

# DISCOVER



NORTH DAKOTA PARKS AND RECREATION NEWS

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## *NDPRD prepares for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* Activities, events planned for 2015 celebration

Next year, 2015, marks a major milestone for the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department as it turns 50 years old, having been created by the North Dakota Legislature in 1965.

Up until the creation of the North Dakota Park Service, state parks were managed by the State Historical Society starting in 1907, following President Theodore Roosevelt turning the deed for Fort Abraham Lincoln over to the state. Eventually lawmakers decided to transfer state parks from the State Historical Society to a separate organization. The legislature

also created another organization called the State Outdoor Recreation Agency. Eventually the Park Service and Outdoor Recreation Agency were merged to create the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department NDPRD.

Over a year ago the NDPRD started planning for its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Individuals throughout the department and outside the agency have been getting together on almost a monthly basis to share ideas and come up with truly amazing activities, events, memorabilia, and legacies to mark the anniversary. Longtime park employees Henry Duray, manager at Grahams Island State Park and Karen Assel, Assistant Field Manager, co-chair the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee.

“For the past year the department’s anniversary committee has been busy planning activities to celebrate 50 years as an agency in 2015,” Duray says. “There will be an opening event at the Capitol Grounds in Bismarck on May 1 of 2015, followed by celebration events in each of the major state parks

over the course of the summer.”

Among the projects the public can expect to see in 2015 include:

- Park history written by author Marc Conrad.
- Travelling exhibit displaying historic park memorabilia.



**An artist's conception of what the NDPRD's 50th anniversary travelling exhibit will look like on the outside.**

- Anniversary events at each of the state parks.
- Special tree plantings at each of the state parks.
- Merchandise – free and for sale – marking the occasion.
- Complete online photo archive.
- Horizons Calendar featuring the state parks.
- State Historical Society spring 2015 magazine featuring the state parks.

“The committee has drawn upon the staff expertise within the agency along with a couple of key contributors outside the agency,” Assel says. “Former Director Doug Prchal has been instrumental in developing the written history of the department and Gwen Leno, retired employee, has shared her historic collection of department photos and artifacts. It’s been a team effort from the beginning and I’m sure we’ll come up with an anniversary celebration we’ll all be proud of.”

Keely Hagen, daughter of Lake Metigoshe State Park

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# Take the 2014 'Camping Challenge'

*A chance to win prizes by simply camping in state parks*

By Amy Schmietz  
LMSP Interpreter

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department is hosting the 2014 North Dakota State Park Camping Challenge from May 1 through Oct. 1. Those accepting the challenge are to camp at four different state parks, saving camping permits along the way. The first 25 entrants to mail in their permits and contact information win a 2015 annual pass, which waives the entrance fees at all North Dakota State Park.

A similar camping challenge, in 2013, provided Minot's Rhonda Thompson with a summer's worth of camping memories. Rhonda accepted last year's challenge and ended up visiting all 13 state parks. Last year, when she saw the camping challenge on the department's website, she immediately made it her goal to visit all of the parks, occasionally taking her husband and/or daughter with her and the family dog. The Thompson family are loyal tent campers, therefore, the parks with private tent sites were her favorites. Prior to the challenge, Rhonda camped at Sully Creek and simply visited Lake Metigoshe for an afternoon. While camping at each park, she took notes to help remember various things about each one knowing her friends and co-workers were going to ask questions as she scratched another park off her list.

"We moved here almost four years ago and this challenge was a great way to get a feel for the different areas throughout the state," Thompson says.

Amy Schimetz, Interpretive Naturalist at Lake Metigoshe, coordinates contests and challenges on behalf of the department. "The challenge provides incentive for visitors to discover how different each one of the state parks can be as well as what they have to offer," Schimetz says. "No matter which parks you visit, taking in the challenge will lead you to a great place because the one thing the state parks have in common is that each one of them has something for everybody."

Take in all of what the state parks have to offer, whether it is finding a geocache at Lake Metigoshe, taking a walk amongst the earth lodges at Fort Abraham Lincoln, touring the Sunne Farm at Fort Ransom, fishing for trout in Turtle River, riding horseback at Little Missouri or even sailing between Fort Stevenson and Lake Sakakawea State Parks. Even



*ND Parks & Recreation Department presents...*

## 2014

# Camping Challenge

## May 1st – October 1st

*Camp at four state parks, save your camping permits and mail them in to win a 2015 ND State Park annual pass! We invite you to accept the challenge and come play in our backyard.*

if sitting around the campfire making s'mores is more your style, North Dakota's state parks invite you to come camp in our backyard, but remember to save those camping permits!

