

TRNHA Newsletter

September 2010

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 3-6, 2010 - Sidewalk Sales in Medora. Come out and see what TRNHA and other local vendors have on sale!

September 5, 2010 - Wilderness Hike in the North Unit.

September 7, 2010 - Theodore Roosevelt National Park South Unit and Painted Canyon will be switching to off season visitor center hours.

September 12, 2010 - Theodore Roosevelt National Park North Unit will be switching to off season visitor center hours.

September 16-18, 2010 - Theodore Roosevelt Symposium hosted by Dickinson State University.
www.theodorerooseveltcenter.org

VISITOR CENTER HOURS

Theodore Roosevelt National Park South Unit

Summer - 8:00 am - 6:00 pm MDT
Off Season - 8:00 am - 5:00 pm MDT

North Unit

Summer - 8:00 am - 6:00 pm CDT
Off Season - 9:00 am - 5:30 pm CDT

Painted Canyon

Summer - 8:30 - 6:00 pm MDT
Off Season - 8:30 am - 4:30 pm MDT

Drives through both units of the park are currently open.

Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site
8:00 am - 6:00 pm MDT

Upper Souris NWR
8:00 am - 4:30 pm CDT
Monday-Friday

VOLUNTEERS SELECTED FOR ELK REDUCTION PROGRAM

Letters were mailed to 240 potential volunteers who will assist Theodore Roosevelt National Park with its elk reduction program this fall and winter. Packets were mailed on Tuesday to a fraction of the people who had applied to volunteer for the program.

"The response to our request for volunteer team members was excellent," said Superintendent Valerie J. Naylor. "We look forward to a successful elk reduction effort this fall."

Volunteers will work as members of teams with up to 4 volunteers led by National Park Service employees. The teams will be using firearms to shoot cow elk in the park between November 1, 2010 and January 21, 2011. Shooting will be restricted to Tuesday through Thursday to minimize disruption to normal park operations and weekend visitation by the public.

A total of 5,269 individuals applied for the volunteer work. Because applicants could apply for multiple weeks, the actual number of names

considered was 29,225. However, due to the number of applicants, nobody will be able to volunteer for more than one week. The 240 potential volunteers were randomly selected using a computer program.

The people who received packets have until September 5 to return all of the required paperwork to the park. If potential volunteers do not return their paperwork or decide not to participate, the park will go through another selection process



to fill any vacant slots. Anyone not notified by September 20 can assume they were not selected for the elk reduction effort this year.

The park received applications from 46 states and the District of Colum-

bia. North Dakotans accounted for 46% of the applicants, while 31% of the applicants were from Minnesota.

Of the potential volunteers selected so far, 48% are from North Dakota and 28% are from Minnesota. The final breakdown will likely change as some volunteers drop out and alternates are selected.

All volunteers must certify that they are in excellent physical condition and have good shooting skills. When they arrive at the park, they must also pass a shooting proficiency test or they will be disqualified from participating in the program.

"As people fill out their paperwork, they have to understand that this is difficult work that includes several hard days in the field under strenuous hiking and weather conditions," said Naylor. "It won't be just another walk in the park."

Ranger Recommends

September's featured Ranger is Kassandra Pesch, an Interpretive Ranger at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Kassi is currently a student at the University of North Dakota. Kassi is a native of Perham, MN and brings a wealth of knowledge and a love for nature to the park. Her warm smile and can do attitude helps ensure visitors have a great visit!

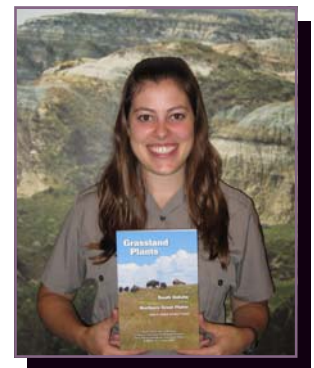
Kassi recommends the book *Grassland Plants of South Dakota and the Northern Great Plains* by James R. Johnson and Gary E. Larson.

Kassi says: "I like the book because it makes it easy to identify the

plants of North and South Dakota or similar areas, it gives information on when each plant is blooming and a comment section sharing extra information on the plant, including their nutritional values for animals, importance of the plant, or their uses by Native Americans and even current uses."

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



Grassland Plants of South Dakota and the Northern Great Plains

Regular Price: \$19.95
Members Price: \$16.95

South Unit Trails Get a Facelift!

Over 29 miles of South Unit trails were hiked, assessed, and re-marked with trail posts in late August. Fifteen members of the park staff – from all divisions – worked in three teams during the first trail work day and 9 staff members in two teams marked trails during a second trail work day. During that week, the park’s protection rangers also led a group of Youth Correctional Corps workers to mark trails in the wilderness.

