

DISCOVER



NORTH DAKOTA PARKS AND RECREATION NEWS

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Beaver Lake celebrates 80 years on July 21

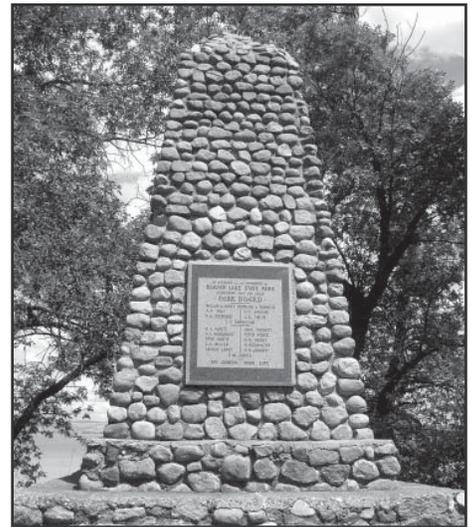
Beaver Lake State Park will party Saturday, July 21, in recognition of its 80th anniversary, having been formerly dedicated in 1932 by the early settlers of Logan, McIntosh and Emmons counties along with gubernatorial hopeful and one of North Dakota's most colorful politicians William Langer.

Beaver Lake might be considered the "Rodney Dangerfield" of the state park system, never getting any respect because of its size and location. But a

better metaphor might be the "Little Park That Could," as it has a faithful group of visitors which continues to grow as the people find out what the park has to offer.

"The park has seen a series of changes, from its 'Depression' era roots to a general decline in the 1990s to its revitalization and revival in the 2000s," Manager Jim Loken says. "The park might be small, but it offers just about anything a person might want – swimming beach,

Continued on page 2



BLSP dedication monument

Raise of Grahams Island road nears completion

Getting to and from Grahams Island State Park was at best difficult in 2011 as rising Devils Lake waters threatened to overtop the only access to the park. But a \$14 million commitment from federal, state and local coffers has pushed the road high above the waves which crashed down on the pavement littering it with flotsam and other floating debris.

Grahams Island State Park is off to a great start in 2012 with visitation returning to levels that made the park among the state's most popular. The road has been raised to 1462 feet above sea level, six feet above Devils Lake's natural outlet height. While the road has been brought to grade, there is still a matter of ripraping the four-mile raise on either side of the road along with paving, chip sealing, signing and striping. It's expected the



Crews work on ripraping the shoulders of the Island Road which has been raised to 1602 msl.

encompassed about a four mile length of the Island Road which provides the only access to Grahams Island residents and the state park.

Later this summer, the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department will be

work will be complete by mid- to late-July.

It's the fourth time the road has been raised since Devils Lake began its surprising rise in the mid-1990s. Last year, the park's boat ramp was also extended to deal with the higher water. The road raise

bidding construction of 48 new camping sites which will be situated on a loop west of the Bait Shop. The new camping sites are in response to public demand for camping at Grahams Island State Park.

News from the director

Looking forward to a great season at state parks

By the time you are read this issue of Discover, I hope you and your family have already enjoyed a weekend of camping, a picnic, a day of fishing, geocaching, or other activity at one of North Dakota's State Parks. I am pleased to state that all of our parks are open—certainly not a claim we could make last year.

Over \$600,000 was spent by the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department on a variety of projects, with staff and contractors working hard to spruce up the parks for another memorable season. Work will continue at many of the parks on projects to upgrade campground facilities, trails and other amenities of the parks.

North Dakota State Parks are among the best of the best



**NDPRD director
Mark Zimmerman**

for outdoor recreational opportunities for our citizens as well as visitors to our state. A wide variety of activities and opportunities await you at any of the parks—camping, hiking, mountain biking, fishing, boating, horseback riding, picnicking, birding, geocaching—just about any outdoor activity can be enjoyed at one of the 13 state parks.

When I am out visiting the parks, I often hear the comment of how many of the folks have memories of camping with their parents and now passing along those traditions of camping in their favorite parks to their children and grandchildren.

What a great way to spend time with family! I wish the best of weather and campfire memories for all of you in the summer of 2012 in ND State Parks.

Veterans with 50% disability or greater get free pass

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) is now offering a free annual State Park Vehicle Pass available to all United States military veterans and current personnel who are North Dakota residents and have proof of a 50 percent disability or greater. This is in recognition for the service U.S. military personnel, past and present, have provided

the nation.

