups can quite literally find common ground in the national parks.

Home to more than 70 species of mammals and more than 260 species of birds, Glacier National Park comprises 1 million acres of forests, alpine meadows, and lakes. A hiker's paradise with 700 miles of trails, the park recently faced a number of threats from energy concerns looking to tap natural resources on its fringes. Although none of the initiatives would have breached the park's boundaries, all would have had negative effects on the scenery, animal and plant life, and the health of the waters within the park. And all have been turned back, so far.

"Glacier National Park is one the most high-integrity wilderness parks and natural resource parks in America," says Steve Thompson, senior program manager in NPCA's Glacier Office. "We have it all—grizzly bears and wolves, clean water and native trout, functioning floodplain ecosystems, and so on. The natural integrity of the land is high, but looking into the future, there are clouds on the horizon."



CHUCK HANEY

**Drilling outside of Glacier would have affected water quality, native trout, grizzly bears, and other species.**

In October, the Bureau of Land Management decided not to open up the Rocky Mountain Front for oil and gas development. A Canadian company holds an option to drill on the 100 mile stretch of mountains, but the U.S. government just shelved a \$1 million environmental assessment that would have been the first step toward drilling. The Bush administration took action after hearing from thousands of Americans, and in particular, hunters and anglers who believed the land was far too valuable to be drilled. Although President Bush

knew he had Montana's electoral votes locked up, the issue garnered interest among hunters and anglers nationwide, including Pennsylvania, where the presidential race was much closer. Now that the election is over, Bush could move to develop the area, but his constituency seems to have done enough to settle the matter for some time. The hope is the government will eventually buy out the leases or offer the company an opportunity to drill in other, less sensitive areas; the issue will be revisited in 2007.

In the Badger-Two Medicine area, a Louisiana company had planned to drill for natural gas in some of the best grizzly bear habitat on the continent, just outside of Glacier, but the land is culturally significant to the Blackfeet Indian tribe. Plans had already been made to begin building roads to gain access to the national forest land, but an investigation

unearthed an inadequate cultural inventory, which will delay the process for at least two years. For now, the drilling will be put off by a technicality, but the Blackfeet and other conservation groups are amassing political clout, and they hope that by the time one obstacle is removed, they'll be able to counter the next move to gain access as well.

If it weren't difficult enough fighting to preserve the sanctity of land outside the park's boundaries, imagine how difficult it is to stage that fight outside the *country's* boundaries. Initiatives to drill for coal-bed methane in the Canadian headwaters of Glacier had been moving forward, but a coalition of groups in the United States and Canada voiced their concerns over the effect on water quality, native trout, and grizzly bears that go in and out of the park. When the groups couldn't persuade the government to put

an end to the initiative, they went directly to the oil and gas companies involved, and asked them not to bid on the drilling rights being auctioned off. NPCA and other groups worked with local citizens to explain the importance of the land, the cost and difficulty involved in mining the land, and the potential public relations nightmare; to the surprise of some observers, not one of the companies bid on the property. Another auction in the future might prompt more interest, but for now the land is safe, another international incident staved off by local people.

And that's the best way to effect change, says Thompson: "Whether it's the local chambers of commerce, or the Blackfeet Indian nation, hunters and anglers, or weekend hikers, ultimately it's the local concerns and the local people standing up to protect the park." ♦



TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE NO DIFFERENCE.

Together we can keep our national parks just as they are. We need your help now—as an NPCA Trustee for the Parks.

Please call 1-800-628-7275, ext 219, or send your tax-deductible contribution of \$1000 or more along with your name,



address, phone, and email, to NPCA, Trustees for the Parks, 1300 19th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

# The Next Four Years

*A look ahead at issues affecting the national parks in Washington, D.C.*

Conventional wisdom holds that the results of the 2004 election portend disaster for environmental and conservation causes. To be sure, the coming months will pose some threats to the Clean Air Act, the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, to name a few. But what do the next few years hold for our beloved parks?

The election appears to have done little to change the landscape for our parks. Control of Congress and the presidency remain unchanged but the ideological make-up of the Senate has shifted to the right, and fiscal issues will continue to pose enormous challenges. But bipartisan support that emerged for the national parks in end-of-session negotiations on appropriations is encouraging.

In 2004, national parks defied conventional wisdom. Despite a strong bias against federal land acquisition, a broad NPCA-led coalition of ranchers, local officials, and chambers of commerce prevailed to pass legislation to add a 128,000 tract to Petrified Forest National Park (see "Western Expansion, page 8). And with bipartisan support emerging from Capitol Hill, the final appropriations bill provided every park with at least a 4 percent increase in base operating budgets. Not all the news was good, but we beat the odds and won real victories.

The coming congressional session will see new chairs of the House subcommittee with jurisdiction over the National Park Service, and new chairs on

the House and Senate appropriations committees. Secretary Gale Norton will remain at the Department of Interior, but changes are expected there and in the Park Service as well.

Much will be revealed in February when the president's proposed budget is released. Congress stepped to the plate last year to provide the national parks needed cash, but the administration's proposal will play a critical role in sustaining or slowing that momentum.

An important new addition to the debate is the National Park Centennial Act, introduced in 2004 by Reps. Brian Baird (D-Wash.) and Mark Souder (R-Ind.), and 18 of their colleagues from both sides of the aisle. The act will be reintroduced this year in an effort to eliminate the maintenance backlog in the parks and help Congress wipe out a \$600 million annual operating deficit.

The massive transportation overhaul that Congress nearly passed in 2004 also means big stakes for national parks. The bill that passed last year in the Senate included \$320 million annually for park roads and parkways, doubling the amount that current law provides. The Senate and House bills also authorized a new Transit in the Parks program to infuse much-needed resources into alternative transportation efforts across the system. Because no formal bill was enacted, Congress will try again soon.

Clean air will be another challenge in the coming year. The importance of a strong Clean Air Act is obvious to anyone who has ever visited Sequoia on a smoggy, hazy day, or hiked through the

Great Smoky Mountains when rangers warned that outdoor activity was unhealthy because of air pollution; that debate will continue in 2005.

Finally, rumblings have begun that political appointees in the administration may seek to modify the regulatory management policies that have governed the national parks since the year 2000. While this issue may sound rather legalistic, it has everything to do with the experiences our families will encounter in the parks in the coming years.

Congressman Baird has said that America's two most defining legacies are our Bill of Rights and our National Parks. Let's hope Washington treats them that way. —Craig Obey

## NPCA Notes

### GREAT LAKES RESTORATION

A portion of a \$5 million, five-year grant will be used to explore the feasibility of additional National Park Service designation within the Great Lakes Basin.

The grant, announced in the fall by Peter Wege of the Wege Foundation, will also be used to form a coalition of national, regional, and state organizations dedicated to Great Lakes restoration. Along with the National Wildlife Federation, which already operates the Great Lakes Natural Resources Center in Michigan, NPCA will take the lead in coordinating Great Lakes protection, especially in restoring water quality, preventing and controlling non-native aquatic invasive species, and cleaning-up areas of concentrated toxic pollution. NPCA will also hire staff to lay the groundwork for re-opening a Great Lakes "Heartland" office in the next two to three years.

Peter Wege created the Wege Foundation in 1967, part of his personal dream to provide for the future needs of Michigan communities.

# Congressional Park Friends Announced

*NPCA recognizes 238 members of the 108th Congress for their work to preserve and protect America's national parks.*

In February, NPCA will present its Friend of the National Parks award to 238 returning members of the 108th Congress. The award was created to recognize members of Congress who actively work to preserve and protect national parks through pro-park votes. NPCA also hopes the award will serve to educate its members about how their representatives vote on important legislation affecting our National Park System. You can thank your member with the postcards provided between pages 48 and 49. NPCA compiled votes for five national park-related bills in the Senate and six in the House. To receive the award, senators had to vote correctly at

least three out of five times (60%). Representatives received the award if they voted correctly on at least four of the six votes cast (67%). (Note: Members with a perfect 100% score are listed below in bold print.) The first Friend of the National Parks award was given in 1999 to 231 members of the 105th Congress; the second award was given in 2001 to 202 members of the 106th Congress; and the third award was given in 2003 to 215 members of the 107th Congress. For more information on the award, see the news story on page xx. To get a full report on how each member of Congress voted on these issues, go to NPCA's web site at [www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org).

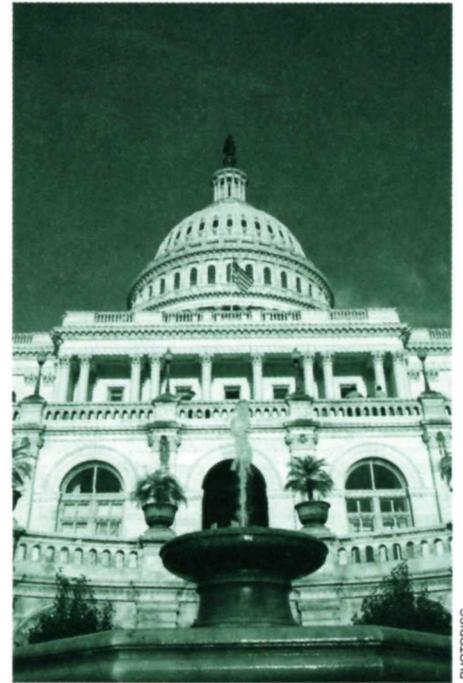


PHOTO: DISC

## ALABAMA

67% Rep. Robert Cramer (D-5<sup>th</sup>)  
84% Rep. Artur Davis (D-7<sup>th</sup>)

## ARIZONA

60% Sen. John McCain (R)  
84% Rep. Ed Pastor (D-4<sup>th</sup>)  
100% Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-7<sup>th</sup>)

## ARKANSAS

60% Sen. Blanche Lincoln (D)  
60% Sen. Mark Pryor (D)  
67% Rep. Marion Berry (D-1<sup>st</sup>)  
100% Rep. Vic Snyder (D-2<sup>nd</sup>)  
67% Rep. Mike Ross (D-4<sup>th</sup>)

## CALIFORNIA

80% Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D)  
100% Sen. Barbara Boxer (D)  
100% Rep. Mike Thompson (D-1<sup>st</sup>)  
84% Rep. Bob Matsui (D-5<sup>th</sup>)  
67% Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-6<sup>th</sup>)  
100% Rep. George Miller (D-7<sup>th</sup>)  
100% Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-8<sup>th</sup>)  
100% Rep. Barbara Lee (D-9<sup>th</sup>)  
100% Rep. Ellen Tauscher (D-10<sup>th</sup>)  
100% Rep. Tom Lantos (D-12<sup>th</sup>)  
100% Rep. Pete Stark (D-13<sup>th</sup>)  
100% Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-14<sup>th</sup>)  
84% Rep. Mike Honda (D-15<sup>th</sup>)  
100% Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-16<sup>th</sup>)  
100% Rep. Sam Farr (D-17<sup>th</sup>)  
100% Rep. Lois Capps (D-23<sup>rd</sup>)  
100% Rep. Brad Sherman (D-27<sup>th</sup>)  
100% Rep. Adam Schiff (D-29<sup>th</sup>)  
84% Rep. Henry Waxman (D-30<sup>th</sup>)  
84% Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-31<sup>st</sup>)  
100% Rep. Hilda Solis (D-32<sup>nd</sup>)  
84% Rep. Diane Watson (D-33<sup>rd</sup>)  
84% Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-34<sup>th</sup>)  
67% Rep. Maxine Waters (D-35<sup>th</sup>)

100% Rep. Jane Harman (D-36<sup>th</sup>)  
100% Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-38<sup>th</sup>)  
84% Rep. Linda Sánchez (D-39<sup>th</sup>)  
84% Rep. Joe Baca (D-43<sup>rd</sup>)  
67% Rep. Mary Bono (R-45<sup>th</sup>)  
84% Rep. Loretta Sánchez (D-47<sup>th</sup>)  
84% Rep. Bob Filner (D-51<sup>st</sup>)  
100% Rep. Susan Davis (D-53<sup>rd</sup>)

## COLORADO

84% Rep. Diana DeGette (D-1<sup>st</sup>)  
100% Rep. Mark Udall (D-2<sup>nd</sup>)

## CONNECTICUT

60% Sen. Christopher Dodd (D)  
60% Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D)  
84% Rep. John Larson (D-1<sup>st</sup>)  
84% Rep. Robert Simmons (R-2<sup>nd</sup>)  
100% Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-3<sup>rd</sup>)  
84% Rep. Christopher Shays (R-4<sup>th</sup>)  
67% Rep. Nancy Johnson (R-5<sup>th</sup>)

## DELAWARE

100% Sen. Joseph Biden (D)  
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84% Rep. Corrine Brown (D-3<sup>rd</sup>)  
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84% Rep. Kendrick Meek (D-17<sup>th</sup>)  
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67% Rep. C.A. Ruppberger (D-2<sup>nd</sup>)  
100% Rep. Benjamin Cardin (D-3<sup>rd</sup>)  
100% Rep. Albert Wynn (D-4<sup>th</sup>)

100% Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-5<sup>th</sup>)  
 84% Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-7<sup>th</sup>)  
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 84% Rep. John Oliver (D-1<sup>st</sup>)  
 84% Rep. Richard Neal (D-2<sup>nd</sup>)  
 100% Rep. James McGovern (D-3<sup>rd</sup>)  
 84% Rep. Barney Frank (D-4<sup>th</sup>)  
 84% Rep. Marty Meehan (D-5<sup>th</sup>)  
 100% Rep. John Tierney (D-6<sup>th</sup>)  
 100% Rep. Edward Markey (D-7<sup>th</sup>)  
 84% Rep. Michael Capuano (D-8<sup>th</sup>)  
 100% Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-9<sup>th</sup>)  
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 84% Rep. Carolyn Kilpatrick (D-13<sup>th</sup>)  
 67% Rep. John Conyers (D-14<sup>th</sup>)  
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 67% Rep. James Oberstar (D-8<sup>th</sup>)

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84% Rep. Nydia Velázquez (D-12<sup>th</sup>)  
 84% Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-14<sup>th</sup>)  
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 84% Rep. Bart Gordon (D-6<sup>th</sup>)  
 67% Rep. John Tanner (D-8<sup>th</sup>)  
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 67% Rep. Chet Edwards (D-17<sup>th</sup>)  
 84% Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-18<sup>th</sup>)  
 84% Rep. Charles Gonzalez (D-20<sup>th</sup>)  
 100% Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-25<sup>th</sup>)  
 84% Rep. Solomon Ortiz (D-27<sup>th</sup>)  
 84% Rep. Gene Green (D-29<sup>th</sup>)  
 84% Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-30<sup>th</sup>)

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 100% Sen. James Jeffords (I)

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 84% Rep. James Moran (D-8<sup>th</sup>)  
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 100% Rep. Jay Inslee (D-1<sup>st</sup>)  
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 100% Rep. Brian Baird (D-3<sup>rd</sup>)  
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 100% Rep. Jim McDermott (D-7<sup>th</sup>)  
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 100% Rep. Nick Rahall (D-3<sup>rd</sup>)

WISCONSIN

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 100% Sen. Russ Feingold (D)  
 100% Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-2<sup>nd</sup>)  
 100% Rep. David Obey (D-7<sup>th</sup>)

## Park Achievement Award Recipients

There are a variety of ways in which members of Congress make valuable contributions to our national parks. The list below includes recipients of NPCA's Park Achievement Award for work during the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress. These individuals received this special award because they demonstrated leadership on specific, uniquely positive and noteworthy efforts such as national park expansions, policy initiatives, and other park protection causes.

Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN)  
 Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D-WV)  
 Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA)  
 Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX)  
 Sen. Jon Kyl (R-AZ)  
 Sen. John McCain (R-AZ)  
 Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV)  
 Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA)  
 Sen. Craig Thomas (R-WY)

Rep. Brian Baird (D-WA)  
 Rep. Doug Bereuter (R-NE)  
 Rep. Alan Boyd (D-FL)  
 Rep. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)  
 Rep. Donna Christensen (D-VI)  
 Rep. Ander Crenshaw (R-FL)  
 Rep. John Duncan (R-TN)  
 Rep. Jennifer Dunn (R-WA)  
 Rep. Jim Gerlach (R-PA)  
 Rep. Joe Hoefl (R-PA)  
 Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV)  
 Rep. Rick Renzi (R-AZ)  
 Rep. Mark Souder (R-IN)  
 Rep. Jim Turner (D-TX)  
 Rep. Zach Wamp (R-TN)

Please refer to postcards between pages 48 and 49.



# NPCA's Park Champions

In February, NPCA will present its "Friend of the National Parks" award to 238 returning members of the 108th Congress. This marks the fourth time NPCA has recognized members of Congress who are working to protect national parks through their votes.

"The national parks need friends in Congress, and these people are among the best," says Craig Obey, NPCA's vice president for government affairs. "Floor votes are one significant way members of Congress demonstrate their commitment to the national parks. Another way is leadership on park-specific efforts, for which NPCA rewards members of Congress with its Park Achievement Award."

The award for each Congressional session is a framed reproduction of a

1930s Works Progress Administration poster of a national park.

To be named as a recipient of the award, the 47 senators had to vote correctly on at least three out of five park-related issues, including a vote to increase funding for natural resource and environmental programs such as national park programs, a vote for legislation to ban commercial advertising on the National Mall, and a vote for legislation to stop the aggressive outsourcing of National Park Service jobs.

This year's 191 representatives were chosen for voting correctly on at least four of six park-related issues, including a vote to ban the use of snowmobiles within Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks (twice), a vote to prevent the slaughter of Yellowstone bison, and a



KEITH L. JEWELL

Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) flanked by NPCA Board Chair Gretchen Long and President Tom Kiernan.

vote against legislation to prematurely authorize a highly controversial land exchange at Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

For a list of all winners, see the insert between pages 16 and 17. To learn about specific legislation and find out how your members of Congress voted on these issues, visit NPCA's web site at [www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org). ❖

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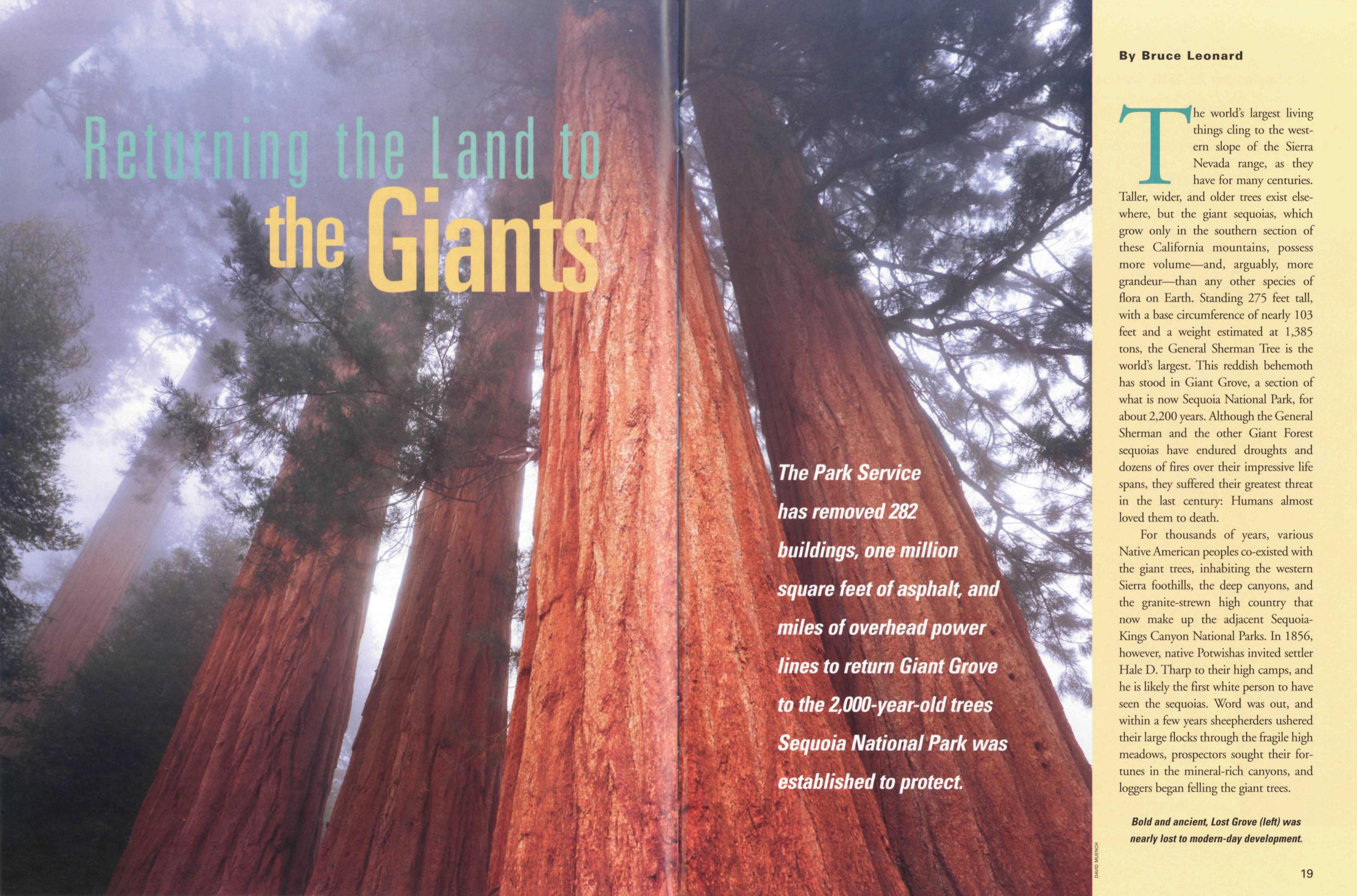
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I would consider including NPCA in my estate plans.



# Returning the Land to the Giants

*The Park Service  
has removed 282  
buildings, one million  
square feet of asphalt, and  
miles of overhead power  
lines to return Giant Grove  
to the 2,000-year-old trees  
Sequoia National Park was  
established to protect.*

**By Bruce Leonard**

**T**he world's largest living things cling to the western slope of the Sierra Nevada range, as they have for many centuries.

Taller, wider, and older trees exist elsewhere, but the giant sequoias, which grow only in the southern section of these California mountains, possess more volume—and, arguably, more grandeur—than any other species of flora on Earth. Standing 275 feet tall, with a base circumference of nearly 103 feet and a weight estimated at 1,385 tons, the General Sherman Tree is the world's largest. This reddish behemoth has stood in Giant Grove, a section of what is now Sequoia National Park, for about 2,200 years. Although the General Sherman and the other Giant Forest sequoias have endured droughts and dozens of fires over their impressive life spans, they suffered their greatest threat in the last century: Humans almost loved them to death.

For thousands of years, various Native American peoples co-existed with the giant trees, inhabiting the western Sierra foothills, the deep canyons, and the granite-strewn high country that now make up the adjacent Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks. In 1856, however, native Potwishas invited settler Hale D. Tharp to their high camps, and he is likely the first white person to have seen the sequoias. Word was out, and within a few years sheepherders ushered their large flocks through the fragile high meadows, prospectors sought their fortunes in the mineral-rich canyons, and loggers began felling the giant trees.

***Bold and ancient, Lost Grove (left) was nearly lost to modern-day development.***

**On September 25, 1890, President Benjamin Harrison signed the bill that created Sequoia National Park. Loggers could no longer chop down sequoias, but Giant Forest's trees were far from safe.**



*Engaging forests of white firs and towering sequoias drew tourists by the carloads.*

If the giant sequoias were to be saved, someone had to stand up to the commercial enterprises that were devastating their habitat. In 1875, naturalist John Muir made his way to the sequoia grove that he dubbed Giant Forest. A San Francisco newspaper published his accounts of his southern Sierra trip. The stories were both celebrations of the area's natural wonders and indictments of their commercial destruction. A few years later, George W. Stewart, a city editor for the *Visalia Delta* newspaper, published scathing editorials that called for fines or imprisonment for anyone who destroyed the giant sequoias. Prominent scientists and politicians, including California Gov. Robert W. Waterman, sided with Stewart, and the drive to establish the nation's second national park was under way. On September 25, 1890, President Benjamin Harrison signed the bill that created Sequoia National Park. Loggers could no longer chop down sequoias, but Giant Forest's trees were far from safe.

"Giant Forest...is a particularly engaging place," says William Tweed, chief of interpretation for Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks. So engaging, in fact, that tourists soon arrived at Giant Forest by pack train to stay in tent camps. A road stretched from the valley floor to the edge of the popular grove in 1903, and Sequoia tourism picked up steadily as the automobile age kicked into high gear. "People wanted to stay in the key feature areas," Tweed says. "If you went to Yellowstone, you wanted to camp on the side of Yellowstone Lake or next to Old Faithful Geyser. If you went to Yosemite, you camped at the base of the waterfalls.... And [in Sequoia] we have a road to the biggest trees in the world."

The public, of course, needed access to national parkland to appreciate it. "If the national parks were going to grow

ALAN WATSON/WOODRALL WILD IMAGES

and prosper, they [had to be] used,” says Tweed. “Because if they were used, they’d be loved, and if they were loved, they would be protected and cherished. That was the premise not only of the campaign to create the National Park Service but also of the next decade of national park management. It is both the key to our grand success and sometimes our worst, self-inflicted injuries. It cuts both ways.”

As the popularity of Giant Forest continued to grow, the commercial operations and the infrastructure necessary to accommodate the escalating numbers of visitors raced to keep pace. By 1930, four campgrounds, more than 200 cabins, numerous tent-top cabins, corals, a gas station, retail stores, offices, and dining halls catered to visitors’ needs, as did the water and sewer systems that cut through the roots of the giant trees. A sequoia’s root system is very broad but only about three feet deep, and each new building, every sunken pipe, and all those parking spaces that sprawled across the shallow roots weakened the trees.

By 1930, Sequoia National Park Superintendent John R. White had had enough, and sagely stated, “If we do not plan carefully and transfer the major part of the present activity away from the heart of Giant Forest, the beauties of that area—already badly tarnished—will be further impaired.”

His voice, however, was practically the single voice of dissent, and his advice was ignored. In fact, says Tweed, “Once in the 1950s and once in the 1960s, [the Park Service] chopped down large giant sequoia trees to make it safe to have cabins. We actually moved

cabins out of the way and felled the tree, then put the cabins back.”

Building cabins and the accompanying infrastructure not only damaged the sequoias’ roots but also required the modification of landforms, harming the



***The world’s largest sequoia, 2,200-year-old General Sherman, endured droughts and dozens of fires.***

area’s overall ecosystem. Rearranging the land caused runoff from rain or snowmelt to flow differently than it had for thousands of years, increasing soil erosion. Wild animals were either displaced or tamed, in effect, as tourists fed deer by hand and gathered to watch bears rummage through a garbage dump, an event sanctioned by the park at that time but prohibited today.

Petroleum products affected vegeta-



***Gridlock once defined Giant Forest, until restoration efforts returned serene wilderness and healthy ecosystems.***

tion, meadows, and stream habitats, and airborne pollutants from the populated Owens Valley harmed the trees. Numerous scientific studies decried the effect of tourism on Giant Forest and pointed out that the suppression of fires

was preventing any new sequoias from growing. Natural fires had for millennia burned away competing vegetation, opened the sequoias’ cones—releasing their seeds—and provided ash in which the seeds could germinate. None of these things could happen, however, because the National Park Service had begun extinguishing fires to prevent buildings from burning down.

Gridlock soon defined Giant Forest. Seventy- and 80-year-old buildings began to fall apart.

“It made you sad to see the litter and the volume of cars, the traffic going through, knowing the trees are so fragile,” says Jerry Eckel, who recently celebrated her 40th wedding anniversary in the park with her husband, Ulrich.

About 30 years ago, more people began to see the wisdom of former superintendent John White’s vision. A planning team in 1974 delivered a report that stated, in effect, that commercial enterprises should be removed from the grove. The Park Service consulted with the public, many of whom loved Giant Forest just the way it was. “The public eventually accepted the fact that we weren’t going to have a city and a giant sequoia grove last forever in the same place,” says Tweed. “We weren’t trying to get people out of the grove—we were trying to get overnight use and hot dogs and popcorn and post cards out of the grove,” he says.

The process moved slowly, but eventually backhoes lifted

pavement, and excavators removed concrete utilities. Long forks attached to loader buckets lifted small buildings off their foundations, and chains fastened to the bases of larger cabins dragged the structures to a central destruction site. Propane tanks were unearthed and removed, and mules hauled away broken-up concrete, later to be crushed for future construction projects. “We took

out...282 buildings, one million square feet of asphalt, umpteen miles of overhead power lines,” says Tweed. The Park Service built new accommodations outside of Giant Forest—at Wuksachi Village.

The removal of the Giant Forest commercial development, the restoration of the grove, the improvement of and creation of trails, and the building of

Wuksachi Village cost about \$70 million. Once the Park Service implements the shuttle system in the next couple of years, completes the new General Sherman Tree parking lot, and removes the old one, the Giant Forest restoration will be complete.

Despite the years of inconvenience caused by the construction around the grove, the public seems pleased with the result or at least understands the need for change. Annie Esperanza, air resources specialist and a 23-year park employee, says, “I have yet to hear any negative comments about us taking the buildings away.” Tweed, however, acknowledges a sentimental contradiction: “I believe you can both miss the old facilities in a nostalgic sort of way and be glad they’re gone.”

Tweed is proud of what the Park Service has accomplished. “We end up being the grand exception and—we also modestly believe—the great model, in that we were able to do at Sequoia Park what a number of other major Western parks have wrestled with.”

Tony Frary, who grew up in Visalia and visited Sequoia-Kings Canyon often, now works in Giant Forest Museum, a must-see interpretive center converted from the old village market. “Having traveled around the world a lot,” he says, “I realize what a special place this really is. There’s nothing like this anyplace else in the world, with trees like this.” He smiles, then adds, “You can always build a gas station somewhere, but you can’t build a 2,000-year-old tree.”



ATHENA DEMETRIY/NPS

**Upper Kaweah guest lodging is carefully removed during 1999 restoration efforts.**



JOHN ELK III

**Nearly 300 buildings were removed to allow flowering western dogwoods, white firs, and giant sequoias to flourish (opposite). The market store, above, became a museum.**

**Bruce Leonard** is a freelance writer based in California. He last wrote for *National Parks* about the California desert.

JACK O'RYEN/IDA



# Raiders of the Last Parks

*In a struggle that has elements of a Hollywood blockbuster, park rangers are matching wits with poachers in a battle over some of the most valuable plant and animal species on Earth.*



DAVID MURPHY

*Barrel cacti in Arizona's Sonoran Desert remain a prime target for collectors obsessed with owning rare plant species.*

**By Connie Toops**

**I**t's a dark night on a lonely road in a well-known Southwestern park. From afar, an observer watches a pickup truck travel slowly, back up, then return to the same spot several times. A passenger shines a flashlight along the edge of the pavement. The onlooker speaks into a cell phone, and a few minutes later blue lights signal the pickup to pull over.

