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# PARKS

Coloring  
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# RECREATION



## Discover Fall/Winter 2015 Volume 20, Number 2

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**North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department**  
1600 E. Century Ave. Suite #3  
Bismarck, ND 58503  
Phone: 701.328.5357  
email: [parkrec@nd.gov](mailto:parkrec@nd.gov)  
Website: [www.parkrec.nd.gov](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov)  
Editor: Gordon Weixel



# Celebrations were great, but there's a lot more to do

It's been a remarkable year for the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) which celebrated the agency's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The 70,875 camping nights by the end of October which eclipsed last year's record of 68,480. It also recorded record annual vehicle pass sales with 16,672 permits sold.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations were a great way for people to connect with parks. Some may have taken the opportunity to visit a different park for the first time while others were afforded the chance to revisit a familiar park with friends and family and recount the "good old days."

But it was more than just a summer long birthday party. These type of celebrations always provide the opportunity to reflect upon and celebrate the past, but they also provide the opportunity to look to the future. We celebrated 50 years and we started to plan for the next 50 years.

The celebrations – 13 all told – were a great way to highlight the hard work and dedication of the Department's staff and volunteers over the last 50 years. The clean, modern campsites, well-maintained shelters, cabins, CCC structures are often taken for granted. But it is the Department's staff that keeps the parks and recreation areas operating and ready for the public.

The state's legislature was generous to the Department, providing more funds for development than it had ever done before. This included putting the NDPRD in charge of operations and management of the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center and Fort Mandan. More about this can be found in the following pages.

There are a number of projects that are or will soon be underway. Here's a look at a few of them:

- Fort Abraham Lincoln will see extensive work on its asphalt roads and parking lot repair.
- The Missouri River Day Park is being studied for development. Houston Engineering was chosen to as the planning and development consultant.
- Two full-service yurts are being built at Fort Ransom State Park and will soon be ready for public use.
- An addition and remodel of the Grahams Island State Park bait shop is in the works and WSN Architects from Grand Forks have been hired to plan the work.
- Planning for a new visitor center at Fort Ransom State Park is underway and YHR Partners from Moorhead, MN, was hired as consulting architects.
- Campsites at Cross Ranch State Park will be getting electricity. ONE Engineering has completed preliminary plans for installation.
- A full-service yurt will be built at Cross Ranch State Park.
- New comfort stations will be built at Fort Stevenson State Park and Icelandic State Park. Both projects are expected to be bid early in 2016.
- The NDPRD is searching for a consultant for development of the Bay Point Recreation Area near Lake Sakakawea State Park.

It's going to be a busy year for the Department in 2016 as it builds for the future.

**Mark Zimmerman, Director  
North Dakota Parks and Recreation**

# NDPRD implements 100% reservations in all state parks

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department is implementing a 100 percent reservation system for its parks campsites, cabins, yurts, tipis, horse corrals and group facilities in its 13 state parks beginning in 2016. There are over 1,200 campsites available in North Dakota's state parks.

The department sent a letter to anyone purchasing a 2015 annual vehicle pass notifying them of the changes along with a sheet of Frequently Asked Questions pertaining to reservations. The FAQ includes a list of reservation fees charged to those using the online or call center reservation systems. Questions can be answered by calling the state parks directly or the Parks and Recreation Department at 701-328-5357 or email [parkrec@nd.gov](mailto:parkrec@nd.gov).

The decision to make the change comes after using the system in three parks over the past two years. Fort Abraham Lincoln and Lake Metigoshe state parks went to 100 percent reservations in 2014 and Grahams Island State Park started using the system in 2015. Overall, the system has been a success.

"By offering 100 percent reservations, all customers have an equal opportunity to rent a campsite, camping cabin, yurt or tipi," Assistant Field Director Karen Assel notes. "Whether campers live near the park or travel a long distance they will have the same chance to secure a place in the park."

In 2015, North Dakota's state parks



## ND State Park Annual Vehicle Pass on sale

The 2016 North Dakota State Parks Annual Vehicle Pass went on sale Nov. 1 and is available at all state parks, at NDPRD Headquarters in Bismarck, and online. The pass is good until April 30, 2017 and provides entrance to all state parks and a discount at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Washburn.

There are \$5 discounts for senior citizens age 65 and older, and for U.S. Veterans with a 49 percent or less disability. Those veterans with a 50 percent or greater disability can receive a free Annual by providing proper documentation.

The NDPRD website can be found online at [www.parkrec.nd.gov](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov).

set a camping record, breaking the mark set just the year before. This shows that in most state parks occupancy is in high demand and 100 percent reservations allows staff to better manage the campgrounds

"Advance reservations eliminate entrance bottlenecks and unnecessary

traffic on already congested campground roads," Assel adds. "If a campsite is not reserved it is considered a first-come first-serve campsite and is available by contacting the park directly."

Those looking for a campsite can determine availability by going online to the NDPRD's website, by calling the park directly, or verifying available campsites with park staff when they arrive at the park. Customers with reservations can arrive at any time during their reservation. This may result in some sites remaining empty for a period of time. The park is obligated to hold a reserved site until a cancellation is made.

