



# PEN PARK EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

## ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER

*By David Morrow*

The 74<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session just past the half way mark and the Division seem to be holding on to the majority of the items approved in the Governor's recommended budget. The "one-shot" appropriation contains the replacement of 61 vehicles, replacement computers and much needed GIS software for the Planning and Development Section, are all still in tact. The "budget enhancements" included additional seasonal funding, a position and operating funds for Dangberg Ranch and funding for deferred maintenance projects, has been presented to legislation and will go through the budget closing process on April 18. Thanks to input from many of you, we have been able to respond to questions from the Legislative Council Bureau, as well as questions posed during committee reviews.

The legislative process involves far more than developing a budget every two years. The information you submit is first prioritized and ranked by the division, department, budget office and finally by legislation. The better we are able to document the requests with detailed information, illustrations and pictures, the better we are at getting the necessary approval and support. We learned that we need to provide very detailed explanations to support our budget requests, such as cost per mile, overall mileage of the vehicle and the condition of the vehicles we are replacing. In the case of new positions and programs, we have been asked to compare the cost of adding additional personnel versus contracting with the private sector. We have also been asked to provide detailed revenue projections when requesting fee funded positions or programs. The information you collect and the pictures you supply are critical to our success. In the future, it would be very helpful to have you begin putting the information together well before the legislative session. By taking pictures of your park when it is fully occupied or taking pictures of deferred maintenance projects, it would enhance our budget submittals. We all need to think in terms of what might be asked by an auditor when developing our individual budget requests, like: 1) Did you compare the cost of contracting the service to what it will cost to do in-house; 2) What is wrong with the piece of equipment, besides being old; 3) What will you do if the equipment is not replaced; 4) Can the requested position be funded in any other way than through the General Funds; 5) Can you show why and how your utility and vehicle operating costs increased; 6) Are you operating longer or driving more miles. The process of developing these responses can best be accomplished over time rather than when we put the budget requests together.

We are confident the final budget will be an improvement over what we have received in the past and with some luck may match our original expectations. Thanks to all of you, we have been able to demonstrate the need for replacement vehicles, additional seasonal funding, as well as a significant number of increases in our base budget. We will continue to work on our budget request and to oppose legislation that may be harmful to our existing park and program operation.



*It's Santa Dave volunteering as a helper at Dangberg. He doesn't look confident about going down the chimney.*

## OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

*By Allen Newberry*

It has been an interesting legislative session with all of the changes between the two administrations and the recommended budgets for state agencies. Norman Vincent Peale said "Change your thoughts and you change your world." This certainly has to be the key to maintain a sense of balance in the funding process that we all face every two years. It would be real easy to allow yourself to be driven crazy with the day to day happening and changes as noted in the paper, and the discussions for funding issues statewide. Of course every request is top priority in the eye of the requestor. They say life is tough and it gives you lots of lemons, and this is true; yet we are the ones who ultimately decide whether or not we are going to make lemonade or have lemons.



**OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE (Con't)**

Yet as park employees we need to balance operation costs and needs against the funds we receive, while trying to balance visitor expectations and safety concerns. We are facing some cutbacks in the recommended budget to meet statewide shortfalls. Yet I have heard many positive comments from field staff, thanks to the dedicated and skilled staff that seem to always keep the parks open and the fleet running. "Thank goodness for duct tape and baling wire." It also requires us to think on the positive side and do some cognitive reframing and restructuring in our daily lives, which means each of us may need to adjust and adapt to continue to meet critical park and visitor needs. I know when all the dust settles; we will be able to set priorities and move forward and make our parks a great place to enjoy life.

We had two long-term employees retire. **Ray Richardson** retired at the end of December and **Phares Woods** retired in early January. We wish both well and hope they "live long and prosper." **Ray** plans on staying in Las Vegas and hopes to use his fishing pole as often as possible and **Phares** has bought a new home alongside the railroad track in Caliente and plans to just enjoy the trains and catch up on his reading.



I did recently make it out to Berlin-Ichthyosaur to check the park and to see the new cabins for permanent and seasonal staff. The Fallon Region Crew staff did an excellent job on these cabins at great sacrifice to the region to complete this project. The cabins are first class all the way and the workmanship bar none is the best. The cabins are equipped with a photovoltaic system that should ensure a top of the line home in this remote

location. I would like to thank the park and regional staff for a job well done.

I would also like to thank staff statewide that has assisted in filling in the vacancies at Valley of Fire State Park. Valley of Fire is a year around full maintenance and full visitor park experience and staff from Las Vegas, Fallon and Panaca regions have helped to keep the park open and operating. We also appreciate the extra work done in the park by staff to keep the bubble nearly level.

**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (P&D)**

*By J. Steve Weaver*

Nevada Division of State Parks is finally moving into the modern world with construction this spring of RV campgrounds with utility hookups at both Valley of Fire and Big Bend of the Colorado state parks. Valley of Fire is getting 21 new campsites with power and water hookups, while Big Bend is getting a 24 site camp loop with FULL utility hookups, including power, water and sewer. Big Bend is also getting a new entrance contact station, paved day use parking lot, and a paved overlook drive and parking lot. We've also put in for a federal Boating Access grant through Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) to fund some slope stabilization along the shoreline and boat lagoon, and to relocate and add several additional waterfront picnic ramadas.