For official rules and entry information pertaining to the 2014 ND State Park Camping Challenge, please visit [http://www.parkrec.nd.gov/camping\\_challenge.html](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov/camping_challenge.html)

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# Great Western Exposition debuts

New special event at Fort Abraham Lincoln State park

By Matt Schanadore  
FALSP Interpreter

Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park announces a grand event, "The Great Western Exposition," being held July 11-13. The Great Western Exposition showcases the vast military history of North Dakota, honoring all those having fought for this land and its peoples.

At the time of North Dakota's statehood, 125 years ago, Fort Abraham Lincoln was an active military post full of life and stories. But the history and story of this place doesn't start 125 years ago, it stretches some 500 years into the past and to this day continues to gather people together in celebration and community.

Over the centuries the landscape of Fort Abraham Lincoln changed, and the people once calling the land making up the state park home have faded into legend. Yet, every time a new story emerges the glory and true grandeur of the characters is recounted -- General Custer and his infamous 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry; the Mandan warriors of On-a-Slant Village;



and the Civilian Conservation Corps of the dirty '30s. They shaped the park and North Dakota in ways never truly understood, but they served as an act of dedication to the land they called home. In some ways it seems fitting that just south of the old Fort Abraham Lincoln site, in North Dakota's Veterans Cemetery built on the state's rolling hills, lie the military men and women who

fought for this country and our North Dakota home. It is time to honor those legends.

With a county fair style atmosphere, *The Great Western Exposition* is a family event with great activities planned all three days. During the event be sure to check out tours of the Custer House, frontier military encampments, artillery demonstrations, North Dakota National Guard exhibits, Pride of Dakota vendor booths and food vendors. Don't miss Saturday night's large public military appreciation dinner and military program by the West River Winds all followed by a concert on Cavalry Square featuring the music of the group *32 Below*.

This will truly be the event of the summer. It is sponsored by North Dakota Parks and Recreation, Mandan Progress Organization, and the City of Mandan. For more information please visit [www.parkrec.nd.gov](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov) or email [falsp@nd.gov](mailto:falsp@nd.gov). You can also follow Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park on Facebook and Twitter to keep updated on summer events.

## NDPRD looking for tree/shrub donations

Among the activities planned for the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2015 are tree and shrub plantings across North Dakota's 13 state parks.

The NDPRD is looking for support in the massive project and offering everyone the opportunity to take part through the donation of a tree or shrub. The cost of a containerized shrub is \$125 and a tree is \$175. These plants are a unique gift that keep growing. Trees serve as living links to state park history and are beneficial assets to quality recreational experiences.

Tree and shrub donations will be planted in a state park of the purchaser's choice, with exact locations within the park determined by department staff. Those donating will receive: a certificate; a plaque by the tree recog-

nizing the donor or a person, organization, event or place of the donor's choice; and a one-year subscription to the NDPRD's newsletter, *Discover*; and a listing on the Commemorative Tree Registry. Those purchasing a tree, shrub or both will have the opportunity to recognize, memorialize, honor or celebrate a special person, organization, event or place. The plantings can commemorate an endless list of occasions including: birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, retirements, birth of a child, thank you, graduations, dedications, congratulations, in memory of a loved one, or a special achievement.

Plant species selections will vary by park. Choices of native understory shrubs (\$125) may include chokecherry, plum, pin cherry, hawthorn, high-bush cranberry, Juneberry, buffaloberry, silverberry, rose, rocky mountain juniper,

dogwood, false indigo or sumac. Native overstory tree species (\$175) selections may include cottonwood, green ash, basswood, American elm, boxelder, burr, oak, aspen, hackberry, paper birch, ponderosa pine, or black hills spruce.

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 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.

# Music under the cottonwoods

## Missouri River Bluegrass Festival is June 20-21

Headlining the 22<sup>nd</sup> Missouri River Bluegrass Festival being held at Cross Ranch State Park, June 20-21, will be Ohio artists Nightflyer and Nu-Blu from North Carolina.

Performances are held Friday, from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Ticket prices are \$15 for Friday's performances, \$20 for Saturday or \$30 for both days. Children age 16 and younger are admitted free. Camping is available at Cross Ranch State Park and the nearby Sanger camping area. Reservations can be made by calling 800-807-4723 or by going online at [parkrec.nd.gov](http://parkrec.nd.gov). Smoking is allowed in designated areas only; no pets, alcohol or unruly behavior is allowed.