"What's the problem?" the driver asks as a park ranger checks his license. "I just brought my nephew to see some snakes." In the past decade, reptile watching has rapidly increased in popularity in Southwestern parks—these may be legitimate park visitors. Or not.

The answer comes soon enough. The ranger spots snake tongs protruding from behind the seat, then notices pillowcases and coolers in the pickup bed. It's not the first time he's encountered sophisticated poachers who prey upon reptiles soaking up the heat from paved roads on cool desert nights. By monitoring air temperature and calculating the time of night and elevation, "herpers"

can determine where and when to find specific reptiles, and can make off with their loot in no time. They stash the creatures in camping gear, empty gas cans, even hubcaps; one park ranger discovered 25 ill-gotten lizards in a cereal box. Many sell their booty through legitimate businesses, others prefer the black market, and most network with other collectors via the Internet.

"Reptiles are being hit especially hard by everything from individual collectors to those who buy, sell, or trade with pet shops and online. Some are legitimate, some are not," says one officer who can't be identified because of ongoing undercover work. "People collect rattlesnake gallbladders, which are made into a Chinese remedy to treat lung disease; folks make tortoise soup for Asian weddings; and some cults use poisonous snakes in their activities."

During the past two decades, commercial trade in reptiles and amphibians has grown into a multi-million-dollar enterprise. Some reptile species can fetch hundreds of dollars on the black market. Rangers at Big Bend, Joshua Tree, Organ Pipe Cactus, and Chiricahua worry as



GEORGE H.H. HUEY

*Under the cover of night, poachers hunt reptiles, like this western bullsnake in Arizona's Wapuski National Monument, soaking up heat on quiet desert roads.*



*Pink azaleas frame a distant Linville Falls, enticing plant lovers in the Blue Ridge Parkway.*



CONNIE TOOPFS

*Poached for its medicinal root, ginseng proves an easy target when in bloom.*



JIM CORBIN

*Chief Ranger Jim Northup marks ginseng in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.*

collectors' targets, including snakes, lizards, scorpions, and tarantulas, become scarce in road corridors.

"Even though these animals are protected by federal law, many people don't [seem to] care if they disappear because they're not charismatic, cuddly creatures," says another undercover officer. "When someone sees a snake with the head or tail cut off, it doesn't always prompt the same degree of protection or concern as deer, elk, or bear. Our park doesn't have many big furry animals, but reptiles are very important to healthy desert ecosystems."

And reptiles are not the only targets. In other Southwestern parks, cacti are disappearing at alarming rates; in several Eastern parks, black bear and ginseng are being killed or removed; and elsewhere, rare plants are removed to satisfy collectors' desires for the most unusual flora. National parks are increasingly the destinations of choice for poachers—largely because they are the last sanctuaries for an increasing

CARR CLIFTON



TIM FITZGERALD

***Reptiles are not the only targets. In other Southwestern parks, cacti are disappearing at alarming rates; in several Eastern parks, black bear and ginseng are being killed or removed; and elsewhere, rare plants are removed to satisfy collectors' desires for the most unusual flora.***

***Killed for organs that sell as aphrodisiacs in Asian markets, black bears in the East are declining in number.***

number of animals and plants.

"Collectors are coming into parks because that's where the last populations are," says Jeff Ohlfs, a district ranger at Joshua Tree National Park in southern California. "Left alone, these animals and plants could reproduce and spread. We know from management issues involved in hunting and fishing, you don't shoot the last deer."

And as populations of rare plants and animals become increasingly scarce, poachers are turning to cutting-edge technology to find and remove them.

In a remote part of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee, a ranger apprehended a man suspected of digging ginseng, a plant valued for the medicinal qualities of its root. The ranger seized a hand-held global positioning system and walkie-talkie unit and quickly determined that the poacher made three previous forays into the park, noting locations where he saw ginseng. Rangers checked the sites immediately, but the plants were gone.

"Obviously, we're not dealing anymore with a guy in overalls, carrying a trowel," says Jim Northup, chief ranger at Great Smoky Mountains National Park. "We've known for years that illegal hunters listen to park radio communications via scanners, and as better technology becomes available, we need to keep pace with the poachers."

Despite a thinning in the ranks due to budget cuts and increasing duties, park rangers are fighting back by employing the same cutting-edge technology and savvy strategies to safeguard our national treasures.

Ken Johnson, a recently retired criminal investigator based at Shenandoah National Park, cites a pilot project in which database information from scientists is merged with law enforcement violator information to understand patterns such as bear and ginseng poaching, then predict where violators will be and successfully intercept them.

Ginseng is federally protected as a species of "special concern, threatened due to exploitation." The plant can be legally harvested with proper permission on private and some public lands, including three national forests that adjoin the Great Smokies. Prime dried wild roots from legal harvest areas sell for

\$350 to \$400 per pound and must be certified for transport across state or international boundaries. Ginseng roots constitute a large percentage of the \$7 billion annual world trade in medicinal herbs. Much of the herbs traded on the black market come from the Appalachian Mountains. Certain Asian buyers covet the ginseng roots stolen from national parks for their purity and physical appearance, important aspects of traditional healing treatments and use as an aphrodisiac.

"I can't imagine people walking into the Smithsonian and carrying away artifacts," says Jim Northup, yet he knows casual thieves and well-organized crime groups are stripping Appalachian parks of ginseng, goldenseal, and orchids. Illegal harvest of ginseng was so prevalent in the Smokies during the 1990s that rangers seized 11,000 illicit roots.

During the last eight years, Jim Corbin, a North Carolina Department of Agriculture plant protection specialist, has developed a simple procedure for tagging ginseng with benign material that contains magnetic coded marking chips and color-coded fluorescent dye. Together these ingredients produce an easily detected signature that infiltrates ginseng tissue and reveals the exact location plants have grown. Diggers apprehended with contraband roots are cited, and dealers who purchase them may lose entire stocks worth thousands of dollars.

*Visitors may never see the dedicated corps of uniformed and undercover agents who are guarding the cultural heritage and biological diversity within the National Park System. And that's a good thing—poachers may not accurately gauge their reach either, until it's too late.*

Teams of state and Park Service personnel blitz the Smokies annually, marking large numbers of plants in diverse locations, widening a protective barrier that is repelling poachers. “What we are doing is working,” says Corbin. “When the program began, we started monitoring a stand of young ginseng located where poachers would plunder it—those plants have since tripled in size. In the past three years, we’ve also launched a serious crackdown on ginseng dealers [including use of canines trained to sniff out the roots], and all of them have been compliant.”

Encouraged by this successful marking program, resource managers at Blue Ridge Parkway, Shenandoah, Mammoth Cave, Cumberland Gap, and several Canadian provincial parks are attaching similar signature markers to ginseng and other high-dollar poaching targets such as goldenseal, black cohosh, blue cohosh, bloodroot, lady’s slipper orchids,



IAN SHINE

**Horned lizards in Death Valley National Park are hot items in illegal pet trade.**

lilies, trillium, and galax. Similar technology has been tested to deter theft of petrified wood from preserves in Arizona.

Other tags are being used elsewhere in the Southwest to deter the theft of cacti, another plant under siege. The slow-growing plants take decades to reach landscape size, and the few nurseries that raise big specimens command huge prices for mature plants. In some states, cactus harvest is legal and regulated on private or non-parkland, but many of these areas are devoid of plants, so national parks and other federal preserves become targets for poachers.

Acting on a visitor’s tip, rangers at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Nevada, apprehended an individual taking compass barrel cacti and selling them to commercial landscapers; rangers estimated he had peddled a million dollars’ worth of cacti before being discovered.

The case prompted resource management specialist Alice Newton to develop a way to prove cacti were stolen from Lake Mead. After experimentation, she developed a technique for using sterile needles to insert passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags into cacti (the insertion point heals so quickly that



WILLARD CLAY

**In some Southwestern parks, cacti as large as Joshua trees are disappearing at alarming rates.**

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## How Park Visitors Can Help Prevent Poaching

- ◆ Take an active interest in the park and learn about threatened resources.
  - ◆ Be aware of illegal activities, such as the collection of reptiles or theft of plants.
  - ◆ Note physical descriptions of suspicious individuals. Write down their vehicle descriptions and license plate numbers, where they are, when, and what they are doing.
  - ◆ Do not approach violators.
  - ◆ Call park rangers, dial 911, or report suspicious activities to the visitor center.
- 

marked cacti are undetectable to poachers). These tiny data chips, the size of a rice grain, can be programmed with location codes. Using a hand-held scanner, nursery inspectors and law enforcement officers can read the PIT code instantly. A database contains the precise location where the plant was tagged along with a physical description. The cost of initiating the cactus-tagging program was \$37,000; scanners used by enforcement officers cost \$2,000 each.

In a highly publicized effort, Newton and a trained crew of Student Conservation Association volunteers systematically tagged cacti and stately Joshua trees throughout the 1.5-million-acre preserve. Follow-up surveys have accounted for 99.6 percent of the marked plants, which are still healthy and growing exactly where they were tagged. The work has provided rangers with good baseline data and the tools and techniques that law enforcement needs to make a case in court.

And working with outside law enforcement is key. Like many rangers, Robert E. Stinson, a district ranger at Saguaro National Park near Tucson, takes pride in making resource-related cases and never misses an opportunity to

network with staff from other state and federal agencies. He's worked to educate Border Patrol officers, U.S. attorneys, and magistrates, letting them know that collecting is legal in some areas outside parks but not inside park boundaries. With their help, the park has taken a number of individuals to court for significant resource damage. In addition to fines, violators have received as much as six months in jail, a sentence that makes it clear the Park Service is serious about protecting resources.

Cracking big poaching cases often requires long hours of surveillance and steely undercover work. For obvious reasons, those in the know won't tip their hands about ongoing investigations, but Stinson, a second-generation park ranger, cites the ParkWatch program—pioneered at Blue Ridge Parkway two decades ago, before being introduced to many other parks—as essential to Saguaro's enforcement efforts. The park sends an annual newsletter to park neighbors, including a business card with 24-hour emergency phone num-



*The lady's slipper orchids' fragile population status in the wild makes them a high-dollar poaching target.*

bers and tips on reporting suspicious activity. Saguaro also enlists help from many volunteers who frequently hike or ride horses in the park; most of them carry cell phones.

Visitors may never see the dedicated corps of uniformed and undercover agents who guard the cultural heritage and biological diversity in the National Park System. And that's a good thing—poachers may not accurately gauge their reach either, until it's too late. 

**Connie Toops** is a photojournalist based in western North Carolina. She has contributed articles and photographs to *National Parks* since 1977.

# A Warming Trend After a Chilly Reception

*Residents of Seward, Alaska, didn't embrace Kenai Fjords National Park when it was first created, but in the years since its inception, they've warmed up to the national park in their own backyard.*

By Bill Sherwonit

The Seward, Alaska, Chamber of Commerce proudly proclaims this coastal town 125 miles south of Anchorage as “The Gateway to Kenai Fjords National Park,” and locals are quick to sing the park’s praises when conversation turns to the topic. In fact, the community of 4,000 now so fully embraces Kenai Fjords, it’s hard to imagine that Seward’s residents once stood united in angry opposition to the adjacent 607,000-acre wilder-

ness park along the Kenai Peninsula’s southern edge.

The turnabout in local attitudes, along with the national park’s pivotal role in Seward’s transition from a resource-extraction economy to one dependent on tourism, makes this one of the National Park Service’s grand success stories.

Many of the people who today sing Kenai Fjords’ praises the loudest were once among its staunchest opponents. Pam Oldow is one. In the 1970s, she and other members of the Seward City Council and Kenai Peninsula Borough

lem recalling the reasons for his opposition. A resident of Seward for more than 50 years, Schaefermeyer is a former city administrator who now manages the Alaska Sealife Center. But in the mid-1970s, while employed by Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), he worked on a plan to establish a national recreation area near Seward, in part, to increase development opportunities; a park seemed far more restrictive. Like Alaskans around the state, Schaefermeyer worried that the Park Service would lock up local lands, cutting off access and halting economic opportunities.



*Viewing wildlife, such as humpback whales (above), provides natural thrills and boosts Seward's economy. Frozen vistas in Kenai Fjords (left) lure visitors year-round.*

Assembly passed resolutions opposing the proposed park. But the 30 years in between have changed her perspective.

“Oh, it’s a great thing, one of the best things that ever happened to Seward,” Oldow says. When asked why she initially fought the park, she admits, “It’s hard to say exactly why—I think more than anything, it was fear of the unknown, a fear that the park would somehow hurt Seward.”

Darryl Schaefermeyer has no prob-

“You have to understand,” Schaefermeyer says, “Seward’s economy was horrible in the ’70s. We were still suffering from the economic damage of the ’64 earthquake, unemployment was more than 30 percent in winter, and the town had a very small tax base. We were worried that a park would hurt the economy even more.”

Bev Dunham, a Seward resident for 58 years and founding publisher of Seward’s weekly newspaper, the *Phoenix*

## A Portrait of Kenai Fjords

**A**t the southern edge of the Kenai Peninsula, 607,805-acre Kenai Fjords is a place of abundant marine wildlife, tidewater glaciers, and the coastal fjords for which the park is named. The fjords were originally formed high in the Kenai Mountains as basins carved into the rock by glaciers. Tectonic forces created the narrow, steep-sided valleys now filled with seawater and accessible only by boat or floatplane.

High above the rugged coastline is the park's most dominant feature—the Harding Icefield. This 300-square-mile icefield feeds dozens of glaciers; six flow right into the ocean. These tidewater glaciers frequently calve icebergs, creating thunderous booms that can be heard 20 miles away.

Though they barely touch the park's outermost fringes, Seward-based coastal tours introduce visitors to glaciers, fjords, and a wide range of Alaska's marine life, from killer and humpback whales to sea otters, harbor seals, sea lions, bald eagles, tufted and horned puffins, kittiwakes, cormorants, and numerous other seabirds.

For all of Kenai Fjords' coastal splendors, its chief attraction is an inland glacier, reached by a nine-mile spur off the Seward Highway. A gentle trail leads to Exit Glacier's snout; the steeper four-mile Harding Icefield Trail takes ambitious hikers to an alpine overlook. Although most people see and touch only the park's outermost fringes, those who go beyond the coastal tours and limited trail system are practically guaranteed solitude in the wilderness of one of America's premier marine parklands.

Like most Alaska parks, Kenai Fjords has few visitor facilities. Park headquarters and the visitor center are located in Seward (907-224-3175, [www.nps.gov/kefj](http://www.nps.gov/kefj)), and a small walk-in campground and winter-use-only public cabin are located near Exit Glacier. Three other public-use cabins are scattered along the outer coast for summer explorers.

—BS

*Log*, adds that a long history of distrust contributed to local opposition. "A lot of the old-timers, including members of my own family, had been involved in mining," says Dunham. "Years before, the Forest Service had gone in and torn down or burned old mining cabins all over the Kenai Peninsula [within the Chugach National Forest]. People feared the Park Service would finish the job and destroy what was left of our mining heritage. So naturally there was a lot of resentment."

Two things changed local attitudes: The Park Service staff assigned to Kenai Fjords became the best of neighbors, and the park helped to establish a new, thriving

industry that put Seward back on the map—tourism.

