

The Autumn 1988 issue of *NPS Interpretation*, assembled by contributing editors Sam Vaughn of National Capitol Region and Dan Murphy of Southwest Region, focuses on "magic, or creativity, or provocation." Descriptions of magic moments in interpretation come from Anna Castellina at Kenai Fjords NP, from Robert Fudge at Independence NHP, from Glen Kaye of the Southwest Region, from Jack de Golia at Yellowstone NP, from Bill Clark at Harpers Ferry, from Joe Geary at National Capital Park, and from Rita Cantu at Guadalupe Mountains NP. Just reading the issue brings tears to the eyes. Imagine what "being there" must have been like. (General editor is Julia Holmass of Harpers Ferry Center, West Virginia.)

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The value of a tree is at least \$193,250, says a University of Calcutta professor quoted in *Northwest Landscape Professional*. He itemized the value as follows: Living for 50 years, a tree generates \$31,250 worth of oxygen, recycles \$37,500 worth of water, provides \$31,250 worth of soil erosion control and fertility, provides \$62,000 worth of air pollution control, and provides \$31,250 worth of shelter for animals. Side effects are its contributions of fruit, lumber and beauty.

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The 1989 Wilderness Work Skills programs of the Student Conservation Association begin this year on April 10 with a four-day workshop at Pinnacles National Monument in California, hosted by the National Park Service. The 13 programs scheduled for this year include a new offering – Wilderness Management School – five days of lectures, discussions, and comprehensive field studies in Greater Yellowstone. The school will be held June 5-9, hosted by the USFS, Region 4, and NPS. Tuition for the school, as well as for all 12 workshops, is \$325, with 15% tuition discount for SCA alumni and members and for parties of three or more registering together.

For a complete listing of programs offered and registration forms, write The Student Conservation Assn., Inc., Wilderness Work Skills Program, P.O. Box 31989, Seattle, WA 98103.

"Lurking in every researcher, an interpreter struggling to get out; consuming every interpreter, a desire to know what he/she is talking about."

With this "Olde Instant Proverb," Bill Brown, NPS Historian at Denali NP in Alaska, dives headlong into the subject of "Research and Interpretation – and Reintegration" ... his title for a solicited article in the Spring 1988 issue of *Interpretation*. The result is an eloquent plea for "communication cum substance via gifted interpretive leadership by people doubly gifted in art and knowledge."

Brown describes with painful clarity the general trend of "interpretive exhibits" over the past 20 years and ends with the comment that "This process is a formula for formulaic products. Design, flash, and hyperbole substitute for substance and the simple profundities of the park. Empty excellence is the best result; vacuous mediocrity the worst."

Where, he asks, is the old individualized, distilled essence of the park? "Until art and substance are reintegrated beginning at the park level and progressing to the top level, interpretive integrity will elude us, except as the exception."