To receive the free annual pass, based on a 50 percent disability as allowed by the U.S. Veteran's Administration, a letter of disability needs to be presented. Annual passes are available at all state parks and the NDPRD headquarters in Bismarck.

Prior, the NDPRD offered the free annual pass to military personnel and veterans with 100 percent disability. All military personnel with a lesser disability rating received a \$5 discount on the \$25 annual vehicle pass. The \$5 discount will remain in effect for those with less than a 50 percent disability.

BLSP celebration

From page 1

boat ramp, amphitheater, modern and primitive camping, cabins, extensive trail system, family camping, it's all here."

The park provides a great family setting and experienced a record setting year in 2011 in visitation and camping.

"This year the park is ahead of last year's numbers during the same period, so I guess we're on a record setting pace," Loken says. "The park is 80 years old and still going strong. We're off to a great start this year and hopefully will be around for another 80 years."

The July 21 celebration begins with a luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the North View Picnic Shelter. At 1:30 p.m. there is a program near the Park Dedication Memorial. Hopes are to have a few state and local dignitaries along with some of the people who have been important patrons.

Staff will provide tours of the park and there will be interpretive programming where parents can drop off their kids during the official ceremony. The new visitor center/office building is open throughout the day to answer questions and help guide visitors to their destination in the park. Loken is also working on bringing some local entertainment to the park.

July 21, will also be Visitor Appreciation Day at the park and the daily vehicle entrance fee will be waived. As detailed information is developed for the event, it will be posted on the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department website at www.parkrec.nd.gov.

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North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department

1600 E. Century Avenue, Suite 3, Bismarck, ND 58503

Ph. 701-328-5357

E-mail parkrec@nd.gov www.parkrec.nd.gov

Relay North Dakota TTY Service 800-366-6888

Editor: Gordon Weixel

Variety of events planned for 2012

FALSP back on track after flooding

Missouri River flooding handed Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park a major setback in 2011, closing one of the state's favorite campgrounds for the entire season. This year expects to be big for FALSP with the campground restored and a new events coordinator planning several new events to bring people back to the park.

Kevin Stankiewicz, who formerly worked at North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department Headquarters, takes over the role of FALSP events coordinator. He put together several spring events at the park that met with varying degrees of success including the National Trails Day Event and Mother's Day Hike.

Several other events are being developed for the summer including: periodic helicopter tours of the area; Great American Backyard Campout; Fireworks Viewing at the Block Houses; and a Campground Fun Day and Trail Race. He is also assisting with the first-ever North Dakota Trails Conference which takes place in August.

The helicopter rides are a first for North Dakota's oldest state park. Park visitors will be given the opportunity to get a bird's eye view of the Bismarck-Mandan area with great views of the Capitol, the Strip, Bismarck State College Campus, the new Veterans Memorial Bridge, the Bank of North Dakota and of course Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park.

"We wanted to be able to offer



FALSP Park Manager Dan Schelske and Assistant Field Manager Karen Assel watch as Double M Helicopter owner/operator Monte Myers takes off from the park.

some new opportunities to the public this summer as well as to bring more people out to the park," says Stankiewicz. "FALSP is a great venue with a lot of potential and this is just one of the ways we are looking to encourage more awareness, appreciation and attendance to our state park. The idea to take to the air was also sparked by the flooding of 2011. We saw this as a unique opportunity to enable people to see the ever changing landscape."

The helicopter rides are being given by Mandan's Double M Helicopter, owned and operated by Monte Myers. The cost will be \$50 per person per ride. The minimum number of passengers on each flight is three with a maximum of four. Riders must be age two years or older and no lap sitting is allowed. The flights are being held from noon to 6 p.m. departing and returning near the area where the Trolley stops at FALSP. Dates for the helicopter rides are July 7-8, July 14-15, Aug. 11-12 and Aug. 18-19.

FALSP is also providing some unique camping opportunities and two teepees are being erected for overnight rental. Two new camping cabins are available as the previous cabins were destroyed by the flooding.

Another new event will be the Great American Backyard Campout on Saturday, June 23. This event has great potential as the park is allowing tent campers to set up near the block-houses on top of the park's highest hill. NDPRD Director Mark Zimmerman likes to note this is the first time anyone has camped up there since Custer left on his ill-fated trip to Little Big Horn. If the weather cooperates, campers will get a great view of the Bismarck-Mandan skyline at night and also get a chance to do some stargazing.