Nightflyer is a fun to watch five-man group with mostly contemporary with strong traditional bluegrass roots, a little gospel and just a touch of the blues. Nightflyer is led by singer and guitarist Richard Propps. He is joined by mandolinist and occasional lead vocalist Rick Hays. Tony Kakaris is the heartbeat of the group on the standup bass, lending baritone as well as lead vocals. Tim Jackson adds spice to the mix with his fiery dobro performance and an occasional lead and baritone. Rounding out the group is Ronnie Stewart who plays banjo and provides lyrical tenor and lead vocals.

Nu-Blu made an appearance at Cross Ranch last year during the Bluegrass Goes Pink concert, joining local favorite Cotton Wood. Carolyn Routh (bass and lead vocals) is the centerpiece of the band and is joined by her husband Daniel (vocals and guitar). Rounding out the band are Levi Austin (vocals, banjo and guitar) and Austin Loemer on mandolin. Nu-Blu was founded in 2003 by Carolyn and Daniel. Nu-Blu's sound acknowledges the traditional institutions that have shaped it, yet is innovative and daring enough to bring a fresh sparkle to contemporary acoustic music.

Also performing are Jami Lynn and Dylan James of South Dakota. Their



**Above: A promotional photo of the bluegrass group Nightflyer. Below a picture of Nu-Blu. These groups will headline this year's Missouri River Bluegrass Festival at Cross Ranch State Park, June 20-21.**



diverse instrumentation as well as their unique arrangements of traditional American folk songs and jazz numbers sets them on the edge of each genre.

As always, Washburn-based Cotton Wood will be on hand. Members include Lee Benjamin (banjo, dobro, guitar and vocals), Keith Koch (guitar and vocals), Dan Foster (mandolin, guitar and vocals), and Jill Wiese (bass, guitar and vocals). Cotton Wood is well known throughout North Dakota as the group

blends traditional bluegrass with more popular country and rock music.

Cotton Wood will also be featured in two other Cross Ranch State Park concerts this summer – “Bluegrass Turns Pink” on Friday, Aug. 8 and will be part of the Labor Day weekend activities on Monday, Aug. 31. The group will also be making a special appearance at Fort Ransom State Park on Saturday, June 14 to help commemorate the Sunne Barn that is turning 100 years old.

# Master planning Fort Ransom

Following the update of the Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park master plan, the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) initiated a similar project featuring Fort Ransom State Park (FRSP).

Fort Ransom State Park development follows a master plan completed in 1983, according to NDPRD Planning and Development Division Manager Jesse Hanson. An update of Fort Ransom State Park plan will consider the contemporary park user and demographic trends along with incorporating the recently purchased “Pederson property.”

Fort Ransom State Park was established in 1976 with the purchase of 543 acres from private individuals. The park grew to 951 acres with an additional purchase in 1979 of 348.7 acres and another 60 acres in 2008. The park sees between 30,000 and 40,000 visitors each year and has an average of 1,600 camper nights each year. Seventy-two percent of the campers are coming from North Dakota. The park features historic interpretive sites including the Sunne Demonstration Farm which hosts two large special events each year – Sodbuster Days. It has a well-developed trail system open to hikers, bike riders, horseback riders, cross country skiers and snowshoers.

There are eight primitive campsites including a group tent site, 15 modern campsites, five modern group sites and 38 horse corrals.

The plan update includes an in-depth inventory of park resources, facilities, programs and services. A list of eight key areas in the parks which the NDPRD feels are crucial for further study were brought before a Citizen’s Advisory Committee consisting of park users, civic leaders and interest groups. The committee is a public “sounding board” for concepts the NDPRD is considering and to gather input from their perspectives as area leaders.

“Input from the Citizen’s Advisory Committee, a public survey and the



**One of the many displays of past farming practices to be found on the Sunne Demonstration Farm located within the confines of Fort Ransom State Park.**

first public meeting indicates the park’s natural resources, scenic qualities, non-motorized trails and the Sunne Demonstration Farm/Fort Ransom Sodbusters’ Association are areas most important to park users,” Hanson says.

Among the suggested updates to the park are: Improved visibility and access to park offices; minor improvements to the campground and provide for future campground expansion; full-service cabins and/or camping cabins; improvements to the Group Shelter and Hollows Picnic areas; improvements to the amphitheater or relocate the location out of the flood zone; improve trail signage and plan for future expansion; expand interpretive programming at the Sunne Demonstration Farm; develop programming and use of the Pederson Farm site.

