



TRNHA NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2009

THE GREAT PLAINS

Growing up in a tiny Nebraska town (about 500 people) I always said I was leaving and never going back. Well I kept my promise and never went back, but instead settled into an even smaller town (about 100 people) in Western North Dakota. When I first moved here the idea of driving 33 miles one way to get groceries was about enough to send me running back to a larger town, but now looking back I am glad we stayed. Often times people from all over the country ask how can you live in Medora, North Dakota or isn't it cold in North Dakota? To which I have began to reply "Yes, it keeps the population down."

Today after spending 29 years of my life living in the upper Midwest and only visiting other areas I can honestly say I would never want to live anywhere else. The country is full of wonderful people and in my biased opinion the ones in the Great Plains are pretty lovable and help make life great!

What kind of people live in the Great Plains?

Helpful People: You wake up to a beautiful blanket of snow covering the open fields and reluctantly climb out of bed and head to work only to find yourself stuck in a massive

snowdrift that has blown across the road. But only in the Midwest does the pickup coming down the road behind you slow down and pull over to help dig you out. The driver then offers to break a path with his truck so you can get where you are going.

Friendly People: Whether you are driving down the road or walking along a city street these people wave

**Spring, Summer, Winter, & Fall
In the Midwest we enjoy them all**



and say hello as if they have known you for years.

Packer/Viking Fans: Chances are if you know anyone in the Upper Midwest you know

a little about this ongoing rivalry. It seems like nearly everyone is either a Packer or Viking fan and they passionately cheer against the opponent. The love and support these people give their team is truly amazing and honorable.

City Messenger: By far these are some of the friendliest people you will ever meet and, because of that you freely share with them your plans and stories. When you haven't seen a friend in a while and can't seem to get a hold of them your best bet is to find a messenger as they are sure to know exactly where the friend is and why they aren't responding. Chances are

they will share whatever information they have with you in exchange for what you know.

The Old Rancher/Farmer: My favorite and by far the most entertaining of all are these old story tellers. These men and women can tell you stories about how life was back in the good old days before cell phones and internet. Often times these stories can be colorful and entertaining, but mostly they are packed with wonderful knowledge that can and should be applied to life today.

Combination of All: Many people in the Midwest often fall in not one but often times all of these categories. The refreshing hospitality and love thy neighbor attitude is what makes the Midwest a great place to live and visit.

Living in the upper Midwest is not always the right path for everyone, but I promise you visiting the Midwest will open your eyes to the beauty of simple life. The people, wide open spaces, distinct seasons, small town 4th of July Parades, short commutes, stary nights, and white Christmases will all welcome you with open arms and a warm smile. So come visit us and stay a night, a week, a month, or forever and enjoy an experience you will never forget!

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
Friday, Saturday, & Sunday
& as time allows on other days. (701) 842-2333 for more info.

Painted Canyon

Closed November 11th
Will Reopen April 1st
(weather permitting)

Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site

8:00 am -4:30 pm MDT

Upper Souris NWR

8:00 am - 4:30 pm CDT
Monday-Friday

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 1, 2009

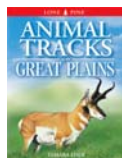
(Weather Permitting)
Painted Canyon Visitor Center will be Opening for the season.

April 25, 2009

National Park Junior Ranger Day
Please check with a park near you for scheduled events and celebrations.

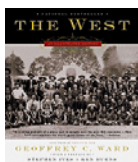
CHECK OUT THESE GREAT ITEMS!

Animal Tracks of the Great Plains
by: Tamara Eder & Ian Sheldon
\$6.95



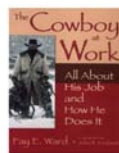
Great descriptions of animals and their tracks make this book a must have for wildlife enthusiast.

The West: An Illustrated History
by: Geoffrey C. Ward
\$24.95



Wonderful pictures and vivid accounts of American History make this book a must have for everyone.

The Cowboy at Work
by: Faye E. Ward
\$24.95



This book is devoted to the working cowboy and gives readers a glimpse into life through the eyes of a cowboy.



RANGER RECOMMENDS



North Unit Interpretive Ranger, Melissa poses with a copy of *Birds of the Dakotas*.

Welcome to Ranger Recommends!

March's featured Ranger is Melissa Sams. Melissa came to Theodore Roosevelt National Park last year with her husband, Ron, a Law Enforcement Ranger. Melissa has spent the winter greeting North Unit visitors with her warm smile and vast knowledge of the area and Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Melissa highly recommends *Birds of the Dakotas* by: Stan Tekiela

Melissa says: "I really like this field guide because it is so easy to use. It contains full page photos of only Dakota birds. There is no need to search through photo after photo of birds that don't even live in our area. The color guide is really easy to use, too. If you see a mostly red bird, you just turn to the red section to find it. The descriptions are very informative and contain range maps

to help you determine where the bird may most likely be found in the Dakotas, as well as what time of year. A very easy to use, informative field guide."

