



PEN

PARK EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER

By David Morrow

I thought it might be worth mentioning some significant reasons parks are important, especially in these tough economic times, when park programs are often the first to be considered when cutting back on budgets.

1. Public parks provide millions of Americans with the opportunity to be physically active. Physical activity is an essential part of an individual's efforts to stay healthy, fight obesity and prevent chronic conditions that lead to coronary disease, high blood pressure and diabetes.



2. Parks have true economic benefit. Proximity to a developed state, regional or community park improves property value. The economic benefits of park and recreation areas are many, but one of the most significant is the proximity of parks to residential areas leads to increased value of private land, a higher tax base and ultimately many economic benefits to a community.



This includes increased local and regional revenue from heritage tourism, steady jobs, and numerous small business benefits. Park and recreation areas are the economic engines that improve the quality of life and make communities livable and desirable for business and homeowners.

3. Parks provide vital green space in a fast-developing American landscape and provide vegetative buffers around construction and development, thus reducing the effects of sprawl. More importantly, parks and public lands also provide groundwater recharge



areas, floodplain protection, natural sound barriers, storm water protection from wetlands, reduction in heat and carbon uptake from abundant trees and vegetation.

4. Parks preserve critical wildlife habitat. As our nation develops and our rural, agricultural and forest landscape is being lost, open space and wildlife habitats are disappearing at an alarming rate. The connected network of local, regional, state and national parks across our country provide permanently protected wildlife habitat corridors for thousands of indigenous and migratory wildlife species.



Leisure activities in parks improve moods, reduce stress and enhance the sense of wellness in an increasingly complex world. More and more people are placing a high value on achieving the feeling of relaxation and peacefulness that contact with nature, recreation and exposure to natural open spaces bring. People go to the park to get in a better mood, to reinvigorate themselves and to decrease the anxieties of daily life.



“Do not try to satisfy your vanity by teaching a great many things. Awaken people’s curiosity. It is enough to open minds; do not overload them. Put there just a spark. If there is some good flammable stuff, it will catch fire.”

– Anatole France

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (P&D)*By J. Steve Weaver*

At last, the Beaver Dam Site Restoration project is out to bid. **Joe Cyphers** is coordinating with **Lisa Shettler**, Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) Engineer, to get this long awaited project completed. Funded by Federal Emergency Management Act (FEMA) at just over \$1.5 million with a half million match from NDOW, this project should be completed by late fall. With a little luck, the park's master plan should be completed at about the same time.

Marc Lepire just about has the Berlin Ranger Residence plans completed. We expect to have this Question 1 (Q1) Bond funded project completed by late fall. **Tom Tabacco** will be doing the construction management and inspection. **Marc** is also close to completing the plans for the Kershaw-Ryan Park Office/Contact Station. **Joe Cyphers** did the engineering and **Tom Tabacco** will be doing the construction management/inspections. Completion is anticipated around March, 2010. This same team will also be working with a consultant architect this fall/winter to design the new visitor center/restroom building at Dangberg Ranch, with construction to take place next year.

An interlocal agreement with Lincoln County is in the approval process for a new Southern Nevada Land Management Policy Act (SNLPPA) funded RV campground (with utility hookups) at Echo Canyon. This grant totals \$2 million. We will be providing the engineering (**Joe Cyphers**), architectural (**Marc Lepire**) and landscape architectural (**Eric Nelson**) design as an in-kind match, with environmental coordination by **Jenny Scanland**. Construction is probably two years away.



Ned Wallace just about has the Buckland Station Day Use Development and Fire Control System completed. **Bob Beck** assisted on this \$238,000 project. Also nearly completed, thanks to **Ned** and **Lahontan staff** efforts is the RecTrails grant funded Carson River Delta (9th Street) Equestrian Area at Lahontan. This new trailhead

facility cost about \$125,000, and includes a new Sweet Smelling Toilet (SST) restroom, parking, campground and access road improvements.



Ned also hopes to have the Mormon Station Wagon Shed reconstruction out to bid this fall, with help from **Bob Beck**. The latter will be funded by a combination of Fee Overage and Q1 bond funds, totaling about \$70,000.

Ned and **Steve Weaver** are also working hard to get the new \$2.8 million Van Sickle Bi-State Park project under construction. The initial bids had some problems, so the project will now be rebid with an opening to be scheduled around Labor Day. This project probably holds the record for the number of permits required, and has been in the planning stage for over nine years. Nevertheless, completion of this Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) funded project, in cooperation with the California Tahoe Conservancy, will likely be delayed somewhat until late next summer.