**Bob Martin** is serving as the project manager for these projects, with engineering and project management assistance from **Ned Wallace**. The total cost of these improvements will exceed \$7 million, funded mostly by Question 1 bonds, along with some federal Land & Water Conservation Fund and hopefully, the federal Boating Access funds.

**Bob Martin** is also in charge of the installation of seven new and/or replacement Sweet Smelling Toilets (SST) restroom units for Valley of Fire, costing over \$300,000. Installation will be taking place this spring. In the meantime, **Marc Lepire** is working with a consultant team to finalize plans for a \$2 million expansion and remodeling of the Valley of Fire's visitor center, to include a new auxiliary office structure and public restroom, and a new entrance foyer with refreshment/snack dispensing machines.



*Slaving away exhaustingly, Bob Martin continues to work, on the floor.*

**Marc** is also working with **Tom Tabacco** on the Valley of Fire & Big Bend residences, with completion scheduled for this fall. He is also working with a consultant on plans for the \$250k Spring Mountain Ranch Visitor Center Renovation project, scheduled to be bid in April, while supervising the finishing touches on Tahoe's new Visitor Center/Snack Bar/Park Store Concession. The latter should be ready for opening before Memorial Day. **Marc** has also been working diligently to get the Dangberg Ranch Stabilization/Restoration project ready to bid, hopefully sometime this spring. A number of problems have been encountered during the design phase, resulting in some delays; we had hoped to have the project out to bid last December. Meanwhile, new roofs have already been installed on all six of the major historic buildings. This was a major component of the building stabilization/restoration process. **Tom Tabacco** supervised the roof installation, and will also be supervising the next phase of construction.

**Ned Wallace** oversaw the recent completion and installation of the new Lahontan North Shore Marina replacement dock. Meanwhile, we have applied for federal Boating Access funds through NDOW to extend the ramps for low water conditions. Construction could take place this fall, if we end up having a low water year.

**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (CON'T)**

He also assisted with repairs to the Sand Harbor boat docks, which were damaged by a winter storm. **Ned** is currently working with **Bob Martin** to engineer Fort Churchill's Buckland Station Day Use Area Development, which is primarily focused on a fire suppression system for the newly restored Buckland Station. This project is on hold, awaiting a summer Q1 bond sale. He will also be working with **Tom Tabacco** on the South Fork SW Shoreline Ramadas and Boat Ramp project later this year, which we hope to fund with FY '07 federal Boating Access funds. A request for funding was made in March.

**Tom Tabacco** is serving as the project manager for several current projects. He has already ordered campground shade ramadas for both South Fork and Washoe Lake, and will supervise their installation this spring. He is also responsible for the Sand Harbor Maintenance Shop Renovations project, which has a bid opening scheduled for April 15, and the Washoe Lake Maintenance Storage Shed construction, which will hopefully get underway sometime in late summer or fall, after **Marc Lepire** is able to complete the plans. **Tom** has also been assigned the Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort adobe repair project, which is funded with fee overage funds and hopefully will be underway very soon.

The Tahoe Backcountry hike-in campgrounds units will be getting new SST restrooms this summer. Other SST units have been ordered for Ft. Churchill's Group Area (Fisherman's Point), the White Flats Fishing Access at South Fork, and a third one for the Rye Patch lower campground. **Bob Martin** is supervising these installations with assistance from **Ned Wallace**.

**Joe Cyphers** has been providing engineering assistance on several smaller projects requested by field staff, Tahoe's Slaughterhouse Canyon Road, the new IVGID/Sand Harbor sewage export line and pump station conversion, Valley of Fire Ranger residences, and the Kershaw-Ryan Campground and Entrance Station office. He also recently reviewed the Van Sickle phase I development plans and negotiated a draft agreement with Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) to tag onto their State Route 317 paving project in Rainbow Canyon for the Kershaw-Ryan Entrance Road Paving project, scheduled for 2008.

**Bob Beck** has been assisting **Joe** on a number of these smaller projects and serving as a project manager for the design layout of the proposed Mormon Station - Campbell property site improvements. These include paved walkways, picnic pads, drinking fountains, irrigation systems, and landscaping. Bids were opened on April 4.

**J. Steve Weaver** is still working with a consultant team to complete the \$3 million phase I development plans for the new Van Sickle Bi-State Park in the Tahoe Basin. The 60% plan review was recently completed and comments submitted.



The first phase will be primarily limited to the main access road, underground utilities, and a trailhead with restrooms. Our California partner, the California Tahoe Conservancy, plans to add at least \$1 million for improvements to the California side of the park, including a day use picnic area and restroom, historic structures stabilization and additional underground utilities. Construction is now planned to start in the spring of 2008. The grand opening will most likely take place in the summer of 2009.

**Steve** is still working with consultant teams to complete the master planning process for the Dangberg Ranch and Beaver Dam State Park master plans. Right now, the planning process is on hold, awaiting feedback from FEMA regarding the site restoration of the former Schroeder Reservoir. He also served on the technical advisory committee for the City of Las Vegas and their consultant team to develop a new master plan for Floyd Lamb State Park, which is now completed. Floyd Lamb will be transferred to the City in July 2007. Transition details are still being worked out.