For more information on what's happening at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park check the NDPRD website at www.parkrec.nd.gov.

First place prizes in geocache contest awarded

The North Dakota State Park "Play in our Backyard" Geocaching Contest, which started in September of 2011, has its five first place winners, but there are still plenty of second and third prizes to be won.

Geocaching is becoming a favorite activity among hikers and those liking to spend time in the great outdoors. In support of geocaching, the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department put special caches in 11 parks. Those

who find all the caches and collect the contest sticker only have to fill out the contest forms to become eligible for prizes. There are a total of 30 prizes – five first-place, ten second-place and 15 third-place. All first-place prizes have been claimed leaving 25 total second- and third-place prizes remaining. The contest continues until Sept. 4, 2012.

The first-place winners include: Jerry Zimprich, of Bismarck, who found all 11 caches by Oct. 1, 2011;

Don Vilandre, of Williston, completed on Oct. 14; Steven Barokso, Minot, complete Oct. 15; Susan Jacobson, Bismarck, completed Oct. 17; and Ken and June Stroklund, Minot, completed May 26.

Information about the contest and contest entry forms can be found online at www.parkrec.nd.gov/activities/geocaching_contest.html.

Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area opens

Grand opening set for June 30

Off-highway vehicle (OHV) enthusiasts will have a new area to discover this year with the opening of the Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area trail in June.

A grand opening of the trail is scheduled for Saturday, June 30, beginning at 10 a.m. State and local officials are being invited to participate in the event which will include tours of the trail and followed by a luncheon.

The trail caters to registered class 1, 2, and 3 motorized OHVs (dirt bikes, four-wheelers and side-by-sides) that are 60-inches in width or less. The trail was developed due to the growing demand among OHV riders for public land to ride on. There are few such public trails in the state which is seeing a significant growth in the number of registered OHVs. While the greater share of OHVs are used in work situations (agricultural and industrial), there is also interest in OHV recreational use.

“Perhaps the most-asked question the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department gets at state sports shows is ‘where can we ride our four-wheelers?’” says NDPRD public information officer Gordon Weixel. “There are few public areas for riders. The NDPRD manages the Roughrider Trail located south of Mandan, while the Army Corps of Engineers provides an area south of Bismarck referred to as ‘The Desert.’ With the addition of the Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area OHV riders are now provided an excellent opportunity to explore the Gorge area.”

This first phase of the Pembina Gorge trail is a 12-mile looped route with an additional 12 miles anticipated to be added this fall. The Pembina Gorge is a remarkable area offering fantastic scenery. It is the state’s largest, uninterrupted woodland comprising about 16,000 acres.

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The Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area will provide one of the few state-managed trails for Off-Highway Vehicle.

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OHV trails opens

“The project is kind of a unique public/private partnership,” says NDPRD Recreation Division Manager Arik Spencer. “It’s only through working with North Dakota Game and Fish along with private landowners that we could build the corridor for OHV use. NDG&F provided easements for use of their land and the NDPRD developed a trail lease program to acquire corridor easements from private landowners based on a payment for miles of trail.”

The NDPRD took great pains in its design of the trails to be sensitive to the paleontological resources in the Gorge along with the wildlife and other biological resources found there, according to Spencer.

“The NDPRD used a sustainable trail philosophy which is intended to reduce the effect of erosion on the trail and water damage to the surrounding area,” Spencer says.

The NDPRD is developing other recreational uses in the Pembina Gorge area including more traditional, non-motorized trail opportunities. The Tetrault Woods State Forest, located south of Walhalla, is going through trail improve-



A view of the spectacular Pembina Gorge located in northeastern North Dakota.

ments which include a floating bridge across a beaver pond and trail repairs. There are also a number of wildlife areas in the Gorge and the City of Walhalla has completed some scenic overlooks showcasing the Pembina River Gorge.

Visitors to the area can find camping opportunities at Icelandic State Park and Riverside Park in Walhalla.

The NDPRD’s Mike Duerre is manager of the Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area. He can be contacted at 701-549-2444 or by email at pgsra@nd.gov. More information about the recreation area can be found at www.parkrec.nd.gov.

What to expect when riding the Gorge

**By Mike Duerre
Manager Pembina Gorge**

Explore the Pembina Gorge on your ATV or dirt bike on the North Dakota Park and Recreation Department’s newest trail. The trail head is located 1 mile north, 1 mile west, and ¼ mile north of the beautiful Walhalla Country Club.

