

## PEN

## PARK EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER

*By David Morrow*

After perhaps the worst weekend I can remember, I returned to work and found Joy's request for everyone's PEN articles and note it would be the last newsletter written during our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, which added a little pressure. Quite frankly, I couldn't think of a thing to write about that didn't reflect on my bad weekend and some of the disappointments of the proceeding week. Fortunately, I decided to postpone writing the article. However, by the end of the day I had three experiences that got me out of my funk and back on track.

The first uplifting moment came unexpectedly, when I called to talk with **Guy Dudley** about his decision to retire after 20 years with State Parks. **Guy** reminded me just what kind of people I am fortunate to work with, the kind of people who step up when a family member needs them, despite the personal consequences. I realized that despite all the bad economic news, the struggle to keeps parks going and all the negative political ads we are subjected to each and every day, there are good things going on that far outweigh what is ever publicized in the media. Talking with **Guy** was the beginning of my recovery. As much as I will miss his friendship and help understanding the complex world of radio communication, I'm very proud of his commitment to his father. If everyone did the same thing growing old would not be nearly as scary.



The second moment came during a brief pancake desert break to celebrate **Randy Moore's** retirement from State Parks. **Randy** was asked to describe some of the assignments he had during his career with State Parks and one in particular seemed to sum up the type of people who work for State Parks.

**Randy** and his wife were assigned to Valley of Fire and their first living arrangements were less than desirable but not all that unusual given some of the stories I have heard. **Randy** and **Shirley** lived in a 14' travel trailer that was parked next to the maintenance building, which provided their only water, refrigerator and shower. Life improved greatly, when **Shirley's** parents loaned them their motor home. As they told the story, they clearly had fond memories of the experience; something I think would be rare in today's world. Listening to **Randy** made me realize the kind of attitude that has helped make parks successful and why park employees are so special.

Fortunately, when **Kay Scherer**, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) deputy director, summoned me to a meeting with her and the director of the DCNR, **Leo Drozdoff**, I was doing a little better and bit more positive. What I experienced in our short meeting was something very rare. **Leo** and **Kay** wanted to update me on their latest efforts to help State Park's budget woes and to let me know they were fully committed to keeping State Parks open and operating. Their enthusiasm and commitment was very uplifting and just what I needed. In my 37 year career, in State Parks, I have never worked for a more talented and supportive management team and I have never experienced the support that exists between the various DCNR agencies.

At the end of the day, feeling a little better, I decided to go ahead and write my small portion of the newsletter. I began by reflecting on what was really special about 75 years of state park history and easily concluded that it was the people. There have been many outstanding employees who contributed to the success of Nevada State Parks. It takes a special kind of person to do what they think is right despite what it might mean for them personally. And there are those who make the day more enjoyable just by their presence. Lastly there are those who single handedly, without recognition, accomplish the impossible. Our 75-year history includes many people who possessed one or all of these traits. A 75-year celebration would not be complete without recognizing significant contributions that state park employees and volunteers have made.

If we are fortunate enough to get through these tough economic times, it will be the direct result of State Park's dedicated employees, the outstanding leadership and support from **Kay** and **Leo** and the cooperation and support we get from Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), Water Resources, State Lands, Division of Forestry (NDF) and Natural Heritage. I would have preferred to avoid all the economic problems, but I feel fortunate to be a part of such a great organization.

**Halloween costume in traditional western wear.**→



DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR

*By Steve Weaver*

The holiday season is coming up fast, so I'd like to extend season greetings to all of you. Be sure to make an extra effort to spend time with your extended families. I will

be driving 8,000 miles round trip this holiday season to do just that. You'll never be sorry in future years when family members are gone.

With a very limited number of workdays left in my career, I find myself doing what I remember our former administrator **John Richardson** did during his last year before he retired. He had a long list of parks related items he wanted to see accomplished before he retired, and he checked them off as he was able to accomplish them.

At the top of my list is doing everything I possibly can to make sure that Nevada Division of State Parks (NDSP) survives the next legislative session intact. Certainly, reducing our reliance on the general fund is key. During the recent budgeting process, I was called upon to do several complex analyses to determine revenue gains and losses under several budgetary scenarios, with corresponding projections. Fortunately, those are among the types of challenges I tend to relish. We'll know soon how good my projections were.

In any case, I think we are well underway towards solvency with a number of revenue generating proposals incorporated into our recommended budget, along with some cost cutting strategies that don't require any more staff cutbacks. Thanks to all our staff who contributed numerous great revenue enhancement ideas that were considered during the process.

When the actual legislative session starts, I expect to testify on a frequent basis. Fortunately, I'm not lacking experience in that regard. This will be my 14<sup>th</sup> legislative session in which I will actively participate. Accordingly, I agreed to stick around for one more session, at **Dave Morrow's** request. When I do finally retire next summer, I'll have had 32-1/2 years with the State of Nevada.

Getting our current Chief of Planning & Development, **Mark Davis**, up to speed with all the nuances of creative financing and allocating funding and staff resources to accomplish major maintenance and capital improvement projects is priority #2. Fortunately, **Mark** has come a long way already and I feel confident that I'll be leaving those responsibilities in very good hands. The \$27 million Question 1 Bond issue, in particular, has had a spectacularly positive effect on NDSP, and now we find ourselves working together to wind it down.

Some of the other items on my list include:

- ✓ Wrapping up our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities, and getting all the contest prizes distributed, with **Joy Elwood's** assistance.
- ✓ Getting our new sign manual completed. I've been working with **Tony Beauregard** to iron out the details, and will be asking for feedback from our management team on a number of issues that need to be resolved before we finalize the manual.

