

MRNPA



NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATES

From the Summit...

May 24 will mark the fifth annual meeting of MRNPA. The election of the Board of Trustees and Officers will mark the beginning of a new year and a continuation of the issues we have faced. Wilderness designation for the backcountry of Mount Rainier National Park and the two sister parks in Washington was accomplished by the passage of Senate Bill 2165. A major issue still before us is the management of the park environs as a total ecosystem. Articles in this issue discuss this concept. With extensive clearcuts on three boundaries planned in the next 10 years we can look forward to a park that is not only an "Island in the Sky", but also a too small island in the over-managed tree farm. Regardless of ownership, a more sound ecological basis for resource management will have to be accepted. We have an opportunity to be a significant part of the process.

It has been a pleasure to serve MRNPA as President the past two years. I look forward to working with you on these issues in years to come.

Bob Aegerter

MRNPA ANNUAL MEETING

Date: May 24, 1989

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Barnaby's

16401 W. Valley Hwy.

Tukwila

Approx. Cost: \$13.95

Speaker: Jerry Franklin

Characteristics of the Ancient Forest

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR
AN ENJOYABLE EVENING**

Paradise Regained

Early visitors to Paradise Park proved devastating to its vegetation. Forest fires from the west first swept all in their paths from the Tatoosh Range to Panorama, over Mazama Ridge and down Stevens Canyon during the eons. As if that were not enough, people had a great effect on the landscape when they began to come. First were the N.W. Indians - hunters and traders from the Yakima country with their horses, making their few encampments in the area.

It was not until the 1880s, however, that the land was run-over, steadily camped on, built on, trees used for firewood, or set on fire for fun, flowers picked and stomped on by the new settlers and explorers, along with their grazing horses.

By the 1930s very little grass or flowers remained in the half-mile perimeter surrounding the present-day parking lot. Trails were multiplied into networks going everywhere and nowhere.

It wasn't until work began on the Stevens Canyon Highway, according to Tacoman, Roscoe L. Green, who was a former CCC worker, that Paradise was saved from becoming an alpine desert. In 1937-38 there was very little machinery for road-building or snow-clearing, and the season for working was very short. It wasn't until WW II and the Seabees in the South Pacific that bulldozers and earth-moving equipment were born.

The Civilian Conservation Corps boys with picks and shovels were assigned to digging up the sod with associated roots, bulbs, seeds and blooming flowers contained in the future roadbed. The squares of sod were piled into trucks and taken up to Paradise where the planting blocks were then unloaded and re-planted in the bared

(See "Paradise Regained," p. 2)

soil at the old Camp of The Clouds, up around Alta Vista, near the Inn, and wherever needed. Much of the transplanting was successful, and included plants from the Reflection Lake - Lake Louise- Bench Lake areas, and a short distance below in the canyon. The avalanche lilies and the mountain ash now seen had their "roots" near Reflection Lake.

Work was, of course, being done during the 1930s all around The Park by the CCC, including trail building and improvements, rock-wall building on the roadways, and other vegetation projects all around The Mountain. Many more efforts at vegetation restoration have been made since, but not on such a large scale as when the CCC boys, by hand, worked over the Paradise visitor drive-in area. The re-gaining of paradise continues, but is now more hopeful since education of the public was added.

Edith Goodman

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Membership: Margie Goulden
Trails/Outdoor: Larry Carreau
Visitor Impact: Roger Garrett

ARTICLES THIS ISSUE

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Thank you, Bob Aegerter

... for your dedication, inspiration, and total commitment to the goals and beliefs of the Mount Rainier National Park Associates. Through your leadership for the past four years--two as President of the Associates--we have become a more viable force and leader in the environmental community.

You have represented us in a variety of actions within our own Washington State as well as the other Washington; especially with your testimonies at the Wilderness hearings in 1988. You have been a liaison between our fledgling organization and those environmental groups which have had years of experience and even paid staff. You have volunteered so many hours of service--behind-the-scenes, so-to-speak--that I cannot begin to enumerate.

A mere thank-you is just a reminder of our appreciation for all the ways you have helped MRNPA to grow, as well as helping to make our world a better place to live. We know you will continue to work for the MRNPA and for our environment ... because ... you're that kind of person.

I would also like to express my thanks to the other officers and the Board of Trustees who also commit many hours of time and service to the Associates. Mount Rainier National Park Associates literally would not "BE" without the commitment and dedication of these fifteen people.

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU
Margie Goulden
Co-founder

WHY RENEW?

Below are five good reasons to renew your membership with the Mount Rainier National Park Associates.

