



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Chickasaw National  
Recreation Area

1008 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Sulphur, OK 73086

580/622-3161 phone  
580/622-2296 fax

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## **Chickasaw NRA News Release**

Release Date: January 4, 2008

For Immediate Release

Susie Staples, 580/622-7220

### **Lake of the Arbuckles Lake Launching Permits**

Chickasaw National Recreation Area (CNRA) officials have announced the annual lake use permits (stickers) are now available for purchase. The annual permit can be purchased for \$30.00 from the automated fee machines at Guy Sandy, The Point, and Buckhorn launch ramps and the lobby of Sulphur Chamber of Commerce, 717 W. Broadway, Sulphur, OK. The annual permits will be placed on both sides of the watercraft and trailer.

If visitors are eligible for Senior Pass (formerly Golden Age Passport) or Access Pass (formerly Access Passport) discount, they must have their Senior Pass or Access Pass card in hand to input the card number for permit purchase. The fee machine, which will accept either cash or credit card, dispenses two receipts for each transaction. These receipts, which are heat and light sensitive, are redeemable for an orange sticker within one week of purchase. The receipts may be redeemed at the following locations: Travertine Nature Center, 7 days a week, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.; Park Headquarters (1008 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street), Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; the Visitor Information Station (717 West Broadway); and the Point and Buckhorn Ranger Stations when personnel are available. Boat owners will also need to bring their current boat registration. These permits will expire December 31, 2008.

The Travertine Nature Center sells the Senior Pass (U.S. Citizen and 62 years of age) for \$10. There is no charge for the Access Pass, and they can also be obtained at the nature center. For more information about passes and lake permits, call the Travertine Nature Center at 580/622-7234.

-NPS-



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## **Chickasaw NRA News Release**

Release Date: January 8, 2008

For Immediate Release

Susie Staples, 580/622-7220

### **Upper Guy Sandy Launch Ramp to Be Closed for Construction**

Park officials have announced plans for the rehabilitation of a .54 mile road segment in the Upper Guy Sandy area of Chickasaw National Recreation Area. This road leads to the Upper Guy Sandy Boat Launch Ramp and is also commonly known as the “State Launch Ramp” of Lake of the Arbuckles.

This area of Arbuckle Lake will be closed to the public for construction January 7 through approximately April 5, 2008. The project includes reducing the grade of an area of the road that exceeds 15%, improving and establishing drainage, leveling the stopping area where the road intersects with the county road, making repairs in areas of sub-base failure, placing base aggregate, and installing new asphalt.

The contractor for the project is Tri-City Seal Company, Inc. of Tuttle, Oklahoma.

-NPS-



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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

Release Date January 10, 2008  
For Immediate Release  
Susie Staples, 580/622-7220

### Bald Eagle Watch 2008

Bald Eagles are flying once again over Lake of the Arbuckles at Chickasaw National Recreation Area. The annual return of the Bald Eagles to this area is always a cause for celebration during the winter season.

This year the staff of Chickasaw National Recreation Area would like to invite everyone to attend one of two Bald Eagle Watches scheduled for Saturday, January 19 or 26, 2008. The day will begin at 9:00 am with a program at the Travertine Nature Center. After the program the group will caravan with park rangers to Lake of the Arbuckles to locate and watch the eagles in the wild. A few suggestions for those attending include: dress for the weather and bring a bird ID book, camera, binoculars and a sack lunch. To learn more about these two fun filled weekends, please call the Travertine Nature Center at (580) 622-7234.

The American Bald Eagle almost reached the point of extinction, but the combined efforts of many private citizens, elected officials, and government agencies led to the recent removal of Bald Eagles from the endangered species list. The increase of eagle populations allows us the privilege of seeing these birds as they live their lives in the wild. Come join us at Chickasaw National Recreation Area for Bald Eagle Watch 2008!

-NPS-



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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

Release Date February 1, 2008

For Immediate Release

Susie Staples, 580/622-7220

### Prescribed Fires Planned At Chickasaw National Recreation Area

As part of the on-going prescribed fire program at Chickasaw National Recreation Area, National Park Service fire managers will be implementing prescribed fires within the recreation area during the next two months, **as weather conditions allow**. The areas targeted are the West Hunting Area and Arbuckle Dam for the gradual and safe introduction of fire to areas that have recently been treated with mechanical fuel reduction. The burns are a part of the National Park Service's efforts to help protect local communities from the catastrophic effects of uncontrolled wildland fires while promoting the natural ecosystem's ability to thrive.

