

The June 10, 1993 issue of *NATURE* announces the successful cloning of DNA from a previously unknown species of weevil that was preserved in fossilized amber (hardened tree sap for at least 120 million years. George Poinar, Jr., an entomologist at UCA Berkeley and four other scientists have now pushed back the earliest known date for cloning DNA to 120 to 135 million years ago.

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The April 1993 issue of Florida DNR's *Resource Management Notes* contains an account of how Hurricane Andrew devastated exotics, exultantly headlined "Native Victory Garden." Renate Skinner, Florida Region 7 biologist, describes Australian pines (*Casuarina equisetifolia*) over 60 feet tall—some four to five feet in diameter at the base—downed, scattered, and "stacked on the ground as if they were mere saplings." Triumphant still standing, ("wedged between the fallen giants,") were native strangler figs (*Ficus aurea*), seagrasses (*Coccoloba uvifera*), and sabal palms (*Sabal palmetto*). Sea oats (*Uniola paniculata*) still thrived; four known endangered plant species at Cape Florida survived; "and then there was the gratifying discovery that the native vegetation in the designated 'Natural Zone' still existed—doubly gratifying, since in the early 1980s the area was on the way to becoming a parking lot. Park and regional staff efforts prevented this by pointing out the spontaneous, prolific growth of native plants which had occurred there after Australian pines had been toppled in a minor windthrow."

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*Runoff Report* is the name of a new publication started by the National NonPoint Source Federation, P.O. Box 30101, Kansas City, MO 64112. Billed as "a watershed information network news," *Runoff Report's* Spring 1993 (Vol. 1, No. 1) issue, welcomes "corporate, environmental, governmental, and grass roots interests from all sections of the country." Incorporated in Missouri as a not-for-profit organization, the Federation is headquartered in Kansas City, with membership regions corresponding to ecoregions. An electronic bulletin board will be on-line within several months and planning is underway for a regional workshop and national conference.

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Sinauer Associates, Inc. of Sunderland, MA (01375-0407) announce publication of *Ecology and Our Endangered Life-Support Systems*, Second Edition, by Eugene P. Odum. The 300+ page soft cover volume, with 91

illustrations (\$18.95), presents a "big picture" look at ecology. It includes updated, expanded coverage of experimental life-support systems, ecotones, diversity, energetics, agroecology, succession, mutualism, evolution, ecological economics (!), waste reduction, global concerns (such as ozone holes and climate change) and ecosystem types, especially wetlands. Charles van Riper III will review it for the Fall issue of *Park Science*.

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*State of the World, 1993*, the 10th annual edition of the Worldwatch Institute Report on progress toward a sustainable society is now available in both hardcover (\$19.95) and paperback (\$10.95). The Institute's *Vital Signs 1992: The Trends that are Shaping Our Future*, (same prices as *State of the World*) tracks environmental, economic, social and health trends plus significant new patterns that are emerging. When ordering (from Worldwatch, 1776 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington DC 20036-1904) include payment and Worldwatch will pay the shipping charges.

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A Memo from the GWS Executive office, introducing the Vol. 10, No. 1, 1993 issue of the *George Wright FORUM*, discusses "A National Biological Survey: Some Issues, Concerns, and Historical Background." Without taking sides, the authors consider the mechanics of creating a separate agency and the series of questions thus raised: "Will the NBS increase or decrease U.S. NPS direct access to scientific expertise for dealing with resource issues? Will the U.S. NPS have to pay NBS to do the research?"

"Will the current trend within U.S. NPS...toward the use of research information in decision-making and the emphasis on resource management...be reversed if U.S. NPS scientists are removed as internal advocates? Who would be left within the U.S. NPS to advocate research?"

"Where will national parks and other protected areas fit into the NBS's priorities? Since parks and other protected areas are such a small part of the country's land base, and because there may be a perception that they are not as much at risk as multiple-use lands, how much attention will they receive in a national inventory?"

"How will the NBS react to changing politics in the Secretary of the Interior's office? Could a future, less supportive Administration undermine long-term projects? Could such an Administration manipulate the results?"

"Might a career ladder develop in which junior scientists cut their teeth in the U.S. NPS, only to move on to the NBS to address national level biological concerns?"

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Richard West Sellars, U.S. NPS historian based in Santa Fe, NM at the NPS SW Regional headquarters, is the author of a forthcoming history of natural resource management in U.S. national parks. A three-part series of excerpts from the book began in the *George Wright FORUM*, Vol. 10, No. 1, pp. 55-77. The series is dedicated to Victor H. Cahalane, who headed the programs from the mid-1930s to 1955. Part I is entitled "The Rise and Decline of Ecological Attitudes in National Park Management, 1929-1940."

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William H. Rodgers Jr., a professor of law at UWA, Seattle and chair of a National Research Council committee on federal land acquisition, is quoted in the *Gazette-Times* (Corvallis, OR) May 20 editorial page in favor of the development of a common information base on the part of the four different agencies that hold the most federal land—BLM (270 million acres), USFS (191 million acres), USFWS (89 million acres), and NPS (76 million acres).

"Each agency has its own criteria and procedures to buy new land...but the agencies' priorities are poorly coordinated, and the process used to submit their proposals to Congress makes the problem worse...[The method used] forces wildlife refuges in the Florida Keys to compete with the Civil War Battlefield at Gettysburg. It does not address larger goals or long-term plans, such as protecting entire ecosystems," Rodgers said. "...the four agencies and the OMB need to develop a new approach. They should begin by separating the current ranking system into at least three categories: outdoor recreation resources, natural resources, and cultural resources...They then need to develop a common interagency information base. Amazingly, the government now has no comprehensive source of information on privately held lands that it might want to buy. It does not even have such a data base for the land it already owns."

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"Any close reading of the past 12 years forces us to the tragic conclusion that politics within the natural resources agencies has, for all practical purposes, driven science out of the decision-making process whenever science comes into conflict with any opportuni-

ty for private profit from the public lands. Until there is a much better public understanding of the major public lands issues and conflicts, we will continue stumbling blindly along the same destructive course."

Thus spoke former Sen. Gaylord Nelson (now with The Wilderness Society, Washington, D.C.) at the George Wright Society's 7th Conference on Research and Resource Management in Parks and on Public Lands in Jacksonville, FL in November 1992. The address is carried in the *GWS FORUM*, Vol. 9, Nos. 3 and 4, pp. 8-16. Bill Brown's Letter from Gustavus, "A New Day Dawning," leads off the volume, the rest of which is devoted to papers from a workshop organized by the GWS and IUCN at the 4th World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas, Caracas, Venezuela, February 1992.

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An 88-page full color book, *A Protected Areas Vision for Canada*, produced by the Canadian Environmental Advisory Council and forwarded to *Park Science* by its principal author, Kevin McNamée, is available free from Publication Centre, Environment Canada, Ottawa, Canada, K1A 0H3.

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*Report of a Workshop for National Park Service Ecological Research Program*, edited by Drs. Paul G. Risser and Jane Lubchenco, is available from Mike Ruggiero, NPS Division of Wildlife and Vegetation, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127. The report discusses findings from the workshop sponsored by the W&V Division and the Southwest Region, held in February 1992.

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*Planning for the Future: A Strategic Plan for Improving the Natural Resource Program of the NPS*, is an illustrated description of four overall goals to direct the actions of the natural resource program and of the several objectives contained in each goal. Copies of the 16-page publication, edited by Lissa Fox and Jen Coffey and designed by Todd Hampson, may be had by calling (202) 343-1000.