- ✓ Help **Mark Davis** complete our Standardization Manual revision.
- ✓ Help **Jenny Scanland** to get our Park Gifts Catalog completed.
- ✓ After spending the last ten years getting the Van Sickle Bi-State Park open to the public, I find that I can't possibly retire until next spring's ribbon cutting ceremony. But, first, we have to get a three-way operating agreement with our partners, the California Tahoe Conservancy and the Tahoe Rim Trail squared away.
- ✓ I'm working with Tahoe's staff to get out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a kayak/PWC concession at Sand Harbor, and complete the Sand Harbor Capacity Study.
- ✓ I've been called upon to share my expertise in heavy timber stairway construction by the **Nevada Conservation Corps**. Next spring, I'll be conducting a field training exercise at Tahoe on the proper way to build such stairs. It's something I enjoy doing and would certainly like to pass on to the next generation.
- ✓ And, of course, there is the legislative slide show production I've been asked to compile. Unfortunately, I haven't gotten a lot of responses. As a reminder, I need you to **SEND ME YOUR BEST BUSY DAY PARK PHOTOS ASAP!** We need all the help you can provide to convince legislators that the public is truly benefiting AND USING their State Parks!



When I get all those items done, I'm sure I'll be able to enjoy retirement without any guilt, knowing that I've done all I could do for the park system I so love, and staff I've enjoyed working with so much over the last three + decades!

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (P&D)

*By Mark Davis*



As many, if not all of you are aware; this year has been a challenging year for all of the Nevada State Parks. The P&D section has also been riding the roller coaster economy. Despite many cuts, we are endeavoring to find as many ways as we can to continue to repair and improve our parks.

**Projects Recently Completed:** In the spring newsletter, we mentioned **Van-Sickle Bi-State Park** was back under way. The project is now substantially complete. It needs some minor items corrected, but it is truly a beautiful park. The grand opening for this park will be a true Bi-State cooperative. The **California Tahoe Conservancy** and the Nevada Division of State Parks are currently negotiating an interim agreement for the day to day operations of the park, in conjunction with the **Tahoe Rim Trail Association (TRTA)**. TRTA will play a major role in the operation of the park at least through the next biennium.

The South Fork's campground improvements will include upgrading the campsites with shade ramadas, barbecue grills and fire rings, as well as some much needed landscaping. The contractor began construction and is now substantially complete.

**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (Con't)**

The Washoe Lake Site Wide ADA Retrofit project is also substantially complete. This project, managed by **Eric Nelson**, was consultant designed and 100% funded by the State Public Works Board (SPWB) Statewide Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Capital Improvement Program (CIP). This project upgraded most of the existing improvements and made them accessible. It did not provide any new building improvements.

**Projects Under Construction:** The Ranger Residence, Storage, Photovoltaic Off-Grid Power System and Site Improvements at Berlin Ichthyosaur began construction near August. Principle staff is: **Marc Lepire** (Ranger Residence, Storage Design and consultant oversight), **Joe Cyphers** (Ranger Residence site design and Ichthyosaur site drainage) and **Dion George** (assisted in the design of the Photovoltaic Off-Grid power System and Mechanical/Plumbing design, project specifications, project assembly and distribution). **Dion** is the construction manager with assistance from **Marc** and **Joe**. This project is well underway, with completion expected before the end of this year.



We had a successful bid opening for the Interior Renovations at the Valley of Fire Visitors Center. **Marc Lepire**, the project manager, is supervising a consultant team (The Dube' Group). Work includes refurbishing of the interior finishes, relocation of the sales center (to allow for occupancy when the space is closed) and storage. We are in the process of executing a contract with **Franklin Construction** and will commence construction in the near future. **Dion George** assisted in the bid opening; he will also be the construction manager for the project.

South Fork's South West Shoreline Improvements was also bid in August. However, as anticipated, the project required additional funding from both the Q1 budget and the NDOW Boating Access program. Funding was recently approved. We have already incorporated shade ramadas, barbeque grilles and fire rings into the current contract and that work is underway. The Low Water Boat Launch component is currently being negotiated and is hoped to be included soon. If we are successful, we anticipate this project to be complete before the end of this year, weather permitting.

**Design Projects:** In August, we anticipated to be underway with a new well and solar powered pump at Beaver Dam, by late fall. However, with some turn of events regarding archaeology and the location of the facilities, we have been delayed a little. We anticipate moving forward via advertising and bidding sometime this winter. This project will replace our old spring collection system that has periodic contamination problems. **Joe Cyphers** is in charge of design and construction management. This project is currently funded by a \$55k federal Land and Water Conservation fund (LWCF) grant that will be matched with a like amount of Q1 bond monies.

Big Bend has experienced some significant volume of water flow changes, resulting in continued erosion of the river bank and beaches. We currently have an ADA retrofit project scheduled for this site. However, it appears that we will be seeking out some funding to resolve the erosion. If we are successful, this project will include solving the erosion problems. Design will commence as soon as we have solidified our funding resources.

Sand Harbor has been undergoing a capacity study. Survey data has been collected. The data, over the next few months, will be analyzed to determine how we can best operate and develop Sand Harbor. This data will assist our staff to determine the requirements and scope for a Boat Ramp and Parking improvement project for Sand Harbor. This project is currently in our scheduled work program. We will commence with the design, once the study is complete.

The Cave Rock Boat Launch Area Improvements have been moderately delayed due to the uncertainty of the funding streams. However, it appears we have a better way to fund the project now and are moving forward with our funding requests. This project will include: a feasibility analysis; public participation; site design; permits; a joint Nevada Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) environmental document-public scoping; simulated photo analysis/scenic study (if required); tribal consultation; construction documents; coordinated project management for sidewalk and curbing replacements (with several small overlooks along the west sidewalk with railings and barriers to keep vehicles off of sidewalks); partial reconfiguration of parking to allow for longer boat trailers; installation of a fish cleaning station; removal of an old boat ramp at the south end and slope protection/enhancement; installation of a three shade ramadas with barbeque grilles and picnic benches; improve accessibility at restroom; and the main day use facilities area.

**Joe Cyphers** is also working on Sand Harbor's Diver's Cove Walkway and Erosion control project. Design is expected to be complete by fall, with construction anticipated in spring.

The Washoe Valley Bike Path has been re-designed, due to some unforeseen information causing the bike path to be relocated on the site. The revised design documents are near completion; they are being reviewed by Washoe County. **Bob Beck** has been doing the design work, with oversight by **Joe Cyphers**. The project should bid in early 2011. **Bob Beck** will be the construction manager for this project. The project is funded with \$175,000 in Washoe County 1 Bonds, \$175,000.00 State Lands Q1 bonds, and \$140,000.00 of State Park Q1 bonds.

