

DISCOVER



NORTH DAKOTA PARKS AND RECREATION NEWS

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 1 WWW.PARKREC.ND.GOV SPRING/SUMMER 2013



Scouts lend a helping hand

About 30 Boy Scouts and their Bismarck Troop 73 leaders descended on Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park on Saturday, May 18 to help plant some 500 new trees and bushes in the campground area. FALSP lost about 100 trees to the 2011 flooding of the Missouri River.

State park Camping Challenge

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) is hosting the North Dakota State Park Camping Challenge running May 1 to Oct. 1, 2013.

North Dakota State Parks provide great opportunities to camp, relax, tour historic sites, geocache, participate in water sports, learn about the outdoors and much, much more. The NDPRD invites everyone to visit North Dakota's state parks and the Camping Challenge provides an extra incentive to stay overnight and really experience the great outdoors.

To accept the challenge, participants need to travel to and camp at any of North Dakota's 13 state parks during the contest dates. To prove they've been camping at the park, participants must submit their used camping permits. Submitted permits – self-registered or park staff issued – have a number, name of the park, must include the date of stay, and participant contact information. Stays in state park cabins and yurts do not qualify for the contest.

Camping Challenge page 7

News from the director

A look at the 2013 ND Legislative Session

The 2013 North Dakota Legislative Session was a record breaker in many ways and an exciting one for the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department. Lawmakers took their time with the NDPRD appropriations bill and it wasn't until the eleventh hour that we knew what we had... but it was well worth the wait.

There were many provisions in House Bill 1019 that provides funding for NDPRD. I'm going to take this opportunity to highlight the provisions of this legislation having positive, and in some instances, exciting impacts on state parks and recreation programs.

Several capital construction projects were approved by the Legislature including:

A new Visitor's Center at Fort Stevenson State Park—a much needed facility at one of the NDPRD's busiest parks. It will provide a convenient location to pull off and check in for



**NDPRD
Director
Mark
Zimmerman**

Completion of the interpretive exhibit panels at Icelandic State Park's Heritage Center. A long overdue project to complete the outstanding work and partnership of the North East North Dakota Heritage Association.

The Department also receives funding for one-time extraordinary repair projects and funding for the operation of a seasonal trail crew.

Overall, NDPRD continues to receive the support of the Governor's Office and the Legislature for the operations and improvements at state parks and for Recreation Division programs. I encourage you to visit with your local legislators, thanking them for their past and ongoing support of NDPRD.

As I compose this article several of the parks are already under a burn ban while others are still experiencing ice on the lake! But the calendar says spring has arrived and summer is not far behind. Get out and enjoy the North Dakota great outdoors!



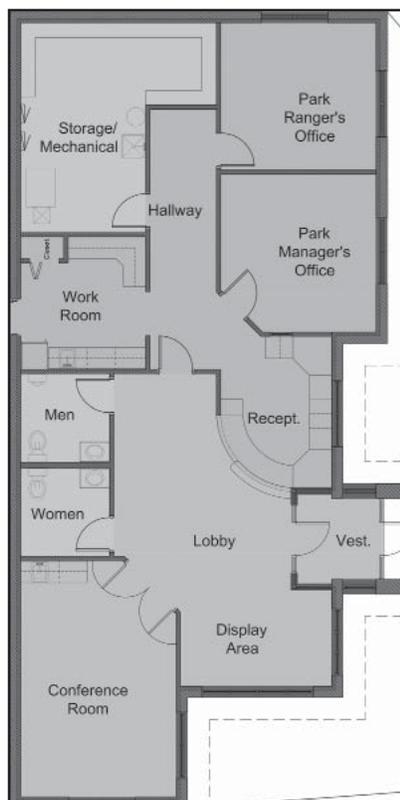
Rendition of the inside and outside of the new Fort Stevenson State Park Visitor Center.

camping and special events.

Bathroom and shower facility at Lake Sakakawea State Park—a replacement for the "solar shower"—a facility that has been around for a long time and needs to be replaced.

Road repairs at Lake Metigoshe State Park—a rework of most of the park's roads to better serve campers and visitors to the park.

Campground expansion at Lewis and Clark State Park—adding an additional campground loop as this park continues to experience increased camper numbers and day visitors.



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Music returns to CRSP this summer

Bluegrass returns to Cross Ranch State Park so grab your lawn chair and come on out for some of the best entertainment that can be found outside under the cottonwoods.