Smoke from these prescribed fires may be visible in the Upper Guy Sandy and Buckhorn areas and Goddard Road but every effort will be made to minimize smoke production. **If you have health problems that will be aggravated by smoke, we strongly encourage you to contact us at 580/622-3161.** Some minor inconveniences to driving may occur on Cooper Memorial Drive, Good Shepherd Road, and Goddard Road as firing adjacent to the road progresses. Wind direction and upper level mixing of smoke will be utilized to eliminate or reduce these inconveniences. Qualified personnel will monitor the fires throughout the burn period. During burn periods, property owners will be notified about work in their area, and will be advised of any special procedures that would minimize the effects of smoke such as turning off central heat and/or air conditioning units.

Fires will be ignited when environmental factors such as temperature, wind direction, relative humidity, and fuel moisture levels are within a very specific range. Fire is an essential part of many healthy ecosystems. Prescribed fires improve forest health by promoting nutrient recycling, increasing habitat diversity, and reducing fuels that lead to unwanted, out-of-control wildfires. Numerous plant and animal species have evolved with fire depend upon it to create the conditions they need to flourish.

The scientific use of fire is a management tool that benefits animals, plants and people. Well-planned and executed fires promote the healthy growth of native plants, which support the variety and abundance of birds and animals found in these natural areas. Residents near these burn areas also benefit, because the fuel from dead plant material that has accumulated over the years is reduced under controlled conditions. This significantly reduces the threat a wildfire would pose to people and property in and near the park.

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

Release Date 2/8/08

For Immediate Release

Susie Staples, 580/622-7220

### Federal Application Workshop

Have you tried to fill out an application for a Federal job and gotten confused or frustrated by the different forms or terminology? Or submitted your application for a Federal job with no results? Here is your opportunity to learn the ins and outs of how to fill out an application and apply for Federal jobs. Superintendent Bruce Noble announces plans for this workshop to be held on Tuesday, February 19, 2008 beginning at 6:30 p.m. The workshop will be held in the auditorium at the Travertine Nature Center located in Chickasaw National Recreation Area, at Sulphur, Oklahoma. Chief of Administration Gail McCurry will lead this workshop that will answer many of these questions.

Information about the different types of hiring authorities, review of job announcements, required information from applicants, minimum qualifications for Federal jobs, and the review process of applications are some of the topics to be covered. If you are interested in attending this workshop, please call Secretary Susie Staples, Chickasaw National Recreation Area, at 580-622-7220 to reserve your place in the workshop.

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

Release Date 2/8/08

For Immediate Release

Susie Staples, 580/622-7220

### Repair Hillside Spring in Chickasaw National Recreation Area

Superintendent Bruce Noble of Chickasaw National Recreation Area announced today that a project to repair the Hillside Spring masonry structure will begin Monday, February 11, 2008. The historic preservation crew from Bandelier National Monument, New Mexico, and park staff will be working on the project over the next two months. Park staff has removed trees in order to gain equipment access and prepare the Hillside Spring site for excavation.

The Buffalo Pasture Trail will remain open but will be rerouted in the Hillside Spring area to provide a safe route for visitors around the construction zone. All trail users are asked to stay on the temporary detour trail and away from the construction zone during this time.

Work on the Hillside Spring complex will involve excavation of the area behind the stone walls to install drainage piping and a barrier to prevent water from seeping through the wall and causing further damage to the masonry work. Work will also be done on the spring box, and its associated piping to improve water collection and delivery to the display pools. Removal of the mineral deposits and moss from the face of the structure will be completed before the mortar and stone work is repaired and returned to its original appearance.

This “rustic” stone structure and three hundred others were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the 1930s. Chickasaw National Recreation Area has a large backlog of stone repair work that needs to be completed to preserve them. Designated National Park Service project funds made possible the repair of the Hillside Spring structure this year. Park staff is making long term plans to repair additional historic stone structures in order to preserve and protect these very important pieces of our nation’s history.

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

Release Date February 15, 2008

For Immediate Release

Susie Staples, 580/622-7220

### 75th Anniversary of Civilian Conservation Corps Event

The 75th anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) occurs on March 31, 2008. This anniversary is especially deserving as recognition of the remarkable accomplishments of the CCC that have stood the test of time as a tribute to the generation that created this outstanding work. Chickasaw National Recreation Area looks forward to the opportunity to recognize the work achievements of Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), Company 808 at Platt National Park.

The park will host two events to recognize the works of the CCC boys. First a reception will held on Friday, March 28, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. at the Sulphur Chamber of Commerce located at 717 W. Broadway. CCC alumni, family members, and interested parties are invited to attend. Then on Saturday, March 29, 2008, speaker presentations are planned at the Travertine Nature Center and in the park. We will keep you informed on the events and times as we get closer to the weekend celebration.