The Associates are:

Really Rare individuals, Responsive to the needs of Mount Rainier National Park, Ready to React by sending Radiant Rays of hope for our environment;

Encouraging the Expansion of the Park through Emotionally involved Educational Efforts and Enlightening users to the Enormous task of preserving the Park lands for Eternity;

Negotiating, sometimes nervously, for the Necessity of maintaining a Number-one Natural ecosystem;

Echoing Enthusiastic Endeavors of Efficacious Expertise Enticing those who Enjoy to also preserve;

Willing Workers, Weary and always Wary of new development plans for the Park, Watchful of elk Wallows, Watersheds, and Way-trails; Welcoming all renewals and new memberships.

Please RENEW today and help us to continue to preserve and protect our Park. Use the renewal notice on the backside of the newsletter. Thank you for your continued support, confidence, and trust.

Margie Goulden
Co-founder

Where Alaska Cedar Grows

Its scientific name, *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*, commemorates its discovery at Nootka Sound. In English Alaska cedar is a link with its northern coastal range.

Alaska cedar grows best where conditions are cool and wet. Although found in scattered locations all around Mount Rainier, and from the silver fir zone to timberline, it is more prominent in some special habitats found mainly on the wetter northwest side. A recent publication on the park's forest communities* describes a particular plant association characterized by Alaska cedar and ovalleaf huckleberry. It occurs on wet benches, the lower ends of slopes and in draws from about 4000 to 4500 feet, with a heavy winter snowpack, a short growing season and poorly-drained soils.

Shrubs are not so important in this association as are non-woody plants, which may include creeping raspberries (*Rubus pedatus* and *R. lasiococcus*), foamflower, rosy

(See "Alaska Cedar," p. 4)

WORK PARTIES

The only thing that could prevent me from participating in a MRNPA-sponsored Trail Work Party is ... a forest fire!

What's preventing YOU from joining

THE 5TH ANNUAL MRNPA TRAIL WORK PARTIES

Place: **Glacier Vista/Skyline trails**
(above Paradise)

Dates: **July 21, 22, & 23**
(potluck and overnights)
September 9 (one day only)

You do not need special skills, and all trail work is done under the able auspices of an NPS trail leader (and a "good-looking" one, too!)

But if that's not reason enough, here are three more reasons why YOU should participate in a MRNPA-sponsored trail work party:

(1) MRNP Associates build...TRAILS!-- Trail-side delineation with big rocks! (Most are flat and easy to pick up.)

(2) MRNP Associates build...PRIDE!-- Pride in knowing we're maintaining a trail that others will enjoy.

(3) MRNP Associates build...A REPUTATION!-- The park is very pleased with what MRNPA trail work groups have accomplished in the past.

Oh-oh, I almost forgot-- MRNPA TRAIL WORKERS HAVE FUN!!!

So if YOU want to have fun building trails, please send in those forms (or contact Larry Carreau at 845-2364 for further info). Now, even more than ever: THE TRAIL IS TO THE HIKER AS THE IMAGE IS TO THE POEM!!!

Larry Carreau

MT. RAINIER NEWS BRIEFS

From National Park Service, Mt. Rainier N.P.

TRAVEL FOR FEBRUARY:

	Visitors	Hotel Guests	Auto Campers	Bkcstry Campers
Feb 1989	34,320	244	140	97
Feb 1988	34,967	323	456	468
89 to date	94,031	563	397	215
88 to date	78,696	701	1,101	1,024
Percent/yr	+27%	-20%	-64%	-79%

PARK INFORMATION:

Call 206/569-2211, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
Mon-Fri and 7:30 am to 6:30 pm weekends; or
206/569-2343 for a recorded message.

twisted stalk, tall yellow violet, avalanche lily, valerian, oak fern and queencup. Silver fir reproduction is so abundant it may become the climax, yet there are indications that Alaska cedar may be a minor climax species. Alaska cedar is also a component of a different silver fir habitat which will not be included in this article.

The forests of the Ipsut Creek valley apparently have been free of fire or other major disturbance for over 1200 years, based on estimated ages of some large Alaska cedars which are the park's oldest trees. At the upper edge of mature forest, near a small burn site and brushy avalanche slopes, there is an interesting old cedar with a broken top. As the trail begins to switchback up toward Ipsut Pass after crossing the stream, look downhill. A little above eye level is a hemlock seedling growing on a branch of the cedar. Some distance above a lady fern is a surprise on another branch, and close to the top is a currant bush--use binoculars to identify these epiphytes. From a tree nearby the hemlock seed could have drifted down to its unlucky landing where it cannot survive. Fern spores are known to be wind-blown; the cedar branches apparently held some moist debris. The berry seed must have been assisted by a bird who ate currants from bushes growing in the basin.