First up is the 22nd Annual Missouri River Bluegrass Festival, June 14-15. This year's headliners are David Davis & the Warrior River Boys from Alabama; Minnesota's Bartons Hollow; and Andra Suchy. Performances start Friday at 6 p.m. and run until 10 p.m. On Saturday, it's a full day affair, with an open stage starting at 10 a.m. and regular performances concluding at 10 p.m. Prices are \$15 for Friday, \$20 for Saturday, and \$30 for both days. There will also be Kids Fest featuring various activities and games for the youngsters – times had yet to be determined as of the writing of this article.

On July 20, the Bluegrass Goes Pink festival makes its second appearance at Cross Ranch State Park. Featured is Nu-Blue from North Carolina. The group is making its 10th anniversary tour.



The Cottonwoods will be alive with music this summer at CRSP.

Also appearing is local favorite and Cross Ranch regular Cotton Wood. The concert, which promotes bluegrass music and

Cancer awareness, is in memory of Kevin Frosaker. Part of the proceeds will go to the Bismarck Cancer Center Foundation. In case of inclement weather, the concert will be held at the Washburn United Methodist Church. Tickets for the concert are \$10 and kids ages 12 and under are admitted free.

Following the flood of 2011, Cotton Wood held a special concert at Cross Ranch State Park on Labor Day signaling the reopening of the park after having been closed for most of the summer as the Missouri River shutdown the park's campground. The response to the concert was so great that Cotton Wood, hailing from nearby Washburn, returned in 2012 for another Labor Day concert. Expectations are the group will be back on Labor Day in 2013.

For information about Cross Ranch State Park or to make camping reservations go online at www.parkrec.nd.gov.

Smoke-free pilot program debuts at ISP

With the passage of Measure 4 in 2012, smoking is not allowed in North Dakota public buildings or within 20 feet of the entrance of a public building. This also pertains to structures within state parks whether it be a visitor center, cabin, comfort station or vault toilet.

Icelandic State Park is taking it a step further, and through a pilot program, is prohibiting smoking in certain outdoor open areas. This year smoking will not be allowed on the beach, adjacent grassy picnic area or the amphitheater, according to manager Justin Robinson.

Not only is the second-hand smoke a problem in crowded open areas, but cigarette butts on the ground are unsightly and a safety hazard for children and the area's wildlife.

"The staff tries to pick up all the trash including the butts, but with so many they're not always 100 percent successful," Robinson says. "We've found that geese and ducks eat the butts, which is unhealthy for them. Small kids also tend to pick up the butts and sometimes

it ends up in their mouth, something we don't want at all. We're just trying to create a cleaner, healthier environment for all the parks campers and visitors."

The no smoking regulations go into effect immediately and signs will be put up indicating no smoking areas. Staff will be on the outlook for people smoking in areas where it is prohibited.

"We will be following the same guidelines for enforcement as outlined in Measure 4," Robinson explains. "For a first violation we'll ask the offender to put it out. On a second offense, the person can be asked to leave the park. On a third, the person could be cited for the offense."

While enforcement does create an extra task for staff, Robinson notes that visitors and campers are often self-governing and if someone is doing something unsafe, or not abiding by the rules, will handle matters themselves.

"Our staff always has a positive demeanor and will take a positive approach when confronting someone about not

smoking," Robinson says. "Often time, when something is wrong, visitors will tell us. We're not going to keep binoculars on people using the beach, but we'll know when something is wrong."

"The county health department has been of great help in dealing with smoking," Robinson says. The health department donated about \$1,100 worth of cigarette dispensers to the park which will be placed about 20 feet away from no-smoking areas to aid litter control.

The first part of the park's implementation of the no-smoking will be educating visitors, Robinson says. Icelandic State Park has a lot of out-of-state visitors that may be unaware of the regulations. Nearly 55 percent of ISP's campers come from Canada.

"We want all campers and visitors to be aware of what the rules are," Robinson says. "We'll be posting informational pieces and signs indicating no-smoking areas."

North Dakota State Parks

2013 Special Events Calendar

May

25-27: *Sky Fest*

Fort Stevenson State Park

27: *Military Appreciation Day* (all parks). In honor of the United State Armed Services, military veterans and current personnel are admitted free to any state park on Memorial Day.

31-June 2: *Hit the Trail Weekend*

Lake Metigoshe State Park

June

2: *National Trails Day*

Icelandic, Fort Ransom, Lake Sakakawea, Beaver Lake, Grahams Island and Fort Stevenson state parks.

7: *Halloween in June*

Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park

8: *National Marina Day*

Fort Stevenson State Park



Cross Ranch State Park Missouri Bluegrass Festival.

8: *Saturday Night at the Hall*

Icelandic State Park

8: *Friends' Picnic*

Lewis and Clark State Park

14-15: *Missouri River Bluegrass Festival*

Cross Ranch State Park

15: *Turtle Fest*

Turtle River State Park



Fort Ransom State Park Sodbusters Days.

