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ABOUT THE GEORGE WRIGHT FORUM

The George Wright Forum was the journal of the George Wright Society from 1981 through 2018, published in 35 volumes with a total of 125 issues. Its mission was to “examine critical issues and present new research related to parks, protected areas, and cultural sites around the world.” The hallmark of the journal was its interdisciplinary approach, covering all fields relevant to natural and cultural heritage stewardship.

Early volumes of the journal did not carry dates embedded on each page, so that information is provided on this cover sheet.

The George Wright Forum ceased publication at the end of 2018. Beginning in 2020, it is continued by *Parks Stewardship Forum*, an open-access journal co-published by the George Wright Society and the University of California, Berkeley, Institute for Parks, People, and Biodiversity. *Parks Stewardship Forum* continues both the mission and the interdisciplinary approach of *The George Wright Forum*. The first volume of *Parks Stewardship Forum* is denominated as Volume 36 to indicate this continuity. *Parks Stewardship Forum* is published at <https://escholarship.org/uc/psf> and has been selected by the Library of Congress to be archived as “an important and valuable addition to our collections and to the historical record.”

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CITING THE GEORGE WRIGHT FORUM

We recommend that you use the DOI (Digital Object Identifier) as the weblink. DOIs for each article are available at *The George Wright Forum's* permanent archive website, <https://escholarship.org/uc/gwf>.

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When citing, please note that the definite article “The” is part of the journal’s title.

ABOUT THE GEORGE WRIGHT SOCIETY

The George Wright Society supports parks, protected/conserved areas, cultural sites, and other kinds of place-based conservation by encouraging communication among and convenings of researchers, managers, educators, practitioners, and the public to facilitate informed decisions and actions that embrace our values.

GWS is a membership organization and we would welcome your support. To find out more, or to donate, please go to <https://www.georgewrightssociety.org>.

The Spring issue of *Park Science* will carry an article by Ray "Skip" Snow on the use of lichens in Theodore Roosevelt National Park (North Dakota) as indicators of air quality.

The article traces the background of human recognition in this field—dating back to 1859, when the declining lichen flora of South Lancashire in Britain was attributed to increasing air pollution, and describing the literature that has since recorded the correctness of this early surmise.

Dr. Clifford M. Wetmore of the University of Minnesota has undertaken an 18-month study of the lichens at Theodore Roosevelt, funded by the Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association, to provide the park with the following things:

- ★ A set of identified and labeled specimens for the park herbarium;
- ★ A list of localities where collections were made;
- ★ A list of species found within the park indicating localities where each was found;
- ★ A list of lichens that might be useful in monitoring air quality changes;
- ★ Suggestions concerning critical areas for lichens in the park;
- ★ Suggestions for future research.

The Minnesota lichenologist also will provide willing park personnel with training in collection and identification of common lichens, as well as their interpretation.

The Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association is a non-profit organization, established to serve the interpretive, educational, scientific, and research programs of the park.

What *Park Science* does not contain is the explanation of the photo accompanying the story. It comes from Neil "Jim" Reid, Chief Scientist for the Rocky Mountain Region, US NPS:

"This particular photograph has a great deal of history and nostalgia. It was taken by Chet Brooks and myself in 1952, just before the wording was changed to read 'Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park.'" The East Entrance to the park has been closed and the entrance sign has been relocated to the Medora Entrance.

"In the early days (mid-1930s) when the area was a dust bowl version of a recreation area (like Catoctin Mountain Park and Prince William), no firm decision had been made on what to call it. It was quite certain, however, that the park would honor either Franklin D. or Theodore. Therefore, Roosevelt Park appeared to be a safe bet.

"The local cowboy/artist Einer Olmsted, who did the wrought iron lettering and sculpture, wanted to depict Theodore Roosevelt as a Rough Rider. But, he was told, he could not do that. So Einer settled on his second favorite cowboy, Will Rogers. The National Park Service project supervisor never caught on until it was too late."



WASHINGTON, D. C. AREA CHAPTER MEETS

The Washington, DC Chapter of The George Wright Society met at 5:30pm March 18 at the National Parks and Conservation Association HQ. The meeting was principally for organizational purposes, and the following business was conducted, with Chapter President Ro Wauer presiding:

1. All attendees introduced themselves, and Ro Wauer introduced and welcomed several Park Service employees who will be helping to coordinate and/or participate in the new Natural Resources Training Program being developed by the National Park Service.

2. Destry Jarvis passed out copies of proposed draft chapter by-laws to be reviewed, with comments to be directed back to him. The by-laws should be voted on for adoption at the next meeting. The chapter by-laws are subordinate to the Society by-laws.

3. There was discussion as to how funds should be obtained to meet chapter expenses of mailings, refreshments, etc. Two principal approaches would be by periodic dues or by individual contributions on attendance at each meeting to principally pay for refreshments. Ted Sudia will check into whether some financial support might be drawn from the national membership dues. No decision was made as to what approach to use.