It’s been determined through survey that trail use is Fort Ransom State Park’s most popular activity followed by camping, Sodbuster Days, canoe/kayak

rental and interpretive events. Trails use is categorized in several ways including hike/running on the trails; equestrian (horse/mule) riding; self-guided interpretive trails; canoe/kayaking; bird watching, mountain biking and cross-country skiing.

When asked what they thought were the most important qualities of the park? Survey responders indicated the scenic view and natural resources along with the non-motorized trails, camping and the history that encompasses the park. Survey respondents said they would like to see more motorized trails; electric service and additional corrals in the equestrian area; full-service rental cabins; larger campsites; and more developed children’s activities/services.

A draft final master plan update will be made available for public review and comments in late May of this year, with the final master plan document completed by July 1, 2014.

# Lake Sakakawea manager retires

## Tunge expected a short stay, remained 4 decades

John Tunge had just graduated from South Dakota State University and was in the library when he came across the North Dakota Park Service newsletter which announced a retirement. He figured if there was a retirement there was sure to be a job opening, so Tunge put together an application and sent it in.

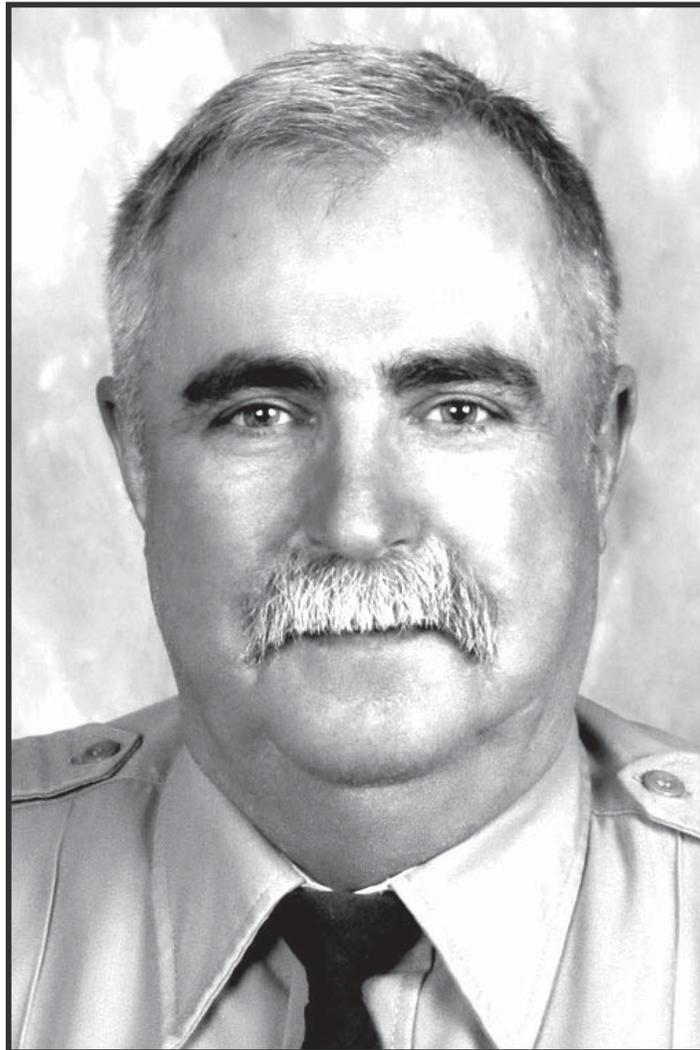
“That was either in December of 1975 or January of 1976,” Tunge recalls. “I came up for an interview in January all dressed up and they took me out for a snowmobile tour of the park in 20-below weather. They offered me the job and of course when we moved up to Lake Sakakawea State Park (LSSP) the wind was blowing 40 miles an hour and the temperature was still 30-below. I told my wife (Patrice) we’d only be staying a couple of years and when I had my peace officer’s license we’d be gone.”

Well, the stay went a little longer than expected, but after 38 years Tunge is retiring as manager of Lake Sakakawea at the end of April. But, Tunge isn’t going very far, moving to the Cross Roads area just east of Hazen and plans on remaining in North Dakota, a state and people he’s come to appreciate and love.

When Tunge showed up the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department was just turning ten years old and was switching to a park management system rather than just caretaking of the parks.

“I and the other managers who now have been around for a long time – Henry Duray, John Kwapinski, Steve Crandall – well we know we were on the ground floor of something special. The department was in the midst of building a system -- developing rules, regulations, procedures. We were looking at running parks on a more professional level dealing with resource management and staff hiring. We got to be in on the ground floor of developing the department.”