Oldow, Schaefermeyer, and others point to Dave Moore as the person responsible for turning local attitudes around. Kenai Fjords' first superintendent knew that many locals resented the new park.

Although Moore says the resistance was palpable, he chose to embrace his new community rather than be defensive. He and his family became active members of a local church, cheered on their sons at high school basketball games, and joined various community organizations. Moore was also wise enough to put the park's headquarters in

town, recognizing that it would pull people into Seward. The park's small staff followed Moore's lead: They entered a float in Seward's Fourth of July parade, volunteered with local groups, and settled in as fully participating residents.

By 1974, Moore had earned the respect and admiration of the community, and the park's economic benefits to Seward were obvious. So when Moore asked a couple of local businessmen if the city might rescind its 1975 resolution opposing the park, the city council and borough assembly went even further: Members passed new resolutions welcoming Kenai Fjords and the Park Service to Seward.

The legacy begun by Moore was continued by Superintendent Anne Castellina, who arrived in Seward in January 1988 and remained for 16 years. Like Moore, Castellina quickly immersed herself in the community and encouraged her staff to do the same, and she, too, was embraced by the town. "Becoming part of things just seemed natural; I felt like I'd come home," she explains. "One of the things we [in the Park Service] haven't done so well is to recognize that while we're involved in managing a parkland, we're also part of a human community. We need to participate in that, too."

Admittedly, Castellina had the good fortune of inheriting a park without hot-button issues tied to subsistence and motorized access, a fact that smoothed the acceptance of park employees. It also helped that by the time Castellina arrived on the scene, the park had given Seward newfound status as Kenai Fjords' principal gateway. And locals had learned firsthand that parks are big business. Still, the best was yet to come.

A *New York Times* article on the park and Seward sparked tourism growth, and aggressive state-funded

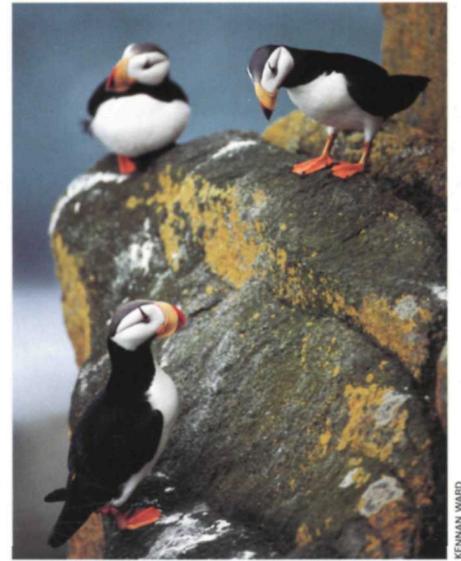
marketing also drew increased attention to the area. So, in its own way, did the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill: Scores of workers saw the landscape's wild beauty while based in Seward, a key staging area for much of the spill clean-up.

The numbers tell much of the story. In 1982, the first year that such statistics were kept, some 16,000 people visited Kenai Fjords. By 1986, Moore's last year, recreational visits had jumped to 54,000, and they pushed above 100,000 by 1991. Visitation continued its precipitous rise, to more than 200,000 in 1994 and 300,000 in 1997. The numbers have dropped slightly since that peak year, but Kenai Fjords remains one of

Alaska's most popular parklands.

An even better measure of the park's growing influence on Seward's economy is the town's coastal wildlife tour industry. In the years before Kenai Fjords' creation, only Pam Oldow and her husband Don took wildlife watchers out on the ocean. Over the course of a season, they might haul a few hundred people in their small boat. Nowadays, the three companies that operate coastal tours and associated lodges do more than \$10 million worth of business, taking some 70,000 passengers on cruises into the steep-walled fjords for which the park is named.

In 2001, a study conducted by the



KENNAN WARD

***Horned puffins are among Alaska's most notable and charismatic marine birds.***



***Seward's economy boomed when residents learned to filter adventure-hungry visitors through their shops and tour companies.***



ALASKA STOCK

*Downtown Seward in the early 1900s epitomized an industrial culture rooted in mining.*

*Seward's economic success story can be a critical tool in ensuring that national parks receive the staff and money they need.*

University of Alaska—Anchorage's Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) revealed that "most of the economic growth, particularly since 1990, [was] driven by the visitor industry" and "Kenai Fjords National Park is widely regarded as the primary magnet, along with recreational fishing, for most of this growth.... The national park status has also elevated the profile of Seward as a visitor destination across the country and indeed the world."

No economic-impact statistics are available from the park's early years, but using the Park Service's own numbers, the ISER report estimates that park visitors spent about \$6 million while visiting the Seward area

in 1990. By 2001, the Park Service estimated total visitor spending had more than doubled to \$15.7 million, with an additional \$6 million in secondary benefits. From 1980 through the end of the '90s, Seward's visitor-related job growth—most of it tied to Kenai Fjords—averaged 5.9 percent annually, compared with only 2.1 percent for the rest of the economy.

Jim Stratton, regional director of NPCA's Alaska office, believes that Seward's economic success story can be a critical tool in promoting the importance of ensuring that national parks receive the staff and money they need.

"We need to get business and political leaders involved in our efforts to properly fund and maintain parks," Stratton says. "One way to get them engaged is to demonstrate the importance of parks to local economies. We



*Harbor seals lounging on rocky outcrops in the fjords are among the many wildlife attractions in the park.*

can show it's worth the investment.”

Today Kenai Fjords is the centerpiece of Seward's tourism industry, the key to its economic health. In 2004, Kenai Fjords issued 90 business permits to companies operating in the park, from air-taxi services to vehicle tours and backpacking, hiking, and kayaking guides. Meanwhile dozens of hotels, lodges, bed and breakfasts, restaurants, rental outfits, and gift shops outside the park attract people in search of a wilderness park experience. Even former naysayers now describe Kenai Fjords as Seward's primary economic engine and a valued part of the local community.

It is certainly no small achievement in a state where many residents continue to harbor resentment toward the Park Service, former President Jimmy Carter, and the landmark legislation Carter signed that so greatly expanded the nation's wilderness parklands—the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, or ANILCA, signed into law nearly a quarter-century ago.

“I admit it, my attitude has changed 180 degrees,” Schaefermeyer says. “The park has been a marvelous success, and most people in Seward today would speak highly of having it here. Kenai Fjords has become the backbone of the economy and a source of pride. And its staff—from the superintendents on down—have been good neighbors, good friends.”

Anchorage nature writer **Bill Sherwonit**

is the author of ten books about

Alaska. He last wrote for

*National Parks* about the effects of

global climate change on Alaska.



*Exit Glacier in Kenai Fjords welcomes visitors in spring.*



# More Than Meets the Eye

By Amy M. Leinbach

At first glance, the rock gnome lichen may not look like much—a mere crusty, green growth, easily overlooked in the dramatic landscapes where it occurs. But this Plain Jane combination of fungi and algae actually boasts ancient origins and exotic family ties—and for more than a decade, scientists have puzzled over the causes of its decline and what the lichen's disappearance would mean for the national parks and the broader ecosystems where it's found.

A member of the reindeer moss family, the rock gnome is the only species in its genus to grow in North America. Its closest relatives live in the Himalayas and the highest mountains of eastern Asia, including Japan. Like other lichens, the rock gnome is thought to be among Earth's first colonizers, clinging to rock surfaces and dissolving nutrients in the soil, allowing other plants like mosses to move in.

Scattered along high, rocky peaks and moist, deep river gorges throughout the Southeast, including the Blue Ridge Parkway and Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the rock gnome lichen

was federally listed as endangered in January 1995. At the time, 32 populations were known to exist in the country—only seven covering areas larger than two square meters. Most covered about a yard or less. Since then, the total number of populations has risen to 49.



Evidence shows that certain human activities continue to affect the species' status. Hikers, rock climbers, and sightseers flock to Appalachian summits for grand scenic views and athletic thrills, unaware of the rare and delicate plant life under foot. "There are places in the

Blue Ridge Parkway where you can see footsteps where people have walked [on the lichen]," says Chris Ulrey, a plant ecologist for the park. "No matter how well we 'sign' a place—whether we use interpretive signs or more law enforcement types—people continue to go into these closed areas. If people really want to help, they should stay on trails and help us police these areas."

An elusive battle exists between illegal collectors and park staff stretched thin, unable to monitor remote areas where the plant occurs. Poached rock gnome lichen has a zero life expectancy, but collectors infatuated with owning a rare species harvest dwindling populations anyway.

Invasive species and dangerously high acidity from air pollution may play a role in population decline as well. The balsam and hemlock wooly adelgids destroy Fraser firs and hemlocks that play vital roles in balancing ecosystems where the rock gnome exists. Streambeds with dwindling hemlock populations lose shade, causing a change in air moisture. Because of the lichen's demand for a precise amount of light and moisture, it cannot adapt quickly enough to such abrupt habitat changes.

But perhaps most perplexing to scientists is the potential effect of air quality on the lichen. Former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) biologist Nora

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Amy M. Leinbach is assistant editor for *National Parks* magazine.

**“The more you look into the connections, the more you realize how complex everything is...and how desperately dangerous it is to let these species slip away from us.”**

Murdock, now a National Park Service (NPS) ecologist, worked side-by-side with Yuri Martin, a lichenologist from Estonia who travels the globe using lichens to monitor air pollution. As part of the FWS endangered species program, they performed intensive sampling from rock gnome lichen tissue throughout its southeastern range. Although end results showed no direct link between air pollution and the rock gnome, Murdock says that does not mean there isn't one, because “air pollution is a good guess for any declining plant.”

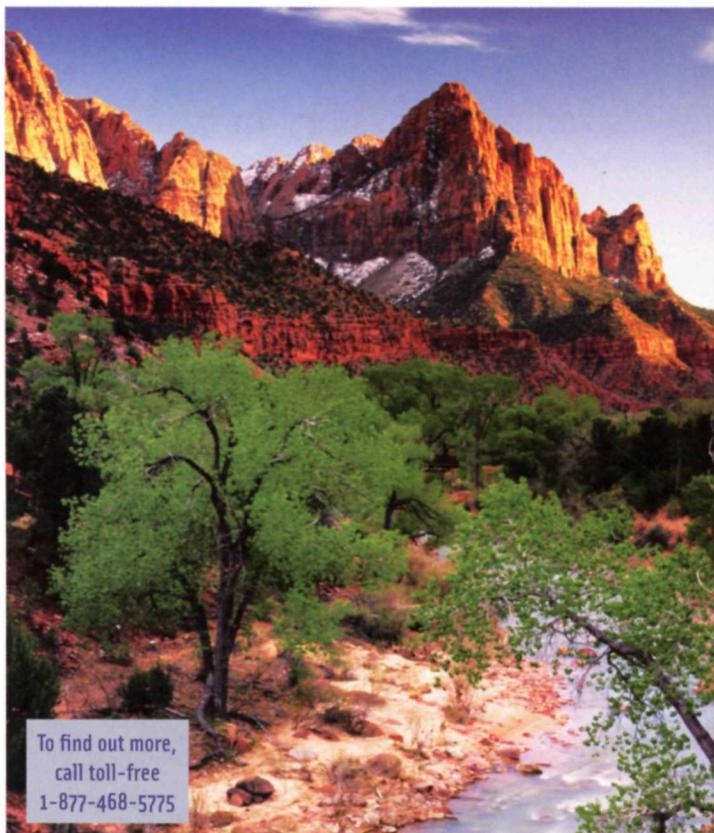
A majority of rock gnome populations exist at high altitudes, relying on the moisture from clouds. These clouds may contain large amounts of contaminants produced by nearby coal-burning power plants and vehicular traffic. According to the Park Service, local rainfall in the Great Smoky Mountains is five to ten times more acidic than nor-

mal rain, and clouds covering the mountaintops are often 100 times more acidic, resulting in increased damage to vegetation at higher elevations. “It would probably be foolish to assume that air quality does not have an effect on the lichen, but it's a hard thing to prove,” Ulrey says, mostly because such monitoring is costly and not an option with current park budgets. “Funding is always an issue with us. People should write to their politicians to boost funding for rare species monitoring and recovery.”

Until funding is increased, he says, the best park rangers and others can do is to protect known populations from visitor threats and strive to obtain the quantitative data they're currently lacking. Within the parks, Ulrey adds, pop-

ulations appear to be stable—but as air quality declines, the rock gnome lichen may decline with it.

“For the majority of people in this country, their day-to-day lives certainly wouldn't be impacted if the rock gnome lichen disappeared,” Murdock says. “But it's one more brick out of the foundation of the building, and we don't know enough about what it's connected to and what it's holding up. Maybe you can get away with pulling one brick out—but then you take another, and another, and at some point you take the final one. The more you look into the connections, the more you realize how complex everything is, how little we know, and how desperately dangerous it is to let these species slip away from us.” ❖



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# Inside the Cauldron

*Fireworks from the Hawaiian volcano, Kilauea, on the Big Island.*

By Scott Kirkwood

The very origins of the word *volcano* are founded in myth: Ancient civilizations believed that the lava and ash that erupted from the Earth came from the forge of Vulcan, the blacksmith of the Roman gods, who created thunderbolts for Jupiter, king of the gods, and weapons for Mars, god of war. Even as science has replaced the myth, volcanoes remain among the more mysterious phenomena in nature.

"It's very difficult to see what's going on under the earth," says Don Swanson, geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, working out of the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. "We can talk about volcanoes in general terms, but we certainly don't understand everything there is to know about them."

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**Scott Kirkwood** is senior editor for *National Parks* magazine.

Scientists know a lot more about volcanoes than they did just a few decades ago, but these geological marvels remain a mystery in many ways.

That talk has increased in recent months, as eruptions at Mount St. Helens, a U.S. Forest Service site, garnered headlines, and geologists singled out volcanoes within the National Park System that are primed and ready to erupt, including Mauna Loa in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. What's brought them to this point, and what prompts scientists to make such predictions?

Like earthquakes, volcanic eruptions are caused by incredible friction in the Earth's plates, miles below the surface, which explains why it's tough to record conditions or predict the timing of the eventual outcome. Most of the information that scientists can gather comes

from seismometers, which measure tremors miles underground, and global positioning satellites, which measure swelling in the volcano and shifts in the Earth's surface as small as a millimeter.

Whereas most earthquakes are the result of two plates shifting and rubbing against each other as they pass in opposite directions, volcanoes are the result of a direct collision that forces one plate deeper into the Earth, making for a more violent impact. When one plate is pushed down about 100 miles into the Earth's hot mantle, complex chemical changes result in new magma, or liquid rock, which rises to the Earth's surface.

ART WOLFE

Of course, every rule has its exceptions.

“Hawaiian volcanoes are very different from Mount St. Helens and all other volcanoes in the Cascade Mountain Range and most other national parks,” says Swanson. “The Hawaiian islands are situated on top of a hot spot, kind of a Bunsen burner that causes magma to rise from the moving Pacific plate above.”

Many of us have seen the brilliant images of Hawaiian volcanoes erupting, as bright orange geysers of lava bubble over the landscape; but most of us also watched as Mount St. Helens cleared its throat recently, spurting ash and rock into the air, even turning the skies gray for a few months in 1980. What makes these eruptions so different? Two major factors: the amount of gas generated by the underground activity, combined



GARY BRASCH/ORBIS

**Mount St. Helens made a few newspaper headlines in 2004, but its 1980 eruption dominated front pages for weeks.**

with the viscosity (or thickness) of the liquid rock.

