

RESTYLING IN THE CENTURY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Nearly six years have elapsed since the last face-lift given to *Park Science*. The current changes coincide with the new millennium, or what participants to Discovery 2000 last September in St. Louis began referring to as the “century of the environment.” The purpose of the changes, however, is based on a practical matter rather than a symbolic one: to compel the interest of new readers, both within and outside the National Park Service, and to stimulate greater appreciation for science-based park management.

About to begin its 21st year, *Park Science* has a devoted audience. Yet we have often wondered who is not reading it and what we could do to induce them to become readers. We even asked a question to this effect in a reader survey five years ago, and we got a few varied responses. Among them were to include more social science articles, feature the recommendations of superintendents, upgrade the science being reported, print both technical and nontechnical articles, provide more information on potential grant sources, help build synergy between maintenance and resource management operations, provide real-world management solutions, and publish on the Web. In many cases we have acted upon these ideas. One suggestion, however, has not been addressed until now: to make this publication more competitive with the many newsletters and bulletins that vie for the attention of readers.

With impetus from the *Park Science* editorial board and design concepts provided by Glenda Heronema of the Denver Service Center, we introduce a new look for *Park Science* this issue that is more attractive and magazine-like, and thus more friendly and inviting. Gone is the institutional newsletter appearance, replaced by more fully developed pages and the use of color as an enticement to new recruits and devoted readers alike. We sincerely hope the new design will garner attention from those otherwise inclined to pass it by, while retaining the interest of those who have always found it informative. We believe the new look will broaden our reach, increase our ability to nurture science-based park management, and build public awareness and understanding of our resource preservation mission. Please let us know what you think.

Does this signal a change in our message? Essentially, no. *Park Science* will continue to report recent and ongoing research and its application in park management. However, as we begin this century of the environment, we want to be more inclusive of all park operations and plan to modify the Highlights department along these lines. Specifically, we want to feature brief articles that describe what all NPS operations in parks are doing to preserve natural resources and how they are applying science to improve their own operations. For example, we want to share the contributions of maintenance and visitor and resource protection divisions to the accomplishment of natural resource management projects. Likewise, interpretive programs that involve the public and school children in our natural resource management programs through hands-on participation are of interest. We want to feature the views of park superintendents on the role of science in resolving management problems. And, of course, we intend to continue publishing research results that have implications for natural resource management along with reports of the many activities of park natural resource programs across the nation.

As always, we invite you to participate in *Park Science* by submitting your stories and helping us achieve this goal.


Jeff Selleck
Editor



**Park Science
through the
years:
1981 (top),
1991 (middle),
and 1995.**