

The

YELLOWSTONE

News



February 17, 1995

NPS Employee Newsletter

Next Deadline: March 1

Wolves Fare Well

After receiving numerous requests from media and park employees to see how the wolves were doing in the park, officials decided that limited orientation opportunities would be provided and would not have a detrimental effect on the wolves' welfare or the wolf restoration project.

Over the last few weeks, limited numbers of media and NPS employees have been allowed to visit the Crystal Bench acclimation site and were able to view the wolves from a blind located approximately 300 yards from the pen. Participants have been selected by the lottery process and have included naturalists, maintenance, and rangers.

Ellen Petrick-Underwood, an Environmental Education Specialist in Mammoth, was along on a recent excursion to the pens. Ellen said, "Our perceptions just don't hold true, they're bigger than expected. You sense their wildness and you get that sense, by their pacing, their awareness of us, and the fact they didn't want to be around people."

Sandy Snell-Dobert, a North District Naturalist from Norris, believes that it was "a mixed experience, it was a privilege to see them, but what strikes you is their movements, their gait. The Alpha male really stands out, it was very exciting."

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Ranger Receives Wilderness Award

District Ranger Gerald E. (Jerry) Merin was presented with the first Individual Champion of Wilderness Award given by the National Park Service on Tuesday, February 7, by RMR Regional Director John Cook. The award was presented to Jerry during Cook's address at the Resource Management Workshop held in Mammoth. Director Cook read a few excerpts from Jerry's award nomination which stated, "He has energetically sustained his dedication to the park's backcountry throughout three decades of service in the same park. He continues to be actively involved in a leadership role in the evolution of Yellowstone's backcountry management programs, including minimum impact stock use practices and the commercial outfitter program. Perhaps the most fitting tribute to this individual is to say that he is an outstanding example of a long tradition of dedicated backcountry rangers in Yellowstone, dating back to the days of the U.S. Calvary."

Jerry is known to be an active contributor at the field and management levels to the full spectrum of backcountry management programs that occur throughout the year in Yellowstone. He helps plan, coordinate, and conduct annual backcountry ranger training. Jerry routinely represents the park at meetings with outfitters, special interest groups, or backcountry managers from other agencies, and is an eloquent advocate of wilderness preservation and values.

Mernin received a letter from Director Kennedy which in part related, "It is my pleasure to recognize you as the 1994 Individual Champion of Wilderness and I hope you will take additional pride in helping to start an important new tradition in the National Park Service. Congratulations and thank you. May you continue to be a champion of the great Yellowstone wilderness and wilderness everywhere!"

Language Line Service Begins in the Park

Yellowstone Park now has the capability for employees to communicate with foreign visitors, which in the past, had been a considerable problem. *Language Line*, a new service provided by AT&T, is a quick, easy way to communicate with someone who doesn't speak English. The service provides the park with interpreters for more than 140 languages, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A video, reference guide, and other helpful materials can be obtained from Telecommunications at x2069 or the Superintendent's Office at x2003.

PERSONNEL NEWS

by Mary Heller, Personnel Office

District Clerks To Meet

There will be a District Clerk meeting at 10 a.m., February 22, at the New Garage. Topics that will be covered include; training, drug testing, seasonal hires, worker's compensation, 52's, and processing. See you there!

Retirement Seminars Planned

Two, two-day pre-retirement seminars will be held April 10-13. These seminars will provide valuable information for employees nearing retirement as well as those still doing early preparation for that future event. Everything you've always wanted to know about retirement, but were afraid to ask. Contact Rosanne Riley at 344-2041 for more info.

Another Buy-Out Offered

Employees should be receiving a memo regarding the announcement that the FY 95 buyout has been extended. It drops down to the GS-11 level, otherwise, the terms are basically the same as the last offering. Please call Rosanne with questions.

Employee Goes Permanent

Congratulations go out to Scott Bentley on his appointment into a permanent Park Ranger (Law Enforcement position). Scott has worked for the park seasonally since 1991 and we welcome him to the permanent work force.

Wolves Continued...

Amy McClland, the North District Maintenance Clerk, was awed as well. "Seeing documentaries on TV or video just doesn't do justice to the wolves. Even in the confines of the pen, their power and ease of movement was startling. We watched one of the black wolves circling the perimeter of the pen, while the others paced the back fence line. This whole great experiment will certainly be something to remember."

Tammy Totland, a park ranger, thought she was very lucky to have glimpsed the wolves, although she wished there had been more time to watch. "I was surprised at the colors of the wolves. I had always thought they were just grey. They were beautiful. Doug (Smith) and Sandy (Snell-Dobert) did a great job answering our questions."

Sandy Kinzer, a Volunteer Naturalist at the Old Faithful Visitor Center was extremely glad for the opportunity to visit the wolves. "This will certainly benefit my naturalist programs. I could have spent hours watching them, and I was surprised at their easy grace, and to see the sub-adults show their respect for the Alpha Male by lowering their tails when they passed him."

Carol Tepper, a seasonal Ranger/Naturalist at Mammoth, was very inspired by her venture to the pen site. "For me, the visit was more symbolic than enjoyable. I will always have a snapshot in my mind of those 'confused colonizers' that I saw. That snapshot will represent the momentous occasion to which I was a witness. I will in the future, look back with contentment because I saw the very same animals that caused such a stir in the winter of 1994-95. While I was there, I told them I was sorry for all that my species had done to theirs. We were not permitted to take any photos of them, but, I don't think I would have anyway, out of respect. The wolves were not put in cages to entertain or thrill us. They were there because it was thought to be in their best interest."

