
revegetation notes

Resource management at Lake Mead NRA has been busy this spring with several revegetation projects. Cactus were replanted at locations where the need had been identified; cottonwoods and willow cuttings were planted in riparian areas, and 90 cattails and bullrush tubers were planted on Lake Mead coves.

The Cottonwood District of the NRA joined in the effort to restore native riparian vegetation communities, signing up volunteers to plant cottonwoods. In April, a troop of Girl Scouts became the first group to officially "Adopt a Cove" in the new reveg program. The girls will "keep an eye" on the trees they planted, watering and picking up litter.

*
**

Roger Lewin, staff writer for *Science*, in the April 7, 1989 issue considers "How to Get Plants into the Conservationists' Ark." At a March meeting on the genetics and population biology of rare plants, held at the Missouri Botanic Garden and organized by the non-profit Center for Plant Conservation based in Jamaica Plain, Mass., conferees considered a survey showing that between now and the year 2000, some 680 plant species native to the U.S. probably will become extinct.

The best remedy for this impending tragedy, according to Washington University's Alan Templeton, is habitat preservation. But as a realist, Templeton acknowledges this is not an option — "at least not with current trends of urban and agricultural expansion and natural resources exploitation." His solution is the maintenance of endangered plant species in botanic gardens "as an interim measure," with the hope that ultimately such cultivated populations can be released back into preserved or restored habitats.

*
**

The Winter 1988 issue of *Restoration and Management Notes* carries an account by Steve Glass of restoration at Denali HP and Biosphere Reserve where, "except for a few dandelions and pineapple weed (*Matricaria* sp.) around park headquarters building, there is little problem with exotics," according to park research ecologist Roseann Densmore.

Despite this optimistic opening statement, Densmore feels that the danger of invasive alien plants becoming entrenched at Denali is real. She cites the work of other government agencies that are testing and introducing exotics right and left for use in revegetating disturbed areas. Sweet clover (*Melilotus* sp.) already is found near the park and is moving slowly in its direction, she said.

The author next interviewed Resource Management Specialist John Dalle-Molle about the revegetation projects he had worked on at Mount Rainier before being transferred to Denali. Dalle-Molle described for Glass the evolution of NPS thinking in the area of revegetation projects. "It just makes sense," he said, "that if you are concerned with wild pigs you should be concerned with dandelions and bluegrass (if these are non-natives)."