CCC Company 808 worked at Platt National Park for seven years maintaining a work force of 200 young men, between the ages of 18 to 25. Their work contribution was largely responsible for building the Historic Platt District into the beautiful environment we enjoy today at Chickasaw National Recreation Area. Today, the park is several thousand acres larger and our name has changed, but the legacy the CCC boys left behind still remains. Every time you come to the Historic Platt District, you are benefitting from their labors. They worked on trails, bridges, buildings, stabilized eroding stream banks and planted over half a million trees and shrubs in the Historic Platt District.

We would appreciate help locating CCC boys of Company 808 stationed at Platt National Park and their families. If you have information on locations of the boys or stories about the CCC, please call the park at (580) 622-3165 or write to Chickasaw National Recreation Area, 1008 W. 2nd Street, Sulphur, OK 73086.

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

Release Date February 15, 2008  
For Immediate Release  
Susie Staples, 580/622-7220

### Seeking Public Comment on Buffalo Springs Comfort Station Rehabilitation Project

Chickasaw National Recreation Area Superintendent Bruce Noble is seeking public comment on the Buffalo Springs Comfort Station Rehabilitation Project. Buffalo Springs Comfort Station is located on the east side of the Platt District near Buffalo Springs.

The primary goal of this project is to rehabilitate the Buffalo Springs Comfort Station for public use. The building has been closed since approximately 1973 due to problems with vandalism and the sewer line.

The National Park Service has determined that this project “would not adversely affect” the historic comfort station. Categorical Exclusions are a compliance component of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. A Categorical Exclusion documents an action with no measurable environmental impacts. Although projects classified as Categorical Exclusions do not require public comment, Superintendent Noble would like to provide the public with an opportunity to submit their comments.

The Categorical Exclusion and project documents are available for viewing at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/chic> or copies are available at Headquarters in the Office of the Superintendent, located at 1008 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Sulphur, OK 73086. To request a copy, please call 580-622-7220. Superintendent Noble encourages interested stakeholders to please look at this document and give their comments by March 19, 2008. Comments can be submitted by any one of the following ways:

- 1) Submit comments on the Internet at the NPS planning website: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/chic>.
- Or
- 2) Submit written comments either through the mail or hand deliver to the Superintendent of Chickasaw National Recreation Area at the address shown above.

-NPS-



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Oklahoma State  
Coordinator

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## Oklahoma State Coordinator News Release

Release Date February 15, 2008

For Immediate Release

Bruce Noble, 580/622-7210

### **Junior Ranger Essay Contest Announced: Winner to Receive Family Vacation and Other Prizes**

(Oklahoma City, OK) – The winner of this year’s 2008 Junior Ranger essay contest will receive an all expense paid family vacation to one of the country’s most remarkable national parks and a starring role in an electronic field trip seen by millions of school children across the country. The essay contest is open to children between 9 and 12 years old. Each person must express his or her thoughts on “What can you do now to turn over a new leaf for the environment and help preserve our national parks?”

National Park Service Director Mary A. Bomar, First Lady Laura Bush, and National Park Foundation President and CEO Vin Cipolla announced the details of this year’s contest during a recent visit to Everglades National Park in Florida. A group of local 5th graders joined them to help plant native trees in a park restoration project prior to the announcement. “Children throughout the country, like those here today, are more interested and involved in environmental issues than ever before,” said Bomar. “They can make a difference, both now and in the future, on the impact of humans on the land. I can’t wait to hear all of the wonderful ideas that will come from this essay contest.”

The grand prize winner will receive a trip for four to Everglades National Park where he or she will appear in an electronic field trip about invasive species in national parks. The prize includes round trip air transportation, car rental, hotel accommodations, meal expenses, a \$1,000 Macy’s shopping spree, and an America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Pass.

Essays must be 500 words or less and received on-line or by mail by March 14, 2008. Each entry will be judged on originality, clarity, and understanding of the issue. Additional contest information is available at <http://www.nationalparks.org/get-involved/essay-contest/>. Bruce Noble, Superintendent of Chickasaw National Recreation Area and Oklahoma State Coordinator for the National Park Service, says he looks forward to many contest entries from across Oklahoma.