Joe Cyphers has the Marlette Peak Campground well in Tahoe's Backcountry out to bid. Assuming we get any bids in this remote location, we may have water at this campground sometime this fall. This will be the only reliable source of potable water on Tahoe's east side, along the Tahoe Rim Trail.



Joe shows his smarts by using goggles to chop onions for the Employee Appreciation Picnic.

Tom Tabacco is in the process of bidding out shade ramadas for Spring Valley's Day Use, Group Use and Ranch campground areas. The campground will also be getting a new SST restroom and other improvements. Completion is scheduled for November. **Tom** will also try to get the South Fork campground improvements out to bid this fall. This project involves additional site ramadas, reconfiguration of some sites as multi-family (clustered) sites and handicap accessible sites.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (Con't)

Meanwhile, **Eric Nelson** has the Ward Charcoal Ovens campground improvements underway. This \$270,000 project will remove some of the “rough edges” on this relatively primitive campground, making it much more attractive to the camping public. Improvements include shade ramadas, leveled pads, fire rings, tables, ADA sites, and a potable water system.



Park staff will soon be moving into the new \$500k Washoe Lake Maintenance Building, designed by our own Marc Lepire, with construction management by **Tom Tabacco**. Tom was also responsible for the recently completed RecTrails/Q1 funded equestrian area restrooms and other improvements at Washoe Lake.



But, that isn't all! Some **BIG BUCKS** are being allocated for numerous other badly needed repairs and upgrades throughout Washoe Lake



State Park. A \$375k Boating Access grant with a 25% Q1 match will fund a new breakwater and dock, along with other boat launch area improvements. An anticipated federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant in the range of \$225k with matching Q1 bond funds will allow upgrading facilities from the south end of the main beach all the way to the North Ramp area. In addition, the State Public Works Board (SPWB)

is contributing up to \$230k towards ADA improvements throughout the park. Finally, a combination of \$175k from Washoe County, matched with \$175k from State Lands Q1 trail funds and another \$140k from our own Q1 funds will allow construction of 2.4 miles of paved bikeway along East Lake Blvd. **Eric Nelson, Ned Wallace, Marc Lepire, Tom Tabacco** and **Bob Beck** are all responsible for various facets of these projects.

Thanks to **Bob Beck**, the new Wild Horse fishing cleaning station should soon become a reality. **Bob** drew up the plans, got the pre-fabricated station ordered and has received bids from contractors for installation scheduled for completion sometime this fall.

Rye Patch recently saw some major upgrades to the Upper (Boat Ramp) Campground, including installation of 23 ramadas, two Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) sites, fish cleaning station improvements, and landscaping with an irrigation system. **Eric Nelson, Ned Wallace,** and **Bob Beck** collaborated to get this project completed in June.

Finally, **Steve Weaver** is coordinating completion of the California Trail Interpretive Exhibits at South Fork, Ft. Churchill and Mormon Station.

PLANNING

Valley of Fire public meeting! We held two public meetings for the Valley of Fire Master Plan and **Jim Hammons** stole the show as you can see!

By Jenny Scanland



COMMENTS ARE ON OUR WEBSITE! CHECK IT OUT!!!!

Cave Lake – The planning team was at Fire and Ice and asked the public what they would like to see at the park. Also, questionnaires are still being handed out at the park to gain more input. Go on the web site and check it out. Comments from the Fire and Ice included:

- It's still not too crowded, it's nice, but would like reserved camping for large groups and families.
- OHV trail north of core to get us across
- Stop the erosion
- Want hydropower at new dam
- Improve road/trail to dam with gravel, prevent erosion
- Improve dam road for fireworks event, no vegetation on dam for fire hazard
- Can you make the lake bigger?
- More trails
- Better marked and better built

PLANNING (con't)