22: *Great American Backyard Campout*

Lake Metigoshe State Park

22-23: *Frontier Military Days*

Fort Stevenson State Park

23: *Visitor Appreciation Day*

Fort Stevenson State Park

29-30: *Badlands Bass Bandits Tournament*

Lake Sakakawea State Park

July

4: *Independence Day Celebration*

Fort Stevenson State Park

5-7: *Fun in the Sun Weekend*

Lake Metigoshe State Park

13-14: *Fort Ransom Sodbuster Days*

Fort Ransom State Park

19: *National Moth Week*

Turtle River State Park

19-20: *Governor's Cup Fishing Tournament*

Fort Stevenson State Park.

19-20: *Christmas in July*

Lewis and Clark State Park

19-21: *Christmas in July*

Icelandic State Park

20: *Junior Governor's Cup Fishing Tournament*

Fort Stevenson State Park.



Icelandic State Park Christmas In July

- 20:** *Bluegrass Goes Pink*
Cross Ranch State Park
- 21-22:** *Devils Lake Chamber Walleye Tournament*
Grahams Island State Park
- 26-28:** *GTO Cruise*
Fort Ransom State Park
- 26:** *Halloween in July*
Lake Metigoshe State Park

August

- 2-4:** *Cabela's Master Walleye Circuit Tournament*
Grahams Island State Park
- 2-4:** *Outdoor Feast Weekend*
Lake Metigoshe State Park
- 3:** *BNI Coal "Walleye Classic"*
Lake Sakakawea State Park
- 3-10:** *CANDISC Tour 2013*
Garrison/Fort Stevenson State Park
- 4:** *Visitors Appreciation Day*
Fort Ransom State Park
- 9-11:** *Becoming an Outdoors Woman*
Lake Metigoshe State Park
- 9-11:** *Kids' Weekend*
Icelandic State Park
- 10:** *Bioblitz*
Turtle River State Park
- 17:** *Great Planers Trout & Salmon Derby*
Lake Sakakawea State Park

- 17:** *Campground Corn Feed*
Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park
- 17:** *Birthday Celebration*
Turtle River State Park
- 24:** *All Star Football Weekend*
Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park
- 24:** *Beach Party*
Fort Stevenson State Park
- 24-25:** *END 24 Hour Adventure Race*
Pembina Gorge

September

- 7-8:** *Pioneer Machinery Show*
Icelandic State Park
- 7-8:** *Fort Ransom Sodbuster Days*
Fort Ransom State Park
- 19-21:** *Cabela's National Walleye Tour Tournament*
Grahams Island State Park
- 28:** *National Public Lands Day*
Beaver Lake State Park
- 29:** *Badlands Bass Bandits Tournament*
Lake Sakakawea State Park

October

- 12:** *Haunted Fort*
Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park
- 18-20:** *Haunted Fort*
Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park
- 25-27:** *Haunted Fort*
Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park
- 30-31:** *Haunted Fort*
Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park



Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park Haunted Fort.

Manages park for 21 years **Fort Stevenson's Messerly retires**

Richard "Dick" Messerly found his dream job when the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department hired him to manage Fort Stevenson State Park (FSSP) in 1992 and he lived the dream for 21 years, but is now hanging up his campaign hat as he begins retirement.

Another reason FSSP is a crowd favorite is the events it puts on, nearly all coming under Messerly's watch.

"We started a lot of good events," Messerly says. "There's Sky Dance Sakakawea (a kite flying event), a mini triathlon we put on for several years, Cycling Around North Dakota In Sakakawea

"Of course the campground has been improved and the new north loop that provides 30 nice pull through sites with water, electricity and sewer," Messerly says. "The Guard House provide an identity for the park, but it wouldn't have been possible without the help of the community of Garrison and the FSSP Foundation."

Messerly always worked closely with the community of Garrison and was a member of the Chamber of Commerce for years. He was honored by Garrison at a special event in his honor at the end of May. The NDPRD also recognized Messerly's years of service with an in-house gathering. Messerly is recipient of the NDPRD's highest award the "Cal Renner Award of Excellence" which he received in 2009.

Prior to becoming FSSP's manager Messerly was a building contractor for 10 years and before that a park manager for an Iowa county park.

"I had studied parks and recreation management in college when I graduated in 1971, but I would have never imagined I would turn 40 before I found my dream job," Messerly says. "I can't say enough good things about my opportunity to work for North Dakota State Parks."

Since he can't stay living in the park, Messerly and his wife are moving to Minot, but it will only be temporary as they own three acres just north of Fort Stevenson State Park where they plan to build a home.