**RECTRAILS (RTP)**

*By Randy Moore*  
**Randy Moore**, Conservation Staff Specialist and RecTrails Program Manager retired October 9, 2010 with 24 years with State Parks. The following is a biography of **Randy Moore's** career. It all started in a far away land in a time long forgotten.



As a college student majoring in renewable natural resources, I was searching for employment somewhat related to my field of study. On a whim, I submitted an application for a park aid position. I was interviewed and hired in 1982 at Lahontan Dam by then Park Ranger **Gary Rimbey**. During the interview, **Gary** informed me that I would need to hang upside down in pit toilets with a putty knife and

scrape unmentionables from the sides. I hesitated; however, a college kid in need of funds will do many things. I am pleased to say I never had to do the pit-toilet scrape-thing, but I did have a lot of very different toilet adventures, some that no one should experience!

From Lahontan, I went as a park aid to Rye Patch in 1983, then as a seasonal ranger in 1984. In the spring of 1985, I returned to Lahontan to serve on the Dam side as a seasonal ranger, where I re-met the woman who would become my wife. We went to school together and she was a seasonal ranger on the Dam side working for Park Ranger **Hank Eilers**. Yes we were a bunch of Dam Rangers! Ha! See Jenny, Little Rock wasn't my first Dam event! That fall Shirley and I got married, and I was sponsored to POST and then worked for **Ken Bowie** rebuilding adobe ruins at Fort Churchill. I returned in the spring of 1986 as a Commissioned SR to the Silver Springs side with then Park Ranger **Eric Nelson** (yep the same one in P&D). In the winter of 1986, I became a full time Park Ranger at Valley of Fire with then Park Supervisor **Gary Rimbey**. In the spring of 1987, I left the heat of the Valley for the blue and cool of Lake Tahoe with Park Supervisor **Mark Kimbrough**. In the winter of 1990, I became Park Supervisor at Rye Patch under the tutelage of Regional Manager **Bob Francke**, who helped us move in, with balmy weather of -30 degree. Might say it was a chilling event in our lives. However, we were warmed with the birth of our daughter in the spring of 1991. In the fall of 1994, I became the Regional Manager for the newly created Region 4 in Elko County under then Chief of Operations and Maintenance, **Wayne Perock**.

In 2003, budget crunches resulted in staff crunches and Region 4 was dissolved, resulting in our move from Elko to Carson City to become the division resource manager. I soon discovered that due to a legislative audit, I was also the new Contract Manager, which became a daunting task as I tried to get educated on contract management law. Other duties were soon added such as Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Volunteer coordination duties. Then in 2008, budget crunches again resulted in restructuring and I became the new Recreation Trails Program Manager under Parks and Recreation Program Manager, **Jenny Scanland**.

So, 28 years later, I have come to the conclusion that there isn't too much left to do that I have not already done, and it's time to move on to new adventures and experiences that will be all the richer because of the places and things I have

experienced and most of all, from the people that have shared this adventure. For those that truly have the heart of a ranger, know that parks are not a career or a job, but a way of life. Now, on to a new way. God bless one and all!

## PLANNING/RECTRAILS

*By Jenny Scanland*



### **November 3, layout and design of the new water trail. Where is it?**

As **Randy** retired in October, happy trails to him, I began pondering my own future. I have been supervising the RecTrails program for the past almost

5 years and served as the State Trails Coordinator. During that time, I continually thought to myself what an absolute perfect job...absolutely exciting...gee I wished I were in that job instead of supervising it. What a FUN program!

So I took the plunge! During the month of October, I made a big decision and applied for the Recreational Trails Program Manager position. I knew this would be a down-grade and I would be leaving my supervisory role, as well as master planning and my role as the Land and Water Conservation Program Liaison Officer, and other many statistical duties and money searching endeavors.

I just decided it was time to get back into the field and onto trails and do so BEFORE I turn 50! As I write this note to you all, I have been offered the position and accepted it with great joy. I have discovered over the past 25 years of my natural resources career that my true love is pulling people and children together and getting them outdoors. I have taken so many photos of trails on my many worldwide trips...yes trails. The beauty they provide, the experiences with nature, the well being for your soul, mind and body are truly amazing. This is truly my dream-job. I will be here always to assist and point the new planner (when it's filled next year) to the right files. HEE HEE...I will never say "sorry, that's not my job anymore" (I promised **Steve Weaver**). So until the paperwork is final, let me update you on what I have already got rolling! (what? You thought I'd sit still!).

Almost 100K in old grants for State Parks are back on track and the preliminary field work and contracts are on board for the following parks:

Washoe Lake - **Jenny Dawson** is almost done with the equestrian trail restrooms and tons of signage and miscellaneous trailhead amenities. Great job Jen!

Echo Canyon, Spring Valley and Beaver Dam multiple trail maintenance crews, rock work, a bit of trail equipment, handrails, signs and kiosks. It was great to see **Ben** at Echo and we are still wondering how he trained that immature bald eagle to fly across the path in front of me with such perfect timing! Thanks also to **Dawn Andone**; she is going to make me work!

**PLANNING/RECTRAILS (con't)**

Over 900K in grants to other entities are done in the last three weeks. I will be putting a list on park's website in November/December. These new grants include a HUGE trails assessment on 14 of our own parks; all trails will be GPS'd (Global Positioning System) and measured/assessed by Beneficial Designs. Really nice trail maps and directional signs will be designed and purchased. The Universal Trail Assessment Protocol standard for trails will be implemented in all the parks and shown on the signs. GOOGLE "UTAP" and meet the owner and see the products; we will be setting the standard for other states by having these assessments and top notch information in our parks! I will be personally contacting and facilitating all these grants and projects, so you are not overwhelmed. I love federal grants....it's an illness I have no desire to treat!