- No new roads, but don't close any either
- Build trail around lake
- Build/mark trails for marathon and X-country high school training and events!
- Improve road/trail to dam with gravel, prevent erosion
- Handicap trail boardwalk around park of lake with seating areas and accessible fishing
 - Would like to have a children's play area
 - Handicap fishing piers
 - More parking during fire and ice...events
 - Bleachers/seating for fire and ice in day use area?
 - Another campground at grasshopper with full hookups
 - Another campground at grasshopper with electric only for big rigs, all year long
 - Hydro-power at dam for park and campgrounds both elk flat and new ones.
 - More dispersed camping, marked, no more campgrounds x2
 - More yurts
 - Bigger better family sites, reservations! So we can reserve.
 - Don't allow camping on the stream! And get them off of the meadows
 - Close fishing on stream up from lake during spawning, they are killing the big ones!
 - Handicap fishing piers
 - Hold elk hunting, skinning and processing classes!
 - Have skate and inner tube rentals at park during Fire and Ice. Concession?
 - Working phone for emergency assistance
 - Wildlife educational panels at park and on trails, flora and fauna
 - Skate track on lake around it for winter skating after fire and ice or before
 - Designate, mark snowshoe/ski trails
 - Campground that can handle snow machine rigs/toy haulers with electricity, or not we are self contained, grasshopper or elsewhere.

RESOURCES: I am working with **Carson River Sub-conservancy**, **Eric Johnson** and the **NV Land Conservancy** on a Habitat Conservation Plan for the lower Carson River which includes Dayton, Ft. Churchill, the Carson River Ranches and Lahontan! Now it looks like the funding is being held until late fall and Carson City has contacted us to see if we can add them to the program as well! WOW!

MY FAVORITE THINGS:

Big Dang Trail, 7.5 miles paved at Washoe Lake: I am working on a plan for a bike trail at Washoe State Park! We have Q1 money for the trail and are waiting for Washoe County to send us theirs!

My Vacation??? **Squander yourself for a purpose!** I am going to the Dominican Republic in October to support a Kids Alive Dental Mission team! Yeah!

RECREATION TRAILS PROGRAM (RTP)

By Randy Moore

Howdy from RecTrails! As some of you may know, the RecTrails program, as part of SAFETY-LU, ends September 31, 2009. We are waiting on Congress to see if RTP is going to be reauthorized.

Currently there is a proposal before the House to extend RTP through 2010 and legislation to reauthorize RTP through 2015. The reauthorization is the most popular concept. Currently, it should pass the House without much problem, but the Senate may be a different story. General word from those "in the know," is that RTP will continue on with little change as to funding opportunities in the field, with one notable exception **MORE MONEY!**



As proposed the Surface Transportation Authorization Act of 2009 makes three specific requests:

1. RTP funding levels in the legislation will be set at \$690 million over six years: \$90 million in 2010, \$100 million in 2011, \$110 million in 2012, \$120 million in 2013, \$130 million in 2014, and \$140 million in 2015;
2. \$2.5 million be allocated to a Department of Transportation (DOT) study of off-highway recreational fuel use, to ensure that the level of RTP funding reflects the federal fuel taxes paid for off-highway fuel usage; and
3. Funds allocated to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to administer the RTP each year will be adjusted from a set amount to 1% of actual available annual funding to ensure that sufficient administrative resources are available for the program.

RECREATION TRAILS PROGRAM (Con't)

RTP 2010 Tread On Me! Look forward to the following changes:

1. Non-Motorized Trail Cap rose from \$100,000 to \$200,000 at 20/80 match.
2. Motorized Trail Cap is removed (no cap) at 5/95 match.



So, if we get more available money and larger grants, there will be **stiff competition**. Get your grant plans together now, so you're ready to submit this Nov./Dec. (Don't wait 'til it's too late!) I'll look forward to seeing those grants. (I hope!?!?!?) We'll know in Oct. See ya'll on the "Old Paper Trail."

NEW EMPLOYEE

By Alyce Cloutier



Russell Dapsauski, Regional Manager for the Southern Region, started July 20, 2009. **Russell** came to us from the Department of Agriculture on July 2, 2009. In addition, to working for the

Nevada Department of Agriculture, he has worked for the Idaho Department of Agriculture and the private sector. Although his education and experience have been largely concentrated in the field of agriculture, he has a wide array of resource management, supervisor and administrative skills that will be extremely beneficial to everyone in State Parks.

MORE PARK NEWS

Nevada Magazine asked their readers to take a survey and select the Best of Nevada for 2009. Congratulations to park employees' for an outstanding job. The results came back and the following parks were voted the best in their areas:



- Northern: Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park
- Southern: Valley of Fire State Park
- Rural: Berlin Ichthyosaur State Park
- Cathedral Gorge – Statewide runner up

GETTING OUTDOORS IN NEVADA

Our campaign to reintroduce children and their families to Nevada's great outdoors and to encourage them to explore and develop positive personal relationships with nature started with our family camping program at Washoe Lake and Ft. Churchill. This program introduced camping to families who have never camped. Details of each park's event can be read in their articles.



