

FIRE GROUND

SOUTH DAKOTA WILDLAND FIRE



Volume 1, Issue 6

November 2012

Hot Chocolate Social & Silent Auction

The WFS Employee Association will be hosting a Hot Chocolate Social and Silent Auction on November 3rd at Custer State Park. Come join us for free hot chocolate, hay rides, baked goods and a silent auction. We also will be drawing for the TV that is being raffled off!!

Division Birthdays

- Les Madsen - 5th
- Beth Hermanson - 8th

Years of Service

- No one has started with the state in the month of November

Silent Auction Bids will start at 1pm and hay rides at 2pm. We will have a bonfire to keep everyone warm! If there are cool enough temperatures ice skating is available as well.



We will be at the Pavilion near the Park Office.

Bring the whole family for an afternoon of fall fun in Custer State Park!!!!

WFS Christmas PARTY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

When: Dec 15th

Time: 5:30 - Happy Hour 6:30 - Dinner

Where: Ramkota - Washington Room

Cost: to be determined

Come join your co-workers as we celebrate the holiday and take a much deserved break from the busy fire season.

We will have good food, entertainment, door prizes and awards ceremony!

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE FUN!

RSVP to Beth Hermanson by Dec 7th at 605-393-8011



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Leaders Intent - Make the Goals Everyone's Goals

Fifth of an eight part series on Leadership

Unless everyone wins, no one wins. This concept is most familiar in the world of sports, but it's just as true for teams of any sort. Individual records are fine for the history books, but really they're an afterthought. What matters far more is the performance of the entire team.

When you get people involved in this way and they feed off each other, it's contagious. It becomes more like being a member of a sports team versus being in an assembly line. There's just a big difference in the energy level they bring into work, the intensity. That's why most good coaches – and most good leaders – speak so often in the first-person plural. "We need..." "Our deadline..." "The job before us..." Good leaders always emphasize how everyone's contribution fits in.

In business: "Together we have to get this new product smoothly to market." If the ad man does marvelous work but the packaging specialist fails, that's not success.

In sailing: "Together we have to get this boat through the storm." If the navigator can read the stars like a paperback novel but the skipper doesn't know the difference between starboard and port, that's not success.

In politics: "Together we have to win this election." If the candidate is a splendid orator but the advance staff can't get her to the speech, that's not success.

In Fire Management: "Together we have to....." *I think you are getting the idea.*

We had a great turnout for the Hwy 40 clean up day! We cleaned up two miles of highway. Thanks to the Hot Springs and Rapid City engine crews who helped. We also enjoyed hamburgers and hot dogs after. Thanks to all who came!!!!

Employee Spotlight - Ray Black

Ray has been with the state for 7 years and is the seasonal Battalion Chief at the lead office. He started in fire in 2001 with the Lead Fire Dept as a Junior Firefighter at age 14. He has a daughter named Nikiah and a girlfriend, Olitha. He enjoys watching football, shooting guns, riding his motorcycle and spending time with his family. His favorite sports team is the Denver Broncos. Enjoyed his assignment to Florida as a crew member with a State of Utah engine in 2007.

Employee Spotlight - Paul Nolan

This has been Paul's first season with WFS and as a firefighter at the Lead Field Office. He has two brothers and one dog. He likes to snowboard and cliff dive in his free time. He enjoyed his assignment on the White Draw fire.



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Thanksgiving Day Food Safety Tips

- Buy your turkey preferably 1-2 days before you cook it
- Avoid buying fresh, stuffed turkeys
- Store the turkey in the freezer if you bought it early in the month.
- Keep turkey in the refrigerator if cooking within 24-48 hours
- Keep the turkey in it's package in a pan to keep any juices from getting into fresh produce or food
- Stuffing the turkey is not recommended. Cook the stuffing separate.
- Use a food thermometer. You can't tell if the turkey is cooked simply by looking
- Check to make sure every part of the turkey reaches a minimum internal temperature of 165 oF, even if your turkey has a pop-up temperature indicator. Check the innermost part of the thigh and wing, and the thickest part of the breast.
- Let turkey stand for 20 minutes before carving to allow juices to set.
- Stuffing should also reach a minimum temperature of 165 oF.
- Use clean serving spoons for each dish.
- Wash hands with soap and water before handling food or eating.
- Store left-over food within two hours after serving, including pumpkin pie.