Alaska cedar may be identified by noting that the side branches hang almost straight down from the main branches; also by the sharp tips on long, scale-like leaves and by short, broad cones. Branches of western red cedar form graceful curves, scales are broad and blunt, and cones are long and narrow. Both trees are in the Cypress Family along with other native North American trees called cedars. The Old World tress, Atlantic and deodar cedars and cedar of Lebanon, are part of a different group of conifers, the Pine Family.

Management suggestions for the Alaska cedar/ovalleaf habitat caution against its use for campsites, and warn that trail-building and maintenance will be expensive because of the many streams and seeps. The Ipsut Creek trail should be appreciated both for the venerable age of the forest and for its access to examples of a unique tree/plant association. Mary Fries

*J. F. Franklin et al, *The Forest Communities of Mount Rainier National Park*, NPS Scientific Monograph Series No. 19, 1988. A technical ecological study from which much of the information in this article was taken.

By Philip Shabecoff

From The New York Times March 19, 1989

Warning of growing threats to national parks' ability to serve as "oases for life and spirit," an independent commission today called for sweeping changes in the National Park Service.

The commission, jointly appointed by the Park Service and by the National Parks and Conservation Association, a private environmental group, said that the park system was now "caught up in an unprecedented environmental crisis."

To meet this challenge, the commission made a number of recommendations, including that the parks be managed as ecological systems and cultural resources rather than as geographic units.

The parks are threatened more and more by forces like pollution and population growth, and are themselves becoming "rare species," the report said.

The commission made these other recommendations:

- Training park managers as professionals and specialists to meet the complex demands of preserving natural and cultural resources instead of relying on the park ranger's comparatively general knowledge.

- Expanding the quantity and improving the quality of research to provide a more solid base for reaching management decisions.

- Educating the public about natural and cultural systems and helping create "a conservation ethic among all segments of society, including those traditionally underrepresented in park constituencies, such as minorities, single-parent households, the handicapped, and the economically disadvantaged."

The response of Park Service officials to the report was lukewarm.

"It is of some value, I think," said Denis Galvin, deputy director of the Park Service. "There is something to the ecosystem approach to management. The more we discover about parks the more we learn that things are connected."

Mr. Galvin complained, however, that the report proposed specific changes in how the park service should do its job "without clearly articulating the role of the parks in the late 20th century--the report does not give us what we hoped to get out of a blue ribbon panel."

(See "Global View Needed," p.5)

The commission, financed by private foundations, was charged with reviewing the recommendations of a 1963 report by another commission on which much of the service's current management philosophy is based. That commission, headed by A. Starker Leopold, called for managing the parks in ways that would preserve them as "vignettes of a primitive America."

The new commission, headed by John C. Gordon, dean of the Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, said in its report that while the findings of the Leopold report remained largely valid, new approaches are needed.

"We have to give up the notion that park management stops at park boundaries," Mr. Gordon said.

"If you have a grizzly bear range that stretches across two national parks, six national forests, a state forest and 43 ranches, you must coordinate your efforts. We can't solve all problems by simply buying up land."

The new report, "National Parks: From Vignettes to a Global View," called for a research program in natural sciences, archeology, social sciences and historic preservation.

In addition, it said the Park Service must build a professional cadre that includes historians, anthropologists, biologists and social scientists and should support scholarly activities, like research publication.

The report said the service should develop systematic coordination with elementary and secondary schools and use park resources to teach a "conservation ethic to young Americans."

1988 Park Management Highlights

From time to time we'll be printing summaries of significant projects and work accomplished by the employees of the Natural Resource Planning division of Mount Rainier National Park during the 1988 calendar year.

Revegetation Program

Paradise is a heavily used subalpine meadow in Mount Rainier National Park. The area receives approximately 1.08 million visitors annually and is a popular destination for day hikers as well as being on the primary approach for ascent of the mountain. In 1986 the park initiated a study

(See "Resource Management," p.6)

JOHN TITLAND has served as our Treasurer for the past year and has offered to continue in that capacity. He holds memberships in a large number of conservation/environmental organizations. For several years, he has been the Membership Chairman of the Bellevue-Issaquah chapter of the Northwest Steelhead and Salmon Council of Trout Unlimited.