Meanwhile, **Jenny Scanland** has been making great headway towards completing the Dayton State Park master plan, with close cooperation from Lyon County, the Town of Dayton, and local citizen groups. She is also managing a contract with UNLV's School of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Planning Research Program, to facilitate master plan revisions at Spring Mountain Ranch, South Fork and Valley of Fire, using funds from a federal Land & Water Conservation Fund grant. The planning process for South Fork was initiated in mid-November and more recently the Valley of Fire master planning process was initiated, with Spring Mountain Ranch to follow shortly.

**Jenny** wants to once again thank all field staff who has been conducting the ongoing park user survey in their respective parks. Having this updated user data will help the division in a number of ways, especially assuring that we are meeting visitor needs for both services and facilities.

See **Cheryl Surface's** report for RecTrails Program activities.

**RECREATIONAL TRAILS**

*By Cheryl Surface*

The Recreational Trails Program deadline for submitting applications for funding was March 16, 2007, at which time twenty-three applications were received. There were nine applications for educational funding, a significant increase over the previous years total of two applicants. State Park's division office, Washoe Lake State Park, South Fork and Wild Horse State Recreation Areas all submitted requests for trail and educational project funding. The Ad Hoc Nevada State Recreational Trails Advisory Committee will be meeting May 3-4, 2007, in Reno, to review and rank the eligible project applications. All eligible project sponsors are invited to present their trail projects to the Committee.



**RECREATIONAL TRAILS (Con't)**

Spring Mountain Ranch has a new loop trail funded through the Recreational Trails Program. While inspecting the trail on March 30, I was treated to a close encounter with the local sheep herd.

*Spring Mountain Ranch Wild Sheep*



The second Regional Trails Training for Nevada and Northern California will take place May 18-20, 2007 at Galena Creek Park near Reno. Training will follow three separate tracks: Beginning Trail Construction, Advanced Trail Construction and Crew Supervisor Training. Additionally, on Friday, there will be courses in Trail Layout and Design, as well as, Mountain Bike Trail Layout and Design. This training is being funded through a Recreational Trails Program grant. You may register for the training at [www.tahoerimtrail.org](http://www.tahoerimtrail.org). Meals and lodging will be provided in addition to a wealth of trail information. For further information you may contact Cheryl Surface, State Trails Coordinator, at 775-684-2788. Funding is available for State Park employees to attend.

**NEW DIVISION EMPLOYEES**

*By Alyce Cloutier*

*Welcome to Christi Latragna and David Mensing!*

The newest employee to the division office is **Christi Latragna** who replaced Dena Fitzgerald as our Accounting Assistant II. Christi has been with the State 2 ½ years. Prior to coming to State Parks, Christi worked in the Director's office for 5 months and State Lands for 2 years. Christi's duties will include checking timesheets, filing, checking off budget status reports, issuing purchase orders, enter bills into ledgers for the regions, issues park permits to public, back-up to front desk phones and other duties assigned.



**David B. Mensing**, Regional Manager for the Carson Region, replaces Brad Kosch who retired last year. Dave comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and experience. Dave has 37 years of experience working in various positions for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). His most recent position was Lead Outdoor Recreation Planner in New Mexico. Dave received his BS in Outdoor Recreation Resources in 1973 and his MA in Geography-Environmental Conservation in 1977. Carson Region has a lot of projects in the works so we're sure to keep him busy.



**Wal-Mart Supercenter Awards Grants to Nevada**



**Division of State Parks**

**Dave Morrow, Administrator of the Nevada Division of State Parks, Angela Wood, Wal-Mart community involvement coordinator and Steve Silva, Park's Senior Law Enforcement Specialist.**

The Wal-Mart Supercenter in Fallon and in Minden on 1/16/07 awarded two cash grants State Parks.

The one grant awarded by the Fallon Wal-Mart for \$500 will assist with the training of park staff at Lahontan State Recreation Area. The second award, from the Wal-Mart in Minden, also for \$500, was a part of Wal-Mart's Communication Involvement Program grant program.

Both grants will be used to support the division's law enforcement and emergency services operations in those regions "We are extremely grateful for Wal-Mart's support of Nevada's State Park system," said Dave Morrow, Park's Administrator.

“This money will provide training that will help law enforcement and emergency response efforts.”

**Angela Wood**, the community involvement coordinator for the Minden Wal-Mart, said her store had given about \$40,000 to local programs during 2006, including the Navy League and Child Protective Service.

**CARSON REGION**

**WASHOE LAKE STATE PARK**

*By Jim Black*

The winter months have been for the most part uneventful here at Washoe Lake. Staff has been attending the usual training courses and fixing all the broken stuff around the park (Is there anything here that isn't broken?!). We have seen many Bald Eagles at Little Washoe and around the South Beach area at Big Washoe. The lake has been full since last winter, so waterfowl are back in large numbers also.

In early March, we received many complaints of aggressive coyotes apparently harassing some of our equestrian visitors, so the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture was contacted and a couple of our local coyotes were terminated with extreme prejudice. This is a new one to me, as I have observed hundreds of coyotes over the years (some from just a few feet away) and have never felt I was in any danger from them.

As most of you have probably heard, my wife Terry suffered a heart attack in late December last year. She spent two weeks in the hospital and is just now starting to feel good again. Her Cardiologist told her recently that there was no permanent damage to her heart and we thank God for that! Terry and I would like to thank all of you for your concern, cards and words of encouragement.

I will be retiring July 1, 2007, if all goes according to plan. But don't think you all are getting rid of me that easy. I plan on visiting our wonderful parks as much as I can and keeping track of all the good friends I have made during the past 28 years. Thank you and be good!



