



DISCOVER



NORTH DAKOTA PARKS AND RECREATION NEWS

VOLUME 14 ISSUE 2

FALL/WINTER 2009

Over a million served in 2009!

State parks see a strong resurgence in visitation

In October, North Dakota State Parks went over a million visitors for 2009, putting an exclamation point on what has been a banner year for the state park system.

It's the first time since 2003 state parks have accommodated that many guests. Through October, the parks recorded 1,016,001 individuals. The number is based on traffic counters at each entrance combined with a formula estimating the number of people in each vehicle and subtracting number of park vehicles passing over the counters.

In 2003, the parks recorded 1,045,309 visitors. In 2008



A lazy afternoon at Beaver Lake State Park.

there were 887,624 visitors through 12 months. With two months remaining in 2009, state parks have a chance to exceed the 2003 mark, particularly because of the mild weather which has predominated this fall.

There are several reasons for the dramatic increase in visitation, according to North Dakota Parks and Recreation Director Doug Prchal. The economy, gas prices, weather, local events and park programs helped travelers make state

parks their choice destinations.

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2010

EXPLORE



NORTH DAKOTA STATE PARKS
Annual Permit Expires 5/1/2011

Annual passes on sale

The 2010 North Dakota State Parks annual pass is now available online, at all state parks and from the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department office in Bismarck.

The annual pass, which provides admittance to all state parks when displayed on a vehicle's front windshield, costs \$25 — \$20 for state residents age 65 and older or for North

Dakota veterans with service-related disability. North Dakota veterans with 100-percent service-related disability or former state POWs can get the pass for free. The permit is valid until May 1, 2011.

This year's pass depicts a father and daughter hiking one the many

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News from the director

Technology in the state parks

Time slips away so quickly. Summer is long gone although memories remain. Seize the moment and hopefully all of you have taken full advantage of the delightful fall season surrounding us. Your visions of last winter coming again, too soon, likely surfaced a month ago with the temporary cold. Mine did.

Despite the cool, rainy summer I am pleased to report a very satisfying “peak visitor season.” While it seemed as though the rain was never going to end, more often than not, the weekends did clear up affording great outdoors exploration and experiences.

Current visitor data will push park visitation over the million mark, the first time in six years. Cooperating weather, static fuel prices and rising lake levels all help get folks out to the state park system. Of critical importance is our “Thank You” for continued support and use of your state park system. Without visitors the state park system loses its value. Your interest and visitation clearly establishes the value and necessity for the existence of state parks.

In this fast paced world that surrounds us these places of natural wonder are provided to offer the tonic for slowing down, resting, reflection and just basic enjoyment. I say this because the state park system contains places to get away from that fast pace. This “Age of Technology” evolves around bits, bytes, high speed internet, texting, tweets, twitter and who knows what looms on the horizon. Technology is very useful in doing our day to day communication, record keeping and provides a means to allow the park visitor an avenue to reserve park resources. Although we use technology each day, we endeavor to maintain the natural settings within parks for our residents to get away.

I recall the advent of FAX; that technology began the era of instant message when instant message was not a buzz word. The personal computer arrived followed soon by email, cell phones, blackberries and ipods. Now texting, Twitter, Facebook and blogs compete with the simplicity of websites. How did we keep pace with public demands just ten years ago?

Technology is brought to the parks in various forms as a means to stay connected and to the extent we can incorporate use of that technology we are trying to do so. Whether we provided WiFi or downloads for education on ipods, we are working on those applications, within our means to do so. Updating the Web with more information and downloads is on the horizon. Keeping pace with various technologies is



**NDPRD
director
Douglass
Prchal**

a challenge but the bigger challenge ahead is identifying the technologies that are able to better serve you the visitor. We are working on a future “on-line” survey that will be made available for our visitors to provide that feedback. You will be notified when the survey is available.

The wonderful fall weather has enabled park staff to fully prepare for winter activities. The extra weeks of above average weather also afford more projects to get completed so those facilities are available in improved condition for 2010. Read about all that has gone on this summer and what is ahead for the 2010 season inside. As winter subsides and spring appears we will begin another budget cycle. Let us know what is on your mind so we can be assured to include those improvements in the budget. Also, of equal importance is to let your own legislative members know the “value of state parks” to you and to the quality of life to the state as a whole. Letting these policy makers know your views will go a long way in our advancement of the department’s budget.

Happy Trails...!

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New marina ready for launch

The new marina at Fort Stevenson State Park is complete with plans to have it open for Memorial Day of 2010, according to park manager Dick Messerly.