“If you have a relatively low gas content and low viscosity [or thin liquid], you’ll get the Hawaiian type of eruption, with slow lava coming out and gas escaping,” says Swanson. “But with the opposite—lots of gas and viscous, sticky liquid—gas bubbles form as the magma rises, but they can’t easily escape, which can lead to a great buildup of pressure and a violent eruption.” Geologists like

to compare the mechanics to a shaken bottle of soda—the shaking activates the gases in the liquid, and as they emerge, so too does the soda. If the liquid is more like cold molasses, more pressure is needed to expel the contents, and the process can be much more sudden and violent.

In spite of the progress of science, myths and legends still have a place in the way many people interpret and understand volcanoes. According to early Hawaiian traditions, a violent struggle between the goddess Pele and her sister created the Hawaiian islands, the trail of destruction and renewal left in their wake. Scientists have even adopted the myth, in a way: To this day, long thin strands of volcanic glass created by eruptions on Hawaiian islands are called Pele’s hair, a fitting tribute to the Hawaiian goddess of volcanoes. ❖



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# A Forgotten Generation

The path blazed by the first generation of park rangers was nearly overgrown until one man stumbled upon it 100 years later.

By Shelton Johnson

I wandered into Yosemite's Research Library one day and was talking to the librarian when I noticed an old photograph. I took a closer look at the image and read the caption. It was a picture of the 24th Mounted Infantry taken somewhere in Yosemite in 1899. During the Indian War, the 24th was one of a handful of African-American Army regiments that became known as Buffalo Soldiers.

In 1903, four troops of the 9th Cavalry were among the first "rangers" as-

signed to protect Yosemite and Sequoia & General Grant (Kings Canyon) national parks. For me, as an African-American park ranger, seeing this photograph was like stumbling on my own family while traveling in a foreign country.

I had no idea that 100 years ago these men had been entrusted with the protection of Yosemite National Park. Although I'd been a park ranger at Yosemite for ten years, I had never read this information or heard another ranger tell the story. But there, staring at me

across a gulf of 100 years, were these black soldiers who had overcome obstacles that made my own challenges seem insignificant. Immediately I wanted to know their names, to find out as much as I could about them. Somehow, they had nearly disappeared from Yosemite's history. If it weren't for this one photograph, who would know or care that they ever existed?

Most of Yosemite's military history is fairly well documented. Before the creation of the Park Service in 1916, the U.S. Army was charged with protecting Yellowstone, Yosemite, and Sequoia & General Grant (Kings Canyon) national parks. With millions of acres of land set aside for preservation, the Department of Interior called on what was then the War Department for assistance—to protect Yellowstone's fragile geothermal wonders and ancient groves of giant sequoias in the Sierra Nevada, and to preserve the sanctity of the parks from those who sought them out for exploitation rather than inspiration.

In 1903, nearly 400 African-American soldiers made the dusty journey on horseback from the Presidio in San Francisco to Yosemite. During this time, African-Americans occupied the lowest rung on the social ladder. Most of the jobs available to "colored folks" were menial, labor-intensive, and rarely considered professional. Segregation was widespread, and lynchings were common. One of the few paths out of this morass was through the military: The Army provided a vocation, training, room and board, and a pension. It also provided a sense of self-esteem; the uniform provided pride in country.

Even though these soldiers had the same responsibilities as their Euro-American counterparts, the burden of race weighed on them heavily. On the one hand, the Buffalo Soldiers were sent to protect parks, routinely telling white



CELIA CROCKER THOMPSON (NPS)

*Buffalo Soldiers on patrol in Yosemite in 1899.*



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The intricate design of this coin is nothing short of fantastic. While the reverse shows the Shawnee Tribe's Coat of Arms, the obverse features a design of Lewis and Clark standing on a cliff surveying the way west as their guide George Drouillard points the way. It's an incredibly fitting design since Drouillard was half French Canadian and half Shawnee. Measuring 2½" wide, this large 4-oz. silver Proof was struck in .999 fine silver and it's so detailed that you can see the fringe of their buckskin jackets. It's struck to flawless Proof condition to really bring out the amazing detail. Many coin experts agree that it's one of the most beautiful Proofs struck in American history.

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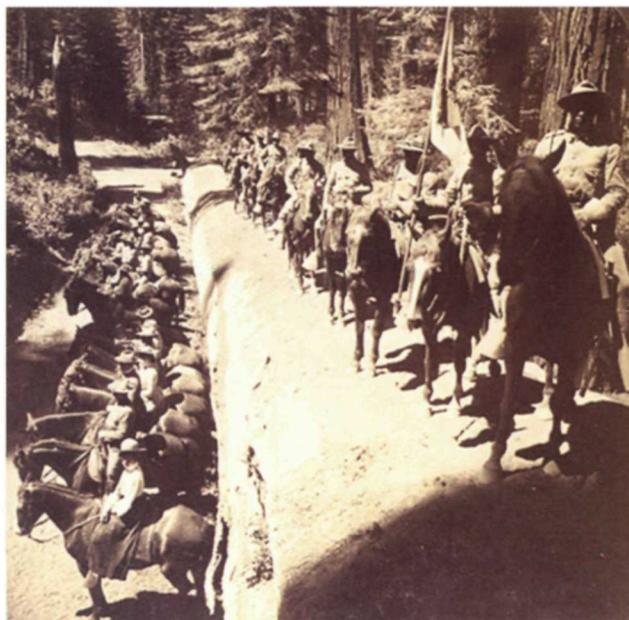


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visitors what they could and could not do. On the other, these soldiers were a part of a larger society that had difficulty seeing them as symbols of authority. In spite of these challenges, the Buffalo Soldiers fulfilled their mission. The discovery of these men and their mission inspired me, as a Park Service ranger who is also African American, to speak directly to them, to tell them that they weren't forgotten. The following "Letter to Dead Soldiers" is the result.



**Ranger Shelton Johnson (right) wears the traditional uniform of the Buffalo Soldier. Johnson discovered that black soldiers were stationed at Yosemite in the early 1900s and has incorporated their history into the stories he tells about the past.**

NPS (2)



Dear Men,

*Forgive me for not writing sooner, but I only recently discovered that the dead do not completely vanish from this Earth. I realize now that death does not come when the heart stops beating, but when we are forgotten. How can something as substantial as a column of 26 men riding side by side on a dusty road leave no imprint on the ground or a sound in the sky?*

*A century's accumulation of dust has buried the 14 days it took for you to travel from San Francisco to Yosemite. Yet, there you are astride your horses in a Yosemite that is as close as the open window of my office. When you arrived here, the stockmen noticed your presence and avoided you. Your arrival was of little concern to sheepherders whose flocks grazed on the parklands illegally. Those men knew the country better than you, and ran their sheep far from the trails you patrolled. A million acres is a lot of*

*space for men to cover. It was easy in your time to avoid the presence of other people, and to lose yourself in Yosemite.*

*I think that I understand why you joined the army. You had few choices, and a military career provided a sense of dignity, respect, and a pension upon retirement. I imagine the hardships you endured in America and in service abroad. You left loved ones behind who cherished your memory. You risked your lives so that the lives of your brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, would be better. You are more than just soldiers of the 24th Regiment of Infantry, and this story is bigger than just a chapter in Yosemite's military history.*

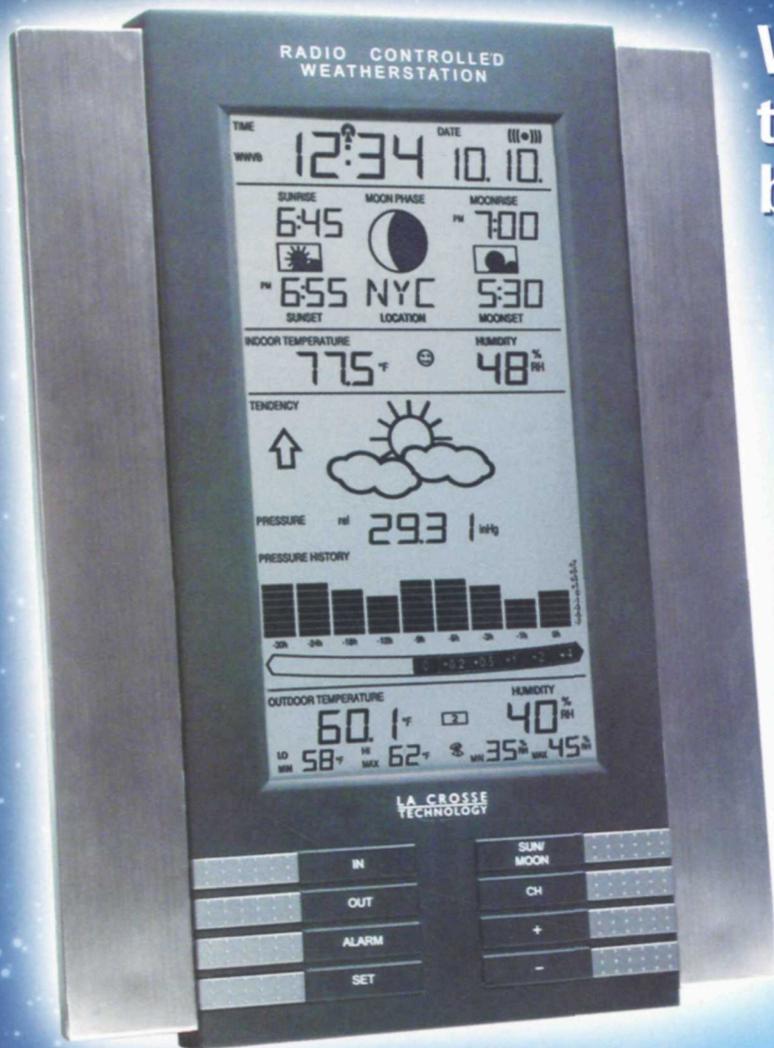
*How can I reach across 100 years and hold out my hand for you to take? How can I convince people that you are not dead but live on? Not just in documents and old photographs, or even in the park ranger uniform I wear, but as real soldiers surviving into the present? Because I choose to remember you, you*

*live on in me. I know your lives had meaning to black folks.*

*The deeper we gaze into the past, the better we recognize ourselves in other places and other times. You, who are soldiers, who are family, have given me that story. In so doing, you have ensured yourself a presence in Yosemite. Thank you for clearing the trail that I followed 100 years later. You cannot imagine how your passage has made my journey infinitely easier.*

This article first appeared in the Summer/Fall 2003 edition of the *Yosemite Guide* (Vol. XXXII, No. 1). ❖

**Shelton Johnson**, a Yosemite ranger since 1993, is a former recipient of the Freeman Tilden Award, the highest honor given those who work in interpretation within the National Park Service.



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excursions

# A Change of Scenery

*Hundreds of thousands of visitors flock to our nation's Western parks every summer, but the quieter winter months showcase their beauty in an entirely different light.*



*Frozen winter landscapes, like this Lake McDonald scene in Glacier National Park, Montana, provide a serene escape in the off-season.*

By Amy Grisak

The dazzling landscapes of some of our icon parks take on a new beauty when they're covered with snow. Some of the parks are best seen in the off-season. Crowds and traffic dwindle and in some parts of the parks, the only noise you hear is the sound of skis gliding through the snow and your own rhythmic breathing. The beauty of the landscape and the opportunities for solitude and wildlife viewing make it worthwhile to visit some of our more popular parks when they are snow-bound. Join us as we explore Glacier, Yellowstone, Sequoia-Kings Canyon, and Yosemite national parks in the snowy season.

### Glacier National Park

Although the park's main thoroughfare, Going-to-the-Sun Road, is closed to vehicles at the head of Lake McDonald, the park remains open for winter sports enthusiasts to enjoy on snowshoes or skis. Look for animal tracks along Lake McDonald's snow-covered beach, or venture up the Camas Road on the opposite side of the lake. The visitor center at Apgar is open on weekends, so park rangers can offer advice to match your skill level. The park's historic lodges are buttoned up tight for the long winter, but a few nearby inns remain open for off-season guests.

About 30 miles east of West Glacier, along Highway 2, the Izaak Walton Inn in Essex sits tucked back at the end of a long corridor of trees. The building was constructed in 1939 as housing for railroad workers, but for the last 25 years it has served as a haven for vacationers. With Glacier Park to the south and the Great Bear Wilderness to the north, adventurous guests have nearly a million acres of ground to play in. For those who prefer indoor activities, the comfortable



COURTESY OF IZAAK WALTON INN

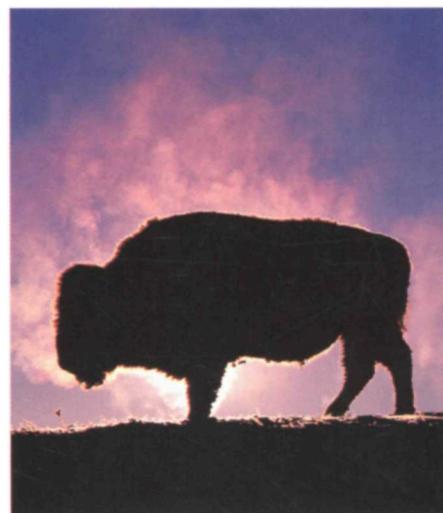
*Izaak Walton Inn sits on the doorstep of Glacier National Park's most remote destinations.*

chairs around the fireplace invite you to curl up and read a good book. Kids can spend time indoors, playing pool, ping-pong, or one of the many board games, or outdoors on an ice rink where skates are available for rent.

Situated one-quarter of a mile from the Walton Ranger Station at the southern border of the park, the Izaak Walton Inn is an ideal jumping-off point for those who wish to explore more remote areas. Near Marias Pass, the Autumn Creek Trail offers stunning views of the rugged eastern range and good opportunities to glimpse wildlife, including moose and coyotes. The Izaak Walton also offers winter packages that include several days of guided trips into Glacier and use of its groomed trails directly adjacent to the inn.

### Yellowstone National Park

If it's obvious that Glacier National Park was created by ice, you can just as easily imagine Yellowstone's fiery birth even when it's blanketed with snow. Hot pools and geysers gurgles through the icy landscape, creating a surreal vision of bison and elk enveloped in a heavy mist.



ART: WOLFE

*Yellowstone's bison take on a mystical appearance in the icy landscape.*

The best way to view wildlife while enjoying the quiet of the park in winter is on cross-country skis. Visitors also can enjoy a comfortable ride aboard a snow coach—a heated bus modified to drive over the snow-packed roads—or the ski shuttle, which takes visitors to various drop-off points. Rangers will remind you to stay on the marked trails and never approach a thermal feature: It might be tempting, but the surrounding ground can be unstable.



DAVID MUEJICH

**Geological wonders like this surreal geysir scene are only a snow coach ride away from Yellowstone's Old Faithful Snow Lodge.**

Located near the otherworldly steaming tiers of the Mammoth Terrace, Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel and Cabins are open from late December to early March. The hotel was built in the 1890s by the U.S. Army as part of Fort Yellowstone, which was established to protect the new park from poachers and souvenir hunters. It soon became the starting point for travelers. Now the hotel offers a variety of rooms with and without private baths, and cabins range from bare-bones economy lodging to suites boasting a hot tub on the front porch, where you can view wildlife while

soaking your tired muscles.