Tunge started as a ranger at Lake Sakakawea State Park, moving to Beaver Lake State Park in 1977 to take over as man-



ager. In 1979, Roger Bowman left as manager of LSSP and Tunge was asked to take over management of the park.

Beaver Lake State Park was quite a bit smaller than LSSP, according to Tunge, and there wasn’t a lot of pressure at Beaver Lake, so it was sort of a culture shock when he took over at LSSP, which was and still is one of the biggest state parks when it comes to visitors and camping. The park ran the marina at that time and the Tunges started having kids. Sarah was born while the couple was living at Beaver Lake and Ryan, after they returned to Lake Sakakawea.

“Both the kids grew up in the park and they more or less remain in the business. Sarah is fire manager for the North Dakota Forest Service and Ryan is the District Game Warden out of Hazen,” Tunge says. “While growing up in a state park might seem like a great thing and they think it was. We never got to take summer vacations and I was always working during summer holidays.”

Perhaps the biggest takeaway from all his years of managing LSSP and what Tunge will miss the most are the people he worked with including visitors, campers, staff and the agencies he worked along side. Tunge cherished the comments from visitors, particularly those from out of state, praising the park for its cleanliness and how safe they felt.

“Those were the comments that made me smile,” Tunge admits. “When we started managing the parks it was sort of a free-for-all, people did what they wanted when they wanted. We asked ourselves ‘who did we want as customers?’ The answer was mom and dad, the kids, aunts, uncles, grandparents. But there were a lot of parties going on and those type of people didn’t want to come to the park with that going on. It became obvious that we needed the training, skills and the authority that go with enforcement. People that have marital problems resulting in violence at home, don’t leave it behind

**Continued on page 7**

## Tunge retires from park 6

when they go camping. A lot of the problems we have are still related to drugs and violence and we have to know how to deal with those things.”

Most backup law enforcement, such as police, sheriff departments and game wardens are 20 to 40 minutes away when called for, in the meantime park managers and rangers have to fend for themselves. Tunge led the way in developing law enforcement training for park personnel. Prior to his arrival no law enforcement training was provided, now full-time managers and rangers are required to participate in North Dakota’s law enforcement academy training.

“But we’re different than city cop or a county deputy, law enforcement isn’t our full-time job. We need more training and experience because it’s not something we do every day, we do it occasionally which makes it more difficult,” Tunge explains. “We deal mostly with good people, but there is always a small percentage of trouble makers. During the Fourth of July weekend LSSP becomes the biggest city in Mercer County. When you get that many people there is going to be a percentage that we’ll have



**It’s 1982 and Governor Allen Olson (seated center) is signing the proclamation designating June Parks and Recreation Month. Also in attendance in the back row are parks officials, left to right, John Tunge, Assistant Director Neil Shipman and Director Doug Eiken.**

While the oil boom in western North Dakota is making dramatic changes in the state’s makeup, it’s not all that new to Tunge. He points out that when

Tunge. While working and living in a park can be a great time, he points out that you live where you work.

“When you live right in the park you’re on call all the time. I sure won’t miss the 3:00 a.m. knocks on my door with people complaining about one thing or another. Or having to go out in the middle of the night and handle a situation,” he says.

Tunge isn’t sure what retirement will bring. He plans to stick around because his kids are here and he loves the hunting and fishing opportunities. The Mercer County Sheriff Dean Danzhiesen has been talking to Tunge about working for him, sort of a turn around since Danzhiesen got his start at LSSP as a seasonal and then nine month ranger. “I told him I don’t want to be working any nights,” Tunge adds.

When he first arrived in North Dakota back in 1975, Tunge didn’t expect to stick around too long, after nearly 40 years in the state he figures he’ll never leave.

“I’d probably do it all over again, Tunge concludes. “But I sure wish I knew then what I know now...”

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## “I’d probably do it all over again, but I sure wish I knew then what I know now...”

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issues with, usually relating to either drugs or alcohol.”

In Tunge’s opinion, the department is on the right track when it comes to law enforcement and park visitor safety. He adds that things have changed since he first started. Early in his career people didn’t lock their doors or cars, now they do all the time. “All you have to do is watch the news every evening and you’ll understand why,” he says. “The public expects us (park staff) to take care of any problems and we will. We’re light years ahead of what we were doing 40 years ago.”

all the coal production started a number of people from outside the state were drawn to North Dakota to help build the coal refineries and power plants.