At the trail head riders are treated to a breathtaking view from the top of the Three Sister Hills. This overlook provides one of the area’s best photo opportunities. The first leg of the trail comes in over a set of beaver dams that feed into a stream, leading you down to the Little North Pembina River.

After crossing the Little North the

Trail rules and safety

- There is no fee to use the OHV trail
- Trail open to registered Class 1, 2, 3 OHVs. (Side-by-sides cannot be over 60 inches in width.)
- Riders under age 18 must wear a helmet.
- Ages 11 and younger cannot operate OHVs.
- Ages 12-15 must have a OHV safety certificate.
- Non-motorized trail uses are permitted.
- Follow trail signage.
- Respect private lands adjacent to the trail.
- Wear proper riding gear

For complete trail regulations see the NDPRD website at www.parkrec.nd.gov.

trail travels up the valley past the fossil dig site (known locally as the Yellow Bank). Once past Yellow Bank, the trail follows the top shelf of the valley to the conflu-

ence of the Big Pembina and the Little North Pembina rivers. From here riders can see the entire Norman Atta — second highest hill in North Dakota — and the Frost Fire Mountain ski area.

The route then heads west, passing an old homesteader’s road known as Swinky’s Trail. Near the end of this segment, the trail, crosses a very steep crevasse ending up on an overlook approximately three miles west of the confluence. At this point, riders can see a local landmark, known as the Round Mound, and a good deal of the Pembina River itself. The second leg of the ride works past the pines and out to the meadows behind Butch’s Cabin.

Lake Metigoshe State Park turns 75

A look back at the park's long, colorful history

Lake Metigoshe State Park celebrates its 75th anniversary on June 8-9. The park has seen a lot of changes since work first began in the early 1930s and today is among the finest found in North Dakota and the upper Midwest.

Located 14 miles northeast of Bottineau, ND, Lake Metigoshe State Park is situated in the scenic Turtle Mountains on the shores of beautiful Lake Metigoshe. The park has long been a favorite, drawing visitors from all over the state, the U.S. and Canada.

The Turtle Mountains are the product of glacial erosion and the plateau they sit upon does resemble a turtle. The area was home to several tribes of American Indians, including the Blackfeet, the Hidatsa, Assiniboinese and Chippewa. The name "Lake Metigoshe" is credited to James Dawson, a trapper who used the Chippewa phrase, "Metigoshe Washegum," translated as "clear lake surrounded by oak trees." Dawson is also credited for thinking the area should be a place for recreation and he began renting rowboats around 1889. Early white settlers did mention the Turtle Mountains, but descriptions were limited, probably due to the difficulty they had making their way through the heavy timber and brush of the hills.

The 25th session of the state's legislative assembly and Governor Bill Langer established the park on Feb. 17, 1937. Development of the recreational areas in the park was done through the assistance of the federal government using work forces such as the WPA, CCC and the Transient Bureau. Preliminary work for the Lake Metigoshe Transient Camp began in July of 1934. The Transient Bureau built the lodge and kitchen/dining room in the spring of 1936 with the intent that the facility would eventually become a group camp for the park. Custody of the buildings transferred to the State Historical Society upon establishment of the state park and remained in SHS custody until North Dakota State Parks was created in 1965.

The park's beginnings are traced



to a Federal Emergency Relief Plan which provided grants for local and state projects. The Historical Society did make some improvements in the early 1940s including the purchase of 22 acres of lake frontage. But, there was a long period of time in which little was done with the park other than normal maintenance and establishment of a museum. The park was mainly used for picnicking and camping, most of which was very primitive, attracting only the hardiest of campers.

In the early 1950s, the park took a very positive turn with the purchase of Hemeric Point and Butte St. Paul. Hemeric Point, a peninsula bordered on the north by Canada, is kept in its natural state to preserve this beautiful area only accessible by water. A beach and boating facility was developed in the 1950s. LMSP's first park manager, Henry Klebe, had a museum in the 1950s.

The 1960s saw the construction of an administrative office building and the two cabins built in 1942 were moved to other sections of the park. The first campground, Washegum, was completed in 1968 and the second campground, Maid O' Moonshine was finished in 1974. The amphitheater was built in 1975 by the Youth Conservation Corps and renovated two years ago. In 1976, the

Old Oak Trail, also built by the Youth Conservation Corps, became North Dakota's first National Recreational Trail. The transient camp lodge was demolished in 1976 and replaced by two modern dorms and a comfort station. Other transient camp buildings, except for the dining hall, also came down. Several other cabins have been added to the park and in 2011 a yurt was provided for rental.