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

Release Date February 29, 2008  
For Immediate Release  
Susie Staples, 580/622-7220

### NPS Trails & Rails Program on Heartland Flyer

Chickasaw National Recreation Area is seeking volunteers for the Trails & Rails Program on Amtrak's *Heartland Flyer*. Specially trained volunteers will be presenting an educational and informative program along the route from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma to Fort Worth, Texas and return. The following dates have been scheduled for the 2008 Trails & Rails Program:

April 19, 2008, Saturday  
May 17, 2008, Saturday  
June 21, 2008, Saturday  
July 19, 2008, Saturday  
August 16, 2008 Saturday  
September 20, 2008, Saturday

"Trails & Rails" is a partnership between the National Park Service and Amtrak to provide on-board education programs. Volunteers will act as tour guides and provide Amtrak passengers with information while aboard the *Heartland Flyer*. For example, topics passengers will be introduced to include the rich and diverse cultural heritage of Oklahoma and Texas; the history of the area; the geological story of these areas; descriptions of the Oklahoma and Texas landscape and its animals and plants; the economic story; and the role of the railroad in the areas.

If anyone is interested in working as a volunteer aboard the *Heartland Flyer* Amtrak train this summer and would like further information, please contact: Volunteer-In-Parks Coordinator Susie Staples, 1008 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Sulphur, OK 73086. Or you can call (580) 622-7220 for a copy of the position description and application. Approximately eight hours of training is required to participate in the Trails & Rails program.

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

Release Date March 7, 2008  
For Immediate Release  
Susie Staples, 580/622-7220

### Law Enforcement Training Sponsored by Chickasaw National Recreation Area

Superintendent Bruce Noble announced that on Tuesday, March 18 and Wednesday, March 19, 2008, the National Park Service will be sponsoring a “Response to an Active Shooter” training class at Sulphur High School.

The class, taught by members of the Stillwater Police Department, will prepare law enforcement officers from agencies within Murray County to respond effectively in the event such an incident occurs locally. Participants will be armed and may fire training rounds during the practical exercises. This training is being conducted during Spring Break, so no Sulphur Public Schools students will be involved.

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

Release Date March 7, 2008  
For Immediate Release  
Susie Staples, 580/622-7220

### Events Schedule for 75th Anniversary of Civilian Conservation Corps

The 75th anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) occurs on March 31, 2008. Chickasaw National Recreation Area looks forward to the opportunity to recognize the work achievements of Civilian Conservation Corps, Company 808 at Platt National Park. CCC Company 808 worked at Platt National Park for eight years maintaining a work force of 200 young men, between the ages of 18 to 25. Their work contribution was largely responsible for building the Historic Platt District into the beautiful environment we enjoy today at Chickasaw National Recreation Area.

The park will host two events to recognize the works of the CCC boys. First a reception will be held on Friday, March 28, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. at the Sulphur Chamber of Commerce located at 717 W. Broadway. CCC alumni, family members, and interested parties are invited to attend. Refreshments will be provided by the Western National Parks Association. An Oklahoma Historical Society actor will portray a "Dust Bowl" farmer at the reception. Also, Debbie Sharp, Oklahoma State University Extension Office, and event volunteer will be hosting a "Memory Table". The public is invited to participate by sharing family memories of CCC workers. Ms. Sharp requests that attendees please bring photos, letters, postcards, or any memorabilia that the family may have. "This is a very special celebration intended to honor young men who changed our community forever," stated Ms. Sharp. "We hope old photos and items will educate us today on the hardships and accomplishments of Company 808."

Then on Saturday, March 29, 2008, the following speaker presentations are planned:

8:30 a.m. Ranger-led guided walk in Flower Park  
10:00 a.m. "We Can Take It"- Travertine Nature Center (TNC) - Park staff  
10:35 a.m. Ranger-led guided walk to Buffalo Springs  
1:00 p.m. "The Great Depression" – TNC - Dr. David Webb, University of Central Oklahoma  
1:35 p.m. "The CCC in Oklahoma" – TNC - Dr. Chad Kinder, Southwest Oklahoma State University  
2:10 p.m. "We Can Take It"- TNC - Park staff  
2:45 p.m. "Creating a National Recreation Standard in Oklahoma, through the CCC at Platt National Park and the State's New Parks System."- TNC - Jim Steely, SWCA Environmental Consultants  
3:30 p.m. Demonstration "Tools Used by the CCC" - TNC -Mark Teders, Lake Murray State Park  
4:00 p.m. "Refreshments and Sharing Memories" – TNC -Debbie Sharp, Oklahoma State University Extension Services including "A Letter Home from Joe" - Bonnie Smith, Territory Tellers

For more information please call the park at (580) 622-3165 or write to Chickasaw National Recreation Area, 1008 W. 2nd Street, Sulphur, OK 73086.

