

George Wright Society Sixth Conference

The George Wright Society's Sixth Conference on Research and Resource Management in the National Parks and Equivalent Reserves, held in El Paso, Texas, November 12-17, 1990, was a highly successful communion of diverse people concerned with the future of parks. The nearly 400 participants from federal science, resource management, park management, and interpretation, academia, and other sectors gave and heard papers ranging from the spiritual, political, and regional dimensions of park resource management to hazardous trees and threats to the winged mapleleaf freshwater mussel.

The sessions were organized by types of threats to parks, and the first product of the conference was a vote on the five most critical threats – as a guide in identifying issues for the George Wright Society to focus on in the 1990s. The top five were global climate change, animal population management, monitoring of park resources, communication of threats to parks, and external influences, not necessarily in that order. The Society has been enabled to put more effort into such issues by the generous gift of \$277,000 from a daughter of George Wright, Mrs. Sherry Wright

Brichetto, who was honored at the conference.

Several speakers applauded the sizeable representation of top NPS management, which included two former Directors, three Associate Directors, six Regional Directors, four Deputy Regional Directors, and a number of superintendents. Director Ridenour, unfortunately, was called away at the last minute by urgent business in Washington. Also absent were large numbers of people from the cultural resource side, a deficiency the George Wright Society hopes will be remedied at future conferences.

Co-chairmen Tom Gavin (program organization and overall coordination) and Frank Smith (local arrangements) received thunderous applause for putting together a well-organized, enjoyable conference that informed and reenergized all present to pursue the mission of parks in our complex world.

The conference papers will not be published in a Proceedings, but some will appear in the **George Wright Forum**. Other papers may be obtained from the authors.

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