▲ Kids having fun with arts and crafts activities.



◀ They also enjoyed star gazing.

A family from the Ft. Churchill's event wrote, "I just wanted to take a minute to thank everyone who made our first camping experience so great through the Let's Go Camping program. Please pass on to everyone! Paul Schmidt was great and his crew was professional, knowledgeable, and hospitable. We enjoyed Ft. Churchill and Buckland Station and will return. We can't wait to plan our next adventure."



Paul Schmidt teaches fire building.

Another family wrote regarding their experience at Washoe Lake: "My family and I were among the participants in the Washoe Lake and would like to let you and your staff know what a great experience this was. We had an amazing time and it was primarily due to the excellent job **Donna, Sarah, Paula, Terry, Robert**, and all the rest of the staff, volunteers and Boy Scouts did. The event was extremely well organized,

LET'S GO CAMPING PROGRAM RESULTS

(Con't)

with activities for all age groups, including small children. The park's staff was great at entertaining all of us, and making sure we enjoyed it. It is a great way to get to know a lot more about camping, introducing it to young children and making new friends. My son is already asking to go camping again!"



Families learn the yummy art of Dutch oven cooking.

Then about the last week of June, the cork blew and out came the crowds. To date, Sand Harbor has been filling to capacity and on traffic control for 19 days in a row.

Spoooner and Cave Rock have seen similar levels of visitation. To keep things more interesting around here, the gods caused an export line break under Highway 28 near Spoooner, which blew out half the highway. This has resulted in another 4-5 day highway closure for repairs. At this point, we're all just looking forward to Labor Day coming and going.

Some other things of note are the closure of the Sand Harbor boat ramp on August 5 due to the low lake level. As you can imagine, this is not a popular move, but a necessary one. Aquatic Invasive Species boat inspections at both ramps have gone relatively well this year. Keeping this up with our hours of operation at these sites has been very different for staff and the public, but it seems to be working without too much incident. Our staff plan on installing tire-rippers at the exit points of the Sand Harbor boat parking lot. Currently boaters must be out of the water before the gate closes at 8 pm. The tire-rippers will mean no one can come in after hours, but boaters can leave when they please. With this, our boat ramp operating hours will become just the launching/entrance hours.

2009 EARTH DAY

By Joy Elwood



Randy Moore and Dave Morrow at our booth.

State Parks celebrated Earth Day on April 19 at Idlewild Park in Reno. This year the temperatures were a lot warmer, so the crowds were a lot bigger. This meant handing out a lot of information on proper outdoor etiquette, particularly on Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly.

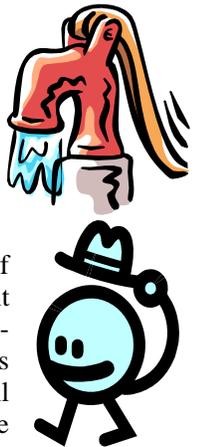
LAKE TAHOE NV STATE PARK

By Jay Howard

Operations are going very well here. The challenges on Highway 28, the gateway highway to most of the park, have been a bit extreme this year. It all started back in May with a three week closure of both travel lanes of the roadway for re-paving. With Sand Harbor still accessible from the north, we thought this might not have too much impact on visitation, but it did cause about a 10% drop in fees and visitors. It was a nice way to ease into the season and with that, the cooler/wetter weather conditions in June; it felt like the whole season might be abnormally slow.

Project-wise, we're excited about a new water well being installed for hikers in the backcountry and looking forward to the construction of Van Sickle trailhead facilities later this year.

All in all, this has been a great season for the park due largely to a dedicated group of permanent employees and a really excellent seasonal staff. Our hats go off to all the hard-working Tahoe staff this year. Hope this has been a good year for you out there and that all goes well for everyone for the rest of the season. See you soon.



MORE EMPLOYEE NEWS



In February, Steve Weaver, Chief of Planning and Development, put 30 years in with State Parks.

NORTHERN REGION

BERLIN-ICHTHYOSAUR STATE PARK*By Jeff Morris*

Well, it has been a very productive summer season thus far. Memorial Day weekend saw a return to overflow camping and the start of daily tours. Through June, park staff has given 101 tours to 725 people. V.I.P. **Wayne Kirk** was able to conduct nine mill talks to 106 park visitors. The addition of Park Aid **Dustin Greene** has allowed several "in-house" projects to be completed. Seasoned veteran **Robin Riggs** returned for a 10 season to WOW visitors with his vast knowledge of the Ichthyosaurs.

