

RECREATION AND PARKS AT TEXAS A & M

College Station, Texas

No. 2, October, 1967

Conferences and Meeting Dates:

November	3-4	Annual Meeting, Texas Recreation & Park Society, Austin
November	8	Beautify Texas Conference, Texas A&M
November	20-21	12th Annual Water for Texas Conference, Texas A&M
November	23	FOOTBALL! University of Texas vs. Texas A&M
December	3-8	Congress, National Recreation & Park Association, Miami Beach, Florida
December	27-29	American Association for Advancement of Science, New York City

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The initial session of the RECREATION MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE, co-sponsored by the National Park Service and this Department, was concluded October 6, 1967. This two-week accelerated course for middle-management recreation and park personnel began September 24th with a welcoming dinner hosted by A&M President EARL RUDDER. A truly outstanding keynote address was given by MR. WM. PENN MOTT, JR., Director of California's Dept. of Parks & Recreation.

Cost of the entire Institute was \$425 per participant. Twenty-three enrollees from 13 states and representing 12 local, state and federal agencies took part. Instruction was provided by a total of 12 senior National Park Service administrators and specialists, personnel from other recreation agencies, A&M faculty from several departments, as well as Recreation and Park faculty.

Mr. ROBERT SHIPP was designated by the National Recreation and Park Association to act as evaluator of the Institute. Mr. RALPH WILSON, Soil Conservation Service, provided similar assistance.

One highlight of the program was a two-day, 600-mile field tour by bus of East Texas recreation developments culminating in a tour of Houston's fabulous indoor recreation center--the Astrodome--and a remarkable discussion of Houston's urban park and recreation activities, opportunities and challenges by Mr. WILLIAM SCHEIBE, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Unlike the programs offered at Penn State and recently announced by Indiana University which emphasize upgrading of general administrative skills for recreation personnel, the RECREATION MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE focuses on specific recreation concepts and content.

Consolidation of post-session evaluations is now underway. The response has been enthusiastic. From all indications this Institute answers a serious need and will be offered in the future on a regular basis. A detailed description of the Institute in published form is anticipated.

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Last time, I promised some personal observations by various members of our faculty would be forthcoming. Clare Gunn agreed to be first. Dr. Gunn holds the first Ph.D. in Landscape Architecture earned from an accredited institution. His conceptual approach to regional recreational development has been widely hailed. (See "A New Concept for Designing the Vacationscape", Landscape Architecture, October, 1965.) Dr. Gunn has just returned from South America. Purpose of this travel was to advise the Government of Venezuela regarding desirable development of the Venezuelan National Parks and stimulation of tourism.

"My recent visit to Venezuela dramatized to me how easy it is for us to assume that park principles are finite, inclusive, and universally understood. And how wrong we can be.

This was the most intensive, frustrating, and exciting experience I have ever had. In thirteen days I visited six national parks; traveled much of the country by jeep, airplane, and on foot; gained some understanding of their culture; met with government officials, businessmen and 'natives'. The hours were long and the heat exhausting. Frustrations arise from the many problems and barriers which must be overcome in order to improve their recreational opportunities -- political, social, and cultural barriers. Because it is for the first time developing and progressing as a nation, Venezuela is generating many competing and conflicting cells within both government and business. The language problem also made it difficult for me to get the kinds of data and insights most desirable.

I found some who cling tenaciously to a closed-door policy and will consider nothing but preservation, even to the use of military force to prevent people's use of the National Parks. In contrast, those who own properties within National Park boundaries wish to have greater public access, including provision of more services and facilities. Others believe government ownership is justifiable only if profit-making--a lesson recently learned from oil and mineral production.

What about the people? As more Venezuelans buy cars--often old ones--and as new highways are built, people are beginning to search out the natural wonders of their own land for recreation. However, recreation must be on their terms. What do they want? You don't yet talk about scenic appreciation, travel for pleasure, water-skiing, surfing, scuba-diving, or even much hunting or fishing. Camping, as we know it, is unknown. Perhaps this is due to the fact that thousands are in contact with the soil every day, cook on an open fire, and seek security among the trees. These are daily activities of survival, not fun.

