

**Riverside State Park
Foundation
Newsletter**

Volume 9, Issue 4
August 2011

Website
www.riversidestatepark.org

Park office, (509) 465-5064



**Experience Riverside
Event, Grant Writers
Join Foundation, page 2**

**Great American
Campout page 3**



Keeping Riverside Open - Discover Pass Debuts

How do you deal with a 5 billion dollar state budget deficit? That is exactly the question the governor and legislature had to deal with this year. In the case of State Parks the answer was to cut nearly 70 million dollars from parks in the new two year budget. This would have resulted in closure of the majority of State parks including most of Riverside. In order to keep gates open the legislature created the Discover pass which also supports recreation on land managed by the Washington Department of Natural Resources and Department of Fish and Wildlife. To ensure the public can continue to enjoy recreation lands, the state shifted from relying on tax revenue from the state General Fund to a user-pay approach to pay for recreation. The cost to users is \$30 for the annual Discover Pass or \$10 for a one-day pass. The Discover Pass allows you to enjoy nearly 7 million acres of Washington state managed recreation lands – including state parks, water-access points, heritage sites, wildlife and natural areas, trails and trailheads. State recreation lands offer amazing outdoor experiences on diverse landscapes including forests, water trails, beaches, deserts, shrub-steppe, lakes, rivers, mountains and alpine meadows. When you buy the Discover Pass, you are helping to keep these wonderful outdoor opportunities open and accessible to the public. The Discover Pass went into effect on July 1st and must be displayed on your vehicle when visiting state recreation lands managed by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Discover Pass may be purchased:

- (1) Online at www.discoverpass.wa.gov
- (2) In person from any of nearly 600 recreational license vendors where state fishing and hunting licenses are sold.
- (3) By phone (866) 320-9933. This is the 24-hour, toll-free customer service line provided as part of the WILD (Washington Interactive Licensing Database) license purchasing system, which is handling Discover Pass sales and customer service questions for the three agencies.
- (4) When you renew your vehicle license (beginning fall of 2011)
- (5) At state parks when staff is available. At Riverside they are available from rangers, at the main office, and at the Nine Mile Recreation area and Bowl and Pitcher when the contact stations are open.

At Riverside budget cuts have already resulted in losing two ranger positions and cutting our office assistant to 8 months. We are depending on revenue from the Discover Pass to avoid further cuts and to keep our gates open. The staff at Riverside has worked hard to make the transition to a user pay system as painless as possible. We truly appreciate the support we have received so far. While most of us would like to see State Recreational lands free and accessible to everyone, it does take money to provide the services we do. In these tough economic times it really comes down to whether the people who use the precious public lands that belong to them are willing to support their operation. So far the response has been encouraging, thanks to all of you who have already purchased a pass. Please feel free to call the park at (509) 465-5064 if you have any questions. — Chris Guidotti, Park Manager

Experience Riverside State Park – Your Recreation Destination

by Caren Hubbard

Our first annual “Experience Riverside” park wide event on May 15th was a resounding success! Our many park visitors had a great time experiencing all the recreational opportunities in the park. We had 8 prize drawing winners, all very happy with their winnings.

The rain was not our ‘friend’ that day, however. Several locations had to close early for the safety of our volunteers and event attendees. The afternoon thundershowers prevented the canoes and kayaks from being on the water and the pony rides had to close down due to the downpour.

We’re considering a later date next year in hopes of cashing in on more summer like weather.

A special thank you to all our sponsors, volunteers and park visitors for making this event successful!

Grant Writers Join Foundation Volunteers

by Caren Hubbard

With the current diminishing park budgets, it’s become clear to the Foundation that we need to step up and begin searching for grant dollars to fund park projects. With this goal in mind, we placed an ad on Craig’s List and had 3 responses.

Laurie Jackson is an experienced government grant writer and has joined our Foundation Board and Advisory Committee as our Grant Coordinator. Working with her is Ashley Baxter, a graduate student looking to write her first grant and Jocelyn Whitfield-Babcock who will also be working on seeking a grant for the Foundation. The Riverside State Park Foundation would like to thank Laurie and her “crew” for their commitment to Riverside State Park and the Foundation.

Welcome Aboard Laurie, Ashley and Jocelyn!

Riverside State Park Foundation Officers and Committees

President — Ken Carmichael, 466-2225, kcarmichael2225@gmail.com

Vice President — Mike Brixey, 292-8625, mbrixey@wildblue.net

Secretary — Barbee Scheibner, 624-6292, setauketb@cet.com

Treasurer — Caren Hubbard, 464-1733, caren_hubbard@yahoo.com

Trails Committee — Greta Olson, (360) 305-0520, gretasonaus@hotmail.com

Publicity — Emily Guidinger, 499-9727, emilyguidinger@gmail.com

Newsletter Committee — John Beck, 838-7078, beck@jepson.gonzaga.edu

Park History — Lynn Wells, lynnfwells@juno.com

The usual meeting date is the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the park headquarters.



Great American Backyard Campout

by Mike Brixey

On June 25 and 26, Riverside State Park was one of the host sites to the Second Annual Great American Backyard Campout. This event is sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation and REI as a way to provide a camping experience to families that may not have means or equipment to venture out into our wonderful local resources.

Camping gear was supplied by REI, Peak 7 Adventures, Eastern Washington University and City of Spokane Department of Parks, Recreation & Golf. The campers were met at the large meadow in the Equestrian Area at the southwest corner of the Park. The campers gathered up tents, sleeping bags and mats and learned how to prepare a tent site, set up their tents (many shapes and sizes were available) and roll out sleeping bags for their night under the stars.

More than 7 families with about 30 participants admired how great it was to be able to enjoy such a beautiful site so close to town. John Beck led the group on a beginning orienteering course near the Bowl and Pitcher. After a couple of navigating errors on the way back to camp, the famished hikers enjoyed a dinner of chili, sodas and roasted marshmallows. The tired campers then called it a night and slept in the cool serenity of a perfect summer evening.

Morning arrived with warm oatmeal and coffee, then breaking of camp and repacking all of the gear. With barely enough room for the driver, the van trundled off, leaving the campers to reflect on a memorable experience and newfound appreciation for Riverside State Park. Thanks to all of the sponsors and volunteers that helped make this event a huge success.

Enclosed Remit Envelopes

Enclosed is a remit envelop for donations to the foundation. You may specify how you'd like your donation to be used: annual donation, special Foundation projects in the park, or the Education Fund. Please be sure to check the appropriate box when mailing in your donation and you can be confident that it will be used in the area you choose.

You will automatically be added to the newsletter mailing list. If you do NOT wish to receive the newsletter please indicate that next to your name inside the envelope and we will delete your from our mailing list.

Riverside State Park Foundation

9711 W Charles Road
Nine Mile Falls, WA 99026