**FALLON REGION**

**BERLIN-ICHTHYOSAUR STATE PARK**

*By Mike Dinauer*

What a year it has been so far. Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) crew was in the park for over two months removing diseased Pinions. This was the third consecutive year of tree removal, with an estimated 1,000 trees cut and removed overall. Needless to say, the campground is not as private at it once was.

On January 11, the solar control panel fried itself making the solar power storage system useless.

On January 12, the big freeze came. It got so cold neither generator would start. It can be challenging living off grid. The town of Ione didn't fair any better. The diesel fuel jelled in the town generator and it shut down. "Morris Manor East" froze up and **Jeff** was without water for over a month. Fast forward to March...Ione took a giant step toward becoming a ghost town. The town generator was shut down and the Ore House Saloon closed. I don't know what this will mean for us. Ione attracted a lot of people, many of whom visited the park during the summer months.

On January 16 and 17, **Scott** and **Charlie** replaced the defective solar control panel and **Ernest** got one of the generators running. Life was good at BISP...not so quick. As it gradually warmed up the water pressure in the park residence decreased until the flow stopped altogether. The frost permeated deep enough to freeze the main water line. We were totally without water for about 2 weeks when the problem finally fixed itself.

And there's more....

In underground mines there is a condition called "air slacking" that occurs when the temperature changes dramatically and suddenly the rock fractures and falls. The rock fractured and fell in our tour mine. Some of the rock that fell is larger and heavier than we can move. The mine inspector has recommended scaling be done by professionals (that's manually breaking rock loose from the mine walls and ceiling).



Last but not least, we would like to thank NSPCA for providing the funding for the Berlin Mine Shaft Set project. Now visitors can see a complete mine set-up with hoist shack, hoist engine, head frame and shaft sets, with a cable running from the drum on the hoist engine, through the head frame and attached to an ore skip set on rails in the shaft set.

**FT. CHURCHILL STATE HISTORIC PARK**

*By Jennifer Finlen and Jim Prida*

Spring is definitely here! For the first time since I have been with state parks, I actually get to see a season other than summer. It's nice to see the trees starting to bud and the pastures are getting greener each day.

Thanks to **Eric Johnson**, he made arrangements to get 1,200 goats at the Carson River Ranches to help eat Whitetop and other weeds. **Jim Prida** is disappointed he didn't get the goat herding job. Being "Baaasque," he has got the herding gene in his blood. When he retires, he is putting in for the job as the division's goat herder.

May and June are booked solid with schools, scouts and families that are taking advantage of our group use area. We will be very busy giving history programs, making adobe bricks, tours of Buckland Station and firing the cannon!

**FALLON REGION (Con't)**

Speaking of Buckland Station, we are in the works to set a date for our grand opening celebration! Hopefully, it will be this summer and we will be sure to give you updates. The first floor has been completely restored and it is absolutely beautiful!

We would like to welcome back **Howard Wren!** **Howard** is starting his 14<sup>th</sup> season as a Park Tech here. **Thomas Fitzsimmons** better watch out. **Howard** is catching up with him! **Merle Harper** has been our campground host for the past two years and we are sure glad he is here to help out.

It has been a joy to transfer to Ft. Churchill and this region. **Jim Prida** has been very welcoming! I will miss Valley of Fire, with its many entertaining events that seem to happen there and the great people.

Hopefully, the river will come up enough for us to enjoy our annual canoe trips along the Carson River Ranches. I'm dragging **Jim** with me, whether he likes it or not! Have a great summer and take care y'all!

**LAHONTAN STATE RECREATION AREA**

*By Rob Holley*

Greetings from Lake Lahontan - After over 40 years in and around this area, this was one of the coldest winters that I can remember. Granted, we were not as cold as our counterparts to the north and east, but nonetheless, we were cold. The ground froze up to two feet deep in places, and we went for weeks without getting above freezing. Lahontan reservoir was almost completely frozen, with the only open water near the middle of the dam side. Folks were ice-skating in the Silver Springs coves, where over 6 inches of clear, hard ice had formed. It was a beautiful winter, quiet and still with endless blue skies and clear star-lit nights. It was, however, an extremely dry winter. While upstream agricultural users will run out of



water early in the summer, Lahontan's water levels will be perfect because of last year's storage and the Truckee river water impounded during the winter months.

As is customary for this time of the year, Lahontan staff is hurriedly working to finish up winter's projects, as the onslaught of summer visitors will soon be upon us. For the first time since 2000 we have a full contingent of rangers, and these hard-working men continue to demonstrate the diverse skills required to keep Lahontan the premiere camping destination in Northern Nevada. Over the past few months, we have completed many maintenance and resource management projects. The park is looking better than it has in several years (having staff always helps). Projects included new directional and beach signs, dormant oil treatment of locust trees, fence repair, slash burning, hazard tree removal, wood splitting, day use clean up, group area grill installation,

and kiosk repair. Progress was made on the fencing of the Carson River Delta IBA (Important Bird Area), equestrian trail head and campground development, and weed management projects. Staff have also made themselves available to assist with weed management work at Berlin and spring coverage at Valley of Fire.