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**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA**

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

Release Date March 7, 2008  
For Immediate Release  
Susie Staples, 580/622-7220

### Chickasaw National Recreation Area Employee Receives National Award

Chief of Resource Management Steve Burrough was presented with the Fire Management Excellence Award by the National Park Service Intermountain Region for his support of the Wildland Fire Management Program at Chickasaw National Recreation Area. Burrough has shown exemplary work in the last several years as a resource manager dedicated to ecosystem restoration in a small park with limited staff in a complex local environment. His leadership in coordinating prairie restoration by implementing red cedar reduction and utilizing fire as an ecological tool at Chickasaw are resulting in restoration of lands administered by the National Park Service. "This award is for all employees working at Chickasaw National Recreation Area, not just me," stated Mr. Burrough. "Prairie restoration is accomplished through team effort, and we have a great team at Chickasaw."

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

Release Date March 14, 2008  
For Immediate Release  
Susie Staples, 580/622-7220

### Volunteer Camp Host Needed at Chickasaw National Recreation Area

Volunteer-In-Parks Coordinator Susie Staples is recruiting camp hosts for the 2008 camping season at Chickasaw National Recreation Area. “Our greatest volunteer need each season is for campground hosts,” stated Ms. Staples. Seven host sites are available in four of the six campgrounds. At Chickasaw, the camping season starts as early as March and goes as late as October with the busiest times being from May to September.

The campground host is the eyes and ears in the campgrounds and serves as the guardian steward for the campground area. The host greets visitors and answers questions about the recreation area and campgrounds in an informed and courteous manner, checks for payment on nightly stays, informs visitors of campground rules and regulations, performs minor emergency services, conducts light grounds maintenance and grooming, and restocks restroom supplies.

Chickasaw National Recreation Area is nestled in south-central Oklahoma, 75 miles south of Oklahoma City and 140 miles north of Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas. The 9,931-acre recreation area contains Travertine Nature Center, fresh water and mineral springs, six campgrounds with electric and water hookups and comfort stations with showers, 2,350-acre Lake of the Arbuckles, 67-acre Veterans Lake, and over 20 miles of hiking trails. The recreation area preserves natural and cultural resources and provides recreation for a million and half visitors each year. Visitor activities center on water recreation in the lakes and streams and include boating, fishing, swimming, camping, picnicking, hiking, nature study, and hunting.

The summers are hot and humid. Temperatures above 100 degrees occur, and humidity frequently exceeds 50 percent. Winters are mild. Thunderstorms are common in April through July.

If you are interested in being a camp host, and can volunteer with us long-term, please contact Volunteer-In-Parks Coordinator Susie Staples at 580-622-7220 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information on Chickasaw National Recreation Area, please visit our website at [www.nps.gov/chic](http://www.nps.gov/chic)

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

Release Date March 28, 2008

For Immediate Release

Susie Staples, 580/622-7220

### Seeking Youth Conservation Corps Applicants at CNRA

Are you between the ages of 15 and 18, looking for employment, and like to work outside? Here is a wonderful opportunity to join the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). Chickasaw National Recreation Area is looking for young men and women, ages 15 through 18, who work, learn, and earn together on projects that further the development and conservation of the natural resources of the United States. Period of employment may be up to eight weeks beginning on June 9 through August 1, 2008. Rate of pay will be \$6.55 per hour.

Applications are available beginning Monday, April 7, 2008 through Friday, May 2, 2008 at Headquarters located at 1008 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Applications will also be available at Sulphur, Davis, Wynnewood, Roff, and Springer High Schools.

Employees will be selected by public drawing at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 9, 2008 at park Headquarters. Applications received after May 2<sup>nd</sup> will be accepted and held in reserve for any vacancies.

The Youth Conservation Corps was established by Public Law 93-408 is a summer employment program with the following objectives:

1. To accomplish needed conservation work on public lands
2. To provide gainful employment for 15-through 18-year-old males and females of all social, economic, ethnic, and racial backgrounds
3. To develop in participating youth an understanding and appreciation of the Nation's natural environment and heritage.

For further information about this wonderful job opportunity, call 580/622-7207.

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## Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Program

Are you between the ages of 15 and 18, looking for employment, and like to work outside? Here is a wonderful opportunity to join the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). Chickasaw National Recreation Area is looking for young men and women, ages 15 through 18, who work, learn, and earn together on projects that further the development and conservation of the natural resources of the United States. Period of employment may be up to eight weeks beginning on June 9 through August 1, 2008. Rate of pay will be \$6.55 per hour.

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

Release Date April 8, 2008  
For Immediate Release  
Susie Staples, 580/622-7220

### Candlelight Tour Event Planned for Fall 2008

Chickasaw National Recreation Area would like to express its thanks to those that attended and supported the recent special park event honoring the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This anniversary is especially deserving of tribute as the remarkable accomplishments of the CCC have now stood and mirrored the lifetime of its creating generation.