My goals are:

1. To make Nevada a state full of destination trails;
2. To build collaborative partnerships with every trail club, manager, agency, etc. that I can find in Nevada to make the program funding go as far as possible;
3. To make Nevada State Parks trail system a "national showcase." Working as the program manager for the funding source is NOT the only role this position will play. We have an incredible opportunity to market and provide to locals, regionally and internationally, the most diverse trails know to exist in one state. The opportunities are endless and unique from any other state;
4. There are many other trail/outdoor education/healthy children initiatives out there that we can plug into for ideas, help and MONEY;
5. Trails advocacy, trails promotion, and trails management.

I can't wait to officially start and will be seeing all of you much more often. I will be building a monitoring system in Geographic Information System (GIS) for state parks, as well as all RecTrails projects in the next year. But in the meantime, I would like you all to check out two websites: GOOGLE: "nevadatrailsmaps." This is an ongoing project with Great Basin Institute and Nevada Conservation Corps and almost all of our trails and all federal land and city trails for Nevada are on this site, with information and maps you can download. Check out your park trails and let me know if there are any mistakes. Download the maps for our own use and as visitor handouts! FREE! There is also a trails link to "Nevada Trails Maps" on the Nevada Recreational Trails web site at [www.parks.nv.gov/trails.htm](http://www.parks.nv.gov/trails.htm). All new master plans have been added with all kinds of maps for you to download and use on the General Management plan tab. This will continue to occur as more parks are finished. FREE!

**LAKE TAHOE NV STATE PARK (LTNSP)**

*By Linda Bauder*

All of us here realize how fortunate we are to work in such an amazing place. With the hectic summer months behind us, we are enjoying the crisp autumn air, calm waters, and beautiful changing colors. We all agree that fall is the very BEST time of year. Our end-of-summer statistics show economic conditions and increased park fees have not kept the public away. LTNSP welcomed 831,021 visitors through August,

generating \$877,129 in revenue. Total September visitation exceeded 72,000, with fees totaling \$113, 033. Sand Harbor also served as the venue for 89 group events, including the first annual Lake Tahoe Stewardship Congress held on September 16. Groups from around the basin arrived in hybrid vehicles, e-mobiles and shuttle buses to share ideas about maintaining lake clarity and promoting eco-tourism. Sand Harbor's fall events calendar also included several beach weddings. Wedding parties are thrilled with the new option to reserve a portion of the boat beach for their ceremonies.



Late in the summer **Dale Conner** officiated the swearing in of LTNSP's first Junior Park Rangers. The kids have done a great job working on their activity booklets, and we



enjoyed hearing about their adventures in the park. Bring your children/grandchildren up to Sand Harbor or Spooner Lake and help them become Junior Rangers. In September, **Jennifer Dawson** and **Dale** spent some time with a group of 80 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students at Huffaker Elementary School. The kids learned about the job of a park ranger, and were also treated to some 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary prizes.

On September 24, **Jay Howard** guided a band of explorers, which included Mark Twain impersonator, **McAvoy Lane**, curator and manager of the Thunderbird Lodge, **Bill Watson**, and Bill's friend **Shannon**, in search of the upper Incline Tramway bull wheel. They started from the west portal of the historic tunnel at



Tunnel Creek Station and along the old Third Creek Flume route. They were excited to find sections of the original box flume (for carrying water) still relatively intact.

The hikers continued north for about a mile and successfully made it to the large head frame and bull wheel. Built in 1879 by the Sierra Nevada Wood and Lumber Company, the steam-powered Incline Tramway ran straight up the mountain with a vertical rise of 1,400 feet. The tram cars were used to carry milled lumber and cordwood from the Incline Mill to a V-flume transportation system (including a 4,000 foot long tunnel) that led to the Comstock mines of Virginia City.

**Bill Champion** and crew are currently in the thick of the fall foliage season. The changing colors around Spooner Lake and up North Canyon are spectacular this year, bringing in large numbers of visitors.

**LAKE TAHOE NV STATE PARK (con't)**

Bill has also been busy working on trails in the backcountry. In early September, Bill invited the group “Muscle Powered” to help with the construction of the Hobart Link Trail, which connects Hobart Reservoir to the Tahoe Rim Trail. **Todd Anderson** has also been spending time in the backcountry helping out with the annual wood sale. We have missed seeing **Todd** around Sand Harbor over the past few weeks, but know he is enjoying his days escorting permit holders up into the park to collect firewood.



On October 20, **Dale Conner** and **Linda Bauder** led an interpretive backcountry tour for some of the folks who worked with us during the past summer season. **Billie Danforth, Daphne Lange** and **Gary LokenDahle** of the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival enjoyed seeing some of the more remote areas of the park including Marlette Lake, Flume Trail, Hobart Reservoir, Red House and Hannah’s Cabin. **Leslie Barnes**, Washoe County Sheriff Support Specialist also joined the group. The perfect weather and brilliant display of fall colors up North Canyon made it a memorable day.

When not reviving the sewer pumps at Spooner Lake, our good natured maintenance team is busy preparing the park facilities and vehicles for winter. Former Boy Scouts (or so they claim), **Joe Fontaine** and **Mike Shipman** are all about being prepared. No doubt they will have everything ready to go when the snow flies! The restrooms at Sand Harbor are also being re-sided and given a fresh coat of paint this fall. They will look good as new when they reopen next spring.

It’s also the time of year when we say goodbye to the last of our seasonal employees. We had a diverse and talented staff this year, and we appreciate all their hard work. **JoAnn “Yogi” Kayo** is a park tech at Sand Harbor and our resident bear expert. Along with helping to keep the park facilities in tip-top shape, **JoAnn** educates visitors about safety in bear country. She gave a “Bear Awareness” talk to a group of children from the Great Basin Institute and handed out stickers and hats that were generously donated by NDOW bear biologist, **Carl Lackey**. **JoAnn** is already planning four more bear talks for next season!

Upcoming projects include:

- RFP for a water sports concession at Sand Harbor to be prepared by **Dale Conner**.
- The development of a PWC/Boat Safety training class, which will be implemented next spring. **Mike Shipman** is taking the lead role on this project.
- Continued work on the Sand Harbor capacity study led by **Jay Howard**.
- Volunteer day at the **Evelyn Mount Food Drive** on November 12.

We look forward to reading about all the activities and projects going on in other Nevada State Parks and hope you are all enjoying this fall season!