Park Tech, **Mike Cavanaugh**, started his 9<sup>th</sup> season at Lahontan. He is ecstatic about the new dump station at Silver Springs. In past years, it seemed like he was a full-time sewer cleaner-outer and part-time Park Tech. Words can not express the horrific undertaking of keeping that dump station unplugged and working. Many thanks go out to **Mike** for his patience and persistence. Long-time Lahontan Dam Park Tech, **Jim Sizemore**, has moved on to the Magnolia State (Mississippi) to be near his family. **Maridie Thornton** has stepped-up and is more than capable of filling his shoes. **Cynthia Johnson** will be assuming the post of Park Tech in the Silver Springs fee booth. **Fern House** will be returning for her "twenty-something<sup>th</sup>" season as the second Park Tech at Lahontan Dam. We're glad to have this bunch returning. All are great people and more than capable of imparting vision and leadership to other seasonal staff.

We're all looking forward to the summer and a change of pace from the quiet, steady gate of winter. The annual cycle at Lahontan is something we enjoy. And besides, without the antics of our visitors we wouldn't have as many stories to tell. Speaking of which, in the 2006 edition of "Only at Lahontan," I forgot to mention one of last year's highlights. One of our long-time visitors decided to apply for a seasonal position in the spring of last year. A thirty-plus year resident of the area, this gentleman is a character. He camps in a full-sized tee-pee, wears a wonderful, authentic sombrero, cowboy packers with his shorts, pulls his boat behind a dump truck, and sometimes sports a tie (without a shirt). I think you get the picture. Anyhow, when he walked into the Fallon Region conference room for his interview with **Tony Beauregard** and **James Hunting**, he exchanged greetings and slipped from his right shirt sleeve a prosthetic arm (borrowed from a friend), plopped it down on the table and said calmly, "I just want you to know that I'd give my right arm for this job." Somewhat taken back, **Tony** and **James** managed to finish the interview - and the gentleman is still applying. Only at Lahontan!

We hope you all are well and you're enjoying the warmer days and the greening of spring. With sincerest regards, **Rob Holley**.

**RYE PATCH STATE RECREATION AREA**

*By Paul Schmidt*

The ice is now off the reservoir and it's feeling a bit like spring around here. We are seeing mostly fishermen and a few campers, now visiting the park. The returning fishermen will be hit with a surprise. The area will soon be posted with mercury warnings. New findings point to elevated mercury levels.



**FALLON REGION (Con't)**

Looks like brand new staff will be coming onboard this season (except possibly for one returning seasonal). We don't know where we are going to get all these people from, but we are still looking. When applicants hear we only have one seasonal residence available, it kind of turns them off. Our seasonal residence (the infamous 'Rodent Retreat') is being hauled off the premises to a more pristine location. From the boys at Rye Patch – have a great spring!

**SOUTH FORK STATE RECREATION AREA**

*By Jim Wilkinson*

Thanks to a winter where the average temperatures stayed below 32 degrees Fahrenheit, South Fork Reservoir did freeze over and we had very good ice fishing conditions through the end of February.

Once March rolled around, weather conditions changed and it was unsafe to walk out on the ice. On March 17<sup>th</sup>, the ice gave it up and disappeared. I couldn't believe how all of the visitors just jump out of the woodwork, and invade what was once a nice, peaceful oasis. This past winter, we had several Cutt-bow Trout caught in the 6 to 7 pound range. We truly have an outstanding fishery.

An observation I am noticing is the amount of litter accumulating in our parks and along any roadway where vehicles are. We seem to have a class of people who really don't seem to care. I thought litter was specific to parks, but it's not. It's everywhere. I recently had the chance to go through some Oregon and California State Parks. Their litter problem is just as bad. The one exception was Jedediah Smith State Park in California. This is near Crescent City on the Northern California Coast. This is the only park where I did not see a speck of litter. The only reason I could think of, was everyone looks up to gaze at the Coastal Redwoods, and are too awe struck to drop their beer bottle or candy wrapper.



I also believe title or classification of your park has a direct correlation on the amount of litter generated per park visitor. Recreation Area: Forget it. You can have a dumpster every 10' and its not going to help. State Park: A more representative sample of the type and amount of litter the average person generates. Coastal Redwoods: You're lucky to find a gum wrapper. Put away the pogy stick and kiss the redwoods.

South Fork is awaiting the arrival of two new SST's. We will officially be out of the blue Port-a-Potty stage of park development. It has taken twenty years, but the wait is finally over. Thanks to **Bob Martin** for all of his help. We will also be installing eight shade structures in our developed campground. There will now be shade to go along with the view. I would like to thank all division staff for their help in procuring these for South Fork.

South Fork is also revising and updating its master plan. **Jennifer Scanland** and the **UNLV Architectural Team** are doing a great job. Once we have a final public input meeting in May, we are looking forward to the finished plan. We hope you have a nice spring.

**PANACA REGION**

**CATHEDRAL GORGE STATE PARK, VISITOR CENTER & BEAVER DAM STATE PARK**

*By Barbara Rohde*

Well, **Cody Tingey** is busier than a one-armed wallpaper-hanger, trying to hang wallpaper in the wind. **Phares Woods** retired in January and we are trying to keep five park units operating with 4-1/2 staff members. So, if you have tried to visit Kershaw-Ryan and found the gate closed, we're sorry. **Nevin Birkmier** was hired to fill in for three days a week when **Matt Elmer** is off (on the 4-10 schedule). As of this writing date, there is still not a new park supervisor at Kershaw-Ryan – as we go into the busy season. Groups are already calling for reservations for their reunions and gatherings, not only at Kershaw, but also we have received a lot of calls for Cave Lake (and thank heaven for wireless Internet access, we pass along the e-mail address for folks to make their reservations online). **Nevin** has been using the Greenhouse to get the flowers and plants going that will be planted as soon as the temperatures warm up. One day, she went to Elgin to check on the Schoolhouse, there were visitors waiting around outside, so she gave a tour! Way to go! **Dixie Tienken** will be returning for another season at Elgin Schoolhouse, starting in April.