John, and his wife Jane, learned of the fledgling MRNP Associates through a news blurb in the Washington Environmental Council newsletter in 1985. He always joins a group for at least one year and then decides whether to become more involved. We're glad he found the MRNPA to be worthwhile, because we are certainly using his talents and abilities with numbers and computers. John maintains a master list of our 200+ members, updating it as renewals are submitted and new members join. And since he does safeguard our organization's bank account, he is "empowered" to communicate with the IRS, constantly reminding them that we are a non-profit organization kept in force only through the generous talents of VOLUNTEERS.

John has some good ideas for enhancing our membership growth. As Treasurer, he has the most contact with our members -- through their annual dues and donations. He believes that to make our members a more effective force in the issues pertinent to Mount Rainier National Park, we need to reach out to our members more often than on a quarterly basis with our newsletter. An occasional one-page flyer three to four times a year with information about upcoming hearings, testimonies or events would show our members that the leaders are doing something for Mount Rainier National Park.

The truth of the matter is that our MRNPA leaders/volunteers are doing a LOT, but we do not have the volunteer capacity to inform the general membership as often as we really should. So ... here's my pitch for some help!! If you have the desire (even if you don't think you have the time) to help out with the newsletter or semi-monthly flyers, please contact the newsletter coordinator or editor. A few hours of your time three to four times a year would certainly make a stronger Associates.

**RENEW
MEMBERSHIP
TODAY**

to document impacts which would provide baseline data for an area management plan. This plan and revegetation projects in the meadow were the focus of the revegetation program in 1988.

Low-elevation, color aerial photography was flown in 1986 at a 1:5000 scale. Field surveys to document physical characteristics were conducted in 1986 and 1987. Approximately 915 human impacts were documented in the 960 acre study area. Rating criteria were developed to rank impacts in a priority order for revegetation as it related to soil erosion potential and aesthetic condition. A plan for the area addressing revegetation goals and methods, trail design and standards, and interpretive needs was developed by an inter-divisional committee and will be finalized by March 1.

Restoration of severely impacted sites was initiated in 1986 with work by the NRP staff at Golden Gate. In 1987 the scale of work was increased and the Ranger staff assumed responsibility for the projects. In 1988 the stabilization, filling and approximately 50% of the revegetation of 22 social trails in the Golden Gate area were completed. Restoration of trail PP2 and several associated trails in the Panorama Point vista area was initiated. The Botanist wrote the plans and conducted field reviews of the projects periodically through the summer. From 1986-88 the park's greenhouse also produced 10,000 plants for the projects.

Sunrise Campground Rehabilitation Plan

A comprehensive plan was developed for the rehabilitation of the old Sunrise Campground. A map was constructed, showing existing roads, water and sewer lines, and building locations. Specifications were developed; estimates of materials and equipment were made; a 10-238 was drafted as part of the package. Photographs of the area were taken and included as part of the report. Estimated cost for complete restoration of the campground to natural contours and vegetation is \$696,654.



MRNPA COMMENTS ON WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Thank you, Sally Soest, for coordinating and typing the MRNPA official comment on the draft Wilderness Management Plan for Mount Rainier National Park.

The Wilderness Management Plan was presented to the public in mid-January, allowing approximately four weeks for comments by individuals and groups. MRNPA responded with five typewritten pages commenting on management goals and objectives, user impact, laws and policies, standards for wilderness resources, management alternatives, needs, research, and monitoring.

Besides commenting on the specifics of the plan, the Associates applauded the National Park Service's commitment to controlling visitor use in order to protect the Wilderness resource: "We realize that the Park Service is often caught in a bind between two sometimes conflicting missions: 'use and enjoyment' versus 'resource protection.'"

"Wilderness designation, in our view, removes that conflict. The Wilderness Act of 1964 clearly considers resource protection paramount, in stating that Wilderness Areas 'shall be administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people IN SUCH MANNER AS WILL LEAVE THEM UNIMPAIRED for future use and enjoyment AS WILDERNESS, and so as to provide for the protection of these areas, the preservation of their wilderness character....'

"This mandate to keep the Park forever wild should free you from any sense of conflict between 'use' and 'preservation'. We urge you make no apologies for concentrating on preserving the enduring resource of Wilderness. Certainly in the long run that is the surest method of enhancing the 'use and enjoyment' of the Park by the public."



Scott Willis
San Jose Mercury News
Copy New Service

Adopt-A-Forest

Program needs help

In February and again in March, the National Audubon Society sponsored two Adopt-a-Forest Conferences.