There are three options available to reserve a campsite

- Go online to [www.parkrec.nd.gov](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov). This is the most popular way among campers to reserve a spot. The secure website allows individuals to check the availability of campsites and actually see photos of the campsites. This method is available 24 hours a day.
- Call toll-free 800-807-4723 to the NDPRD's call center. This service is available from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. (all times are Central Time) daily.
- Call the park directly from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily for same day reservations.

"Campers want assurances there will be a spot for them when they arrive," Grahams Island Manager Henry Duray says. "Times are changing and people want to be able to plan ahead. The transition to 100 percent reservations

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The distinctive sculpture in front of the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center depicts a meeting between Meriwether Lewis, William Clark and Mandan Indian Chief Sheheke.

## NDPRD takes over managing Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center

Going into the 64<sup>th</sup> North Dakota legislative session in 2015 the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department knew big things were in the offing for its 50<sup>th</sup> year, but little did it suspect the legislature would put it in charge of the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center (LCIC) located in Washburn.

The property and building were owned by the NDPRD, but were managed and operated by the Lewis & Clark-Fort Mandan Foundation. It was the Foundation Board that went to the Governor and Legislators asking the state to buy its assets and turn operations over to the NDPRD. The legislature approved paying \$2.05 million and in return received approximately \$6 million in assets including \$1.2 million in artifacts, \$250,000 in

other goods.

Later the NDPRD entered an agreement with the McLean County Historical Society to manage the Fort Mandan site adjacent the LCIC which includes a visitor center and a replica of Fort Mandan which had been constructed by the Lewis and Clark expedition on its travels through North Dakota. The NDPRD leases the property from the Historical Society. Fort Mandan was recreated in 1972 by McLean County Historical Society volunteers. At first the Historical Society managed Fort Mandan and then, later, it was managed by the Lewis and Clark Foundation.

Fort Mandan was created using the information from the journals kept by Meriwether Lewis, William Clark and other members of the famous Corps of

Discovery Expedition. Guided tours provide visitors with a glimpse of the Expedition's winter in North Dakota. People can see how the Expedition members ate, dressed, slept and survived the snow and frigid temperatures.

The NDPRD took over the facility on May 1 of this year with Director Mark Zimmerman making Recreation Division Manager Matt Gardner the facilities temporary coordinator through the transition of the state's purchase. Gardner set about inventorying the property and hundreds of artifacts which are stored at the facility. The LCIC was built in 1996, though two additions – the research library and event center – were completed last year.

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## Interpretive Center from page 2

“The LCIC is about 20,000 square feet in size and includes a recently built addition with a beautiful and well stocked research library, an event center that can accommodate 150 people, a large deck with a great view of the Missouri River and Bergeson Gallery,” Gardner describes. “There is the permanent display of Lewis and Clark Age of Enlightenment Gallery which includes rare artifacts including a medical kit and guns of the expedition.”

Assets include 81 prints made by German artist Karl Bodmer with an estimated value of \$300,000. In 1832 the artist made a 2,500 mile journey by steam and keelboat up the Missouri and wintered at Fort Clark near the Mandan villages. His prints are the most accurate portrayal of western Indians in their homelands. Currently the entire collection is on display for the first time in eight years, according to Gardner.

There are three larger-than-life statues in the front of the LCIC depicting Lewis’ and Clark’s historic meeting with Indian Chief Sheheke. Inside visitors will find the Museum Store which includes a number of books, many North Dakota made items, artwork, one-of-a-kind jewelry, clothing home décor and more. Galleries include the Lewis and Clark Gallery, Fort Clark Exhibit; Our Agrarian Heritage exhibit, the Prince Maximilian and Karl Bodmer Exhibit, and Karl Bodmer’s America exhibit.

Outside visitors will find picnic shelters, a metallic buffalo herd and some beautiful views of the Missouri River.

“The Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center is the gateway to Missouri River history,” NDPRD Director Mark Zimmerman says. “It’s a world-class facility that is climate and moisture controlled to protect the artifacts. It’s a great facility, not just a museum but a great setting to host gatherings and events.”

The NDPRD will also own Falghren Park, just a stone’s throw from the Fort Mandan visitor center. It provides two shelters, a recreational trail, playground and vault toilet. The park hosts a frontier rendezvous and black powder competitive shoots.

The LCIC, Fort Mandan and Falghren Park are located north of Washburn just off Highway 83. It is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week, though there are reduced operations during the off-season months. Tours can be self-guided or an interpreter is available to provide in-depth information. The facility’s restrooms are open 24 hours a day. It’s available for school tours, and group tours. Nearby, visitors can find Cross Ranch State Park, the Knife River Indian Village, Fort Clark and Lake Sakakawea.