All participants were happy to be fortunate enough to have been chosen to visit the acclimation pens. When wolves are released into the wild, there will be no opportunities at the sites or site trailheads for watching the wolves leave their pens. On the day of the release, park staff will either take down some fencing or leave a gate open to allow the wolves to wander out on their own.

It is unknown whether the wolves will immediately disperse or if they will remain in the pens for some time. The release of the wolves from their pens will be staggered and Park biologists believe that having no contact on the day of the release is a critical element to the success of the reintroduction process and any human contact could affect how the wolves will disperse.

The Yellowstone News is a bi-weekly newsletter for NPS Yellowstone employees published by the Public Affairs Office. To submit articles, ads, or notice of events contact:

Jan Laye, Editor, 344-2003

Community Library Extends Hours

The Mammoth Community Library is increasing their hours of operation. Normal hours are Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and now will include Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come read a book or check out a book during the noon hour. If you have any questions, please call Kathy Coleman at 344-7711.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Volunteers Needed:

The Greater Yellowstone Conservation Data Center, a cooperative program between the National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy, needs volunteers to assist with a variety of tasks. While we are in particular need of persons to do data entry, we also need help in extracting and mapping information and other administrative tasks. If interested, please call either Pete Feigley or Eugénie Drayton at 344-2157.

For Sale:

Four Aluminum pots, (this includes 1, 2, 3, 4 qt.) \$5. Montana Chapter of American Fisheries Society thermal coffee mugs, \$3 ea. (help support Montana's native fishes). Also, Bridgestone MB-4 mountain bike, 18" frame, good condition, \$400. Call Dan Carty at 344-7758 evenings.

For Sale:

'83 Yamaha 440 SS snowmobile. Has rebuilt engine, runs great, \$600 OBO. Call Budd at 344-2353.

For Sale:

84 inch wood laminate kayak paddle, \$75 or best offer. Kid's toboggan with pad, \$15. Full-Size Century Play Pen, good condition, \$25. Crib mattress, \$10 or best offer. Crib, \$10, OBO. 344-7788.

For Sale:

Bristol Apache Summit mountain bike. \$125 or best offer. Call Kathy 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday through Wednesday at 344-5282.

For Sale:

TREK "Jazz" boys mountain bike. 20" tires, 5-speed index shifting. 1 yr. old, like new condition (paid \$200). Will sell for \$100. Call 848-7307 evenings or 344-2062 days.

For Sale:

Heavy sweater jacket, brown and white with eagle design, size large. \$75. Skating/classical ski boot, size 11. \$25. Call 848-7513, leave message.

Carpoolers Wanted:

Want to increase your gas mileage, decrease pollution and congestion? Carpool with me from Gardiner or Gardiner area, Monday through Friday. Call 848-7722.

Adventurers Wanted:

NPS employee, Mammoth, seeking other with Monday/Tuesday off work for skiing, hiking, travelling and other weekend adventures. Call 344-7744 after 5:30 p.m.

Applications Accepted:

The Mammoth Post Office is accepting applications for the position of *Casual Clerk* for the summer '95 season. Contact the Postmaster for more information.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

* Musical Comes to Town

"The Wizard of Oz" comes to Gardiner! The Missoula Children's Theater and the Gardiner School will present this favorite musical on Saturday, February 18, 1995. Performances are at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Gardiner School Multi-Purpose Room. Admission for Adults - \$3.00, Students - \$1.00.

* Bozeman Symphony to Perform

Everyone is invited to attend the performance of *The Beethoven Trio* (Clarinet, Piano and Cello), at the Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel Map Room on Thursday, February 23 at 7 p.m. Free admission. This concert is funded in part by a grant from the Wyoming Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, Bozeman Symphony, and the Yellowstone Park School.

* Vet Visit

Veterinarian, Dr. Jim Murray, will be at the Gardiner Exxon on Friday, February 24, from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. No appointment necessary. Housecalls available upon request. Next Visit: March 10.

* Dance Recital

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, March 15, 1995. The annual dance recital of the Yellowstone School of Ballet will be performed at the Gardiner School.

* Jardine Ski Run Cancelled

Bear Creek Council regrets to announce that it is cancelling the 1995 Jardine Ski Run because liability insurance costs are too high. Anyone needing more information can call Dan Carty at 344-7758.

Take your family around the world
... without ever leaving home!



AYUSA Sponsors Needed

Would you be interested in experiencing the culture of another country in your own home? AYUSA (Academic Year in the USA) is looking for families to sponsor a foreign exchange student for a semester or an academic year. AYUSA also has an Outbound program for high school students interested in living /studying in another country. Please contact **Dayna McClure** at 848-7291, evenings, for more information.

ATTENTION

The Western Wyoming Community College and their Vocational Women's Support and Training Program are hosting their 2nd Annual Nontraditional Career Conference in Rock Springs, Wyoming on Saturday, March 25, 1995. Some of the topics that will be addressed are:

- Women and Self Confidence
- Conflict Resolution in the Workplace
- Diversity in the Workplace
- Women and Money
- Clinical Depression
- Realities of Relocation
- Women Work! Fit for Work?
- Can we Talk? Gender Communication
- Nutrition & the Working Woman
- Advantages of Choosing a Nontraditional Career
- Women-Image of Men

There is no charge, this is funded through a Carl Perkins Grant. Anyone interested in attending this seminar who would like to carpool please contact either Renee Evanoff 344-2204 or Joy Perius 344-2203. Please let us know so that we can pre-register people from Yellowstone through the Federal Women's Program. Reservations must be made by March 9, 1995. There will be a \$5.00 luncheon served in the campus atrium. Renee or Joy has a list of motels and fees and more information if you have questions.