

# Bluegrass Festival celebrates 25 years

Andrus recounts event's history at Cross Ranch State Park

By **CODY ARSO**  
NDPRD Intern

This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Missouri River Bluegrass Festival at Cross Ranch State Park which is being held June 19 -20.

The event took place for 20 consecutive years at Cross Ranch State Park, until the flood of 2011 closed the park that summer. The event bounced back the following summer of 2012 and has been held each year since.

The festival got its start in 1991 when Jesse Hanson, the park manager at the time, wanted the park to host an event that would help fill it up over the Labor Day weekend. The idea came about after Hansen heard the Bluegrass Association of North Dakota performing at the Gateway Mall in Bismarck. With the support of Center Community Club, the first Missouri River Bluegrass Festival took place.

“One of Jesse’s staff, Kathy Martin, was the organizing force that first year,” according to John Andrus, former president of the Bluegrass Association of ND. “They contacted me – I must have been president of the bluegrass association that year – and I sent them information on bluegrass musicians

they could hire and an article from Frets Magazine on how to start a bluegrass festival. One of the bands they hired was Crossroads, a band I played in.”

Every outdoor event has certain hurdles to overcome especially in its first

was the Kids’ Fest, designed to occupy the kids while the parents took in the concerts, etc. The first year was very well attended, as the only costs were a \$4 vehicle entrance fee and \$6 camping if they were staying,” Andrus said.

As the years went on the patterns began to emerge in regard to reoccurring successes and challenges, according to Andrus. “Weather has been the greatest challenge to the event. Some years, rain chased our crowds away; we also had three years in a row when the temperature was in the upper 90s. That just about put us under. The flood on the Missouri shut us down that summer. Flooding of the concert area has been a recent challenge.”

The festival has evolved over the years, as new volunteers and creative minds began getting involved.

“The first year was the biggest

attendance with the low cost and many people coming out of curiosity. Our attendance has dropped over the years. Three-to-four hundred is a nice crowd for us at this time. The first festival was Saturday and Sunday. We soon added a Friday night set of four hours of music with the last concert each night at 9:30

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year when there hasn’t been a formula for success established yet.

“The first festival had a distinct Chautauqua feel to it with speakers portraying Mark Twain and Clarence Darrow. In addition to the bluegrass music there was old-time country. They had an arts and crafts fair and a sand volleyball tournament. Also prominent

# Banding Saw-whets at Turtle River State Park

Tim Driscoll could be referred to as the “Birdman of Turtle River State Park” for all the work he’s done over the years on behalf of the feathered flyers in the park, but that might be considered “pigeon holing” a man of diverse talents who holds the title of Director of Urban Raptor Research in Grand Forks, ND, while also teaching statistics and Raptor Biology at University of Minnesota Crookston.

Late last year Driscoll took on the task of banding migrating owls, in particular the Northern Saw-Whet Owl. It was part of the class work for his Raptor Biology Course and he took a handful of students with him to a natural area near Crookston, MN, in mid-September to trap some of the birds.

“I don’t know if it was bad luck, bad weather or a combination of both,” Driscoll recounts. We went out three nights and didn’t catch anything. I thought we had good conditions, the Saw-whet likes to migrate when the moon is darker and it was in its first quarter. We chose another location, but only caught one.”

Driscoll then decided to bring his entourage to a familiar stomping ground, for him anyway, Turtle River State Park, just 20 miles west of Grand Forks. Park staff found the group a likely area to set up and allow them the use of the lower level of the chalet to keep the birds warm while they took measurements and

banded the owls.

“We went to Turtle River State Park. The conditions were right. The moon phase was right. The wind was calm. The first night we caught six, actually five because one slipped out of my hand,” Driscoll says. “We went back the next night and the park was having some activities and there were lights on and we didn’t get a nibble all night. We went back for four more nights and in 24 hours of trapping we caught 11 birds.”

The Northern Saw-whet owl is one of the smallest owls. The females are larger than the males. The length of the male is 18 to 20 centimeters and it weighs about 75 grams. The female is about 20-22 centimeters in length and weighs about 100 grams. The bird has a large head without ear tufts, yellow eyes, rounded wings and a relatively short tail. Not all Saw-whets migrate south in the winter, but a large number do, most likely young birds. The owls are forest dwellers that migrate at night. Their diet consists mostly of small mammals such as voles and deer mice. Saw-whets hunt from dusk to dawn and tend to nest in unoccupied woodpecker holes.

Driscoll notes that the time for the trapping should happen from mid-September through the end of October. His group went out at the end of October, at the end of the migration.



**A Saw-whet owl captured at Turtle River State Park last fall. Information was gathered by Tim Driscoll and a group of his students from University of Minnesota Crookston.**

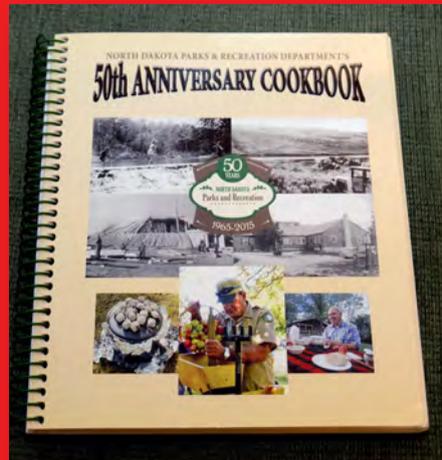
**Continued on page 7**

# 50th Anniversary Merchandise

For purchase at any North Dakota State Park or at the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Headquarters. Call 701-328-5357 or email [parkrec@nd.gov](mailto:parkrec@nd.gov).