General admission to the LCIC and Fort Mandan is \$7.50 for adults and \$3 for students and children ages five and younger are free. For those that have a NDPRD Annual Pass general admission is reduced to \$5 for adults. Annual passes – that can be purchased for \$25 – allow holders to visit any of North Dakota’s 13 parks without having to pay the \$5 daily vehicle fee. More information can be found at [www.fortmandan.com](http://www.fortmandan.com) or by calling 701-462-8535.



Event Center

### Kirkey chosen as Site Supervisor for Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center

Kevin Kirkey is the new Site Supervisor for the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center (LCIC) and Fort Mandan found in Washburn, ND. Kirkey is a former North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department employee at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park who joined the LCIC staff in 2002 as Fort Mandan Coordinator eventually becoming Development Director.



Operation of the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center and Fort Mandan fell to the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department following the decision made by the 2015 State Legislature. Recreation Division Manager Matt Gardner guided the LCIC through its transition from being managed and operated by the Lewis and Clark Fort Mandan Foundation to the NDPRD. The position of Site Supervisor was then opened and Kirkey was selected

**Continued on page 12**



Gallery



# DISCOVER 5

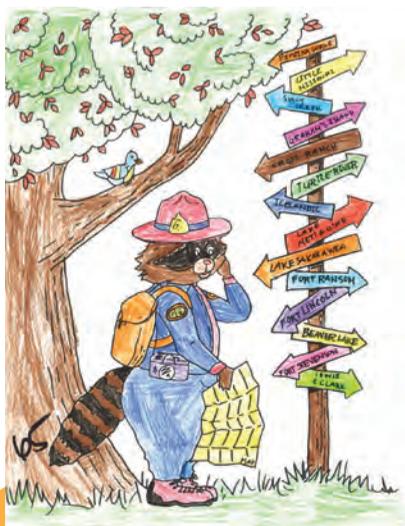
Ages 7-9

Ages 4-6

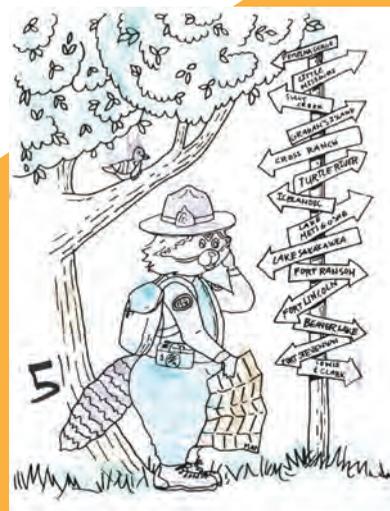
Ages 3 and younger



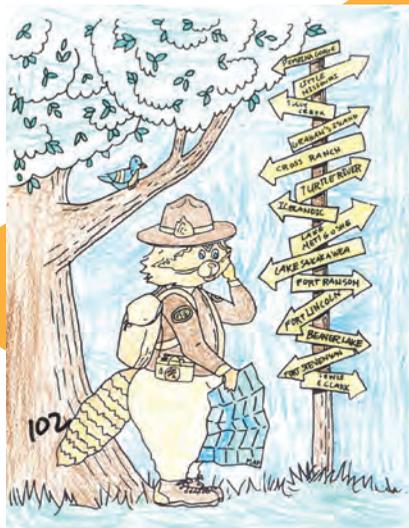
1st Place: Daysha Erdman  
Age 6, Upham, ND



1st Place: Callie Martin  
Age 6, Lansford, ND



1st Place: Zoey Craig  
Age 3, Minot, ND



2nd Place: Emily Motschenbacher  
Age 7, Bismarck, ND



2nd Place: Lilliane Borkowski  
Age 6, Round Rock, TX



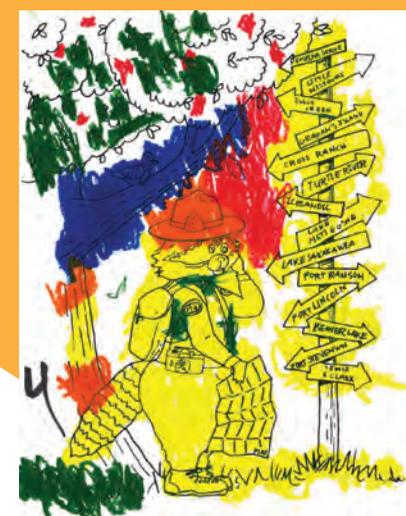
2nd Place: Mary Coombs  
Age 3, Bismarck, ND



3rd Place: Mia Hansen  
Age 9, Lincoln, NE



3rd Place: Dara Sanqui  
Age 6, Rolla, ND



3rd Place: Mari Puppe  
Age 3, Bismarck

# Belohlavek with NDPRD for 49 of its 50 years

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary throughout 2015 and a lot of the people who helped make the organization what it is today were on hand to recognize the achievement.

While several “old-timers” took part in the many celebrations held at the state parks across the state there was one person who received special recognition at the kick-off event picnic held at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park on May 1.

Jan Belohlavek is a seasonal employee at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park and has been for 49 years. She’s usually the first person to greet visitors to the park as she staffs the entrance station at the park.