Master plan hearings have been held in Las Vegas and Caliente for the Beaver Dam master plan re-write, and the consultants seem to be on-track for completion of the document by June. If only the new developments were also scheduled for completion that quickly, but we have received some great ideas for facilities and services or activities from the hearings. In time, Beaver Dam will again become the favorite spot of those who want to get away from the "rat race."

**Barbara** will be attending the Commission on Tourism's "Rural Roundup" the end of March, to make contacts with all the folks in Nevada who deal with tourism on either a paid or volunteer basis. These contacts have been invaluable: **Ann Henderson** from Nevada Magazine is writing an article on the parks in Lincoln County, for an upcoming issue; and Ann had contacted Barbara a year ago to write her article for Cathedral Gorge. We have also been receiving copies of articles that were written for Japanese travel magazines, as a result of a "Fam Tour" that the Commission on Tourism conducted for six Japanese travel writers last fall. The photos look good, but we need **Yono Ray** (**Mike's** wife) to interpret them for us!

PANACA REGION

**CATHEDRAL GORGE STATE PARK, VISITOR CENTER & BEAVER DAM STATE PARK**

**Barbara Rhode** and **Steve Weaver** have been working on a small committee, the Southern Nevada Birding and Wildlife Trails Partnership, to establish southern and eastern Nevada as a birding and wildlife-watching destination. This is also as a result of contacts made at the Rural Roundup and from Steve attending the Governor's Conference on Tourism. **Barbara** has also been representing parks on the Lincoln Communities Action Team ("LCAT"), a new group formed around expanding businesses based on tourism in Lincoln County. This was started by the local University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Educator, after she attended an Agri-Tourism workshop a year ago. With gas prices on the rise again, we certainly need to meet the challenge of getting people to come to rural Nevada!

**BARBARA ROHDE WINS AWARDS**



While attending the Commission of Tourism Rural Round Up, March 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> in Primm, NV, **Barbara Rhode**, Park Interpreter for Panaca Visitor Center, at Cathedral Gorge, received two awards. First, from the Commission on Tourism and Pioneer Territory for furthering the cause in volunteerism in tourism for Nevada (plaque on the left). The Pioneer Territory submitted Barbara's name to represent the Pioneer Territory. Secondly, she won a drawing for a free ad in the 2008 Woodall's Travel Guide, for Nevada State Parks. This will be shared with the Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce, since they will be sharing the cost of upgrading the ad in the RV Guide, which is touted as the "Bible" of the RV traveler. Great job, Barbara!

**CAVE LAKE STATE PARK**

*By Mike Ray*

The ice is off, and the fish are biting. What more is there to say? Well, I guess there are a few things I could mention. There have been many exciting things happening in the park since the last PEN, and I am sure there is more excitement to come.

First of all, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual White Pine Fire and Ice Show was a great success. Two thousand eighty (2,080) visitors and contestants braved the coldest weather of the year to enjoy the event. In spite of the bitter cold, the fire works show was as impressive as ever, the Ft. Churchill cannon blasts were awesome, and the sculptures were topnotch. Did I mention the cold? Just how cold was it?



Well, the toilets in our heated restrooms near the lake froze solid, and I think **Cody Tingy's** face is still thawing out. We also learned that when it is that cold, it takes more than a little antifreeze and salt water to keep a sani-hut from freezing solid. It also amazed me to see how fast beer turns to slush at -25° F. The folks enjoying refreshments from the White Pine Brewing Company probably were amazed

too. Thanks to the generosity of the White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board, we had three heated canvas tents on loan that were set up on the ice. They were an excellent place to escape the cold for a few minutes. On behalf of all the Cave Lake staff, I would like to thank all of those who helped put on this event. Once again, with your help, we were able to make the event a great success.

Two weeks following the Fire and Ice Show, the annual Rotary Club Fishing Derby was held at our little lake. Over 600 people crowded onto the ice and tried their luck at catching a fish worth \$10,000. This year nine tagged fish were caught, however, the "big one" got away once again. Even so, a great time was had by all. We would like to thank **Andrew Porter** for coming up from Spring Valley to lend us a hand.



Another major event for Cave Lake was the passage of the White Pine Public Lands Bill. Among other things, this bill transferred several thousands of acres of U.S. Forest Service administered lands to Cave Lake State Park. This is an exciting addition that will be a valuable asset to the division for generations to come.

With spring advancing and Old Man Winter slowly loosing his grip on the mountainside, Park Supervisor, **Steve Gray** and Maintenance Repair Specialist, **Terry Ivins** are working double time to whip the park back into shape. (It is amazing how hard a winter can be on the park.) As always they are doing an incredible job and the park is looking great. The people are out enjoying the lake, the trails and the scenery, and we are all reminded that we do this for them.