“We’re still trying to secure dock slippage for the new marina,” Messerly says. “It’s a wonderful facility and will give us more continuity in operations. We’re really looking forward to this opening and are in the process of planning a grand opening.”

Hopes were to open the new marina at the beginning of 2009, but the unexpected rise of the big lake created problems for construction. Construction started in 2008 in very low water. But because of the good runoff last spring the cofferdam, which allowed construction to take place below the lake’s level, had to be raised and strengthened which added a year to the process and increased the cost.

Meanwhile, the de Trobriand Bay marina, closed for nearly eight years because of low water, again opened for business and flourished with the high lake level. Messerly notes the old marina has struggled with lake levels and during his 18 years as manager of Fort Stevenson State Park, the marina has only been operable seven times.

“The new marina is about 50 feet deep –32 feet deeper than the old marina– which means it will be open at any time, even during low water years like we’ve seen,” Messerly says. “It will give us much more continuity. With the old marina you never knew for sure whether it would be in operation the following year.”

The high lake levels made a significant difference in the number of visitors to Fort Stevenson State Park in 2009. Visitation was up 23 percent from 2008, with over 124,000 visitors through October of this year. Camping is up 1,000 nights over the same period compared to 2008.

“Total visitation for 2009 is highest on record for the park and the camping



A bird’s-eye view of the new marina at Fort Stevenson State Park. At center is the new concessions building with the 50-foot deep bay at the top of the picture, parking lot at lower right and the ramp located on the left side.

numbers are among the highest we’ve seen,” Messerly says. “It makes a big difference to have an operational marina. Fishing never really came back this year, but that’s always true when there is a rise such as we’ve seen. It takes the fish some time to get back to their reproduction numbers.”

Plans are to keep the de Trobriand Bay marina operable as long as water levels permit, Messerly adds.

“It has a wonderful launching ramp and we want to provide sailboat moorings and possibly docks along the shoreline, but that depends on the concessionaire,” Messerly says. “The big push now is to get the new marina up and running.”

There is still some tweaking to be done to the new concessions building, but when complete it will provide a larger eating area and more room for a convenience store along with new rest-

room facilities. The new asphalt parking lot will handle about a 100 vehicles. There will be about 60 slips available which will be rented annually for about \$1,000 to \$1,500 depending on what amenities are provided. The slips will be managed by the private concessionaire.

See North Dakota's beautiful state parks.
Camping and cabin reservations:
www.parkrec.nd.gov



NDPRD hands out annual awards

People who made a difference in 2009

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) honored several of its employees along with those volunteers and organizations having made significant contributions in service to the state park system at the annual winter meetings held in December.

Cal Renner Award of Excellence

The NDPRD's highest honor, the "Cal Renner Award of Excellence," was awarded to Fort Stevenson State Park (FSSP) manager Dick Messerly. It was the third time Messerly was nominated for the award which is given annually to recognize any individual, group or business whose efforts have contributed substantially to furthering the goals of the NDPRD.

Messerly is a strong advocate for Fort Stevenson State Park and its programs along with the community of Garrison and Lake Sakakawea. He teamed up with Garrison High FFA students to create an arboretum; helped establish a bike trail; encouraged expansion of the state park with additional full serve campers pads; worked with the Garrison Chamber of Commerce to erect three rental cabins; helped to oversee the relocation and improvement of a major boat ramp; and led a group of State Park employees and



Messerly

local volunteers in erecting two new sets of playground equipment in the park. Messerly helped organize the FSSP Foundation and initiated the Cycling Around North Dakota in Sakakawea Country (CANDISC) which he directed up until this year. Messerly was instrumental in establishing the new marina which officially opens next spring and was president of the Garrison Chamber in 2008.

"From the very first year of his employment, Dick Messerly has worked diligently toward enhancing public outdoor recreation at Fort Stevenson State Park and the greater Lake Sakakawea area, and without fail year in and year out continues to work toward those goals," writes NDPRD Division Manager Jesse Hanson in nominating Messerly for the 2009 Renner Award. "Dick is one of North Dakota's leading advocates and spokesperson for water conservation and public recreation on Lake Sakakawea. I believe the Garrison Chamber of Commerce nomination in 2008 best describes what Dick is about when the author states, "Garrison and Fort Stevens would not be what they are today without him."

Merit Awards

The Merit Awards, awarded to NDPRD employees based on performance considered to be "above and beyond" the position standards, went to Fort Ransom State Park seasonal maintenance supervisor Terry Anderson; and Little Missouri Park Supervisor Gerald Brennan.