Jan went to work at the park immediately after graduating Mandan High School just a year after the North Dakota Park Service was created by the state legislature. It wasn’t until two months later she married George Belohlavek in an August ceremony. Her father-in-law worked maintenance at Fort Abraham Lincoln and she feels that might have been part of the reason she was selected for the job.

“I’m pretty much doing the same thing now that I did then, selling camping permits and giving folks directions to where things were at in the park,” Jan recalls. “Except back then we didn’t have a booth at the entrance we sold permits right out of our car.”

When Jan joined the staff at Fort Abraham Lincoln – the only park she’s ever worked in – the highway went through the park, it wasn’t until years later the highway was routed around the park and the entrance place on the south side.

“Eventually they created an entrance station, but

On-A-Slant Village, the blockhouses, museum and the campground were already there. Later on they recreated Calvary Square and Custer’s residence,” Jan says. “We lived just outside the park so it wasn’t very far for me to go until they rerouted the highway and closed off the north entrance to vehicles. Now I have to go all the way around.

“A lot of improvements have been made over the years. A better water system, electricity in the campground and a larger, more convenient comfort station along with the recreation of Calvary Square,” Jan says. “I learned a lot from Gwen White who managed the park along with her husband Bob when I



Jan can usually be found at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park’s entrance booth.

first started. Chuck Erickson then became the park manager and I worked for him for many years.”

Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park is busier now than it’s ever been, according to Jan. “We’d have five or six campers in the campground at the start. Now, we’re full every weekend during the season and people often have to find other places to go. We’re seeing a lot more people from out of state than we ever did.

Over the years Jan found other things to do in the off-season. She and her husband raised three children. For a decade she worked for H&R Block where she prepared taxes.

“In the winter I’ll work with my husband on snow removal, but working at the park has always been my main job,” Jan says. “I love working with people and outdoors. I’ve met people from all over the United States and from many different

**Continued on page 8**

## Turtle River State Park manager retires

# Crandall bids farewell to NDPRD

When Steve Crandall first started working at Turtle River State Park little did he realize that 30 years later he'd be retiring as the park's manager.

It was the spring of 1975 and Steve had just graduated with a two-year degree from the North Dakota School of Forestry in Bottineau. John Carlson was Turtle River State Park's manager and offered Steve the job as a seasonal ranger for the summer of 1975. At the end of the season, Carlson asked if Steve was interested in working at Lake Metigoshe State Park. He worked there through the winter at which time Beaver Lake State Park manager Don Underwood asked Steve to come down and work for him.

"Carlson left Turtle River State Park and I encouraged Don to apply for the Turtle River job. Don had full base privileges at the Grand Forks Air Force Base, so he said 'let's go look at it' and after I showed him around he said it was 'pretty nice' and applied for it and got it, leaving me at Beaver Lake," Steve recalls. "The department hired a new guy for manager at Beaver Lake, a John Tunge. I really couldn't afford to just get a part-time paycheck so I took a job as a full-time route driver at Pepsi in Fargo in 1977."

Meanwhile up at Turtle River State Park, the full-time ranger Steve Eli, decided to go back to farming, according to Crandall.

"I made good money as a truck driver, but you worked a lot, too," Steve says. "Don Underwood asked me to put in an application for the full-time ranger position and they hired me full-time."

Crandall worked at TRSP from 1979-1984. He then took a job as manager of Lewis and Clark State Park where he worked from 1984-1989. A position then opened up at Lake

Metigoshe state park as a Ranger II which was a promotion for him. He stayed at LMSP from 1989 to 1992 when the manager left at Turtle River State Park.



Crandall

"There wasn't any interest in the job so I decided to transfer in 1992 and have been at TRSP ever since," Steve says.

Over the years there have been many changes to the park since Crandall took over. He bemoans the loss of the park's swimming pool which he feels brought a lot of visitors to the park trying to escape the summer's heat.

The flood in 2000 was probably the next biggest deal, according to Crandall, but the flooding in Grand Forks in 1997 was big too. The campground was opened to flood evacuees in April and by June it was decided the park needed campsites for visitors too. So for the summer of 1997 the campground was split half-and-half between

the evacuees and visitors.

"It was different having people living here in the park for the entire summer," Steve remembers. "People were under a lot of stress and we had some domestic situations that we had to deal with. I felt sorry for people. People would work all day and then work on their homes in Grand Forks. They would come back to the park late... exhausted.

"The thing I remember most is that it was bad in 1997, but I didn't make the connection on how bad until the park flooded in 2000," Crandall continues. "I didn't get flooded out, but our ranger did and there was all the work we had to put into the houses and facilities. I was never the same afterwards. Flooding like that takes something out of you. I felt so sorry for folks. I wasn't personally affected, but it broke your heart trying to make things whole again."

In the winter of 2000 work started in earnest to put things back in place. Remodeling began on the Woodland Cabins. The Woodland Lodge was taken apart board by board with the help of the local historical society. The rafters were used to cover the rest of the building and the entire pile covered by plastic and tarps. In 2001 the dirt and foundation work was completed at a different location and in the fall reconstruction started. The building was completed and rededicated in May of 2003.