The Old Faithful Snow Lodge and Cabins stand where the employee dormitory once stood, but the construction in 1998 stayed true to the classic “parkitecture” style with large exterior log columns and a lobby fireplace that extends two stories high. The comfortable rooms are decorated with wildlife and rustic themes and are cozy in even the harshest storm. The best way to reach Old Faithful is by snow coach from any of the open entrances or Mammoth Hot Springs. Although the Old Faithful Snow Lodge can be great in

winter, the noise and exhaust from snowmobiles can mar the experience.

If the idea of learning the natural history and geology of the park while traveling with a small group suits your taste, join a naturalist on one of the interpretive programs hosted by the Park Service or those held in coordination with the Yellowstone Association. Participants can snowshoe through thermal basins, ski around geysers, and travel aboard a snow coach to the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone. Be sure to bring your camera, adequate clothing, snacks, and water. And remember, it's better to enjoy the wildlife from a distance.

### Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks

Although Sequoia became the country's second national park in 1890, it's still one of the more remote parks in California. John Muir called it the “Gem of the Sierra” and would have been pleased with the addition of Kings Canyon to the north in 1940. The combined parks boast the largest trees in the world, including the General Sherman tree, which stands 275 feet tall. The best way to appreciate these giants is to leave



MICHAEL H. FRANCIS

**Snowshoers trek across Yellowstone's Hayden Valley.**

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IAN SHIVE

*Sequoia's modern Wuksachi Lodge maintains the traditional look of the high Sierras.*

the vehicle at the lodge and venture out on skis, snowshoes, or, later in the season, on foot. By February, the foothills often melt off and unveil an early display of wildflowers.

Wuksachi Lodge is a new facility

located four miles from the Giant Forest, where a multitude of trails wind through the cathedral of behemoths. This fully modern lodge offers many guest amenities, yet remains dedicated to the traditional look of the high Sierras. Built

**Wuksachi Lodge is a new facility located four miles from the Giant Forest, where a multitude of trails wind through the cathedral of behemoths.**

from cedar and stone, the lodge sits on a rocky outcropping blending into the natural surroundings. From the nearby day-use area of Lodgepole, most of the trails make for a six-mile round-trip journey with skill levels ranging from easy flat courses to difficult routes filled with steep inclines.

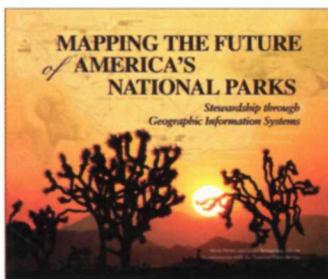
The John Muir Lodge, located along Highway 180 in the Grant Grove area of Kings Canyon, is an intimate hostelry with modern and clean but spartan rooms. The main lobby's focal point is the impressive fireplace graced with a redwood mantle, where folks often gather to socialize in a slower-paced setting reminiscent of a bygone era. The lodge is within walking distance of Grant Grove, an area of giant sequoias that includes the General Grant tree—the only living object to be declared a U.S. National Shrine, a memorial to those who died in war.

### Yosemite National Park

Even before national parks existed, President Abraham Lincoln granted the land in the Yosemite Valley to the state of California as a public trust. This land of granite mountains and roaring waterfalls takes on a new look during the winter months. Many of the facilities remain open year-round.

Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are popular sports in the higher elevations, and because much of the valley often remains free of snow, visitors can hike many of the trails in winter. Sledding at the Curry Village toboggan

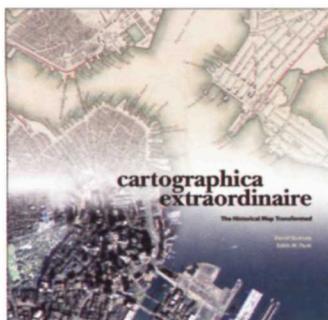
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hill is also an option, and family-oriented downhill skiing is found at the Badger Ski Area, 22 miles south of the Yosemite Valley.

The Ahwahnee offers first-class elegance not often found in the National

Park System. Built in 1927 specifically to attract wealthy patrons, who in turn supported park preservation, the Ahwahnee incorporates the use of rough-cut native granite and enormous panes of glass to complement the magnificent natural

surroundings, such as Yosemite Falls, which can be viewed from the dining room. The highlight of the winter is the traditional Bracebridge Dinner, a musical extravaganza and feast that has been held since 1928; the event is so popular, tickets are available only through a lottery. And if you visit over the holidays, make reservations well ahead of time for the spectacular New Year's Eve Gala.

If your plans include a visit to the southern section of Yosemite, you can step back in time at the Wawona Hotel. During December, this vintage hotel, built in 1870, is adorned in greens and holiday decorations. To soak in the beautiful surroundings, sit and enjoy the view from one of the hotel's classic verandas.

If you feel like stretching your legs, the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees is just four miles from the Wawona. Explore the area on your own, or sign up for one of the snowshoe walks guided by a naturalist. The beauty of visiting parks in the winter is the opportunity to go at your own pace and take the time to experience these unique national treasures. ❖



DAVID M. MORRIS

*Unique in its elegance, Yosemite's Ahwahnee historically attracted wealthy patrons.*

## Side Light: Belton Chalet in Glacier

Built in 1910 by Louis Hill of the Great Northern Railroad, the Belton Chalet served as the first stop for wealthy travelers from the East before their excursions into the newly ordained Glacier National Park. Hill's plan was to offer top-notch lodgings in remarkable settings to draw people out West via rail, thus boosting the family business. The plan worked, and within a decade Hill had created a series of elegant lodges and rustic chalets to accommodate adventurers hungry to see true wilderness.

As the rest of the hotels in the park drew attention and visitors, the railroad sold the property, and maintenance on the Belton quickly declined. By World

War II, the large dormitory area had been boarded up, and the place stayed fairly quiet until 1998, when the entire property was renovated by Cas Still and Andy Baxter. Today, the Belton once again lives up to its fine reputation. Located only three miles from Lake McDonald, it's an ideal place to stay.

The Lewis and Clark cottages are open throughout the winter. These private cabins comfortably sleep six to eight people, and each features a cozy fireplace in the main sitting room, three bedrooms, and a bath. The front porch is a great place to sip a hot cup of coffee on a crisp winter morning while watching



ANDREW GEIGER

*The Belton Chalet offers charming amenities.*

the trains pass by.

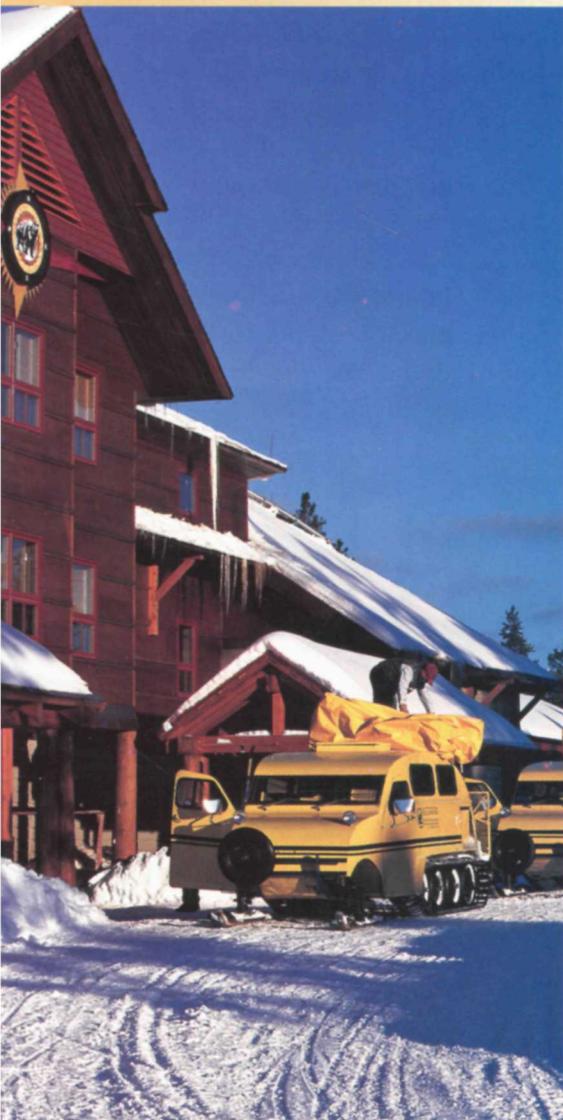
Beginning this January, economical on weekends in the main building. The dining and tap rooms are also open on weekends.

# Travel Essentials



COURTESY OF IZAAK WALTON INN

Guests warm up at the Izaak Walton Inn.



MICHAEL H. FRANCIS

Snow coaches offer a sustainable mode of transportation during Yellowstone winters.

**W**henever you're traveling to mountain areas in winter, it's best to be prepared. Be sure you have warm clothes, blankets, food, and water in your vehicle. It's also wise to check road and weather conditions before leaving home. Here are road condition web sites for each state:

Montana: [www.mdt.state.mt.us/travinfo/](http://www.mdt.state.mt.us/travinfo/)

Wyoming: [www.wyroad.info](http://www.wyroad.info)

California: [www.dot.ca.gov/hq/roadinfo](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/roadinfo)

More information about the individual parks, including reservations for lodging, can be found at the following sources:

Glacier: [www.nps.gov/glac/](http://www.nps.gov/glac/)

Izaak Walton Inn: [www.izaakwaltoninn.com](http://www.izaakwaltoninn.com) 406-888-5700

Belton Chalet: [www.beltonchalet.com](http://www.beltonchalet.com) 406-888-5000

Yellowstone: [www.nps.gov/yell/](http://www.nps.gov/yell/)

Mammoth and Old Faithful Snow lodges: [www.travelyellowstone.com](http://www.travelyellowstone.com)  
307-344-7311

Sequoia-Kings Canyon: [www.nps.gov/seki/](http://www.nps.gov/seki/)

Wuksachi: [www.visitsequoia.com](http://www.visitsequoia.com) 888-252-5757

John Muir Lodge: [www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com](http://www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com) 866-KCANYON

Yosemite: [www.nps.gov/yose/](http://www.nps.gov/yose/)

The Ahwahnee and Wawona: [www.yosemitepark.com](http://www.yosemitepark.com) 559-253-5635

A number of independent educational organizations often coordinate with the Park Service or park concessioners to offer courses in the winter. Contact these groups for course descriptions and class availability:

The Glacier Institute: [www.glacierinstitute.org](http://www.glacierinstitute.org) 406-755-1211

Yellowstone Association: [www.yellowstoneassociation.org](http://www.yellowstoneassociation.org) 307-344-2293

Sequoia Natural History Association: [www.sequoiahistory.org](http://www.sequoiahistory.org)  
559-565-4251

Yosemite Institute: [www.yni.org/yi/](http://www.yni.org/yi/) 209-379-9511

NPCA's ParkScapes Travel Program offers tours throughout the year, including a New Year's in Yellowstone trip in late December. Other 2005 departures that include stays at grand lodges are *Spring Wildlife: Grand Tetons and Yellowstone*, May 27-June 2 and *From Glacier to the Rocky Mountains*, August 18-24. Please call or e-mail Clint Walz for more details on the ParkScapes Travel Program at: 1-800-628-7275, ext. 219 or [cwalz@npca.org](mailto:cwalz@npca.org).

**Amy Grisak** is a freelance writer living in Kalispell, Montana, near Glacier National Park.



# U.S. GOVERNMENT BUFFALO SILVER DOLLAR



## RECREATED FOR ONLY \$9.95 AS A .999 PURE SILVER PLATED PROOF

NEW YORK, Tuesday, 8:55 AM – Today history is being made! The National Collector's Mint announces the private reproduction minting of America's only Buffalo Silver Dollar. It was the first time James E. Fraser's Buffalo and Indian Head design ever appeared on any coin, since the famous Buffalo Nickel was last minted in 1938, making our non-legal tender private minting a collectible milestone.

The U.S. Gov't Buffalo Silver Dollar is much rarer than the Golden Sacagawea Dollar. And, the mintage of your extraordinary **2005 Buffalo Proof** will be even smaller. This magnificent proof features the beautiful frosted American Buffalo against a mirror-like background on the reverse. On the obverse, the classic Indian Head design stands out in striking relief.

### DISCOUNT PRICE

The issue's final price will be set at \$35 for each proof. But, during this special striking period, this .999 Pure Silver plated reproduction can be yours for only \$9.95. But you must act NOW to take advantage of this special opportunity offer! THIS OFFER MAY BE WITHDRAWN AT ANY TIME WITHOUT NOTICE AT THE SOLE DISCRETION OF NCM.

Each **2005 Buffalo Proof** comes with a Certificate of Authenticity and is individually numbered. Distribution will take place in registration number order. So, the earliest orders receive the lowest registration numbers. A deluxe velvet presentation case is available for an additional charge.

### SPECIFICATIONS

Composition:..... .999 Pure Silver-Plated Bronze  
Weight: .....~1oz. avdp  
Diameter: .....Standard 39MM Silver Dollar Size  
Condition: .....Individually Struck Proof  
Registration:.....By number in ascending order

### STRICT LIMIT

There is a strict limit of five Proofs per order. Orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Nonetheless, if the **2005 Buffalo Proof** is not everything we promised, send back your order within 30 days by insured mail and we'll promptly refund your purchase price. Your satisfaction is guaranteed.

### HOW TO ORDER

Call now to ensure availability, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with your

credit card or we'll take your check by phone. **Call Toll-Free 1-888-NAT-MINT, Ext. 4847** (1-888-628-6468). Timely mail orders will be accepted if directed to: National Collector's Mint, Dept. 4847, 8 Slater St., Port Chester, NY 10573. Prompt orders get shipped first, while late orders may be delayed due to availability, so please act now.

You may order one **2005 Buffalo Proof** for \$9.95 plus \$2.50 shipping, handling & insurance, 3 for only \$35 ppd., or 5 for only \$55 ppd. Deluxe velvet presentation case is only \$3.50 each ppd. So, don't delay. Avoid disappointment and future regret. **ACT NOW!**

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# Spring and Summer Vacation Planner

## Explore the Chesapeake Bay with American Cruise Lines

Often called the cradle of American History, the shores of the Chesapeake Bay have something to offer every traveler. And now, with American Cruise Lines' Chesapeake Bay cruise, it's easy to explore the riches of these shores—from carefully preserved Colonial-era seaports boasting exquisite period architecture, to museums and attractions devoted to U.S. culture and history.

Onboard these brand-new vessels, passengers enjoy the ultimate amenities in small ship cruising: spacious staterooms with private bathrooms, verandas and large opening picture windows; fine cuisine and

complimentary cocktail hours;

and onboard lectures by renowned historians and naturalists. These ships carry no more than 98 passengers, and can navigate the small rivers and inlets of the Chesapeake Bay to provide travelers with a unique perspective on the area. Opportunities for discovery abound at each port-of-call—from the premier living history site of Williamsburg, VA, to the charming island of Tangier, to the beautifully preserved villages of Cambridge, Oxford and St. Michaels. And along the water, passengers can observe Skipjacks, schooners and classic Baltimore clippers dotting the shore.

Other points of interest include the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, featuring the Hooper Strait Lighthouse, and the Yorktown Victory

Center, dedicated to the events leading up to the victory at the Battle of Yorktown. And, of course, this tour would not be complete without a visit to Annapolis and the magnificent campus of the U.S. Naval Academy.



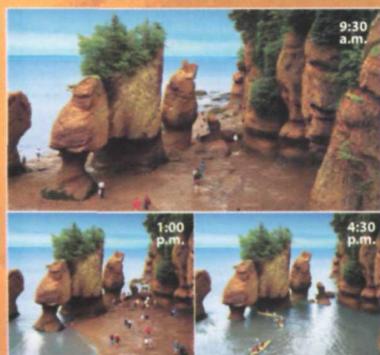
# What would you say to a walk on the ocean floor...