For those of you who have not heard of the program, Adopt-a-Forest groups get involved in old growth and forest-related issues at their local ranger districts. Developing a map of the old growth in the district, tracking timber sales, taking wildlife surveys (especially of spotted owls and marbled murrelets), and advocating a variety of other environmentally protective measures such as road closures and limiting use of ORVs are some of the activities undertaken by these groups. You need not be a member of National Audubon Society to participate, nor do you need to call yourself an Adopt-a-Forest group. We are tied together by similar goals and values and the desire to become involved in our local ranger districts.

From the two meetings, interested people have started an Adopt-a-Forest program for the Packwood Ranger District. This District borders on the southern boundary of Mount Rainier National Park.

We are in desperate need of two volunteers from MRNPA to join this team, helping to monitor the Packwood Ranger District's activities (especially with logging near the MRNP border) and to keep the Associates informed. Please contact one of the Executive Officers if you can help out (phone numbers on another page in this newsletter).

The following information from the USFS deals specifically with the Copper-Topper project (related article in Fall issue 1988) and the planning work being done by the Packwood Ranger District.

"Scenic Quality - Some key viewpoints have been identified along highway 706 and FS Rd 52. We can use our computer to display a reasonably accurate 3-D image of the project area, as viewed from these key points. The computer will later be used to display any proposed changes to the visual character of the hillside.

"Geological Considerations - Our initial investigations for the overall planning area indicate the majority of the slopes are stable. However, we have observed some specific areas where unstable conditions occur along the banks of Goat Creek and Copper Creek as well as a creek drainage located along the western boundary of the planning area.

"Watershed - A series of stream surveys has been initiated. We have collected information about the stability of the stream channel, the general type of land-forms in the area, and 'health' of the stream, the amount and kinds of fish, fish habitat and habitat potential, and the presence of any problem areas. To date we have surveyed all of Copper Creek (2.8 miles) and almost one mile of Goat Creek.

"Silviculture - We found that most of the planning area is dominated by a generally healthy stand of 115-130 year old Douglas-fir, with lesser amounts of western hemlock, western redcedar and bigleaf maple. Approximately 150 acres of the planning area consists mostly of a mature stand of red alder which has reforested this area following timber harvesting in the 1940s and 50s.

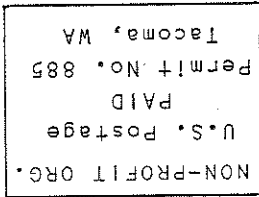
"Cultural Resources - A comprehensive archaeological survey was completed in the planning area to identify any evidence of prehistoric or historic remains. We found eight historic sites inside the planning area. None of these sites are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

"Interdisciplinary Team - An interdisciplinary team has been established to do additional planning and environmental analysis work on the project.

"What's next? Over the winter, the planning team will develop some draft alternatives for the proposed management of the planning area. These draft alternatives will be presented next spring with the idea of having the summer of '89 to meet and/or go out with you and look at site-specific proposals. Our goal remains to have an environmental document completed on the planning area by the end of 1989."



RENEW MEMBERSHIP TODAY



FORWARDING AND RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATES
4710 129th Ave. E.
Sumner, WA 98390

MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATES MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE () - _____

WORK PHONE () - _____

DATE _____
MEMBERSHIP & NEWSLETTER \$10 ☐
CHECK HERE IF RENEWAL ☐
CHECK HERE IF ADDRESS CHANGE ☐

IN ADDITION TO MY DUES I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE
A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION IN THE AMOUNT OF:

☐ \$10 ☐ \$15 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 \$ _____

I AM INTERESTED IN HELPING
IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

AIR QUALITY	☐ A	WILDERNESS	☐ WD
WATER ISSUES	☐ WI	BOUNDARY STUDIES	☐ BD
WILDLIFE	☐ WL	ADJACENT LAND MGMT	☐ AL
TRAIL WORK	☐ T	BACKCOUNTRY MGMT	☐ BC
HIKES	☐ H	NEWSLETTER	☐ NW
MEETINGS	☐ MT	MEMBER RECRUITMENT	☐ MR
MAILING PARTIES	☐ MP	FUND RAISING	☐ FR
VISITOR IMPACT	☐ V	TELEPHONING	☐ TT

MEMBERSHIPS ARE VALID FROM APRIL - MARCH.
DUES RECEIVED AFTER JANUARY 1 WILL
APPLY TO THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WITH CHECK
OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO: MRNPA

Mail to:
JOHN TITLAND, TREASURER
MRNPA
15242 SE 48th DRIVE
BELLEVUE, WA 98006