There were new vault toilets installed in the Trappers Campground in the picnic area. No wood was used so in the case of another flood they would be easy to clean up. A new bridge was also placed on the main roadway into the park, replacing the 48-inch culverts that disappeared during the flood.

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## Belohlavek from page 6

countries. I like seeing the park's wildlife every day – the deer and pheasants. I enjoy talking to people, it's just natural to hold a conversation with anybody. I would say about 99 percent of the people I visit with are just great to talk to, but there's always that one percent who can be a little cross about something or other."

Over the years Jan has seen the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department grow larger and larger. She's been to all the parks but Lewis and Clark State Park. "My sister and I went to four parks this year. She (Phyllis Dirk) is an outdoor person like me."

Jan has seen some strange things from time to time, like when a hearse rolled into the campground and was used as a camper. Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park's Haunted Fort is the biggest event held each year, throughout the month of October right through Halloween.

"We'll run 800 to 900 people through here in just one night. The cars will be lined up out to the highway," Jan

## Crandall from page 7

The park got a new Visitors Center in 2007. "In hindsight I would've liked some more office space and more room for concessions," Crandall says. "It's been sort of a difficult transition for visitors to the park. They were so used to coming in and stopping at an entrance station to get their permit. Now they have to stop into the Visitor Center and so we tend to get a number of cars that just drive through and we really don't have an effective enforcement tool other than issuing a complaint."

Back in 2009 Steve and his wife Kathie decided to buy a house in Mesa, Arizona. Prices were low and the Crandalls found themselves visiting that area a lot since Steve's sister lives there. "We figured we'd move sometime down the road," Crandall explains. "We hired a management company to rent it out and we'd spend our winters down there when we could."

Plans are to stay in Arizona during the winters and then travel the rest of the year. "I plan on buying a pickup and a fifth wheel trailer and travel as long as we can," Steve says. "Maybe someday we'll come across a special place where we really want to retire, but for now that's the plan. We plan on coming back to North Dakota in the summer. We've been looking in North Dakota for a special summer place but we'll watch the market and see how that goes."

Crandall admits he has mixed feeling about retirement. He's looking forward to having less responsibility and just being able to relax. But he's going to miss the people – the folks who visit the park and those he works with on a regular basis.

"I'm still going to be riding my motorcycle. I've been riding with the Blue Knights up here and have made connections with a similar motorcycle club down in Arizona," Steve says. "I'm going to find something to do whether it be volunteering or finding some other job to do. I wouldn't mind working at an animal rescue center or volunteering at a

describes. "The Frontier Military event used to be a big event, but nothing like Haunted Fort. Otherwise the week before Independence day tends to get really busy."

The biggest changes for her are the incorporation of using a computer at the entrance. "It took me some time to get used to it. At first I had mixed feelings, but now I don't. It used to be chaos here on Friday morning with all the campers coming in, but we don't have that problem anymore."

Jan is surprised by how many people remember her when they come to camp, even those that have been away for five or ten years. She's noticed that a lot of the locals return year after year. "I remember when some of the people coming to the park now to camp, were just children coming with their parents. Now they're coming and they have their own kids. I guess I have been here for a long time."

But for the time being Jan doesn't plan on going anywhere and will keep coming to Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park to work as a seasonal as long as the park will have her.



Crandall with former Governor George Sinner and NDPRD mascot Roscoe the Raccoon.

nearby hospital. There are lot of opportunities where I could work two to three days a week to make some money.

"The best move I ever made was leaving Pepsi," Crandall concludes. "I love my work and I've been doing it for a long time. I've certainly enjoyed so much of my career, but as you get older it gets to be a lot."

# Makes debut at 50th Anniversary kickoff

## NDPRD Honor Guard is impressive

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department's (NDPRD) Honor Guard made its debut at the agency's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Kickoff event held at the North Dakota Heritage Center on May 1. The crowd was impressed by the precision and detail displayed by the unit the first time the five members made their appearance in public.

Icelandic State Park Manager Justin Robinson helped lead the effort to pull the honor guard together, but he gives credit to Field Manager Brad Pozarnsky for coming up with the idea.

"It came up in a discussion with Brad after he had attended a family member's funeral and honors were given at that funeral. Most people don't know this, but when Brad travels from park to park he listens to leadership CDs and it so happened he heard this quote from former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani that attendance at wedding and birthdays was optional, but attending a funeral is mandatory. That got Brad to thinking that the department really needed a funeral detail to make sure that if anybody in the department passed away or a family member did the department would have a representative there."

About three years later Robinson was discussing the idea with Cross Ranch manager Eric Lang, Grahams Island assistant manager Ryan Nelson and

Pozarnsky about the department having an honor guard for funeral detail. Questions were raised on what needed to be done to get uniforms and training. There wasn't much movement for a while but Pozarnsky kept pushing for development of the honor guard.

