

Broadened Role For Interpretation To Be Examined

An NPS task force organization meeting to respond to Director Mott's call for "extension of the interpretation mission" of national parks, met in New York City Feb. 6 at the call of Dr. Theodore W. Sudia, who now holds the office of National Park Service Senior Scientist.

Organizers included Bruce McHenry, interpretation chief for the North Atlantic Region, Sam Holmes, chief of interpretation for Gateway NRA, and John Tanacredi, natural resource management specialist at Gateway. Tanacredi is Gateway's contact and coordinator for research within the parks by local and regional researchers. Holmes works with New York area schools and neighborhood organizations in using Gateway's resources for both formal and informal educational purposes.

The committee began with a recognition of the institutional nature of the National Park Service and the NPS responsibility for outreach to other institutions – the media, universities, organizations, clubs, neighborhoods, etc. – in an active effort to make park resources available for the purposes the System was established to serve.

The group agreed to appoint an interpretation task force that will represent the System as a whole, to put together a Report to the Director on how best to proceed in upgrading in-park interpretation and cooperation with other "user" institutions.