Ceramic Cup with Anniversary Logo  
\$6  
Comes in 4 colors



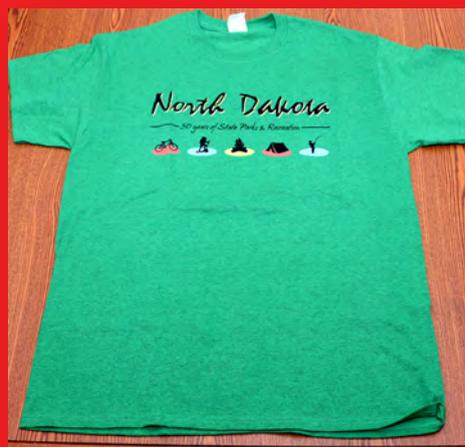
Parks and Recreation  
50th Anniversary Cookbook  
\$10



Roscoe the Raccoon  
Stuffed Animal  
\$10



Roscoe's Roast Coffee  
2 oz per bag  
\$4.50



50th Anniversary T-Shirt  
5 Colors  
Sizes: S, M, L, XL \$12  
XXL \$14



50th Anniversary  
Hooded Sweatshirt  
Sizes: M, L, XL \$27  
XXL \$29

These items can also be seen online at  
[www.parkrec.nd.gov](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov)

# 2015 Order Form

## North Dakota State Park Annual Vehicle Permit

The 2015 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
_____ 2015 annual permit	\$25/each	\$ _____
_____ ND resident 65 and older <small>Date of birth required for senior discount.</small>	\$20/each	\$ _____
_____ number gift envelopes		

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  
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# It's time to celebrate!

## ND Parks and Rec turns 50

After two years of planning it's time for the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) to implement its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary extravaganza starting with the May 1 kickoff event at the Heritage Center in Bismarck beginning at 1 p.m. and culminating with an event at the Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area near the end of September.

The May 1 kickoff event features speakers such as Lieutenant Governor Drew Wrigley, NDPRD Director Mark Zimmerman, State Historical Society Director Claudia Berg and North Dakota Forest Service Director Larry Kotchman. There will be a special recognition of past NDPRD directors; a

State Arbor Day tree planting ceremony; an ice cream social; and tours of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibit Trailer. A Governor's Proclamation recognizes 2015 as Parks and Recreation Year in North Dakota will be read and displayed. Following the event, at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park, all former department employees are invited to participate in a picnic.

Grahams Island State Park Manager Henry Duray and Assistant Field Manager Karen Assel are co-chairs of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. They helped guide the process which encompasses several facets.

Each state park is holding a one-day special event in recognition of the Department's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On Monday, May 25, the first of a dozen anniversary events, is being held at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park beginning at 12:30 p.m. Each event will feature free food and refreshments, the traveling exhibit, interpretive programs, gift giveaways, entertainment, parks tours and a special s'mores ice cream treat made by Pride Dairy especially for the NDPRD 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Nearly every weekend in June, July and August will have an event with the exception of the end of July when the Exhibit Trailer will be at the North Dakota State Fair from July 17 to 25.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibit Trailer has met with rave reviews having appeared at four sports shows and the North Dakota Travel Industry Conference. Over 2,000 people have

walked through the 30-foot trailer, many marveling at its exhibits. The exhibit will be making its way to the state parks this summer and will spend 10 days at the State Fair in July.

A lot of planning and work was put into the anniversary celebration. Here is a partial list of things that have been

accomplished. A great deal of the work was done by department personnel who dedicated countless hours to the anniversary.

- A history of the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department written by Marc Conrad.

- Creation of an anniversary logo which appears on the 2015 Annual Pass.

- Wrote appendices for the history featuring:

- State Park Committees; Development History; List of Directors and short biographies.

- North Dakota State Parks were featured in the 2015 Horizons calendar

- Developed an historical timeline.

- An archive created of all the photos taken of and by the department. Tens of thousands of slides and photos were scanned for a digital library.

- A list of department artifacts was compiled.

- Development of the Exhibit Trailer and its displays.

- Enlistment of Pride Dairy, Cloverdale Meats and Old Dutch to help sponsor park events.

- Coloring and photo contests.

- Merchandise for sale and giveaway recognizing the anniversary.

- Developed a video chronicling the department's 50 years.

- Created a section of the department's website

([www.parkrec.nd.gov](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov)) dedicated to the anniversary.

- Creation of a coloring book for youngsters.

- Developed and wrote stories for the State Historical Society magazine which is featuring NDPRD.

- Implementation of a tree donation and planting program.

(A calendar of NDPRD events is found on the inside back cover of this issue.)