“Just as with the oil boom, we had a lot of young guys with a lot of money away from home that had an ‘attitude,’” Tunge says. “As we move through this (oil boom) people will find we have some of the safest and best kept parks in the nation. We’re not a big system, but what we have is good. We have great facilities and staff.”

The life of a park manager is sort of a double edged sword, according to

# Marina now owned by NDPRD

With the purchase of Captain Kit's Marina at Lake Sakakawea State Park, North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) now has three marinas on the big lake joining Fort Stevenson State Park and Lewis and Clark State Park.

It was quite the process leading up to the sale, beginning during the 2013 legislative session when the state legislature approved up to \$800,000 towards the purchase. After going through the process of having the marina infrastructure appraised, the NDPRD came to terms with owners Kit and Faye Henegar late in 2013. The sale included all the docks, cables and infrastructure, along with the floating concession store and gas apparatus. The Army Corps of Engineers owns the shoreline property which is leased to the NDPRD through 2035.

The purchase of the marina comes at a time when Lake Sakakawea State Park manager John Tunge is retiring after 38 years. His replacement, Greg Corcoran, formerly managed Lewis and Clark State Park.

With the marina changing hands a number of questions were raised by current slip renters who had contracts with the Henegars. Tunge, Corcoran and NDPRD Director Mark Zimmerman held some open meeting with slip renters in Bismarck and Dickinson assuring those with contracts in place the NDPRD will honor those agreements.

"We plan on continuing as in the past," Zimmerman told the group of 60 that gathered at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park for a meeting. "There will be some changes because we can't operate the same as a private owner."

Whereas the Henegars did provide multiple year contracts, the NDPRD will provide annual contracts with the renters having the first right of refusal. Some contracts run until 2018 and the NDPRD will honor those contracts, according to Zimmerman. There are 72 boat slips and nearly all the former contract holders want to continue use of the slips going into 2014.

Captain Kit's did, at one time, oper-



ate a cantina providing alcohol and food service at the marina, but those operations ceased a few years ago. Zimmerman is uncertain about the future of the cantina, since the department cannot legally hold a liquor license.

Slip renters indicated security is a concern for them, with Tunge and Corcoran assuring them that the marina security will be among the park's top priorities. With the NDPRD managing the facility it can readily assign seasonal personnel to watch over and run the marina.

"We have the people that can be around a lot," Tunge told slip renters. "There are two park rangers available 24 hours a day seven days a week. We know that people like to look at the big boats, but we don't want them having much access. We won't be letting them

walk up and down the docks looking in windows. We'll also be able to staff concessions seven days a week, but you have to remember this is new to us and we'll be learning as we go."

Corcoran agreed that security will be a priority noting that at Lewis and Clark State Park there was always a visible park presence at the marina.

The Henegars also ran a storage area near the marina where boats and campers were kept. The park will continue to offer these storage services.

"We pride ourselves on customer service," Corcoran says. "We'll be providing training for our workers to handle the marina."

For information about Lake Sakakawea State Park Marina call 701-487-3315, email [lssp@nd.gov](mailto:lssp@nd.gov) or go online at [www.parkrec.nd.gov](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov).

# Pembina Gorge looks to the future

The Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area, located near Walhalla, is the newest area on the map for the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department providing recreational opportunities for the citizens of North Dakota.

The Gorge provides one of the few trail systems open to motorized vehicles such as ATVs and dirt bikes. These trails run through a complex and diverse natural area of about 12,500 acres. It's features the longest unaltered stretch of river valley in the state and is stunningly beautiful no matter the time a year.

Since undertaking the project, progress made on a trail system includes a 24 mile network of trails open to hiking, biking, equestrian and ATVs. With any complex system, planning is a key element in determining the success of an operation. To assist in this effort, the 2013 Legislative Assembly appropriated funding for the PGSRA to develop a master plan for



future development.

Great Outdoors Consultants, Ft. Collins, CO, is the firm chosen to lead the planning effort on behalf of the ND Parks and Recreation Department. Great Outdoors Consultants brings together specialists in planning and design for all types of outdoor nature-based recreation. They will be coordinating public workshops, surveys, and data collection to put together all the aspects for the Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area Master Plan.

"It's a very exciting process for the staff here at the Pembina Gorge," says Mike Duerre, Recreation Area

Manager. "We are excited to get the public involved and get them thinking about the possibilities that exist in this area, getting those ideas into the plan and implementing them."

Great Outdoors Consultants will be creating a project website to have all the materials available throughout the project. The Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area also has a Facebook page and will be updating it with the progress of the master plan. For more information regarding this project, contact the PGSRA office at 701-549-2444, or email at [pgsra@nd.gov](mailto:pgsra@nd.gov).

