

# FIRE GROUND

SOUTH DAKOTA WILDLAND FIRE



Volume 1, Issue 1

May 2012

## Employee Association Created for the Division

With the direction of Jay Esperance the new Division Director an Employee Association has been created. The mission of the association is to create ways for the division to come together and provide information to all within WFS about upcoming events. This newsletter is just one of many new things that the association will be producing and coordinating. This association is for all WFS employees and we hope that you will join us at different events and provide ideas for the future.

To submit article ideas for the newsletter contact Megan at [majaros@fs.fed.us](mailto:majaros@fs.fed.us)  
To submit an idea to the association contact Cindy at [Cindy.Hansen@state.sd.us](mailto:Cindy.Hansen@state.sd.us)

## 1st Annual WFS Summer Family Potluck

*Food, Games, Auction and Fun!!*

Come join us at Canyon Lake Park Shelter #3 on Sunday June 3 for the 1st Annual WFS Summer Family Potluck. Bring your family, some food to share, lawn chairs and your favorite outdoor games and fishing pole. We will start at 1630 - Eat at 1700 - Auction starts at 1800

We will be doing an auction to help raise funds for the Employee Association. Please contact Andy Tate or Brandy Petersen if you have anything to offer for the auction. Please have all items to them by May 29th.

### Division Birthdays

- Mitch Hove - 2nd
- Any Tate - 9th
- Vince Campbell - 10th
- Jeremy Azure - 13th
- Adam Hadlock - 16th
- Andrew Gore - 19th
- Paul Moore - 25th

### Years of Service

- Jay Wickham - 13
- Les Madsen - 17
- LaVerne Hermanson - 11



## Employee Spotlight

Jim Strain — Assistant Chief of Operations

Jim is married to Debbie, who works for the Federal Public Defender's Office as a legal assistant. They have two daughters; Andrea who is a junior at SD School of Mines and Mollie who is a senior at Rapid City Stevens. The family also has two dogs; Buddy a Corgi and Rhea a Brittany. Jim enjoys spending time with his family and working on the farming in his spare times. He also is a fan of the Colorado Rockies and Denver Broncos. Jim started with the State in 1979 when Steve Hasenohrl hired him as 19 year old seasonal out of the Rapid City Field Office. Jim listed his assignment to the flooding in Dakota Dunes last year as his neatest assignment.



# FIRE GROUND

## Leader's Intent - Jay Esperance



Since this is the first employee newsletter I felt it was very appropriate to start out my messages to all of you with Safety. I want to reiterate that this is not lip service I am giving all of you, but that it is the expected standard within this Division that we will follow.

Safety of the Division personnel, our interagency firefighters, and the citizens of South Dakota needs to start with leader's intent which is practiced at all levels with self-policing. One of the ways we can demonstrate pride within our division and constantly sharpening our skills is through the use of training. With training we are able to work through what the experts would call pre-occupation with failure. Putting scenarios together through the use of sand-tables is a highly useful way to work through situations that can occur out in the field that jeopardizes firefighter and public safety.

I would like to personally thank each and every one of you for the attention that you give to safety of not only yourself but also your fellow firefighter, the public, and division personnel.

## Custer State Park Open House Weekend

**May 18 - 20**

Custer State Park will be having it's annual Open House Weekend. There will be no entrance fee for the weekend and numerous events for the whole family.

- Free Fishing Derby - No Licenses needed

- Hiking
- Hayrack Rides
- Cowboy Cookouts & Pancake Feeds
- Buffalo Chip Throwing Contest
- And more!!!!

For more info call 605-255-4464



## Employee Spotlight



Jay T. Esperance — Division Director

Jay is married to Ruth with one daughter and a black lab Casey. Ruth is a District Ranger with the USFS. Jay grew up in Folsom, CA and worked on many farms in the central California Valley. He got his start in fire with CDF and wasn't going to continue in fire. He thought he was applying to cut brush along roadways but ended up working as a Prescribed Fire Crew Boss. He loved it and has been in fire ever since. Jay has been to the Grand Canyon, Australia, Florida and Alaska to name a few for assignments. He also worked on the shuttle recovery and World Trade Center and several hurricane assignments. Jay is a big outdoorsman and likes to camp, hunt and fish. He is also a big sports fan, liking the SF Giants and any team that plays against the LA Dodgers. Jay likes to travel and has been to Argentina for Spanish emersion classes and to fly fish; Alaska to fly fish Katmai National Park with the brown bears and many National Parks. Jay has been with the division for about three months now.