50 <sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY TREE PLANTINGS		
Location	Date	Time
Fort Stevenson	Sat. June 6	Noon
Grahams Island	Sat. June 6	9:00 am
Lake Metigoshe	Sat. June 6	9:00 am
Turtle River	Sat. June 6	9:00 am
Beaver Lake	Sat. June 13	1:00 pm
Lewis & Clark	Sat. June 20	9:00 am
Lake Sakakawea	Sat. June 20	10:00 am
Fort Ransom	Sat. June 20	9:00 am
Icelandic	Sat. June 20	10:00 am
Fort Abraham Lincoln	Sun. June 28	2:00 pm
Cross Ranch	Sat. July 11	10:00 am



A pancake feed completed the event as syrup made from the park's trees was provided as the topping.

## *Syrup making at Fort Stevenson draws big crowd*

Fort Stevenson State Park introduced a new event that drew rave reviews from the nearly 250 people that participated. Manager Chad Trautman showed that Boxelder trees can provide syrup much the same as the more fabled Maple tree since the plants are in the same family.

School groups from South Prairie, Garrison and Underwood along with a home school group from Bismarck took part in a April 10 event held at the park. On April 11, another event, open to the public, was held for three groups of about 40 people at different times took part in the process of tapping the Boxelder trees. Trautman first explained the process and took the groups to the various trees being tapped for their syrup. He explained after the syrup is collected it has to be boiled down to its final state and ready for enjoyable consumption.

Ranger Jarod Matzke helped in the process. He explained that Trautman began making the syrup last year and decided to hold an event this year which ended up being very popular.

"The trees have to be about ten inches in diameter before you can start taking syrup from them," Matzke says. "On a good day a tree can produce up to three gallons of syrup."

To make a quart of the final product ten gallons of the syrup, taken from the tree, are need. It took the Fort Stevenson crew nearly eight hours to boil down the syrup to its final state at which point it has a honey type flavor.

Those that tasted the original syrup taken from the tree said it had an earthy or bark type flavor, according to Matzke.

"Next year we're considering holding a week-long festival and invite all the area schools to get involved," Matzke says. "The people who took part said they 'loved it' and will be sure to come back next year."

The event finished with everyone getting a chance to taste the syrup on some pancakes provided by the park with the help of a few volunteers.



Fort Stevenson State Park Manager Chad Trautman gives a lesson on syrup making in front of the park's iconic guardhouse.



Trautman shows how the collection containers are attached to the trees for syrup collection.



Participants in the special event get a close up look at how the Boxelder trees are tapped to collect the syrup.

## Coloring book and contest from page 8

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of my favorite things,” Cochran-Bjerke said, “My favorite page to create was Lake Metigoshe. I like drawing architecture and I really like historical buildings, but Lake Metigoshe is also the park where my husband and I got engaged. I have some good memories there.”

Schimetz first met Cochran-Bjerke at interpretive training her first year. Schimetz is responsible for putting on the seasonal interpretive training at Lake Metigoshe State Park every spring.

“I believe this will be her 3rd year at ISP. Maddy is very artistic and has created/painted a photo opportunity for

the department which was utilized at the state fair booth,” Schimetz said, “Maddy was contacted to see if this was something she was interested in doing. She said yes so we asked if she’d submit a couple samples of her work. We liked her style and we proceeded with the project.”

Schimetz created a general layout and got it approved of by the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary planning committee. The layout was then given to the artist and she was given free rein to create pages, with the provided photos being her inspiration.

“It usually took me about three days of sketching and editing to develop a single page. I like to set my work down for a day or so while editing before looking at it again so I can see it with fresh eyes and come up with ideas that might make the drawing better,” Cochran-Bjerke said.

“Maddy did a fantastic job creating the feel for each of the state parks and Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area. My personal favorites within the coloring book would be the pages that represent Fort Stevenson and Fort Ransom,” Schimetz said.

## Bluegrass Festival from page 2

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p.m. – when the darkness comes is a special time. After several years, our low Sunday attendance caused us to drop the Sunday Church service and gospel concerts,” Andrus said. “One thing that hasn’t changed is the music provided each year by the Center Community Band and local favorites the Pfliger Sisters. They have always been there for us!”

Jill Wiese, bass player for the North Dakotan bluegrass band Cotton Wood, has come forward to help lead the coordination of the festival now that Andrus has stepped down.

“As a band we have been involved for 14 years now. We were involved with it before and because of this festival we actually became a band I think. Lee Benjamin and myself had been attending the festival for years before we became a band,” Wiese said, “John and his entire family have put this on for the past 24 years and have worked so hard as well as to include so many people like us to volunteer and become musicians and even to form our band Cotton Wood.”

Being such a big part of this event over the years has had a lasting impact on both the festival and the Andrus family. “This event was a family highlight each year. Arlene was soon in charge of hospitality coordinating

bedding, snacks, and a memorable meal for the performers, volunteers, and park staff. Son Joe was always ready to jam and hangout with the young kids, and later to help unload and load sound equipment, and daughter Evie served as administrative assistant for several years -- she could easily run her own festival. Cross Ranch State Park is an important part of their lives. The park does a great job of hosting the event. I've enjoyed working with some great park managers over the years,” Andrus said.