FIRE & ICE PHOTO ALBUM

The White Pine Brewing Company

The Grand Prize Winning Sculpture  
*"Home Sweet Home"*



2<sup>nd</sup> Prize *"Rescue Fireman"*



*"Sponge Bob Square Pants"*



*"Kodiak Moment"*



3<sup>rd</sup> Prize *"Alice in Winter Wonderland"*



*"Octopus"*



Here are pictures on other impressive sculptures:  
*"Cave Lake Jurassic Park"*



## PANACA REGION (Con't)

### SPRING VALLEY STATE PARKS

*By Pete Gill*

An old corny one from the past *"It's springtime- I saw my first Robin! He was wearing a utility belt, mask, and cape!!"*

Springtime all right in Spring Valley style. Spring break time in Las Vegas and other parts of the southern end of the state, balmy weather and temperatures up to low 80's during the day has had our visitors yearning for that first spring fling. Only they find snow showers, cold winds, and campground temperatures still ranging from mid-twenties to mid-thirties at night when they arrive here. Despite the discomforts, fishermen have found a full reservoir newly iced-out (lake ice was off by March 11<sup>th</sup>), and newly planted with 15,000 tiger trout and 5,000 rainbow trout to augment the already decent holdover population (a 6.5 lb. Brown trout was taken in February through the ice; and there have been several 14"- 18" German brown, rainbow, and tiger trout taken). I have also been surprised in the encounters I've had with visitors just passing through or discovering the park for the first time!

We have moved into a newly-renovated office and are enjoying slightly upgraded creature-comforts such as a decent computer work station, desk space that will accommodate three work areas. Now if we can only figure out a seasonal break area free of dust, dirt, wind, wasps, flies, etc.(we have plenty of those in the other areas of the park). We are looking forward once again to that now decades-old rite of passage for most of our parks "The Busy Season!!"

### WARD CHARCOAL OVENS STATE PARK

*By Mike Ray*

I'm sure you have heard it said that if you don't like the weather in Nevada, just wait five minutes. Well that saying rings true in Ely for sure. After shirt sleeve weather during most of March, Old Man Winter has reared his head and let us know he isn't quite ready to give up the ghost. Which is a good thing, because we need more of the white stuff up on the mountains. Nevertheless, as I get older, I find I like the cold days less and less. However, I know warmer days are just around the corner and the busy season will soon be upon us. Busy, of course, being a relative term.

The activities at Ward generally center around our charcoal oven name sake. One of the things I have discovered as I have researched their history is the fact that they were a solid topped structure. The "chimneys" at the top of each oven were not there when they were being used to make charcoal. The air flow in and out of the ovens was through the three rows of vents at the base of each oven. Next time you are visiting our wonderful little city, take a look at the mural of the ovens on the Bank of Ely (next to the Hotel Nevada). The mural depicts the ovens as they were being constructed and one of the completed ovens has smoke rising from the top. This is a great painting, but it is not historically accurate. I am continuing to learn something new everyday about the ovens and the history of the area. As I do, I'll try to share a little of it with you in the PEN.

Recently, the Department of Wildlife released information saying the Bass and Northern Pike in Comins Reservoir (just down the road from both Cave Lake and Ward) contained levels of mercury that are unsafe. They advised that consumption of these fish could be hazardous to your health. One of the side effects of consuming too much mercury is memory loss. It's a good thing I have never eaten any of those fish. At least I don't remember eating any of those fish...

Until next time, enjoy the warmer weather as it comes, have fun helping others, have fun and stay safe!!!

## LAS VEGAS REGION



**FLOYD LAMB STATE PARK**

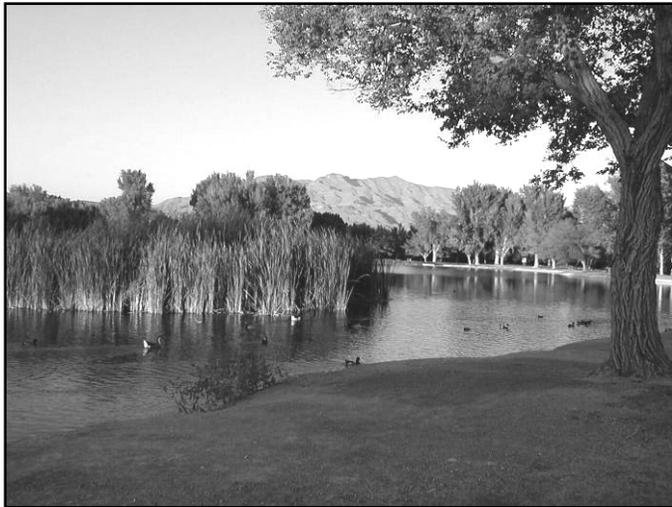
*By Stephen Santee*

Hello from Floyd R. Lamb State Park and also Good Bye. There has not been a submission to the PEN in several years from the staff at the park due to previous editorializing of those submissions. I figured that if they were not willing to print what was written then why submit. I am now breaking with that philosophy and submitting this article.

My staff all knows how I feel about their hard work and dedication over the last eleven years that I have had the privilege of serving as the Park Supervisor of this facility, but I want to publicly thank them for their hard work and support. The shame is that many of them will not ever read this article because their future is in still in question. Many have already left as employees of the division and for the few that are left, it is still uncertain that they will be with the division come July 2007.