I always tell people that the park has a 550-member volunteer trail crew that works without pay, and only asks for meals in the form of wild grass. Indeed, the park’s bison are responsible for making many of the trails in the park. In the South Unit, several of the most popular hiking trails (like the Jones Creek and Paddock Creek Trails) were originally bison paths that were formalized and marked. Unfortunately, the bison also knock down the trail markers on a regular basis. This year, many of the South Unit trails were lacking in trail posts.



Although Park Ranger John Heiser has served as the backcountry ranger in the North Unit for most of the last 37 summers, the South Unit has relied on occasional project funding for crews to work on fences and trails. So, I organized the two “Trail Days” in August as a way to take care of a pressing need. Also, it gave many employees a much-needed day OUT of the office and IN the badlands.

The trail days were fun and allowed staff members who don’t often get out in the field, and who don’t often work closely with one another, to work together on the same project.

Although we still have more miles of trail to assess and mark, things are in much better shape than they were just two weeks ago. We have also made the commitment to hire a backcountry ranger to keep up with trail and fence work in the South Unit for the summer of 2011.

Valerie Naylor ~ THRO Superintendent

National Park to Offer People’s Choice Wilderness Hike

Visitors will choose the destination for a wilderness hike on Sunday, September 5 in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The hike in the park’s North Unit will be the last one of the 2010 summer season.

Backcountry Ranger John Heiser is offering several options for visitors to consider, including searching for bighorn sheep, hiking to the Petrified Forest or a backcountry spring, or venturing to the park’s most scenic bentonite ridge. The decision will be made the morning of the hike. Other considerations determining the hike’s destination will be the number of participants and weather conditions. The hike could last from 4 to 6 hours and cover 2 to 6 miles.

Hikers should meet Heiser at the picnic area in the Juniper

Campground at 9:00 a.m. CDT. Participants should be prepared for a moderately strenuous hike and wear sturdy boots and clothes appropriate for the weather. Everyone should bring plenty of drinking water, food, sunscreen, and insect repellent.

“Late summer is a beautiful time to hike in the park,” said Superintendent Valerie Naylor. “This will be a great opportunity for visitors to experience the Theodore Roosevelt Wilderness Area and see some spectacular scenery and wildlife.”

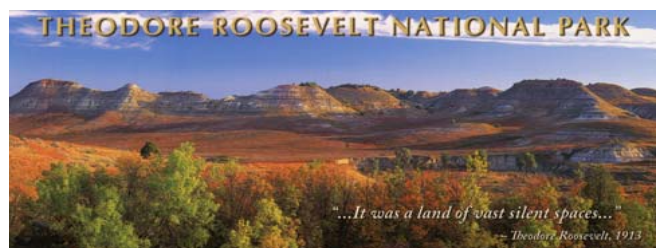
Visitors are encouraged to bring binoculars, cameras, and a favorite poem or quote. In the case of extreme weather, the hike may be cancelled; please call the North Unit Visitor Center at 701-842-2333 for current information.

Don’t Forget the Park this Fall!

Shorter days, less Medora visitors, and school back in session are all sure signs that fall is just around the corner and summer fun is coming to an end. However here at Theodore Roosevelt National Park we want to remind you that the fun doesn’t have to end!

In fact one of the most beautiful times of the year is just around the corner. Soon the badlands will be filled with shades of red, orange, and yellow. Fall is a wonderful time to Theodore Roosevelt National Park and take in the quiet beauty of the Badlands. Stop at one of

the overlooks and close your eyes and listen to the sounds of nature, take a hike through the backcountry and look at the untouched beauty, or just make a stop at a prairie dog town and watch the little guys prepare for the winter. It doesn’t matter how you enjoy just get out and do it! When the work day has you worn down and everyday life seems to be holding you back jump in the car and head out to the park, it’s sure to put a smile on your face and lighten the mood!



Postcard available for purchase at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Image by Larry Ulrich

Bar Fight

by: Nathan King, Park Ranger

Though it may seem like a typical tall tale of the Old West, Theodore Roosevelt once found himself in a bar fight in Mingsville, MT (now Wibaux, MT), 35 miles west of Medora in the summer of 1884.

Roosevelt described the incident in his own words in his autobiography:

“It was late in the evening when I reached the place. I heard one or two shots in the bar-room as I came up, and I disliked going in. But there was nowhere else to go, and it was a cold night. Inside the room were several men, who, including the bartender, were wearing the kind of smile worn by men who are making believe to like what they don’t like. A shabby individual in a broad hat with a cocked gun in each hand was walking up and down the floor talking with strident profanity. He had evidently been shooting at the clock, which had two or

three holes in its face.

...As soon as he saw me he hailed me as ‘Four Eyes,’ in reference to my spectacles, and said, ‘Four Eyes is going to treat.’ I joined in the laugh



and got behind the stove and sat down, thinking to escape notice. He followed me, however, and though I tried to pass it off as a jest this merely made him

more offensive, and he stood leaning over me, a gun in each hand, using very foul language... In response to his reiterated command that I should set up the drinks, I said, ‘Well, if I’ve got to, I’ve got to,’ and rose, looking past him.