The Bluegrass Association of North Dakota (B.A.N.D.) also steps up to help support the festival. The current Association and the two preceding ones (The Western North Dakota Bluegrass and Old Time Music Association and the Bluegrass and Old Time Music Association of North Dakota) have been in a supportive relationship with the festival since the first one in 1991.

“We have advertised in our newsletter and have provided volunteers to sell recordings and music-related stuff for the bands; to serve as performer hosts; and to provide the famous Saturday supper for the performers, park staff, and volunteers,” Andrus said.

Members of B.A.N.D. help in many different ways such as manning CD tables of different bands playing the festival, making meals and providing

care packages. “I am a member of B.A.N.D. But as far as promotion I, myself, have kind of taken that over the past couple of years by going on the radio, TV/ND Today show, Noon show etc. to get the good word out as much as possible,” Andrus said.

Tickets are \$15 dollars to attend Friday, \$20 Saturday, or \$30 for both Friday and Saturday. Anyone under the age of 16 is admitted free. Those attending are encouraged to bring comfy lawn chairs, bug spray and an instrument if they have one. There will be activities for children through-out the day, as-well-as free workshops to take part in.

“The ‘Learn a Bluegrass Song’ workshop was usually my highlight each year. I developed it and led it each year,” Andrus said. “Aspiring musicians are able to learn a little something from their bluegrass heroes. We play the song together at the end of the workshop somewhat as a bluegrass symphony with several of each instrument participating and it is always so good that we have to repeat it at least once. It’s a magical thing. If you plan to camp during the weekend of the festival bring flashlights for after the concerts and to help travel to or from any nighttime jam sessions.”

# 2015 Anniversary Events

Friday, May 1  
Kickoff at 1 p.m.  
Heritage Center, Bismarck

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Monday, May 25  
Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park

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Saturday, June 6  
Lake Metigoshe State Park

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Saturday, June 13  
Lake Sakakawea State Park

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Saturday, June 20  
Lewis and Clark State Park

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Saturday, June 27  
Grahams Island State Park

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Sunday, June 28  
Fort Stevenson State Park

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Saturday, July 4  
Icelandic State Park

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Saturday, July 11  
Cross Ranch State Park

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Sunday, August 2  
Beaver Lake State Park

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Saturday, August 8  
Turtle River State Park

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Saturday, August 15  
Fort Ransom State Park

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Saturday, September 26  
Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area

# Join the Celebration!

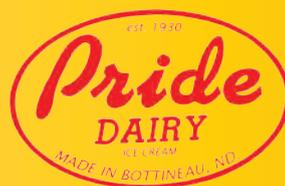


## Events feature

- Free food and Refreshments
- Entertainment
- Traveling Exhibit
- Park Tours
- Interpretive Programs
- Ice Cream
- Gift Giveaways
- and much more

All events begin at 12:30 p.m. and  
continue through the afternoon

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



All state parks have camping facilities. Make reservations by going online at [parkrec.nd.gov](http://parkrec.nd.gov) or calling 800-807-4723. The Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area does not have camping.



## Discover Spring/Summer 2015 Volume 20, Number 1

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## ND Parks and Recreation receives Tourism award



### NDPRD Field Manager Brad Pozarnsky and Director Mark Zimmerman accept the award from Department of Commerce Commissioner Al Anderson

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department was recognized at the North Dakota Travel Industry Conference, held April 20-22, as "Tourism Organization of the Year."

The Governor's Awards for Travel and Tourism are presented annually at the conference. The Tourism Organization of the Year award is presented to an organization which has demonstrated a positive impact on the local, regional or statewide tourism industry.

On hand to accept the award for the department were Director Mark Zimmerman and Field Manager Brad Pozarnsky. The award was presented by Department of Commerce Commissioner Al Anderson at the awards luncheon on April 22.

Amy Krueger, incoming President of Destination Marketing Association of North Dakota, noted that North Dakota Parks and Recreation is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2015 and that the state parks have served tens of millions of visitors in that time.

"We're proud to be a partner of the travel industry in North Dakota and on behalf of all the employees and volunteers of the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department I'm extremely happy to accept this award," NDPRD Director Mark Zimmerman said.

The award itself, was designed by Williston artist Eddie Wold. Eddie Wold Arts showcases unique ground metal and is a fine art studio specializing in home and commercial art. Unique vibrant colors are achieved through different techniques learned through more than ten years of experience in vehicle and motorcycle painting.

# Jorgenson leaves NDPRD

Carol Jorgenson had become a fixture in the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) administrative division, but last summer she decided it was time to retire having joined the office in August of 1976 and by fall Jorgenson was enjoying retirement.

Jorgenson grew up in the small community of Breien located on the Barton and Sioux county line. She graduated from Solen High School and earned a degree at Dickinson State College in Secondary Business Education graduating in 1976.

"I went to Job Service and applied for some different positions, but North Dakota Parks and Recreation was the first one that hired me and I stayed," Jorgenson reminisces. "Gary Leppard was director at that time and Craig Wallin, who was chief of administrative services, hired me."

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department was located at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park in the Museum Building when Jorgenson was hired. She would move with the department three more times, first to the Pinehurst addition in north Bismarck, then to the former Bank of North Dakota Student Loan Building and finally to the Century Building.