4. Al Greene and Ted Sudia announced a conference to be held in the fall in Washington on the subject of the preservation of natural and cultural resources. It will be hosted by the Society with participation by the State Department.

5. Ro Wauer announced the following committees with corresponding chairpersons:

Membership [Dick Russell]

Program [Rob Milne]

Special Projects [Heather Haupt]

6. Dick Russell mentioned the photo archives located in Springfield which consists of approximately 16,000 early and historic photo negatives related to resources. He and Heather Haupt are working on the assembly of an exhibit to be drawn from this source.

7. Ted Sudia suggested that the chapter might want to sponsor an annual conference on local parks, related to what is being done in fields of research and management, etc. This could perhaps be done in conjunction with the National Capital Region of the NPS. We might want to have a standing committee on such an annual conference. Steve Potter and George Gardner will work on this idea.

8. There was a brief discussion as to whether some of our meetings / lectures should be shared with a broader public. No decision was made.

9. Clay Peters made a comment on the state of progress of legislation in the House related to the State of the Parks issue (which related to protection of park natural and cultural resources).

10. George Gardner mentioned that we might want to seek National Park Service Director Russ Dickenson as a speaker for a chapter meeting, considering that he is a charter member of the Society.

Clay E. Peters, Secretary
31 March 1982

BOREAL RESEARCH STATION

An old, 14-room residence on Davidson Island in Isle Royale National Park will begin its first summer in full operation as a boreal research station, according to Craig Axtell, resources management specialist at the park.

Superintendent Don Brown made the decision to establish the station in the Spring of 1981, when the park was designated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to be an international biosphere reserve.

The house currently consists of living quarters, a seminar room, wet and dry laboratories, a library, and its own power generating facilities. Principal investigators engaged in contract work for the park may live there while they do their research. Tent platforms are being constructed for use by other research personnel.

"The station has a comfortable informality about it," Axtell said, "that is conducive to information exchange." It provides a focal point for research in the park, and is the setting for seminars led by researchers and attended by park staff and any visitors who might be interested.

MORE CHANGE AT ISLE ROYALE *Rolf O. Peterson*

[see "*Long-Term Research—an Answer to 'When Are You Going to Quit?'*", page 35, *Autumn 1981 FORUM.*]

Isle Royale presented a few more surprises during the 24th annual study of its wolf and moose this winter. In 1982 the wolves declined further from the

recent historic peak, reaching the lowest level documented for the species since its arrival on Isle Royale in the late 1940s. Since wolf increases are often checked by human intervention, declines from natural peaks are not often observed; thus the mechanism and rate of decline are of special interest, as well as the response of the moose population.

In 1980 the record-high wolf population of 50 included 5 territorial packs, with territory boundaries generally honored. Food stress was obvious, however, and pack size was steadily declining. With 30 wolves present in 1981, the food situation seemed no better and packs often trespassed into neighboring territories. In 1982 only 14 wolves remained, and the dominant pack of only 4 wolves claimed almost the entire island as its own. Three other breeding pairs and 4 single wolves were found, but these were actively tracked and chased by the "Gang of Four." We surmise that direct killing of wolves by wolves again contributed to the rapid wolf decline, although we found no dead wolves in 1982. We witnessed a complete turnaround in wolf food availability by 1982, when all groups of wolves had ample food.

Changes in the moose population, probably prompted by the wolf decline, were no less dramatic. Swelled by almost 200 calves, moose increased to over 700 in 1982. Calf abundance was the highest ever documented at Isle Royale, about 3 times higher than the average of recent years. A substantial rebounding of moose is certain if subsequent cohorts of calves match that born in 1981.

If wolves exhibit a moderate rebuilding of numbers within a couple of years, as we expect, this predator-prey system should soon approximate the state de-

scribed 25 years ago. Accumulating evidence suggests that we are witnessing a predator-prey cycle with an extended period of fluctuation.

SIGURD F. OLSON, 1899-1982

Few have had as great an influence on our understanding of the natural world—and our comprehension of human good—as Sig Olson. Many eloquent words have been written about Sig since his death on 13 January, and we can only applaud them as we remember Sig's enormous contribution to our consciences. In the mid-1960s Sig was a member of the [USNPS] Director's Natural Sciences Advisory Committee, along with Stanley Cain and Starker Leopold. This Committee probably had more influence on the future of scientific research in the parks than any other factor or person. Sig was always a thoughtful participant in meetings of the Committee; as was characteristic of him, when he spoke everyone knew he had an important contribution to the discussion and everyone listened. In fact, it was impossible for anyone not to listen—Sig always spoke truth kindly and poetically, no matter the subject or heat of the moment.

Sigurd Olson died after 82 beautiful years while snowshoeing in his beloved north woods country near Ely, Minnesota. In the cabin he used for thought and writing his typewriter contained a sheet of paper with the words:

"A new adventure is coming up,
and I know it's going to be a great one."