



# MEADE STATE PARK SPRING 2013 NEWSLETTER

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Volume 1, Issue 1

## Park News~Kansas State

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### Special points of interest

- OPEN HOUSE
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Kansas State Park Passports are annual vehicle permits that will allow Kansans access into any park throughout the state. Passports will make enjoying our state parks more affordable and much more convenient. With a passport, families can enjoy a year full of adventure and outdoor activities.

Kansans will be able to purchase their passport during their motor vehicle registration process. This will need to be renewed every year during this

process. By law, passports are non-transferable to another vehicle.

Passports will cost \$15.00, with a possible \$.50 transaction fee. This is \$10.00 less than purchasing your permit through a KDWP office or website.

For more information regarding park passports, contact:

Pratt Operations Office, (620) 672-5911.

Scan for Kansas State Parks Passport Information



## OPEN HOUSE – MARCH 9TH

Come help us kick off the season with our office Open House

Meet Our Staff, Purchase your fishing and hunting licenses and learn about the new Kansas State Passport permits.

Refreshments will be served.

The office will be open from 8:00 am till 4:30 pm.

# ORMS: A New Way to Reserve

## Outdoor Recreation Management System:

Last spring, the Parks Division launched our Outdoor Recreation Management System (ORMS). Though often called a “reservation system,” ORMS is much more. It allows users to reserve campsites from the comfort of their home computer or look online to see a photo of each campsite and whether or not that site is rented. ORMS, in most cases, savers our customers time and money.

Park staff can look within the system to see what sites are full and who is on that site. This makes emergency notifications much faster. Staff can mark sites that have issues as unavailable, such as off-line breakers or broken hydrants, and put them back online as they are repaired. For the first time, we will have data at our fingertips that tells us what sites are rented most often and which ones see little use, enabling us to make management decisions about how many sites need upgraded or which campgrounds need a change in use.

**Reserve a campsite TODAY at [www.reserveamerica.com](http://www.reserveamerica.com)!**

### UTILITY SITES

ARE NOW

100%

RESERVABLE AT

MEADE STATE PARK

## Regulation Reminders

Most of our state park regulations are not new, but warrant a reminder to all of our visitors as we begin looking forward to the new park season.

**GREY WATER DUMPING** - all waste water from camping units (Grey and Black tanks) must be disposed of at dump stations only.

**SPEED LIMIT**— there is a 25 mph speed limit throughout the entire park. Speed should be reduced even further when entering and driving the individual campground roads. Please take extra care to watch for Pedestrians!

**PETS** - are allowed, however they must be kept on a 10 ft. or shorter leash or chain at ALL TIMES. Pets are not allowed on the beach area or in the water.

**QUIET HOURS** - Observed between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

**FIRES** - are allowed for the following purposes: cooking or heat in fire rings and grills. Fires shall be attended at all times and shall be totally extinguished prior to leaving the site of the fire.

During the dry weather the park will be posted as to whether or not a person

will be able to have a fire.

**SWIMMING BEACH** - swimming is allowed only at the beach area. No pets are allowed on the beach. Remember swimming at the beach is at your own risk.

**TRASH** - All trash should be placed in the dumpsters. Help keep the park looking nice by keeping the trash picked up.

# BOATING

Any vessel propelled by sail or machinery of any kind (including trolling motors) used on Kansas public waters must be registered. Boat registration fees are \$32.50 for a three-year registration for all motor or sail propelled boats. Any boat requiring to be registered must have a Certificate of Registration on board and properly displayed registration numbers.

All boats, including kayaks and canoes, must be equipped with at least one wearable, Coast Guard approved Type I, II, or III personal flotation device—

serviceable and readily accessible—for each person on board or being towed.

Persons 12 years and younger are required to wear PDF's when on board or being towed by any vessel.

Motorboats may be used on state fishing lakes for fishing and hunting only, **unless otherwise posted.**

For a complete set of regulations on boating in Kansas, contact a local KDWP office or visit the KDWP website.

There is a No Wake re-

striction on the lake.

Noise device is **required** on all vessels, motorized or not.