"When we moved to the Century Building I told everyone it would be the last move for me and by the time they moved again I would be retired,"



**Carol Jorgenson (left) with NDPRD Field Manager Brad Pozarnsky at the office retirement party held for Carol.**

Jorgenson recalls.

Over the nearly 40 years that Jorgenson was a member of the NDPRD she saw a lot of changes. Parks, equipment and staff all grew in size. Her favorite park remains Turtle River State Park, saying she enjoys the layout of the park located in eastern North Dakota and particularly favors the structures built by the Civilian Conservation Corps back in the 1930s.

"More positions were added, the Recreation Division took a bigger role, Snowmobile North Dakota became bigger, we added more parks and more seasonal employees," Jorgenson says. "The new parks included Fort Ransom State Park, Cross Ranch State Park and

the Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area."

While Jorgenson has only been retired for about six months, she says it's been great so far. "I have no regrets in retiring when I did and I highly recommend retirement to everyone," she says. "I'm still involved with Keeping North Dakota Clean and Earth Day and doing some odd jobs.

"I like where I'm at now and I'm enjoying life to its fullest," she says. "I do miss the people, the every day contact, but I don't miss the work part. I enjoyed watching the agency grow as it did over the years, that's probably my best memories."

## Kwapinski from page 4

"The Sodbusters and the National Scenic Byway are two of the main things that I'm proud of around here," Kwapinski says. "The last ten years we've been promoting our own local history involving the Fort and the settlement era.

"I'm totally proud of the staff I've had over the years. I've had good employees who have been the frontline troops in making the park what it is today," he adds. "Together we've created a quiet, peaceful place nestled in the scenic river valley. We added interpretive programs on the natural resources, birds and flowers. I've enjoyed working at the park, proud of what we started and where we got to. I'm turning a good park over to Tyler (Modlin, FRSP Park Manager)."

Kwapinski is looking forward to spending more time with

his collection of Pontiac GTOs, muscle cars out of the '60s.

"You might say I consider myself a GTO enthusiast, but I do like all Pontiacs," he says. "I've got several drivers and several that need restoration. One of the reasons I'm retiring early is to have time to do some restoration on these cars. I'll be going to a few more cars shows, which has been difficult while working in the park. I've also got some grandchildren that I want to spend more time with. I've got two sons who are both married. My youngest son just had his first child, born in February, and my oldest has three children ages six, four and two. They're within easy driving distance so we'll be making some visits."

# Coloring book, contest mark 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

By CODY ARSO  
NDPRD Intern

As part of the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary the department is holding a coloring contest and is issuing a coloring book.

Amy Schimetz, interpreter at Lake Metigoshe State Park, was tasked with coming up with 50th anniversary items for children.

"I thought a coloring booklet to represent each place we manage would be fun for our younger parks visitors (and me!), but would also be commemorative. Roscoe's coloring contest was also a given for me, as all youngsters like to see Roscoe at park and department events," Schimetz said.

The coloring contest picture of Roscoe is based on a sketch originally drawn by Sheryl Mink. Her husband, Larry Mink, was the department's first full-time naturalist. Mink's sketch was used in the NDPRD's first interpretive manual, printed in 1982. The drawing had to be updated as more parks were added to the park system..

In January 2014, Schimetz found estimates for printing costs for a 20 page coloring booklet. From January to April, she had the parks send her two to three pictures best representing their park with the intention of providing pictures to an artist and work with them to generate a coloring booklet. The overall layout of the coloring booklet was created in April of 2014, which included a front page with North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department's 50th logo on it, an artistic map of North Dakota showing state park locations.

Madigan Cochran-Bjerke illustrated the book and has been a seasonal interpreter at Icelandic State Park (ISP).

"I accepted this project because it sounded like it would be a lot of fun. I've always been interested in drawing and art and I really enjoy the North Dakota parks. This project was a really cool combo of two

Continued on page 9

## Contest rules

Roscoe, the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department's mascot, invites you to celebrate our 50th anniversary by coloring for a chance to win great camping toys, games and gear!

### Official Rules:

- Contest begins May 1, 2015 and ends September 30, 2015.
- Entries must be postmarked on or before September 30, 2015.
- Contest is open to kids up to and including 12 years of age, in the following four age divisions; 3 and under, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. Divisions will be based on child's age upon postmarked date of entry.
- Family members of department staff, full-time or seasonal, will not be eligible.
- One entry/person, no additional consideration will be given to additional entries. If there are more than one child in a household, each child may enter separately.
- No purchase is necessary to win.
- Failure to provide complete contact information and parent/guardian signatures below will void the entry.
- Participants may use coloring pencils, crayons and/or markers.
- ND Parks & Recreation Department is not responsible for any late, lost or damaged entries.
- Parent/Guardian signature is required for each entry.

### Judging:

- A panel of ND Parks & Recreation Department staff will select three winners in each age division during the first week of October.
- Entries will be judged on both creativity and artistic skill.
- Winners will be notified by mail and/or telephone once selected. Winners will also be announced on the ND Parks and Recreation Department's website as well as on social media. Feel free to like the ND Parks and Recreation Department's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/ndprd](http://www.facebook.com/ndprd) or by following us on Twitter @NDparkrec.
- Odds of winning a prize depends upon entries received.

