

Editorial

The opening of a new dimension in *Park Science's* coverage of scientific research and its management applications in the National Park System began with the addition of Historical Research notes in the Fall issue (Vol. 8 No. 1). Ed Bearss, NPS Chief Historian, kicked it off with the question "Can NPS professionals who focus on the human past be more useful to scientists and vice versa? Can the two disciplines, with better coordination, increase their value to management?"

Bearss went on to describe several fascinating areas of historical research – areas with promise of rich rewards for resource managers and interpreters (see p. 17, Fall *Park Science*).

The new avenues of communication opened by this connection have forced the editorial board to address the question of how best to handle the wealth of new material this development makes available. As we said in the fall editorial column, we expect this addition to bring more texture and depth to this quarterly reflection of our evolving research and management process. But in order to keep to our primary commitment – the timely transmission, systemwide, of on-going research and management issues – we will limit historical and cultural coverage to research. Peripheral activities that often are of intense interest but not strictly science-related will be briefly described in the Historical Research notes and in many cases will be carried in fuller detail in the George Wright Society FORUM.

Such is the case with the recent exchange trips between the United States and USSR park teams. Bill Brown, NPS historian based in the Alaska Region, was designated by the U.S. team to write his impressions of the USSR scene as it was experienced during the U.S. team's October visit to the Soviet Union. Brown's paper will appear in Vol. V No. 4 of the George Wright Society FORUM in Spring 1988.

On the other hand, *Park Science* will report in some detail on the scientific protocols that are emerging from that exchange. (See page 16 this issue.) Other eagerly awaited items stemming from this new historic facet to *Park Science* include results of the two year study recently begun in the North Atlantic Region of genetic resources of historically significant fruit trees in the National Park System. This study, being carried out by the U/Mass, will produce a computer-based inventory of historic orchards in the System, identify and collect specimens of any unique genetic material found, and recommend management actions to conserve and propagate such material. The NPS concern for conservation of historic landscapes makes this study entirely appropriate to the *Park Science* networking effort.

With these evolving guidelines in mind, *Park Science* welcomes any and all news from its readers about research and/or management news in the areas of historic and cultural activities.