Today, the only building from the transient camp remaining is the kitchen/dining hall. The park covers 1,550 acres and offers over 130 modern and primitive camp sites. Playgrounds, public docks, boat ramp, picnic shelters and interpretive programs are some of the more modern infrastructures and services available. Popular activities include hiking, swimming, fishing, boating, picnicking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, backpacking, sledding and snowshoeing.

The entire park is a wildlife sanctuary and hundreds of animals live within its boundaries. Among these animals are white-tailed deer, elk and moose in addition to small mammals such as squirrels, snowshoe hares, skunks, raccoons, porcupines and muskrats. Visitors can spot snakes, frogs, lizards and turtles along with dozens of varieties of songbirds.

Artist in Residence returns

LSSP, TRSP and FALSP host artists this summer

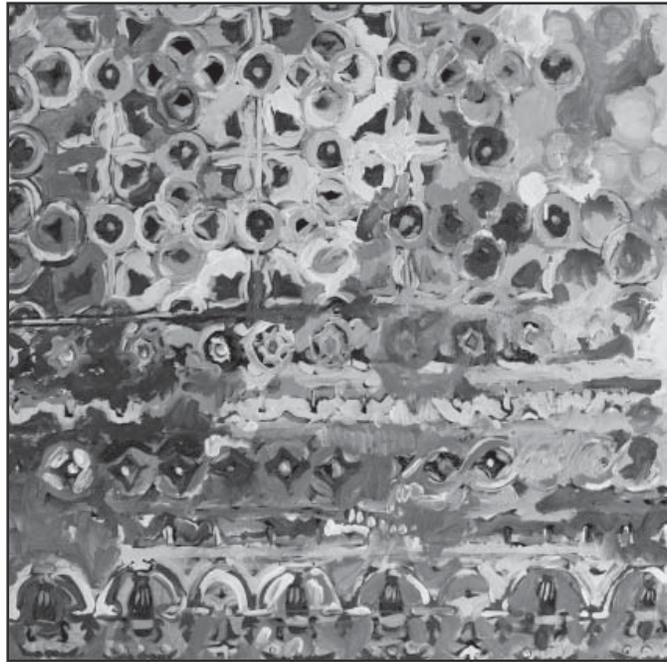
While finding artists for this year's "Artist In Residence" program was trying at times, Lake Metigoshe State Park Interpreter Amy Schimetz announces that three people have been found to fill the positions at Lake Sakakawea State Park, Turtle River State Park and Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park.

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department in cooperation with the North Dakota Council on the Arts have been sponsoring the Artist In Residence program for the past few years. Participating artists can either choose a campsite with electrical service or a cabin during their stay, both of which are at no cost to the artist. The program provides materials and supplies needed to provide presentations that are free and open to the general public. Those accepted into the program need to provide personal gear, food and supplies. Each artist will be awarded a stipend upon completion of the Artist in Residency Program.

This year Grand Forks' Karla Nelson provided the program at Lake Sakakawea State Park, June 22-24. She provided amphitheater programs in which she displayed her work and described her artistic process. Nelson also held a workshop in which participants created a mosaic piece. Nelson specializes in pottery and acrylic painting, her subjects most often involve North Dakota landscapes.

"As long as I can remember, I always felt I was an artist," Nelson says. "I remember my first drawing that I received praise. I was four years old and drew a self-portrait from the shoulders up. I was wearing a crown because I wanted to be a princess. My two older sisters also drew and painted a lot and as adults they both got art degrees. My brothers received music degrees and are musicians like my father."

Remaining Artist in Residency programs are July 29 to Aug. 5 at Turtle River State Park and Fort Abraham



Above, a Spanish Tile by artist Michelle Brusegaard who will be at Turtle River State Park. Below, oil painting by Karla Nelson who was at Lake Sakakawea State park in June.



Lincoln State Park Aug. 3 to 5.

Grand Forks native Michelle Brusegaard is leading the Turtle River State Park program. She graduated from the University of North Dakota in 2005 with concentrations in painting and photography. After living in California, Oregon and Minneapolis she returned to North Dakota in 2009, working as a full-time artist. While her roots are in oil

painting, she expanded her media to include screen-printing and graphic design to create more "saleable" items that have helped finance her artistic endeavors. Brusegaard sells screen-printed textiles and stationery along with her paintings at art fairs across the country.

