

The

YELLOWSTONE



News

June 30, 1994

NPS Employee Newsletter

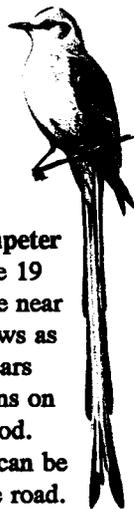
Next Deadline: July 15

For the Birds

Did you know that Yellowstone is home to somewhere in the neighborhood of 225 different species of birds? On occasion we're the unwitting host to a rare species or two as well. Recently Terry McEneaney, Bird Biologist, spotted a couple of these uncommon visitors.

A black-throated sparrow was seen at Steamboat Point. This bird is normally found in the southwestern U.S.

An adult male scissor-tailed flycatcher, most commonly found in Oklahoma and Texas, was seen at Old Faithful.



In other bird news, five trumpeter swan cygnets hatched on June 19 in a nest at Seven Mile Bridge near Madison. This is exciting news as this is the first time in five years that this breeding pair of swans on this nest have produced a brood. The chicks have fledged and can be seen across the river from the road.

The osprey nest at Eagle Rock, located between Mammoth and the north entrance, has produced a second clutch of three eggs. The first clutch of eggs was destroyed by ravens when a photographer climbed the hill near the nest. The osprey were disturbed and left the nest because of the photographer. Ravens then stole the eggs and the parent osprey didn't come back for a few days. When they did return, they added about eight inches of depth to the nest and produced the new eggs.

Meet the New Superintendent, Mike Finley

In September, Yellowstone will experience a "changing of the guard" as our current Superintendent Bob Barbee leaves for Alaska as their new Regional Director. Replacing him here will be Mike Finley, currently Yosemite's Superintendent, detailed to Washington D.C. as acting Associate Director for Operations.

Mike began his federal career as a seasonal from 1965 through 1971 as a member of various fire crews with the U.S Forest Service and then the NPS at Redwood National Park. In June 1971, he took his first permanent job as a park ranger at Big Bend, and then went on to National Capital Parks, Pinnacles National Monument, Yosemite, and Grand Teton National Parks. From 1978 to 1981 he worked in Washington D.C. as a Staff Park Ranger and then a Legislative Affairs Specialist. He was then off to Assateague Island National Seashore as their Superintendent from March 1981 to 1983. The next stop for Mike was the Alaska Regional Office where he held the position of Associate Regional Director for Management and Operations until 1986. In 1986 the Finleys traded one extreme for another, when Mike accepted the superintendency at Everglades National Park. Finally, from 1989 until the present time Mike has been the Superintendent at Yosemite.

Although it means we must say goodbye to Bob, we look forward to meeting Mike, his wife, Lillie, and daughters, Devon and Laura in just a few short months.

■ YCC Program

Moose Donations Near Pledge of \$1 Million

After the 1988 fires, the Moose fraternity, an international service organization, pledged to donate one million dollars to the park's Fire Recovery Fund. To date, the organization has donated approximately \$800,000 to the park. Although the funds were initially slated toward fire recovery, today the Moose is the sole supporter of the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program in Yellowstone.

Yellowstone's YCC program is one of only two such residential program in the NPS; the other is in Yosemite. Prior to 1988, the YCC program was offered only as federal budgets would allow. Now, thanks to the Moose, the program has been running consecutively for the past six years with an annual budget of about \$130,000.

Out of 250-500 applicants each year only approximately 30 students, ages 15 through 18, are chosen at random to participate in the eight week program. The students come from all across the United States to spend eight weeks in Yellowstone completing trail, resource management, research, and maintenance projects. The students also participate in an environmental education program, listen to speakers from both sides of issues pertinent to Yellowstone, and hold their own debates. The most outstanding students may return, on vote of their peers and program staff, as Youth Leaders, then Crew Leader Trainees, and finally Crew Leaders. To return to the program is a coveted opportunity; of the 26 students in the program this summer, five are Youth Leaders, and six of the nine Crew Leaders this season are former students of the program.

See YCC next page

What is Hantavirus?

On July 7 at 7 p.m. in the Mammoth School auditorium, Mark Johnson, Wildlife Veterinarian, Yellowstone Center for Resources, will give a presentation on hantavirus, a potentially life-threatening disease to humans which is carried by deer mice. Mark will offer precautions to be taken to prevent the transfer of the disease, and will answer questions concerning the park's policy on hantavirus. All employees are invited to attend this informative presentation.

Employees Receive Awards

Congratulations to Jane Cunningham, Mammoth Grounds Crew, and Brett Welker, Madison Maintenance, on their 10 year Length of Service Awards.

Ed Olexa, previously with the Center for Resources, now with NBS, received a Performance Award for his high quality work studying the population ecology of mule deer in the park.

Library Round-Up

The Research Library in the basement of the Albright Visitor Center would like to ask everyone to check their shelves for the following periodicals:

Journal of ECOLOGY, Vol. 74, No. 1, March 1993
AUDUBON, January 1991
NATIONAL PARKS, Sept-Oct 1991

Please return them to the library as soon as possible so that they may get on with their book-binding.

****NOTICE****

THE YELLOWSTONE NEWS is a bi-weekly newsletter for NPS employees published by the Public Affairs Office. We welcome suggestions, criticism, and contributions. For the remainder of the summer our publishing day will be Mondays instead of Thursdays. The next issue will come out on July 18.