"Starting March 20, the Sheyenne River started to flood Fort Ransom State park and the Fort Ransom community. Every day until April 21, the park staff was in a flood fighting mode," recalls FRSP manager John Kwapinski. "Terry was everywhere trying to save or minimize damage to park

and community facilities. As flood waters threatened the Bjone House Visitor Center, Terry, single-handedly, installed a sump pump in the crowded crawl space.

He drove the dump truck loaded with sand bags over some nearly impassable roads to get to houses that needed protection. His skills with a tractor proved invaluable during deep water rescues of park facilities. He did everything in his power to save park and community facilities, even while having some concerns about his own house and the roads to it. The main reason the park survived as well as it did during the flood was because of the effort of Terry Anderson."

Cross Ranch State Park manager Eric Lang praised Brennan for his many years of service, hard work and foresight in overseeing Little Missouri State Park. Lang cited

Brennan's tree plantings, enforcement of park rules/regulations, maintenance of the park, fund raising abilities and customer relations as areas of excellence.

"Gerry deserved this award because he only wants the best for the park, to



Anderson



Brennan

see it grow, improve and just be the best it can be,” Lang writes in the nomination. “He has excellent ideas and vision for the park and everything that he does not only improved park quality, but provides a high quality experience for the visitor.”

Special Merit Awards

The Special Merit awards are intended for volunteers, friends, groups, individual members of friends groups or employees of other agencies who have gone “above and beyond” in service to state parks and recreation. This year’s award winners are: Phil Seifert, Seifert Electric, the Sheyenne River Valley Chapter of the North Country Trail, Joyce Gustafson and Laura Sanford.

Phil Seifert and Seifert Electric were instrumental in the protection and eventual recovery of Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park during the 2009 devastating flood event.



Phil Seifert

“Phil deserves special recognition due to the unending help and assistance during our flood fighting and recovery efforts. Phil’s concern for the park was evident in that he called to offer advice and services to further protect our facilities during the flood recovery. He mapped out and instituted a plan to bring services online in the quickest amount of time,” FALSP manager Dan Schelske says.

Schelske and FALSP ranger Maureen Trnka further commended Seifert Electric for its employees dedication and long hours of work to get the campground’s electrical system up and running by Friday of the Memorial Day weekend.

The Sheyenne River Valley Chapter of the North Country Scenic Trail is spearheading the North Country Trail

effort in North Dakota, according to NDPRD trails and byways coordinator Kevin Stankiewicz. This year the organization hosted the North Country Trail annual conference.

“Valley City endured its share of setbacks during the winter of 2009. Mother Nature was unforgiving and wreaked havoc on levees, bridges, roads and parks in and around the Valley City area,” Stankiewicz says. “All members of the Sheyenne River Valley Chapter



Sheyenne River Valley Chapter

were affected in some shape or form by the floods. Not only did they have to take care of their own homes, they also helped maintain the safety and sanity of others by filling sandbags, coordinating and implementing emergency disaster plans and trying to sustain a sense of normalcy despite all the chaos. And in the bck of their minds through it all was, ‘how are we going to host the NCTA annual conference?’”

The conference went smoothly and was a great success with over 150 people in attendance.

Lake Sakakawea State Park manager John Tunge and ranger Keith Orth nominated volunteer campground host Joyce Gustafson for the Special Merit award.

“Joyce Gustafson and her late husband, Elmer, have contributed greatly to the NDPRD. Not just through their many hours as camp hosts, but as supporters for state parks that went far



Gustafson

above their official duties,” Tunge writes in the nomination. “Joyce has filled many roles as a host and volunteer. She has been an interpreter, entrance station and office person, maintenance and occasional enforcer of rules. Joyce was instrumental in starting and maintaining the extensive bluebird restoration project at the park.”

Combined, the Gustafsons have volunteered 4,396 official hours at LSSP. Joyce has many, many more hours of unofficial hours supporting the state park system.

The NDPRD’s reservation committee nominated Laura Sanford, account manager for NOVO1 Call Center. Sanford has been the NDPRD’s point of contract for centralized and online reservations the majority of its 16 year history with the company. She served through multiple company mergers, locations and name changes.

“Laura provided exceptional customer service on behalf of the department with her professional and prompt response to our external customers,” the committee writes. “She has been more than accommodating to each and every one of our state parks by providing dependable support and responding to problem situations without complaint. Laura has gone above and beyond by attending annual department training sessions, testing new programs and taking time to personally meet with our permanent and seasonal staff. She recently retired her position at NOVO 1 to work in her local community of Watford City. Our field and reservation staff will miss Laura’s professional and sincere attention to OMS (Online Management System) issues.”



