

EDITORIAL

The George Wright FORUM is deeply indebted to Ben Thompson for the fine piece on Wright carried in this issue. Throughout his restrained tribute to Wright, Thompson's words imply the selfless dedication of an exceptionally winsome human being, intent on mobilizing the cream of the scientific talent then available and doing so in an orderly, useful way.

It is fitting that the name and the spirit of this remarkable young man be invoked as the rallying point for present day kindred spirits—men and women who recognize the pragmatic as well as the aesthetic values inherent in protected areas and sites.

Today the threats to such areas and their values are mounted on too swift a juggernaut for hit-or-miss countermeasures. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Things are in the saddle and ride mankind." We need to know when we act in managing these resources that what we do is right and sufficient. This requires basic, organized, retrievable information, available in a timely manner to those who must make policy and manage natural and cultural parks and reserves.

The George Wright Society seeks to promote research, the synthesis of information, and the useful dissemination of results to management, policy-makers and the public in whose hands the ultimate fate of parks, historic sites and reserves will rest. National parks have served as the point of origin and the early membership orientation; however, all areas that represent a basis for natural or historic research and education—whether of local, state/provincial, national or planetary significance—are within the scope of The George Wright Society's concern.

Like-minded individuals with a similar interest in understanding through research and maintaining, through enlightened management practices, the finest examples of humanity's natural and cultural underpinnings are welcome to membership in The George Wright Society.