### Prizes:

Prizes include age appropriate play sets, games and/or camping gear in addition to 50th anniversary merchandise for a prize package valued at \$50-\$100.



One of the drawings provided by Madigan Cochran-Bjerk for the anniversary coloring book.

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# NDPRD News from page 11

in the brochure to ND Parks & Recreation Dept., 1600 E Century Ave, Suite 3, Bismarck, ND 58503. Checks and money orders can be made payable to North Dakota Parks and Recreation.

Upon receipt of your donation, you will be contacted by a department staff representative about the planting details. Donors and recipients are welcome to attend and assist with the planting.

## Travelling exhibit debuts

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department participated in five North Dakota Sports Shows this spring. The shows came on five consecutive weekends running from February to March -- Bismarck Tribune Sports

Show, Grand Forks Men's Show, The Red River Valley Sports and Recreation Show and the Williston Sports and Recreation Show.

The 50th Anniversary Travelling exhibit appeared at four of the five shows (the exception being the Red River Valley Show in Fargo). Over 2,000 people toured the exhibit during the four shows.

This summer the travelling exhibit will be participating in the anniversary events being held at the Kickoff Event, May 1, and at the individual events being held at the state parks. The exhibit will also be at the North Dakota State Fair being held in Minot July 17-26, be sure to look for it.



The NDPRD Anniversary Exhibit drew a lot of interest at North Dakota Sports Shows this spring

ND Parks & Recreation Department presents.....

## 50th Anniversary Photo Challenge

Travel to four ND state parks, search for specific locations, pose for a photo and enter via email, Facebook or Twitter for your chance to win awesome prizes that are fun for your whole family! Use your smartphone to scan the QR codes or visit [www.parkrec.nd.gov](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov) for additional information about each of the parks' unique locations.



### Official Challenge Rules:

- Participants are to visit four ND state parks, search for specific locations within those parks (see reverse side) and take a photo of themselves, making sure the item is visible somewhere within the photo. Multiple people may be within the photos, but the entrant must be in all four of the photos to prove their state park visits.
- Contest will begin at 12:00am on April 29, 2015 and will end at 11:59pm on September 7, 2015; any entries before or after such dates/times will be void.
- Challenge is open to all park users; ND Parks & Recreation Department staff, permanent or seasonal, and their immediate family members are not eligible.
- Photos entered may be utilized on North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department Facebook and/or Twitter accounts.
- ND state parks include: Lewis & Clark, Lake Sakakawea, Fort Stevenson, Cross Ranch, Fort Abraham Lincoln, Lake Metigoshe, Sully Creek, Little Missouri, Fort Ransom, Beaver Lake, Turtle River, Grahams Island and Icelandic.
- Challenge participants do not need to visit their four chosen state parks in any specific order or combination.
- Limit one entry per household.

### To Enter:

- The four photos representing proof pertaining to the 50th Anniversary Photo Challenge as described above must be Tweeted using #NDPRD50Challenge, via Twitter by sharing your four photos and tagging @NDparkrec. You may also choose to direct message us through Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ndprd](http://www.facebook.com/ndprd) or email your entry photos to [pnr50th@nd.gov](mailto:pnr50th@nd.gov).
- All four pictures must be sent together within the same Tweet, Facebook message or email; entries with a lesser number of pictures will void the entry.
- Additional consideration will not be given to additional parks visited or additional photos entered.
- If entering via email, include your full name, mailing address and phone number with your entry. Those entering via Facebook or Twitter, we will notify you should you be one of the first 50 entrants and request your contact information at that time.
- Failing to provide complete contact information within 14 days of notification will void an entry with the prize being awarded to the next entrant.
- The 50th Anniversary Photo Challenge is sponsored by North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department and is no way sponsored, endorsed or administered by, or associated with, Facebook or Twitter.

### Prizes:

The first 12 entrants that complete the challenge by submitting the required photos according to the official rules will have a chance to win these additional prizes:

- 4 Raging Rivers Water Park Day Passes (Mandan, ND)—Mandan Parks & Recreation and Family Membership to the Dakota Zoo (Bismarck, ND)—Mark Zimmerman, Director of the ND Parks & Recreation Department
- 4 Round Trip Tickets on the Fort Lincoln Trolley (Mandan, ND)—Fort Lincoln Trolley Company, 1 Adult Ski Package—Huff Hills Ski Area (S of Mandan, ND) and \$100 Cenex Gift Card—Cenex
- 4 Raging Rivers Water Park Day Passes (Mandan, ND)—Mandan Parks & Recreation and \$150 SCHEELS Gift Card—SCHEELS
- \$200 SCHEELS Gift Card—SCHEELS
- Zip Ski Inflatable—Moritz Sport & Marine and \$150 SCHEELS gift cards—SCHEELS
- 2 tickets to the Pitchfork Fondue, Medora Musical and the Theodore Roosevelt Salute Show (Medora, ND)—Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation
- 6-2 hour tubing excursions at Bottineau Winter Park (Bottineau, ND) - Bottineau Winter Park and \$150 Cenex Gift Card—Cenex
- 2 Rounds of Golf at Bully Pulpit and 1 Night Lodging (Medora, ND) —Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation
- Water Sports Package—Valley Sport & Marine, Director's Chair—Capital RV and ND Parks & Recreation Department 50th Anniversary Jacket—Dakota Screen Arts
- \$200 Cabela's gift cards—Cabela's
- Roosevelt Park Zoo Family Membership—Roosevelt Park Zoo (Minot, ND)/Dickey's BBQ XL Family Pack Meal for 6-8-Dickey's BBQ (Minot, ND) and \$100 Cenex Gift Card—Cenex
- \$100 gift certificate to the Bottineau Winter Park (Bottineau, ND)—Bottineau Winter Park and \$150 Cenex Gift Cards—Cenex

