
EDITORIAL

THE fascinating account by Ro Wauer of his recent participation in an international working conference on new directions for conservation of parks--contained in this issue--brings the spotlight full upon one of the central concerns of The George Wright Society: dissemination of information stemming from research in park areas.

The resolutions arrived at by this international body of park-related people appeared under the lofty title "Toward a Philosophical Basis of Understanding." The twelve recommendations that follow are in every way worthy of the heading. Number 1 boldly asserts the need to "go forth to seek out and work with all institutions that they may aid in bringing about an ecological conscience in mankind."

The recommendation has the ring of Christ's Great Commission (Matthew 28:19) "Go ye therefore and teach all nations..." In addition to which this science editor was struck by the roots of the word "conscience"--"with science."

Some of our own members are picking up the challenge of conscience and proving that the presence of conscience does not necessarily "make cowards of us all." One such is Dave Graber who also appears in the pages of this issue. In his review of Jeremy Rifkin's *Algeny* (also submitted to the *Los Angeles Times*), Graber suggested that "Rifkin is guilty, over and over again, of confusing models with hypotheses" and wondered why "whatever quality control publishers once exercised has gone the way of the dodo." The *LA Times* was interested enough in this observation on publishers in general to consider doing an editorial on the whole system of values that motivates today's publishing business.

If values--real values (the kind that can stand up under scientific scrutiny as well as bringing a lump to the throat of the church-goer)--are coming back into study and question, then there certainly is a place for sound ecological knowledge and principles...and a job for parks and park people.

...Jean Matthews