

# Natural Areas Association Boasts Record Attendance at Annual Meeting

By Ron Hiebert

The Natural Areas Association's 14th Annual Meeting was held in Peoria, Ill., on Oct. 13-16, 1987. More than 400 natural area professionals attended, representing 49 states, 4 Canadian provinces, and 6 foreign countries. Participants heard plenary addresses by Glenn Juday, NAA President; William P. Mott, NPS Director; Larry Hensen, Associate Deputy Chief of the U.S. Forest Service; and James R. Thompson, Governor of Illinois. Talks, roundtable discussions, and field trips offered valuable information for natural area and park managers, resource managers, interpreters, and researchers. Program topics included urban natural areas, effects of habitat fragmentation, exotic species, interpretation of natural areas, volunteers, resource planning, international conservation, presettlement vegetation, and inter-agency cooperation. Participants had a choice of 12 field trips and the opportunity to assist in a prescribed burn and exotic plant removal. This is the third year I have attended the annual NAA conference and have found all to be relevant, practical, and enjoyable.

The next annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, NY on June 6-9, 1988. The conference theme will be "Eco-

system Management; Rare Species and Significant Habitats."



Annual membership in the NAA is \$15, which includes a subscription to the *Natural Areas Journal*. Quarterly issues contain articles relating to research or management activities for natural areas, parks, etc.; rare species management; land preservation techniques; theoretical approaches to natural areas work; book reviews; and editorials. A new section appearing in 1988 will facilitate rapid communications among natural area and park professionals. The journal provides valuable and readable information for all park professionals from superintendents to interpreters, from maintenance personnel to researchers. It also provides a forum to communicate research results, new management techniques, or opinions.

For further information on the NAA and its next annual meeting, write to The Natural Areas Association, 320 South Third Street, Rockford, Ill, 61108. For information on the *Natural Areas Journal*, write to the Managing Editor, Holly Wheeler, *Natural Areas Journal*, Holcomb Research Institute, Butler University, Indianapolis, IN 46208.

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