If you are interested in purchasing this book please visit one of our Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Bookstores or visit our online bookstore at:

www.trnha.org/bookstorehome.htm

Birds of the Dakotas
Regular price: \$13.95
Members price: \$11.86

MEMBER ONLY SPECIAL

March's members only coupon is for the book, *Geologic Story of the Great Plains*, which is currently available at Theodore Roosevelt National Park or by contacting us at 701-623-4884.

Geologic Story of the Great Plains is a wonderful non technical book that gives the reader a glimpse into the geological history and the evolution of the Great Plains. This is a great guide for those interested in learning more about the development of our land.

MARCH MEMBER ONLY COUPON IS FOR...

Geologic Story of the Great Plains

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 MARCH 31, 2009

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

The staff at TRNHA is new to the e-newsletter thing and are interested in finding out what our friends and readers think so far. Please take a minute and fill out this short survey and let us know how we are doing. The survey can be done in one of two ways. You can cut and paste these questions into an e-mail and send it to us at info@trnha.org or by open-

ing the attached pdf fill it in and send it back to us! Please take just a minute and answer these four questions:

1. What would you like to see us include in this newsletter?
2. What do you feel we should leave out our newsletter?
3. Which section of the newsletter do you enjoy the most?
4. Is there anything else that you would like to share with us about our newsletter, organization, or parks we serve?

We look forward to receiving your responses.



MEET THE BOARD

TRNHA is governed by a wonderful board of directors, whose faces are seldom seen by our members and friends. These board members offer great ideas, encouragement, and guidance allowing the association to run smoothly and give back to the parks. Over the next few months I will be introducing you to our current board of directors, I hope you will enjoy getting to know them as much as the TRNHA staff has over the years.

Name: Jeanie Borchart

Hometown: Thief River Falls, MN

Current Home: Bismarck, ND

Career: Archeologist

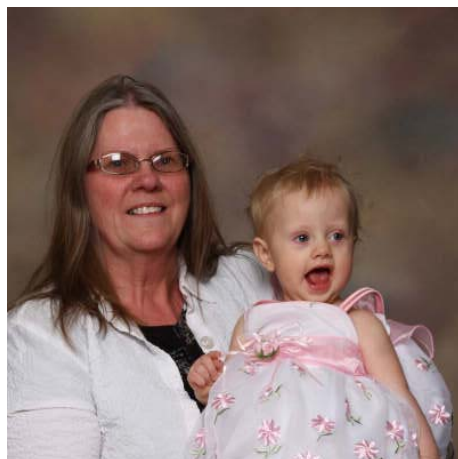
Board Member: Approx. 15 years

Why did you become a TRNHA

board member?: I became a board member because I love the Park. One of my very favorite activities is walking in the Badlands. I lived in Belfield for 15 years and enjoyed the South Unit of the Park with friends and family. We would drive through the Park often, enjoying all that each season had to offer. One winter we went at least 3 times a week for a drive through the South Unit, taking a picnic lunch (which we ate in our vehicle), counting the number of deer we would see and enjoying all the wildlife and solitude. A couple summers ago my son and I joined people from a Grand Forks astronomy group for night sky viewing from the end of the road in the North Unit. Great sights! Apparently the parking lot at the west end of the road in the North Unit is known across the US as one of our premier night sky viewing areas - as there are no lights from nearby cities.

I heard about the Association from a friend and talked with Jane about becoming a board member. Shortly after becoming a Board member I moved from Belfield to Bismarck. I miss my proximity to the Park, but am glad to stay in touch through my work with the Board.

What have you learned from being a board member?: I've learned more about the day to day workings of the Park; such as funding issues, wildlife management issues, and the interpretive focus. I've had the opportunity to participate in a national conference of Cooperation Associations (CNPCA) in Williamsburg. It was an amazing experience where I learned what other Associations were doing, the breadth of Board Member issues, and developed ideas for things we could incorporate into our Association activities.



What is your favorite part of being a board member?:

Remaining in-touch with our National Park is one of the most important aspects of being a board member for me. However, I've also made friendships with staff and other board members that have enhanced my experience.

Who is Jeani?

I grew up in Minnesota and Nebraska, graduated from East Grand Forks Senior High, and worked as a waitress and CNA in Grand Forks for a couple years before starting college at UND. I graduated from the University of North Dakota with a BA in Anthropology in 1980. I worked for UND from then until 1994. During my employment at UND, I pursued an MA in Anthropology from the University of

Montana and graduated in 1990. When I worked for UND I was stationed at the Research Center in Belfield where we functioned as the western contract archaeology arm of the Anthropology Department. We worked primarily on projects related to oil development in western North Dakota, but I also had the opportunity to work in the Pryor Mountains of Montana and the Pinyon Canyon area of southeastern Colorado. In September of 1994 I began working for the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT), Cultural Resources Section. In my work for the NDDOT I currently address all cultural resource issues for highway projects in North Dakota and coordinate our efforts in consulting with Tribes in regard to cultural resources of value to them.