"I guess I took an avid interest

usually takes about two weeks, but the Border Patrol's Larry Gapp along with two other honor guard trainers took the time and were able to train five of the NDPRD members in a week. "Usually they train 20 people at a time with just one or two trainers," Robinson explains. "But Larry found help and they put us

through drilling for a week. Because we were a small group they were very critical of every move we made."

The group's evenings were spent pressing their uniforms and using a lighter to burn off any loose string or lint – the uniforms had to be perfect. Each day they would go through inspection and then were taught how to stand at

attention, stand in formation and basic marching, protocol for carrying the flag, handling and presenting flags, rifle handling, rifle tribute (three shots taken by seven members at a funeral), carrying a coffin, and finally folding and presenting a flag to a family who had lost a loved one.

"It was interesting to say the least," Robinson recalls. "It was a lot more intense training than any of us could have imagined. But with the training and having graduated we understand the honor and respect that we should be



Honor Guard includes (from left to right): Justin Robinson, Char Binstock, Erik Dietrich, Ryan Gardner and Ryan Nelson.

because I'm sort of a military history buff and Brad had the drive to do it. He kept following up with me to see if anything was being done," Robinson says.

The original committee included Robinson, Nelson, Lang, Cross Ranch assistant manager Char Binstock, Lewis & Clark manager Ryan Gardner and Motorized Recreation Coordinator Erik Dietrich. Uniforms were purchased and training was provided by the U.S. Border Patrol and Customs.

Robinson explains that the training

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# Partners, volunteers key to NDPRD's tree planting program

By KATHY DUTTENHEFNER  
NDPRD Natural Resources  
Management Coordinator

Partners and volunteers are key to the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department's (NDPRD) successful tree and shrub planting program. In the past two years partners, volunteers and private donations have contributed to over \$500,000 in cash and in-kind contributions. These partnerships have made it possible for the planting of over 15,000 trees and shrubs.

The NDPRD applauds the efforts of the North Dakota Forest Service, the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund, and all the Donate a Tree sponsors and recipients for generously contributing to the Department's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Plantings. To commemorate the NDPRD's 50th anniversary, 11 state parks each planted 50 trees and shrubs. These commemorative tree and shrub plantings serve as a living link to the department's past, a beneficial asset to its present, and enhance the natural beauty of North Dakota's state parks well into the future. It's also noted that Cashman Nursery went above and beyond to meet the NDPRD's diverse tree and shrub needs for these commemorative plantings.

Although the Flood of 2011 may be just a memory, the lingering effects can still be seen on the trees at Fort Lincoln State Park, Cross Ranch State Park and the Missouri Natural Area. Dead and hazardous tree removal, tree maintenance and tree and shrub planting projects continue to be funded through department natural resource funds and by the North Dakota Forest Service. Since the flood of 2011 hundreds of trees and been removed and hundreds have been replanted.

Another source of tree planting funds is the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund. Outdoor Heritage funds are currently being used for a multi-site, tree planting project. The project purpose is to create and maintain a mosaic of woodland habitats through the planting of a diverse selection of native trees and shrubs. The diverse plantings of trees and shrubs provides food, living space, and cover for a variety of wildlife species.

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50th Anniversary tree planting at Beaver Lake State Park.



Grand Forks Air Force Base members plant trees at Turtle River State Park.



NDPRD 50th Anniversary tree planting at Lewis and Clark State Park.

# 50th anniversary photo challenge results

Many individuals and families accepted the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department's (NDPRD) 50th Anniversary Photo Challenge requiring participants to travel to four state parks in pursuit of specific locations within each park, take their picture in those locations, and submit pictures via Facebook, Twitter or email to enter. The Challenge started April 29 with the final winning entry submitted August 9.

Having entrants use Facebook, Twitter and email enabled the entries to be date and time stamped. The first entries for the challenge came in on May 1. There were 31 total entries in May, seven in June, nine in July and three in August for the total of 50 winning entrants.

The most visited state park amongst Challenge participants was Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park with 31 entrants taking pictures with the CCC Statue. Lake Sakakawea State Park and Fort Stevenson tied with 28 entrants. Cross Ranch had 24 participants take their picture in front of the Governor's Campground sign. All 13 ND State Parks were represented in the Challenge.

Amy Schimetz, Interpretive Naturalist at Lake Metigoshe State Park, coordinates the Challenges within the ND state parks. Among Challenge goals is creating incentive to get folks to North Dakota State Parks.

Prize packages went to the first 12 entrants successfully completing the challenge. Cabela's, Dickey's BBQ of Minot, Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, Capital RV, Roosevelt Park Zoo, Cenex, Dakota Screen Arts, Vallye Sport & Marine, Huff Hills, Bottineau Winter Park, Moritz Sport & Marine, Mandan Park District and Scheels sponsored the photo challenge. Sponsors provided items including gift cards, lodging, rental packages and day/season passes. Mark Zimmerman, NDPRD Director, donated a family membership to the Dakota Zoo in Bismarck. The North Dakota Parks and Recreation

Department is providing 2016 annual permits to the 50 winning entrants, in honor of the 50th anniversary. The permits will be mailed this fall and expire in May of 2017.