In other news, the planned fire break is back on schedule. This plan had been put on hold pending approval of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), which leases 520 acres of land to State Parks. This fire break will be a 150 foot wide selective clearance around the majority of the park to help in wild land fire protection efforts. Hopefully fire season will end early with some cooler temperatures and early fall storms, and the crews from the Tonopah Conservation Camp will arrive with chainsaws in hand. Until then we wish everyone a productive and safe summer season.

**CAVE LAKE STATE PARK & WARD CHARCOAL OVENS STATE HISTORIC PARK***By Steve Gray*

It has been an action packed summer on the side of the mountain. We have had rain at record levels. The grass is taller than I am, making visibility around our dirt roads rather difficult. **Tracey Doutre**, after two seasons working at the mine, has decided to return to Cave Lake. **Marla Bjorklund** is back for her third season. Both have proven to be wonderful assets to the two parks; THANK YOU!!!!!!!

The **American Bus Association** had their annual meeting in Ely. They all arrived in Las Vegas, hopped on a bus, and stayed in Ely for three nights. Every afternoon we showed them what Ely and Eastern Nevada had to offer. Their first night in town we catered to them at Cave Lake with our newest event, "Cocktails and Cannons." This was complete with a prime rib dinner and a wonderful fireworks show. We had about 300 people in attendance (not bad for a Monday night with no advertising.) The **White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board** liked the



event so much they have solidified \$5,000 dollars to be used by the park for the event next year. They also provided \$5,648 for the Fire and Ice event, and the **Nevada Commission on Tourism** kicked in \$2,000 for marketing. Thanks again to everyone who has contributed to our events.

The Ward Charcoal Ovens campground renovation is almost complete. **Terry Ivins** has been working with the contractor for many, many, many hours. His dedication to the project has left no doubt in my mind that it will be a great addition to our parks in White Pine County. I just hope it helps increase our visitation/revenue to this spectacular historical park.

We are almost in August, and our projects are nowhere near closure. I only hope we have a warm fall to complete them. I am hoping to have a ranger hired by mid October if everything goes smoothly. Have a wonderful end of season closure!!!

FT. CHURCHILL STATE HISTORIC PARK*By Justin Starks*

Under new management, Ft. Churchill has been undergoing overhaul for this 2009 summer season. The Park Supervisor II position was filled by **Paul Schmidt**. The fort recruited this new leader from Rye Patch. Along with Paul's skill, we also attained some wit with our new Park Ranger II (Interpreter/Ranger) **Mike Dinauer**, who came from Berlin Ichthyosaur to assist our fort in its new direction straight to the top rank of Nevada State Parks. Obviously this could not be met with only management, so two park aid positions were filled by **Robert Groberg**, a new member of the workforce, and a returning member **Justin Starks**, who are both working hard to accomplish required duties. We receive help from two volunteers, **Jeanine** and **LaDonna**. The last, but most valuable member to our cause is the returning Park Technician, **Howard Wren**.



Kids catching fish with seasonal Justin.

A new program that was successfully completed recently was the "Let's Go Camping" group. The turnout was low, but for those that attended, all was enjoyed.

FT. CHURCHILL STATE HISTORIC PARK
(Con't)

During this event our fearless supervisor taught the guest how to catch wild fish with bare hands. The guests were also taught the ins and outs of searching for gold, via gold panning, by Mike Dinauer. Howard Wren was the head cook for the event and everyone ate plenty. During the event an astronomy program was provided in addition to all of the Living History talks. The guests were able to view Saturn and two of the orbiting moons about Jupiter (thanks to **Phil**, a specialty volunteer). Everything went smoothly.



Ranger Mike Dinauer teaches kids to pan for gold.

Some of the items on the horizon include: increased upkeep to Buckland Station; which, has been viewable on weekends from 12pm-2pm (thanks to **LaDonna**), structural reinforcement to our brick making and installing functions, and general restoration to the Forts and their atmosphere.