I've been married for over 28 years to a "Belfield boy", Tony Knopik. Tony has severe hemophilia. His health issues have been a challenge for all of us, but, of course, mostly for him. We applaud him for his amazing attitude in living with such an unforgiving and restrictive disease. We have 2 children, Jacob - 27 and Michael - 14. Jacob is engaged to Rebeka. We have an adorable, charming Granddaughter - Jaeda Rae Knopik - age 11 months. Jake graduated from a Cordon Bleu affiliated culinary program at Brown College in Minneapolis in 2002 and is currently working as Assistant Kitchen Manager at the Seven Seas in Mandan. Michael is in 9th grade at Horizon Middle School. He likes hunting and fishing - and loves studying about military weapons and the history of war. Beka is a stay at home Mom who works weekends when Grandma watches the Baby...and Grandma loves watching the Baby!!!

Congratulations Mr. & Mrs. Whitcomb

TRNHA would like to congratulate Dan and Jen Whitcomb on their February 25th marriage in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Dan was a summer 2008 Law Enforcement Ranger and Jen has been volunteering her time and helping out around the visitor center and where ever she is needed since September 2008. We would like to wish them the best of luck with their marriage and their new adventure as they will be leaving for Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks at the end of April.



WINTER EVENT...HUGE SUCCESS!

Everyone attending the Heritage Outbound Winter Adventure at Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site on Saturday, February 21, had a great time. Not even the cold could dampen spirits.

The event started with participants meeting at the Seven Trails Trading Post and enjoying a hearty lunch of sandwiches, knoephle soup, cookies and brownies. Lunch gave participants a chance to visit and get to know each other. After lunch, Elgin Crows Breast taught participants how to bead using a loom.

This was found to be challenging but fun. Participants commented that it was relaxing and they had a better understanding of why it takes so long to complete a beading project.

While a few folks had snow shoes before, many had not, but everyone bravely started down the trail with snow shoes on for a two-hour hike led by John Hoganson and Tim Reed. Folks learned about geology,



archeology as well as history of the area. When returning to the visitor center, they tried their hands at tossing ice gliders and throwing atlatls.

The day was topped off with a traditional meal of bison roast, squash, beans, corn soup, and fry bread with berry jam. After dinner, Calvin Grinnell shared traditional stories and personal experiences. The event concluded with traditional stories and flute music presented by Matt Schanandore.

Comments from participants include: "Just the atmosphere was something to be experienced. It was just awesome," "The day was a spa for my spirit," and "It just feels good to get outside."

The event was sponsored by the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, the State Historical Society of North Dakota, the North Dakota Geological Survey, and the Knife River Indian Heritage Foundation. When the date is set for the 2010 event, we will make sure it is in the newsletter, so you too, can mark your calendar and experience the Heritage Winter Outbound Adventure.



Thank you Dorothy Cook and Brian McCutchen of Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site for providing this event update and photos.



Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Superintendent Valerie Naylor, speaks at the elk EIS public meeting held in Bismarck on Friday. Public elk EIS meetings were held the week of February 23, 2009 in Bismarck, Minot, Grand Forks, Fargo, and Medora. We hope to give our readers an update on the meetings and the EIS process in our April 2009 newsletter.



Photo taken from February 28, 2009 issue of Bismarck Tribune.

Tracy's Top 8

Reasons this Newsletter is Green!

1. Saint Patrick's Day is in March therefore everything should be green.
2. We do not print this letter because we send it by e-mail therefore it is green.
3. We are not mailing this newsletter with stamps therefore TRNHA is saving a little green.
4. Baseball season is just around the corner leaving me dreaming of fields of green.
5. TRNHA and the National Park service is making an effort to go green.
6. The snow outside our window is getting a little boring as we dream of spring and green.
7. We have been making an effort to carry more books and items that are green.
8. Our executive director, Jane is part Irish and encourages us to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day and go green.

We wish a happy Saint



Patrick's Day and encourage you join us in protecting the environment by going green.

WILDLIFE OF NORTH DAKOTA

S P R A I R I E D O G S B J S N R H H K L A E P N
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BADGER
 BEAVERS
 BIRDS
 BISON
 BOBCATS
 CANADIAN GEESE
 COYOTES

EAGLES
 ELK
 FERAL HORSES
 HAWKS
 MOUNTAIN LIONS
 MULE DEER
 OWLS

PHEASANTS
 PORCUPINES
 PRAIRIE DOGS
 PRONGHORN
 RACCOON
 SNAKES
 WHITETAIL DEER

PLAN YOUR NORTH DAKOTA TRIP WITH THESE GREAT SITES!

- Theodore Roosevelt NP www.nps.gov/thro
- Knife River Indian Village NHS www.nps.gov/knri/
- Upper Souris NWR www.fws.gov/upper Souris/
- North Dakota Tourism www.ndtourism.com
- State Historical Society of North Dakota www.history.nd.gov/
- Maah Daah Hey Trail Association www.mdhta.com/
- Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation www.medora.com
- Medora Chamber of Commerce www.medorand.com/
- Watford City Chamber of Commerce www.4eyes.net/WatfordCity/
- Stanton Chamber of Commerce www.stantonnd.com/
- Berthold Chamber of Commerce www.tradecorridor.com/berthold/
- And of course our website www.trnha.org