**2010 Nevada Day Parade**

*By Joy Elwood*



“100 Years in Aviation” was this year’s theme, but we also threw in the celebration of 75 years of State Parks; “Flying High for 75” was our float’s name. **Steve Silva** had the daunting tasks of heading up this project, but with his love of aviation and years of participation in the annual air races, he was the perfect choice.

There is a long list of contributors toward Carson’s float: **Klye Wiltowsky, Tony Beauregard** and son and daughter **Will and Kaitlyn, Robert Misiti, Jay Howard** and daughter **Kaite, Steve and Donna Silva, Miguel Villalobos, Jennifer Dawson, Teresa Heenan, Dave Pardew, Jennifer Scanland, Marc Lepire, Christi Latragna** and her parents, **Becky and Tim Miller and Bob Jones**. 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary goodies were handed out for the crowds to enjoy. The float won the **Parade Chair Award**. Congratulations for a job well done!



**NORTHERN REGION**

**BERLIN-ICHTHYOSAUR STATE PARK**

*By Jeff Morris*

Well, after a long and productive summer, things continue to stay busy at Berlin. Despite record rainfall in the region, visitors are still flocking to the state’s central mountains and making a point of visiting the park. The campground has been near full to overflowing on the weekends throughout the month of October and tour attendance has been great. Through the end of October, park staff has conducted 302 tours with an amazing 2,362 people attending. This is an increase of 62% over last year and has helped increase Berlin’s revenue by more than 52%.



**BERLIN ICHTHYOSAUR STATE PARK (Con't)**

We have also conducted several resource management projects when not conducting interpretive activities. With the help of the NDF crew out of Tonopah, we have successfully eradicated about 75% of the brush and grass from the town site of Berlin, which will go a long way in fighting any wildfire that could threaten the town. Over 90 acres have been treated with herbicide to try to control the cheat grass invasion. Two large hazard trees were felled and bucked and staff has been busy trying to keep up with the multiple areas of erosion caused by the recent rains. We also installed all new fire rings and barbecues in both the campground and picnic areas. Thanks to **Jim** at Rye Patch for loaning us his John Deere 110 for this project. I must end this edition as yet another camper has just arrived needing attention. I wish all a happy and safe holiday season.

**CAVE LAKE/WARD CHARCOAL OVENS STATE PARKS***By Steve Gray*

Fall is finally here!!! We have had a good latter part of the summer, and an excellent fall. Our visitation during hunting season was very good compared

to the last couple of years. **James Cox** and **Tracey Doutre** are still working with me to try and get the last few projects done before winter decides to show up. We have been able to split and stack about 15 cords of wood to get us through the winter.

Fire and Ice is slated for January 15-16 and the Ely Rotary Ice Fishing Derby will be January 29. Come December 1, I will be working on these budgets, and starting to advertise. I hope we get some new faces to come check it out this year. And I hope everyone has a good, safe, and warm winter.

**DANGBERG HOME RANCH HISTORIC PARK***By Mark Jensen*

In addition to the regular tours, a series of speakers appeared at the Dangberg Home Ranch this summer, and they were well-attended. Professor **Cheryll Glotfelty** presented her research on representations of Nevada in American literature, and former state treasurer **Patty Cafferata** spoke on the history of Nevada's treasurers. Four Chautauqua performances were quite popular: **Doris Dwyer** portraying Margaret Breen from the Donner party, **Anita Watson** as 19<sup>th</sup> century opera singer Emma Nevada, **Janet Bremer** appeared as Marie Louise Mackay, and Fort Churchill's **Mike Dinauer** gave us Samuel Buckland with **Linda Conlin** as Eliza Buckland.

Over two weekends this fall, the park staged its annual exhibit of vintage clothing, with items worn by three generations of the Dangberg family. These included the 1898 wedding gown worn by Gertrude Dangberg, casual and formal clothing worn by Gertrude and her four daughters in the 1920s through the 1960s, and children's clothing from the 1910s and 1930s worn

by the daughters and a grandson. A highlight of the exhibit was the christening dress first worn in 1866 by Fred Dangberg, Jr. As before, a range of men's and women's hats, shoes, jewelry and accessories from throughout the 20th century were also displayed.

**FT. CHURCHILL STATE HISTORIC PARK***By Park Staff*

It was a slow summer at the Fort this year! We have to assume most people went to nearby water parks to get away from the heat. Although we still had quite a few interpretive events this summer we just didn't see the number of campers as in years past.

Now that it's already fall our seasonals are long gone. **Robert Groberg** is driving a school bus for the Lyon County and **Howard Wren** has become a 'House Wren.' We have to assume that means working on **Debbie Wren's** extensive 'honey do' list. Without these two guys this summer we would have been in trouble.

The Buckland exterior and cemetery repaint projects were completed along with many other projects. The Boy Scouts orchestrated the Buckland repaint and **Paul** sprayed the final coat on both.



Ranger **Mike Dinauer**, as well as the Region Weed Spray Crew, we're walking around in 'blue shoes' for much of the summer from the many acres that were sprayed. Tall Whitetop and Knapweed would make an excellent ethanol source if we could only figure out how. We have acres of prime biomass ready for cellulosic production.

We had lots of interesting school groups out for the Living History talks, and Adobe Brick making classes, but most of the kids just want to hear the cannons 'roar.' Scout Groups, Church Groups, Weddings, Equestrian Clubs, a Model 'A' Club, Gem and Mineral Club, Archaeological Club, and a Ghost Hunter's class rounded out the season.

**FT. CHURCHILL STATE HISTORIC PARK (con't)**

The ghost hunter's class was part of a Truckee Meadows Community College Paranormal Series which was offered at a number of locations. Buckland Station was host to three classes offered on October 3 followed by a trip to Buckland's cemetery. The late class (7:30 to 10:00 p.m.) proved to be the most chilling or maybe it was just the temperature.