Consequently- planning and environmental design for parks takes on a far different cultural context. It demands an entirely new start. For one who is searching for logic and system in design of the environment, this is humbling, indeed.

The principles still hold. We can know and understand the natural and resource base. We can discover more about people and what they seek in such environments. And as ownership patterns and purposes become more clear, we may be able to design these environments to better serve man's use--now, and for a long time ahead. This is what I try to research. This is what I try to teach. These are the challenges facing the students who are trying to learn. And here at Texas A&M is an ideal educational climate to make it happen." --- Dr. C. A. Gunn

Friends will be interested to learn that Mr. RICHARD THORNTON, Grounds Superintendent at Texas A&M resigned this month to accept an attractive position with the Parks Division of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Dick is to assume his new responsibilities in master planning of our State Park system immediately. The warmest wishes of all our faculty go with him in his new job.

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Dr. Gunn and I were privileged to meet with the Northeast Texas Regional Turfgrass Conference in Dallas on October 26. My opportunity to address this meeting was preceded by a most enjoyable informal lunch with a group of some 20 Dallas-Fort Worth area directors and superintendents. This group lunches together once each month at the invitation of Mr. L.B. HOUSTON, Director of the Dallas Parks and Recreation Department. The exchange of information and ideas and the opportunities for joint action which results from these meetings is a dramatic illustration of the benefits arising from the leadership of central cities.

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By the time you receive this newsletter, the annual meeting and workshop of the TEXAS RECREATION AND PARK SOCIETY will likely be concluded. President ROY GUERRERO and his staff have done an outstanding job in organizing this conference. I expect Texas A&M will be well represented by a number of Recreation and Park faculty, along with both undergraduate and graduate students. Plans are to unveil a newly completed educational display describing A&M's program. Candid comments of all who attend the meeting and see the display will be welcomed.

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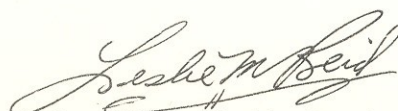
RECREATION AND PARKS LEAFLET. Attached to this newsletter is a copy of our new descriptive program leaflet. The four-color lithography is a first for curriculum folders at Texas A&M. This simple-to-mail piece was designed for initial contacts with high school students and other interested persons. I will be happy to send quantities for distribution at your request.

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I've held myself in check not to mention it before this, but it's time to mention FOOTBALL! After a dismal initial loss to Southern Methodist followed by a depressing series of subsequent losses, our Aggies have been clawing their way back upward in the Southwest Conference standings.

It was absolutely necessary to hold this edition to report by how much we had nipped Baylor. And sure enough! Our youngsters came through at the final gun to steal the game 21-3! Would you believe this places A&M in a tied-for-first-position? What a crazy, exciting conference. Quoting the first newsletter I sent from A&M (September, 1966), "...the Aggies will be heard from yet."

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Leslie M. Reid, Head
Recreation and Parks

Opportunities Unlimited

RECREATION AND PARKS



OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION which formerly could be easily found in the neighborhood or at the end of the street have been replaced by new shopping centers, roads and subdivisions. Diminishing open country and crowded cities make more complex the problems of supplying recreation in needed locations and adequate amounts.

Meeting the demand for recreation areas and facilities requires skill and training in the acquisition, development and manipulation of natural resources and dedication to the wise management and administration of existing facilities to promote maximum benefits for their enjoyment.

Lakes and forests, beaches and mountains, sky and sand are the raw materials from which outdoor recreation is fashioned. Engineering skill, landscape knowledge, managerial ability and an artist's perception are some of the tools needed to shape natural as well as urban areas into desirable locations for boating, swimming, camping or organized sports.

A career in Recreation and Parks offers challenge, adventure and satisfaction to people with university preparation. This training involves solutions of problems arising from both recreation resources and people.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES reflecting the demand for university-trained recreation and park administrators are rising sharply. Large numbers of professional positions are found in state and federal park and recreation agencies; urban, county and regional recreation and park departments; teaching and research positions in universities; operation of commercial recreation enterprises; and planning and development of recreation and park areas.

THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE curriculum provides the student with the knowledge and technical skills necessary to begin a park and recreation career

Recreational development is a job not of building roads into lovely country but of building receptivity into still unlovely human minds. Aldo Leopold

at the professional level. The graduate must be able to use physical resources wisely, to perceive and respond to human needs and desires and to administer recreation and park programs.