*The World's Highest Tides. Some of the oldest mountains on the planet. Rivers that stretch from breathtaking to beautiful! Whales, dunes, wildlife and a whole lot more. From the preserved sanctuaries of our National and Provincial Parks to spectacular natural sites, we welcome you to discover the wonder, next door in New Brunswick, Canada!*

# say awe

## Experience the Bay of Fundy... One of the Marine Wonders of the World!

Get down to the depth of things and take a walk on the ocean floor! It's possible here at the phenomenal Hopewell Rocks, home of the World's Highest Tides. With tides rising and falling the height of a



Tide times vary daily.  
The Hopewell Rocks, Hopewell Cape

four-storey building twice a day, everyday, they just beg for observation. Nature is not only at your fingertips, it is right at the tips of your toes! Explore the base of massive flowerpot rocks on the ocean floor that expose millions of years of evolution, then six hours later kayak above the very same spot!

It's an amazing Natural Wonder to witness, but there's more! The constant

stirring of the nutrient-rich waters causes an immense bloom of plankton, feeding over 15 species of whales. Witness some of the best whale-watching on Canada's East Coast along with 95% of the world's semi-palmated sandpipers, who rely on the Bay of Fundy mudflats for their survival. An awesome show of wildlife with an even bigger backdrop of natural beauty!

## Tour Two Spectacular National Parks!

New Brunswick is home to two of Canada's National Parks. In Fundy National Park, the World's Highest Tides host a rich marine ecosystem, teeming with birds and all kinds of plant life. From lush inland forests to towering seaside cliffs, it's 80 square miles (206 square km) of wonder! Hike nearly 78 miles (125 km) of incredible trails past hidden waterfalls, through deep river valleys and along awesome coastal vistas. Relax in a heated saltwater pool, take in a round of golf and learn the mysteries of the Bay of Fundy at the interpretation centre. At the end of the day, camp at first-rate facilities.

One of the wonders of the Acadian coast is Kouchibouguac National Park! Endless stretches of sand dunes, fragile grasslands, and incredibly warm water are the hallmarks of this park. Kayak past a herd of seals sunning on a sandbar. Follow a series of boardwalks to some of the warmest saltwater north of Virginia! The water is so warm that the lagoon here has been known to reach up to a high of 78.8°F (26°C)! It's a birdwatcher's delight with pristine forests and sprawling nesting grounds for hundreds of species of birds, in a near-perfectly preserved ecosystem.



Fundy National Park of Canada,  
Alma

## Provincial Parks, Natural Sites and Endless Trails...

From touring the oldest mountain range in North America to canoeing the mighty Miramichi River, New Brunswick has nine provincial parks, countless natural sites, incredible inland rivers and waterways, plus a vast network of trails to take you to each and every wonder! Experience one of the last remaining sand dunes on the northeastern coast of North America at the Irving Eco-Centre, La Dune de Bouctouche. Explore the sandy coast of Miscou Island, where the oldest wooden lighthouse in the Maritimes is still in

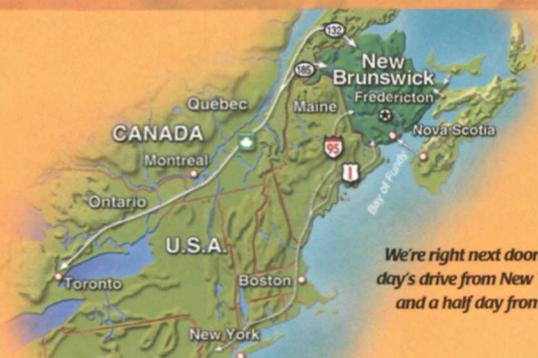


Irving Eco-Centre, La Dune de  
Bouctouche, Saint-Edouard-de-Kent

operation. From island retreats, horticultural wonders, coastal crags and panoramic mountainous views, the incredible amount of diversity you can find within each provincial park is as distinct as the nature that surrounds them. And there's more! Stroll down historic city streets.

Enjoy fabulous lobster dinners, shopping for local crafts and a vibrant nightlife pulsing with live entertainment! From four-star hotels to seaside B&Bs, we have all the modern amenities you need to round out your vacation!

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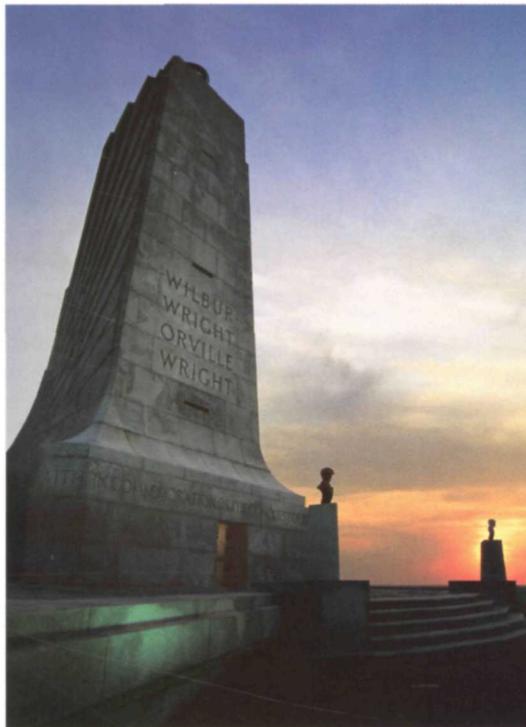
Check out our neighbours at  
[www.TourismNewBrunswick.ca/Neighbours](http://www.TourismNewBrunswick.ca/Neighbours)



# Spring and Summer Vacation Planner

## Visit The Outer Banks of North Carolina

Nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts will find paradise on the chain of barrier islands known as The Outer Banks of North Carolina. Well known as the birthplace of flight, this destination offers six parks and wildlife areas, including: Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the nation's first national seashore; Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, an enclave for some of the country's best bird-watching and home to over 400 species of birds; Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge, a wildlife refuge including more than 150,000 acres of wetland habitats; and Nags Head Woods Ecological Preserve, one of the best remaining examples of a mid-Atlantic maritime forest with deciduous hardwoods.



## See Alaska via rail



The best way to see Alaska is on the railroad. The Alaska Railroad has several new features planned for 2005, including an Arctic Circle to Glacier Bay travel package and the addition of GoldStar Service, featuring first-class train cars on the Denali Star. Enjoy the comfort of forward-facing seats and classic recliners while viewing the breathtaking wilderness from our outdoor viewing areas. Daily summer train adventures include Anchorage, Talkeetna, Fairbanks, Whittier and Seward. Find more information or download the 2005 passenger brochure at [www.AlaskaRailroad.com](http://www.AlaskaRailroad.com), or call (800) 544-0552.

## Tour the Swiss Alps



Alpine Adventure Trails Tours Inc., the Swiss Alps specialist, has led day hikers exclusively in the Swiss Alps since 1977. The tours base weekly in small three- and four-star family-owned and operated Swiss inns with fine cuisine; and day hike the surrounding area. One- and two-week trips are offered, with a maximum of 15 guests, and each has a choice of two hikes daily—one moderate, one more strenuous. A new tour offering this year is the Isle of Skye, Scotland. For more information, contact an owner guide at (888) 478-4004, e-mail [alpine@swisshiking.com](mailto:alpine@swisshiking.com) or visit us online at [www.swisshiking.com](http://www.swisshiking.com).

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WHERE DREAMS STILL TAKE FLIGHT.  
[outerbanks.org](http://outerbanks.org)

## Sunline's new Tran-Sport packs plenty of features

The all-new Tran-Sport is everything you'd expect in a Sunline and more. This model line offers a comfortable, feature-packed living space coupled with a cargo area that is sized for active lifestyles. Light in weight, Tran-Sport is the perfect towing companion for smaller vehicles. Consider it a travel trailer with a TON of extra storage.

The first Tran-Sport model, the T-2675, has an industry-first side-entry ramp accessing the rear cargo area – perfect for motorcycles, ATVs or bicycles – and an optional set of flip down bunks for



extra sleeping space is available.

The Tran-Sport packs plenty into a compact space. The living area is spacious and inviting, as is the functional kitchen area and walk-thru bath, and a powerful furnace and air conditioner will keep you comfortable in any season.

With all of the standard features, the T-2675's MSRP is \$24,900. Look for a Sunline Tran-Sport and Sunline's 40th anniver-

sary travel trailer models at a 2005 RV show near you, or visit their web site, [www.sunlinerv.com](http://www.sunlinerv.com), to view QTVR interiors, take a plant tour or visit the company's "show-room" of models.

For more information or to request a Trans-Sport flyer or Travel Trailer brochure, Sunline can also be reached via e-mail: [info@sunlinerv.com](mailto:info@sunlinerv.com); phone: (717) 336-2858; or by mail: 245 S. Muddy Creek Rd., Denver, PA 17517.



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Discover freedom from the demands of your world...check out our world 24/7 at [sunlinerv.com](http://sunlinerv.com). Request a 2005 brochure, locate your nearest dealer, view QTVRs of model interiors and more.

[sunlinerv.com](http://sunlinerv.com)

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# Spring and Summer Vacation Planner

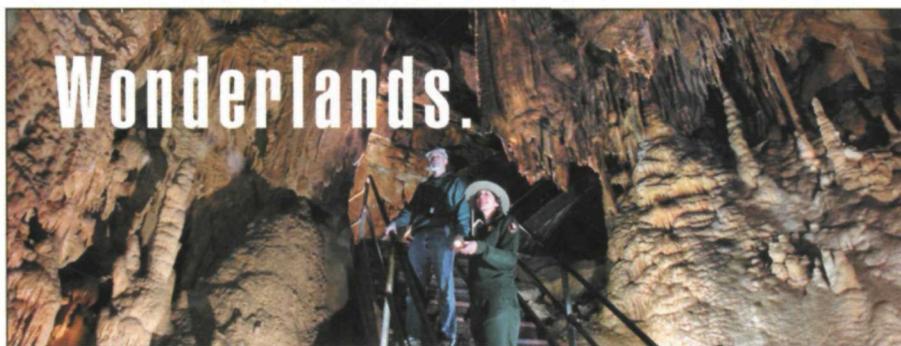
## Explore rail travel



Noted for its exceptional service, fine dining and décor, American Orient Express (AOE) has brought a return to the graceful Golden Age of rail travel. In addition to offering passengers a vintage rail experience, AOE programs include an exploration of America's cultural treasures with insight from historians, as well as off-train excursions, which complement the theme of each carefully planned itinerary. Utilizing vintage cars from the 1940s and '50s, AOE offers 10 regional itineraries throughout the United States, Mexico and Canada. Call American Orient Express at (800) 320-4206 or visit [www.americanorientexpress.com](http://www.americanorientexpress.com).

## Discover America's undiscovered parks

It's time to visit some of the America's most remote National Parks. Find yourself, and connect with loved ones, in Isle Royale National Park—a wilderness island archipelago on northern Lake Superior—accessible only by boat or sea plane. Take a Jeep tour in Big Bend National Park, with 800,000 acres illuminating the “wide open spaces” of your soul. Hike to Marymere Falls in the lush rain forest of Olympic National Park to soak up well-deserved serenity. Rejuvenate amongst eerie spires in Badlands National Park. You can do it all from comfortable lodges managed by Forever Resorts, American Wonderlands and Slumberland, in unique national parks. Visit [www.foreverlodging.com](http://www.foreverlodging.com) to plan your next adventure.



## Slumberland.

Discover yourself in America's undiscovered National Parks. Forever Resorts hosts thousands of visitors each year in remote, pristine wonderlands across America.



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Mammoth Cave, KY | Grand Tetons, WY | Olympic, WA | Rocky Mountain, CO



Forever Resorts is an Authorized Concessioner of the National Park Service

## Arizona boasts natural wonders

Arizona is a land of contrasts – a bright blue sky with sun-faded rock underfoot, or cool mountain air a short drive from the blazing hot desert. There's so much to see and do in the state. Whether you're heading north or south, let Arizona's 27 state parks introduce you to its natural wonders!

From Phoenix, head south to Kartchner Caverns State Park, 50 miles southeast of Tucson, for cave tours, hiking and picnicking. Or drive north to Sedona and gaze at the spectacular red rocks from the many trails in Red Rock State Park.

For more information, visit [www.azstateparks.com](http://www.azstateparks.com) or call (602) 542-1993.



## Wonder-filled Northern Arizona

Displaying scenery so majestic as to appear otherworldly, Arizona's national parks attract visitors from around the world. The most famous of these, Grand Canyon National Park, is a wonderland of rock and water, while the Petrified Forest National Park protects ancient trees that were transformed into stone ages ago. Both parks are great places to become acquainted with the wonders of Northern Arizona.

### It's A Grand Old Park



What is there to do while exploring Grand Canyon National Park? How about backpacking, birding, camping, rafting, fishing, hiking, mule rides, photography, ranger-led activities, stargazing

and wildlife watching. And that's just for starters.

Nearly five million people visit the Grand Canyon each year. Most of them see it from overlooks along the South Rim, 60 miles north of Williams and 80 miles northwest of Flagstaff, Ariz. The South Rim is the most accessible part of the park and is open all year. Others

view the Canyon from the North Rim, just 10 miles across from the South Rim. The North Rim rises 1,000 feet higher than the South Rim.

### A Fantasia of Fossils

A scenic wonder, Petrified Forest National Park is also a land of fascinating science. It's one of the world's greatest storehouses of knowledge about life on earth when the "Age of the Dinosaurs" was just beginning.

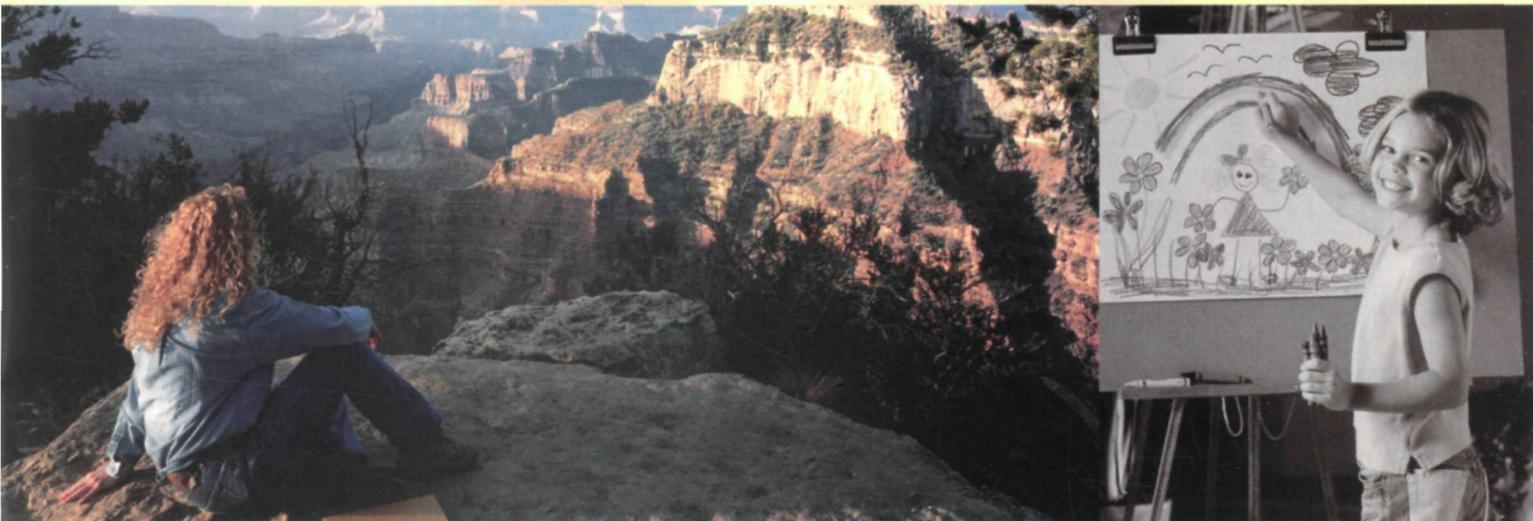


The park, located in northeast Arizona, features one of the world's largest and most colorful concentrations of petrified wood, as well as the multi-hued badlands of the Painted Desert, archeological sites and displays of 225 million year old fossils.