## ***Morton farmer leaves NDPRD 150 acres***

In his passing, John Stumpf, a life-long resident and farmer in Morton County, left in his last will and testament his desire to transfer 150 acres of land to the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD).

State Paleontologist John Hoganson calls the property "a very significant fossil site and an important archeological area." It is the first paleontological site to be given to the state for protection of the site. The Stumpf property was one of six such areas enrolled in the NDPRD's Natural Area Registry in

order it remain protected.

"Mr. Stumpf talked to us about preserving the site forever so he willed it to Parks and Recreation to be managed by three state agencies – the Geologic Survey, State Historical Society and Parks and Recreation," Hoganson explains. "We've held some meetings on developing a management strategy and it seems the consensus is to preserve the property as an educational and research area. This wasn't your average farm or ranch land, it was property Stumpf had been working with the NDPRD and

state Geologic Survey over many years to identify, inventory and protect the paleontological, cultural and natural resources found there."

"The property, being located on a delta of a great inland sea many millions of years ago, contains fossils of that time period as well as evidence of a buffalo butchering area used by plains Indians," explains Jesse Hanson, who heads the NDPRD's Planning and Development Division.

Hoganson notes educational tours

**Continued on page 11**

# NDPRD News



## Campground hosts win tourism award

Don and Pat Demars were recognized by North Dakota Tourism as “Behind the Scenes Tourism Employees” at the ND Tourism Conference.

More than 18 years ago, Don and Pat Demars retired from farming in the Cavalier area, trading in their tractors to become full-time RVers. Since then, this couple has served as campground hosts for the North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department for 15 years at nine different North Dakota state parks. In that time, they racked up nearly 10,000 hours of volunteer labor assisting park employees and doing an outstanding job welcoming guests and being great ambassadors of North Dakota. The Demars eventually sold their RV and made their permanent home in Grand Forks, but remain active volunteers at Turtle River State Park.

## Effort underway to bring Gunlogson coupe to ISP

In June 2014, a rare 1925 Case Model X Suburban Coupe, one of only 139 Model X Case cars – the only known existing Suburban Coupe, comes up for auction.

What makes this automobile special is its heritage. This coupe was owned by one of Cavalier’s favorite

sons, G.B. Gunlogson. Most area residents know that Gunlogson donated his farmstead to the state and it became an integral part of Icelandic State Park as the Gunlogson Nature Preserve.

Gunlogson was a mover and shaker for Case, rising through the ranks and eventually becoming head of the “Case Motor Car Division” in 1925. This is when he purchased the Suburban Coupe, eventually giving it to his sister, Loa, who lived on the family farm and drove the Case car throughout the community before she traded the car to Harold Morrison, Cavalier’s Case Dealer, who later sold it to LaMoure’s Irl Goode. The car was purchased in a 1988 estate sale by Maryland’s Herb Wessel. Wessel restored the vehicle, finding a layer of Case orange paint and the lettering “Cavalier Motor & Implement written on the body.

Efforts are underway to buy the car and bring it back to Cavalier. Those wanting to be a part of this endeavor can contribute toward the purchase price. If the vehicle is not eventually bought, donations will be returned. For further information contact:

Justin Robinson  
Icelandic State Park  
13571 Highway 5 West  
Cavalier, ND 58220  
701-265-4561

## NENDHA gets \$25,000 from TransCanada

TransCanada is donating \$25,000 to the Northeastern North Dakota Heritage Association for the Nature and Natural History exhibit expansion in Cavalier. Pictured left to right

are: Corene Vaughn (NENDHA board member), Char Binstock (ISP Assistant Manager), Verlyn Bailly (TransCanada), Tim Horgan (NENDHA board member) and Alfred Byron (NENDHA board member).



## New hires around the NDPRD

There have been several new hires for the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department. Here’s a look at some of the changes.

Lake Sakakawea State Park (LSSP): Greg Corcoran, former manager of Lewis and Clark State Park replaces retiring LSSP manager John Tunge. Also at LSSP Travis Brezden was hired as a Maintenance Supervisor.

Lewis and Clark State Park: Assistant manager Ryan Gardner replaces Corcoran and in turn is replaced by Katie Ogden coming from Cross Ranch State Park. Darwin (Les)Myers was hired as Maintenance Supervisor.

Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park: Matt Schanandore fills a newly created position of Interpreter/Events Coordinator. Kevin Henke is the new Maintenance Supervisor.