RYE PATCH STATE RECREATION AREA

By Team Rye Patch

We had a very busy summer so far and expect the trend to continue. Our park improvements have been met with many favorable comments from our visitors. The new shade structures and trees in the upper campground have made a tremendous difference in the look and feel of the campground and have been greatly enjoyed by many this summer. We also made improvements to one of our overflow areas, adding water hydrants and a few trees. The changes have encouraged more visitors to take advantage of the space on our busier weekends. We also installed new information kiosks in the park in several locations.



Fishing has been good and our water levels have remained much higher than last year at this time. Our boat ramp is still in the water! This is exciting for both fisherman and recreational boaters.

This summer we have noticed a trend of many more out-of-state campers staying longer than in previous years; many coming from California. We are quite pleased to see our park establishing a good reputation with our neighboring states.



We have also experienced some rather bizarre insect invasions this year. It began with the invasion of moths. They were everywhere and we mean everywhere, visitors were seen gearing up to use the bathrooms like they were entering a hazmat zone. Then the beetles moved in to deal with the moths, and the red ants seem to be having a great year as well. Of course, the insect invasion has increased the number of mice and that leads to happier snakes. It has been a year for the “wild kingdom” of Rye Patch.



Even though it has been quite busy, and downright crazy on holiday weekends, our crew has managed to keep up with the needs of the park and keep smiles on their faces. We have a great crew of park aides this year. Returning park aides **Colleen Bologna** and **Terri Cox** were joined by two newbies, **Chase Mills** and **Ileigh Williams**.

The park aides would like to extend congratulations to **Jim Hawkins** for his great work at Rye Patch and thank him for making this summer a very enjoyable experience for all, and heading up our team spirit. Go Team! We hope the remaining summer season is a safe one for all and extend our good wishes for the 2009 winter season.

SOUTH FORK STATE RECREATION AREA

By Jim Wilkinson

South Fork welcomes **Patricia Blanchard** as the new park ranger stationed at South Fork. She brings a new perspective and fresh ideas to our park operations. We welcome her and wish her the best.



It's been an interesting 2009 so far. The reservoir is at capacity thanks to the second highest rainfall ever recorded in Elko County for the month of June. The continual rain was refreshing and plant growth of all types has never been healthier. All of this rain did lead to a 17% drop in visitation and fees for the month of June. Even with inclement weather, our revenues were up 15% for the bi-annual period.

SOUTH FORK STATE RECREATION AREA

(Con't)

We were packed for the Memorial Day holiday. The jet-ski beach area has to be the most congested beach area per square foot in the state. R.V's and travel trailers somehow fit into this area like a giant jigsaw puzzle.



We would like to welcome our returning and new seasonal staff. Our staff consists of **Oma Walliman, Katelyn Thelen, Aubree Huber** and **David Westbrook**. We appreciate your hard work and dedication. We wish everyone the best and have a safe summer.

WASHOE LAKE/DAYTON STATE PARKS

By Terri Ozawa and Donna Silva

Washoe Lake welcomes our newest little rangerette, **Katherine (Kat) Rose Dawson** born on May 26, 2009, weighing in at 7lbs. 15 oz. Congratulations **Will** and **Jennifer!**

Spring was cooler than usual, and we had a lot of rain, yes rain, which kept things green through early June. Unfortunately, rain came too late to help our sad low lake levels this year.

Washoe is hosting a variety of interpretive programs this summer. On May 9, we had our annual wildflower walk up Deadman's Creek Trail. Due to the plentiful rains a beautiful variety of flowers were seen this year.



Learning to make campfire smores, yum!

On June 27-28, after extensive preparations, Washoe staff and volunteers hosted the inaugural State Parks "Let's Go Camping" event. The event introduced families to camping who had never camped before. Five families were selected to participate by a drawing held on June 3 at our division office. With generous

donations from **Walmart, Nevada State Parks Cooperative Association (NSPCA)** and division's Gifts and Grants fund, we were able to purchase, tents, sleeping bags, food, games and all the other gear necessary to host this campout. Families participated in tent set-up, Dutch oven cooking, hiking, geocaching, fishing, stargazing and more. The event was a rousing success. We hope other parks will want to host a campout next year. We have all the gear and you are welcome to use it!



Families learn to setup tents.

On July 11, **Steve Silva** taught an introduction to Global positioning System (GPS) navigation class. On July 25, we will host a tour through our Washoe Lake wetlands. Our last two programs of the year are stargazing on August 15 and a beginning Dutch oven class on August 29, Yum!