Information on the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department can be found online at [www.parkrec.nd.gov](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov).

Here is a list of the 50th Anniversary Photo Challenge winners along with where they are from and the date and time at which their entry was received:

- 1-Amy Zachmeier of Mandan, ND-May 1 11:39pm
- 2-Phyllis Dirk of Mandan, ND-May 1 11:53pm
- 3-Jason Byram of Bismarck, ND-May 2 1:18pm
- 4-Kyle Johnson of Kensal, ND-May 2 3:48pm
- 5-Derek Dodds of Minot, ND-May 3 2:57pm
- 6- Laura Wohl of Minot, ND-May 3 5:12pm
- 7-Jennifer Greuel of Bismarck, ND-May 3 5:40pm
- 8-Michael Middaugh of Jamestown, ND-May 4 9:21pm
- 9-Kelly Baker of Bismarck, ND-May 5 10:25a
- 10-Susan Janke of Bismarck, ND-May 15 10:30pm
- 11-Jack Burns of Grand Forks, ND-May 16 7:51am
- 12-Sherri Rassier of Grand Forks, ND-May 16 7:56pm
- 13-Gilbert Black of Grace City, ND-May 17 11:52am
- 14-Kesha Miller of Mayville, ND-May 17 8:49pm
- 15-David Lindee of New Town, ND-May 22 12:27pm
- 16-Ken Stroklund of Minot, ND-May 22 3:02pm
- 17-Ryan Norrell of Mandan, ND-May 25 2:54pm
- 18-Bryton Dewald of Jamestown, ND-May 25 6:58pm
- 19-Bret Frey of Jamestown, ND-May 25 6:58pm
- 20-Anastassia Joy Hofer of Minot, ND-May 25 7:33pm
- 21-Sophia Agudelo of Bismarck, ND-May 25 7:36pm
- 22-Cellest Hofer of Minot, ND-May 25 7:40pm
- 23-Marylin Aune of Devils Lake, ND-May 25 8:14pm
- 24-Megan Kadrmas of Mandan, ND-May 25 8:25pm
- 25-Izzy Ternes of Baldwin, ND-May 25 8:59pm
- 26-Jeffrey Pollard of Minot, ND-May 25 10:53pm
- 27-Rhonda Thompson of Minot, ND-May 27 4:44pm
- 28-Nicole Bauer Johnson of Carrington, ND-May 29 8:28pm
- 29-Emily Hahn of Kindred, ND-May 30 9:40pm
- 30-Katie Rostvedt Rooke of Williston, ND-May 31 11:37am
- 31-Emily Mercer of Bottineau, ND-May 31 12:04pm
- 32-Myron Johnson of Hazen, ND-June 1 12:38pm
- 33-Kimberly Roberts of Bismarck, ND-June 1 2:50pm
- 34-James Borkowski of Bottineau, ND-June 9 8:47pm
- 35-Thomas P Smith of Minot, ND-June 10 2:02pm
- 36-Amy Fagerstrom of Halstad, MN-June 18 5:15pm
- 37-Jamie Germundson of Stanley, ND-June 29 12:57pm
- 38-Harlan Germundson of Tioga, ND-June 29 10:13pm
- 39-Dorcas Sefcik of Minot, ND-July 3 7:36pm
- 40-Roxanne Horner of Edmore, ND-July 5 12:06pm
- 41-Dan Schraeder of Grand Forks, ND-July 5 7:34pm
- 42-Lyle Ripplinger of Bismarck, ND-July 7 8:32pm
- 43-Jay Wells of Williston, ND- July 12 4:58pm
- 44-Chase Schraeder of Grand Forks, ND-July 12 9:52pm
- 45-Anona Lundstrom of Finley, ND-July 16 2:30pm
- 46-Lori Germundson of Tioga, ND-July 20 10:59pm
- 47-Jolene Johnson of Cooperstown, ND-July 27 4:32pm
- 48-Diann Goldade of Bismarck, ND-August 3 8:40pm
- 49-Liz Kemp of Dunsieith, ND-August 4 5:48pm
- 50-Heather Undlin of Lansford, ND-August 9 9:52pm

## Honor Guard from page 9

giving those that have made the ultimate sacrifice.”

The trainers told the group they should have at least eight members in the honor guard. Lang had been unable to take part in the training, but expects to in the future. Two others have volunteered to participate, Lewis & Clark assistant manager Katie Ogden and Turtle River interim manager Joe Allen.

“We’re currently working on the Honor Guard manual. But we have it set up that the Honor Guard also be a funeral detail. If a department employee passes away or loses a family member at least two members of the Honor Guard will attend the funeral, at any time,” Robinson says.

Don’t expect to see the Honor Guard marching in any parades or events. The intent is for the group to participate in

funerals and a few very special events. Currently they are expecting to take part in the International Peace Garden’s 911 Memorial and the National Park Service’s 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event next August. Plans are for the Honor Guard to practice at least four times a year so they can stay sharp and don’t lose any of the knowledge and skills they have learned.