Sanford

Recreational grant programs

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department provides project funding through three grant programs – Recreational Trails Program, Land & Water Conservation Fund, and the new Leadership & Facility Program.

In October, the 2009 Recreational Trails Program grant awards were announced and decisions are currently being made on applications for the Land & Water Conservation Fund and Leadership & Facility Program. The Land & Water Conservation Fund is a 50/50 matching grant program for outdoor recreation projects by state and local political subdivisions. The Recreational Trails Program, administered by the Federal Highway Administration, provides 80/20 matching grants for motorized and non-motorized trail programs.

Recreation Division manager Arik Spencer explains NDPRD awards nearly a million dollars annually through the grant programs. The Land & Water Conservation Fund and Recreational Trails Program are federally funded, while the Leadership

& Facility Program, initiated in 2009, is state funded. Since 2000 NDPRD has received about \$5.5 million for Land & Water Conservation Fund projects and since 1996 about \$8.6 million for Recreational Trail Programs.

“The Recreational and Trails Program has funded over 80 projects in North Dakota since it was first offered and the Land & Water Grant Program has funded over 1,200,” Spencer says. “The Land & Water Conservation Fund has been in existence since 1985 and the total value of the projects, with the match, is over \$70 million.”

There were about 20 applications for the Recreational Trails Programs this year, according to grant programs coordinator Jessica Riepl.

“We were able to fund just over half of the requests,” Riepl says. “They’re all very good projects, ranging from paved trails in Bismarck to natural trails in Little Missouri State Park. Two of the projects were for hiking trails on State Forestry property. All sizes of communities have applied for the

program.”

Spencer notes that there were no applications for the Leadership grants, but the Leadership & Facility Grants program has enough flexibility to allow that money to be moved over to the facility side.

“Between the Land & Water Conservation Fund and the Leadership & Facility Program we’ve had about 30 applications,” Spencer says. “That’s a good number and demonstrates the need for those kinds of projects, which include pools, playgrounds and sports fields. Of the existing facilities, many were developed in the 1970s and early 1980s and are reaching the end of their life. The number of applications we’re receiving shows a real need for updating these projects, especially in the smaller North Dakota communities.”

For those communities interested in applying for the grants, they are welcome to contact the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department, according to Riepl. There is also information on the department’s website at www.parkrec.nd.gov.

Safety certification courses grow in popularity

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department’s OHV (Off-Highway Vehicle) and snowmobile safety certification classes are growing in popularity and expectations are they will continue to do so.

The courses are designed for ages 12 to 16 years of age, but are open to everyone. The cost for the four-hour course is \$20 for the classroom-style and \$30 for hands-on operation. The course can also be taken online.

Recreation Division manager Arik Spencer explains that for youngsters planning on operating OHVs or snowmobiles on public property such as right-of-ways, roads and trails, the certification—earned by successfully completing the course—is mandatory under state law.

In 2009, 241 youngsters in 34 traditional-type classes, earned their certification, while an additional 71 were trained through the online program. In

the first year of the program, 2008, about 40 certifications were earned. The OHV classes start in March and run through October.

Last year there were 425 certifications earned in the snowmobile safety certification courses, about 25 percent of those through the online courses.

“The snowmobile courses appear to be more popular for a few reasons,” Spencer surmises. “There are over 3,400 miles of snowmobile trails in North Dakota, while there are considerably less for OHVs. There are also over 50 snowmobile clubs that do a good job of fostering the program and getting the word out to younger riders.”

This snowmobile season the NDPRD will again offer 30 to 40 classes with expectations of surpassing the number of participants of the past year.

A new addition to OHV and snowmobile programs is a safety simulator, a

device that replicates the range of motion experienced on a snowmobile or OHV. It’s been extremely popular with the students, according to Spencer, with over 730 participants since it was put into action in 2009.

“The simulator is a fun yet powerful teaching tool and we’ve found it quite impactful among the kids,” Spencer says.

The NDPRD programs are also delivered to agencies, such as law enforcement organizations and even county weed agents using OHVs to deliver chemicals around the country side.

For anyone interested in participating in a class or having a class in their area, call the NDPRD safety certification hotline at 701-328-5348. For a schedule of classes or to learn more about the safety certification programs go to the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department website at www.parkrec.nd.gov.

Survey tracks where campers are coming from

A survey of campers staying in North Dakota state parks show that 69 percent were North Dakota residents which validates statistics that outdoor travelers are recreating closer to home says North Dakota Parks and Recreation Director Doug Prchal. Nearly 59,000 campers stayed in state parks in 2009.