"I want to get back into bicycling for recreation rather than running the CANDISC and I'd like to do more outdoor activity like canoeing and kayaking. Our grandkids live out of state and we'll be visiting them more," he says about his future plans. "It's been a great career. I will miss the people I got to associate with... that's a big thing. I've made so many good friends. I'll also miss working hand-in-hand with the people of Garrison and working with my peers, the other park managers and staff that I've known for 20 years."



FSSP Manager Dick Messerly (front right) and a few of his contemporaries: ISP Manager Justin Robinson (front left), FALSP Ranger Maureen Trnka (standing left), Motorized Recreation Coordinator Eric Dietrich (center) and LMSP Ranger Bill Demming (standing right).

During Messerly's tenure FSSP has seen a lot of changes. The 549-acre park located just south of the community of Garrison on the shores of Lake Sakakawea, is the state park system's most popular with over 150,000 visitors annually. It has something for everyone combining unique features involving historical significance, nature appreciation, and lake access.

Country (CANDISC), Frontier Military Days and Beach Party to name a few."

FSSP has also seen a lot of improvements in Messerly's 20-plus years including the Guard House Interpretive Center, three camper cabins, two nice sets of playground equipment and the new marina which provides access to Lake Sakakawea no matter what level it's at.

Clark retires after 25 years with NDPRD

Long-time park ranger Dennis Clark retired from the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department this spring after 25 years of service.

Clark's career with NDPRD began in 1984 when he was hired as a summer employee at Fort Ransom State Park. He worked seasonally for a few years and in May of 1988 was promoted to a Supervisory Ranger position. Over the past 25 years of full-time service, Clark worked in five of the NDPRD system parks including Fort Ransom



Clark

State park, Beaver Lake State Park, Cross Ranch State Park, Little Missouri State Park and Icelandic State Park. Clark has held various positions

from seasonal interpreter and ranger to park manager. He has also served on a variety of state-wide committees, maintained his North Dakota Peace Officers Standards, is a wildland firefighter and holds a number of other certifications.

In April, Icelandic State Park celebrated his career with an open house reception. While Clark has retired from the NDPRD, he hasn't left park service and is now work at the Yellowstone National Park Reservation Call Center.

Changes abound among NDPRD staff

There have been a lot of personnel changes this spring among the ranks of the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) spurred by retirements and employees taking on new jobs.

At NDPRD Headquarters in Bismarck, Recreation Division Manager Arik Spencer, Business Manager Dorothy Streyle, and IT coordinator Lara Anderson have left. Matt Gardner, was promoted from NDPRD Motorized Education to replace Spencer, while Eric Godel steps in for Anderson and former Burleigh County Human Resources Director Renae Gall was hired as Business Manager and starts June 3.

Retirements in the parks included Fort Stevenson State Park (FSSP) Manager Dick Messerly, long-time NDPRD Ranger Dennis Clark (ISP) and Lewis and Clark State Park (LCSP) Maintenance Dave Bauer. This created a domino effect as several park employees switched places.

NDPRD Ranger Chad Trautman

was promoted to manager at FSSP and LCSP Ranger Dan Ryba filled Trautman's position. Cross Ranch State Park's seasonal ranger Ryan Gardner was promoted to full-time ranger at LCSP. Char Binstock, a former NDPRD seasonal employee replaced Clark at ISP.

Taking over at Little Missouri State Park (LMoSP) is Ranger Jarod Matzke, while CRSP's Gardner was replaced by Ranger/Interpreter Katherine Ogden. A search is still underway to find a replacement for Bauer at LCSP. Kelly Arntzen is the new administrative assistant at Lake Metigoshe State Park (LMSP). Matt Schanandore fills a seasonal interpretive position at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park (FALS).

Other new faces in the department over the past year are Vaughn Rhodes filling a new Project and Maintenance Coordinator position at headquarters and Turtle River State Park Interpreter Laci Prucinsky, who replaced Tina Harding.



R. Gardner



Gall



Arntzen



Schanandore



Godel



Rhodes

Camping Challenge

from page 1

The first ten entries in any of the three designated categories are eligible for prizes which range from multiple nights of free camping to a stay in park cabins and yurts. Complete details for

the 2013 North Dakota State Park Camping Challenge can be found online at www.parkrec.nd.gov. Entries are to be submitted to NDPRD Camping Challenge Coordinator, c0/Lake Metigoshe

State Park, #2 Lake Metigoshe State Park, Bottineau, ND 58318. Winners will be announced on the website as prizes are determined.



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2013 North Dakota State Park Annual Vehicle Permit Order Form

The 2013 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
_____ 2013 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 POW's 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.parksrec.nd.gov for the purchase of Annual Vehicle Permits. Secure sales can be made through either credit or debits cards online.