October saw **Mike Dinauer** and **Linda Conlin** putting on the first annual Buckland's Chautauqua. Last year's event was so popular we asked for a repeat performance. **Mike** (as Samuel Buckland) and **Linda** (as Eliza Buckland) have already performed at Dangberg Home Ranch by special request. On October 9, the Civil War Volunteers set up their annual encampment on the museum lawn complete with a skirmish at the parade grounds. It's always a pleasure to have a group that has such a wealth of knowledge and is willing to demonstrate for us.



Halloween will be a blast this year as

we are hosting a Halloween 'Safe House' at Buckland Station on October 30. **LaDonna Hughes** (**Mike's** wife) will be spearheading the event with decorations, candy, and cartoons for the kids. All of us will be dressed up in costume and kids in costume will get in free. It is a well publicized event so we will let you know how it went in the next PEN addition.

Fort Churchill has teamed up with **Dayton Valley Conservation District** and several other conservation agencies along with the R.O. Anderson Engineering firm, to put in for a Federal Emergency Management Act (FEMA) grant called the Fort Churchill Flood Mitigation Project. It's more commonly known as the "Big A\_\_ Project." It is our hope that FEMA will fund a \$1,650,000 grant that would pay for stream bank restoration, bio-engineering, and stabilization of a portion of the Carson River stream bank. The section in question is rapidly eroding toward Buckland Ditch and Fort Churchill Road, and if left unchecked, it could possibly damage both in a major flood event. Keep your fingers crossed.

We have many projects lined up for this winter; just not a lot of manpower to complete them. We will keep you abreast of our progress.

**LAHONTAN STATE RECREATION AREA**

*By Tony Beauregard*

It's been a busy and challenging summer at Lahontan. First, I want to say thank you and good luck to

**Rob Holley** who retired this spring. For ten years **Rob** has been a community fixture at Lahontan, establishing a core of community supporters like the **Healthy Communities Coalition**, **Lyon County Sheriff Allen Veil** and the **Carson River Wranglers**.

This summer has shown terrific results from those relationships. Community programs like Easter Egg Hunts continue and the new Festival of the Springs hopes to grow

that community relationship. **Rob's** effort to build relationships and establish a hard working, dedicated and professional reputation has paid dividends this year. With staffing levels down and injuries this summer **Rob's** relationship with Lyon County truly paid off when we needed the county's help. Everyone came through.

In other news, Lahontan got a new supervisor, a new ranger III and a familiar face has returned. **Tony Beauregard** was promoted to Supervisor, **Bob Mergell** was promoted to the Ranger III and **Robert Misiti** returned to Lahontan after a short stint in the minors...er Rye Patch, I mean.

As a new supervisor I was asked "What have you learned this summer?" Well, I learned not to leash mangy, freaked out, firework frightened, cocklebur covered dogs. I chose poorly. I also learned how much dedication and hard work two rangers can put into this job. **Brad Larkin** and **Bob Mergell** went above and beyond the call, after call, after call this summer; being the only two Law Enforcement Rangers for eight weeks. Outstanding job, thank you!!



Not only did we have the usual busy weekends, we also had three very popular canoe trips and a record turn-out for our fishing derby. **Brad** handled the derby with the help of Seasonal Tech. **John Collis** and Park Aid **Mark Nelson**. Over one hundred participants and families enjoyed the day. Here's to continuing the family oriented fun at Lahontan. ☺ Now that winter's approaching we look forward to the quiet buzz of the chainsaw and the warm glow of a burning slash piles. Have a great winter, everyone!

**RYE PATCH STATE RECREATION AREA**

*By Jim Hawkins*



Just when you think summer has finally rolled into fall, its back into the low 90's. Even in November, we are experiencing unseasonably warm temperatures in the 70's. With chilly nights, early mornings and a low reservoir, camping and visitation has slowed tremendously. Despite the poorest fishing season I can remember, camping and visitation remained constant or slightly higher than last year. Boating remains at an all time low, a 45% decline, mainly due to poor fishing experienced all year. We got off to a rough start with cold, wet weather in May and our normal busy Memorial weekend was a bust, resulting in a near 50% decline in overall visitation and camping. The remaining summer months managed to close the gap to a 10% deficit from last year, which is an impressive comeback. It's nice to know that a park's visitation is not as dependant on the fishing, as we once thought; although great fishing certainly helps.

I would like to thank Park Ranger **Robert Misiti** and returning Park Tech **Terri Cox**, for doing their best to take care of things during my absence this spring. I would also like to recognize new hires **Jacob Riski** and **Oma Wallimann** for all their dedication and hard work this summer. Once again short staffed and busy, they managed to keep things operating and clean.

**RYE PATCH STATE RECREATION AREA (Con't)**

We even completed a few projects with the installation of fifteen brand new fire rings in the lower campground, extended the drip irrigation in the lower campground and added thirteen new trees. Our group reservation area on the east side of the river received an over-haul with new lodge pole railing. Upcoming projects include improving the overflow lot across from the dump station with trees, irrigation, tables and a few fire rings complements of **Berlin Ichthyosaur**, thank you! We also have to thank **Washoe Lake** for allowing us to "piggy back" on their picnic table order so we could replace the old crusty ones in the ramada group area.

The fishing report remains poor with only an occasional walleye or wiper usually landed by the most persistent fisherman willing to put in hours, or in some cases days, of casting and reeling. The opening season of chukar hunting was greeted with over an inch of rain leaving backcountry roads washed out or muddy. Normally the first couple weeks of hunting season keeps the campgrounds busy. Those few hunters that turned out, they experienced rough roads and hard to find game. I am afraid word has gotten out that it's not worth going out. My observation has been that the birds have had excellent recruitment this year with noticeably larger coveys. The majority of the birds I have harvested are young birds. With standing water, fresh green grass immerging everywhere and warm weather, the birds are not limited to the watering holes and can hang out where they like to be, on the very top of the mountains where they are hard to reach. I would tell the hunters not to hang up their shot guns just yet, with some cold weather and snow, the birds will come down to the southern slopes. That concludes the Rye Patch report. I wish everyone an enjoyable holiday season and winter.