Prchal was pleased to see that 11 percent of campers originated from Canada and of those, nearly 9.5 percent, were out of the province of Manitoba.

The remaining 20 percent of the visitor profile were from all over the United States. A summary breakdown of the 20 percent coming from other states notes that a majority came out of Minnesota at 8.1 percent. Wisconsin accounted



Campers came to ND state parks from all over the U.S. and Canada

for 1.68 percent of the total campers, followed by Montana's .95 percent and South Dakota's .70 percent. Every state was represented in the 20 percent out of state total.

Grahams Island State Park on Devils Lake, attracted the most campers with 10,053, followed by Icelandic State Park 8,738, Lake Sakakawea State Park 8,241, Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park 6,979 and Fort Stevenson State Park 6,972.

Visitation

Continued from page 1

"These are exciting statistics, not only do they follow a national trend in state park visitation, but in many cases exceed those benchmarks," Prchal says. "People are again discovering the value of state parks as travel destinations. State parks have a lot to offer, close to home, in an environment well-suited for families."

The system's three parks on Lake Sakakawea – Lewis and Clark, Fort Stevenson and Lake Sakakawea – benefited from the lake's surprising rise in elevation in 2009. Where there had been only one operable marina, due to low water levels, there are now four. Marinas at Lewis and Clark and Fort Stevenson state parks, high and dry since the beginning of the decade, were again full of water bringing boaters and other water recreationists by the droves. The de Trobriand Bay marina at Fort Stevenson reopened with a new marina operator, and a new marina was completed that ensures Fort Stevenson will always have access to the big lake.

Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park and Fort Ransom State Park battled devastating spring flooding, but rebounded to have outstanding seasons. All the parks in the system saw visitation increases.

Camping for 2009 is also up with nearly 10,000 more campers than a year ago and cabin rentals also saw a modest increase.

Hopes and expectations are the trend will continue in 2010 as people again discover the value of state parks.

Annual passes

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trails found in the state parks. There are 18 trails systems in the state parks. Trail maps are available at each park and in most cases a brochure details the routes along with describing features and amenities including the scenery, terrain and wildlife found adjacent to the trail.

To order an annual permit online go to www.parkrec.nd.gov. For more information call the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department at 701-328-5357.

2010 Order Form

North Dakota State Park Annual Vehicle Permit

The 2010 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
_____ 2010 annual permit	\$25/each	\$ _____
_____ ND resident 65 and older <small>Date of birth required for senior discount.</small>	\$20/each	\$ _____
_____ number gift envelopes		

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

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

Method of payment

Check Visa MasterCard Discover

Card# _____

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

Signature _____

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Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park manager Dan Schelske (center) accepts the North Dakota Forest Service's "Excellence In Government" award from State Forester Larry Kotchman (left) and NDSU president Joe Chapman.

Tree Awards for NDPRD

The North Dakota Forest Service recognized the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department with two 2009 Trees Awards at the "Trees Bowl and Awards Ceremony" held in September.

Director Doug Prchal received the "Distinguished Leadership" award and Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park was recognized with the "Excellence in Government" award.

"The mission of the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department is to provide and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities through diverse parks and programs that conserve the state's natural diversity. The department is committed to family focused experiences provided through a spirit of exemplary customer services," the Forest Service announced. Director Prchal's dedication, vision and drive to achieve these goals is truly remarkable.

The Forest Service explained that Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park has been battling forest health and safety concerns for years. For the past five years, park staff have worked with state, federal and local partners in an aggressive approach to launch an effective tree risk management program.

"Fort Abraham Lincoln staff demonstrate their commitment to providing a safe and more enjoyable outdoor experience through an aggressive tree planting and maintenance program. Visitors to the park benefit from these efforts," the Forest Service stated.

The award winners were honored at the Fargodome. FALSP manager Dan Schelske accepted on behalf of the park and Jason Johnston accepted Prchal's award as the director was unable to attend.

Trail Association honors NDPRD



Kevin Stankiewicz (left) and John Kwapinski (right) receive the North Country Trail Association's "Friend of the Trail" awards from NCT Executive Director Bruce Matthews

The North Country Trail Association honored two North Dakota State Park Employees at its annual convention which was held in Valley City this year.

Kevin Stankiewicz, State Trail and Byways Coordinator for the department, received the "Friend of the Trail Award" as did Fort Ransom State Park manager John Kwapinski.