While there, check out the park visitor's information film and museums. Eight overlooks give sweeping views of the Painted Desert and the Puerco Indian Ruins, a silent testimony to human life here before the 1400s.

For your free Northern Arizona travel packet, call (866) 623-5009, or visit [www.GrandandBeyond.com](http://www.GrandandBeyond.com).

## Remember when eight crayons were all the colors you needed?



Want to know where this is? Visit [GrandandBeyond.com](http://GrandandBeyond.com).

Recapture your childhood vision of a bright, benevolent world. Come to Arizona. For your free travel packet, including an Official State Visitor's Map and Calendar of Events, contact the Arizona Office of Tourism toll-free at 866-623-5009.

# Spring and Summer Vacation Planner

## Education through study and travel

When determining your ideal summer excursion, the possibilities are endless. Maybe you're interested in exploring some of the world's finest tide pools. Or possibly you want to experience the pristine beauty of a coastal wetland filled with crabs, oysters, birds and more. How about a hiking tour of the spectacular Gran Desierto sea of dunes? All of these things provide an outstanding journey – a combination of education and hands-on experience – to discover deserts and oceans like never before.



The College of the Humanities and Sciences, in affiliation with the Intercultural Center for the Study of Deserts and Oceans (CEDO), provides an opportunity for its students to take a journey of the mind through education of natural sciences, as well as a physical journey to the center. CEDO, an independent, non-profit organization, is dedicated to investigation, education and conservation in the northern Gulf of California and coastal Sonoran Desert regions.

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## Visit Springfield, Mo.

Leap back in history at one of the Nation's most pristine Civil War battlefields – Wilson's Creek National Battlefield – where the first major battle west of the Mississippi took place and the first Union general died in combat. While Missouri ranks third among states with the most Civil War engagements, the battle at Wilson's Creek was the largest and most pivotal in Missouri. You can also visit the original and biggest Bass Pro Shops® OutdoorWorld®, Wonders of Wildlife, Cardinals Double-A Minor League Baseball and much more. Contact Springfield, Missouri, today for a free visitors guide at (800) 678-8767 or [www.Visit-Springfield.com](http://www.Visit-Springfield.com).



## Trace Lewis and Clark

Sunrise Tours has been offering its "Tracing the Trail of Lewis and Clark" historical tour for five years, and the popularity of the excursion has increased steadily. In 2004, travelers from 14 states joined us on a trek from St. Louis to the coast of Oregon.



Besides deluxe motorcoach transportation, outstanding accommodations, two meals per day and admission to all attractions, the tour features commentary by noted Lewis and Clark historian Jerry Garrett, a main component of the trip's success.

One traveler from Jamaica, N.Y. wrote, "Everything from the selected sites, to the lectures, to the comfort of the bus (and wonderful driver), to the hotels we stayed in...was exceptional."

Visit [www.travelsunrise.com](http://www.travelsunrise.com) or call (800) 881-8804.

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## View ice falls at Kennicott Glacier Lodge



Take an adventure into the heart of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park to Kennicott Glacier Lodge. The lodge, which is located in the abandoned ghost town of Kennicott, a National Historic Landmark, is perfectly suited for exploring this once-bustling town at the center of the world's richest deposit of copper ore.

From the spacious front deck at the lodge, you'll see a river of ice moving down the valley — the Kennicott Glacier. Explore the glacier on a guided glacier walk, learn some of the basics of ice climbing, or take a flight-seeing trip and get an up-close look at the giant icefalls.

The Kennicott Glacier Lodge features comfortable accommodations and family style wilderness gourmet dining. For reservations, call (800) 582-5128. For more information, visit the web site at [www.kennicottlodge.com](http://www.kennicottlodge.com).

## Visit McAllen, Texas

McAllen, Texas, is located in the geographical center of Texas' Rio Grande Valley. The most popular birding and butterflying destination in the country, the area features 507 recorded species—over 50 percent of all species recorded in the United States. The area boasts eight annual watchable wildlife festivals, the world's richest wildlife photography contest and many special events related to the area's unparalleled biodiversity. Fly into McAllen International Airport, stay in one of our 32 hotels and eat in one of our over 800 restaurants. Visit the McAllen Chamber of Commerce at [www.mcallencvb.com](http://www.mcallencvb.com) for free local birding maps and other information.



## Naturalist Journeys brings the Southwest closer to you

Naturalist Journeys is a small company built on the efforts and reputation of Peg Abbott, a guide with over 20 years experience working in a natural setting.

Based in Portal, Arizona, the company offers small group (between 8-14 participants), educational travel to scenic locations in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado and beyond. These exciting ventures focus on birding opportunities and other wildlife observation, geology, botany, plus explanations of cultural and natural history of an area.

The expeditions are informative, well-organized journeys and include convenient and comfortable accommodations, and a variety of dining opportunities close to natural destinations. Items such as meals, safety, and understanding local conservation issues are important to the Naturalist Journeys staff.

Trips are flexible and can be shaped to meet a variety of expectations, from beginning traveler to experienced naturalist. Journeys can range from three to fourteen days and include moderate hiking, scenic drives and field lectures.

For more information, call toll-free (866) 900-1146 or visit [www.naturalistjourneys.com](http://www.naturalistjourneys.com).



## Maine Windjammer passengers enjoy life at sea



Every week on Penobscot Bay, off Maine's spectacular granite coast, the 14 tall ships in the Maine Windjammer Association provide cruises that transport passengers back to the golden age of sailing where deadlines and itineraries take a back seat to relaxation and beauty. Most of the windjammers are turn-of-the-century wooden cargo schooners that have been retrofitted to carry passengers. Together, they represent the country's largest fleet of historic sailing ships.

Each day, you sail past lighthouses and lobstermen, through narrow channels and across great bays. Every evening, your windjammer drops anchor in the safe, snug harbor of a quiet fishing village, a bustling waterfront, a cove below the cliffs of Acadia National Park or an island inhabited solely by nesting eagles and terns.

Guests are invited to participate in all shipboard activities, from taking a turn at the wheel to raising and lowering sails. The 14 ships in the Maine Windjammer Association have a well-earned reputation for outstanding sailing adventures and delicious down-home cooking. One night everyone goes ashore for a traditional island lobster bake.

Prices for three- to six-day cruises range from \$395 to \$915 per person. For more information, call (800) 807-WIND or visit [www.sailmainecoast.com](http://www.sailmainecoast.com).

# Travel Planner

## National Parks

The Magazine of  
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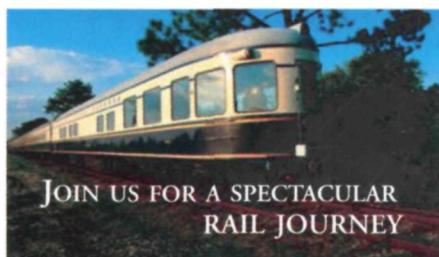
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Naturalists and guides accompany you as you study native plants and wildlife, explore historic sites and museums, and learn about these remarkable places.

Nine exciting itineraries are available in 2005. Prime summer season tours include the National Parks of the West, The Great Northwest & Rockies, Best of the Canadian Rockies, and Pacific Coast Explorer.

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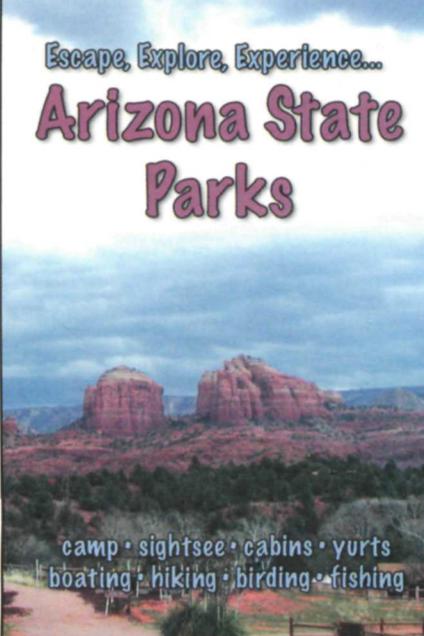


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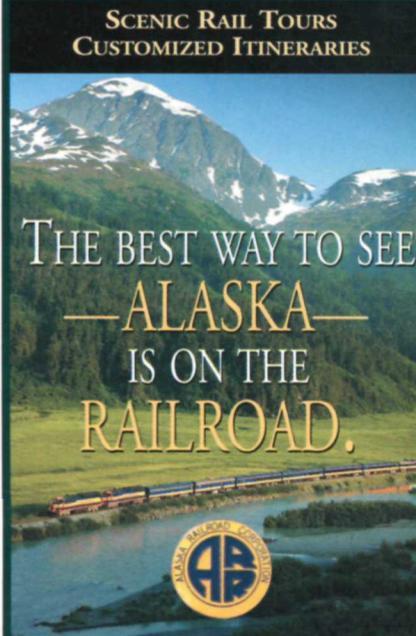


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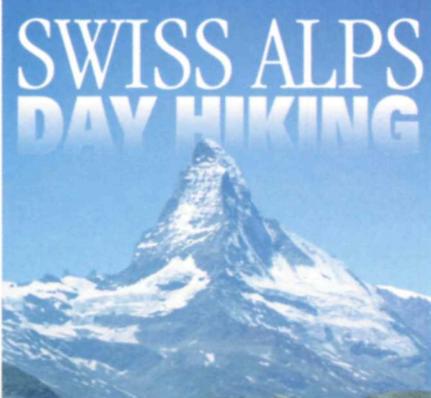


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# Capturing Memories

**T**he Bataan Death March. The Hanoi Hilton. Abu Ghraib. The horrifying stories and the striking images of prisoners of war make for some of the most emotional and devastating memories of armed conflict. But most Americans forget there was a time when our own nation was home to thousands of POWs—during the country's bloodiest battle, the Civil War.

Sites like Antietam, Gettysburg, and Manassas are among the best known and most visited Civil War sites in the National Park System, but the soldiers who were fortunate enough to survive those battles—but unfortunate enough to be on the losing side—often found themselves in one of the 16 prison camps scattered throughout the nation.

Georgia's Camp Sumter was the most infamous: More than 45,000 prisoners walked through its gates in the span of 14 months; about one in three never walked out. Today the 515-acre plot of land now known as Andersonville National Historic Site serves as a memorial to those soldiers. The grounds include a national cemetery where former inmates are buried, along with the POW Museum, a memorial for all Americans held as prisoners of war throughout our nation's history.

In the early days of the Civil War, prison camps were unnecessary—Union and Confederate forces exchanged prisoners, returning captured soldiers to the opposition so many could fight again. But the agreement fell apart in 1863 for

A Civil War prison camp serves as a memorial to prisoners of war from every generation.

By Scott Kirkwood



*Bronze statues throughout the grounds pay tribute to the plight of American prisoners of war.*

a number of reasons; for instance, the South insisted on returning black soldiers to slavery, which was unacceptable to the North, whose leaders soon recognized that their manpower advantage provided less incentive to participate in the exchange.

When the program was suspended, each side faced the challenge of housing thousands of men and providing for their care. Union and Confederate prisons were little more than oversize holding pens with primitive campsites. Both

sides had limited resources, so all of the prisons were severely lacking, but the conditions at Camp Sumter were extreme. Food was hard to come by, the water supply was unhealthy, and disease was just as likely to claim a life as a bullet wound.

Many inmates tried to escape by digging tunnels, but few succeeded. Others ran away from work and burial details, and at least one inmate even feigned his death, waiting until he had been carried out of the camp before

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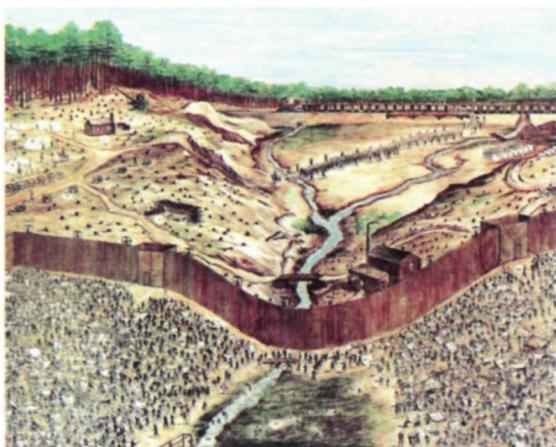
**Scott Kirkwood** is senior editor for *National Parks* magazine.

getting up and running away. But the conditions of the camp were so miserable and many inmates were in such poor physical health that when a flood provided an opportunity for escape, most were too ill to flee.

Those who lost their lives at Camp Sumter were buried in a field about a quarter mile from the prison site. A numbered wooden post was placed at each grave, and the soldiers' names were recorded in a burial register. Years later, wooden markers, and eventually marble headstones, were put in their place to honor the dead.

For obvious reasons, the site isn't an easy one for every visitor to experience.

"A lot of the Andersonville POW story is depressing because we see man's inhumanity to man," says Alan Marsh, cultural resources program manager at Andersonville. "But at the same time, we



**Former Andersonville prisoner Thomas O'Dea completed this drawing of Camp Sumter in 1885.**

see stories of compassion and hope [among POWs in every war]. We also see the best of the human spirit, whether that's a POW along the Bataan Death March who picks up another American and carries him down the road, or a prisoner of war sharing the few rations he has with another POW, or an Andersonville guard helping one of the prison-

ers. We do the best we can to tell the whole human story and that includes the good, the bad, and the ugly."

To tell that story, the POW Museum contains hours of interactive displays, such as video segments and taped interviews with former prisoners of war, along with photographs, journals, and descriptive text that accompany archived objects. The museum contains one of the best oral history programs in the National Park System, including more than 900 interviews with former POWs, now being transferred to DVD. Thanks to a special volunteer program, the museum even hosts former POWs for days at a time, so they can offer visitors a better understanding of their experiences—sharing a lesson with the next generation as they're honored by every generation. ❖

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## ***Land O' Lakes***

***With four large lakes within its boundaries, water dominates the landscape of this national park.***



Named for the French-Canadians who traversed these waters in their birch-bark canoes, this park contains some of the oldest exposed rock formations in the world. The more than 200 campsites within this park can be accessed only by watercraft, but that hasn't kept more than 200,000 people from visiting the park each year. Shaped by at least four periods of glaciation, the topography of the park features rolling hills interspersed with bogs, beaver ponds, swamps, islands, and lakes. Last fall, the park reopened sections that had been closed to protect bald eagle nesting sites, and today more than 200 bald eagles call the park home, including dozens of juvenile eaglets. Have you visited this park site? See below for the answer.

***Answer: Voyageurs National Park, Minnesota***



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