**SOUTH FORK STATE RECREATION AREA**

*By Jim Wilkinson*



We are in the midst of two large scale Capital Improvement Projects. Our developed campground was closed on August 16 for the following improvements: Two ADA accessible campsites were constructed along with

all associated ADA infrastructure with picnic tables, sidewalks and water faucets. We have jokingly considered installing basketball rims on both sides of the concrete pads for ADA basketball courts, because the concrete pads are so amazing; and two group use sites with 20 x 20 shade structures/pavilions with associated infrastructure with group sized picnic grills. The grills are literally big enough to roast half a beef. Both of these sites will be extremely popular with our visitors and allow large groups to congregate. Seventeen 12' x 12' Cherokee shade armadas; all twenty-five sites now have shade. All sites received upright picnic grills, increased size of the parking areas and a majority of the sites had tent camping pads installed. Seventeen sites received windscreens.

An irrigation system was installed with over 120 trees and shrubs planted. The lack of trees was a consistent complaint from park visitors. Before, we were doing a lot of tree

watering by hand or by use of a patched up 1/2" irrigation line we connected to our Murdoch water faucets.

We want to thank **Eric Nelson** for his hard work as the Landscape Architect, **Dion George** as the Project Manager and all division staff who helped obtain and administer the funding and logistics. I also need to mention the sincere efforts of South Fork's Maintenance Specialist **Jeff McKovich**, who had the foresight to continually monitor the work of the contractor. We ultimately have the responsibility to safeguard public funding and ensure work is being completed to the specifications in the contract document. Nevada voters who helped approved the Question 1 Clean Water, Parks and Wildlife Bond Issue in 2002 cannot be forgotten. With our current economy, we might not see any more park improvements, unless federally funded or privately donated for quite awhile. On October 25, construction started on the Southwest Shore Improvement Project. This project will include the following: The installation of twenty 12' x 12' shade structures; Windscreens; Four American Disabilities Act accessible picnic sites with associated ADA infrastructure; new upright grills; fire rings; and concrete picnic tables.

The Coyote Cove Boat Launch area will see the installation of a 21 1/2' single lane boat launch with an adjustable sled dock. Funding for this project was provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sports Fishing Restoration fund via the Nevada Department of Wildlife Boating Access/Motor Boat Fuel Tax Fund and the 2002 Question 1 Clean Water, Parks and Wildlife Bond.

In 2011, we will break any and all previous visitation records. The improvements seen will make South Fork even more enjoyable for local Elko County residents and all other visitors.



I would like to thank seasonal employees **Bryce Johnson**, **Jackie Gooch** and **Brandon Barnum** for their hard work and efforts this past summer. It's not possible to keep the park area and facilities clean, and complete a multitude of projects without your help. Your positive attitudes were appreciated. We wish you the best in your future efforts and you are always welcome back to work here.

We are starting efforts to also implement the South Fork Meadow Rehabilitation Project. Two 12' information boards are scheduled to be installed, along with needed fencing repair and fence installation in the new parking area. The Nevada Division of Forestry through the efforts of **NDF Resource Management Officer Ryan Shane**, is providing Honor Camp crews to do a majority of the labor.

I also want to thank the **Nevada Youth Training Center** employee **Ernie Fagogo** for working out here through September 13. It was nice to have a person to professionally act and staff the park office, issue permits, and provide good humor and even free food for park staff. We appreciate your efforts and wish you the best in your medical recovery. We hope everyone has a safe fall/winter.

**WILD HORSE STATE RECREATION AREA**

*By Andrew Bass*

The Nevada Day Parade in Elko was again a lot of fun with great public relations. The theme was “Elko County a Great Place for Adventure” so we were celebrating “Nevada State Parks Providing 75 years of Adventure.” With snowmobiling, fishing, camping, hunting, and even a Canadian goose following us through the parade, there was no shortage of adventure on the float. Thanks goes to **Nicolas Brunson, Jeff McKovich** and his family (Patty, Mason and Morgan), **Brandon Barnum, Paula Ault**, and the Bass Family (Andrew, Michele, Jasmine and Star-Anne) for all of their help. We even won!



**SOUTHERN REGION**

**BEAVER DAM AND CATHEDRAL GORGE STATE PARKS**

*By Dawn Andone*

Happy trails to you—**Derek, Marcia, and Nevin!**

Yes, it is that time of year again, when the weather turns cool, the leaves change to brilliant oranges, yellows and reds, and we bid farewell to our hardworking seasonal employees. Things may be winding down for the winter, but the summer/autumn season was a very busy one; full of county fairs, Labor Day events, Trappers Rendezvous, Star Parties and Cathedral’s Annual Dutch Oven Cook-off.

The Nevada State Trappers Association held their annual rendezvous at Beaver Dam in the end of July. Fun was had by all, with members participating in shooting, lure making competitions, and trap setting demonstrations. Saturday night’s dinner included Dutch oven chicken, potatoes, vegetables, and wonderful desserts. The night ended with the raffle. The grand prize, a Savage EDGE 22-250 Rifle, had everyone in the crowd hoping their ticket would be the lucky winner; and for one attendee it was. Congratulations **Brody!**



August and September found us heavily marketing the parks at county fairs in Logandale, St. George, and Cedar City. Our efforts were rewarded as they became visitors to our parks over the last few months. Visitors to Cathedral had an

ethereal encounter in September at the Las Vegas Astronomical Society’s Fall Star Party. Two nights of heavenly star gazing took place under perfectly clear skies, unlike last year, when a sea of clouds blocked the night sky.

The sweet smell of success wafted through Cathedral Gorge as chefs from all over put their culinary skills to the test and won great prizes for their efforts. Taste-testers and judges alike had their taste buds stimulated with savory dishes of meat, vegetables, breads, and desserts. The People’s Choice Award, a commemorative 75th anniversary Dutch oven went to **Mark and Gina Lloyd** for their Spud Nuts. Happy trails to all...until next spring.



**KERSHAW-RYAN STATE PARK STATE PARK**

*By Jonathan Brunjes*

The summer and fall at Kershaw-Ryan have been extremely busy and eventful. We held our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration with a great turnout as visitors were able to spend the day at the park enjoying numerous activities including, horse and buggy rides through the park, rock painting, and interpretive hikes. The day also included a K-9 demonstration by the **Lincoln County Sheriff’s** department, as well as a fire truck for the kids to climb through. To top it off, local musician’s, **The Voice’s of Lincoln County**, provided an outstanding concert for all to enjoy. We sincerely thank all participants in and the numerous businesses that donated prizes for the raffle to close the day out.