**NOTE: Any person born on or after Jan 1, 1989, and under age 21 must complete an approved boater safety education course before operating a motorboat or sailboat on public waters in Kansas. The law applies equally to residents and non-residents.**

## SENIOR HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES

Beginning Jan. 1, 2012, resident hunters and anglers age 65-74 are no longer exempt from hunting and fishing license requirements. Residents age 75 and older will still be exempt. Hunters and anglers age 65 - 74 are eli-

gible for a lifetime hunting/fishing combination license(\$42.50) or they can purchase annual hunting or fishing licenses for half-price—\$11.50. An annual senior hunting/fishing combination license is \$20.50.



We will now be offering kayak and paddle boat rentals through the park office.

## Campsite Markers and Signs

UPDATED: Campground Signs and Campsite Markers.

The new campsite post shows the name of the campground and the site number. They also have a large red R on them. If the red R is showing, that means that the site is reserved. If there is a plastic white or yellow card on the

post that means the site is available to be used. The yellow card indicates that the site is open for one night and the white card means that the site is available for at least 2 nights. After you park on the site, you need to bring the card to the park office and they can tell you how many nights that sites is available.

By replacing the old, weathered signs that existed before, we can create a pleasing environment for our patrons; one that can



# BIO MAT PROJECT

We are going into the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of our biomat project. This project came to be after consecutive years of Blue-Green algae blooms. We worked with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and EPA to secure the Clean Water Neighbor Grant. This grant was used to purchase 60 BeeMats and 8,000 plants. Plants used were Soft Rush and Blue Flag Iris. Westar Energy/Jeffrey Energy Center donated 40 mats for this project. Last summer we installed 100 mats with 8,000 plants. We pulled 100 plants throughout the sum-

mer for sampling. Plants were sampled to measure for nutrient uptake of the plants. As part of the sampling, roots of the plants were measured. The root growth was the primary focus of our study. When we installed the plants the roots were not much longer than the 4-5 inch cup that they came in. Our last measurements of the roots taken during the last sampling, we had some roots that measured 50 inches. I would say not bad growth in 3 months. In November staff from Meade State Park, Cedar Bluff SP and

Meade Fish Hatchery winterized the plants for the upcoming winter. Once spring arrives the plants in the biomats will begin their growing cycle. Samples will be pulled during the summer months. KDHE will then determine to proceed with the project or not. KDHE will also use the data that has been collected to help formulate a plan of attack on Blue-Green algae blooms.

**Exposure to blue green algae can cause rashes, skin and eye irritation, allergic reactions, gastrointestinal upset and other effects**



Top row:  
 Layout of BeeMats  
 Plant delivery  
 Complete island of plants  
 Bottom row:  
 Soft Rush plant  
 Blue Flag Iris  
 Winterization process

# AmeriCorps Corner

The Kansas Outdoor AmeriCorps Action Team serves the State of Kansas by performing environmental service projects in state parks and local communities. Our program focus is in three areas: to assist emergency management agencies at disaster sites in response and restoration efforts; to restore, develop, and mitigate the loss of environmental resources within public managed lands; and finally, to develop new partnerships

in outdoor recreation and form outreach support groups through public presentations and education to schools, civic groups and local governments.

Joel Milford (pictured) will join our staff as a part-time member of AmeriCorps. He served last summer as a minimum time member. We look forward to having him back.



## Manager's Minutes by Matt Trujillo

Another summer is quickly approaching. We're hoping for another Blue-green algae free summer and expecting a great season. As you all are aware, our summer hinges on the presence or absence of the Blue-Green algae. In preparation for a great summer, we are going to offer kayak and paddleboats rentals. Rentals will be run through the park office. We will once again have a concessionaire that will offer camping essentials and refreshments at the Visitor Center. We are going to be

having our annual special events: OK KIDS Day, Halloween in the Park and the Car and Bike show. We are looking to expand our Special Event calendar with a few other events. If anyone has any input on an event they would like to see, please feel free to contact us with your ideas. As with any events, we need additional help. So if you would like to volunteer for one of our events or just to help out in the Park, again please contact the Park office for details. We look forward to seeing everyone this summer and if there is

something we can do to make your camping trip better please let us know.