The "Friend of the Trail Award" goes to an employee of a unit of government or organization whose leadership, accommodation and active cooperation have substantially benefited the North Country Trail.

Stankiewicz's contributions included hosting a state agency partner meeting, taking the lead on promoting the 2009 NCTA conference through marketing assistance and attending almost all NCTA events.

"If we had a super supportive agency partner like Kevin in each state, the NCT would be much further along than it is," it was announced at the awards ceremony.

Kwapinski was called an invaluable agency partner of the Sheyenne River Valley Chapter. The FRSP manager maintains a certified segment of the trail within the boundaries of the park and helps promote the NCT and increase the mileage of the trail.

NDPRD Service Awards

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department recognized permanent and seasonal employees with Service Awards this year.

Permanent employees receiving Years of Service plaques were: Jesse Hanson, Planning/Natural Resources Division Manager, 30 years; Doug Prchal, NDPRD Director, 25 years; Jim Loken, Beaver Lake State Park manager, 20 years; Doug Staples, Devils Lake State Park maintenance manager, 15

years; and Justin Parks, biologist, five years. These awards were presented at the NDPRD annual winter meeting.

Seasonal employee service awards, based on hours, went to: Gerald Brennan, Little Missouri State Park, 15,000 hours; Jacqueline Brusseau, Icelandic State Park, 12,500; Becky Danskin, Lake Metigoshi State Park, 12,500; Terry Morrison, Lake Sakakawea State Park, 10,000; Steve Wipperling, Beaver Lake State Park, 7,500; Stephanie Monette, Icelandic State Park, 7,500; Terry Anderson, Fort Ransom State Park, 7,500; David Bauer, Lewis and Clark State Park, 7,500; Deanna Nygaard, Turtle River State Park, 5,000; Roger Clemens, Sully Creek, 2,500; James Hartley, Fort Ransom, 2,500; Lindsey Illebrunn, Devils Lake, 2,500; Jared Hopkins, Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park, 2,500; Ken Grothe, Fort Ransom, 2,500; and Jeb Olson, Sully Creek, 2,500.



Turtle River State Parks Deanna Nygaard receives her Seasonal Service Award. She is joined by NDPRD director Doug Prchal (left), TRSP manager Steve Crandall, Ranger Jeremy Losinski (back left) and maintenance supervisor Shane Grove.

Scenic Byway award

The Sheyenne River Valley Scenic Byway's Interpretation Project, "Telling the Story of the Sheyenne River Valley," received the 2009 Scenic Byway Award for Interpretation at a ceremony held Aug. 24, during the National Scenic Byways 2009 Conference in Denver, Colorado.

The Sheyenne River Valley Scenic Byway's 40 individualized interpretive panels and ten attraction kiosks promote historic preservation and tell the byway's story of the relationship between people and the land. All components complement the byway's design standards. This project has provided an interpretive cohesiveness that enhances the visitor experience.

Sponsored by the America's Byways Resource Center, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO), the prestigious award recognizes eight projects of excellence from byway nominations across the country. Selection by a panel of byway community experts is based on four criteria, including community involvement and public outreach; partnerships; advancing the goals of the byway's corridor management plan; and, innovation.

"We hope these winning projects will inspire new efforts

to preserve, protect, interpret, and promote the intrinsic qualities along America's Byways, distinctive routes designated by the National Scenic Byways Program," commented Michelle Johnson, Director of America's Byways Resource Center.

North Dakota State Byway Coordinator, Kevin Stankiewicz was also in Denver to take part in the award ceremony and stated, "The Sheyenne River Valley Scenic Byway is very deserving of this award. Their interpretive project was well thought out, well executed and innovative. Their interpretive sites and visitor center are a great collaboration of time and effort that resulted in a quality product for all visitors to enjoy."

This is not the first national award for the Sheyenne River Valley Scenic Byway. In 2003, the byway received the Best Practices Award for leveraging resources.

Award winning trail photo

A photo depicting a bike rider on a trail at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park was a category winner of the 2008 National Recreation Trails Photo Contest.

The photo, which won the "Bicycling" category, shows a rider on Fort Abraham Lincoln's Scout's Trail.

"Photographs, such as yours, help American Trails to bring attention and support to one of America's greatest treasures – its trails," wrote American Trails executive director Pam Gluck. "We hope you will continue to document your trail adventures and share your memories with us again."

This photo, along with other category winners, can be seen at <http://americantrails.org/photogalleries/photocontest2008/08photowins.html>.