As I rose, I struck quick and hard with my right just to one side of the point of his jaw, hitting with my left as I straightened out, and then again with my right. He fired the guns, but I do not know whether this was merely a convulsive action of his hands, or whether he was trying to shoot at me. When he went down he struck the corner of the bar with his head... if he had moved I was about to drop on my knees; but he was senseless. I took away his guns, and the other people in the room, who were now loud in their denunciation of him, hustled him out and put him in the shed.”

By the next morning, the bully had left town on a freight train.

Before coming to Dakota, Roosevelt was a successful boxer at Harvard. Roosevelt maintained an interest in various martial arts throughout his life, including judo, kendo, jiu-jitsu, boxing, and wrestling, practicing many of them at the White House.

Theodore Roosevelt Symposium hosted by Dickinson State University
September 16-18, 2010

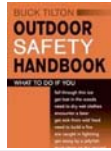
For more information visit their website at:

www.theodorerooseveltcenter.org



Check this Out!

Outdoor Safety Handbook by: Buck Tilton

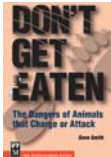


One of the most useful outdoor guides you will ever own, this book is full of great advice about how to keep you & your family safe.

\$9.95

TRNHA Members \$8.46

Don't Get Eaten by: Dave Smith

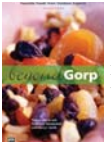


A perfect book for those who spend time in the great outdoors. This book will teach you ways to stay alert and sane in the world of dangerous animals.

\$6.95

TRNHA Members \$5.91

Beyond Gorp by: Prater, Mendenhall, & Smith



Outdoor experts, celebrities, and industry leaders share their favorite trail recipes and why they hold a special place in their heart.. Hear the stories behind the titling of Angry Moose Scrambled Eggs and Poison Ivy Pesto with Shrimp and many more!

\$15.95

TRNHA Members \$13.56

September's Member Only Coupon

Choose one or purchase them all!

- Basic Illustrated: Canoeing
- Basic Illustrated: Camping
- Basic Illustrated: Knots for the Outdoors
- Basic Illustrated: Map and Compass

SALE PRICE \$7.95

(Price listed is before 15% membership discount for a final price of \$6.76)

Regular Price: \$9.95



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

Expires September 20, 2010

Junior Ranger Sale

Send your Junior Ranger back to school with some GREAT National Park Gear!

Junior Ranger T-shirts **\$15.00**

Regular Price: \$19.95



Available in Pink, Green, & Orange
Youth Sizes - Small, Medium, Large, & X-Large

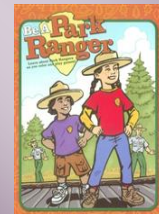
Junior Rangerland Northern Rocky Mountain Edition



\$17.95

Regular Price: \$20.00

Be a Park Ranger



\$4.95

Regular Price: \$5.95

Junior Ranger Backpacks



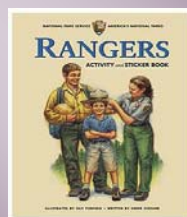
Chipmunk \$26.99

Regular Price: \$29.99

Coyote \$30.99

Regular Price: \$33.99

Ranger Activity Book



\$7.95

Regular Price: \$9.95

Junior Ranger Bucket Hats



\$4.95

Regular Price: \$6.95

Theodore Roosevelt

1. Theodore Roosevelt was the first President to descend in a _____.

- A. Submarine B. Airplane C. Spaceship



2. He once killed a _____ with a knife?

- A. Bear B. Mountain Lion C. Bison

3. Theodore Roosevelt was the first President to _____ while in office?

- A. go on a bison hunt B. swim with dolphins C. leave the USA

4. He nearly died while exploring a _____ in the Amazon basin in 1914?

- A. Cabin B. Mountain C. River

5. Did you know Theodore Roosevelt was the first President to take _____ ride?

- A. a train B. an airplane C. a bus

6. The _____ is named for Theodore Roosevelt?

- A. Rose B. Teddy Bear C. Rooster

7. Roosevelt's children used to slide down the White House stairs on _____?

- A. Serving Trays B. Sleds C. Rugs

8. Theodore Roosevelt lived in western _____ off and on for approximately three years between 1883 and 1898?

- A. New York B. South Dakota C. North Dakota

9. Roosevelt's face is one of four displayed in the huge rock formation at _____.

- A. Yellowstone NP
B. Badlands NP
C. Mount Rushmore NM



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.
- Support 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**

Individual **\$20.00**
 Family **\$30.00**
 Contributing **\$75.00**
 Supporting **\$250.00**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

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

www.trnha.org - 701-623-4884