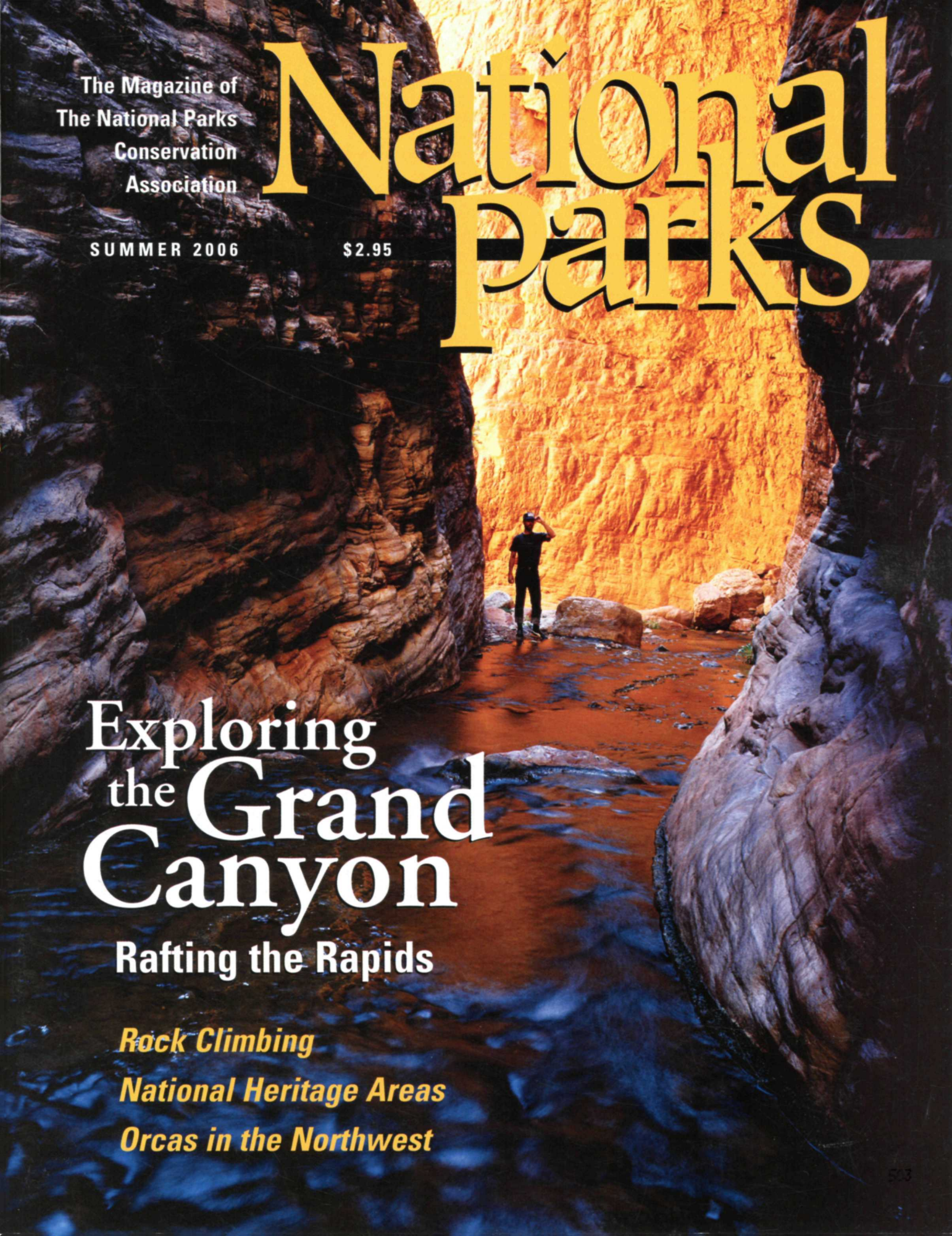
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Exploring
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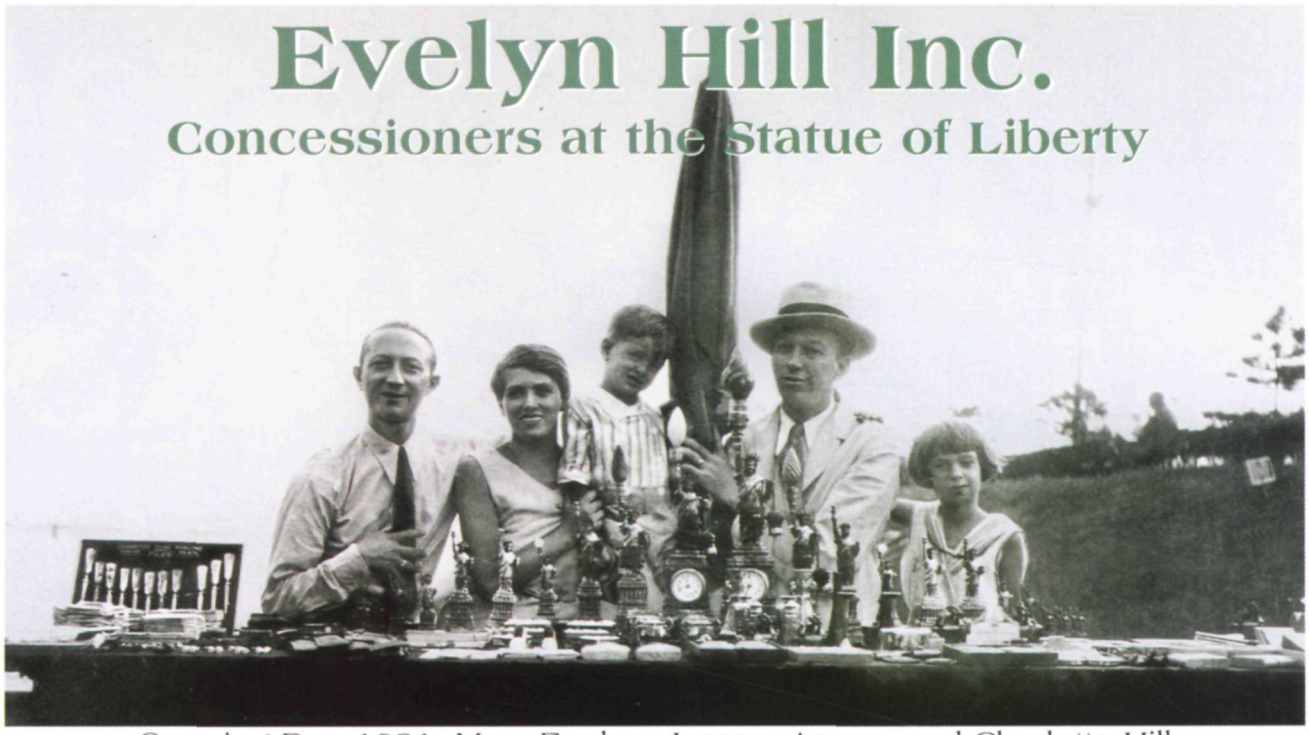
Canyon
Rafting the Rapids
Rock Climbing
National Heritage Areas
Orcas in the Northwest

Evelyn Hill Inc.

Concessioners at the Statue of Liberty



Opening Day 1931: Max, Evelyn, James, Aaron, and Charlotte Hill

1930's

1940's

75th Anniversary 1931-2006

We would like to thank the National Park Service for giving us the opportunity to serve millions of visitors at the Statue of Liberty National Monument over the past 75 years. It has been a great honor and pleasure. —Brad Hill

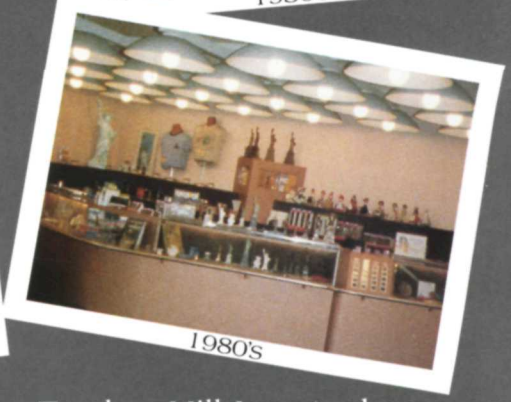
	Years of Service
Aaron G Hill	1931-1943
Evelyn Hill	1931-1990
James I. Hill	1943-1996
Bradford A. Hill	1981-Present

1960's

1950's-60's

1970's-80's

1960's



1980's

Next issue: Evelyn Hill Inc. today...

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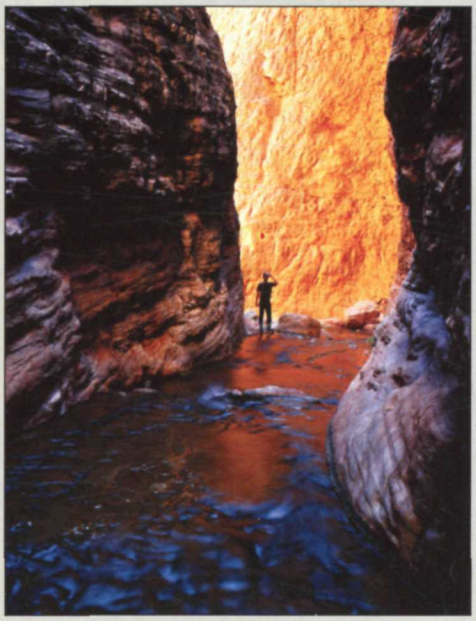
The National Parks
Conservation Association

National Parks

Vol. 80, No. 3
Summer 2006

FEATURES



A hiker explores a canyon off the Colorado River in Grand Canyon National Park, *by Fred Hirschmann*

GAYLE HARPER

40

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WOOLAROC MUSEUM, BARTLESVILLE, OKLAHOMA

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Departments

Road to Restoration


KRISTA SCHLYER

When you embark on your annual vacations to the parks this summer, you may be returning with your families to the same places that sparked your romance with our nation's greatest lands and landmarks.

If so, you may find some changes. The campfire story that ignited the magic of the parks for you more than two decades ago may be gone, and the ranger-led stargazing trips may have been eliminated. The minor operations increase that the Bush Administration and House Appropriations Committee are pushing this year is not sufficient to cover cost increases, so our parks will again have to cut more staff and more programming.

Although over the years, Congress has been providing some additional funding support for the parks, it has been far less than what is needed to cover inflation and increases in fixed costs. So although the total level of funding has gone up, the purchasing power available to each superintendent has been on a steady and significant decline. The loss of funding and the reduction in ranger programs is hampering the parks' ability to create these memorable experiences for families and to subsequently protect the places that fostered those memories.

On August 25, 2006, the National Park System will celebrate its 90th anniversary, just one decade shy of its centennial. Will the parks be in such dire straits ten years from now? The national parks are at a crossroads. Down one road is a continuing loss of species, a decline in park programs, and a loss of family memories. Down the other road is a revitalized vision for our national parks, fully funded programs, restored species, and reinvestments in park infrastructure.

We invite the newly confirmed Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne to begin the journey down the road to restoration. The National Park System is the world's gold standard for national parks. It has been described by author Wallace Stegner as the greatest idea America ever had. But this idea could crumble for lack of vision and support, if we do not change course now.

Over the next two years, Secretary Kempthorne has the ability to begin implementing a Centennial Initiative for the National Park System. We have an unparalleled opportunity and a responsibility to come together and work as a community of national park lovers and supporters to realize our vision for the parks. The system should receive full funding; education opportunities must be restored; scientific research and plant and animal inventories must be completed; and parks must be linked with biological corridors to enable effective migration of species.

Join us in encouraging the new Secretary of the Interior to begin laying the foundation to restore the parks and prepare a proper centennial celebration. Please visit www.npca.org and sign up to receive our biweekly e-newsletter, *Park Lines.*

Thomas C. Kiernan

EDITOR'S NOTE

Sharing Our Stories


CHAD EVANS WYATT

During a recent visit to Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, my staff and I asked Ranger David Fox to give us the "quintessential park experience." Fox, an interpretative ranger at this park for nearly two decades, did not fail us. His obvious love of the park, its history, and his incredible ability to weave more than 200 years of tangentially related American history into a cogent three-hour presentation is what makes for a memorable park experience.

The historic and natural significance of Harpers Ferry goes well beyond the story of abolitionist John Brown's failed slave revolt. At the confluence of the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers, the Industrial Revolution, Lewis & Clark, the Civil War, and the civil rights movement intersect over the centuries to create a lasting and significant story if only you have the patience or the right ranger to share it with you.

Some of that story will be celebrated this August during the 100th anniversary of the Niagara Movement, the very beginnings of the civil rights movement (see story, page 66). And without dedicated rangers like David Fox, some of the significant stories that form the history of our nation would be forgotten.

Sadly these experiences are becoming more rare because of budget cuts. This summer as you travel to the parks, share your memorable park experiences with us (see page 7). Your personal stories help us to carry the message to Congress that preserving education programs in the parks is an important aspect to preserving the parks themselves.

Linda M. Rancourt
Editor-in-Chief

National Parks

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Linda M. Rancourt
PRODUCTION MANAGER: Briggs Cunningham
SENIOR EDITOR: Scott Kirkwood
ASSISTANT EDITOR: Amy Leinbach Marquis
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NATIONAL PARKS
1300 19th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036
202-223-6722; npmag@npca.org

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Holly Baker: 913-344-1392; fax: 913-469-0806
hbaker@ascendmedia.com
Amy Galey: 913-344-1411; fax: 913-469-0806
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Protecting Our National Parks for Future Generations®

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 to sign up.

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Making Some Noise About Energy

Drilling Down

I read with interest the article "What Lies Beneath" [Spring 2006]. As an official delegate to the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission active in the oil and gas industry in Kansas, Nebraska, and Colorado, I take exception to many of the statements contained in the article.

My first visit to a national park was to Yellowstone in 1935, and I've subsequently visited numerous times since then, most recently in September 2005. I've noticed a vast change in the park, from a place with few people, more bears and wildlife to one with mostly people, buildings, and roads In fact, I'd say pollution sources by people and associated vehicles and facilities far outweigh pollution, if any, from the oil and gas industry in adjacent Wyoming and Montana.

I do not advocate drilling in any of the national parks. Your article depicted need for a buffer zone around each park from which oil and gas exploration would be excluded. A reader might interpret some of the figures depicted as saying nothing should be drilled within 200 miles or more of a national park. I was particularly concerned by this and other inflammatory remarks. I trust you, like many people, do not believe oil and gas in commercial quantities, or even in very small volumes, underlies the entire earth surface and all we, as explorationists, have to do is to drill a hole to find it. On the contrary, the commodities only exist where conditions of "Mother Earth" are right. Our industry is restricted from drilling off the Pacific Coast, Atlantic Coast, Florida Gulf Coast, and major portions of Alaskan

Coast. If a wide buffer zone was to be created around each national park, still more lands would be excluded. Where do the restrictions stop?

James R. Daniels
Murfin Drilling Co., Inc.
Wichita, KS

I read with wonder the articles in your (our) publication on the danger presented by the energy companies to our planet. When are we going to place blame on ourselves for the consumption that we continue to demand? We are the driving force of the energy companies as we are the consumers.

Most of the other countries of the world "get by" with vehicles and a lifestyle that use less fuel. If the demand drops then the production will be unnecessary. We need to look at our own actions to see what we can do to improve the world around us.

Richard F. Thompson
Kerrville, TX

Words Worth 1,000 Pictures

The words by Ruth Rudner, accompanying the photographs in "Wilderness Reflected" [Winter 2006] were words I have long searched for in explaining why I have hiked Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park (mostly solo) for the last 50-plus years. Thank her please.

Walt Keller (via e-mail)

Prevailing Winds

It has taken me a few weeks to calm down after reading "Winds of Change" [Spring 2006]. The implication of this article seemed to be, "Put wind turbines in the middle of the country where it apparently does not matter if turbines ruin a view or kill birds as long as East Coast national park views are protected." The writer apparently thinks this is okay because the middle of the country consists of "areas where national parks aren't particularly common." The writer goes on to note that, "The Park Service is even doing its part: The Statue of

Liberty and Ellis Island just signed a three-year contract with Pepco Energy Services to purchase an estimated 27 million kilowatt hours of electricity produced by wind turbines in the Midwest." I would like to know where the wind turbines are located that are going to supply the Statue of Liberty with energy and if there are any parks (state/local), nature areas, bird flyways, etc. located within view/range of the turbines. The bottom line to me is simple: If the East Coast needs/wants to use energy from wind turbines, then the wind turbines should be located in that region; surely there are placements that can be made that lessen their visual intrusion. Perhaps seeing the turbines will make more people think about where their energy is coming from and that may lead to less waste.

Barbara Welsch (via e-mail)

A Religious Experience

I really liked the article in the Spring 2006 issue titled, "The Thin Places" [Spring 2006]. I feel pretty much the same way as the author, Peter Illyn. I'm happy to see you're not afraid to print references to God!

Barbara Edmondson
Spring, TX

In Search of Silence

Your article "A Sound Resolution" [Spring 2006] resonated with me.

As a frequent visitor and camper in national parks, I have become concerned about the noise level in national park campgrounds. Last summer my husband and I camped in the north unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. It was late in the season, so the campground hosts were no longer in residence. Although campground rules clearly stated that motorhome generators were to be cut off after a certain hour, several of the campers chose to run theirs well past the quiet hour time. I have also camped in national park units where loud partying took place and drunken behavior was displayed, and not necessarily by young adults. For this reason I sometimes choose state park campgrounds over national park campgrounds. It has been my experience that state parks have better security in their campgrounds.

I realize that budgetary pressures have stretched resources thin at the national parks, but it seems to me that ensuring the safety and serenity of park visitors and resident wildlife is sound policy and of prime importance to the parks' mission.

Georgiana L. Kurtz
Lakeland, FL

Corrections

On page 47 of our spring issue ["A Capital Idea"], we mistakingly wrote that the city of Tokyo gave Washington, D.C., 3,000 cherry blossoms in 1812. That date should have read 1912. On page 72 ["You Are Here"], 632,300 acres of Olympic National Park are managed by the Olympic National Forest. The park as a whole consists of a much larger 922,651 acres.

Future Generations

The proposed budget for our national parks in fiscal year 2007 is the worst we've seen in years—$100 million below the Park Service's current budget. Programs such as science and education are feeling the squeeze—but these are what make our park experiences so spectacular. Ranger-led tours, campfire tales, and student workshops bind us to our children, and our children to the parks, creating a new generation of park advocates.

In response, NPCA is launching a campaign, "It's All About Jack," that reminds us why it's important to keep our kids connected to the parks—and we want you to play a role. As you venture into the parks this summer, take note of special moments you share with your sons, daughters, nieces, nephews, or grandchildren. Were you able to share the same experiences you enjoyed as a child? Or were some programs you enjoyed—like a special campfire tale—no longer available?

Email stories to Dionna Humphrey, associate director of advocacy, at dhumphrey@npca.org; or mail letters to Dionna Humphrey, NPCA, 1300 19th St. NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC, 20036. We'll be taking submissions all summer long.

New Action Center Unveiled

We've launched our brand new action center! You'll notice some visual and functional changes in our Take Action Center (www.npca.org/take_action), and your personal action center has come a long way, too. Now you can track your offline activities with ease—recording calls to your congressional representatives, visits to congressional offices, and any events where you volunteered. You will even have a "to-do" list to refer to, so you can keep track of which park issues still need your attention. Finally, the new system will feature a zip code plus-four lookup for all activists, which will help match you with the right lawmakers.

Given how easy it is to take action with this new, powerful tool, we know you will enjoy becoming even more active in voicing your support for the parks!

ParkScope

NEWS & NOTES

Star Struck

The Park Service's Night Sky program completes the first stage in a pioneering study of light pollution

As a famously animated cricket once sang, "When you wish upon a star, it makes no difference who you are." Unfortunately, precisely *where* you are could make all the difference in your odds of tracking down a star in the first place.

Most Americans know that park superintendents are entrusted with preserving wildlife, landscapes, and even the crystal-clear blue skies overhead. But their role in preserving dramatic views of celestial bodies might not be as obvious. Most of us don't even notice the effects of light pollution: If you live in a major American city, you probably have no idea what you're missing every time the sun sets. And if you live hundreds of miles from an urban area, your view of our infinite solar system might make it difficult to recognize when a star or two fade from view.

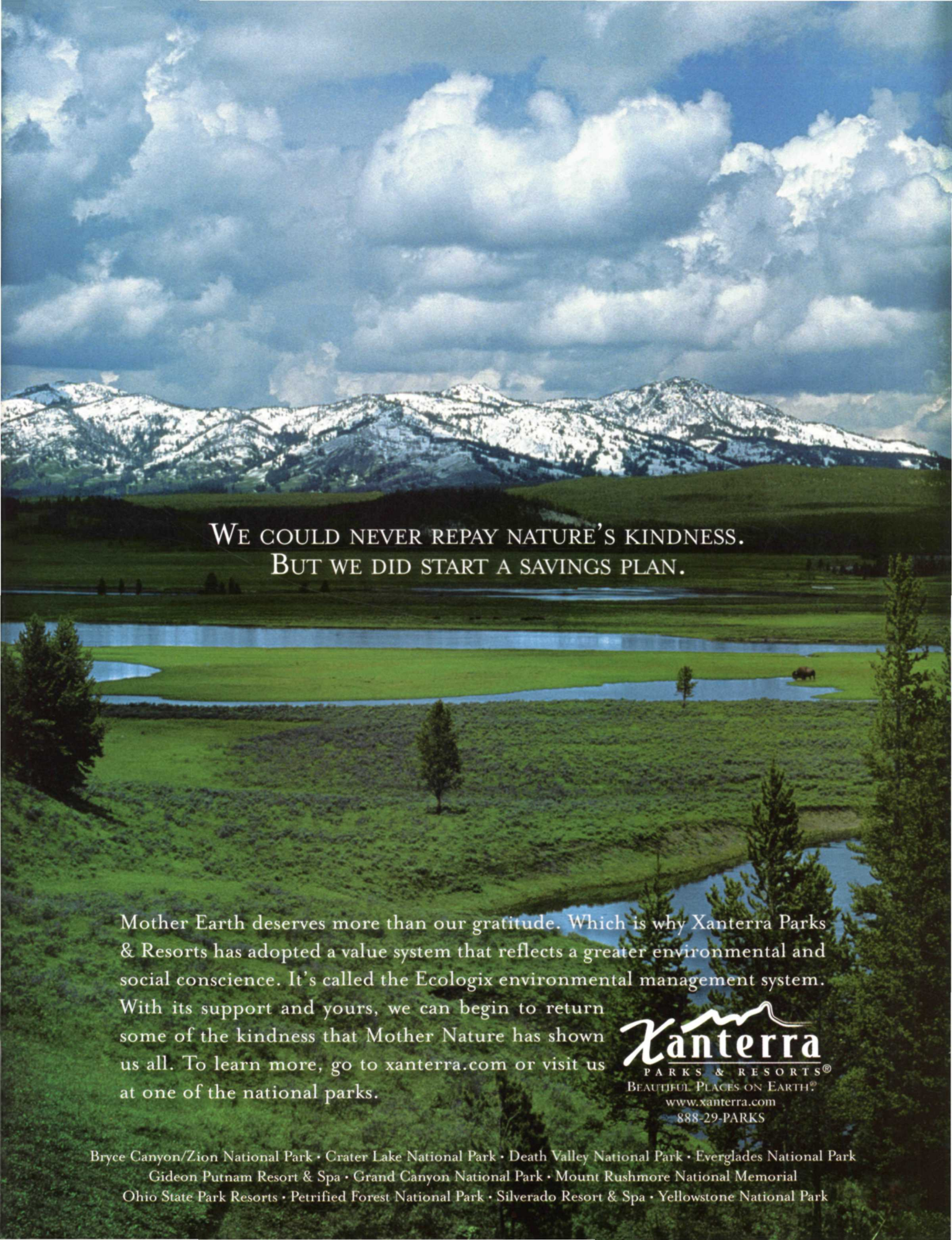
Chad Moore and his colleagues with the Park Service's Night Skies program are hoping to change that by documenting the impact of light pollution on natural landscapes throughout the park system.

