

Editorial

"Positive directions, new opportunities" is the subtitle of the Final Report from the 1986 Conference on Science in the National Parks – a forecast that reflects the prevailing mood of the 1986 Fort Collins gathering as depicted by Conference Co-chairman and Report author Ray Herrmann.

The Report, a summary of the Proceedings, which is being published and distributed to conferees by the Conference co-sponsor – the George Wright Society, notes that the focus was "deep-seated, mutual concern about the proper relationship of science to the management decision-making process of the National Park Service." The seriousness of the dialogue was "provocative and encouraging," according to the Report, especially since its participants (more than 400) included the NPS directorate, superintendents, researchers from the natural, cultural, and social sciences, resource managers, and interpreters. Representatives from universities, other agency research organizations, and officials from six foreign countries plus the general public lent added dimension to Conference give and take. Excerpts from the Report appear on page 20 of this issue.

At the project information level, another useful publication appeared this summer – *Highlights of Natural Resources Management*, a report on NPS activities in 1986, dedicated to the memory of Thomas W. Lucke, "a vibrant, caring, energetic man whose joy in nature, in life, and in his fellow human beings was so generously shared and so untimely lost." This 30-page report, gathered mainly by word of mouth, is the first attempt at an Annual Report and is part of the NPS Natural Resources Program publication series. Donna O'Leary of the NPS Air Quality Division (P.O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80223-0297, FTS 776-8784, (303) 236-8784) is editor of this admittedly incomplete compilation of research and technology, actions and initiatives, cooperative activities, and "emerging concerns." This year a formal request for Report material is going out to Regional Directors and through them to the parks, with the idea of compiling a more complete and representative 1987 Annual Report.

And finally, two new *Park Science* features appear in this issue: notes on Historical Research (page 17) and Geographic Information (page 10), bringing more texture and depth to this quarterly reflection of our evolving research and management process.

We're Losing Another One – DARN!

About the time this issue arrives in your hands, Bill Lukens, superintendent of Padre Island National Seashore and a much valued member of the editorial board, will be leaving his post. "Some call it retiring," he writes, "but I like to view it as trying something different."

His suggestions for improving have always been thoughtful and on target and we will miss him sorely. Whatever "something different" is, it will be well served when Bill tries it.