



VISITOR INFORMATION

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

South Unit

Visitor Center Hours
8:00-4:30 MDT

North Unit

Visitor Center Hours
9:00 am -5:30pm CDT
Hours may vary

Painted Canyon

8:30 am-4:30 pm MDT
Open Thru November 11th

Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site

8:00 am -4:30 pm MDT

Upper Souris NWR

8:00 am - 4:30 pm CDT Mon-Fri

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 15-17, 2009

Theodore Roosevelt Symposium at Dickinson State University

October 26, 2009

Knife River Indian Village's 35th Birthday Celebration and Postal Cancellation.

October 27, 2009

Theodore Roosevelt's 151st Birthday.

October 31, 2009

Annual Craft Show at the Medora Community center. For more information contact: 701-623-4474



TRNHA NEWSLETTER

Special Edition: Knife River Indian Villages NHS

OCTOBER 2009

Happy 35th Birthday!

Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site was created on October 26, 1974. It was established to preserve, protect, and interpret the culture and agricultural lifestyles of the northern Great Plains Indians and to conduct archeological research to further the understanding of the culture.

The park contains some of the best preserved remains of Mandan and Hidatsa earth-lodge village sites. The Big Hidatsa (Hidatsa Village), Lower Hidatsa (Awatixa Xi'e Village), and Sakakawea (Awatixa Village) sites represent virtually pristine examples of these sites due largely to the conscious and far-sighted efforts of the former landowners in protecting these irreplaceable resources.

The abundance and diversity of natural resources at the confluence of the Knife and Missouri Rivers fostered the semi-sedentary agricultural lifestyles of the Hidatsa and Mandan. The Villages served as an important center of trade before and after the arrival of Europeans.

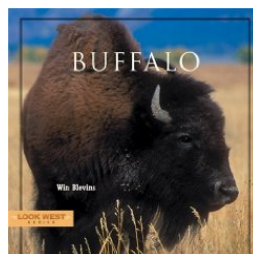
Today, the park has a visitor center where one can watch a 15-minute orientation film,

learn more about the Native American culture in the museum, and shop in the bookstore. Visitors can walk a trail to the Knife River and can see the earthlodge depressions at the Lower Hidatsa and Sakakawea Villages. They can also visit the Big Hidatsa Village and hike the North Forest Trail and Two Rivers Trail. History at Knife River Indian Villages NHS continues to be made after 35 years.



Check out these Great Items!

Buffalo
\$5.95



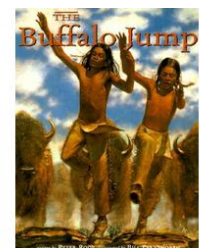
This little book is jammed packet with great images and interesting facts about bison, including history, biology, and folklore.

Buffalo Bird Woman's Garden
\$11.95



Buffalo Bird Woman shares her horticultural secrets. She describes a year of preparation from cultivating to harvesting.

The Buffalo Jump
\$7.95



A Native American boy becomes angry when his brother is chosen to lead the Buffalo Jump, a Native American tradition.



Ranger Ella showing her recommendation *Waheenee*.

Ranger Recommends

October's featured Ranger is Ella Mathisen from Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site. She is completing her ninth summer as a seasonal interpretive ranger. Along with presenting earthlodge and Ranger's Choice programs, Ella enjoys doing art projects for the park.

Ella recommends her favorite book about Hidatsa Indian life: *Waheenee*, by Gilbert Wilson. She likes this book because it has captured a fleeting moment in time marking the last years of

the Hidatsa way of life. The author personally knew the Indian lady, Buffalo Bird Woman, whose life story is told in her own words. Her story is of her childhood adventures, her experiences as a young woman conforming to clan and tribal life and ends as she is an old woman looking back and realizing the "old ways" are gone. It is a book for all ages...one that you will want to read and reread.

If you are interested in purchasing this book or any other items in this newsletter, please visit one of our Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History bookstores or visit our online store at:

www.trnha.org/bookstorehome.htm

Waheenee
By: Gilbert Wilson

Regular Price: \$12.95
Members Price: \$11.01

Member Only Special

October's members only coupon is for the book, *M-E Eccí Aashi Awadi*, which is currently available at Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, or by contacting us at 701-623-4884.

This book is a wonderful TRNHA publication that shares the story of the Knife River Indian Villages and the people who lived in them. The book gives the reader a glimpse into how these people helped develop North America.

OCTOBER'S MEMBER ONLY COUPON IS FOR...

M-E Eccí Aashi Awadi

by: Noelle Sullivan & Nicholas Peterson Vrooman

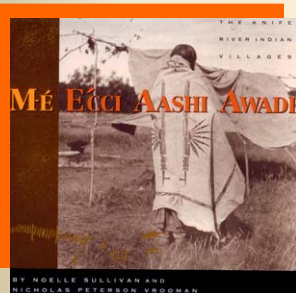


SALE PRICE: \$6.00

(Price listed is before membership 15% discount for a final price of \$5.10)

Must show coupon and membership card in TRNHA bookstore or contact TRNHA (701) 623-4884 to order by mail.