"I gather inspiration from shapes and motifs found in nature, using them both in my paintings and textile pattern-making," Brusegaard says. "In painting, I enjoy toying with the line between foreground and background, and often enjoy reversing those definitions, finding the setting more interesting than the subject."

Eileen McEnroe is a Bismarck artist specializing in making Pine Needle Baskets. She has given several workshops on this subject matter for the Bismarck Arts & Galleries Association. McEn-

roe will lead the Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park program in August.

McEnroe teaches the basics of pine needle basket weaving. This type of basketry uses a technique of coiled dried pine needles and various materials sewing the coils together. McEnroe has been making pine needle baskets for over six years.

ND Parks and Rec again plans to participate in State Fair, July 20-28

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department planned on taking part in the 2011 North Dakota State Fair in Minot, but Mother Nature had other plans and the fair was cancelled for the first time in its history due to the massive flooding which inundated a great portion of Minot, including the fair grounds.

The NDPRD is again planning to have an exhibit at the North Dakota State Fair, which runs July 20-28. There won't be a yurt this year, but plans call for a number of activities that visitors can participate in at the exhibit which is located just west of the Grand Stand and across the street from the Bunny Barn. The exhibit will open at noon each day during the fair and close by either 8 or 9 p.m., depending on crowd interest.

The Recreation Division will have its Off-Highway Vehicle Simulator as part of the exhibit, along with the trailer that hauls the simulator and other equipment. Inside the trailer is a series of panels that depict a series of safe riding messages. Those touring the trailer are given the opportunity to answer a number of questions relating to the panels and can win small prizes.



The NDPRD Recreation Division's transport trailer will be used for display at the state fair.

Naturalist Kathy Duttonhefner and Interpreter Amy Schimetz have put together a variety of activities involving the state's pioneering history, camping games, a look at the flora and fauna in the state parks and the State Park Challenge. In the case of the state park challenge, visitors to the exhibit can take part in a competi-

tion – such as setting up a tent in the least amount of time.

There will be alternating Recreation and Interpretive programming throughout the day. Recreation activities will include demonstrations of the simulator while interpretive programming will have various games and activities for exhibit visitors.

The highlight of the NDPRD exhibit in 2011 was to be a full-size yurt put on display for visitors to explore and see what is becoming a family favorite for camping at Cross Ranch and Lake Metigoshe state parks. The yurt eventually was erected at Lake Metigoshe State Park where it was named the Blue Heron and sits on the shore of School Section Lake.

While there won't be a yurt on display, the NDPRD will be putting up an 18-foot in diameter teepee which is on loan from Cross Ranch State Park. Similar teepees will be available for overnight camping at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park this summer and later at Cross Ranch State Park.

A variety of NDPRD staff will help staff the exhibit including park interpreters and rangers, NDPRD Headquarter staff, Recreation Division staff and campground hosts.

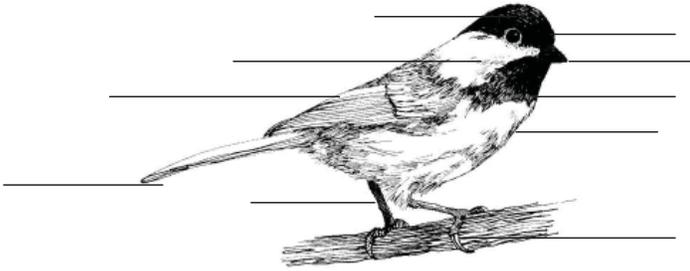


A teepee, like this one shown at Fort Abraham Lincoln State park, will be on display at the state fair.

Kid's Page

Bird Parts

Can you label the parts of this bird?



1. Tail
2. Cheek
3. Foot
4. Crown
5. Beak
6. Wing
7. Forehead
8. Throat
9. Leg
10. Breast

Going to the birds

Can you identify this small, friendly bird? _____
Black-capped chickadee

Bird Symbolism

Name the bird that is best symbolized by the words below.

1. Spring _____
2. Happiness _____
3. Wisdom _____
4. Freedom _____
5. Crazyiness _____

- | |
|-------------|
| 1. Robin |
| 2. Bluebird |
| 3. Owl |
| 4. Eagle |
| 5. Loon |

Bird Scrambles

Rearrange the letters to form the name of a bird.