Fort Stevenson State Park (FSSP): Dustin Wadholm is FSSP’s new Park Ranger.

Headquarters: Audrey Kroll is now Administrative Assistant/Payroll Officer replacing Emily Gullicks.

## Anniversary from page 1

manager Larry Hagen, designed the 2015 anniversary logo which will also be used as the annual pass.

The travelling trailer exhibit, which will feature distinctive park pictures on the outside, makes its debut at the North Dakota State Fair this summer. While the exterior will be completed for the State Fair, the interior displays won't be seen until the spring of 2015. Each of North Dakota's 13 state parks will have the trailer stop for a visit and most will have special events to coincide with the travelling exhibit's appearance.

"The trailer will travel the state with exhibits depicting the past years of the department," Duray notes. "Special legacy projects are being planned along with the planting of 50 commemorative trees/shrubs in each state park."

## Stumpf property from page 9

have been taken to the site at various times over the years and research leading to scientific publications has also been done.

"It's been an active site for many years and we plan on continuing to do that," Hoganson says. "One of the discussions our group has had is on what future programs will be developed. We have decided that maybe once or twice a year there will be planned tours for the public. It's a neat place."

Located in a remote section of Morton County, the area is planned for educational and scientific studies as described by Stumpf's Will. The NDPRD is developing a Memorandum of Understanding between the Geologic Survey, State Historical Society and NPRD to guide future management of the site. The public will be kept informed of future plans for the educational access to the site.

# 2014 Special Event Calender

## Beaver Lake

May 26: Military Appreciation Day  
June 7: National Trails Day  
July 19: (Tentative) Visitor Appreciation Day/  
Picnic Social  
September 27: National Public Lands Day

## Cross Ranch

Military Appreciation Day  
June 20-21: Annual Missouri River Bluegrass  
Festival and Kids' Fest  
August 9: Blue Grass Goes Pink  
August 31: Cotton Wood & Cobbler

## Fort Abraham Lincoln

May 11: Mother's Day Walk  
May 26: Military Appreciation Day  
June 7: National Trails Day  
June 13: Halloween in June  
July 11: Great Western Exposition  
July 19: Campground Fun Day  
August 23: All Star Football  
October: Haunted Fort and Kids Bash  
Dec. 13-14: Old Fashion Frontier Christmas and  
Custer Dinner

## Fort Stevenson

May 24-26: Sky Fest over Fort Stevenson  
May 26: Military Appreciation Day  
June 7: National Trails Day  
June 14: National Marina Day  
June 28-29: Frontier Military Days  
June 29: Visitor Appreciation Day  
July 4: Independence Day Celebration  
July 18-19: Governor's Cup Fishing Tournament  
July 19: Junior Governor's Cup Fishing  
Tournament  
August 23: Beach Party

## Fort Ransom

May 26: Military Appreciation Day  
July 12-13: Fort Ransom Sodbuster Days  
September 6-7: Fort Ransom Sodbuster Days

## Grahams Island

May 26: Military Appreciation Day  
June 7: National Trails Day  
June 27-29: Devils Lake Chamber Fishing  
Tournament  
August 8-11: Cabelas Masters Walleye Circuit  
World Championship

## Icelandic

May 26: Military Appreciation Day  
June 7: National Trails Day  
July 20: 50th Anniversary Celebration/Visitor  
Appreciation Day  
August 8-10: Kids' Weekend  
September 6-7: Pioneer Machinery Show  
November 23: Christmas Open House

## Lake Metigoshe

May 26: Military Appreciation Day  
June 7: National Trails Day  
June 28: Great American Backyard Campout  
June 29: Annual Bike Parade  
July 12: Fun in the Sun  
July 25-27: Halloween in July  
August 1-3: Outdoor Feast Weekend  
August 8-10: Becoming an Outdoors Woman

## Lake Sakakawea

May 26: Military Appreciation Day  
June 7: National Trails Day  
August 15: Great Planers Salmon Derby

## Turtle River

May 26: Military Appreciation Day  
June 14: Fish and Fun  
July 18-19: National Moth Week  
July 26: Halloween in July

Detailed information on the special events at North Dakota State Parks can be found on the NDPRD website at: [www.parkrec.nd.gov](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov) under Calendar of Events.



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

**2014 North Dakota State Park Annual Vehicle Permit**

**Order Form**

The 2014 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
_____ 2014 annual permit	\$25/each	\$ _____
_____ ND resident 65 and older	\$20/each	\$ _____
_____ <small>Date of birth required for senior discount.</small> 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.