By Lillian Occeña-Po, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Food Science & Human Nutrition, Michigan State University 11/06



Employee Spotlight - Donald Henry

Donald is the new Crewboss for the Bear Mtn Handcrew. He has been with the State for about a month and a half. He is married to Christy who teaches 1st grade and they have two kids; Terry is 11 and Casie is 9. They also have two dogs; Sammy and Montana. Donald enjoys hunting, fishing and working on cars. He is from a small town in southern Ohio and is a Cincinnati Bengals and Reds fan. He started in fire in 1991 as an on call firefighter in Fort Collins with the Sheriffs Department. The neatest place he has been on assignment is to Northern Minnesota on the Superior NF. They got to fly in a float plane, had a day of canoe training and visited a Canadian Fire Center.

Year to Date SD Fires

Fire Cause	Grasslands	Black Hills
Human Caused	467 fires for 21,760 acres	124 fires for 8,632 acres
Lightning Caused	18 fires for 12,025 acres	66 fires for 1863 acres

Trivia

- ♦ What football teams played the first Thanksgiving day game in 1934?
- ♦ Which US Founding Father wanted to make the Turkey the National Bird of the US?

October Trivia Answers

- ♦ Tallest lookout tower is the Warren Bicentennial Tree Lookout in Australia at 225.7 feet
- ♦ Tallest lookout in the US is in Alexandria, LA at 175 feet.

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

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

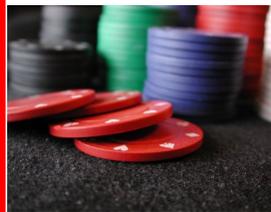
Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour on November 4th for daylight saving.



Employee Spotlight - Cody Griffiee

Cody has been with the State for 6 years. Cody got his start in fire as a member of the Rapid Valley Volunteer Fire Department and has been a member for 8 years. He started in 2005 with the Bear Mtn crew and left at the end of 2006 to attend WDT Fire Science Program. He worked for the BLM Fuels Module out of Ft. Meade as the crews Lead Sawyer for a season and a half. He graduated from WDT in 2008 with an AAS degree. He took a full time squad boss position with the Black Hat Crew mid-season in 2008 and left the crew in 2010 to be the AFMO at the Rapid City Field Office. Cody was deployed to Afghanistan with the SDANG 200th Engineer Company from 2011-2012. When he returned he began to work as the Lead FMO. He plans to start working on a BS degree in Fire Service Administration, as well as get his license as a certified personal trainer. Cody has one sister Jaime who lives in Denver with her husband Matt and their son Rece. He enjoys snowboarding, backpacking, dirt biking, hunting, paintball, mountain biking, working out and competing in the Scott Firefighter Combat Challenge (made it to the world finals in 2010). His favorite sports teams are the Denver Broncos, Colorado Avalanche, Boston Red Sox and Celtics. Cody has fought fire in SD, Nebraska, Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, California and Texas. His favorite assignments were to Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and in the Ute Mountains at the Four Corners in 2009 when the local members of the tribe took them to ancient cave dwellings of their ancestors.

The Forest Service North Zone and Rapid City Fire Department are hosting a Wildland Firefighter Foundation Benefit Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament at Cadillac Jacks in



Deadwood on December 1st. To register or get more information email wffpoker@gmail.com

Employee Spotlight - Melanie Bond Cromes

Melanie is a seasonal engine crew member from the Lead Field Office. She has been with the State for two years. She and her husband Dave have a dog Jake and a cat Dusty. She got her start in fire in 1996 in Idaho with the Forest Service. She moved to Alaska in 2000 and joined an Industrial fire department as their Wildland Trainer and did structure fire as well. Moved over seas with her husband in 2005 and was out of fire for a few years. When they moved back to the Black Hills in 2009 she joined the Rochford VFD and is now also working for the State. She enjoys working on her 1966 Mustang, hunting, fishing and watching Packers football. The neatest place she has been on assignment was to Northern Ontario as part of a type 2 crew. The area was absolutely beautiful and she didn't know that swamp marshes could burn so stubbornly! She enjoyed the crew camaraderie and variety of air support used.