

Editorial

Six months have gone into the transition between editor Jean Matthews (now retired) and myself and this time has made me very appreciative of the strengths of this publication, the interests of its readers, the importance of its supporters, and especially the skills and dedication of Jean.

Last June, the two of us traveled to Sequoia and Kings Canyon NPs to be a part of a specialized kind of holistic ecosystem research, called a pulse study. Working amongst the giant trees and alongside "giants" from the field of forest ecology was a thrill and reemphasized the value of repeating basic monitoring protocols over time. Jean's article (our cover story) explores the pulse study and tells of its importance through the thoughts and actions of its participants. As photographer, I especially enjoyed the activities of the tree climbers, but also took pleasure in documenting the many basic processes of the week. Together, Jean and I formed a friendship and productive bond that has yielded a terrific cover story. Speaking for all *Park Science* readers, I thank Jean for sharing her talents over the years as a writer, editor, and steward of our earth, and invite her to continue contributing thoughts, articles, and editorials to the

bulletin from time to time. Best wishes in your retirement, Jean.

The rest of the articles this issue range from a third installment of social science research on off-trail hiking deterrents in Mount Rainier NP to a profile of the people and products of the Natural Resources Publication Program, which guides *Park Science*. Several items deal with wildlife; they include pieces on Florida panther radio collar signal calibration and recommendations for managers of parks with mountain lion safety issues. On the other end of the spectrum, geologist Wayne Hamilton interprets the geologic history of Zion NP through the comparison of fossil mollusks with those found there today, while University of Maine CPSU leader Allan O'Connell describes the benefits of using a labrador retriever in a Gateway NRA research project. We also see a summary of a developing Global Change Program project that will correlate glacial advances and retreats with climate in the Pacific Northwest.

Altogether, the materials represent park areas and interests from all over the country. Contributors include a good balance of biologists, resource managers, National Biological Survey (NBS) scientists, and

Continued on back cover



Enjoying a week out of the office and away from her computer, retired *Park Science* editor Jean Matthews interviewed scores of scientists and their assistants in preparing this edition's lead article.

EDITORIAL

(continued from page 2)

numerous CPSU researchers. As editor, I want to strive for geographic balance in the articles published in *Park Science* just as I want to encourage participation by diverse authors as detailed in my article about writing for the bulletin. Have a look at the submission criteria and contact me if you have an idea for an article, a suggestion, or a concern.

In moving *Park Science* to Denver, most of the production that once fell to Jean and staff in the Pacific Northwest Regional Office now takes place here. I want to thank Shirley Clark, Pat Geegan, Hildred Vann, and Lynne and Dave McPhaden of that office for their help over the years. Shirley tracked the *Park Science* budget and gave general support; Pat coordinated Jean's travel; Lynne executed the printing and distribution contracts; and Hildred and Dave handled the regional office and international copies distribution. Richard Arok Saar and VIP Edith Miller of the PNRO library, will continue to generate the annual article indexes that we usually publish in the winter issue. Regional Chief Scientist Jim Larson (recently retired) is also to be thanked for serving as the *Park Science* Editorial Board Chairman since 1983. A big thanks to all for past and continued support!

I'm thankful for a smooth transition and a strong foundation to build on. I look forward to continuing the excellence of this publication.



Editor