Further, Chickasaw National Recreation Area is pleased to announce it will conduct a candlelight tour event during school fall break, October, 2008. The 1930's will serve as the story timeline for the tour event, where actors will perform in a series of vignettes interpreting the Great Depression, including stories surrounding the events of CCC Camp 808 located at Platt National Park. The event will be held in the Bromide area where one thousand luminaries will light the grounds. At this time, the park requests that interested volunteers contact the Travertine Nature Center (580) 622-7234 on how they may participate and be a part of this exciting park event.

During the Great Depression, CCC Company 808 worked at Platt National Park for eight years maintaining a work force of 200 young men, between the ages of 18 to 24. Their work contribution was largely responsible for building the Historic Platt District into the beautiful environment we enjoy today at Chickasaw National Recreation Area. The park looks forward to presenting this special event, honoring the work of CCC Company 808. We hope that all interested parties will plan to attend the event.



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1008 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Sulphur, OK 73086

580/622-3161 phone  
580/622-2296 fax

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

Release Date April 21, 2008  
For Immediate Release  
Susie Staples, 580/622-7220

### Junior Ranger Day at Chickasaw NRA on Saturday, April 26th

Saturday, April 26, 2008, is National Junior Ranger Day. The park will host two activities on this date recognizing Junior Ranger Day. Children may attend a nature walk and investigate nature with a park ranger on a walk to Antelope and Buffalo Springs. This walk has a round trip length of 1-½ miles and lasts 1-½ hours. Meet at the front desk at the Travertine Nature Center at 9:00 a.m. to attend the walk.

Later that afternoon, please attend the “Discover Nature” ranger-led program at the Travertine Nature Center. This program explores the natural world and stories of Chickasaw National Recreation Area at the Travertine Nature Center. This 45 minute program begins at 3:00 p.m.

Children attending a ranger-led activity, who also completed the park Junior Ranger Activity Booklet, will receive a Junior Ranger badge and patch.

If you have questions about Junior Ranger Day at Chickasaw National Recreation Area, please call the Travertine Nature Center at (580) 622-3165 or (580) 622-7234.

-NPS-



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**U.S. Department of the Interior**

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

Release Date April 25, 2008  
For Immediate Release  
Susie Staples, 580/622-7220

### Seeking Youth Conservation Corps Applicants at CNRA

Are you between the ages of 15 and 18, looking for employment, and like to work outside? Here is a wonderful opportunity to join the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). Chickasaw National Recreation Area is looking for young men and women, ages 15 through 18, who work, learn, and earn together on projects that further the development and conservation of the natural resources of the United States. Period of employment may be up to eight weeks beginning on June 9 through August 1, 2008. Rate of pay will be \$6.55 per hour.

Applications are available beginning Monday, April 7, 2008 through Friday, May 2, 2008 at Headquarters located at 1008 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Applications will also be available at Sulphur, Davis, Wynnewood, Roff, and Springer High Schools.

Employees will be selected by public drawing at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 9, 2008 at park Headquarters. Applications received after May 2<sup>nd</sup> will be accepted and held in reserve for any vacancies.

The Youth Conservation Corps was established by Public Law 93-408 is a summer employment program with the following objectives:

1. To accomplish needed conservation work on public lands
2. To provide gainful employment for 15-through 18-year-old males and females of all social, economic, ethnic, and racial backgrounds
3. To develop in participating youth an understanding and appreciation of the Nation's natural environment and heritage.

For further information about this wonderful job opportunity, call 580/622-7207.

-NPS-



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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

Release Date May 2, 2008  
For Immediate Release  
Susie Staples, 580/622-7220

### Wildflower Walk, Veterans Lake Trail

Come join us to enjoy some of the beauties of spring! Please join a ranger from the Chickasaw National Recreation Area for a wildflower walk at Veterans Lake. Learn to identify various wildflowers and a bit about these heralds of the season while enjoying a great walking trail.

The walk will start at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 10, 2008 from the northeast trail head of Veterans Lake Trail. This trail head is located past the pavilion area, all the way to the road end (not the trail head starting on the dam). Please bring water, a hat, sunscreen, and wear comfortable shoes. The walk will last about an hour and everyone is encouraged to continue hiking the trail and/or to enjoy a picnic on the tables by the lake.

For more information please contact the Travertine Nature Center at (580) 622-3165 or (580) 622-7234.