# Volume 1, Issue 1



## Flower Fund

The Employee Association is going to start a Flower Fund. Money from this fund will go towards the purchase of cards and flowers for those within the division who are ill, have a death in the family and so on. The Employee Association is asking all employees who would like to participate to donate what they can to the fund. Twenty dollars is the suggested yearly amount per employee. This is volunteer and any amount will be accepted and appreciated. Employees who do not participate will not be excluded from receiving a card or flowers. If you have any questions or to donate please contact Cindy Hansen at 605-393-8011 or at [cindy.hansen@state.sd.us](mailto:cindy.hansen@state.sd.us)

## Assessing Residential Wildfire Hazards — Conference

2—Day Workshop May 11-12

Best Western Ramkota—Rapid City

WFS is teaming up with the Great Plains Fire Safe Council to put on a two day workshop to help homeowner assess the hazards that wildfire could pose to their homes.

Homeowners will:

- Increase their understanding and competency in wildland urban interface mitigation
- Use of NFPA 1141 and 1144
- Learn to assess risks to individual homes in wildland, forested or grassland areas
- and encourage residents and homeowners associations to participate in the Firewise



## Steve Hasenohrl Honored

Steve Hasenohrl was honored for his 33 years of service with the Urban Forestry Board as part of the Rapid City Arbor Day celebration. Steve has been involved with the board since it was established to fight Dutch Elm disease. Please join us in congratulating him for his years of service.

The Handcrews completed their work on the CSP Mountain Pine Beetle Project.

- 100,000 trees marked
- 50,000 trees harvested
- 16,000 were cut by WFS crews

The project started in Dec and was completed in April. Great job to all involved!

Cheryl Greenfield - Accounting Assistant welcomed another grandchild, on April 30th. Welcome baby boy Greyson!

Congratulations Cheryl!!!

## New AFMO at RC Field Office!

Casey Glines as accepted the position as RC AFMO. Casey has been with the State for 5 years and has most recently served as the Crew Boss for the Black Hats. Congratulations to Casey on the new job!!!

# Our mission is to protect South Dakota from the ravages of wildfire.



## SOUTH DAKOTA WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION

With questions or to have something added to the newsletter contact Megan Jaros

Phone: 605-399-3160

E-mail:

majaros@fs.fed.us

### Up Coming Events

May 4 - 6 - West River Exercise - **CANCELED**

May 11-12 - Assessing Residential Wildfire Hazards Conference

May 18-20 - Custer State Park Open House

May 19 - 20 - Crew Boss / Engine Boss Training

May 29 - June 2 - Black Hills Interagency Fire School

June 2 - 1st Annual Trampus S Haskvitz Golf Tournament

June 3 - WFS Employee Potluck

### 1st Annual Trampus S Haskvitz Golf Tournament

In honor of WFS Wildland Firefighter Trampus Haskvitz a Golf Tournament will be held at the Southern Hills Golf Club on June 2 in Hot Springs.

All funds raised will go to the Wildland Firefighters Foundation.

For more information contact Jim Strain 605-393-8011



### Adopt A Hwy

WFS will be Adopting A Hwy in the Black Hills. As a division we will be required to clean up the roadway twice a year. This is a great opportunity for your family to help the Black Hills Community. More information will follow in the future about this community service project by WFS.

Don't forget to check out the Employee Association Group on Facebook

### April Fire Stats

Due to technical issues we were unable to access the current fire stats for April. Please look in future newsletters for the monthly and yearly state statistics.

### Trivia

- ◇ Who preceded Smokey as the symbol of fire prevention?
- ◇ What kind of bear was Smokey?
- ◇ In what year was Smokey found?

Look for the answers in the June Newsletter!

# HAPPY MAY DAY!!!!