Keeping North Dakota clean

North Dakota is fortunate to have a successful state snowmobile trail program. Success is measured through the efforts of hundreds of volunteers, employees, and board members involved with Snowmobile North Dakota and the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department's administration. Each year the individuals involved with the state snowmobile trail program look for new ways to increase the program's success, making North Dakota a desirable place to

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enjoy and visit during the winter.

As the state trail program enters the 2009-2010 snowmobile season, Snowmobile North Dakota and the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department are excited to announce their partnership with Keep ND Clean (KNDC). KNDC was formed in 1968 to ensure a continuous statewide program of education for beautification of the state and the proper disposal of litter.

"We are just trying to keep our state trails clean with this partnership. In all of our safety certification courses and literature, we emphasize the motto 'Pack Out what you Pack In,'" says Erik Dietrich, Motorized Recreation Coordinator for North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department.

"Snowmobile North Dakota is extremely excited to work with KNDC. The organizations Board of Directors voted in May of 2009 to partner with KNDC and help promote education for beautification of the state," states Keri Wanner, Program Manager of Snowmobile North Dakota.

KNDC believes education is the key to any successful program, explains Jim Collins, President of KNDC.

For more information on KNCD visit www.dot.nd.gov/public/kncc.htm.

For more information on Snowmobile North Dakota and the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department please visit the company's websites at: www.snowmobilennd.org or www.parkrec.nd.gov.

Northeast Heritage Association honored by State Historical Society

The Northeast North Dakota Heritage Association of Icelandic State Park received the State Historical Society's 2009 "Association of Excellence in Local History" award.

The award is given to the association/organization whose activity in local and regional history serves as a role model of excellence to others.

The Association entered into a partnership with the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department and Icelandic State park in 1985 to build a park visitor center as a tribute to the state's centennial in 1989. The Pioneer Heritage Center, completed in 1988, was fully funded by the Heritage Association. Associated buildings were restored to their historic condition by 2000.

Today, the Association remains active and just completed an expansion of the Pioneer Heritage Center requiring them to raise \$25,000. During 24 years of operation, the Association has developed, in addition to the Center's main exhibit gallery, 40 temporary exhibits on settlement, social life, schools, churches and various other story elements, as well as secure 88 traveling exhibits. It organized nearly 100 events in

its 24 years.

Icelandic State park hosts about 100,000 visitors annually, with more than one-third of them taking in the exhibits at the Pioneer Heritage Center and the associated buildings on the site.

Riepl hired as grants coordinator

North Dakota Parks and Recreation hired Jessica Riepl as its new Recreation Grants Coordinator.

Riepl comes to North Dakota Parks and Recreation from the City of Grand Forks, where she worked as an environmental intern while earning a Masters of Environmental Management in Earth System Science & Policy from the University of North Dakota.

As a graduate student at UND, Riepl worked as a research assistant for the Northern Great Plains Center for People and the Environment and as a geospatial analyst for the Upper Midwest Aerospace Consortium (UMAC).

Originally from Minot and raised in Grand Forks, ND, Riepl also has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music. She is married to Bismarck's Ben Riepl.



Riepl

Maintenance positions filled

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department hired three maintenance supervisors this fall who will be taking positions at Lewis & Clark State Park, Fort Ransom State Park and Beaver Lake State Park.

Steve Wipperling, of Wishek, ND, has nine years of experience as a seasonal maintenance/ranger at Beaver Lake State Park, and will now be in charge of maintenance. He is a graduate of New Rockford High School and is experienced with welding, small electrical wiring, engine repair, wood working, landscaping and public speaking. Wipperling is a member of the Napoleon Volunteer Fire Department and chairman for the Logan County Zoning committee.

David Bauer is taking the position at Lewis & Clark State Park, having been seasonal maintenance supervisor for the last 15 years. He is an automotive technology instructor at Williston High School, where he has been since 1990. He enjoys hunting fishing, camping, stock car racing, snowmobile racing, motorcycling and trap shooting.

Terry Anderson has been seasonal maintenance supervisor at Fort Ransom State Park for the past five years. He has 30 years of experience in supervision, safety, scheduling and skilled manual labor positions. He started working for NDPRD in 2004 following employment with Bobcat Manufacturing in Gwinner where he worked for 20 years.

Just for kids

COLD HARD FACTS

What is the coldest temperature ever recorded in North Dakota?