**AmeriCorps is a  
nation wide program.  
AmeriCorps  
opportunities are  
available, inquire at  
the park office.**

# STATE PARK FEES FOR 2013

	JAN 1 – MAR 31	APRIL 1 - SEP 30	OCT 1-DEC 31
Annual Vehicle	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
KS SR/Disabled Annual	\$ 13.75	\$ 13.75	\$ 13.75
Daily Vehicle	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00
KS SR/Disabled Daily	\$ 3.25	\$ 3.25	\$ 3.25
Annual Camp	\$ 152.50	\$ 202.50	\$ 152.50
14 Day Camp	\$ 87.50	\$ 101.50	\$ 87.50
Prime Site	N/A	\$ 2.50	N/A
Daily Camp	\$ 7.50	\$ 8.50	\$ 7.50
Electric/Water	\$ 9.50	\$ 9.50	\$ 9.50

\*A \$3.00 transaction fee will be applied to your **daily camp and utility costs**.

**KANSAS STATE  
PARKS PASSPORT:  
RENEW YOUR STATE  
PARK PERMITS  
WHEN YOU RENEW  
YOUR VEHICLE TAGS!**

## Pocket Ranger® Smart Phone App

The Kansas State Parks Pocket Ranger® mobile app by ParksbyNature Network serves as an interactive State Parks tour guide accessible through today's leading mobile devices. It is built with the most up-to-date visitor information, and designed for both the novice outdoorsmen and the more seasoned park-goers.

The interactive guide along with the advanced GPS mapping technology provides park goers with valuable information for planning that perfect trip to any state park, making it easy

for anyone to choose an adventure of their choice. The app allows users to keep abreast of weather conditions, view state-surveyed trails, and more—directly from their mobile device!

Scan for Kansas State Parks Pocket Ranger® mobile app!



# OK KIDS

Meade State Park hosted our OK KIDS event on May 12, 2012, with 1080 in attendance. The day started out damp, but warmed up to a great day. We had over 30 booths for everyone to enjoy. We added the Vanderpool Exotic Animal farm this year, They brought over prairie dogs and hedge hogs to show the

children.

Lunch was cooked by the Black Hill Energy workers and the Lions club from Liberal. This meal and day would not be possible without all the support from the great sponsors from the area.

A special THANKS to the committee for putting to-

gether such a great day for all to enjoy.



**OK KIDS DAY**

**JUNE 1, 2013**

**9 - 3**

**No vehicle permit  
required**

## Meade State Park 2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	HOURS
3-9-13	OPEN HOUSE	8 AM - 4:30 PM
6-1-13	OK KIDS	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
9-28-13	CAR SHOW	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
10-12-13	HALLOWEEN IN PARK	5:00 PM - DARK

Be sure to watch the parks web page for any other events. The web address: [meadesp@ksoutdoors.com](mailto:meadesp@ksoutdoors.com)

# Meade Fish Hatchery Largemouth Bass Propagation Building 2013

By Jason Vajnar, Manager

Since the construction of the new Bass Propagation Building that was completed in 2009, we have had 3 years in a row where we have had success in extensively spawning largemouth bass out of their usual seasonal period. Largemouth bass historically spawn in late May to early June when day length and water temperature are in sync with the fishes instinct to create their off spring. What we have done in the last three years is fool the largemouth bass brood fish into thinking it is late May when it is actually late March by holding them inside a temperature controlled building where the water is regulated to May-June water temperatures and the lights are controlled by a timer that replicate the amount of day length in late May and early June. The process starts in late January when the fish are brought into the building and held on a winter cycle of light and water temperature. The spawning effort is completed around the second week of April.

The reason that we are doing this is to see if our agency can create largemouth bass fisheries in many of our aging lakes and reservoirs. Past efforts in stocking small fish (fingerlings) into these waters have proven to not have positive results. The thinking is that by the time that fingerlings were

stocked prior to 2009, the small largemouth bass could never reach a large enough size by the fall of the year they were stocked. When they reached that first winter period they did not have enough muscle and fat to make it through the 3-4 month period where they do not feed and they simply starved to death. By stocking these fingerlings now 2 months early the fingerlings can take advantage of many forage fishes that they were unable to prey upon before, mainly gizzard shad. Preliminary findings in the research waters where these "early" fingerlings have been stocked have fish that are in the 8" range by fall sampling times where in previous years fish of this same age have only reached 4"-5".

When the Propagation Building was set up it initially had two 40' fiberglass raceways where we spawned our largemouth bass brood fish. We just finished constructing four 40' concrete raceways in the same area in the building that the 2 fiberglass raceways once occupied. With the outcome of the square concrete raceways

we have approximately 2.5 times the space to spawn fish than we did before. Due to the fact that the fiberglass raceways had a rounded sloping bottom, it restricted use of the entire bottom for the fish to spawn.