EXPIRES: October 31, 2009



Thanks

A big thank you to Dorothy Cook and the rest of the staff at Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site for the contribution of the articles, photos, and word find for this month's newsletter.

Look Who Else is 35!

In addition to Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site celebrating its 35th anniversary, there are six other park sites celebrating 35 years.

Clara Barton National Historic Site located in Glen Echo, Maryland. This 38-room home of the founder of the American Red Cross was the headquarters of the organization for seven years.

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument is located in Kimberly, Oregon and within the

scenic John Day valley is a well-preserved fossil record of plants and animals. This remarkably complete record, spanning over 40 of the 65 million years of the Age of Mammals, is world-renowned.

Springfield Armory National Historic Site located in Springfield, Massachusetts. From 1794 to 1968 Springfield Armory was a center for the manufacture of U.S. military small arms and the scene of important technological advances. The Armory Museum protects one of the world's most

extensive firearms collections.

Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site located in Tuskegee Institute, Alabama. Booker T. Washington founded this college for African Americans in 1881. Preserved here are the brick buildings constructed themselves, Washington's home, and the George Washington Carver Museum, which serves as the visitor center. The college is still an active institution that owns most of the property within the site.

Continued on page 3.....

From the Desk of Knife River's Superintendent

Greetings from Knife River Indian Villages. I have heard from many visitors and fellow NPS employees, alike, that 2009 has proven the most busy and "fastest moving" year that they can recall. Such a view I do know has been held by many of the staff of Knife River, where events and projects for the past several months have been, back-to-back, often overlapping. Despite beginning with trial and damage – the blizzards of this past winter, followed by near-record flooding that damaged much of the park's river banks – this year has been equally challenging with its share of activities and events.



Earthlodge Depressions and Travois Trails
Big Hidatsa Village Site
Knife River Indian Villages N.H.S.

Offerings such as the Northern Great Plains Culturefest, Lifeways, Kids Camp, Jr. Kids Camp, National Jr. Ranger Day, and a host of other activities are a wonderful opportunity to experience and enjoy the significant story, resources and offerings of our national park unit. For those of us who seem to run from "must do" to "must do," it provides an encouraging redirection for us to slow down and reflect as to our role and why and how we are duty stationed here. No matter what our

personal reasoning for being employed at "the Villages," most all seem to express the feeling of being fortunate.

Despite our reasoning for being the educators and caregivers of such a world-recognized resource, this October is a wonderful month in which to ponder and give those that set aside this ground thanks. This October 26th marks the 35th anniversary of the establishment of the 1,759 acre as a National Historic Site. With the beginning toward establishment growing from the seed of coffee-table conversations, in-home meetings, and eventual grass-

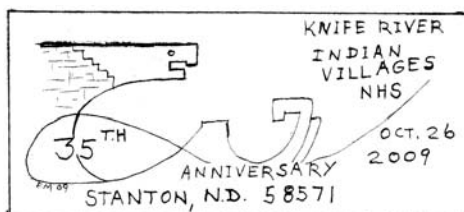
roots support, Knife River Indian Villages NHS originated. Three and one-half decades later, this unit that began its interpretation and operations out of a turn of the century Sears built house, has grown and matured to include a professional operation, modern visitor center, a talented and recognized interpretive and education offerings, and a resource management and facilities staff that care for the complex natural and cultural components that are visited by visitors from around the world.

Yes, speaking for myself, I do feel fortunate, humbled, and blessed in having the opportunity to be part of a team of caretakers and educators for a site and a story with such importance and deserving of perpetual care. My challenge to myself, however, is to slow down and truly experience our park – serving less as a manager and enjoying the opportunity of experiencing the landscape and resources from more of the perspective of a visitor. It is too much of an opportunity not to immerse one's self in.

Postal Cancellation

A postal cancellation has been designed for the 35th Anniversary of Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site. Seasonal ranger Ella Mathisen created the design. Stanton Postmaster Jodene Brown will be at the park on Monday, October 26, from 1:00 to 3:00 MDT. If you can't make it to the event, the postmark will be available for 30 days after by mail. To request by mail, affix First-Class postage to an envelope or postcard of your choice, using any stamps that were issued before October 26. Place in a larger envelope (along with a large self-addressed stamped envelope for the return trip) and send to:

POSTMASTER
119 HARMON AVENUE
STANTON, ND 58571



Look Who Else is 35! (continued from page 3)

Continued from page 2

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site located in Kinderhook, New York is also turning 35 years old. Lindenwald was the home and farm of the eighth U.S. President, Martin Van Buren (1837-1841) until his death in 1862. As president he faced the nation's worst economic depression to date (Panic of 1837) and opposed extending slavery into Texas. His bids for reelection in 1840 and for the presidency in 1848 were unsuccessful. The grounds and 36-room mansion allow exploration of the nation's turbulent antebellum period.

Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site is located in Washington, D.C. Rebuilt after fire damage from the War of 1812, this red brick house is one of the oldest on Capitol Hill. It has been the National Woman's Party headquarters since 1929 and commemorates the party's founder and women's suffrage leader, Alice Paul, and associates.

While these parks are special and unique places, they do share the commonality of an October 26, 1974 Birthday. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**

Bringing the Prairie to Life at Knife River

By: Ranger Stephen Bridenstine

As a Park Ranger Interpreter at Knife River Indian Villages, I am surrounded by wonderful tools. Yes, the maintenance staff has their riding mowers and welding torches, but my tools are different. My tools help me tell the story of 11,000 years of human history and culture along the banks of the Knife River. They include a first-class museum, full-size earthlodge, and three Hidatsa Indian villages.

Over the course of the summer months, I decided to add another tool to my belt—a living prairie exhibit. It all began with a walk through the North Prairie here at the park. A prescribed burn in late spring created acres upon acres of beautiful restored native prairie. I saw grasses and wildflowers like I had never seen before. I wanted to share this little-visited corner of the park with visitors but instead of bringing visitors to the prairie, I decided to

bring the prairie to the visitors.

I first selected a small empty plot in front of the Visitor Center. Choosing this island of dirt amid the concrete was the easy part. Now I had to do my research and decide what was going in it. With the help of seasonal biotech Kelly Privratsky (whose knowledge of prairie plants continues to amaze me), I selected two dozen native grasses and plants. They included prairie plants used as food, medicine, and raw material by the various Northern Plains tribes. Kelly and I scoured the park grounds for transplant candidates moving them into their new home over the course of several weeks. In the end, I created a patchwork of grasses, flowers, and forbs sitting pretty in front of the visitor center.

With winter slowly approaching, this miniature prairie will inevitably

turn brown and lifeless, lying dormant until next spring. With the addition of plant identification markers and a site bulletin explaining the evolution of the native prairie, there are now boundless new opportunities for interpretation of the native prairie. Future park rangers at Knife River Indian Villages have a brand new interpretive tool to finally bring the prairie to life for our visitors.



Northern Plains Prairie Exhibit at Knife River Visitor Center

Knife River Indian Villages

R O B E S A R I K A R A G Z H
 J M O W Y H U N T I N G D P Y
 C E S E N I R H S S L L I U Q
 A W L D E P R E S S I O N S I
 S H O M A N D A N V Q E S Y P
 T S C S L A E N I I H J R B I
 A N C O N D Q L R C H E E S T
 D E A P O I L H E O T N W S B
 I D B I U A S L Q T C A O E U
 H R O P G A F A O Q H I L I F
 P A T E U R Z P C T R D F R F
 I G S Q A K U T A C V N N R A
 V H S P I X X Y H I O I U E L
 E A R T H L O D G E Y M S B O
 L T S Q A E W A K A K A S H B

Words to Find

- Arikara
- Atuka
- Berries
- Buffalo
- Corn
- Depressions
- Earthlodge
- Gardens
- Hidatsa
- Hunting
- Indian
- Mandan
- Moccasins
- Parfleche
- Pipe
- Pottery
- Quills
- Robes
- Sakakawea
- Shrines
- Squash
- Sunflowers
- Tipi
- Tobacco
- Villages

Become a Member of the Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association and help us support North Dakota's National Parks, Historic Sites, and Wildlife Refuges!



Membership Donations are used to help fund:

- The publishing of free trail guides, informational brochures, plant and animal checklist, junior ranger activity books, and the park newspaper.
- Housing assistance for Volunteers and Student Conservation Resource Assistants.
- Acquiring publications for reference libraries at three park sites.
- Money for scientific research and oral history projects. TRNHA had recently helped fund an ongoing Mountain Lion study in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.
- Funding for interpretive training, materials, and supplies.
- Sponsoring special interpretive programs and events such as the Northern Plains Culture Fest and birding festivals.
- Provide Support Staff in the Visitor Centers.

Reasons to become a member of TRNHA

1. 15% Discount on sales items at our five bookstore locations: Painted Canyon, South Unit, & North Unit (All in Theodore Roosevelt National Park); Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, and Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge.
2. TRNHA membership is honored by most National Park Cooperating Associations with a reciprocal discount.
3. Monthly e-newsletters and association updates.
4. Receive newsletters and program announcements on the activities of the Association and the areas it serves.
5. Special member only offers. *(Please check our website for monthly specials www.trnha.org)*
6. All members are entitled to vote for TRNHA Board of Directors.
7. The pleasures of knowing that your membership contributes to the support of National park and refuge sites in North Dakota.

Print and mail in the form below to become a member today!

Yes! I would like to become a member of Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association!

New **Renewal**

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$30.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing | \$75.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting | \$250.00 |

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____



Please Mail and Make Checks Payable to:
Theodore Roosevelt Nature & History Association (TRHNA)
PO Box 167 Medora, ND 58645