In my twenty plus years in parks and recreation in four states, I have seen and done many things, but I have never had to close down a park before. I hope that none of you are ever faced with this task. The park has gone from five permanent employees and five seasonal employees to three permanent employees and two seasonal employees. We have also lost most of the parks equipment, as it is being shipped to other parks. Yet we are still supposed to maintain the facility and operate with less. This is an impossible task because the workload has increased with the added demands of closing the operation. Challenges only make us stronger!

FLOYD LAMB STATE PARK (Con't)



For those of you that know little about this park, it became an unwanted state park in 1977 and will officially end its run with the division on July 1, 2007 when it will be returned to the City of Las Vegas. We too had a catch phrase for the park. It wasn't as pretty as the "Jewel of the Division," we were often referred to as the "Divisions Bastard Step Child." I'm not sure who originally coined the phrase, but it fit. Floyd Lamb was not your typical state park. It didn't fit the mold of what we normally consider to be a state park; because of this it was often over looked for funding; but it had a place. It served as a link to introduce an urban society (Las Vegas) to State Parks and what our parks had to offer. Each year we introduced 5,000 to 6,000 school children to outdoor recreation (plus their families). Many who had never been to the park became regular visitors and went to other parks in our system. I now wonder how we will reach and educate those people to use our parks in the future!



*Left to Right: Thomas Knight, Jose Aquire, Tim Gause, Roy Buttorff, Carolyn Richardson, Dana Mortenson, Stephen Santee and Judith Bernard.*

So as Floyd R. Lamb says good-bye as a "State Park." We wish you all well! Thanks for the memories.

VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK

*By Julie Tanner*

In case anyone was wondering, Valley of Fire is still here. We have been just squeaking by with the small staff we have these days. Although visitation seems to be higher some days, we still haven't had the mass of visitors we usually have on the

busy days. I guess it could be a good thing as long as it doesn't happen too often.

We had to say goodbye to **Jennifer Finlen**, Park Ranger III, at the beginning of our busy season. It hurt us a little bit, but we are still surviving. **Jennifer** put in many long hard hours here at Valley of Fire and we sure miss her. She was a great asset to have at the park and in the division as a whole. We would like to thank her and congratulate her on her new position at Fort Churchill. We hope she enjoys the northern region as much as she did here. We hope she may want to come back and visit from time to time.

On behalf of the remaining staff, we would like to say thank you to those of you that made your way down here to help out: Fallon Region - **Eric Johnson, Mark Fox, Andrew Bass** and **Jennifer Finlen** and from the Panaca Region - **Ben Johnson** and **Mike Ray**. It was a wonderful experience for all of us to have you guys in the park. Some of you were welcomed back from previous years and some were here for the first time. We hope we showed you the same courtesy as you showed us.

**Stacy Alfonso** is the new Park Tech. This is her 4<sup>th</sup> season; she has really done a great job. We hope to keep her around for a while.

As for the always fun and exciting weddings, they seem to be in full force this time of year with new companies requesting permits and current companies filling up the reservation slots.

In March alone, we had over 120 ceremonies in the park. I think by now **Jim** has heard every excuse these companies could dream up (maybe!).

The flowers sure have popped up nicely this year. This is the one time of year we actually have a change in season. After looking at the same color all year it is nice to see something new and different. (Thanks **Andrew** and **Eric** on this one!)



PERSONNEL - NEW PERMANENT EMPLOYEES

*By Anke Simpson*

**Mandy Keefer** started as the non-commissioned Park Ranger I at the Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort on 1/29/07. **Christi Latragna** promoted from her Admin Assistant I position at the DCNR Directors' Office into the Accounting Assistant II position at the Division Office on 3/12/07.

## PERSONNEL

*By Anke Simpson*

The New NEATS Recruitment System "NV APPS" went live on September 05, 2006. After a rocky start, it seems to be running a lot more smoothly. Posting job announcements is definitely more time consuming, but Personnel has been working on several enhancements of the system to make the application process easier. A slow internet connection still seems to be a big problem when applying for a job. Please let State Personnel know if you have any issues submitting an application, and please encourage all your applicants to contact the recruiter on the announcement if they have any problems. If all fails, hard copy applications can still be scanned into the NV APPS system by State Personnel, but it is highly recommended to apply online.



## GOOD BYES

**Ray Richardson**  
retired on 12/31/06

from his non-commissioned Park Ranger II position at Spring Mountain Ranch with over 31 years of service with Nevada State Parks.

## GOOD BYES

**Phares Woods**  
retired on 1/4/07 from Kershaw Ryan State Park as the commissioned Park Supervisor I with more than 21 years of service. Both will be missed.

**Paul Michalec**  
resigned from his non-commissioned Park Ranger II

position at Valley of Fire on 12/29/06 to take a job in Las Vegas. **Matthew Huber** left his Park Ranger I position at Fort Churchill on 12/31/06 and Park Ranger I, **Kevin Hay** left his position at Valley of Fire on 2/25/07. **Tim Gause**, commissioned Park Ranger II at Spring Mountain Ranch resigned on 3/4/07. **Dena Fitzgerald** left her Accounting Assistant II position in the division office on 3/9/07 to move to Texas to be closer to her husband's family.



## TRANSFERS

**Jennifer Finlen** moved up north, transferring from Valley of Fire to Fort Churchill to take the commissioned Park Ranger II position on 3/5/07.



#4162

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Nevada Division of State Parks  
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