1. diigrbnk _____
2. cdfhignlo _____
3. abcdiklr _____
4. accdiheek _____
5. bbdeilur _____

- | |
|--------------|
| 1. Kingbird |
| 2. Goldfinch |
| 3. Blackbird |
| 4. Chickadee |
| 5. Bluebird |

Top 20 Birds to See This Summer!

Below is a list of 20 birds most frequently seen in North Dakota.



How many can you identify? Watch for birds in your backyard, on your family vacation or on your next visit to a North Dakota State Park. Challenge yourself to spot and check-off all twenty this summer!

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| | American crow |
| | American robin |
| | American white pelican |
| | Bald eagle |
| | Black-capped chickadee |
| | Blue jay |
| | Canada goose |
| | Eastern bluebird |
| | Eastern kingbird |
| | Great blue heron |
| | Killdeer |
| | Mallard |
| | Mourning dove |
| | Red-winged blackbird |
| | Ring-necked pheasant |
| | Ruby-throated hummingbird |
| | Western kingbird |
| | Western meadowlark |
| | Wild turkey |
| | Yellow-headed blackbird |



NDPRD News

First ND Trails Conference set for Aug. 28 and 29

The first North Dakota Trails Conference is being held at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park, Aug. 28-29.

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department is partnering with the North Dakota Recreation and Park Association to hold the two-day conference.

The conference will provide state trail users, managers and advocates the opportunity to connect and learn from motorized and non-motorized trail leaders from across North Dakota.

The conference is free. To register go to <http://northdakotatrailconference.eventbrite.com>.

Annual horse passes are now available for \$30

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department is now offering a \$30 annual horse pass for the four North Dakota state parks – Sully Creek, Fort Abraham Lincoln, Fort Ransom and Little Missouri – that offer horseback riding trails among their many other amenities.

A daily fee of \$6 per horse is charged by the parks. The NDPRD \$30 annual pass allows a rider to take advantage of trails in all four parks from May 1 to April 30 without being charged a daily fee. A person with an annual pass bringing multiple horses into the park will be charged the daily fee for any additional horses without an annual pass. Riders must provide the annual or daily permit upon request of park staff.

The pass was made available at the request of horse owners who make several visits to the state parks in the course of a year to ride their horses. The pass provides unlimited access to these parks with horse trails.

Livestock feed used in state parks must be certified as noxious weed-seed-

free. Out-of-state horses must have a current health certificate issued by their veterinarian within the last 30 days. The horse must also have certification of a negative Coggins test for equine infectious anemia done within the last 12 months.

More information about the NDPRD state parks with horse trails is available online at www.parkrec.nd.gov and there is a brochure available online, by calling the NDPRD Headquarters in Bismarck at 701-328-5357 or email at parkrec@nd.gov.

FALSP campground reopens after flooding

Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park's campground reopened on June 1, over a year after it was closed due to Missouri River flooding.

Reopening the campground was a priority project since the water receded last fall. Projects including restoring facilities such as the comfort stations and amphitheater; building two new camping cabins to take the place of those destroyed by flooding; replacing the electrical and water utilities damaged by water; clearing as much as a foot of silt left behind by the river; cutting down and replacing trees; replanting grass; cleaning the playground; and much more.

"With the Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park campground open the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department returns to its pre-flood state," NDPRD director Mark Zimmerman says. "It's been a long road. Just about every state park was affected by flooding in 2011 and campgrounds at Sully Creek State Park and Cross Ranch State Park were also closed and had to go through extensive repairs. A lot of hard work and money have been put into bringing the parks back to the condition visitors have come to expect."

During the campground closure the rest of the park remained open to visitors including Cavalry Square, On-A-Slant Indian Village and the Fort Blockhouses.

Reservations for campsites and cabins can be made online at www.parkrec.nd.gov or by calling 800-807-4723.

Fort Ransom State Park initiates new program

A new program is being initiated at Fort Ransom State Park relating to life on the country farm, announces FRSP manager John Kwapinski.

The program, which started June 2 and runs through Sept. 29, is called "Country Farm Life: Portraits of North Dakota Living at the Turn of the Century." The programs are open to the public and will be held Saturdays from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Sunne demonstration farm. Different demonstrations will be presented throughout the summer, featuring pioneer living in North Dakota.

Special guests will be on hand different weekends to showcase different aspects of pioneer living, including cooking demonstrations, pioneer games, holiday traditions, and celebrating the threshing season. Various buildings will be open for the public to view how the buildings and items in it were once used.