The curriculum includes broad exposure to the social sciences, humanities and natural sciences. Courses are included in the following groups:

Professional, related professional, natural science, physical science, social science and general education, electives, military science and physical education.

The Recreation and Parks curriculum permits specialization in either Urban Parks and Recreation or Outdoor Recreation when the student achieves junior status.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
SCHOOL OF NATURAL BIOSCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

Summer work experience is an important part of the program. Students receive assistance in obtaining summer employment in cooperative training programs conducted by park and recreation agencies.

GRADUATE STUDY is structured to provide advanced professional preparation. Maximum flexibility is maintained to tailor graduate study to the individual student's interests and objectives. Graduate level courses in the Department of Recreation and Parks and in 20 supporting departments allow the advanced student to specialize in such areas as recreation administration and policy, park area design, recreation philosophy, resource planning and recreation economics.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES play an important part in the departmental program. Students are invited to become members of the Recreation and Parks Club. Meetings are held throughout the school year, and outstanding recreation professionals are featured speakers. The Club sponsors various social affairs and field trips to local and state attractions and to park and recreation developments.

TUITION COSTS are minimal, and out-of-state tuition is waived for recipients of graduate assistant-

ships. Expenses for the regular 9-month school year vary with the individual but range between about \$1,000 for Texas residents to \$1,300 for non-resident students.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE is available to both graduate and undergraduate students. Scholarships are awarded to eligible freshmen and transfer students. Each year the Department awards fellowships and a large number of teaching and research assistantships to qualified graduate students. Part-time employment is also available.

Additional information concerning any aspect of the Recreation and Parks program — courses, careers or financial assistance — may be obtained by writing:

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TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
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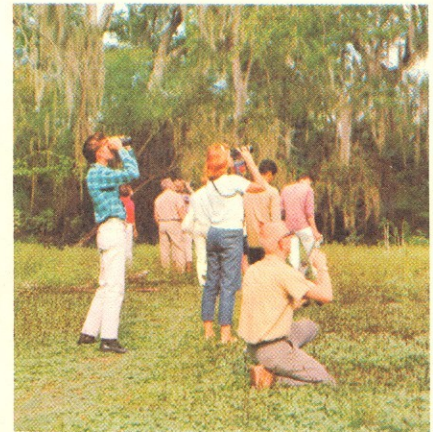
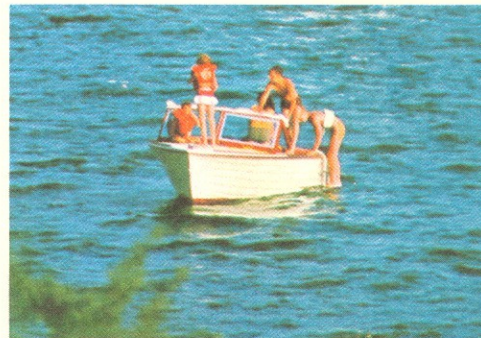
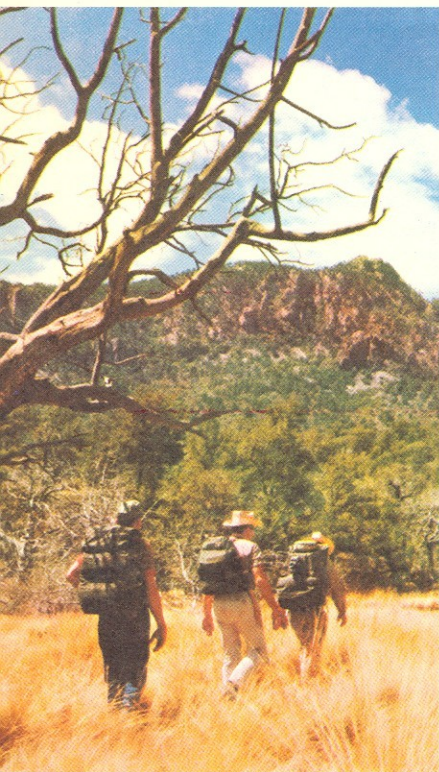


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Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.