

CPSU Unit Established At Clemson

By Jim Wood
Science Editor, SER

A new Cooperative Park Studies Unit has been established within the College of Forest and Recreation Resources, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism at Clemson University, Clemson, S.C. Dr. Dominic Dottavio was named Director of the unit, according to G. Jay Gogue, Southeast Regional Chief Scientist.

Dottavio brings impressive credentials, experience, and background to the Clemson CPSU. For two years prior to undertaking his new responsibilities, "Dom" was Director of the Center for Natural Areas in Washington, D.C. This Center was formerly a part of the ecology program of the Smithsonian Institution. Dom also served as silviculture instructor at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind. from 1974 to 1979, and was graduated with a B.S. in Natural Resource Management from Ohio State University. He also holds an M.S. in Forestry from Yale University and a Ph.D. in Forestry from Purdue.

At Clemson, Dom will be conducting several high-priority projects for the Southeast Region. These involve:

1. Assisting the Region in the development of microcomputer capabilities, including training and development of software programs. These computer programs relate to park resource management plans, general information on park facilities and services, time and attendance sheets, cost tracking, and the computerization of the TAP System (Track, Analyze, and Program) at Great Smoky Mountains NP.
2. Coordinating the development of strategies and policies for dealing with encroachments to Southeast Region parks. A series of workshops will be held throughout the region to accomplish this.
3. Developing a Leadership Training Program for park managers in the Southeast Region. This program is being established to assist leaders to think comprehensively and to apply their communication skills in the resolution of problems and the identification of future economic, environmental, and social issues that will affect the Park Service.
4. Coordinating a regional effort to assess the impacts of travel and tourism-related activities and developments on the parks.
5. Conducting research studies as a part of the Southeast Region Social Science Center. Three research projects are currently underway: (a) a study of visitation patterns on Playalinda Beach at Canaveral National Seashore; (b) an assessment of visitor impacts, use patterns, and characteristics at Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area; and (c) a study on the reaction of visitors to reduced roadside maintenance levels at Blue Ridge Parkway.

Persons interested in Dr. Dottavio's work can contact him at:

National Park Service CPSU
Park/Recreation Management
263 Lehotsky Hall
Clemson University
Clemson, South Carolina 29631

With the full support of the superintendent, Gateway NRA natural resource management personnel are proceeding toward establishment of the Gateway Institute for Natural Resource Sciences — a cooperative project with other institutions in the New York metropolitan area, dedicated to comprehensive research, maintenance, and monitoring of the park's natural and cultural resources.

The effort involves and integrates the activities of funding agencies, scientific researchers, industry, concerned citizens, academia, and policymakers . . . all in a manner designed specifically to create sound decision making.

The Institute is being shaped to coordinate the approaches of researchers into the study of significant resource management problems identified in the Park's RMP. Social scientists at the Institute will be involved in historical, sociological, and planning aspects of Gateway, tying together many of the Institute's studies into long term cost/benefit analysis and conducting cause/effect relationship analyses.

Three different groups of researchers will be drawn on: (1) those participating group faculty members collaterally assigned to the Institute's facility; (2) those who come to study as visiting professors or on sabbaticals, and (3) those who have laboratories at other institutions participating in the Institute. An analysis of the social, political, and economic implications of following the various policy options will be carried out concurrently with the experimental research. The Gateway NRA Natural Resource Management Specialist, together with the research team, will be responsible for producing a document integrating this information into a comprehensive model.