The first 50 entrants that follow the official contest rules receive a 2016 ND Parks & Recreation Department annual pass, providing free entrance to all ND state parks.

## Thanks to our Sponsors!



**N** **PARKS**

**D**



**RECREATION**

# Fort Ransom State Park manager retires

Upon earning a degree in Forest Recreation, John Kwapinski decided to make his way to Montana to find a job where he could put his education to good use. But as fate would have it, as John passed through North Dakota he found a seasonal position at Lake Sakakawea State Park.

"I was hired in April of 1978 at Lake Sakakawea State Park by a man named Roger Bowman. I planned to work that summer and then continue on to Montana," Kwapinski recalls. "While I was there a fellow they had hired was supposed to go out and run Little Missouri State Park which was a satellite of Lake Sakakawea State Park. But he got a job at Roosevelt National Park, so Roger sent me out there."

Kwapinski returned to Lake Sakakawea State Park at the end of the season at which time Bowman was looking for his own replacement. He kept John as a seasonal to help with some remodeling. Bowman found his replacement in John Tunge and Tunge hired Kwapinski as his permanent ranger. In August of 1983, Kwapinski applied for the manager job at Fort Ransom State Park and got the nod.

"I thought it was a wonderful place," Kwapinski says of Fort Ransom State Park. "It felt right. I liked the people, the natural resources, the community and the park. It reminded me of my home in Upstate New York."

Also, while Kwapinski was at Lake Sakakawea State Park working his way up the ladder at the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD), he met a seasonal from Underwood, ND and it wasn't much longer and he married Kathy. They've been at Fort Ransom State Park since 1983, John working at the park and Kathy as a teacher in Fort Ransom. They're both retiring this year.

"As of April 1 I will be unemployed and retired. Kathy has been teaching for 27 years and is going to retire, too," Kwapinski says. "We've bought a house in Fort Ransom, so we'll be sticking around. We're both looking for some jobs that are less stressful and don't have a demanding schedule."

Kwapinski admits he'll miss the park visitors, but he'll still be around to enjoy the park's resources.

"I'll miss the shop, it's a nice warm place to be in the winter," he says. "I'll still get to see my friends at the park and use its resources, but it will be on a recreational basis and not that I'm working there. Kathy is treasurer for the Sodbusters (Association) and I'll still be around to help out here and there. I'll still be making the apple cider and I'll still be involved."

Kwapinski helped organize the Fort Ransom Sodbuster Association back in 1984 as part of the North Dakota Centennial effort. The Sodbuster Organization is a "fun



**John Kwapinski**

group," according to Kwapinski, and is important to the park.

"Starting the Sodbusters and their association with the park is a key to the park's success," Kwapinski says. "The Sodbuster events we put on take a lot of work. We'll have about 180 volunteers helping with Sodbuster Days. It was because of their enthusiasm that NDPRD Director Doug Aiken wanted to promote the park. At that time, we just had a gravel road leading to the park, but the Director was able to get the Department of Transportation to put in pavement. It was the community's support that made that possible."

Fort Ransom State Park looks much different than when Kwapinski first arrived. The campground trees were only knee high and now they tower over the campsites providing much needed shade from the summer sun. There's the Sunne Demonstration farm which has been maintained and added to with the help of the Sodbusters. Each year it plays host to thousands of visitors for the twice-annual Sodbuster Days.

The park is also recognized for the Sheyenne River Valley National Scenic Byway and has collected awards for the interpretive signing, according to Kwapinski.

**Continued on page 4**

## Saw-whets from page 7

“Next year, can you imagine what we can do if we get started at the beginning of October?” he says. “We’re all fired up for next fall. We usually have about 10 to 15 people taking part. Some are students, some are people that come along with the students.”

Trapping is done with a mist net which is hung up between two poles, Driscoll describes. “It’s like a volleyball net but it has pockets in it. When the bird hits the net, it gets tangled in the net. Sounds goofy, but it works. We use a male breeding call to bring the birds in. We broadcast at about 100 decibels, loud enough to hurt your ears if you’re close by. The theory is that the birds flying overhead hear the male calling and figure he has food so they come down to check it out. The caller is placed in the middle of the nets, the owls don’t see the nets and fly into them. Using a spring mating call in the fall is sort of strange, but they come in. We used to do it without a caller, but we’ve caught a lot more with it.

