

An illustrated 72-page book with full color cover, **National Parks and Tourism**, contains the proceedings of a seminar held in Sydney, Australia in May 1988, co-sponsored by Australia's NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Royal Australian Institute of Parks and Recreation (NSW Region). It contains a summary of the workshops, six papers, and the conclusion that communication is the key to identifying and nurturing the common ground between tourism and conservation. Copies are \$19.95 and may be ordered from NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service Shop, PO Box 1967, Hurstville NSW 2220, Australia.

The oldest earth rocks discovered so far were announced Oct. 4, 1989 by Thomas O. Wright, program manager at the National Science Foundation. Samuel A. Bowring of Washington University in St. Louis, senior scientist on the project, said the rocks, found in northern Canada, are 3.96 billion years old. This makes them 100 million years older than the previous record holders, found in Greenland and Antarctica. In Canberra, Australia, Bowring studied his rocks with the Sensitive High Mass-Resolution Ion Microprobe, known as SHRIMP -- one of the most

sensitive isotope dating instruments in the world. Since several lines of evidence establish the age of the solar system at 4.5 billion years, the rocks recovered by Bowring's team were formed on Earth when the planet was only about half a billion years old. Furthermore, they are granite, which is an "evolved rock," meaning that they had to be derived from an even older rock, Bowring pointed out.

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Tony Slingo, scientist with the Climate and Global Dynamics Division of the National Center for Atmospheric Research, describes in the Sept. 14, 1989 issue of **Nature** how variations in cloudiness can significantly affect the Earth's radiation budget – the absorbed solar energy and the thermal energy radiated back to space. He describes the various modeling studies that support this conclusion and observes: "The substantial sensitivity of climate models to the details of their formulation, and the fact that 14 models give 14 different answers for the cloud feedback, show that we are far from the goal of accurate predictions of future climate change." It will be several years, he predicts, before reliable predictions of global and regional climate change are available from the models, and he cites the need for "comprehensive monitoring that is capable of unravelling the climate change signal from the noise ..." Such an analysis, he concludes, "may well yield the 15th answer, but at least it will have come from the real world and will permit a much needed test of the models."

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David Manski, Supervisory Resource Management Specialist at Cape Cod NS, calls attention to a number of essays in the most recent issue of **Wildlife Society**

Bulletin (17:3) with strongly contrasting opinions by some Wildlife Society members and members of the newly formed Society for Conservation Biology. The articles, says Manski "are extremely interesting reading and provide some good philosophical discussion about the current state of the wildlife profession and its interaction with conservation biology."

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An NPS videotape entitled "For the Long Run," winner of the prestigious CINE Golden Eagle Award, is now available for public showing. The film, copies of which have been sent to all NPS Regional offices, shows acid rain watershed studies in two NPs and discusses the value of long-term monitoring and research for measuring the health of NP ecosystems.

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Highly recommended by Gerry Wright and Gary Machlis, both of the NPS/CPSU at U/ID, Moscow, a new book edited by Rob Moore and published by Solstice Press of P.O. Box 9223, Moscow, ID. Its intriguing title is **The Field Guide to Outdoor Erotica**, with contributions by such well-known outdoor writers as Mike Frome. (ISBN number 0-932722-11-3.)

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Durward Allen, professor of wildlife ecology at Purdue's Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, discusses "Social Morality and Resource Use" in the GWS FORUM, (Vol. 6 No. 4). Allen traces the stumbling history of publicly perceived "rights" and finds that "the tangled web thus woven is a distasteful com-

mentary on representative government." Indeed, he says: "One does not for long belabor the imperfections of government without a sense of plagiarism," so well-trodden has the path of social reform become.

But he calls upon us, "the proprietors of today," to remind ourselves that we are also ancestors, "and therein we aspire to a respectable record." He laments our continuing to perpetuate traditions of short-term gains without regard to future generations or to where we bury our toxic garbage.

"The overwhelming issue," he writes, "is whether we have an obligation of frugality and good management—whether we have the privilege of overdraft on resource capital that could go on yielding if we handle it right. In times immediately ahead, we will devise an inheritance to people even more numerous than we—a situation of our creating. Do we take refuge in uncertainty and pretend not to know the facts?"

This ethical problem, Allen concludes, "one way or another will have an ethical answer."

Allen's favored solution is to view the Bill of Rights as a job unfinished. "The societal exponentials of complexity, competition, and stress have vastly changed the lives of people now living . . . If the right of a citizen to a pleasant and productive environment were constitutionally recognized, it would give notice to the overly ambitious that public properties are not up for grabs. It would establish in our government a compelling charge that these ramparts we watch are to be defended."