## Kirkey from page 3

from applicants for the position.

Kirkey has a History degree and English minor from Dickinson State University. He is originally from Wilton, ND living most of his life in Bismarck, ND. Prior to joining the LCIC staff, Kirkey worked at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park from 1990 to 2002, starting as a seasonal interpreter and eventually becoming the park’s full-time Park Historian.

“In 2002 we were just on the cusp of the Lewis and Clark bicentennial,” Kirkey says. “I thought the bicentennial observation of their (Lewis and Clark’s) explorations would have a significant role in America’s history and I wanted to get closer to that. They had a job opening so I applied. I was hired as a professional interpreter

to take them to the next level. I grew the interpretive program and trained the personnel.”

As Development Director Kirkey was involved in raising funds and developing the LCIC and Fort Mandan. Now, as Site Supervisor, Kirkey is responsible for all aspects of the operation, making the facilities the best they can be. He calls the LCIC and Fort Mandan “a world class” operation.

“We tell the story of Lewis and Clark in a variety of different ways and for different learning styles,” Kirkey says. “The center is one of the few places where you can actually see the same type of things that went on the expedition, stuff that Lewis and Clark used from scientific instruments to

toothbrushes. We also have great art including all of (Karl) Bodmer’s aquatints and rare George Catlin lithographs.”

In addition to the story related to Lewis and Clark, the LCIC houses exhibits featuring different North Dakota themes.

No big changes are being planned at the moment for the LCIC and Fort Mandan, according to Kirkey.

“We need some time to regroup, there have been a lot of ups and downs the last six months and things are starting to level out,” Kirkey says. “We’ve got some good people working up here that are important to operations and I can’t do it without them.”

## Tree plantings from page 10

Over 25 families participated in the department’s Donate a Tree Program. The Donate a Tree offers the opportunity for anyone who wants to give a gift that keeps growing. While a majority of the donors and recipients were from North Dakota, contributions came from as far away as California and Colorado. Donated trees offer families and friends and business associates an excel-

lent opportunity to commemorate loved ones and fellow employees while enhancing the natural beauty of North Dakota State Parks.

For the past two years the NDPRD has also been working with Enbridge Energy on a mitigation tree and shrub planting project. This partnership made it possible for the planting of over 12,500 trees and shrubs at Grahams

Island State Park. A project that involved countless staff hours and tree and shrub planting and maintenance costs of over \$100,000. Over 20 different tree and shrub species were used.

Trees are an integral part of our lives and an integral part of the state park experience. Partnerships and volunteers help make this experience memorable.

## Reservations from page 1

has worked well for us.”

There are four state parks (Fort Abraham Lincoln, Sullys Creek, Little Missouri and Fort Ransom) that cater to horseback riding. Reservations for horse campsites and corrals must be made directly at the park. These parks take reservations accordingly: Fort Abraham Lincoln and Fort Ransom state parks Feb. 16 to Sept. 25; Little Missouri Feb. 16 to Oct. 31; and Sully

Creek Feb. 16 to Nov. 30.

Reservations can be made up to 95-days in advance of arrival either online or through the call center. Reservations for the 2016 camping season open on Tuesday, Feb. 16, at 7 a.m. On that date all campsites at the state parks can be reserved with the same policies in place including the 95-day advance window and 14-night stay for recreational use. Cabins remain

100 percent reservable and are available for reservation a year in advance.

Reservation fees will be charged for those using the online or call line reservation methods. Park customers are not required to pay a reservation fee when they arrive at the park to rent an unoccupied site. Campsites may be reserved for a maximum of 14 nights in any 30-day period.

[www.parkrec.nd.gov](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov)



Headquarters: 1600 Century Ave. Suite #3, Bismarck, ND 58503  
Phone - 701.328.5357 • Camping Reservations 1.800.807.4723 • email [parkrec@nd.gov](mailto:parkrec@nd.gov)

# 2016 North Dakota State Park Annual Vehicle Permit Order Form

The 2016 Annual Vehicle Permit for North Dakota state parks can be ordered by mail at a cost of \$25 each. ND residents ages 65 and older can receive a discount price of \$20. Permits come with a card and envelope making them ideal for gift giving. Make checks or money orders payable to the ND Parks and Recreation Dept. and mail to:

**North Dakota Parks and Recreation Dept.  
1600 E. Century Ave., Suite 3  
Bismarck, ND 58503**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle license number(s) on which permit will be used:

Quantity	Cost	Total
_____ 2016 annual permit	\$25/each	\$ _____
_____ ND resident 65 and older <small>Date of birth required for senior discount.</small> _____ number gift envelopes	\$20/each	\$ _____

If permit is given as gift please provide the permit holder's above information

Disabled veterans and former POWs must apply in person at parks or Bismarck office to receive special discount.

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation encourages the use of its internet site [www.parkrec.nd.gov](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov) for the purchase of Annual Vehicle Permits. Secure sales can be made through either credit or debit cards online.



**North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department**  
1600 E. Century Ave., Suite 3  
Bismarck, ND 58503

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