"Light pollution is pervasive—it's everywhere," says Moore. "We experience the world through the visible spectrum so we think it's innocuous, but the majority of mammals and perhaps the majority of species are nocturnal. Edison's light bulb was one of the biggest environmental changes ever—we had established day and night cycles for billions of years since the planet was formed, but it's only been in the last 127 years that we've had the ability to [manipulate light], and that makes it a really interesting environmental question."

In 1999, NPCA focused attention on the issue with the release of *Vanishing Night Skies*, a report that grew out of a survey of NPS superintendents. Moore, a physical scientist at Pinnacles National Monument at the time, latched on to the issue, and soon worked to secure a small grant to form the NPS Night Skies team. Over the course of two years, the team developed a robotic telescope that points an ultra-sensitive digital camera at various points in the sky and stores the images to a hard drive. The images are then pieced together to create a panoramic view and a full 360-degree

NPS

Forty-five images were pieced together to illustrate the night sky over Yosemite.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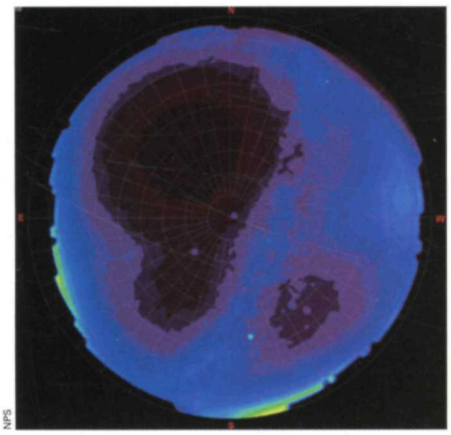
view, both color-coded to reflect subtle gradations that would otherwise look like muddy splatters of grey.

The project began in four California parks, but has expanded to the southwest and even Acadia National Park and Cape Cod National Seashore. Five cameras travel throughout the country, accompanied by Night Skies team members or specially trained Park Service employees. Images must be recorded when the moon is at its darkest and when weather conditions are clear, so the process can be time-consuming, but the research has helped establish baseline data and already revealed some valuable findings.



NPS

A color-coded image of Death Valley's night sky, taken in February 2006.

"A lot of people, even astronomers, assume that places like Great Basin, Bryce Canyon, and Arches are so remote that they wouldn't suffer from light pollution," says Moore. "But we found virtually every park unit has some light pollution; we've documented light pollution traveling more than 200 miles."

Those impacts go far beyond ruining a romantic evening for two. As the sky becomes brighter, the stars are drowned out in the glow, and ecosystems are disrupted in subtle but meaningful ways.

"During the full moon, the sky is pretty bright, but that's a normal rhythm," says Moore. "During a new moon, it's generally very dark at night, an important time for animals to hunt or to avoid being preyed upon—adding light to the equation either gives an advantage to predator or prey." Most migrating birds move at night using the stars and the sun as reference points, and the distant glow of a city can look an awful lot like sunrise or sunset. The result? Birds slamming into lit skyscrapers or drifting off course and wandering into the ocean and perishing. Hatching sea turtles in several parks along the eastern seaboard have been known to mistake a paved road with streetlights for moonlight reflected on the water, an error that generally spells their end.

And beyond concerns for wildlife, it's clear that light pollution is the sign of an inefficient society. Conservative estimates peg the energy waste associated with light pollution at $2 billion annually. Light that's directed up into the atmosphere serves no good purpose, and it's a problem that can be easily remedied, and then pay for itself. Street lighting can easily be directed down, timers and motion detectors can turn off lights not being used, and businesses can turn off most of their lights each evening. Most home-improvement stores sell inexpensive fixtures for homeowners to affix to their porch lights to shine the light down—a move that generally allows consumers to buy smaller bulbs that use even less energy.

Cities like Flagstaff, Arizona, and Denver, Colorado, have adopted lighting ordinances that require residential communities and retailers to minimize light pollution. The Park Service is trying to model behavior by improving its own lighting and consciously reminding the public of the importance of preserving the night sky.

"A lot of people come to the parks to sleep under the night sky, and when they get there, by golly, there better be stars up there," says Moore. "If we can preserve dark skies in parks, we can remind the public how good a dark sky looks and all that it protects in terms of animals and scenery and our own human connection with the universe, and we'll never have that gradual lowering of the bar—we'll always be able to point to a national park and say, 'This is what it could be like.' " —*Scott Kirkwood*

NPCA Notes

Miami, FL—NPCA's legal efforts in the Everglades have resulted in a clear victory for the fragile landscape that defines southern Florida. A limestone quarry that was planned for the area has been halted, and a new construction permit won't be issued until substantial environmental protections are put in place.

In 2002, NPCA joined the Sierra Club and the Natural Resources Defense Council in a lawsuit that challenged the Army Corps of Engineers' plans to convert 22,000 acres of wetlands into limestone mining pits. In March, the U.S. District Court Judge found in NPCA's favor. The ruling condemned the Corps for granting the permits and for failing to consider the potential impact on wildlife (such as the snowy egret, below), water seepage out of Everglades National Park, and further implications concerning the Clean Water Act. The issue has loomed over the Everglades for years, and although the mining has not been stopped permanently, the ruling will ensure the protection of Everglades.

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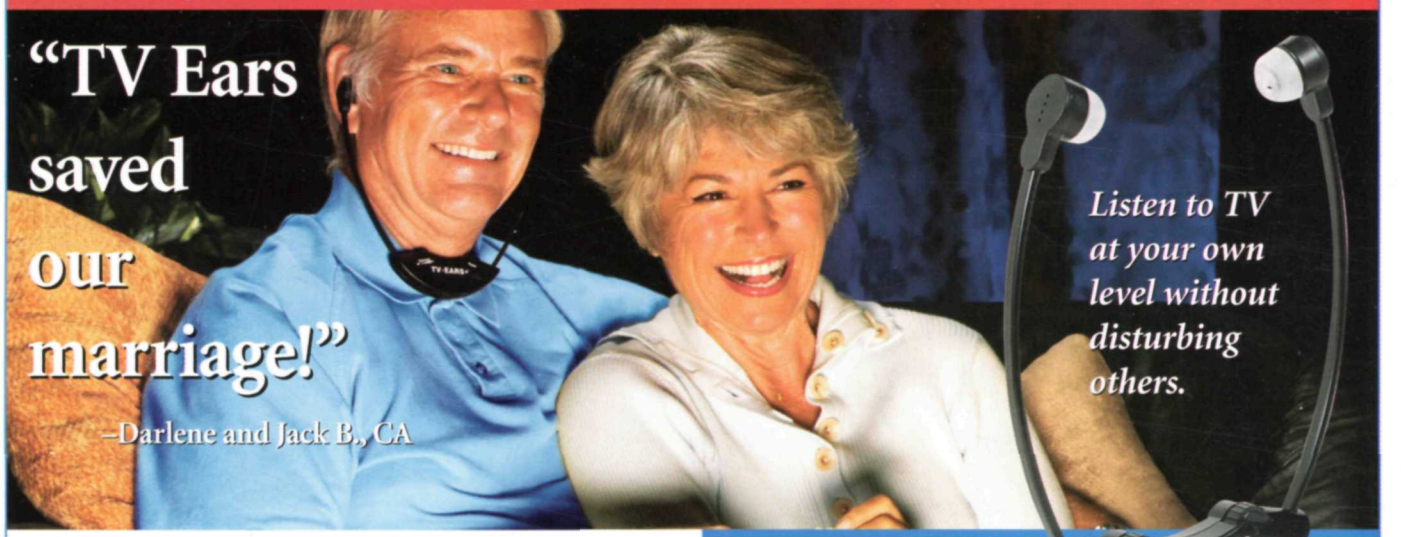

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History Unearthed

An African burial ground discovered in New York City becomes the latest addition to the National Park System

CHARLES LILLY'S PAINTING "THE AFRICAN BURIAL GROUND" COURTESY OF NPS

The African burial ground in New York has uncovered much of the history of the city itself, the colonial slave trade, and the heritage of African Americans.

In the fall of 1991, a construction crew erecting a government office building in News York City for the General Services Administration stumbled upon the remains of 419 Africans from the 17th and 18th centuries. Construction was halted so that archaeologists, anthropologists, and experts in black history could investigate the site. Their work revealed details of the lives of thousands of Africans who had been enslaved in the region under Dutch rule and, later, British rule, years before the land would be called "the United States of America."

"Most people don't associate slavery with New York or the north for that matter," says Tara Morrison, Park Service project manager for the African Burial Ground. "So, from the beginning, there was a tremendous amount of public interest in the site, not only from members of the New York and African descendant community but also from scholars who understood the value and importance of the site and demanded that it should be preserved appropriately. With estimates of 10,000 to 20,000 people buried in this seven-acre burial ground, it's considered the largest known site of its kind in the United States."

The land was designated a national historic landmark in April 1993. This February, President George W. Bush designated it a national monument, making it the 390th unit of the park system. Before this discovery, the largest burial ground previously discovered contained only 140 individuals. Most skeletal remains of African slave populations in North American contain only a handful of individuals buried on former plantations in the South, unearthed during construction of a road or swimming pool. Because blacks in urban areas were generally banned from burying their dead in Christian church yards, New York is the first such burial ground to reveal such deep layers of our nation's history.

As bulldozers made way for trowels and brushes of archaeologists, hundreds of PhDs, students, and technicians logged more than 250,000 observations in an anthropological database, captured 25,000 digital photographs, and recorded nearly 2,000 x-rays to compare the remains against archival skeletal collections of known origin.

"Most of these slaves were from west and central Africa, and though they had very little material goods in their coffins, they had some dramatic representations of their sense of themselves as African people with specific cultures and some interesting representations of their ambiguity about their own identities," says Michael Blakey, scientific director for the project and now a professor of anthropology at Howard University in Washington, D.C. Blakey's analysis of human skeletal remains revealed that these men and women faced brutal working conditions, premature rates of mortality, and excessive workloads, while nutritional deficiencies were common among young children. It's now clear how much

local merchants relied on slave laborers to operate the bustling port and to work in trades such as shipbuilding, construction, domestic labor, and farming.

"For many people in the African American community, the African Burial Ground was an unsurprising surprise," says Blakey. "Many textbooks say that Africans arrived in significant numbers in the early 19th century, and here we've found a site representing perhaps 15,000 burials of Africans who were there from the second year of the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam, making up perhaps 40 percent of that population and 20 percent of New York's population on the eve of the Revolutionary War. These people helped build the city and were involved in many aspects of its economy and social life, almost entirely as enslaved people. The centrality of slavery in New York was not just overlooked but covered up—you couldn't ask for a more glaring example. It took finding the actual bodies of these people en masse to give any veracity to the fact that slavery existed in the north as well as the south."

But that story is now being told. The archaeologists have long since completed their site work and reinterred the bodies, and the federal office building has since been constructed adjacent to the burial ground. While work on a permanent memorial continues, visitors can enter the General Services Administration building at 290 Broadway and gain access to information, see the site, and view artwork commissioned for the building's lobby. Construction on the memorial itself is expected to continue until 2008, when more extensive interpretation programs should be unveiled. For more information, visit www.africanburialground.gov.

—*Scott Kirkwood*

News in Brief

Washington, D.C.—This summer and fall, the public will see a whole new side of Shenandoah National Park. A powerful exhibit is on display in the U.S. Department of the Interior building in Washington, D.C., through September, and the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley in Winchester, Virginia, from August to next October. Photographer Hullihen Williams Moore reveals the park through compelling angles and dramatic lighting in a black-and-white style reminiscent of Ansel Adams' work in the West. For more details visit www.hullihenmoorephotography.com.

HULLIHEN WILLIAMS MOORE

Q&A The Trail of Tears

PAINTING BY ROBERT LINDNEUX; WOOLAROC MUSEUM, BARTLESVILLE, OKLAHOMA

The Trail of Tears commemorates the 1838 relocation of thousands of Cherokee Indians to what is now Oklahoma.

In 1838, the United States government forcibly removed more than 16,000 Cherokee Indians from their homelands in Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee, relocating them to areas now called Oklahoma; hundreds died during the trip and thousands more perished shortly afterwards. The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail—about 2,200 miles of land and water trails designated in 1987—tells this sad chapter in American history, but research has indicated that there are additional trails that are not yet part of the network. Rep. Zach Wamp (R-TN) recently introduced legislation expanding the trail to parts of Tennessee and several other states.

Q: How did you become involved in the legislation concerning the Trail of Tears?

A: My mother's grandfather, Looney Meadows, who lived to be about 100 years old, was a half-breed Cherokee Indian—I can still remember being with him in his later years. His mother, whose Indian name was Little Flower, was a full-blooded Cherokee Indian, and that has always been something I was real proud of. Our family had roots in east Tennessee about four generations ago, then all ended up in northern Alabama, and now we're all back [in Tennessee], but the thought has always been that they fled before the Trail of Tears took place.

Through my work in designating Moccasin Bend [as an archaeological historical site relevant to the Trail of Tears], I met Dr. Dwayne King, an authority on the Park Service's trail system. Back in 1994, he told me that he was documenting more depots—places where Cherokees were rounded up—and paths that were part of the trail, and he told me the original legislation establishing the trail was woefully inadequate. He said that once his research was vetted, we might want to look at modernizing the legislation, and these new routes would double the scope of the Trail of Tears.

Q: Why is it so important to preserve this land?

A: The Trail of Tears is a story of a great people, the Cherokee people, one of the smartest Indian tribes in the history of all Native Americans. They had their own alphabet, their own communication, their own government, and the white man completely disrupted their way of life, ordering their forced removal. It's a story of character of an entire people, a great people whose character was born out of adversity. It's a tragic story that, frankly, needs to be a more prominent part of American history.

But beyond the story of the Cherokee, this is the story of Andrew Jackson ignoring the U.S. Supreme Court, forcibly removing nearly 17,000 Native Americans from their land against the ruling of Chief Justice John Marshall. It's a sore spot in the history of Andrew Jackson and the state of Tennessee, but you can't water down or ignore the harsh realities of what man can do to man.

I have the privilege of taking young people through the U.S. Capitol quite often and I always stop in at Statuary Hall, and I talk about heroes like Andrew Jackson and Davy Crockett—they were both Democrats [and they knew each other well], but boy did they ever part ways. Davy Crockett lost his seat in Congress because he sided with the Native Americans against Andrew Jackson, and he was run out of office. Davy Crockett goes down in history as this

great leader, in part because he gave his life at the Alamo, but in my view he separated himself from everyone else by doing what he knew was right, even though it was very unpopular to side with the Native Americans.

Q: Why is it important for the Park Service to tell these difficult stories?

A: I think all great leaders at some point admit their mistakes and I think all great nations would fall into the same category. If you deny that you are infallible or that you make mistakes, history will never truly recognize you as great.

If these stories are told candidly, they reveal the character of the nation and the character of the players. You have to understand the injustice of the Trail of Tears to understand the courage of Davy Crockett. You have to understand the travesty of the Cherokee to understand why Tennessee Governor John Sevier came to Chattanooga and stood over the Cherokee children as they played at the Brainerd mission and began to cry. When they said, "Governor, why do you cry?" He said "Because I realize these are little children just like my grandchildren and not wild animals after all." You have to understand how wrong it all was, to ever understand how right *he* was.

SCOTT KIRKWOOD

Rep. Zach Wamp has introduced legislation to extend the Trail of Tears.

Q: How are Cherokees in this region responding to this movement?

A: At the opening of The Passage [a permanent display of Cherokee artwork on the shores of the Tennessee River], it was incredible to see the presence of the Eastern Band of Cherokee, who came back to these sites—to see the emotion and the passion they brought to the river, and to see the Five Civilized Tribes come together… Over the years, a lot of these tribes have been fractured and splintered and relocated all over the region, but this process is a coming together, a return to where their ancestors came and were removed. It's like the recent movement to honor the World War II generation: You can honor them when they're all gone and dead, but isn't it a lot nicer to honor them when they live?

Pushing Tin

National parks friends groups are hawking specialty license plates, raising millions of dollars for their cause

Ever heard of a $500,000-a-plate fundraiser? Sounds pricy, but it's not the cost of a meal at a black-tie gala, it's the amount of money that several specialty license plate programs generate for national parks every year.

Americans have always considered their cars to be expressions of their personalities, but that thinking has extended to every inch of the vehicle. A vanity plate that spells out a clever, cryptic message is no longer enough: In recent years, drivers have been purchasing specialized plates that announce their connection to an advocacy group, a university, a sports team, and, yes, a national park.

The logistics of producing a plate vary from state to state, but for the most part, departments of motor vehicles simply want to ensure that there's enough support to justify the plate's creation and ongoing administrative work. In most cases, friends groups need to generate a few thousand signatures indicating widespread interest, or simply pay a fee to offset the initial production costs. From then on, a percentage of the license fee and renewal fee goes directly to the friends group.

It's no surprise that the leader of the pack is Yosemite National Park in California, where people love the park almost as much as they love their wheels. Since 1993, 97,000 license plates have been sold, raising just short of $10 million for the Yosemite Fund. The money has helped pay for trail restoration, visitor centers, bike paths, and educational exhibits, among other things.

Friends of the Smokies had modest expectations of its first plate, produced in Tennessee, but the program was quickly raising more than $100,000 a year; now it's contributing about $550,000 a year to help support various

wildlife programs, parks as classrooms, and historic preservation. It's become the largest single source of funding for the group, representing donations from 20,000 individual supporters. Across the border, its North Carolina plate is the best-selling specialty tag in that state, raising $190,000 each year for a running total just beyond $620,000. Twenty dollars from the $30 annual fee goes directly to Friends of the Smokies, helping to fund the experimental reintroduction of elk to Cataloochee Valley, improvements to a science learning center, and efforts to fend off threats to hemlocks posed by the wooly adelgid.

Any fundraising program aimed at park preservation is a good thing, but there are legitimate concerns that Congress will start taking these efforts for granted and defer its responsibility to fund the parks. So the best programs reserve their funding for "icing on the cake" rather than the flour and sugar that make up core park operations. In fact, the prevalence of specialty tags on state highways can do a lot to draw the attention of those in power.

"When our local senators and congressmen see that there are thousands of people supporting the parks through this program, they want to be *more* involved not *less* involved," says George Ivey, director of development for Friends of the Smokies. "Senators Fred Thompson and Bill Frist helped secure money for a science center for the park—a desperately needed facility—and I think it was because they saw how much public support there is for the parks."

In Texas, Friends of Big Bend has donated at least $30,000 a year to that park since its program began, most recently purchasing a digital video camera to help park staff create interpretive programs; relocating four backcountry campsites to disperse crowds and provide a true wilderness experience for visitors; buying new global positioning units to help map the park's resources; and securing two trailers to aid in grassland restoration projects. The park is also using the funds to rehabilitate some visitor center exhibits that have been damaged by sun over the years and adding ultraviolet-resistant glass to lessen such problems in the future.

Betsy Edwards, executive director of Washington's National Park Fund, launched that organization's license plate program in January with the aim of

funding the two-person staff, so that every other dollar raised could be passed on directly to Olympic, Mt. Rainier, and North Cascades through various grants. In its first three months, the program raised nearly $9,000, putting the group well on its way toward the goal. The group even engaged park advocates and community members by unveiling potential plate designs at a local art gallery and inviting donors to submit their thoughts and opinions at a special event; an image of North Cascades won the honor. The organization later auctioned off the rights to purchase each of the first 25 plates, raising more than $23,000. Three members of Mount Rainier's staff got their plates in the auction, including the superintendent, and since then even more park employees have purchased plates on their own.

—Scott Kirkwood

News in Brief

CHUCK SUMMERS/CONTEMPLATIVE IMAGES

Washington, D.C.—In May, Sens. Tom Carper (D-DE) and Lamar Alexander (R-TN) introduced the "Clean Air Planning Act" in Congress, a bill that would drastically cut the most harmful pollutants from coal-fired power plants, including those that cause hazy skies, acid rain, unhealthy air days, and mercury contamination. The bill would also take an important first step to limiting pollution that casts a pall over park skies and contributes to global warming. Although the legislation may face plenty of hurdles, it should provide an important vehicle to highlight the issue of air pollution and to build long-term support for stronger measures to protect the parks like the Great Smoky Mountains (above).

On the local level, in April, the state of Maryland enacted the Healthy Air Act, protecting the natural and historic assets of Catoctin Mountain Park, C&O Canal National Historical Park, Fort McHenry National Monument, Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, and Shenandoah National Park, all of which are located in areas that exceed human health-protective limits on ground-level ozone or fine-particle pollution. NPCA and other members of the Healthy Air Coalition, including health professionals, faith-based groups, civic groups, and conservation groups, had worked tirelessly to advance the bill. Key legislative leaders made an active commitment to healthy air, including the bill's authors, State Senator Paul Pinsky and Delegate Jim Hubbard, key committee chairs Senator Paula Hollinger and Delegate Dereck Davis, Senate President Mike Miller, and House Speaker Mike Busch.

Rhythms of the Desert

Physicists are starting to unravel the mystery of dunesong produced by the Kelso Dunes in Mojave National Preserve.

By Scott Kirkwood

TOM BEAN/CORBIS

When conditions are just right, the sands of the Kelso Dunes can mimic the sound of low-flying airplanes, cannon fire, and rolling thunder.

Some say it sounds like a freight train while others liken it to a low-flying airplane coursing through the sky, and still others compare the sound to foghorns, cannon fire, and drums. But nearly everyone who hears the low growling thunder of the Kelso Dunes for the first time has a hard time believing a few grains of sand can cause such a racket.

Most of us equate deserts with quiet desolation occasionally interrupted by the haunting sounds of wind whistling over a barren landscape, but in Mojave National Preserve and a handful of other deserts throughout the world, the right conditions prompt "dunesong" to fill the air. Scientists have spent years investigating the physics behind it all, and they're finally beginning to make some headway.

It's a mystery that's been well preserved: Marco Polo wrote of evil spirits that fill the air with sound as long ago as 1295, and references can be found in Charles Darwin's 1889 *Voyages of the Beagle*, and T. E. Lawrence's *Arabian Nights*, published in 1915. At least 35 dunes have been identified for their lyrical abilities, stretching from the Americas to Africa, Asia, and the Hawaiian Islands. Dozens of scientific journals have published articles by physicists devoting a surprisingly serious level of attention to the matter—employing electron microscopes, schematic diagrams, and complex equations with strings of Greek symbols—all aimed at unlocking the secret of the dunes.

"I was part of a team of retired scientists that had been investigating dunesong since 1992, and it's still an unexplained phenomenon as far as I'm concerned," says Evan Evans, a former nuclear physicist. "We formed a club to solve some of the unsolved mysteries of science and that was the first one we tackled. Unfortunately I have to report it defeated us."

