

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department

## **NEWS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release, Tuesday, July 30, 2013*

*For more information, contact Fort Ransom State Park 701-973-4331*

### **Artist in Residence at Fort Ransom State Park**

North Dakota artist Jennifer Link is featured at Fort Ransom State Park from July 28-Aug. 4 as part of the Artist in Residency Program sponsored by the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department and North Dakota Council on the Arts.

Link will draw inspiration from the park and incorporate it into her art. She will be putting on a hands-on workshop in addition to an interactive presentation Saturday, Aug. 3. At 2:30 p.m., meet Link at the Music Building on the Sunne Farm to explore the creative arts. Participants will have the opportunity to construct their own set of butterfly wings out of household materials. At 8:30 p.m., Link is presenting a hands-on program describing the lifecycle of butterflies and moths at the Elm Tree Amphitheater. The events are open to the public with art materials provided and funded by the North Dakota Council on the Arts. The only cost involved is the state park entrance fee, which is \$5/vehicle or \$25 for the ND State Parks annual pass.

Link previously worked in the entomology department at North Dakota State University with insects and the folks that studied them. A design major with an art minor, Jennifer was fascinated by insect's beauty and intricate detail. As a result, she often incorporates insects in her designs and sculpture.

“When making art with insect subject matter gives viewers a different perspective of the tiny little creatures and if it causes someone to pause the next time they see an insect and really look then that is wonderful,” Link says.

Artists have played an important role in the history of North Dakota's state parks, assisting with defining the value of protecting natural resources, whether they are cultural, natural or recreational. It is the aim of the Artist in Residency Program that the experiences and art generated through this partnership allows the public to become stewards with a deeper appreciation of art inspired by the state parks of North Dakota.

All of North Dakota's state parks have hosted an artist since the program's inception. Visitors to the state parks can find art pieces generated by the program that celebrate both the state parks and local North Dakota artists.

Fort Ransom State Park is located 34 miles south of Valley City. For additional information about the park, please visit [www.parkrec.nd.gov](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov) or call the park at 701-973-4331.