YCC, con't

"The impact of the program on the kids is tremendous," said Steve Sarles, NPS Program Manager, "This is a life- and career-guiding experience for the students. Many of our former enrollees have gone on to college to major in environmental education or natural resources. And it's all made possible through the generosity of the members of the Moose organization; it's doubtful we could do it without them."

Yellowstone Association News

Margot Hamilton, Office Manager for YA, will be leaving the organization at the end of June to pursue her interests in painting, sailing, and to spend more time with her family.

Margot first joined YA in 1980 on a part-time basis handling the mail-order business. As the Association grew, Margot's degree, experience and skills in accounting were relied upon heavily. In 1988 she became a full-time employee handling most of YA's financial and management reporting duties.

Margot's contribution to the success of YA has been significant; she has been a vital part of the growth the organization has recently experienced. The board and staff of the Yellowstone Association wish her well with the new opportunities she will be pursuing.

The Association is pleased to announce that Rebekah Johnson has accepted the position of Controller, a new position at YA. Beginning in July, Rebekah will be responsible for all aspects of financial and management reporting. She comes to Yellowstone from Conroe, Texas, where she was Assistant controller at Crane Defense Systems.

Her husband, Gary Johnson, is currently employed by TW at Old Faithful for the summer. They enjoy hiking and backpacking, and look forward to making Yellowstone their permanent home.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

► Kids Summer Program

The Yellowstone Kids Summer Program is underway! Late registration is possible for many of the classes. Please see Rene at the Mammoth School 4th Grade Classroom Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 9:00-10:00 a.m. or Mondays 5:00-6:30 p.m. on the playground.

► Vet Visit

Veterinarian, Dr. Jim Murray, will be at the Gardiner Exxon on Friday, June 24, from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. No appointment necessary. Housecalls available upon request. Next Visit: July 8.

► Re-tire-ment Potluck Lunch

Come to the potluck lunch for Chuck Ludwig on Thursday, July 7, at 11:30 a.m. at the Mammoth New Garage Conference Room. Bring a dish to share and your own tableservice and beverage. Be there to say "Adios" to Chuck as he leaves the NPS to run his new business, The Tire Iron, in Gardiner.

*Have a Safe and Happy
4th of July!*



CLASSIFIED ADS

Living in Bear Country



Their
FUTURE

Depends On You!

For Sale:

1992 18" Bridgestone mountain bike, MB-4, excellent condition, too large for me, \$450. Call Mary Beth 344-7758.

Wanted:

To borrow, rent, or buy your used baby backpack to carry a 35lb. child. Please call Valerie 344-2118.

For Sale:

Avenir bike helmet, white w/blue letters, fits child or small adult, excellent shape, \$20. Call 344-2251 days or 848-7497 evenings.

For Sale:

Nordic Flex Gold Weight machine, excellent condition, \$650 OBO. Call 848-7052.

For Sale:

*Full-size collapsible metal ironing board w/cover and multi-setting Black & Decker steam iron, \$25.
*Specialized brand bicycle helmet, size med., little used, \$35.
Call Elizabeth 344-9242 evenings.

Pet Sitter Available:

Need someone to feed, sit with or walk your pet? Katie McCoy is offering the service of secure animal sitting during the month of July in the Mammoth area. Rates negotiable. Phone 344-9225.

Wanted:

Cheap big tire bicycle, men's or women's, to cruise the park. Will pay \$35+. Call Al 545-2730 (w) or 545-8028 (h).

For Sale:

14½ foot kayak, new last year, \$300. Call 344-9240.

Wanted:

Felt ranger flat hat, approximately size 7. Also uniform windbreaker, skirt, and/or trousers. Call Mary at 848-7192 evenings.

For Sale:

Eureka 2-person tent, 9lbs., excellent condition, \$100. Call Lynne 344-7755 evenings.

Every Yellowstone employee and resident has a shared responsibility for the future of the park's bears.

The park's Bear Management Policy requires that all food or garbage which will attract bears, shall be properly stored where it is not accessible to bears.

Park regulations requiring proper handling of foods and garbage will be enforced. Failure to fully comply with this policy may result in the loss of housing or trailer facility privileges.

Dumpsters or bearproof garbage cans are provided in each housing area:

- * All garbage shall be placed in these receptacles;
- * Depositing garbage outside receptacles and littering about the containers is prohibited;
- * Be aware that it may be difficult for children, because of their height and weight, to place garbage in dumpsters;
- * Plastic bags will be used in all garbage cans, and only garbage in plastic will be put in cans and dumpsters;
- * Cans provided for the disposal of woodstove ashes shall be used only for that purpose;
- * Non-bearproof garbage cans shall not be outdoors at anytime regardless of intended use.

The following items are considered to be food items and attractants to bears. Proper storage must be provided for:

- * beverage cans and bottles (empty or full)
- * ice chests and beverage coolers
- * fish/meat smokers
- * cookstoves
- * cooking and eating utensils
- * charcoal grills/LP gas barbeque systems (must be thoroughly and immediately cleaned after each use if not stored indoors)
- * pet foods and their containers
- * all animal food including horse feed
- * all human food
- * bird feeders
- * soaps and cosmetics
- * any item with a food odor

Bears are dangerous whether they are grizzly bears or black bears. Please keep this thought in mind and review the pamphlet *Living in Bear Country*. Contact your district or area ranger with questions you may have regarding proper food/garbage storage procedures. Report all bear sightings.

Let's all do our part to live, work, and enjoy our magnificent environment safely! Your personal cooperation is appreciated.