Last year we harvested just over 2.0 million largemouth bass fry from three rounds of spawning. These fish were either stocked as fry or used in fingerling production at our facility and at our Pratt Hatchery and Farlington Hatchery.

Our hope this spring is to produce 124 spawns that will provide around 3.0 million fry in just one round of spawning. This is enough fry to provide all of the pond space that has been allocated for fingerling production and leave some fry left over to stock into one reservoir.

Prior to our Propagation Building being built largemouth bass fry was produced in outside ponds. In a typical year producing 200,000 fry was considered typical. To reach 3.0 million fry by that measure would take 15 years to do.

## New Raceways



## FRIENDS OF MEADE STATE PARK AND LAKE

By Darrin Gollieher

The Friends of Meade State Park and Lake was started in 2007 to raise money for the new community center being built at the lake. With the support of The Community Foundation of Southwest Kansas, we were able to raise over \$20,000 to purchase appliances and furnishings for the building. This successful venture allowed for a concessionaire to open during the summer camping season, and to have a place for events such as family reunions and weddings.

Since that time, the Friends group has continued to be a conduit to raise money for the enhancement of the lake and park. Our goal has been to not only look for improvements to make, but to offer activities to encourage families from throughout southwest Kansas and the Oklahoma and Texas panhandles to come enjoy the wonderful surroundings of the park. Many of our group remembers spending countless days

and nights camping, fishing and hiking the trails of the park as kids or with our families. It's these memories that make us want to insure that the lake is around for the next generation to enjoy as we did.

The friends group is also proud to support the "OK Kids" day at the lake June 1st. This great event brings in hundreds of children and their families from the entire tri-state area for a day of fishing, crafts, archery, shot gunning and other fun outdoor events. This day is also free to the public with a free lunch and lots of prizes for the entire family.

Saturday September 28<sup>th</sup>, the Friends of Meade State Park and Lake will be sponsoring the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual car show at Meade State Park. The 2012 show was a tremendous success with over 48 antique cars and trucks. This made for a wonderful show with the beauty of the lake in the background. With a full year of planning, we are expecting an

even better show this year.

Halloween in the Park is on October 12<sup>th</sup>. There is a free-will pancake feed prepared by the friends group to kick the evening off. This is followed by a costume contest for the kids and adults. It is then off to trick and treat through the decorated campsites. And for those souls brave enough, there is a haunted trail through the woods.

The Friends of Meade State Park continues to look for new members to carry on this great work. We welcome your ideas on how to make Meade State Park a better place.



Halloween in the Park pictures to the left.



Car Show Pictures to the right.





**MEADE STATE PARK**

13051 V ROAD  
MEADE, KANSAS 67864

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E-mail:  
meadesp@ksoutdoors.com

Meade State Park Staff

Matt Trujillo Park Manager

Alex Goossen Park Ranger

Willie Helms Administrative Specialist

**Friends of Meade State Park and Lake**

Come and join a team committed to a worthwhile cause. An organization called Friends of Meade State Park and Lake has been formed. If you would like to help support our efforts in keeping the park and lake clean and enjoyable for years to come, please join us. The park and lake has been enjoyed for many years by Kansans and our of state visitors. We see families coming back to enjoy the lake, generation after generation. You don't have to live in the county or state to be a member of the Friends of Meade State Park and Lake . We will keep you informed of what the organization is doing, dates and times of the different events, meetings and activities. Please call the park office if you have any questions.

It is recommended that you consult your tax advisor regarding your donation being tax deductible.

Contact: Pat Hamit, Executive Director Community Foundation of SW Kansas 208 W Wyatt Earp,

Dodge City, Kansas 67801-1313, Phone (620) 225-0959 Email: pat.cfsk@sbcglobal.net

*Return form with payment to: Friends of Meade State Park and Lake*

*13051 V Road • Meade, KS 67864-0238*

*Membership levels:*

*Level One ..... \$ 25.00 + over Level Two ..... \$ 50.00 + over*

*Level Three ... \$100.00 + over Level Four ..... \$250.00 + over*

*Level Five .... \$ 500.00 + over Level Six ..... \$1,000.00 + over*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY,STATE,ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**