Steve's GPS Training/Interpretive Program

Our new 3,000 square foot shop built by **KFC Construction** of Reno is nearing completion in anticipation of **Kevin Griffiths**, our western end of the northern region fleet mechanic taking occupancy at the end of August. We are really looking forward to getting both the office, and shop yard organized after months of living out of "boxes." Our office received a mini-makeover too!



WASHOE LAKE/DAYTON STATE PARKS (Con't)

Another smaller construction project nearing completion is improvements to both of our equestrian areas. We received a new SST, new porta-potties in a lovely enclosure, a new safer horse crossing with flashing lights at East Lake Blvd, new water troughs and a new information board. WOW! Everything is looking great! All in all it has been a busy summer at Washoe Lake. Until, next time!

WILD HORSE STATE RECREATION AREA

By Andrew Bass

This has definitely been a summer to set records. It started with busiest Memorial Day weekend in the park's history. Then the rain came and came and

came resulting in one of the wettest Junes. I was even able to witness some pretty large hail and a funnel cloud.

To top it all off, the park has been receiving new equipment for the winter months. It's hard to try out our new snow equipment in July, so I guess

I'll need to dream of snow removal for a few months.



Our park is busy with many maintenance projects. Everyone is busy doing work and improvements. We are fortunate to have the **Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF)** crews help as well as the youth crews from **Caliente Youth Center** to help. **Cody, Jim, Shaylen** and **Nevin** keep everyone lined out and work alongside the crews until the jobs are completed timely and professionally. A big thank you to all!!!

The Regional Visitor Center has been adding inventory to our store. **Karen Moessner** from the **NSPCA** visited and helped with inventory, training and other projects. It is rather exciting to be updating some items and setting up new displays. We are planning a training meeting in August for the volunteers and regular park employees. **Marcia Wadsworth**, our park aid has been trying to cover the duties of the Visitor Center until a new park interpreter is hired.

We have a new seasonal employee, **Aaron West** from Caliente, Nevada. He is married with three young daughters. He brings a smile, a new face and enthusiasm to the crew who work here. Welcome **Aaron!**

One other big project in the works that keeps **Cody, Shaylen** and others very busy is the FEMA Schroeder Dam Decommissioning and Erosion Stabilization Project. There is much work to be done and we will be reporting on this in other newsletters.

Our Nevada State Parks are wonderful and contribute to the joy and happiness and education of many. Thank you to everyone who makes this a safe, happy and wonderful place to visit and work.

SOUTHERN REGION

CATHEDRAL GORGE/BEAVER DAM STATE PARKS

By Marcia Wadsworth

Cathedral Gorge State Park has been and will continue to face some major changes. Now that the regional office is in Las Vegas, we are all getting used to a new system of management. People come and people go, but our park stays beautiful and happy. The clean air and clear, bright skies delight the large groups, as well as the many individuals and families who come to visit and camp.

June '09 was unseasonably wet and cool. As a result the Regional Visitor Center gardens and grounds are lush and green and refresh everyone who visits. The flowers and bushes are blooming and fragrant. The aroma of sweet peas is enticing as visitors step out of their vehicles. The greenery and various plants make a pleasant oasis for travelers.

KERSHAW-RYAN STATE PARK & ELGIN SCHOOLHOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE

By Rich Neuenfeldt

Despite the warm weather, Kershaw Ryan remains very popular. The wading pool is still a big attraction with the local kids and our visitation numbers are up. Also, we had recent newspaper articles about Kershaw Ryan in the **Las Vegas Review Journal** and the **Lincoln County Record**.

We had a bumper crop of cherries this spring and the apples, peaches, pears and plums are coming on strong. This may be due to the new irrigation system installed last winter. It uses the same natural springs the pioneer Kershaw family discovered for their fruit orchards over 130 years ago. Many visitors express surprise at our lush trees, lawns, roses and vines the water brings to this desert canyon.



KERSHAW-RYAN STATE PARK (Con't)

We have been without a supervisor for the last two months after **Bruce Winslow** left. A word of thanks goes to **Andrew Porter** from Spring Valley State Park for helping out. Interviews for a new supervisor are scheduled, so we hope to back to full staff soon!

OLD LAS VEGAS MORMON FT. STATE HISTORIC PARK

By Alyce Cloutier

A CHAMPION AMONG US: In late July, Park Ranger **Mandy Keefer** competed in back to back Scottish Highland Games in Portland, OR and the following weekend in Enumclaw, WA (near Seattle). She won the North American Scottish Highland Games Championship for the women's B class, as well as the North American Caber Champion title.