"We'd climb to the highest ridge along Kelso Dunes and start sand avalanches down the steeper, softer face of the dune, where sand is toppled over the ridge by the wind," says Evans. "These avalanches generated a loud 90-hertz tone, not unlike a low-flying B-17 bomber. We recorded the sounds using hydrophones buried in the sand [and eventually] discovered how to generate sound in the lab, using grains of sand that we'd gathered from various

singing and silent dunes."

Their work in the lab revealed that most finely sorted sands produce a noise of some sort, but it's nearly impossible to detect that noise above the sound of the wind. In a quiet, controlled environment of a laboratory, microphones can record the sounds of friction produced by grains of sand taken from almost any locale. But the squeaking of sand under your feet at the local beach is quite different from the booming of the Kelso Dunes.

"The sand grains at Kelso Dunes have been blown across the desert from Soda Dry Lake, about 20 miles away," says James Woolsey, chief of interpretation at Mojave National Preserve. "In the process of covering that distance, the really fine materials get blown into the atmosphere, and the bigger grains don't make it all the way there, but the particles that are about the same size complete the journey, and get rounded off so they're [nearly identical]." Consistent size and shape of the grains is one key ingredient in this musical score: Humidity levels and moisture content of each grain are also important. On days when the sky is cloudless and the wind is still, the sun-baked grains produce the loudest result.

"I once started a sand avalanche at the top of a dune, and the conditions were just right—it was like melted chocolate flowing down a hill in slow motion," says Woolsey. "The sand kept picking up all the other sand around it, so by the time it got to the bottom it was a huge 40-foot wave of sand going down, and you could feel the whole dune vibrating."

Those vibrations are the key part of the process, according to Bruno Andreotti, a scientist from the University of Paris. Andreotti recorded sounds from the Atlantic Sahara in Morocco, and determined that surface waves on the sand mimic the vibration of a huge loudspeaker. His article in a 2004 issue of *Physical Review Letters* correctly predicted the maximum volume of the singing to be 105 decibels (about as loud as a power mower or power saw) at which point the sand grains vibrate off the surface and become mute once again.

Although dune buggies and other vehicles can damage the dunes enough to silent the sands, visitors are welcome to slide down a dune's face as much as they like, doing their best to start a tidal wave of noise. For those visitors who aren't fortunate enough to visit on a day when conditions are ideal, the Park Service plays recordings of some of the dunes' "greatest hits" in the nearby visitor center at Kelso Depot. ❖

Not able to make it out to Mojave? Visit www.npca.org/sand_dunes to listen to 30 seconds of dunesong from your desktop.

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

Out of Sight, Out of Mind

Scientists search for ways to protect an animal we know very little about.

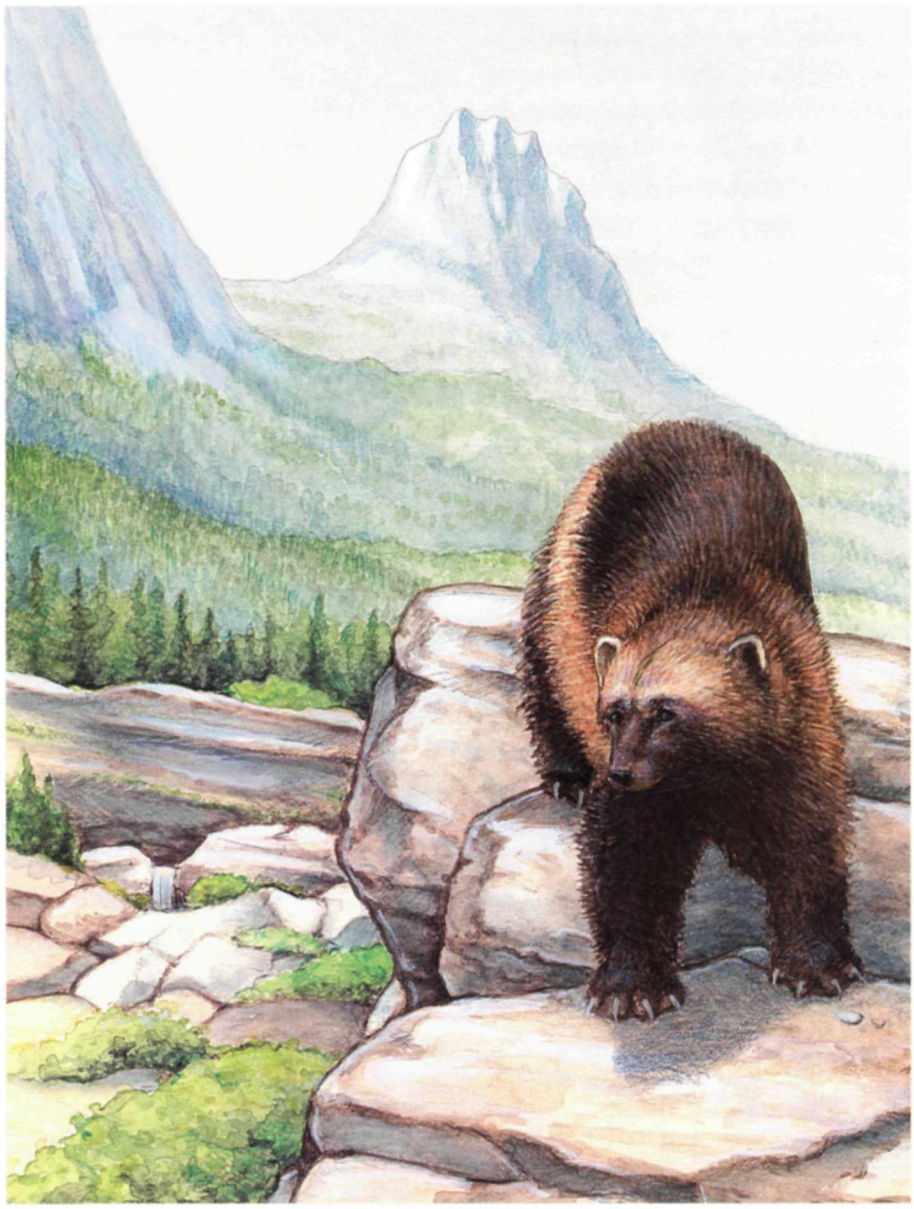
By Amy Leinbach Marquis

Since the 1990s, wildlife biologists have been chasing ghosts in Yellowstone National Park. Evidence of an elusive predator in the area had been mounting for years: snow tracks, tufts of fur on tree bark, abstract snapshots of individuals who tripped infrared beams on camera traps. This was not an animal attracted to human terrain abundant with garbage cans and livestock, like the grizzlies and wolves that cross our paths so often.

Biologists were hot on the trail of the wolverine, the largest terrestrial member of the weasel family, and one with an extraordinary devotion to wilderness. Fearing that the species would fall too far off our radar—so much that we might be threatening the population without even knowing it—scientists pressed on, determined that the more they uncovered about the species, the more they could do to protect it. But until they got their hands on a live one, their knowledge only stretched so far.

Then came March 2006, when their hard work was rewarded in the form of a young, male wolverine. A team of biologists from the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) had successfully lured him in with beaver carcasses set in a cabin-shaped trap just outside Yellowstone's northern border. A week later, another male was caught in the park near Sylvan Pass—the first individual ever to be captured inside Yellowstone. It was the big development they'd been waiting for.

"There's so much work, resources, and logistical challenges that go into wolverine studies," says Kerry Murphy, a wildlife biologist at Yellowstone. "It was a thrill to actually get to handle the animal and look at its physical



ANDREW RECHER

The wolverine's water-resistant fur and large, padded paws allow it to thrive in a harsh Rocky Mountain landscape.

characteristics—its big feet and its hair. And they're tremendously strong. It's what you'd expect for an animal that lives principally above 8,000-feet."

The project, funded primarily by the Yellowstone Park Foundation, comes on the heels of a four-year study of wolverines in Glacier National Park. There, the team tracked movements of 20 individuals using advanced global positioning technology that records locations as often as every five minutes. The discoveries they made from this data were stunning.

"Their rate of movement is phenomenal, especially if you know anything about Glacier National Park—it's an absolutely vertical landscape," says Jeff Copeland, a leading USFS wildlife biologist on the team. "Wolverines will cross the park in the matter of a couple hours, a distance that would take us a couple days to negotiate. They just go over the top of mountains like you and I cross the street."

Other surprising data showed males visiting den sites—indicating that parents may share responsibility for raising pups, a unique trait among North America's top predators.

From this and other research, biologists believe wolverine numbers hover in the hundreds throughout most of their historical habitats in the American West: Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and the very northern part of Cascades National Park in Washington. Their population density is extremely low—even in prime wolverine habitat, as few as six to ten individuals may occupy a 500-square mile area.

Whether or not this reflects a healthy population is hard to determine—and despite the breakthroughs in Glacier, wolverine biologists have a long road ahead. "Four years is nowhere near enough time," Copeland says, noting that it took almost three years just for the team to get its feet on the ground and understand the logistics of tracking such an elusive animal. But because of inadequate funding, the study will likely end this year.

That's why the Yellowstone project is so important. In addition to learning how wolverines are using the park—for breeding grounds, den sites, or food sources—it's an opportunity to get to know another group of individuals more intimately. This means figuring out population demographics, social organization, and disperal and migration patterns. Only then will biologists truly understand how this carnivore fits into the landscape, and how human activities affect that balance.

More difficult than the research itself, however, is convincing the public and policy makers that this is knowledge worth pursuing. "If we believe we are truly an intelligent species, then it's our responsibility to recognize that our activities affect other organisms," Copeland says.

As it becomes easier for humans to separate themselves from nature through technology and urban sprawl, perhaps the question is not how the ecological chain would suffer as a result of declining wolverine populations, but how *we* would suffer. It would simply be a loss, Copeland says, to never know this animal that thrives in an environment so foreign from our own, an animal that truly represents the wilderness spirit. ❖

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

Grateful in Glacier Bay

A former park ranger muses about the value of preserving open spaces—and what those special places open in each of us.

Photos and text by Kim Heacox

The minute I push away from shore, I'm free. The world can't get me now. I'm in my kayak in Glacier Bay National Park, Alaska. I begin to paddle, easy at first, then digging in, pushing with one arm while pulling with the other, the long shaft and thin blades extensions of my hands, moving in quiet rhythm, the water falling away in quarter tones that will be my mantra for the next ten days.

For 25 years I've kayaked here, in one of the world's great national parks, first as a park ranger, and more recently as a freelance writer and photographer in a neighboring little town. It still astounds me that in a nation so fiercely dedicated to capitalism and consumption, we embrace another form of wealth—open space—where every hour isn't rush hour; where worries come not from bear markets, but from bears. It's still inspiring to recognize that we Americans, who can shape any landscape in the world, have the wisdom to leave a few alone, so the land can shape us.

If we let it.

KIM HEACOX/ACCENT ALASKA

A view from the author's kayak, floating in Muir Inlet, Glacier Bay, Alaska.

The creation of a national park is not the end of a struggle, it's the beginning. I'm not talking about the name of the place, but instead the nature of the place; holding on to the quality of the quiet, the degree of our respect, the character of our restraint. It might be green on the map, and called a national park, but is it still what it used to be, before maps and names? Is it still morning in America, wet with dew?

Consider this: Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve is 3.3 million acres of de facto wilderness, 50 percent bigger than Yellowstone. That same amount of acreage is lost each year in the United States to sprawl—housing tracts, malls, gated communities, fast-food joints, golf courses, and such; development that can border, encircle, and sometimes encroach on our national parks. One increment at a time, one small decision at a time, the parks slip away, timeless jewels out of time. It's a cancer in the Lower 48, a malignancy just beginning in Alaska, the place Edward Abbey called the "the final big bite on the American table… the last pork chop."

Must it be this way? Parks need our love, yes, but more so, our deepest respect. They need to be regarded as sacred.

Over the years I've been shaped by Glacier Bay in ways I never could have imagined. I've had whales swim into my dreams. I've seen moose cross fjords, and watched wolves take them down. I've fallen in love, and tried my best to ask nothing more of the bay than what it is. I've never asked for a larger dock, a bigger boat, or more access. I don't want convenience, let alone comfort. In church we get on our knees and sit in wooden pews, and do it without complaint, as we are in the presence of something humbling, joyous, beneficial, and profound, something sacred that makes us give thanks.

So it should be—must be—in our national parks, in nature, the oldest temple of all.

Sure, I've caught a few fish in Glacier Bay, in the rain. Silver salmon, good when smoked. I don't need to catch any more. If my time in a kayak is up, fine. Others can take my place. I'm not talking about dying (yet); I'm talking about closing doors in front of me. Today, tomorrow, next year, the next ten years, whatever. I'll find other places to visit. And some I hope never to. I'm still waiting for a glossy travel magazine to publish a special issue: "The Ten Best Places to Leave Alone." If I saw a copy, I'd buy it.

Perhaps it comes down to this: It's magical to be in love; to find a church in the wilderness. You give thanks. You fill your cup with gratitude and keep filling it until it overflows. You let go, and laugh, and accept things largely as they are, not as they can be. You become the better student of change, not an instrument of change. You pass along a place like Glacier

KIM HEACOX/ACCENT ALASKA

It still astounds me that in a nation so fiercely dedicated to capitalism and consumption, we embrace another form of wealth—open space—where every hour isn't rush hour; where worries come not from bear markets, but from bears.

Bay as it was when you found it, not as it is after you're finished with it. You find that the more you know, the less you need.

No longer driven by dissatisfaction, you grow rooted with thankfulness, and learn to be home, asking little, demanding less. To befriend a place so deeply, so lovingly, is to embark on a spiritual journey. "Don't just do something, sit there," says the Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh. In my kayak and in my tent, in my dreams and in my prayers, afield and at home, I sit.

Sure, I'm restless at times, a creature of my culture. I strive to better myself at many things: carpentry, photography, fishing, writing, loving my wife, playing my guitar. I'll never play *Suite: Judy Blue Eyes* as well as Stephen Stills, but I'll try; I'm not a monk.

Paddling in Glacier Bay is as close as I'll get, pulling with one arm, pushing with the other. I drift and let go and find that my busy "can do" self becomes a "can be" self, very quiet, listening to water, a journey without beginning or end.

It seems clear to me then, that Glacier Bay—every national park—is here to overwhelm us, not for us to overwhelm it. It's a place to receive, not take; a place that's here to test our resourcefulness, but more so, our reverence, where we wait our turn in a kayak, a canyon, a choir of silent singing trees, branches dripping in a storm, and find ourselves too content to be thirsty in the rain, too at peace to want more.

To want more is to be poor.

So I drift, grateful in Glacier Bay. ❖

Kim Heacox is the author of several books, most recently *The Only Kayak*, a memoir about finding home in Alaska.

U.S. Government to Abolish the Lincoln Penny... FOREVER?

WASHINGTON, D.C. — For nearly 100 years, the Lincoln Cent has been a familiar everyday coin. But that may become history if recent legislation such as *The Legal Tender Modernization Act (HR2528)* is enacted, eliminating the one-cent coin forever.

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Our national parks contain the most stunning arenas available to rock climbers anywhere, and preserving these natural areas poses an even bigger challenge than climbing them. Rangers and climbers have done much to bridge the gaps that once separated their camps, but the healing's not over yet.

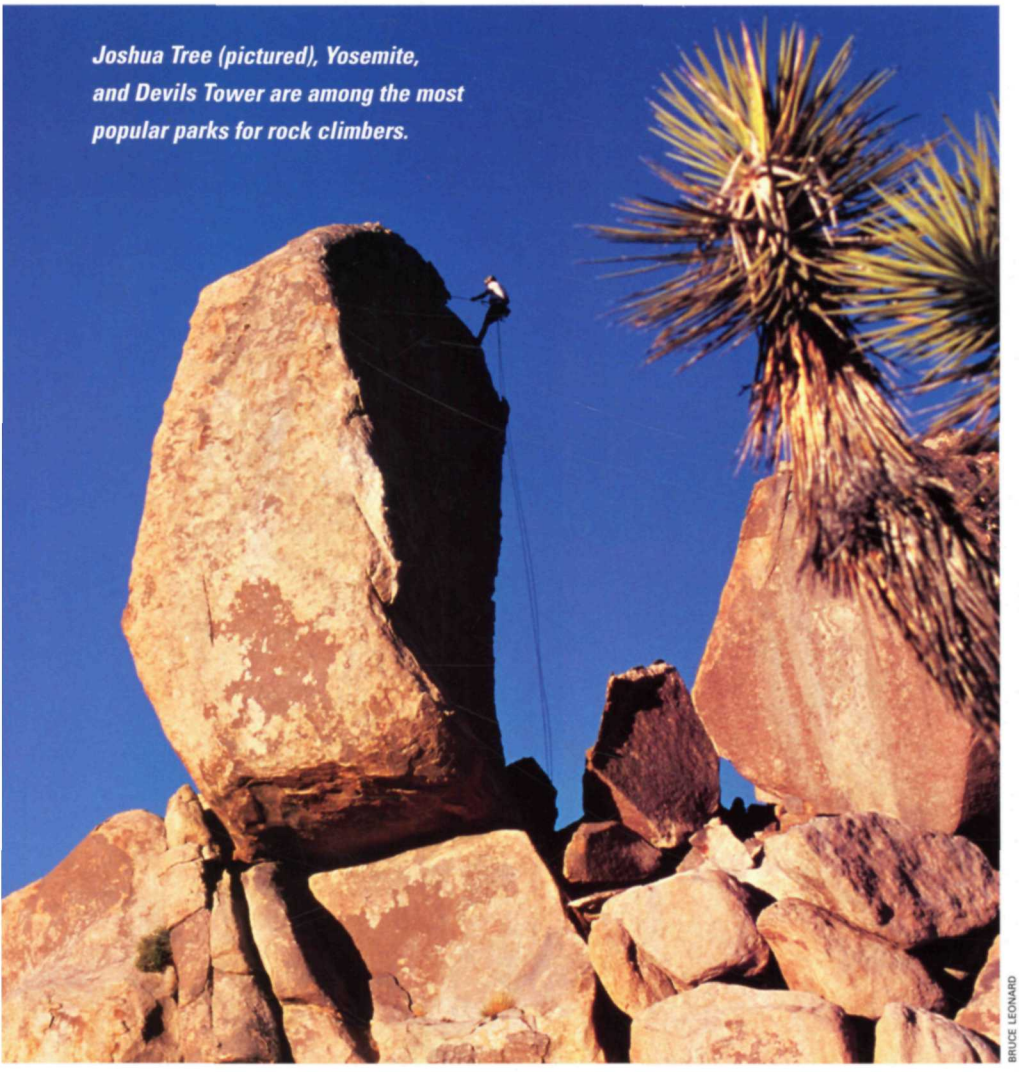
VERTICAL HORIZONS

By Bruce Leonard and Anne Minard

As campers prepare their morning coffee deep within the shadows of Yosemite Valley, rock climbers thousands of feet above them carefully double-check their equipment as they continue their ascents—fingers jammed into cracks, rock shoes searching for purchase, inching ever upward. Elsewhere, as Native Americans make their way to the base of Devils Tower National Monument to worship, climbers rappel down the sides of the popular Wyoming monolith. Meanwhile, in California's Joshua Tree National Park, small groups of climbers test their mettle and stamina on countless rounded boulders, eventually succumbing to the power of gravity's relentless pull.

The desire to climb a mountain or scale a rockface predates the creation of national parks. Clashes between climbing and conservation have left wounds on the rocks and in the communities surrounding them. For the most part, years of effort on both sides are healing the scars—and revealing common ground.

A climber stands at more than 12,000 feet on the summit of Mount Conness in Yosemite National Park. GALEN ROWELL/MOUNTAIN LIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY INC.



Joshua Tree (pictured), Yosemite, and Devils Tower are among the most popular parks for rock climbers.

BRUCE LEONARD

Joshua Tree National Park is the world's premier winter climbing area. On weekends in the cooler months, the campgrounds host climbers from around the globe, many of whom return year after year. More than 8,000 designated climbing routes meander up more than 100 rock formations, not including the bouldering options on nearly every solid surface. Routes range from those requiring no technical skill—basically hikes, known as "walk ups"—to the highly technical routes that only the world's best climbers can master. Climbers can attempt longer routes at Saddle and Echo Rocks, for example, try a few bolted-face routes in the Astrodomes and in the "real" Hidden Valley, then complete a busy day by inching up Joshua Tree's famous, countless cracks.

As climbers slowly creep up the rough rock surfaces using their own power—ropes, harnesses, and carabiners generally do not aid in ascent but simply lessen the chance of a catastrophic fall—casual observers may think these sinewy creatures are a rare breed of animal who defy the laws of gravity and common sense. But a 2004 visitor use study, commissioned by the National Park Service, reveals that it is not merely a rebellious, self-destructive few who brave Joshua Tree's crags. Thirty-three percent of the park's 1.25 million annual visitors say they climb or scramble along boulders, either as part of their hikes or as a main activity. Another 10 percent visit as technical climbers—putting climbers in higher concentration than the park's backpackers and mountain bikers combined.

When maverick climbers first started putting up routes in the park in the '70s, the sport was so far outside the mainstream that no one worried much about the bolts climbers drilled into the rocks. But when 429,000 acres of the park—more than 75 percent of its land mass at the time—officially became wilderness in 1976, the Park Service began to examine the effects of climbing, bolting foremost among them.

The damage the Park Service expected to find throughout Joshua Tree proved to be overestimated when a climbing ranger eventually counted the silver dollar-sized bolts, which can be difficult to spot among the rocks' natural features. To this day, rangers maintain that other impacts are hard to attribute to climbers. Chalking can be difficult to see on the park's light-colored rocks, and the proliferation of unsightly and ecologically damaging social trails could just as easily come from boulderers and hikers as technical climbers. Still, mistrust persisted between rangers who didn't climb and climbers who tended to dismiss government agencies as unduly controlling and invasive.

Tensions mounted into the 1990s, leading to the formation of climber-advocacy groups like the Access Fund on the one hand, and restrictive actions by the Park Service on the other, including a 1998 ban on placing bolts in

wilderness areas throughout the national parks. That ban was later overturned.

Around the same time, rangers began to understand that relations with climbers needed to change. At Joshua Tree, then-Superintendent Ernie Quintana, under pressure from the climbers' grassroots backlash, called several public meetings and kick-started a dialogue.

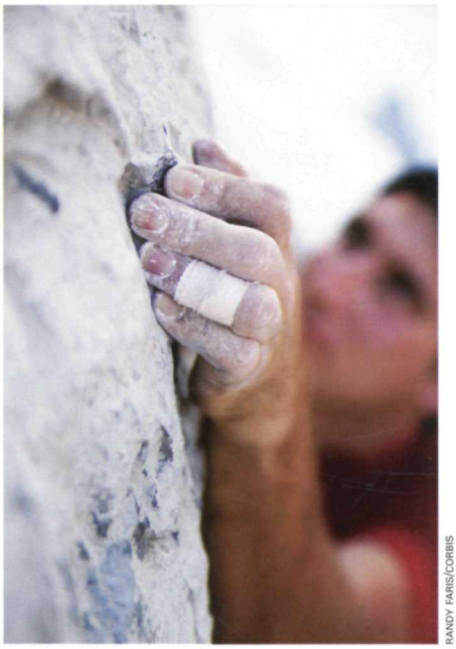
"It took a while for those discussions to evolve from loud, angry discussions to reasoned, productive ones," recalls Phil Spinelli, a climber and director of the nonprofit group Friends of Joshua Tree. He says that positive spirit has since become entrenched in relationships between rangers and climbers: "Before things reached the crisis level, we were able to work out solutions."