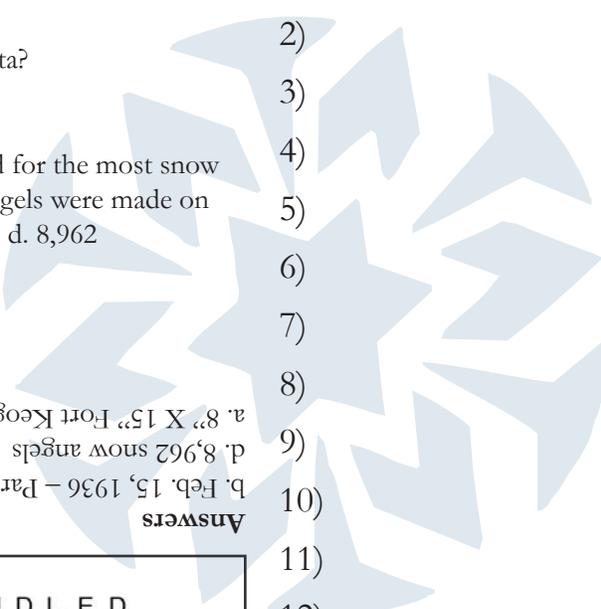
- a. -30°F b. -60°F c. -75°F d. -45°F

February 2007, Bismarck, established a Guinness world record for the most snow angels made simultaneously in one place. How many snow angels were made on the State Capitol lawn? a. 3,212 b. 6,344 c. 4,505 d. 8,962

What is the biggest snowflake on record?

- a. 8" X 15" b. 7" X 12" c. 6" X 4" d. 5" X 3"

a. 8" X 15" Fort Keogh, Montana in 1887 - that's bigger than a piece of paper!



- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)
- 7)
- 8)
- 9)
- 10)
- 11)
- 12)
- 13)
- 14)
- 15)
- 16)
- 17)
- 18)
- 19)
- 20)
- 21)
- 22)
- 23)
- 24)
- 25)

Answers

b. Feb. 15, 1936 - Parshall, ND

d. 8,962 snow angels

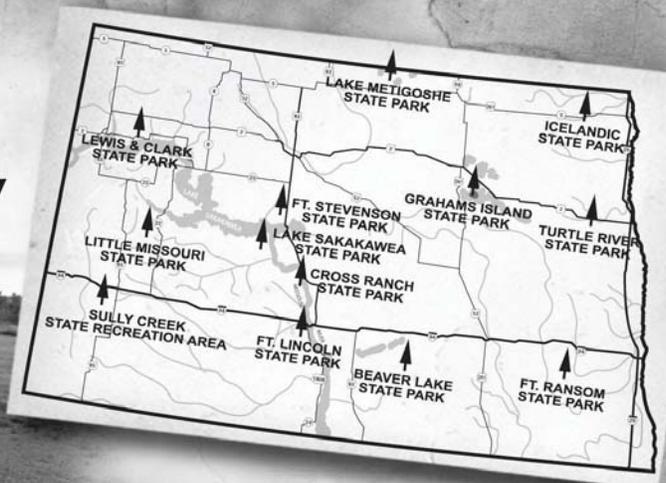
WINTER WORD SEARCH

B U N D L E U P B U N D L E U P B U N D L E D
 U G U S T H A W P S L I P P E R Y B U N D L I
 S N I F F L E S L E D D I N G E U P B U N D G
 W I N T E R I Z E H I B E R N A T I O N L E I
 E W U P B M Y U N D L E U P B U L N D L E F R
 A O I U B Y I H A I L P B U N D L E E U P R F
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 E S U U D P A N T U B U N R D R L E U P B C E
 R L N M U R N N I E L D L E I U C P B U N S E
 D L C O B E A Y K W N S U P B S B T U N D N Z
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- | | | |
|-----------|----------|-------------|
| ARCTIC | BLANKETS | BLIZZARD |
| BLOWING | BLUSTERY | BOOTS |
| BRISK | CHILLY | COLD |
| COLD | DRAFTY | FLURRIES |
| FREEZING | FRIGID | FROST |
| FROSTBITE | GALE | GLOVES |
| GUST | HAIL | HIBERNATION |
| ICICLE | MITTENS | NUMB |
| PLOW | POLAR | SCARF |
| SHOVEL | SKATES | SKI |
| SLEDDING | SLEET | SLIPPERY |
| SLUSHY | SNIFFLES | SNOW |
| SNOWBOARD | SNOWFALL | SNOWING |
| SWEATER | THAW | WHITE |

ANSWERS (over 33 can be made) - let, lie, lit, lot, low, net, new, not, now, one, ser, sew, sin, sit, sow, lots, newt, noel, snot, snow, stow, tent, tote, twin, west, stein, stie, stole, stone, swine, tinsel, tonsil, silent

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