

# e-DISCOVER



North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department Electronic Newsletter

## Best of the Best

Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park was chosen "Best Camping Spot" by the readers of the Bismarck Tribune in the annual Readers' Choice Awards. It is the second year in a row the park received this award.

## Upcoming Events

Aug. 14-15: Great Planers Annual Salmon Derby at Lake Sakakawea State Park.

Aug. 14-16 and Aug. 21-23: Lewis and Clark Weekend at Cross Ranch.

Aug. 15: Sheheke Returns at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park.

Aug. 15: Christmas in August at Grahams Island State Park.

Aug. 20: Visitor Center Dedication at Turtle River State Park. A formal dedication of the new Visitor Center and 75th anniversary celebration.

## Turtle River State Park celebrates

Turtle River State Park dedicates its new visitor center as part of the park's year-long 75th anniversary celebration on Aug. 20, holding further activities on Saturday, Aug. 22 to mark the occasion.

An RSVP event is scheduled on Thursday, Aug. 20, beginning at 10 a.m. with a social and review of the newly completed Civilian Conservation Corps exhibits and displays. The CCC was the driving force behind the park's development in the 1930s and much of the infrastructure constructed by the

CCC is still in place today. Saturday's anniversary celebration begins at 11 a.m. with a Kids Parade. Campers can participate in a "Best

will be games and refreshments with a "Cake and Ice Cream Social" at 2 p.m. At 8 p.m. a presentation will be made on Turtle River's



The Turtle River State Park Visitor Center will be dedicated on Aug. 20, with a program starting at 10 a.m.

journey through time. After the amphitheater program there a campfire sing-a-long is planned.

For more information contact Turtle River State Park at

Decorated" campsite contest with judges determining the award winners. The party continues at the CCC Shelter from noon to 3 p.m. There

701-594-4445. Camping reservations can be made by calling by calling 800-807-4723 or online at <http://www.parkrec.nd.gov>.

## Park visitation is up

Visitation to North Dakota's state parks is up 6 percent in the second quarter relative to the same period last year with over 311,000 people visiting as compared to 293,000 in 2008. Through the first half of 2009 park visits are up 4 percent. Camping numbers at state parks are up 5 percent.

"State parks remain popular and economical family getaways," Parks and Recreation director Doug Prchal says. "A late spring, complicated by cold temperatures and flooding, meant a slow start to the season, but once the weather straightened out, the parks have been a popular and welcome get-a-way with visitors."

## Subscribe now!

This is the first issue of e-Discover which is meant as a supplement to the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department twice-annual "Discover" newsletter.

e-Discover will come out periodically to keep its subscribers up-to-date on what's happening with North Dakota's state parks providing a calendar of upcoming events and activities along with news about state parks and recreation.

**Subscriptions are FREE.** To continue receiving e-Discover just send an e-mail to [DiscoverPNR@nd.gov](mailto:DiscoverPNR@nd.gov)

## Upcoming Events

Aug. 22: Birthday Blast at Turtle River State Park. Fun and games for the whole family in celebration of the parks 75th birthday. Kids Parade at 11 a.m.; campsite contest; party activities from noon to 3 p.m. at the CCC Shelter; Cake and Ice Cream Social at 2 p.m.; amphitheater presentation at 8 p.m.

Aug. 28: "The Special Consensus" performs Bluegrass at Cross Ranch State Park.

Aug. 29: Beach Party at Fort Stevenson State Park. The Garrison Chamber of Commerce Beach party includes live bands and entertainment. Fun and food for all ages. Early ticket sales available. For more information call 1-800-799-4242.

Sept. 11-12: Garrison Fall Wall-eye Classic at Fort Stevenson State Park. A top prize of \$10,000 based on a field of 60 anglers. Entry fee per team is \$650. For more information call 800-729-4242.

Sept. 12-13: Sodbuster Days at Fort Ransom State Park. Free entrance for day use visitors. For more information call (701) 973-4331.

Sept. 13: Pioneer Machinery Show at Icelandic State Park. Machinery parade, threshing, tractor pull, kids peddle pull, entertainment, displays, and breakfast.

Sept. 26: National Public Lands Day. Volunteer at North Dakota State Parks to make a difference on public lands through various projects.



Ribbon cutting ceremonies to officially open the Old Red Old Ten Scenic Byway, held on Mandan's Main Street, July 4.

## *New ND scenic byway opens*

The Old Red Old Ten Scenic Byway hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Mandan Depot on July 4.

Held in conjunction with Mandan Rodeo Days, thousands of people were on hand to take part in the official opening of North Dakota's tenth Scenic Byway.

The ceremony began with a classic car parade stopping at the red ribbon crossing the street at the Mandan Depot. Here the Mayor of Mandan, Tim Helbling and the Director of the North Dakota Department of Transportation, Francis Ziegler, spoke to the crowd praising the efforts of the Old Red Trail committee.

The President of the Old Red Trail, Robin Reynolds, also shared a few words and expressed her gratitude and excitement for the Old Red Old Ten Scenic Byway. Many of the Old Red Trail committee members were on-site to be a part of the celebration, as were the ND Department of Commerce Commissioner, Shane Goettle and State Byway Coordinator, Kevin Stankiewicz.

Following the ceremony, the classic cars continued west towards Dickinson along Old Highway Ten, taking in the beautiful sights and friendly towns along this historically rich byway.

## *Marinas reopen with lake's rise*

All three parks on Lake Sakakawea – Lake Sakakawea, Fort Stevenson and Lewis & Clark – are seeing improved visitation as the reservoir elevation increased 17 feet to 1841.2 this year. Marinas, which have been inoperable for nearly a decade because of low water, are again open and proving popular with water recreation enthusiasts. Lake Sakakawea State Park manager John Tunge notes it's the first time in five years the park has a swimming beach, though the low water ramp has al-

ways provided access to the big lake. Lewis & Clark State Park has seen a 73 percent increase in visitors, while Fort Stevenson State Park is up 20 percent.

The new marina at Fort Stevenson State Park is expected to be completed later this fall and will open in the spring of 2010. But the old marina on de Trobriand Bay, which has been closed because of the low water, is again open, under new management and proving a hot spot.