We hosted a horseshoe and volleyball tournament in the park as part of Caliente’s annual “Homecoming Celebration.” A good turnout of participants and spectators made both for a lot of fun and entertainment. The winner of the horseshoe tournament took home \$80 in cash and the winning volleyball team members each received T-shirts.

We held our first Halloween activity and I just want to thank **Dave Morrow** and **Russ Dapsauski** for allowing us to use the left over perishables from Nevada State Parks Cooperative Association (NSPCA) for the event. It turned out to be successful (125 people in attendance) and the popcorn was a hit for both kids and adults. We grew our own pumpkins and each visitor was able to paint a pumpkin and take it home with them.





The highlight of the night was “The Haunted Hike.” The **Lincoln County High School** drama club made sure all the kids had a scary night (thank you) and everyone is looking forward to the event again next year.

Thanks also go out to Albertsons for the big boost to our donations. I can assure you that it will be put to good use for current events and future events.

We have moved into our new fee booth/office and it has greatly helped with fee collection and interaction with the public. Needless to say, it is a huge upgrade from the trailer we were working out of previously. Thanks to **Marc Lepire** and **Dion George** for all of their hard work. The road through the park was paved in September and now visitors can come out to the park without worrying about needing a car wash when they leave. Thanks to **Joe Cyphers** for his efforts to oversee this project. We wish everyone a safe winter season.

**VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK**

*By Stephen Santee*

Well, as the northern half of the state is slowing down, we here in southern Nevada are speeding up! Rumor has it that we have again filled our long vacant Law Enforcement Ranger position. You know what they say, “third time’s a charm.” However, the vacant desk and vacant residence, I am beginning to wonder if the rumor is false. If anyone sees a certain Lincoln County Supervisor passing unmarked envelopes to other staff let me know. Welcome on board **Andrew Porter** and thanks for your helpful visits on busy weekends. Just Kidding **Ben!**

We welcome on board two new staff members to our seasonal ranks, Park Aid **Nicki Kendrick** (stolen from NSPCA) and Park Aid **Rebecca Digman**. We also welcome back returning Park Aid **Jay Wanta**.



Nicki is quickly learning to hate UF-3’s and deposits with the parks massive daily deposits, while Rebecca shows off her skills demonstrating the Slot Canyon Crab Walk.

As illustrated, rain has been an issue. We have seen three major storms in the last two months providing the maintenance staff job security. As fast as they could get the damage cleaned up from one storm another would hit undoing all the good they had accomplished, ending with the ultimate blow in this picture. If you haven’t guessed the rock won!



So, with our fall busy season in full effect, and with the rains coming in the wrong season, we, of course, have also started the Visitor Center Remodel. Those of you that have visited the Visitor Center at Valley of Fire will recognize the sales area and information desk (see →). Then again maybe not!



Visitation hasn’t seemed to be greatly reduced by the recession; our campground is filling regularly on weekends, filming continues on a regular basis and the special events schedule is packed. We have already had the **Ragnar Relay Race**, which had runners starting at six in the morning. These are runners, not fireflies. Ragnar was fun and the 400 teams had extremely interesting names which we cannot print. But maybe this picture will give you a hint!



October 10, 2010 was a record setting day for weddings in the park, with 28 couples tying the knot. Photos are not available but just picture in your mind Jim trying to keep track of all these weddings.

Coming up in the next two weeks is the annual Hump and Bump rock crawling event, followed by the MS 150 fundraiser race. I can’t wait for summer to return and the pace to slow down.

Finally I must acknowledge the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Halloween Jubilee. The celebration went off without a hitch. Well maybe one, Amber has reported that she is now the perfect State Park Employee, because she has completely lost her mind. If anyone finds it, please put it on ice so we can return it to her on retirement, she won’t need it till then.



Amber reported that her favorite comment from the parents was that Halloween Jubilee was a great event because no children were crying from fear. Jim had to burst her bubble by telling her he heard one crying. What he failed to tell her was that this one was crying because he was being forced to leave the event.



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 Nevada Division of State Parks  
 901 S. Stewart St., Ste. 5005  
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**PERSONNEL**

*By Anke Simpson*

As our busy season is winding down, we would like to give recognition to those who have continued to work for state parks over the years.

**Park Service Plaques & Certificates for 2010:**

**30 YEARS:** Steve Silva and Donna Silva

**25 YEARS:** Kelly Kolhoss

**20 YEARS:** Alyce Cloutier, Guy Dudley, Jay Howard and Ben Johnson

**15 YEARS:** Tony Beauregard and Bob Mergell

**10 YEARS:** Jennifer Dawson, Jeff Morris and Pat Marker received his plaque this year even though it was due in 2008. Unfortunately, I did not count the years correctly due to his break in service. Sorry Pat.

**5 YEARS:** Matt Elmer and Charlie Wells

**As for Anke, I love Halloween.→→→→**

We did not have very many changes in the last few months among our permanent staff, but interviews are scheduled to fill the vacant Commissioned Park Ranger position at Rye Patch.



**GRADUATIONS:**

**Allen Wooldridge** from Ward Charcoal Ovens graduated from Peace Officers' Standards and Training (POST) on 11/18/10 and won the academy's Outstanding Graduate Award. Congratulations!



**TRANSFERS:**

**Robert Misiti** transferred laterally from his commissioned Park Ranger II position at Rye Patch to Lahontan on 10/4/10. **Jenny Scanland** transferred from her Park and Recreation Program Manager position to the vacant Rec. Trails Manager position at the Division Office as a Conservation Staff Specialist II on 11/15/10.

**RETIREMENTS:**

**Randy Moore** retired from his Rec. Trails Manager position at the Division Office on 10/8/10 after 28 years with State Parks. **Guy Dudley** retired from his Communications Specialist II position at the Southern Region Office with 20 years of service with State Parks. We all wish them fun in their new adventures.