-NPS-



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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

Release Date May 18, 2008  
For Immediate Release  
Susie Staples, 580/622-7220

### Boating Accident Fatality Chickasaw National Recreation Area

On Saturday, May 17, 2008, Marlon Omar Hernandez of Moore, OK was killed in a boat collision on the Lake of the Arbuckles within Chickasaw National Recreation Area. While operating a Personal Watercraft near the Buckhorn Pavilion Picnic area, Hernandez was struck by a passing power boat. Bystanders removed Hernandez, age 20, from the water and began performing CPR until relieved by emergency responders. Hernandez was transported to Arbuckle Memorial Hospital in Sulphur, OK where he died of injuries sustained in the collision.

The incident is under joint investigation by the National Park Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Safety message to the boating public, drinking alcohol and boating do not mix.

Public Information Officer Susie Staples will be available at the number listed above after 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 18, 2008 to answer questions. The media is invited to meet at Park Headquarters, 1008 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Sulphur, OK at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, May 18, 2008 to caravan with Ms. Staples to the site of incident.

-NPS-



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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

Release Date May 19, 2008  
For Immediate Release  
Susie Staples, 580/622-7220

### Fatality on Lake of the Arbuckles, Chickasaw National Recreation Area

Sulphur, OK On Saturday, May 17, 2008 at 8:00 p.m., 20-year old Marlon Omar Hernandez of Moore, OK was operating a Personal Watercraft and collided with a powerboat on the Lake of the Arbuckles. Private citizens removed Hernandez from the water and performed CPR until relieved by emergency responders. Hernandez was transported to Arbuckle Memorial Hospital in Sulphur, OK where he was pronounced dead from his injuries. Oklahoma Highway Patrol and local emergency service agencies also responded to the incident. The incident is under joint investigation by the National Park Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Public Information Officer Susie Staples 580/622-7220

-NPS-



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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

Release Date June 2, 2008  
For Immediate Release  
Susie Staples, 580/622-7220

### Special Program: *Read with a Ranger*

Park Rangers at Chickasaw National Recreation Area invite children ages 5-8 to come to a “*Read with a Ranger*” program on Wednesday afternoons during the month of June. Children will learn about the park animals, such as, owls, turtles and snakes, and share good books and stories with friends and the rangers. Sulphur Elementary third grade teacher and seasonal park ranger, Tammie Canada, will conduct the “*Read with a Ranger*” program, beginning at 2:00 p.m. this Wednesday, June 11th, at the Travertine Nature Center.

For more information call the Travertine Nature Center at (580)622-7234 or (580)622-3165. See you there!

-NPS-



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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

Release Date June 9, 2008

For Immediate Release

Susie Staples, 580/622-7220

### Travertine Nature Center Program Rescheduled

The “*Read with a Ranger*” program at the Travertine Nature Center has been rescheduled to Friday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. during the month of June. Park Rangers at Chickasaw National Recreation Area invite children ages 5-8 to participate in this summer program. Children will learn about park animals, such as, owls, turtles and snakes, and share good books and stories with friends and the rangers. For more information call the Travertine Nature Center at (580)622-7234 or (580)622-3165. See you there!

-NPS-

On Sunday, June 8, 2008 at 7:55 a.m. Murray County dispatch received a call about an injured skier on Lake of the Arbuckles, located in Chickasaw National Recreation Area (CNRA). CNRA park rangers, Murray County EMS, Sulphur Fire Department and Cedar Blue Volunteer Fire Department responded to Buckhorn. Upon arrival, the injured, Trevor Thomas, was complaining of back injury. Murray County EMS transported him to the Buckhorn parking area where they were met by Eagle Med Helicopter who transported him to Oklahoma University Hospital.

The driver of the boat stated that he and a juvenile were being pulled behind the boat on a float when they hit a wave, and he fell off. Two persons on the boat grabbed Trevor by his life jacket and pulled him up onto the dive platform before transporting him to shore where they were met by first responders.



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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

Release Date June 16, 2008

For Immediate Release

Susie Staples, 580/622-7220

### Special Program at the Travertine Nature Center

On Saturday, June 21, the Travertine Nature Center will host a special program at 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. – “Stereoscopic Tour of our National Parks,” presented by Dr. Greg Plumb, East Central University Department of Cartography & Geography. Enjoy viewing the picturesque scenery of our nation's national parks from a unique stereoscopic perspective. Custom polarized eyeglasses will be distributed during the presentation, enabling attendees to view the slide show in true 3-D. An explanation will be given on the technology of stereoscopic viewing, along with its history. National park landscapes will “come-alive” on the projecting screen.

For more information call the Travertine Nature Center at (580)622-7234 or (580)622-3165. See you there!