The park has organized education campaigns around climber impacts with the help of an affiliation of climbers and conservation groups, including NPCA. The Joshua Tree Climbing Management Group has helped erect fencing around parking lots to direct users—including climbers—to the main trails. Travel on secondary or social trails has been discouraged with a technique called vertical mulching—the placement of dead brush and other natural obstacles. Signs encourage climbers to stay on the main access trails and remove chalk from holds whenever possible.

"So far the results are very impressive," Spinelli says, adding that the efforts have been under way for two years. "We've found that once climbers know how to reduce impacts, they will. We've found a very high level of compliance."

"Most climbers are trying to work as hard as they can to keep the environment clean and safe," says climber Michael Watson, "so that we'll always have it, so that access won't get shut down."

Meanwhile, new challenges have emerged. Rock gym-trained boulderers are venturing into the parks in droves, and bringing their own brand of



RANDY FARIS/CORBIS

Bolting, chalking, and the creation of social trails pose preservation challenges to the Park Service, but climbers are learning to do their part to protect the resources.

HENRIK TRYGG/CORBIS

impacts. Upstart efforts like the Boulder Project, initiated by the Access Fund, and a southern California-based education campaign called Boulder Clean are aimed at addressing that group by asking boulderers to limit group sizes, stay on main trails, brush off their chalk, and avoid laying crash pads on vegetation, among other courtesies.

In many ways climbers are no different from other groups gaining access to the parks: Snowmobiles in Yellowstone and Jet-skis in the Everglades are well-known examples. But no one denies that historically, climbers have always been a breed apart.

Much of the climbing culture was born in Yosemite National Park, the first site of big-wall climbing in America and home to classic climbing areas such as the nearly 3,000-foot face of El Capitan. And for some climbers there, the Park Service remains a perceived obstacle to their enjoyment of places where their ilk once roamed without any rules at all.

Bill Leventhal, for example, a veteran of 27 successful ascents of El Cap, thinks that by simply showing up at Camp 4—the famous campground from which climbers traditionally launch their vertical ascents—some climbers are subjected to unwarranted scrutiny by rangers. And he complains that conditions at the camp are less than ideal, a perception that few would debate.

Linda McMillan was 35 when she started climbing at Yosemite 20 years ago and says she "skipped that whole stage of feeling persecuted." She learned from veteran climbers and gravitated toward the organizational side of things.

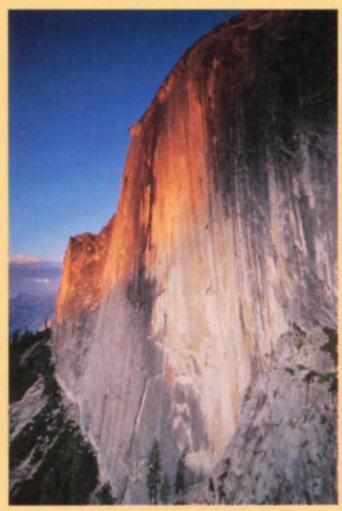
Sacred Earth: The Controversy at Devils Tower

For decades, Devils Tower National Monument has presented more social challenges than any other climbing haven. And not everyone agrees that a voluntary climbing ban during the month of June has settled conflicts between Native Americans who hold it sacred and the climbers who love to scale it.

The two groups are at odds about the striking 867-foot-high assemblage of igneous phonolite porphyry that prompted Theodore Roosevelt to designate it the country's first national monument. Two ranchers first climbed this northeastern Wyoming tower in 1893, and climbing has been a major draw to the monument ever since. About 50,000 people have reached the summit on more than 200 routes.

Yet the tower is key to the religious beliefs and practice of more than 20 Plains Indian tribes. For decades, according to the National Park Service (NPS) website, it's been a place where Native Americans make prayer offerings, hold sweat lodge ceremonies and vision quests, and participate in the annual Sun Dance. Devils Tower figures into legends of culture heroes, the origins of certain ceremonies, and the histories of sacred objects. The Arapaho, Cheyenne, Crow, Kiowa, and Lakota all have a similar sacred legend about the origins of Devils Tower.

Taking into account the perspectives of both climbers and Native Americans, NPS implemented a 1995 Climbing Management Plan that stipulates a voluntary climbing closure during the month of June, when tribes conduct ceremonies at the tower. The ban survived a challenge in 1998 by climbers who argued that it infringed on their own freedoms, and officials say they've seen progress.



GALEN ROWELL/MOUNTAIN LIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY INC.

"A majority of climbers respect the voluntary closure," says Jim Cheatham, chief of resource management at the monument. He believes about three-quarters of climbers adhered to the policy in 2005, based on the dip in ascents since the Park Service instituted the policy in 1995.

But William C'Hair, co-chair of the Arapaho Language & Culture Commission, says he's unhappy that there's climbing at all during that month. "We relinquished it for 11 months in hopes of being able to have ceremonies just one month without the view of climbers," he said. "Even so, [our perspective] is still challenged."

As for what he'd like to see happen from here, "that's easy," he says: "peace and harmony. They can climb in peace, and we can worship in peace."

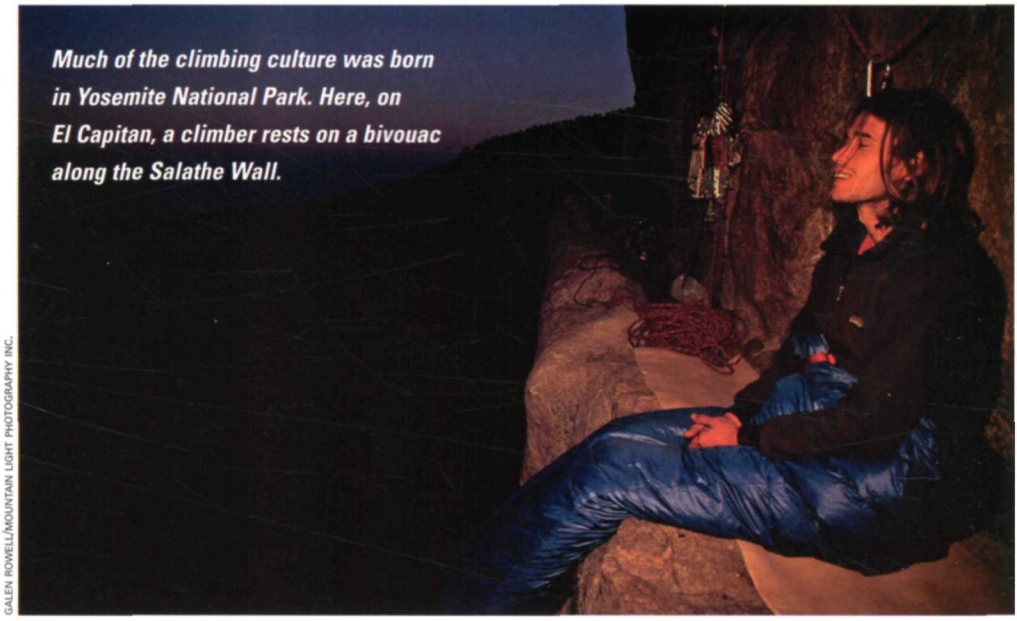
She has served as vice president of the American Alpine Club (AAC) and remains a member. A nonprofit group that formed in 1902 for the study and enjoyment of the country's mountains, AAC is also the parent organization of the Access Fund.

"When I started, the climbers definitely tried to stay in the shadows," she says. "They'd skulk around and break the rules and try to stay as long as they could." But the park's surging popularity means that such behaviors can no longer be overlooked. Climbers, also made more numerous by the growing popularity of climbing gyms, are sharing the park with a total visitation that's reached 3.5 million a year. McMillan, for one, is glad to see some structure, as well as outlets for climbers to shed light on their formerly secreted world. She's helped start outreach opportunities at Yosemite, where climbers are invited to put on slide shows and interpretive talks at the park's amphitheater.

Tom Medema, a supervisory park ranger at Yosemite who is a climber himself, said impacts from climbers don't worry him any more than the effects from other groups.

"The climbers are on the granite, and the granite is the most sustainable of all our resources," he says. "If all of our user groups recreated on granite, we would have a lot less erosion."

Still, climbers and park officials have joined to tackle some of the effects of climbing. Like climbers at Joshua Tree, Yosemite climbers have been making strides to reduce social trailing and remove hardware from the rocks. Last September marked the second annual Yosemite Facelift, a cooperative cleanup between Yosemite National Park and the Yosemite Climbing Association, a nonprofit group promoting climbing and the history of climbing.



Much of the climbing culture was born in Yosemite National Park. Here, on El Capitan, a climber rests on a bivouac along the Salathe Wall.

GALEN ROWELL/MOUNTAIN LIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY INC.

"They remove tons and tons of trash, and that's become a very positive tool," Medema says.

Lincoln Else, who was Yosemite's climbing ranger for five years, believes the relationship between climbers and rangers is "good and getting better."

"Most of the conflicts that arise between climbers and rangers have nothing to do with climbing," says Else. "They're often the same issues that arise with other visitors: storing food correctly, camping in designated campgrounds, overstaying the visitation limit, speeding, and so on."

As for the state of Camp 4, McMillan said climbers should have a look around the park's other campgrounds before they complain—they're all suffering the ill effects of chronic underfunding, she says. Camp 4 costs the least and is the only one that doesn't require a reservation.

"The Park Service doesn't have the budget to fix up all the campsites at once," she says. But the Yosemite Valley Plan calls for just that, starting next year—a new layout for Camp 4 that includes double the number of camp spaces and a new bathroom, plans that very few climbers are aware of, says McMillan.

Partly owing to the education efforts that climbers themselves have promoted, Camp 4 was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2003 because of its role as the birthplace of big-wall climbing. And climbers shouldn't be too eager to rip old-style pitons out of Yosemite's granite; resource managers and archaeologists at the park are starting to think those, too, should be preserved. After all, it's evidence of the very beginnings of a long-term relationship between climbers and the park—a relationship that should continue far into the park's second century.

Bruce Leonard writes the "Road to Adventure" column for *Trailer Life* magazine. **Anne Minard** is a freelance writer who teaches journalism at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff.

Resident orcas off the coast of San Juan Island and Olympic National Parks face a series of environmental threats. Will they be able to rise above the tide?

RESURFACING

Nearly ten tons of weight are hurled out of the water as this orca breaches in the Pacific Northwest.

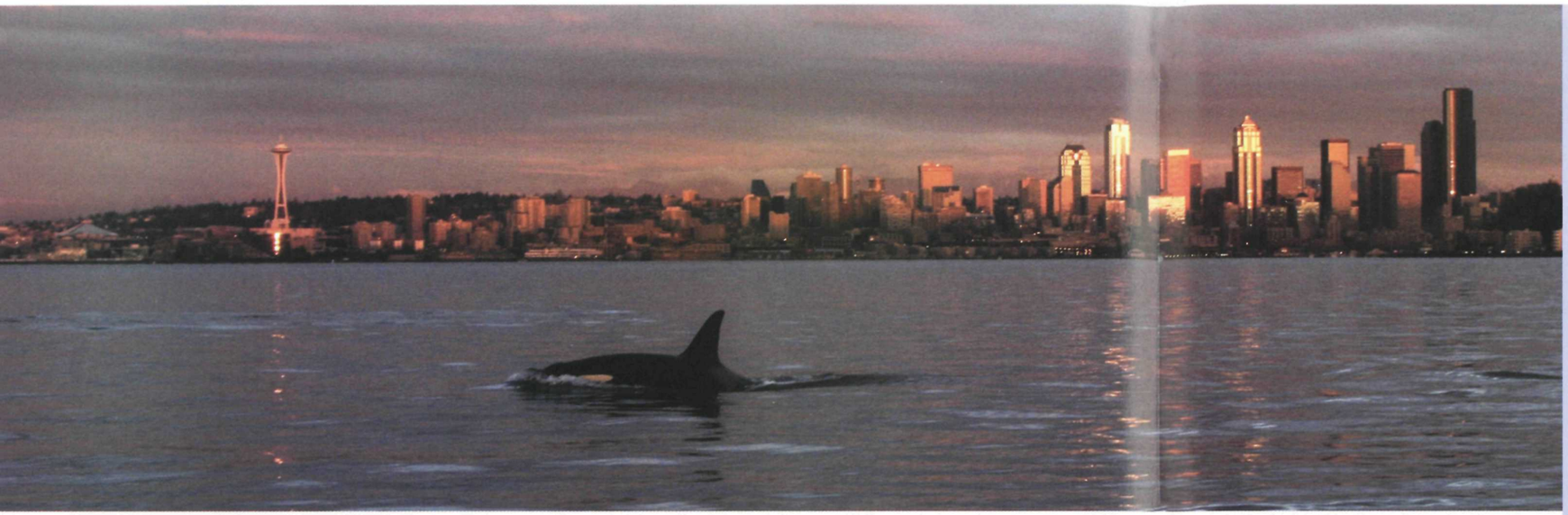
BRANDON D. COLE

By Brenda Peterson

In the long, slanting light of a Far Northwest summer solstice, a rocky beach on San Juan Island becomes a concert hall, and the audience often includes families of orca whales from J, K, and L pods that the locals know by name. Although dozens of orcas migrate through the area regularly, members of the Southern Resident community of orcas spend much of the year inhabiting the chill, emerald waters of Puget Sound. And here on Haro Strait, at Lime Kiln Point State Park—halfway between the British and American camps of San Juan Island National Historical Park—an expectant crowd has gathered for the annual celebration of OrcaSing.

As Seattle's City Cantabile Choir sings harmonies broadcast underwater through hydrophones, most of its members keep one eye focused on director Fred West and another eye focused on the sea, in the hope that their local orcas will join in the proceedings, as they've done before.

The birth and deaths of each individual in the Southern Resident Community are front-page news in the Northwest. In fact, the concert is dedicated to the memory of a young male orca named Everett (J18) of the J pod. It's rare for an entire community to



BRANDON D. COLE; SEATTLE SKYLINE BY JOEL W. ROGERS PHOTOGRAPHY

Thanks to Ken Balcomb's nonintrusive methods of identifying orcas—via eye patches and vocal calls—residents of Seattle have been able to bond with individual whales and orca families in a very personal way.

come to know wild animals as identifiable individuals and families. But it's possible thanks to work conducted by researchers like Ken Balcomb at the Center for Whale Research on San Juan Island, who uses nonintrusive "individual recognition" techniques pioneered by Jane Goodall in her long-term study of chimpanzees. Like Goodall, Balcomb has documented each orca, assigning each whale a name in addition to a number. Using photo-IDs of the black-and-white "saddle patches" on every orca's dorsal fin and body, researchers can track the habitat, travels, behavior, lineage, and life-cycle of each family pod. Since 1973, Balcomb has worked with Paul Spong and Helena Symonds of OrcaLab to catalogue more than 300 resident orcas whose range stretches from northern Vancouver Island in British Columbia down to the Strait of Juan de Fuca surrounding the San Juan Islands. They've recorded the name, family tree, and history of four generations of Northern and Southern resident orcas—from A pod to L pod. Orcas are to Olympic and San Juan what bison are to Yellowstone and what wading birds are to Everglades, and the growing knowledge of these creatures has created a sense of responsibility and connection throughout the community.

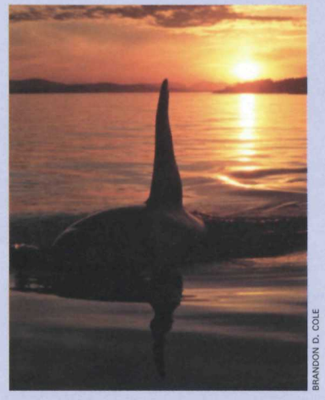
"Orcas are creatures that we can identify with because they have language, curiosity, feelings, intelligence," says Bob Lohn, Northwest regional administrator of the National Marine Fisheries, which successfully lobbied for the Southern Resident Community to be added to the federal Endangered Species List in February; the Northern residents were listed as "threatened" back in 1999 by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife, a Canadian governmental organization.

Female orcas can live to be 90, and a male's life expectancy is about 60. But those numbers are falling as the perils facing orcas continue to increase: Dams on the Elwha, Snake, and Columbia rivers have destroyed 90 percent of salmon runs, the mainstay of the resident orcas' diet. Meanwhile, fish farms have sprouted up to meet the international demand for salmon, which has exposed endangered native salmon to sea lice, which can kill immature fish.

Noise pollution takes a toll as well. In 2003, the U.S. Navy tested high-intensity military sonar in Haro Strait. Even above water, whale-watchers heard the ear-splitting pressure blasts pinging in metallic shrieks. A deaf whale is a dead whale, so the disoriented members of J pod did their best to escape the sound, gathering close to shore and swimming in tight, protective circles. The same incident led 14 harbor porpoises to beach themselves and eventually die. Related incidents have been reported following naval sonar-testing maneuvers off the Canary Islands, Hawaii, North Carolina, and Washington State.

Rising water temperatures have

Looking for Killer Views?



BRANDON D. COLE

San Juan Island National Historical Park is one of the best places in the world to see resident orcas or "killer whales" from shore. The islands offer pristine vistas for sighting not only orcas, but also bald eagles and more than 200 species of birds navigating the Pacific Flyway. Nearby Ebey's Landing, a National Historical Reserve on Whidbey Island, also offers prime orca- and gray whale-watching along the easily accessible bluffs and walking trails of this picturesque old seaport. Offshore and transient orcas swim along the coastline and sea stacks of Olympic National Park and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, which borders many tribal lands. When encountering these mysterious coastal orcas on the water, Ed Bolby of Olympic National Marine Sanctuary advises, "Cherish these moments with the whales, but follow the guidelines and stay at least 100 yards away."

Science News reported in 2004 that "whale watching has become so popular that 22 tourist boats, on average, attend a pod of killer whales off the Washington coast," and orcas "have to change their calls to communicate over the racket."

Although most whale-watching operators are engaged in orca protection, there are alternatives to boats. From July through October, listen in live to orca arpeggios via OrcaLab's program of www.Orca-Live.net. Join the online community of Whale Sightings Network at www.OrcaNetwork.org, which "involves citizens in helping researchers track the movement of whales, and encourages people to observe whales from their homes, businesses, ferries, and beaches."

For more information, visit www.nps.gov/sajh, www.whaleresearch.com, and www.pugetsound.org.

JOEL W. ROGERS PHOTOGRAPHY

Kayakers paddle the Haro Strait; Mount Baker and San Juan Island on the horizon.

reduced prey populations and altered migration patterns, industrial driftnets have entangled orcas, and toxic runoff from large metropolitan areas continues to threaten orcas whose immune systems are already compromised. Northwest orcas are exposed to a toxic brew of pollution from heavy metals, PCBs, and PBDEs (fire retardants), which accumulate in their blubber. Males tend to feel the effects of pollutants more dramatically, because females purge some of their toxic load by giving birth and nursing offspring, thus passing the poisons on to the next generation. As a result, the Pacific Northwest orcas are now considered the most toxic marine mammals in the world.

With proper nutrition, orcas can tolerate large loads of toxins, but when stressed by starvation, their odds of survival are slim. Indeed, many wonder if this is the last generations of orcas. A census of the Southern Resident Community is alarming, reflecting a drop from a population of 100 in the early 1990s to 79 by 2001. In 2006, the J, K, and L pods have made a slight rebound to 87 individuals, which is promising, but each individual is precious for the future survival of this small Puget Sound population—any loss is unsustainable.

That's why OrcaLab researchers are doing all they can to track the pods' every move. In a remote research cabin off Vancouver Island, a sudden symphony of high-pitched squawks, squeals, and syncopated orca "click trains" bounce around and echo up into the rafters. "That's the A5 Pod," researcher Helena Symonds announces.

Getting Back to Nature

In the early 1900s, construction of two dams on the Elwha River brought hydroelectric energy to the Northwest but destroyed salmon and steelhead populations (affecting more than 130 species of wildlife that depend on salmon for nutrients) while contributing to beach erosion in what would later become Olympic National Park.

BRANDON D. COLE

Sockeye salmon swim against the current on their epic journey to spawn.

Historically, more than 400,000 salmon returned to the Elwha River to spawn each year. During the dams' construction, no fish passage was built, so over the past 80 years, only 1 percent of this historic run has been able to return upriver, and even those were blocked four miles upstream by the Elwha Dam. The Elwha Restoration Act, passed in 1992, required Olympic National Park to restore the river system and its salmon, but by 2004, the federal government's inability to fund the program became apparent, prompting the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) to initiate community-based restoration efforts for the Elwha River Restoration Project. NPCA's Northwest Regional Office created an informal working group and organized the first of many monthly community volunteer days in 2005. Volunteers removed hundreds of cubic yards of invasive species along the river and collected native seeds for replanting after the dams' removal; similar efforts will continue throughout 2006.

The dams are scheduled to be removed beginning in early 2009, pending a $20-million allocation in the federal budget for 2007 and an additional $20 million the following year. A fish hatchery and rearing channel will be constructed by 2008. Once the restoration project is completed, the entire ecosystem should make a huge leap forward, and the all-you-can-eat buffet for orcas will be only one of many positive results.

"And there's A23, Stripe," the mother of Corky, one of the many whales captured in recent decades and shipped off to SeaWorld San Diego to perform under the stage name "Shamu." In fact, 70 very young orcas were captured in the Pacific Northwest and shipped to aquariums during the 1960s and '70s. Most of the whales were taken from the Salish Sea, like Lolita from L pod, who was captured at age five and has spent 35 years in Miami's SeaWorld—the only surviving Southern resident orca in captivity.