▼ She flips a 450 pound tire!



▲ Stone Put Event

Mandy is not new to this type of competition, she has participated in several competitions over the last three years all over the country. **Mandy** looks forward to competing over Labor Day weekend in the World Invitational Championship held in Pleasanton, CA where over 10,000 spectators watch each year. She also recently competed and placed respectfully in a power lifting meet and a strongwoman competition, both for the first time. She was the only female to compete in both meets that weekend. **Congratulations to Ranger Mandy Keefer!**

VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK



By Don Bolton
Summer time here at Valley of Fire is HOT, HOT, HOT!!! Not just in temperature, but in the new additions we have received. We have finally moved into the

new Annex Building and are learning to adjust to our "new surroundings" and things are starting to go smooth. Each ranger now has their own desk and computer to work with, which is far better than five rangers sharing two desks and two computers. The new annex also comes equipped with a break room and a conference room. The old offices in the Visitor Center have become a storage room for NSPCA. **Jim Hammons'** old office is now the Resource/Interpretive Rangers' office.

Sandy Hufford was promoted from a seasonal position to become our new administrative assistant. She started on June 23 and has fit in quite nicely. She is on top of the wedding reservations and getting those invoices out. When asked how she feels about becoming the new administrative assistant, **Sandy** just smiled and said, "It's a LOT cooler inside"! Way to go **Sandy!!!**



NSPCA ordered and bought a vending machine for the Visitor Center. It holds snacks and beverages. We are currently selling everything from Cheetos, salted nuts, granola bars, sodas, water, and Gatorade. The response and sales were so astronomical that NSPCA ordered a second vending machine within a month of buying the first one. The second vending machine sells only beverages. This helps **Nicki** (Valley of Fire's NSPCA Manager) out a lot, since she now only has to refill the beverages once every other day instead of two or three times a day.



PERSONNEL

By Anke Simpson

This summer has definitely been more interesting (is that the correct word? ☺) than any of my past summers. Despite all the changes, we hired our seasonal staff and filled quite a few of our permanent vacancies. We are still working on hiring several new park supervisors and rangers. Besides all of this, implementing the new furlough regulations has been a learning experience to say the least and is keeping me quite busy. Here are the changes among our permanent staff on the last page. ►





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Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Nevada Division of State Parks
901 S. Stewart St., Ste. 5005
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NEW PERMANENT EMPLOYEES

Linda Bauder started on 5/18/09 as the Administrative Assistant II at Lake Tahoe. **Robert Misiti** also started in his position on 5/18/09 as commissioned Park Ranger I at Lahontan. Both came aboard just in time for Memorial Day Weekend. **Patricia Blanchard** was hired on 6/8/09 to fill the vacant commissioned Park Ranger I position at South Fork. We also have a new Regional Manager for our Southern Region. **Russell Dapsauski** came to us from the Department of Agriculture on 7/20/09.



PROMOTIONS

Jim Hawkins promoted from a non-commissioned Park Ranger I position at Rye Patch to Rye Patch's commissioned Park Supervisor II position on 5/4/09. **Jeff Morris** promoted from his non-commissioned Park Ranger I position at Berlin to the non-commissioned Park Supervisor I position at Berlin. **Sandra Hufford** promoted from her seasonal Park Aid II position to the Administrative Assistant II position at Valley of Fire. **Steve Micklus** changed from his non-commissioned Park Ranger II position at Spring Mountain Ranch to the commissioned Park Ranger position at Big Bend by currently taking a little detour through POST to become eligible for his commission.

GOOD BYES

Julie Tanner resigned from her Administrative Assistant II position at Valley of Fire on 4/10/09. **Robert Collins** left his Panaca Region Facility Supervisor position on 4/16/09. **Susie Adams** left her Accounting Assistant III position for the Panaca Region on 4/17/09. **Zach Million** resigned from the Park Interpreter I position at the Cathedral Gorge Visitor Center on 5/18/09 to move to Alaska. Non-commissioned Park Supervisor I **Bruce Winslow** resigned from his position at Kershaw Ryan on 5/29/09 to move closer to family.

RETIREMENTS

Terry Hansen retired from his position as non-commissioned Regional Manager for the Southern Region on 6/29/09 with a combined total of 25 years of service with State Parks. **Chris Macek** also retired on 6/29/09 from his non-commissioned Park Supervisor I position at the Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort with 27 years of service with State Parks.