“Once we catch them, we have to get them out of the net which is hard to do in the dark and they’ve got those talons moving around. None of the birds got hurt, but we don’t want to shine a light,” Driscoll continues. “We put them in small cans with holes at the bottom. Once we slide them in it calms them down. Then we brought them into the chalet where we keep track of the date, the species of bird, sex, mass, length, length of beak, tail mass and fat. We certainly had a lot more young birds, which seems to indicate the older birds are staying put or they’re too smart for the traps.”

TRSP Ranger Joe Allen says Driscoll invited him and his son to participate in the process next year and they’re planning on taking part.

“He (Driscoll) is a welcome face around here. He works with all kinds of raptors – hawks, owls, eagles. He’s well

known in the Grand Forks area,” Allen says. “Last fall we pointed his group to a good spot and provided accommodations for them to do their work. It’s outside our normal park stuff, but they’re not a bother. Driscoll is a tall, lanky, silver-haired guy who is very nice, charismatic and enthusiastic

about all things birds. He usually has quite a cadre of volunteers with him. He’s a pretty neat guy.”

Driscoll keeps the park updated on what he’s seeing as far as the birds go, according to Allen. “He always got some good stories and is a fun guy to be around. We’ve talked to him about doing some interpretive things in the summer and he’s always interested in helping out.”

Park Manager Steve Crandall is a long-time acquaintance of Driscoll. The two men attended the University of North Dakota at the same time in their younger days.

“I’ve known Tim for years,” Crandall says. “He’s been coming out to Turtle River State Park for a long time and has done a lot of

things regarding birds out here. He redeveloped the park’s bird list and still manages it. He created the Blue Bird Trail and helped build 65 Blue Bird birdhouses for us. When he gets into something he immerses himself in it. Tim used to be big into bicycling and did some cross country rides. He also took part in CANDISC for a number of years. He bands falcons every year and is well known for his work with peregrines in Grand Forks.”

Driscoll started bird watching in 2001, he says, becoming a master bander in 2008.

“A community education course got me started,” Driscoll remembers. “I started banding on owls and Merlins. My favorite bird tends to be the last one I caught. Coopers hawks are really cool and peregrine falcons, too. Turtle River State Park has been fantastic to me. I’ve known Steve (Crandall) for years. Both he and Joe (Allen) couldn’t have been more agreeable and helpful.”



**Tim Driscoll with a Redtail hawk, one of the many raptors he’s captured to study. Photo courtesy Brad Dokken, Grand Forks Herald.**

# NDPRD News

## NDPRD employee changes

In the past several months the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department has seen some changes throughout the system.

**Wade Elsner** became Maintenance Supervisor at Fort Stevenson State Park on April 1 of this year.

On January 20 of this year **Brendan Ternes** joined the Planning Division as Maintenance and Project Supervisor.

**Tyler Modlin** was promoted on March 1 from Fort Stevenson State Park Maintenance Supervisor II to Park Manager at Fort Ransom State Park.

**Christopher Lee**, former Park Ranger at Beaver Lake State Park became Park Ranger at Lake Sakakawea State Park on

February 1.

**Jarod Matzke**, Park Ranger at Cross Ranch State Park became Park Ranger at Fort Stevenson State Park on Nov. 11, 2014.

## Lake Renwick Dam road now open to visitors

A reminder for all those planning to visit Icelandic State Park that work on the Lake Renwick Dam is complete and the road from the entrance to the beach and campground is now open.

The project to retrofit the dam started in 2010 and was expected to be completed within a year or two. Those visiting the park had to use a detour to

reach the beach and campground areas via a graveled county road.

Work on the dam was completed late last fall and the road on the dam's west side was opened.

## Tree donations

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department continues to look for support of its 50th anniversary celebration tree and shrub plantings across North Dakota's 13 state parks.

To donate a tree you can contact NDPRD staff at (701) 328-5370 to discuss donation options and choices. You can request a brochure outlining the program and fill out the form included

**Continued on page 12**



**50 YEARS**  
NORTH DAKOTA  
Parks and Recreation  
1965-2015

*Travel to four ND state parks, search for specific locations, pose for a photo and enter via email, Facebook or Twitter for your chance to win! The first 50 entrants win 2016 annual passes to the ND state parks. The first 12 entrants win additional prize packages, which include Scheels gift cards, Medora vacation packages, Dickey's BBQ, Raging Rivers Waterpark passes, Roosevelt Park Zoo membership, Cabela's gift cards, Cenex gift cards and more! Use your smartphone to scan the QR codes for additional information about each location.*

## 2015 Photo Challenge





**Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park**




<p><b>Lake Sakakawea State Park</b></p>  	<p><b>Fort Ransom State Park</b></p>  	<p><b>Little Missouri State Park</b></p>  	<p><b>Sully Creek State Park</b></p>  	<p><b>Fort Stevenson State Park</b></p>  	<p><b>Lewis &amp; Clark State Park</b></p>  
<p><b>Beaver Lake State Park</b></p>  	<p><b>Turtle River State Park</b></p>  	<p><b>Cross Ranch State Park</b></p>  	<p><b>Grahams Island State Park</b></p>  	<p><b>Lake Metigoshe State Park</b></p>  	<p><b>Icelandic State Park</b></p>  