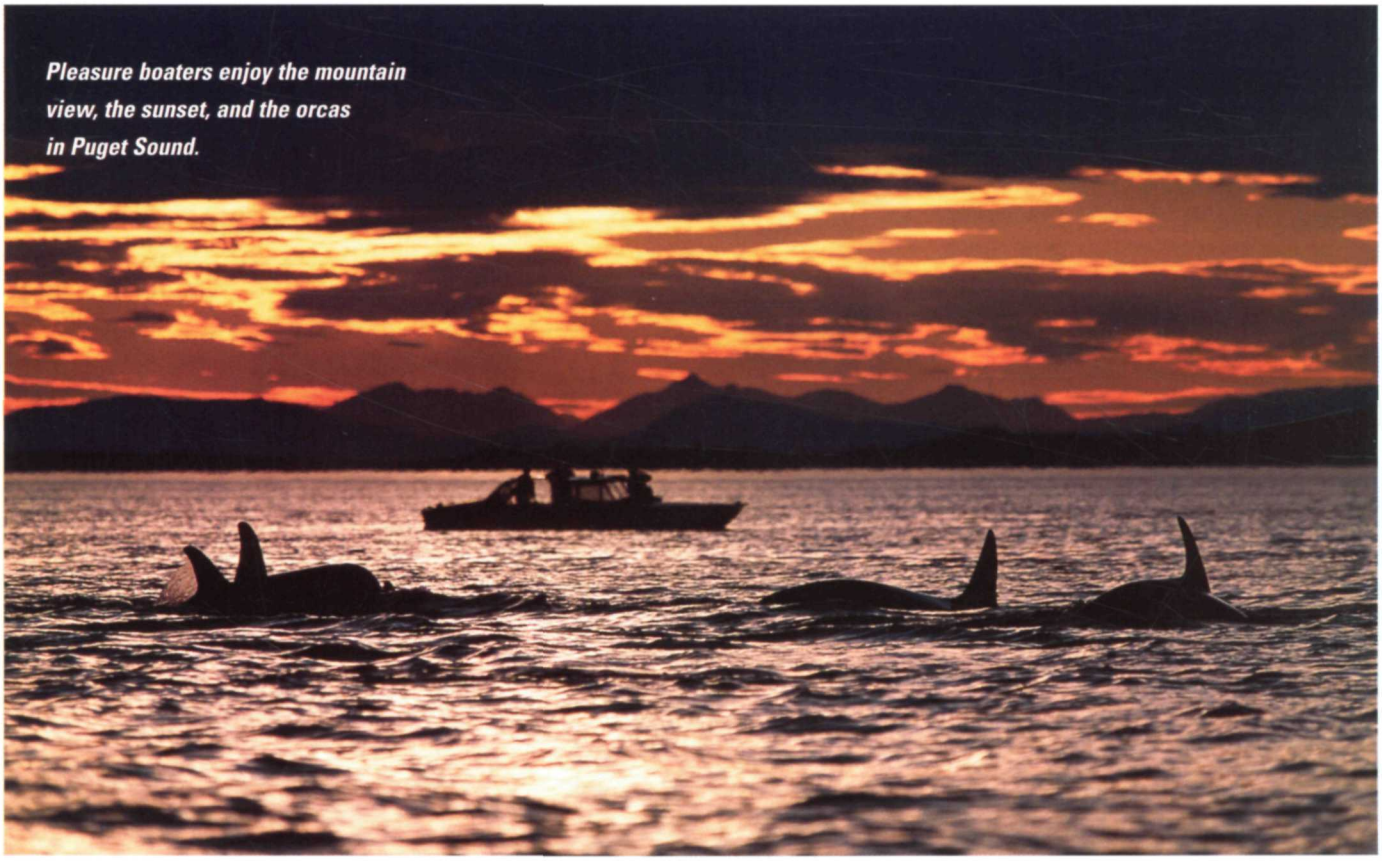
Because orcas can live to be 90 years or older, and because offspring always stay with the pod's matriarch, adopting her signature whistle as their own, the disruption of these lifelong family pods marked the beginning of a very difficult time for Northwest orcas. Researchers will never know how healthy the Pacific Northwest's orcas might have been if the capture of those animals hadn't interrupted the orca's life-cycle, including vital reproduction periods.

Fortunately, thanks to the research conducted over the years, some catastrophes have been averted: In 2002, a lone orca calf—a rarity in orca communities—was discovered in Puget Sound interacting with ferryboats and floating logs; her skin was mottled and featured a rash, likely due to the stress of loneliness. Using OrcaLab's vast archives of photo-IDs, Ken Balcomb recognized the baby orca from her eyepatch as A73, or Springer. Balcomb sent a hydrophone recording of Springer's vocalizations to OrcaLab, where Symonds confirmed the lost calf's signature whistle as a perfect match to the A4 pod in the Northern Resident community. With the help of government and grassroots groups, a massive international effort sprang into action: Springer was lifted by a crane from her solitary waters, sailed on a catamaran for the 12-hour trip to Johnstone Strait, and delivered to a floating pen on OrcaLab's Hanson Island. When Springer heard members of her immediate family vocalizing as they passed by, scientists reported that "she practically blew our headphones off." The netting was removed and she shot off toward her pod. This successful family reunion is celebrated every season when researchers identify the A-clan's signature whistles and announce that Springer has returned to her home waters with her pod.

But the outcome isn't always so successful. When another lone orca calf, Luna (L98), was separated from his family pod the summer of 2001, Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans clashed with the Mowachat/

LOWER ELWHA KLALLAM TRIBE

The Glines Canyon Dam, inside Olympic National Park, is slated for removal in 2009, a boon for salmon and orcas.



Pleasure boaters enjoy the mountain view, the sunset, and the orcas in Puget Sound.

BRANDON D. COLE

Muchalaht First Nations about whether to return Luna to the Southern Resident L pod. The tribe had already named the young orca Tsu'xiit, believing that he embodied the spirit of their late chief, Ambrose Maquinna, who had told his family he would return to them as an orca. Although the six-year-old whale was guarded by the First Nations and researchers, he was struck and killed by a huge tugboat as he approached the boat in search of interaction.

Clearly, things need to change if orcas are to remain in the waters of the Pacific Northwest for future generations. Fortunately, there is reason for hope, including a growing demand to restore healthy populations of salmon to the waters off the coast.

"The removal of two dams on Washington's Elwha River, beginning in 2009, will be one of the most significant river restoration projects of our time and a boon for resident orcas," says Josh Walter, Northwest rivers coordinator for the National Parks Conservation Association (see sidebar, page 36).

Another good sign for orcas is Washington Governor Christine Gregoire's $42-million plan to restore Puget Sound, rallying environmentalists, tribes, and businesses to come together with "a community vision." Rep. Norm Dicks (D-WA) has already predicted that the huge restoration project is a legacy that the community "will look back on as a turning point for Puget Sound." And for the orcas, as well. If the sense of connection that people already share with these animals can be extended to a sense of community and conservation, there may be hope for the waters of the Pacific Northwest and the orcas who call it home.

Back on San Juan Island, as people gathered for the summer solstice presentation of OrcaSing, suddenly a familiar arc of dorsal fins arose on the horizon. "It's J pod!" yelled observers on the shore. "There's Granny!" Everyone started clapping. And as the 95-year-old matriarch and her family whistled, echoing in the exact key of the choir, the elegy became a celebration. Everett's family pod had arrived, "as if they had read the invitation," said Fred West, "as if on cue in their own opera."

Brenda Peterson is a nature writer and author of 15 books, including the National Geographic book *SIGHTINGS: The Gray Whale's Mysterious Journey*. Her most recent book is *Animal Heart*.

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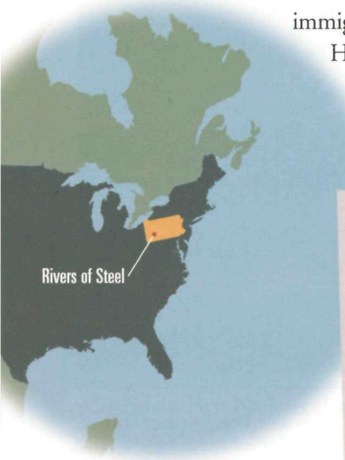
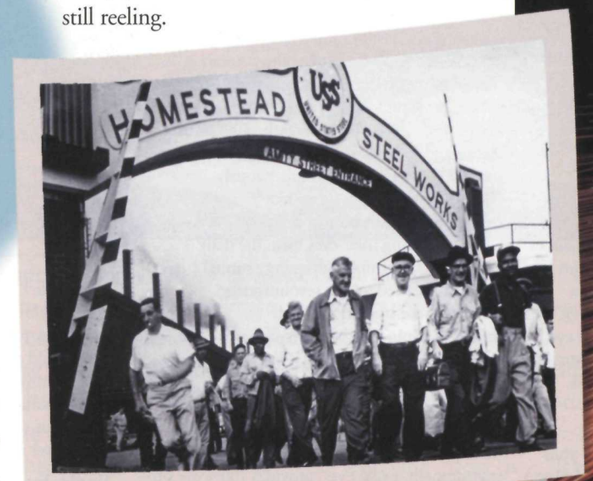
Along the Monongahela River waterfront in Homestead, Pennsylvania, just south of Pittsburgh, 12 brick stacks more than 100 feet high stand as lonely icons of America's former industrial might. These silent sentinels are among the last remnants of U.S. Steel's Homestead Works, a 430-acre behemoth that was one of the largest steel mills in the world.

Today, the city of Homestead is the centerpiece of Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area, a seven-county region that tells the story of the people who turned southwestern Pennsylvania into the steel-making capital of the world, from industrial barons like Andrew Carnegie and Henry Frick to thousands of immigrant laborers. The boarded-up stores that line Homestead's main street are a stark reminder that the remnants of history are not always pretty. Twenty years after the mill closed, the town is still reeling.





National Heritage Areas are becoming an increasingly popular way for the Park Service to tell America's story.

FORGING AN Identity

Sparks fly during the demolition of a 100-year-old steel mill in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Left, workers call it a day at Homestead Steel Works, during more prosperous times.

NATHAN BENN/CORBIS; HISTORIC PHOTO COURTESY OF RIVERS OF STEEL NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

"Heritage areas don't always happen in the posh spots," says Rivers of Steel communications director Jan Dofner, who compares the region's story with that of a family that's lost its patriarch. But don't be mistaken—there is still plenty of life here. Thanks in part to funding from Rivers of Steel, the nearby Bulgarian Macedonian National Educational and Cultural Center—a 75-year-old organization—has been reincarnated as a community center. Here, Bulgarian traditions are kept alive through music and dancing, Saturday sales of homemade soups and strudels, museum displays of native clothing and decorative items, and extensive archives of

By Phyllis McIntosh

Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area celebrates Iowa's agricultural history.

CLINT FARLINGER; HISTORIC PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AMANA HERITAGE SOCIETY

Bulgarian recordings and films. Today, the center is a popular destination not only for neighborhood people but also for tour groups that come to enjoy the food, cooking demonstrations, and "ethnic aerobics" of Bulgarian folk dancing.

Rivers of Steel is one of 27 National Heritage Areas in 18 states that commemorate a region's unique contribution to the nation's history through its physical, natural, and cultural resources and the traditions of the people who shaped its landscape. All told, the heritage areas are home to 45 million people. Their designation recognizes important areas that are often so densely populated that national park designation and the accompanying land transfer would be impractical or even impossible.

BLAIR M. SEITZ/MIRA

Renovated shops and restaurants in Pittsburgh's historic Market Square within Rivers of Steel.

Only Congress can designate a heritage area; the National Park Service provides funding and technical assistance, but each area is managed by the citizens who live there. "Local people are making the decisions about how their resources are conserved and interpreted—what stories are told and who is telling them," says Suzanne Copping, assistant heritage areas coordinator with the National Park Service (NPS).

The development of heritage areas is a fairly recent phenomenon. The first designated area, the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor, was established in 1984 to commemorate the 97-mile canal between Lake Michigan and the Illinois River, which transformed Chicago into a major transportation hub.

The enacting legislation designates a state or local agency, commission, or nonprofit corporation to manage each area. That organization then devises a management plan spelling out such actions as rehabilitating historic sites, opening regional visitors' centers, or creating a network of recreational trails. Each heritage area works closely with dozens of partners—historic sites, museums, and other attractions—to promote tourism and tell the special story of the region. (For details on all of them, visit www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas.)

Every year Congress appropriates roughly $14 million to be divvied up among the heritage areas. Depending on the size and the complexity of each project, an individual heritage area may receive anywhere from $45,000 to $1 million in any one year. By congressional decree, most areas may receive no more than $10 million over 15 years. Thereafter, Congress may review the boundaries, provide additional funding,

or authorize additional studies before allocating further resources.

Beyond providing financial and technical assistance, the National Park Service lends legitimacy. "It's like the Good Housekeeping seal of approval—if the National Park Service is involved, it must be important," says Brenda Barrett, NPS national coordinator for heritage areas. "Once we have recognized an area, it generates a lot of energy in the local community—and additional funding at the local and regional level—because of our seal of quality."

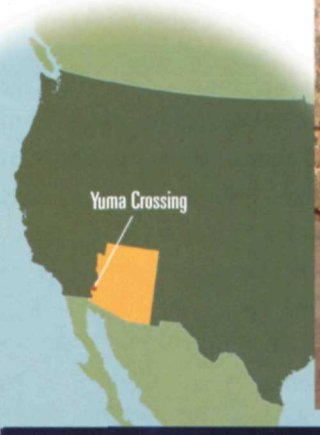
"The heritage area designation is a great technique for using the expertise and credibility of the Park Service to preserve and restore some of the best of America's history and culture," says Ron Tipton, senior vice president of programs for NPCA.

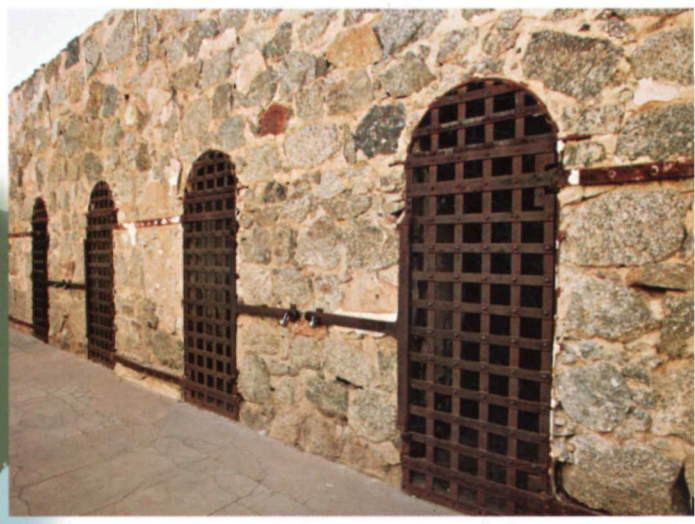
Federal involvement helps heritage areas attract state, local, and private money, which in turn enables them to award grants to their partners for community projects throughout the region. In 2005, heritage areas awarded 382 grants, which leveraged more than $53 million from other funding sources, including states, counties, and foundations.

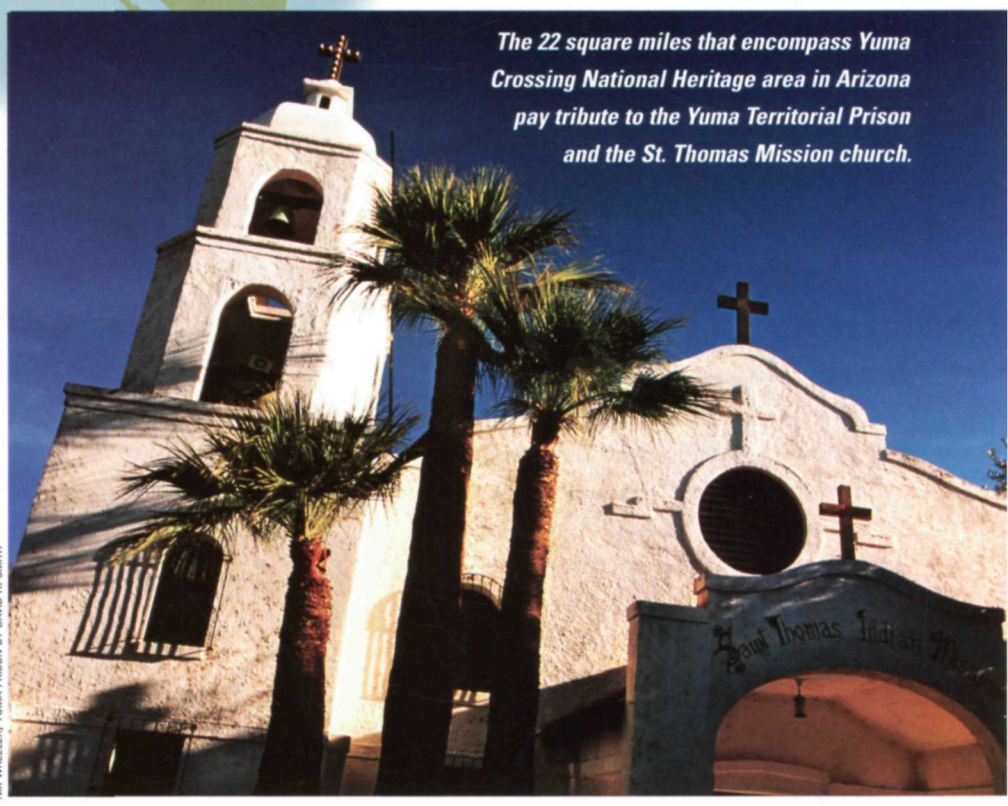
Given our nation's history, it should come as no surprise that most National Heritage Areas are located in the East. The largest and perhaps most unusual is the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, which encompasses the entire state; sites along eight railroad and river routes tell the story of the state's role in the Civil War and Reconstruction. In Iowa, the Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area, which chronicles the evolution of American agriculture, covers 37 counties or nearly 40 percent of the state.

The smallest site, and one of only two in the West, is Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area, whose 22 square miles include historic downtown Yuma, Arizona, and eight miles along the Colorado River. The area celebrates the pivotal role of Yuma as a historical crossing point over the river and the Colorado River's importance in promoting agriculture in the desert.

Nearly half of the National Heritage Areas are centered around physical resources, such as the Erie Canal, the Hudson River Valley, and the Schuylkill River in Pennsylvania. The rest focus on important historical themes such as industrial development and unique cultural influences. Among those organized around industrial impact on a region are Rivers of Steel; National Coal Heritage Area in West Virginia; and Motor Cities, which highlights Michigan's automobile industry. In Iowa, Silos and Smokestacks brings the story of American agriculture to life through living history farm museums, bus tours tailored to visitors from

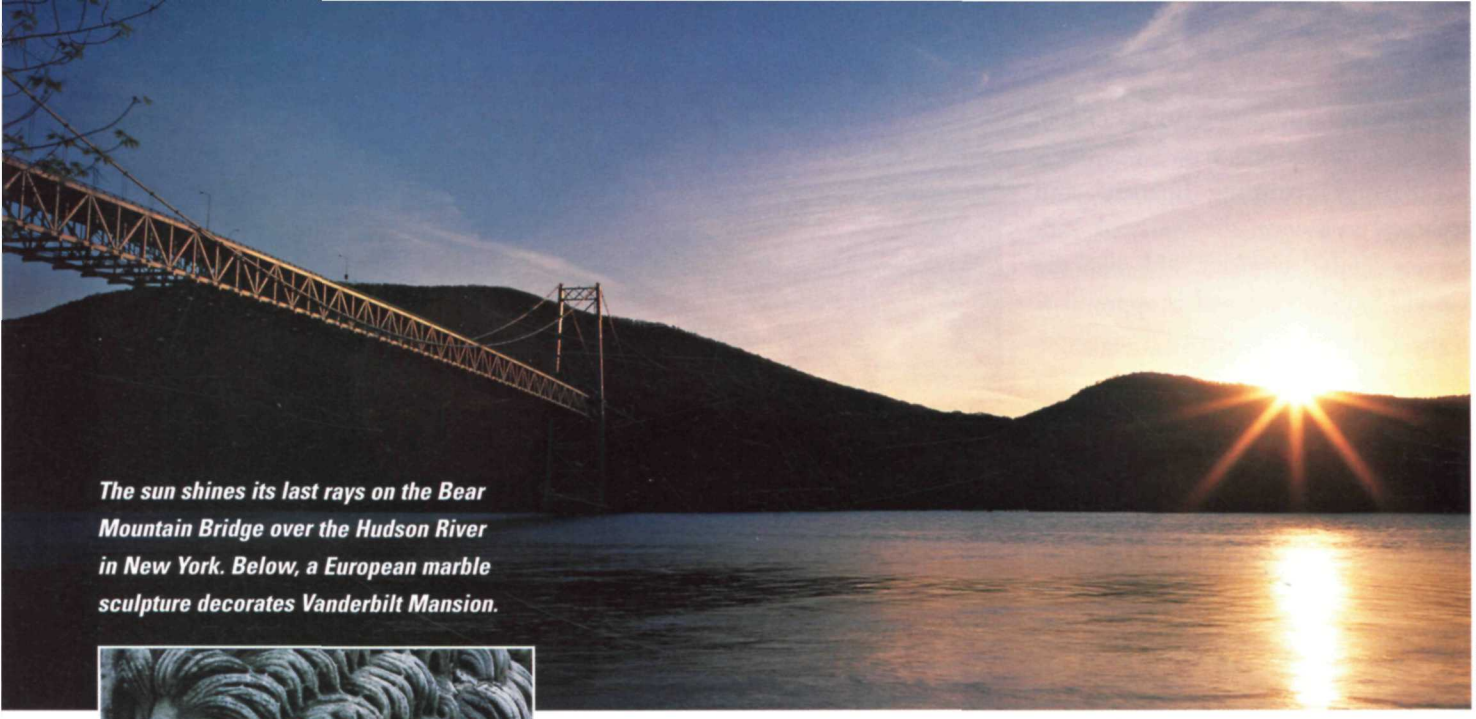






The 22 square miles that encompass Yuma Crossing National Heritage area in Arizona pay tribute to the Yuma Territorial Prison and the St. Thomas Mission church.

NIK WHEELER; YUMA PRISON BY DAVID H. SMITH



CARR CLIFTON

The sun shines its last rays on the Bear Mountain Bridge over the Hudson River in New York. Below, a European marble sculpture decorates Vanderbilt Mansion.

CARR CLIFTON

throughout the world, and an award-winning website designed to teach youngsters about agriculture.

Regional cultures are the primary focus of Louisiana's Cane River National Heritage Area, which traces the story of French and Spanish colonial settlement and the rise of plantation agriculture. The area hosts several major archaeological digs that shed light on Creole culture and African-American plantation life. Tapping into the latest in modern technology, the area is now creating a Geographic Information System database, which uses everything from historic maps to satellite imagery to document the local landscape and link it to oral histories and other ethnographic research.

One of the most diverse heritage areas is Essex in northeastern Massachusetts, which chronicles nearly 400 years of the nation's history, including early settlement, development of the maritime industry, and the beginnings of the Industrial Revolution. Essex "is a sampling of how our nation was born," says Kate Fox, director of heritage tourism for the area. In addition to history around every bend, Essex features a scenic coastline, whale watching, and a trail for bird watchers.

The attractions within heritage areas range from major national landmarks to tiny wayside curiosities. Rivers of Steel, for example, encompasses the impressive museums, churches, and ethnic neighborhoods of Pittsburgh itself. But it also includes such treasures as the Bulgarian Center in Homestead and a historical society's museum in Smock, one of dozens of so-called coal-patch towns that grew up around coal mines in southwestern Pennsylvania. A group of dedicated townswomen transformed the second floor of a company store into a museum, which has become the unofficial town attic. Donated artifacts and grants from Rivers of Steel helped volunteers depict a Polish Catholic church, a local saloon, and a typical four-room company house where a mining family might raise as manyas 14 children. Oneof the museum's most prized possessions is a framed photo of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, its glass shattered by a bullet, the legacy of mining company "yellow dog" guards who shot up Cicconi's Bar in an attempt to discourage union organizers from meeting in the 1930s.

GAYLE HARPER

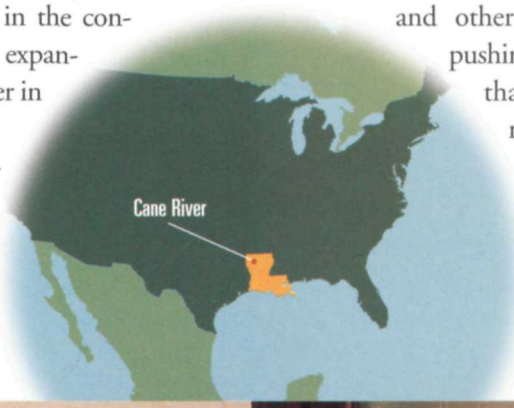
Ashanti African dancers at a Gullah festival in Beaufort, South Carolina.