A schedule of specific demonstrations and details will be posted on the Fort Ransom State Park--Interpretive Activities website which is part of the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department website at www.parkrec.nd.gov.

Fort Ransom State Parks offers a variety of activities including trails for hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding; canoe and kayak rentals for excursions on the Sheyenne River; and camping on primitive, modern and sites with horse corrals. Twice a year the Sunne Demonstration Farm is the site for Fort Ransom Sodbuster Days.

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All vehicles entering Fort Ransom State Park for these, or other events, are required to either display an Annual Pass or pay park entrance and/or camping fees.

Fort Ransom State Park is located 34 miles south of Valley City or 20 miles northwest of Lisbon or 2 miles north of the town of Ft. Ransom in southeastern North Dakota. For more information, go to www.parkrec.nd.gov or call at (701) 973-4331.

Gov. declares June 'Great Outdoors Month'

In recognition of the importance the outdoors have on the lives of North Dakotans, Governor Jack Dalrymple proclaims June as "Great Outdoors Month" in the state.

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) invites North Dakotans to visit one or more of North Dakota's 13 state parks. A variety of events and activities are planned throughout the month at North Dakota's State Parks. For more information on what's happening in North Dakota State Parks during the month of June go to the NDPRD website at www.parkrec.nd.gov.

"We thank the Governor for proclaiming June 'Great Outdoors Month,'" says NDPRD Director Mark Zimmerman. "The 2012 camping season is off to a great start and we're seeing record visitation in state parks. NDPRD employees take pride in providing a great outdoor experience for parks visitors and feel the parks have something special for everyone.

To learn more about North Dakota State Parks and what they have to offer check the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department website at www.parkrec.nd.gov. NDPRD news and updates are also posted on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ndprd.

2012 Special Event Calender

Beaver Lake State Park

July 21: 80th Anniversary Celebration/Visitor Appreciation Day

September 29: National Public Lands Day

Cross Ranch State Park

June 15-16: Annual Missouri River Bluegrass Festival and Kids' Fest

July 7: Do the Big Muddy

August 11: Dog Days of Summer

Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park

June 16-17: Frontier Days

June 23: Great American Backyard Campout

July 4: Fireworks view at the Blockhouse area

July 14: Campground Fun Day and 15k Trail Race

Aug. 28-29: North Dakota Trails Conference

Fort Stevenson State Park

June 24: Visitor Appreciation Day

July 4: Independence Day Celebration

July 20-21: ND Governor's Cup Fishing Tournament

August 4: Aquapalooza

August 4-11: CANDISC Bicycle Tour

August 25: Beach Party

Fort Ransom State Park

July 14-15: Fort Ransom Sodbuster Days

September 8-9: Fort Ransom Sodbuster Days

Grahams Island State Park

June 22: Devils Lake Chamber Fishing Tournament

Icelandic State Park

July 20-22: Christmas In July

August 10-12: Kids' Weekend

September 9: Pioneer Machinery Show

November 18: Christmas Open House/Visitor Appreciation Day

Lake Metigoshe State Park

June 23: 8th Annual Great American Backyard Campout

July 1: 13th Annual Bike Parade

July 27-28: 7th Annual Halloween in July

August 3-5: Outdoor Feast Weekend

August 10-12: NDG&F Becoming an Outdoors Woman Workshop

Lake Sakakawea State Park

August 4-5: Great Plainers Salmon Club Outing

August 18: Great Plainers Salmon Derby

September 1-2: Great Plainers Salmon Club Outing

Turtle River State Park

June 16: Turtle Fest

June 22-24: 8th Annual Great American Backyard Campout.

July 14: Halloween in July

August 18: Turtle River Birthday Bash

September 4-20: Eco Ed (Ecology Education)

September 7-9: Girl Scouts Camp LOL (Loving Our Land)

September 21: NDG&F Becoming an Outdoors Woman Workshop

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



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

2012 Order Form

North Dakota State Park Annual Vehicle Permit

The 2012 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., or supply credit card information below, 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 |
|--|-----------|----------|
| _____ 2012 annual permit | \$25/each | \$ _____ |
| _____ ND resident 65 and older | \$20/each | \$ _____ |
| Date of birth required for senior discount: _____ 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.

Method of payment

Check Visa MasterCard Discover

Card# _____

V-Code (last 3 digits on back of card) _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____