

FEATURES

Roosevelt legacy in national forests

President Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt became our twenty-sixth president of the United States when President William McKinley was assassinated in 1901. Roosevelt's taking over the oath of office angered many conservatives who disliked his unconventional approach to politics. Roosevelt's entrance into the presi-

company of nature. On this country-side Roosevelt worked as a cowboy on his ranch raising cattle. After spending two years in Badlands Roosevelt returned to New York.

Roosevelt became a powerful figure in New York legislature and later the police commissioner in New York City. He soon resigned from this position when he was asked by President McKinley to become assistant secretary to the Navy. In this position and war with Spain nearing Roosevelt formed a group of soldiers known as the Rough Riders, which consisted mostly of cowboys on horseback. After war with Spain Roosevelt was looked at as great hero, which largely boosted his political career. Roosevelt won the governorship of New York and soon after that held the position of Vice President of the United States. When McKinley was assassinated, he became president.

As president Roosevelt was sure to use his executive power as an equal branch of government, especially in matters of conservation. He used executive order to establish the first of the fifty-one national bird sanctuaries created under his presidency. Roosevelt redefined the U.S. Forest service, which got the U.S. government involved in forestry and conservation efforts for the first time. To lead the Forest Service Roosevelt named Gifford Pinchot Chief Forester. Pinchot was well schooled in the field spending time in France studying forestry. Before becoming Chief Forester he had also helped restore the woodlands we know as Pisgah National Forest. Pinchot understood Roosevelt's ideas and together they made the perfect match. During his

time as president, Roosevelt with the help of Pinchot increased the number of national forests from 32 to 149. Roosevelt later credited Pinchot for his work by saying, "among the many, many public officials who under my administration rendered invaluable service to the American people of the United States, Gifford Pinchot on the whole stood first."

Roosevelt's conservation efforts did not end with his presidency. Soon after leaving office Roosevelt went on a yearlong safari in Africa, which he made as scientific as possible. He convinced the Smithsonian institute to join the safari; the institute gathered a large collection of wildlife specimens on the safari. A few years later Roosevelt went to South America on a scientific expedition in which he would raise awareness of the conservationist movement. This expedition nearly killed Roosevelt when he contracted malaria, but the former president was credited by one of the other explorers as the reason anyone in the group survived. Never fully recovering from the expedition Roosevelt died five years later. Before his death Roosevelt gave his thoughts on life saying, "Life is a great adventure and

I want to say to you, accept it in such spirit."

Roosevelt lived a life of great adventure as a cowboy, Rough Rider, president, and conservationist. Roosevelt's efforts made Americans realize the importance of our forests. Roosevelt taught America that our forests offered much more than just lumber and raw material. Roosevelt told of forests that offered recreation, healing, and knowledge. Roosevelt's efforts as a conservationist opened the door to forestry preservation, because the largest wilderness system in the world today is found in National Forests. A reminder of this president's contribution to the American people can be seen in the National Forests, many of which he helped set aside as president.

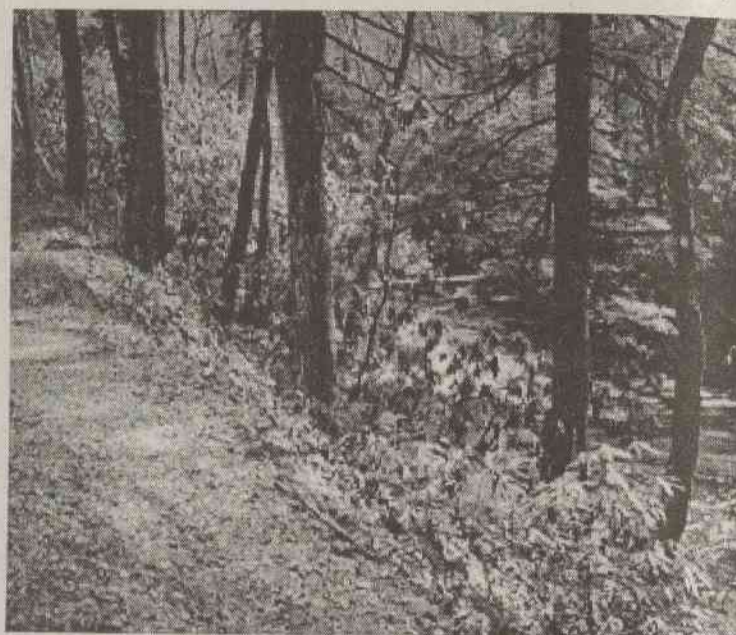


Photo by Michelle Crabtree

The conservation efforts of Roosevelt helped create many of the national forests we appreciate today.



BY JOSEPH MOERSCHBAECHER

dency would become a giant step for the conservationist movement in the United States. President Roosevelt would redefine the U.S. Forest Service. After his presidency Roosevelt looked back and said that his conservation program was his greatest contribution to the United States in domestic affairs.

Theodore Roosevelt was born on October 27, 1858 in New York City. As a child Roosevelt suffered from life threatening asthma attacks, which could explain his love of the forest air that he worked so hard to conserve as president. Although suffering from this and other medical conditions as a child, Roosevelt never lacked the energy to improve mentally or physically. This exuberant energy led to an interest in natural science, ornithology and hunting, which became lifelong hobbies. In 1884 Roosevelt's mother and wife both died. Distraught by these two tragic losses Roosevelt left the city and went to the Dakota Badlands to begin his emotional healing in the

Future freshman "spring" onto campus



Around 80 students, registered for next year, along with their families attended the Mountain Spring 2000 Orientation. Below, TWISTER Productions introduced them to some of each other and some other interesting characters over an evening of events.



Photo Essay by Wendy Byerly