As the popularity of the heritage development concept has grown, so too has the demand for new heritage

ALEX DEMYAN

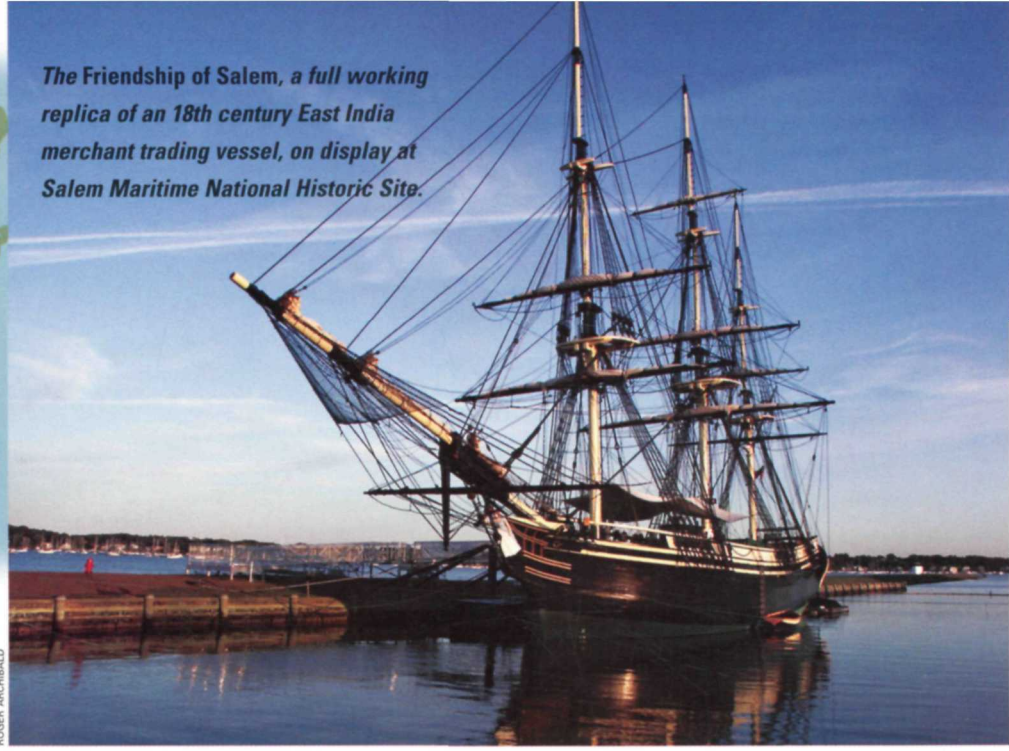
areas. Twenty-eight bills have been introduced in the current Congress that would create 18 new heritage areas; nine bills call for study of seven more potential candidates. Sites under consideration would commemorate, for example, a granite-quarrying region of Georgia, the unique Gullah and Geechee cultures of African Americans in the coastal counties of South Carolina, and the role of "Bleeding Kansas" in the conflict over slavery's expansion into the frontier in the mid-1800s.

This tremendous growth has generated concerns about how to maintain high standards for national heritage areas and how to guarantee their future stability. As a result, NPCA, the Alliance for Heritage Areas, and other supporters are pushing for legislation that would set much-needed standards for creation and funding of heritage areas and open the door for continued grant assistance beyond the initial funding authorization. A bill passed by the Senate and now before the House enjoys almost universal support within the heritage-area movement. "For the last year and a half, the National Parks Advisory Board, which advises the Park Service on important policy issues, has been studying the National Heritage Areas," says NPS's Barrett. "Their report found that this is a great program for relatively little money, butit has some real needs, and [this kind of] legislation is a number- one priority."



The original field kitchen at Fort St. Jean the Baptiste State Historic Site at Cane River, which now hosts a museum, visitors center, and interpretive programs.

The concept of heritage areas may need some fine tuning, but it seems clear that these areas will play a vital role in the next generation of stories told under the auspices of the National Park Service. People continue to embrace the idea because they want a hand in promoting the aspects that make their region special, says Barrett. "If you tap into the shared heritage of people who live in these areas, you can unleash amazing creativity and power."

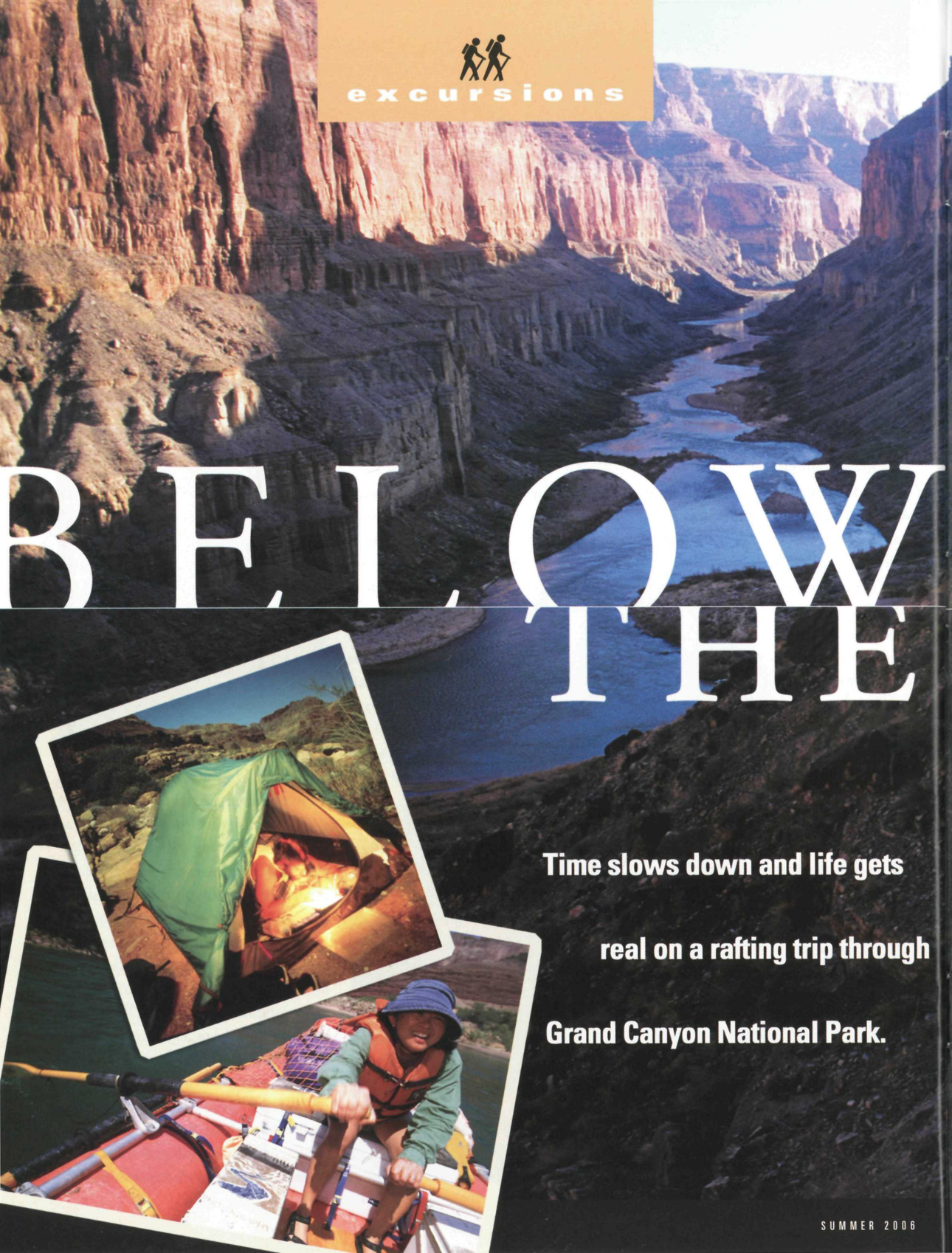


The Friendship of Salem, a full working replica of an 18th century East India merchant trading vessel, on display at Salem Maritime National Historic Site.

ROGER ARCHIBALD

Phyllis McIntosh is a freelance writer living in Silver Spring, Maryland, and a regular contributor to *National Parks* magazine.

BELOW THE RIM



Time slows down and life gets real on a rafting trip through Grand Canyon National Park.

Hikers trek in the canyon to explore ruins overlooking the Colorado River

RICHARD DURNAN (2); ROWBOAT BY LIN ALDER

You step off the helicopter or leave your vehicle at Marble Canyon, smelling clean and perhaps wearing tasteful clothes. You may be carrying way too much stuff. Details of the last project you shoved off your desk may still haunt you. You may realize that you forgot to cancel the newspaper or ask the neighbors to water the garden.

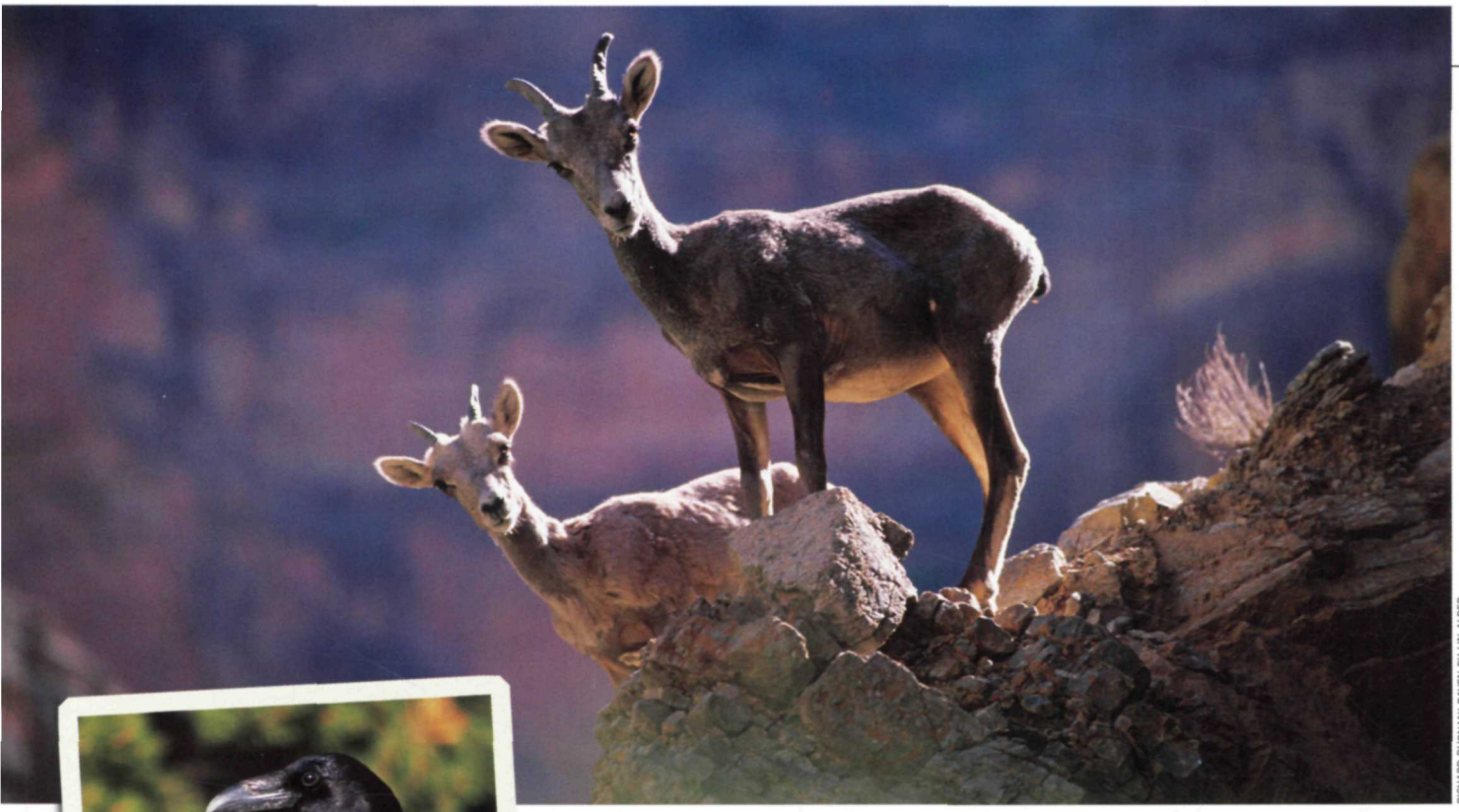
Your river guides probably look rather scruffy. By George, they're wearing long-sleeved shirts in bright sunlight, along with floppy hats and nylon sandals. Their feet are dry, cracked, and begging for pedicures.

Lacking another gesture to disguise the gnawing realization that you've paid a lot of money and committed a lot of time to a very big mistake, you may instinctively glance at your watch. Instead, just take it off. Leave it behind with your city shoes, your cell phone, thoughts of your job, and even your deodorant. There's no need for those things down here, anyway. You're better off bringing a journal, watercolors, or a flute. Take a deep breath and prepare to indulge the heart-opening luxuries you don't have time for amid the daily grind.

You're about to embark on a vacation like no other: rafting the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. You'll hop into big motorized rafts or four-person rowboats at Lees Ferry, the shore

By Anne Minard

BELOW THE RIM



RICHARD DURRANT; RAVEN BY LIN ALDER

Lazy river currents give boaters time to scope out wildlife, like bighorn sheep negotiating perilous rock ledges, and solitary ravens.

of a wide part of the river that marks the dividing line between Glen and Grand Canyons. It's a gorgeous place surrounded by towering vermilion rocks set against an unusually bright blue sky. From there, the boats simply follow the river, dropping lower each day as the Grand Canyon's walls rise above. Your journey will reveal what the Colorado River has been up to for millions of years. Geologists have a simple way of describing it: River cuts down, sides fall in. And the farther you go, the lower it's cut—down through the whitish Kaibab limestone and Coconino sandstone that were deposited around 270 million years ago, down through the orange-red Redwall limestone and the deeper hued, crumbly Bright Angel shale, and, finally—77 miles into your 277-mile trip—through the narrow Inner Gorge. There, pink-white granite has squeezed through close walls of black schist, forming radiant patterns or surrounding it so thoroughly that the schist is isolated in smooth, black blobs. The Inner Gorge, formed about 1,700 million years ago, contains one of the oldest groups of rocks in the Southwest.

It's a gorgeous place surrounded by towering vermilion rocks set against an unusually bright blue sky.

The wildlife is just as diverse. On the rims, deer share the terrain with porcupines, rock squirrels, and ravens.

Mountain lions traverse all but the steepest cliffs, where bighorn sheep are more at home. Deep inside the canyon are specialized habitat niches where singular species thrive—like a docile rattlesnake that's colored pinkish to match the canyon's rocks, and a giant water bug that senses the coming flash floods in the canyon's tributaries and climbs out of its streams until the floodwaters pass.

It takes most people no more than a day to acclimate to a whole new set of priorities in the canyon: slathering on sunscreen, drinking plenty of water, and keeping eyes peeled for bighorn sheep traversing impossible ledges. There's a rhythm to a river trip. You fall asleep to the sounds of water rushing past rocks and lapping against the shore. And you wake up on a beach, perhaps a little less surprised at that fact with each passing day. You pack up your tent fast, if you bothered to use it at all, so you can amble down to the kitchen and help

Magical landscapes reward those who take time to experience the Grand Canyon.

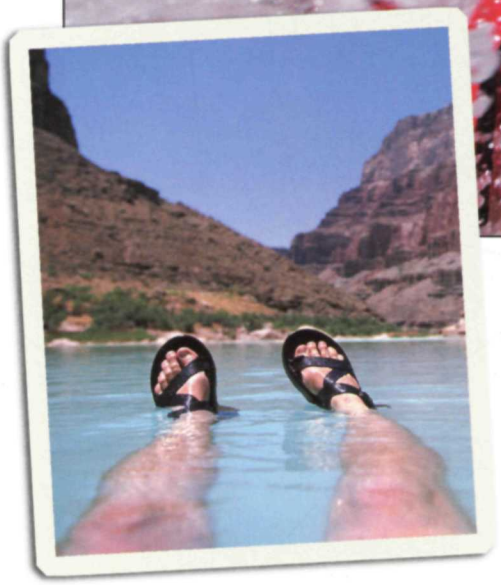
RICHARD DURNAN

Travel Essentials

Grand Canyon National Park's website at www.nps.gov/grca/river/river_concessioners.htm lists 16 outfitters. You can expect to pay at least $700 for a short (three- or four-day) trip and $2,000 or more for most full-length trips through the canyon. Trips convene at various gateway locales including Flagstaff, Las Vegas, and Marble Canyon. Several companies, such as Hatch River Expeditions in Vernal, Utah, and Western River Expeditions in Salt Lake City, offer only motorized trips. These trips last about a week and don't generally require passengers to hike in or out of the canyon. Others, including Flagstaff-based Arizona River Runners and Arizona Raft Adventures, offer passengers a choice to ride in oar-powered boats or motor boats. Rowing the length of the river takes two to three weeks. Expect a strenuous, nine-mile hike up and out of the canyon on the last day of a week spent rowing the first 90 miles. Or you can start off with a challenging hike into the canyon if you choose to spend eight days rowing the last half. Canyon Explorations, based in Flagstaff, and O.A.R.S. and Grand Canyon Dories, both based in California, offer nonmotorized trips in a variety of lengths that end at Diamond Creek or Lake Mead, where roads lead back to civilization. Some trips end at Whitmore Wash, where passengers are flown out by helicopter. Several companies also offer three-day options where passengers are flown into Whitmore Wash and take a whirlwind ride to Lake Mead. Most offer transportation packages for modest extra fees that cover both ends of the trips.

MAP COURTESY OF ARIZONA RAFT ADVENTURES

Weather in the canyon tends to visit all the extremes, particularly in the early season (April) and late season (September). Those happen to be the least crowded times on the river, which may be another consideration for people seeking the most peaceful experience. If you're riding in the most popular part of the season—midsummer—100-plus temperatures are a safe bet. All of the rafting companies provide detailed packing lists; sunscreen, durable water-friendly shoes, and sun-protective clothing appear on all of them. Be prepared to sleep on a beach, under the stars.



C.C. LOCKWOOD; FEET IN WATER BY LIN ALDER

Rafting trips down the Colorado balance thrilling whitewater rides with relaxing stops along the river's more tranquil sections.

make breakfast—or at least arrive in time to eat it. You do your own dishes, assembly-line style, on the beach. Then you take your place in a line to help load the boats. You throw on a lifejacket, and you're off for another day.

Then you sit back and enjoy the smooth rhythm of the river, where your only job is to gawk, chat sporadically with your boatmates, and let your thoughts deepen. You'll be jolted out of your reverie once in a while—this is a ride punctuated by rough-and-tumble rapids. In the first few days, moms on motorized trips display impressive acrobatics, clutching their children and gripping the luggage straps as the rapids come into sight. But near the end of the trip—as the rapids get gentler and as a newfound comfort sets in—those very same mothers are more apt to take pictures of their kids riding atop the luggage pile at the river guide's urging.

Different guides lead different trips. Some like to stop in the middle of the day and lead hikes up side canyons in search of waterfalls, lush hanging fern glens, natural tube slides, and jewel-colored waters that are sometimes accessible only from the river, not by trails from above. The hikes vary in difficulty, and a passenger always reserves the right to pick a shady place to nap near the boats. All of the guides have preferred places where they like to put out lunch or stop for the night.

You'll be jolted out of your reverie once in a while—this is a ride punctuated with rough-and-tumble rapids.

Hygiene is relative down here. It's imperative to disinfect your hands after using the portable privy to avoid spreading food-borne ailments to the other passengers and the crew. Beyond that, you can bathe in the river if you wish, but it's frigid—the water pouring out of Glen Canyon Dam comes from the deepest reaches of Lake Powell and can dip to the lower 40-degree range. It might make you *feel* better, but it's not guaranteed to help you smell better. An experienced Grand Canyon guide once suggested that after Day 3, you'd do as well to rub coffee grinds under your arms.

The nights are often where the magic happens. That's when passengers reminisce about that day's rapids, when the guides are likely to pull out their harmonicas and guitars, and where the night sky gets as black as ever, far away from city lights, and the dark slice of the heavens between the canyon walls is filled with vivid pinpricks of light.

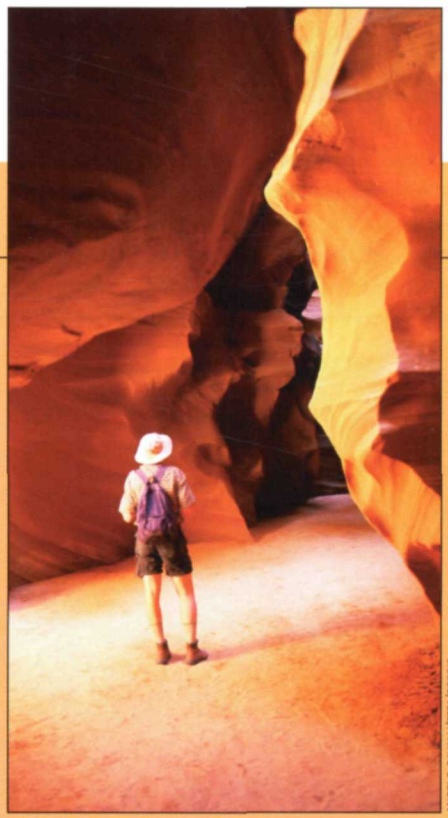
And when it's all over, you'll be different. You might ditch that job—or realize why you love it so much. You might get married, move to the Southwest, drive less, exercise more, or enjoy a renewed attraction to painting or music. If so, it certainly wouldn't be the first time the Colorado River changed a life. ❖

Anne Minard, a freelance writer in Flagstaff, Arizona, gets out to the Colorado River as often as she can.

Sidetrip: Lake Powell and Antelope Canyon

Lake Powell is another one-of-a-kind adventure. Its origins elicited the wrath of notable lovers of the West like Edward Abbey, when the Bureau of Reclamation built Glen Canyon Dam as a source of hydroelectric power. The lake filled in the beautiful Glen Canyon, which was a huge disappointment to people who knew it. But the lake, still surrounded by Glen Canyon's stunning beauty, has become a spectacular and much-loved place in its own right. Information about lodging, restaurants, and activities like boating, fishing, swimming, and hiking is available at www.lakepowell.com and on the website of the nearby city of Page, www.page-lakepowell.com.

Antelope Canyon is a deservedly popular slot canyon formed by Antelope Creek, located on the Navajo Nation near Page. Its stunning, water-sculpted walls radiate buttery yellow light and an alluring vermilion glow when the play of sunlight is just right—and it usually is. Visiting Antelope Canyon is expensive; you'll need to cough up fees to enter the Navajo Nation and to visit either the lower section of the canyon or the more popular upper section. Jeep tours take you to the upper reaches, where a modest, short hike reveals one of the most beautiful settings in the world. Take a jacket, because the temperature tends to drop dramatically where playful sunlight doesn't reach the cavernous bottom. The lower canyon is longer and deeper, presenting a much more challenging hike, which requires the use of ladders at the most dramatic drops. Expect to hike lower Antelope Canyon with a knowledgeable guide, and be prepared for flash floods, which are surprisingly common in the Southwest. For more information, visit www.antelopecanyon.com.



ANGELO CAVALLI/ZEFA/CORBIS

A hiker in Antelope Canyon.

Tours & Accommodations Guide

Explore California's wild side at Mammoth Lakes

The town of Mammoth Lakes sits high in the eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains of California. Mammoth Lakes is the perfect base from which to explore California's wild side. The rugged beauty of the High Sierras frame ghost towns, pristine national forest and wilderness lands, and crystal-clear lakes and streams.

The ski area of Mammoth Mountain is consistently selected as one of the top winter sports destinations in North America, with a typical season lasting from early November to late May and averaging over four hundred inches of snow annually.

With the warmer summer months comes an almost unlimited choice of outdoor activities, from trout fishing and hiking to mountain biking and golf. Mammoth Lakes is host to a number of popular music events throughout the year with outdoor jazz and blues concerts attracting a loyal following.

Mammoth Lakes has a full list of complement services to make every visit a memorable one. There are a variety of lodging options, from campsites and cabins to hotels and luxury condominiums. Mammoth Lakes has a number of great bars and restaurants offering something for every taste.

Mammoth Lakes is conveniently located within a half day's drive from Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Death Valley and San Francisco, and in the summer it is just a forty-five minute drive to the eastern entrance of Yosemite National Park.

To find out more or to request your free vacation planning guide, call 888-GoMammoth or visit www.VisitMammoth.com

Tours & Accommodations Guide

Unique accommodations in unique national parks

Some of the most authentic lodging accommodations remaining in the United States are found—and preserved—in America's national parks. Visitors can still experience the national parks "up close and personal"—the way generations of guests before them have done. From Isle Royale in Michigan, to Big Bend in Texas and Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, Forever Resorts offers quaint lodging and cabins in unique national parks across America. There is always plenty to do and great restaurants to enjoy at Forever Resorts. To find out more, visit www.ForeverLodging.com—and explore the authentic accommodations waiting for you and your family to enjoy

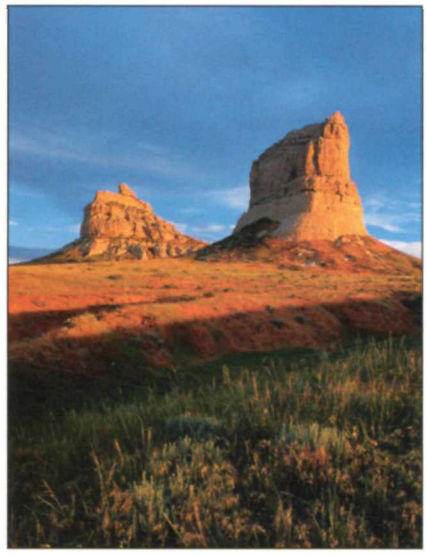
Photo: Stone cottage at Chisos Mountains Lodge, Big Bend National Park, Texas

Around the corner, beyond your expectations

Nebraska's nine historic and scenic byways reflect the history, culture, and beauty of this great state. As you wind your way through these "back roads," prepare for an experience unlike any other.

Be sure to stop for coffee and homemade pie at one of several mom-and-pop cafés. Marvel at the beautiful and ever-changing terrain. Learn how to rope and ride on a working ranch. Travel back in time and experience the thrill of the Old West. Or stop at the wineries scattered along the byways to taste the fruits of the workers' labor.

Adventure waits just around the bend on the two-lane highways criss-crossing Nebraska. So get ready to drop down to low gear, prop your arm out the window, and just cruise. Remember, the only wrong road is the road not taken.



For additional information, log on to www.VisitNebraska.org/byways or call 877-NEBRASKA to request a free copy of the *Nebraska Travel Guide*.

Tours & Accommodations Guide

Sail the south like you never have before

Sail the golden isles of South Carolina and Georgia aboard a brand new modern American Cruise Lines vessel. Cruise gently through the winding waterways of this magical coast where the wonders of nature meet the sea and sky on magnificent barrier islands.

From the decks of your small ship, you will experience the intimacy of service and friendship usually found only on private yachts. With under 100 passengers, spacious, glass-enclosed lounges, open sun decks and a beautifully decorated dining salon, the brand new cruise ships are unique in the industry. All staterooms are the largest in this class of ship, with large, opening picture windows. Some have private verandahs, and the entire ship is climate-controlled for passenger comfort.

The itinerary for the Historic Antebellum South cruise blends the wonders of the natural world with the wonders of American history, highlighting the critical role the area has played since its earliest settlements. Legends of pirate treasure and haunted beaches; the glories of plantation life when cotton was king; the music, food and crafts that evolved into the "Gullah" culture from African slaves; the Victorian rebuilding of areas destroyed by the Civil War; all contribute to the vitality of today's cities. The homes, gardens, museums, and historic sites reveal to visitors the past, while celebrating the modern cities and resorts they have become.

Charleston, Beaufort and Savannah are highly popular vacation centers attracting visitors from around the world. The resort islands of Hilton Head and St. Simons are renowned for golf and glorious beaches. Cruising with American Cruise Lines, passengers can enjoy the variety of activities that make these ports so popular and return to the comfort of a private yacht each evening. Guest speakers are often invited aboard to enhance the day's experiences with their local knowledge. Fine dining and convivial companionship complete the evening.

Please call 1-800-814-6880 today for more information or to make your reservations.

Tours & Accommodations Guide

Evelyn Hill Inc celebrates 75th anniversary

Evelyn Hill Inc. is celebrating its 75th year of providing food service and a gift shop to visitors of the Statue of Liberty. In 1931, Aaron Hill purchased existing souvenirs and opened a small stand in a building located at the front of the statue where visitors would arrive. In 1933, when the National Park Service (NPS) took over Liberty Island from the Army, the stand was moved inside the pedestal. At that time, the Hill family moved off the island. In 1936, the stand was moved out of the pedestal.

Aaron operated with one-year permits from 1931 to 1940 obtaining the first 10-year contract in 1941. Aaron's wife, Evelyn Hill, went to work during the war due to a shortage of labor. Aaron's son, James, had enlisted in the Air Force and was in Europe when Aaron passed away in 1943. Evelyn continued to run the concession stand and was issued a new 10-year contract to 1953. In 1938, the business grossed $12,330. But by 1946, it had increased to $62,000. James then joined the company in 1946.

In 1951, the concession stand moved into the existing building. Evelyn Hill Inc. invested over $90,000 to make the building habitable. In 1953, it was awarded its second 10-year contract. By 1954, sales had increased to $225,000!

Opening day 1931. Max Hill, Evelyn Hill, James Hill, Aaron Hill (founder), Charlotte Hill

In 1961, the building was expanded to add proper food service to the island from an outdoor snack bar operation. In 1965, the company received its third 10-year contract.

The centennial celebration in 1986 led to an expanded building and a major increase in visitation. Major investments by Evelyn Hill Inc. lead the way to a 15-year contract.

Evelyn Hill passed away in 1990. She was the stalwart of the company. Her devotion, energy skill, and fluency in five languages put her in a class by herself. An immigrant from Poland in the early '20s, she recognized the importance of Miss Liberty and her role in world history.

James Hill is responsible for what Evelyn Hill Inc is today. He worked 46 years at the Statue until retirement in 1996. His connection to Miss Liberty is closer than most as he was born on Liberty Island!

James' ability to work with the NPS to support the park's mission earned the respect of all the Park Service directors and their staff.

Today, visitors can choose mementos in two gift shops with over 100 titles of books and DVDs and an exclusive line of gifts. They can dine in the newly renovated Crown Café, offering a variety of entrees and healthy items; Torches, a new Barbeque location; or enjoy hand-carved sandwiches at the Kiosk.

James Hill 1964

Tours & Accommodations Guide

New luxury rail journey through Mexico

The first-ever luxury rail journey spanning Mexico debuts this fall aboard GrandLuxe Rail Journeys (formerly American Orient Express).

GrandLuxe Mexico travels from the U.S. border to Mexico City, featuring Copper Canyon, the Pacific coast, Guadalajara, San Miguel de Allende, and the pyramids at Teotihuacán. This nine-day journey includes six nights aboard America's premier train plus two nights in a luxury hotel in Mexico City. The refurbished vintage train features fine dining, comfortable private cabins, and superlative service. Weekly departures run October 2006 through April 2007. For details visit www.GrandLuxeRail.com or call 1-800-320-4206.

Lakefront in the Smokies

Smoky Mountain Lake Rentals features waterfront cabins, cottages, and chalets in the Smoky Mountain area, offering studio to four bedroom lakefront homes on beautiful Douglas Lake. With its 550 miles of shoreline the lake is excellent for swimming, fishing, and boating. Best of all, these homes are just minutes from the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, Gatlinburg, and Pigeon Forge. For more information visit smokymountainlake.com or call 888-275-2496 or 800-839-LAKE (5253).

Terra Incognita Ecotours, a new travel experience

Trips that make a difference to you and to the places we visit. Track mountain gorillas in Rwanda. View lemurs and chameleons in Madagascar. Explore mysterious Papua New Guinea. Visit the rainforest, reef, and ruins of Belize. Go from the mountains to the sea in Costa Rica. Nicaragua—where culture, nature and adventure meet. Support the work of the Jane Goodall Institute, World Wildlife Fund, and more. Call toll-free 877-GO EXPLORE (877-463-9756), or visit www.ecotours.com.

Corinth rich with history and Southern hospitality

Corinth is filled with a rich Civil War heritage—offering a reflection of our nation's past. The new $9.5 million National Park Service Civil War Interpretive Center is now open. Its unique design and displays interpret Corinth's role during the Civil War and its effects on the Western Theater.

Corinth is located 20 minutes from Shiloh National Military Park. Visitors to Corinth will be surrounded by warm, southern hospitality while they take in a delicious treat at an authentic drug-store soda fountain or indulge their senses at tasty restaurants. Shopaholics will revel in shopping venues that include items from the wacky and whimsical to the elegant and refined.

Corinth's excellent guest accommodations range from quiet, comfortable bed and breakfast inns to the modern, convenient services found at major chain hotels. Corinth also offers other enjoyable attractions such as the Corinth National Cemetery, the Black History Museum, the Verandah House, the Northeast Mississippi Museum, and currently under construction, the Civil War Contraband Camp.

To get your free travel planner, call 800-748-9048 or visit www.corinth.net.

Tours & Accommodations Guide

A unique rail excursion

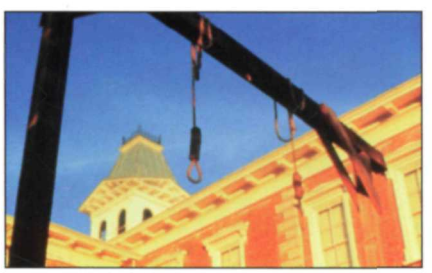
Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad (CVSR) is one of the oldest, longest, and most scenic excursion railways in the country, and the only vintage railroad that runs within a national park. Operating in partnership with Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Ohio, it is dedicated to the preservation of passenger rail transportation along the historic Ohio & Erie Canalway.

CVSR tracks stretch 51 miles south from Independence, Ohio, passing through the 33,000-acre national park to Akron and Canton. Built in 1880, the tracks were recorded in the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. The National Park Service purchased the tracks between Independence and Akron in 1987.

Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad operates trains throughout the year, offering alternative transportation in the national park, as well as Trail & Rail Flagstop service for bikers and hikers on the Towpath Trail. Visit www.cvsr.com or call 800-468-4070 for more information.

Cultural treasures in Arizona State Parks

South of Tucson lies a cultural treasure trio of Arizona State Parks! Tubac Presidio State Historic Park, site of Arizona's first European settlement, was also chosen as the first state park in Arizona. Walk among the grounds, check out the museum and see an underground archaeology display. Further east, in the town of Tombstone, is the old courthouse, now Tombstone Courthouse State Historic Park, where exhibits include an invitation to a hanging and a tax license for operating a brothel. Head north to Kartchner Caverns State Park, where colorful cave formations help tell a unique story of conservation and dedication.



Whether you're heading north or south, let Arizona's 27 State Parks introduce you to Arizona's cultural treasures! Visit azstateparks.com or call 602-542-1993 for more information.

Wildlife abounds at Hallo Bay

Hallo Bay Wilderness Camp is located on the Pacific Coast of Katmai National Park within one of the largest natural concentrations of brown bears in Alaska. Nesting bald eagles, a rich variety of marine wildlife and shorebirds, wolves, moose, and fox are common to the area. In limiting the number of guests to 10 on any given day, Hallo Bay is able to provide a true wilderness experience without the crowds. Hallo Bay provides naturalist guides; comfortable, heated cabins; family style meals; solar and wind generated electricity; hot showers; and environmentally friendly, odorless, and sanitary composting toilet facilities.

For more information please visit www.hallobay.com or call 888-535-2237.

View Alaskan ice falls at Kennicott Glacier Lodge

Kennicott Glacier Lodge, located in the Kennicott National Historic Landmark ghost town, offers the area's finest accommodations and dining. Built in 1987, the lodge has 35 clean, delightful guest rooms, two living rooms, a spacious dining room, and a 180-foot front porch with a spectacular panoramic view of the Wrangell Mountains, Chugach Mountains, and Kennicott Glacier. The homemade food, served family-style, has been called "wilderness gourmet dining."

Guest activities at this destination resort include glacier trekking, flightseeing, photography, alpine hiking, historical tours throughout the ghost town buildings, nature tours, and river rafting. Visit us on the web at www.KennicottLodge.com or call 800-582-5128.

Tours & Accommodations Guide

Discover history and culture in the heart of Texas

They say Texas is like a whole other country. In fact the 267,000 square-mile Lone Star State is so vast, so packed with things to see and do that it is divided into seven distinct and exciting regions.

Big Bend Country—Prickly pear cacti bloom fuchsia and gold across lonesome prairies and craggy mountain peaks jut at the horizon. Nowhere else in Texas do the stars shine quite so bright at night or the sunsets seem quite so rosy. Travel west to Big Bend National Park and explore 800,000 acres of vast canyons, an untamed river, and cool mountain woodlands.

Hill Country—From serene valleys tucked between rolling hills, to friendly small towns, to the vibrancy of capital city Austin a sojourn in the Hill Country can be as active or relaxing as you choose. With dude ranches, vineyards, arts-and-crafts shops and factory-direct stores, these hills bring delight. While fabled hills, clear running rivers, spacious parks, hike-and-bike trails, and a wealth of lakes feed your fresh-air fantasies, you will find that the Texas hills are intellectually alive as well—with fascinating museums, thrilling theatrical performances, and numerous historical sites.

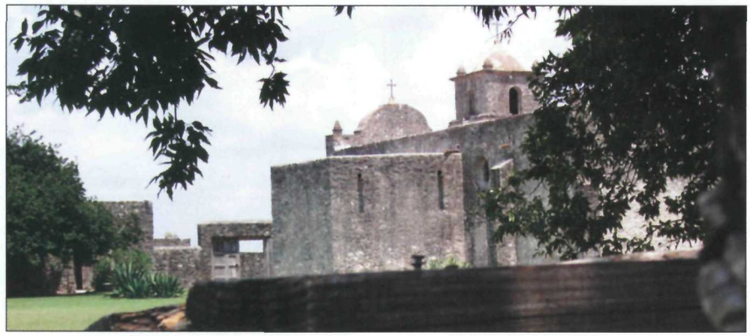
The Gulf Coast—More than 600 miles of beaches, sand dunes, and the cultural attractions of the Gulf of Mexico weave their spell upon seafarers and landlubbers alike. Peninsulas, islands, cities, towns, and parks all extend their own magical allure. Take part in deep-sea fishing or windsurfing, or visit one of the many popular beach cities, such as Galveston, Corpus Christi, Port Aransas, or South Padre Island.

Panhandle Plains—Sunsets stretch scarlet and gold across a seemingly endless horizon. Rivers course across the rugged earth and carve out their own fascinating landscapes producing splendid canyons and scenic lakes. Watch cowboys at work, relish a chuck wagon breakfast beside a colorful canyon, and visit exciting old frontier forts. Experience the thrill and excitement of the Old West at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, near Amarillo.

Piney Woods—Carpeted with fragrant pine needles and brimming with lakes, this inviting area fascinates and captivates with its Antebellum homes, azaleas, and fishing opportunities. Discover early Texas communities that witnessed the founding of Spanish missions and played prominent roles in Texas' independence.

Prairies and Lakes—This region boasts a liberal sprinkling of prairies, farmlands, and lakes, but it also encompasses thriving towns, intriguing historical sites, and the energizing Dallas-Fort Worth area, where visitors are greeted with a mix of Southern hospitality, modern sophistication, and endless entertainment opportunities.

South Texas Plains—Where Texas and Mexico come together, experience the excitement of a zesty TexMex blend of languages, music, cuisine, and customs. Take in the history at the world famous Alamo. Soak up some sun in the tropical Rio Grande Valley. Attend a fiesta, admire a Picasso, and savor a salsa-spiced snack.



Showing you all there is to see and do in Texas is no easy task. To get a head start on where to go, what to do, and where to stay, order a FREE Texas State Travel Guide, Texas Accommodations Guide, and Texas Official Travel Map. From the mountains of West Texas to the shores of the Gulf Coast, these will provide everything you need to plan your perfect Texas vacation. Visit www.TravelTex.com or call 800-8888-TEX, ext. 3858.

TEXAS
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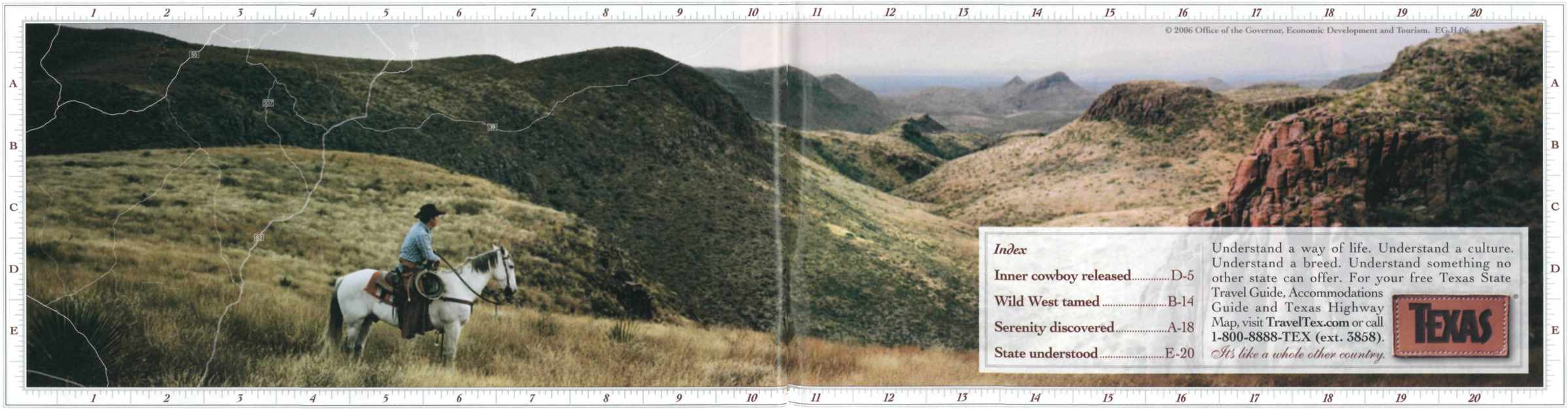
Tours & Accommodations Guide

THE STATE OF TEXAS



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Understand a way of life. Understand a culture. Understand a breed. Understand something no other state can offer. For your free Texas State Travel Guide, Accommodations Guide and Texas Highway Map, visit **TravelTex.com** or call **1-800-8888-TEX (ext. 3858).**

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www.TravelTex.com/A-18 • www.TravelTex.com/E-20

Travel Planner

Travel Planner

The Hopewell Rocks, Hopewell Cape

Aulac

epic wonders

Acadian Coast

The World's Highest Tides... a powerful force, bringing 100 billion tonnes of seawater in and out of the Bay of Fundy twice a day. Imagine discovering this world-renowned phenomenon, only to find out so much more wonder awaits.

In the shadows of Natural Wonder, a history remains to be told...

Tides that rise up to a four-storey building only to flow out and lure you to walk on the ocean floor... The first people to witness this hundreds of years ago must have wondered what other feats of nature lay in store for them. They would have soon discovered that a river that reverses itself daily could also be found to flow through peaceful valleys and then thrash through the stony cliffs of a gorge. Such were the many faces of nature that still astounds people today. Of course, some secrets remained...

Through the years, the highest tides on the planet slowly eroded rock cliffs to reveal hidden 300-million-year-old fossils. Just as nature hides her history, you can be sure to find more than meets the eye in New Brunswick than just the buildings that remind us of times long ago.

The historic walls, monuments and sites that remain throughout the province tell of a rich past, but history here is more than something you merely observe.

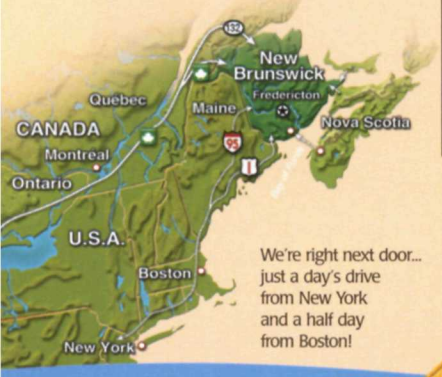
The *joie de vivre* (joy of life) of our Acadians will quite literally take you by the hand. This is a lively culture with an unusual history that chooses celebration as a means of remembering. To learn of the Acadians' colourful past, it is as easy as following your senses. Taste time-honoured recipes that have been handed down through the generations, listen to the legends of locals and join in on the fun at dinner theatres and outdoor stage performances that offer lively interpretations of the Acadian deportation.

Take a stroll back in time at one of New Brunswick's living history museums offering a realistic view of early l'Acadie or life lived as a Loyalist over a century ago. Wander through museums and galleries or visit the many National Historic Sites of Canada.

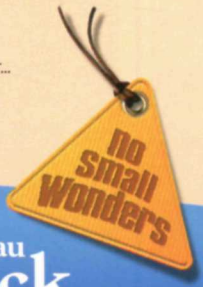
City of Saint John

From the most cosmopolitan cities to the tiniest of towns, tales of historic reference can be found. Incredible Natural Wonders, amazing values and the cosiest inns and B&Bs... New Brunswick, Canada welcomes you to discover all of its intriguing present and glorious past.

New Brunswick Botanical Garden, Saint-Jacques area, within the city of Edmundston



We're right next door... just a day's drive from New York and a half day from Boston!



Contact us for your FREE DVD and FREE 2006 Vacation Planning Kit and discover awesome vacation ideas, great value and a world of Natural Wonder.

New Nouveau Brunswick
CANADA

CANADA Keep Exploring

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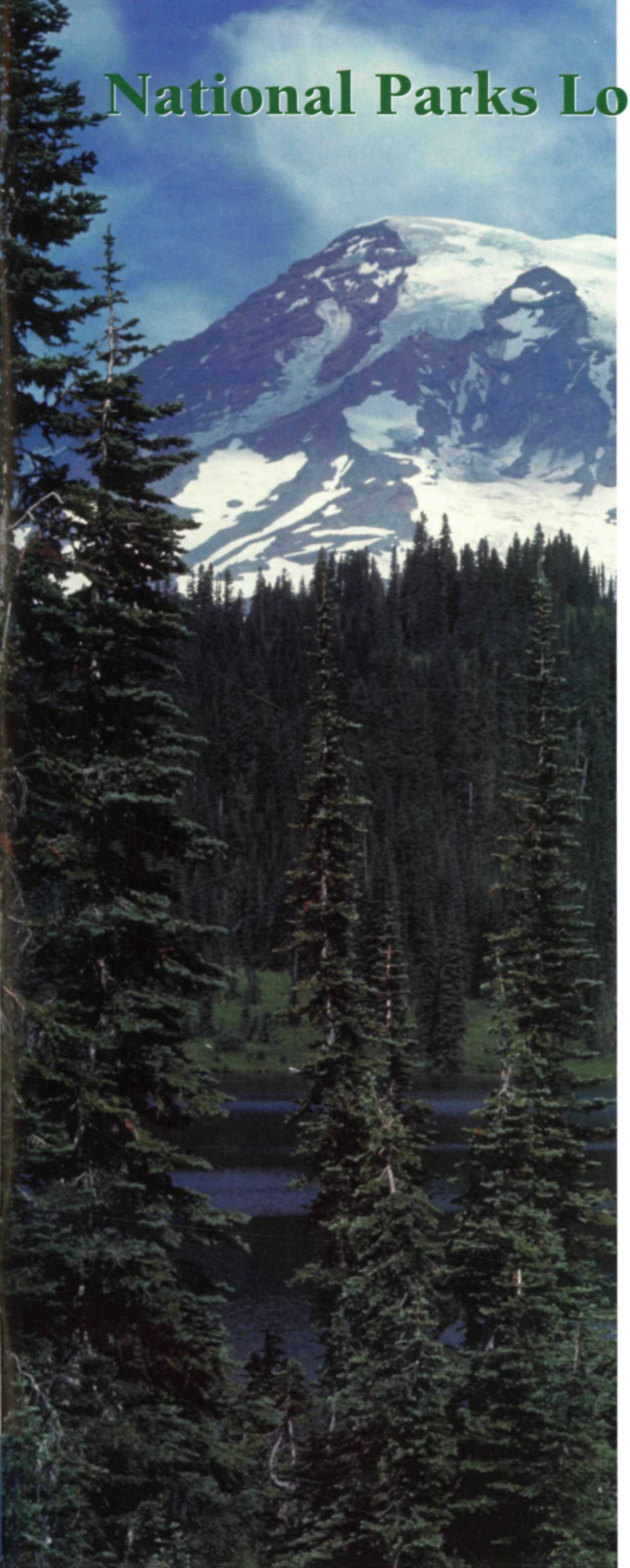
Check out our neighbours at www.TourismNewBrunswick.ca/Neighbours



National Parks Lodging Directory

You've been trekking in Yellowstone's backcountry for hours, through its vast landscape of towering evergreens, steamy geysers, and grazing buffalo. The summer heat is taking its toll, your feet ache, and you're ready to shed your heavy pack. Suddenly you round the bend, and it floats into view like a dream—a massive refuge from the wilderness, glowing and warm, blending seamlessly into a forested backdrop. Welcome to Old Faithful Inn, an innovative architectural structure that's just one in a long list of impressive national parks lodges. Each is as unique as the landscape upon which it was built. Take Yosemite's elegant Ahwahnee, for example, with its clever fusion of European furnishings, Middle Eastern rugs, and Indian American detail amidst floor-to-ceiling views that offer stunning park views. Or the down-home atmosphere at Peaks of Otter lodge, a cozy wooden chalet set on a lake at the base of the Blue Ridge Parkway and famous for its southern cooking. These lodges offer visitors more than a comfortable place to rest their heads—they offer a glimpse of our country's finest moments, where architects, government officials, entrepreneurs, and visionaries came together with the dream of making wilderness accessible. They built these lodges under the worst conditions, hauling equipment to remote locations, battling winter storms and treacherous winds. No one says it better than Christine Barnes, author of the book *Great Lodges of the National Parks*: "These are far more than buildings, but reminders of our heritage."

Many park lodges are booked months in advance, so plan your trip early and make reservations well ahead of time. The following pages include a comprehensive guide listing every park lodge in the nation to help get you started. You can also find this information at **www.npca.org**, in the Exploring the Parks section. Enjoy your trip!

National Parks Lodging Directory

Badlands National Park
Cedar Pass Lodge
605.433.5460
Air-conditioned historic cabins and a restaurant featuring Sioux Indian Tacos. The gift shop offers an impressive variety of Native American crafts and art, books and souvenirs.
CedarPassLodge.com

Big Bend National Park
Chisos Mountains Lodge
432.477.2291
The Park's only lodging at a cool 5,400 ft. altitude includes a full-service restaurant, gift shop, convenience store, Park Visitor Center and amazing views!
ChisosMountainsLodge.com

Blue Ridge Parkway (NC)
Bluffs Lodge
336.372.4499
Pisgah Inn
828.235.8228

Blue Ridge Parkway (VA)
Peaks of Otter Lodge
800.542.5927
Rocky Knob Cabins
276.952.2947

Bryce Canyon National Park
Bryce Canyon Lodge
888.297.2757

Buffalo National River
Buffalo Point Concessions
870.449.6206

Canyon de Chelly National Monument
Thunderbird Lodge
982.674.5841 or 800.679.2473

Crater Lake National Park
Crater Lake Lodge
541.830.8700
Mazama Village Motor Inn
541.830.8700

Cuyahoga Valley National Park
The Inn at Brandywine Falls
888.306.3381

Death Valley National Park
Furnace Creek Ranch
760.786.2345
Stovepipe Wells Village
760.786.2387

Denali National Park & Preserve
Denali Bluffs Hotel
907.683.8500
Denali Park Resorts
907.264.4600 or 800.276.7234

Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve
Glacier Bay Lodge
907.264.4600
Apgar Village Lodge
406.888.5484
Lake McDonald Lodge
406.892.2525
Many Glacier Hotel
406.892.2525
Rising Sun Motor Inn
406.756.2444 or 406.892.2525
Sperry & Granite Park Chalets
406.387.5654
Swiftcurrent Motor Inn
406.892.2525
Village Inn at Apgar
406.892.2525

Glacier National Park, East Glacier
Glacier Park Lodge & Golf Resort
406.892.2525

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
Bullfrog Resort & Marina
435.684.3000 or 800.528.6154

Grand Canyon North Rim
Grand Canyon Lodge
888.297.2757

Grand Canyon South Rim
Bright Angel Lodge
888.297.2757
El Tovar Hotel
888.297.2757
Kachina
888.297.2757
Maswik Lodge
888.297.2757
Thunderbird Lodge
888.297.2757
Yavapai Lodge East & West
888.297.2757

Signal Mountain Lodge, Grand Teton National Park.

Grand Teton National Park
Colter Bay Village
800.628.9988
Dornan's Spur Ranch Log Cabins
307.733.2522
Flagg Ranch Resort
800.443.2311
Jackson Lake Lodge
307.543.3100 or 800.628.9988
Jenny Lake Lodge
307.733.4647 or 800.628.9988
Signal Mountain Lodge
307.543.2831 ext. 235
Triangle X Ranch
307.733.2183

Great Smoky Mountains National Park
LeConte Lodge
865.429.5704

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park
Volcano House Hotel
808.967.7321

Isle Royale National Park
Rock Harbor Lodge
906.337.4993 (Summer)
270.773.2191 (Winter)

Rock Harbor Lodge (cont'd.)

Explore the island on 116 miles of hiking trails from the Park's only accommodations.

American/European pricing, restaurant & grill, interpretive day tours & boat rentals.

RockHarborLodge.com

Katmai National Park

Brooks Lodge
800.544.0551

Lake Mead National Recreation Area

Cottonwood Cove Resort
702.297.1464 or 800.255.5561
Echo Bay Resort
702.394.4000
Lake Mead Resort
702.293.2074
Lake Mohave Resort
928.754.3245
Temple Bar Resort
928.767.3211

Lassen Volcanic National Park

Drakesbad Guest Ranch
530.529.1512

Mammoth Cave National Park

Mammoth Cave Hotel
270.758.2225

Enjoy comfortable hotel lodging, historic cabins and cottages, great restaurants and unique gift shops. Tour the world's longest cave system and the Kentucky Caveland Region.

MammothCaveHotel.com

Mesa Verde National Park

Far View Lodge
800.449.2288

Mount Rainier National Park

National Park Inn at Longmire
360.569.2275
Paradise Inn
360.569.2275
Timberline Lodge
800.547.1406

North Cascades National Park

Ross Lake Resort
206.386.4437
Stehekin Valley Ranch
509.682.4494

Olympic National Park

Kalaloch Lodge
866.525.2562
Lake Crescent Lodge
360.928.3211

Lakeside accommodations include cabins and cottages. The Lodge's fine dining restaurant is famous throughout the Peninsula.

Enjoy rain forest hikes, row boat rentals and unparalleled serenity.

LakeCrescentLodge.com

Log Cabin Resort
360.928.3325
Sol Duc Hot Springs Resort
360.327.3583

Oregon Caves National Monument

Oregon Caves Chateau
541.592.3400

Ozark National Scenic Riverways

Big Spring Lodge
573.323.4423

Redwood National and State Parks

Redwood Hostel
707.482.8265

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

Cedar Grove Lodge
559.565.0100
Grant Grove Lodge
866.875.8456
John Muir Lodge
559.335.5500 or 866.522.6966
Silvercity Resort
805.461.3223
Stony Creek Lodge
866.875.8456
Wuksachi Village & Lodge
888.252.5757

Shenandoah National Park

Big Meadows Lodge
800.778.2851
Skyland Lodge
800.778.2851

Voyageurs National Park

Kettle Falls Hotel
218.875.2070

Yellowstone National Park

Canyon Lodges and Cabins
307.344.7311
Grand Village
307.344.7311
Lake Lodge Cabins
307.344.7311
Lake Yellowstone Hotel & Cabins
307.344.7901
Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel
307.344.7311
Old Faithful Inn
307.344.7311
Old Faithful Snow Lodge & Cabins
307.344.7311
Roosevelt Lodge Cabins
307.344.7311
Yellowstone Lodge
877.239.9298

Yosemite National Park

Curry Village
559.252.4848
Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite
559.252.4848
The Ahwahnee Hotel
559.252.4848
Tuolumne Meadows Lodge
559.252.4848
Wawona Hotel
559.252.4848
White Wolf Lodge
559.252.4848
Yosemite Lodge
559.252.4848

Zion National Park

Zion Lodge
888.297.2757

And Justice for All

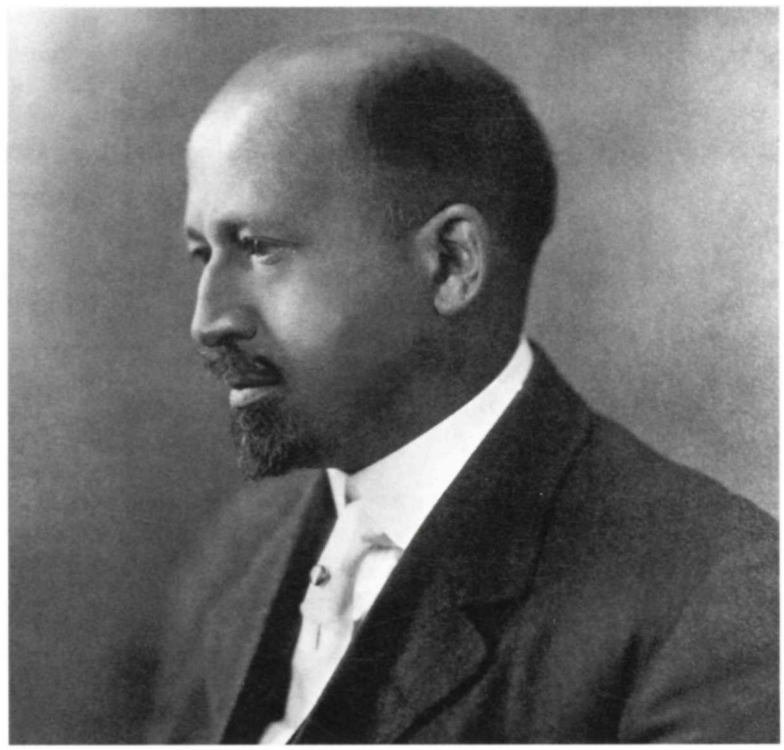
One hundred years ago this summer, a band of men and women gathered at Harpers Ferry to launch America's civil rights movement.

By Scott Kirkwood

In 1747, when Robert Harper first came upon the confluence of rivers and mountains that would one day bear his name, his slave Beck was the first black woman to set foot on the land. Fifty years later, enslaved African Americans helped build the federal armory in Harpers Ferry, then provided labor for the machinery that turned out rifles and muskets for the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the War of 1812, and the Mexican War. In 1859, the same small town in Virginia (now West Virginia) was the site of John Brown's uprising—an event that failed to end the institution of slavery, but cast a light on the injustice, sowing the seeds of the Civil War.

So in 1906, when the descendants of freed slaves set out to advance the cause of African Americans, they could think of no more appropriate place to stake their claim. That group of 29 business owners, teachers, and clergy dubbed themselves the Niagara Movement, after their first gathering in Erie Beach, Ontario, July 1905. (They had been denied meeting space in nearby Buffalo, New York.) Thirteen months later, the group held its first public meeting on American soil, inviting women as full and equal members.

"This was the first national civil rights organization of the 20th century—the first organization that said 'We're not going to take this anymore,' " says Todd Bolton, project director of the Niagara Movement Centennial at Harpers Ferry. "In the latter part of the 19th century, with failed reconstruction in the South, and the Supreme Court issuing the *Plessy vs. Ferguson* decision making segregation the law of the land, this was the organization that stopped the hemorrhaging and began to slowly turn the tide in a positive direction."



CORBIS

W.E.B. Du Bois, leader of the Niagara Movement.

"If the Niagara Movement hadn't taken place, the civil rights movement in this country would be years behind the times," says George Rutherford, director of the Jefferson County branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). "This country would be nowhere near where we are right now in terms of civil rights—Martin Luther King's achievements wouldn't have taken place and *Brown v. Board of Education* [Supreme Court ruling that effectively ended segregation in the public schools] would have happened much later—Niagara was the cornerstone for all of it."

The members of Niagara tried to effect change in courtrooms and capital buildings, but also reached out to enter-

tainers, authors, and political figures, addressing issues of crime, economics, religion, health, and education, among others. They did not politely ask to be recognized—they demanded equal rights in a forceful voice that hadn't been heard before. They challenged the legality of Jim Crow laws, which amounted to institutionalized racism, but they often lacked the funds or political muscle to make meaningful change.

Even so, their work sent a powerful message to the entire country. W.E.B Du Bois, the leader of the new movement, was a college professor and respected author who not only stood up to white America, but also stood up to the most powerful black man in America at the time: Booker T. Washington.

"Du Bois and his followers didn't want to settle for social segregation—they felt that a black man and a black woman should have every right afforded to a white man and a white woman," says Bolton. "Whereas Washington was focused more on industrial training and education of the hands, Du Bois believed that every type of education should be opened to African Americans." It's no coincidence that most southern black colleges founded near the turn of the century tacked on the letters A&I at the end, for "Agriculture & Industry." Du Bois and his followers wanted more.

Washington did all he could do to prevent the movement from gaining momentum, calling for a press blackout on coverage of the Harpers Ferry event. Even so, a handful of black papers printed articles, primarily those with connections to members of Niagara, like *The Guardian* and *Voice of the Negro*. Mary White Ovington, a white reporter for the *New York Evening Post*, wrote quite eloquently about the proceedings, and later became one of the primary founders of the NAACP, which emerged as Niagara came to a close near 1910. Du Bois went on to become an officer of the NAACP, the editor of *Crisis* magazine, and the backbone of the organization in its early years, joined by other prominent members of Niagara.

As the 100th anniversary of the meeting arrives in August, the Park Service has scheduled several events to be held in Harpers Ferry with help from NPCA and other sponsors. The Count Basie Orchestra will perform, Pulitzer-prize winning author David Levering Lewis will speak, and actors will recreate historic events. Visitors will hear from a panel of pioneers including Cheryl White, the first female African American jockey; Monte Irvin, one of the first baseball players to follow Jackie Robinson into the major leagues; Eddie Henderson, the nation's first African American figure-skating champion, and others. For details, visit www.nps.gov/hafe/niagara/events.htm. ❖

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

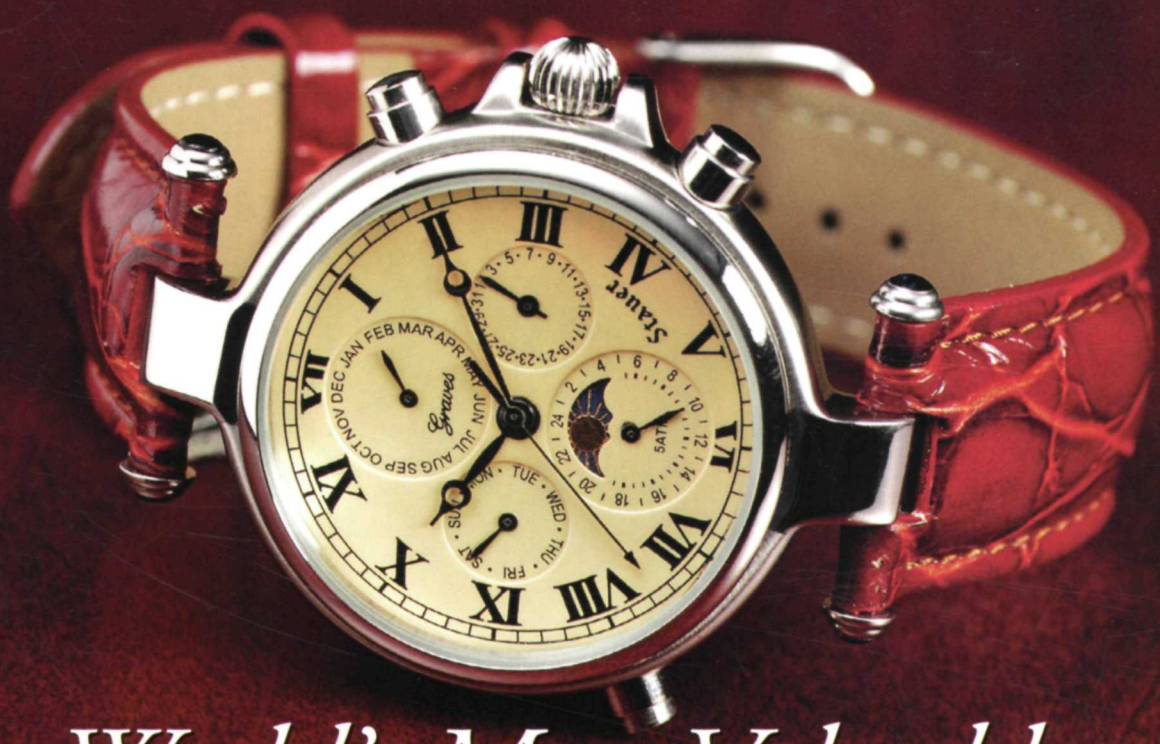
Another World

A bizarre landscape reveals cultural treasures such as rock art, cowboy camps, and ancient artifacts.

Ever wondered what it's like on Mars? A trip to this park might give you an idea. Isolated on southeastern Utah's Colorado Plateau, the park is a mix of rounded, rolling boulders, sandstone plateaus, and sharp, slender rocks that jut up from the earth into a cobalt sky. Millions of years of erosion have carved out the oddest shapes, giving way to names like Needles, Elephant Hill, and Chocolate Drops (below). Even the dirt that clings to the rocks and desert floor is alive—a fragile mix of algae, lichens, and bacteria that hold together the foundation for plants. Hiking remains one of the best ways to explore the ancient petroglyphs, crumbling ruins, and cowboy camps where bandits like Butch Cassidy once laid their heads. As evening falls, coyotes yip and howl beneath dark night skies that allow visitors to gaze at the same stars that ancestral Puebloans viewed more than 700 years ago. Have you been here?

TOM TILL

Answer: Canyonlands National Park, Utah



World's Most Valuable Timepiece Disappears

Back in 1933, the single most important watch ever built was engineered for a quiet millionaire collector named Henry Graves. It took over three years and the most advanced horological technique to create the multifunction masterpiece. This one-of-a-kind watch was to become the most coveted piece in the collection of the Museum of Time near Chicago. Recently this ultra-rare innovation was auctioned off for the record price of $11,030,000 by Sotheby's to a secretive anonymous collector. Now the watch is locked away in a private vault in an unknown location. We believe that a classic like this should be available to true watch afficionados, so Stauer replicated the exact Graves design in the limited edition Graves '33.

The antique enameled face and Bruguet hands are true to the original. But the real beauty of this watch is on the inside. We replicated an extremely complicated automatic movement with 27 jewels and seven hands. There are over 210 individual parts that are assembled entirely by hand and then tested for over 15 days on Swiss calibrators to ensure accuracy. The watches are then reinspected in the United States upon their arrival.

27 jewels and 210 hand-assembled parts drive this classic masterpiece.

What makes rare watches rare?

Business Week states it best…"It's the complications that can have the biggest impact on price." (*Business Week, July, 2003*). The four interior complications on our Graves™ watch display the month, day, date and the 24 hour clock graphically depicts the sun and the moon. The innovative engine for this timepiece is powered by the movement of the body as the automatic rotor winds the mainspring. It never needs batteries and never needs to be manually wound. The precision crafted gears are "lubricated" by 27 rubies that give the hands a smooth sweeping movement. And the watch is tough enough to stay water resistant to 5 atmospheres. The movement is covered by a 2-year warranty.

Not only have we emulated this stunning watch of the 1930s but just as surprising, we've been able to build this luxury timepiece for a spectacular price. Many fine 27-jewel automatics that are on the market today are usually priced well over $2,000 dollars, but you can enter the rarified world of fine watch collecting for under $100. You can now wear a millionaire's watch but still keep your millions in your vest pocket. Try the handsome Graves '33 timepiece risk free for 30 days. If you are not thrilled with the quality and rare design, please send it back for a full refund of the purchase price.

The face of the original 1930s Graves timepiece from the Museum of Time.

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The Hopewell Rocks, Hopewell Cape

Bay of Fundy

unbelievable wonders

St. John River Valley

Imagine a place where the highest tides on earth rise and fall four stories, twice a day… every day. Imagine that same place being home to rivers that stretch from breathtaking to beautiful, the oldest mountains, the rarest dunes and more! Believe it… it's all here in New Brunswick, Canada!

The Wonder of the World's Highest Tides.

You won't really believe it until you see it for yourself. New Brunswick's Bay of Fundy… home to the World's Highest Tides. Within a twelve-hour period, they can rise and fall almost 14 metres (48 ft)! The powerful tidal action carves huge, bizarre flowerpot rocks… when you walk in their shadow, you're actually walking on the ocean floor! Just six hours later, you have to take a kayak if you want to visit the same spot! What's even more incredible is that this is just the beginning of the wonder to be found!

A Place of Immense Natural Beauty.

The Bay of Fundy is One of the Marine Wonders of the World, but it's not nature's only masterwork in New Brunswick!

The first time you see Chaleur Bay, you will understand how it won the distinction as one of the most beautiful bays in the world. It's like a big blue mirror that's framed-in by some of the oldest mountains on earth. From there, the natural wonders just get more diverse. Places like the St. John River Valley, winding its way down the length of the province! From a towering gorge to patchwork farmlands above serene rolling banks, this is a place of pure inspiration!

On the eastern edge of the province, you'll find endless golden dunes where you can walk for miles and miles. This is also home to the Irving Eco-Centre, La Dune de Bouctouche, one of the rarest dunes on the continent!

A Wealth of Wildlife.

Wildlife watchers are blown away by what they can glimpse throughout New Brunswick. Over 15 different species of whales migrate to the Bay of Fundy. This includes the rare Right whale, of which there are only a few hundred left on the planet. These nutrient-rich waters also welcome 95 per cent of the world's semi-palmated sandpipers that reel above the craggy shoreline. Seals prefer sunning themselves on the sand bars to the east while moose and black bears choose the shade of the bountiful forests!

A True East Coast Experience.

It's true what they say about Maritimers! Nowhere else will you find a people as welcoming and a culture so inviting! From the *joie de vivre* (joy of life) of the Acadians to the most succulent seafood, there's a world of wonder so rare, yet so close by... It's here, on Canada's fabled East Coast.

Acadian Coast

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