-NPS-



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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

Release Date June 30, 2008

For Immediate Release

Tara Holmberg & Becca Brooke

(580) 622-7290

### Chickasaw National Recreation Area Draft Commercial Services Strategy Public Meeting

The Chickasaw National Recreation Area invites members of the business community and the public to attend an open house to discuss a Draft Commercial Services Strategy for the park on July 10, 2008 from 4:00 -6:00 p.m. at the Sulphur Chamber of Commerce at 717 West Broadway, Sulphur, OK.

A commercial services strategy will help the park decide what types of vendors should be allowed to operate in the park. The community's input is needed so the park will know what types of business operations the public thinks would be appropriate inside the National Recreation Area. This will be an open, informal discussion.

Superintendent Bruce Noble will be in attendance. Light refreshments will be served.

-NPS-



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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

Release Date July 7, 2008  
For Immediate Release  
Susie Staples, 580/622-7220

### Chickasaw National Recreation Area Draft Commercial Services Strategy Public Meeting

The Chickasaw National Recreation Area invites members of the business community and the public to attend an open house to discuss a Draft Commercial Services Strategy for the park on Thursday, July 10, 2008 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Sulphur Chamber of Commerce located at 717 West Broadway, Sulphur, OK.

A commercial services strategy will help the park decide what types of vendors should be allowed to operate in the park. The community's input is needed so the park will know what types of business operations the public thinks would be appropriate inside the National Recreation Area. The recreation area has identified the following as potential commercial services that might be considered within the park:

- ◆ Motorized boat rental and towing service on Lake of the Arbuckles
- ◆ Non-motorized boat rentals and bike rentals at Veterans Lake
- ◆ Camping equipment rental
- ◆ Firewood sales
- ◆ Primitive cabin construction and rental in some park campgrounds
- ◆ Food sales
- ◆ Nature tours

The meeting will provide the change to consider these possible services, as well as others that the public may suggest. This will be an open, informal discussion. Superintendent Bruce Noble will be in attendance. Light refreshments will be served.

-NPS-



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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

Release Date July 8, 2008  
For Immediate Release  
Susie Staples, 580/622-7220

### Assault in Chickasaw National Recreation Area

On Monday, July 7, 2008 at 3:27 p.m. a call was received by Murray County 911 Dispatch reporting an assault on a local teenager, which had occurred on one of trails in Chickasaw National Recreation Area (CNRA). National Park Service law enforcement park rangers responded to the scene and met with the reporting party. The area was immediately checked for the suspect and adjacent trails were also searched by park staff, but no suspect was found. The area of the assault was processed for evidence.

The victim was later taken to the local hospital for medical treatment.

This incident remains under investigation by the National Park Service and the Sulphur Police Department. If anyone has any information about the assault, please call 580-622-2000.

-NPS-



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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

Release Date 7/14/08

For Immediate Release

Susie Staples, 580/622-7220

### “Nature’s Sketch” Art Workshop at Park

Park Rangers at Chickasaw National Recreation Area invite children (4<sup>th</sup> grade and above) to participate in a week long “*Nature’s Sketch*” art workshop in the park. The workshop will begin Monday, July 21st thru Friday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. each day. Activity site location and resource topic will change each day as follows:

July 21 <sup>st</sup>	Monday	Bromide Pavilion	9:00 a.m. to 11a.m.
July 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Tuesday	Lincoln Bridge	9:00 a.m. to 11a.m.
July 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Wednesday	Walnut Grove Picnic Area	9:00 a.m. to 11 a.m.
July 24 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Veterans Lake Pavilion	9:00 a.m. to 11a.m.
July 25 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	Travertine Nature Center	9:00 a.m. to 11a.m.

\*Rain location is designated Travertine Nature Center

Group size is limited and pre-registration is required to attend. Art supplies will be provided to participants. Park Rangers will present a short ranger talk about the park and its resources to begin each day’s workshop, as well as providing instruction regarding basic drawing techniques.

Participants will learn about park resources and its animals and landscapes, including its birds, trees, waterfalls, historic structures, and share time in the park with friends and rangers. Seasonal Park Ranger, Diana Rushford will conduct the “*Nature’s Sketch*” workshop.

Call the Travertine Nature Center at 580-622-3165 or 580-622-7234 to sign up to participate. Parents are welcome to stay during the workshop session. See you there!

-NPS-



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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

Release Date 08-04-2009  
For Immediate Release  
Ron Parker 622-7231

-NPS-  
Star review

August is the MONTH to view the stars. The weather is hot enough to be outdoors and the Perseids meteor showers (*annual meteor shower occurring every August*) are in full swing by August 12<sup>th</sup>. Chickasaw National Recreation Area is pleased to announce "Star Review". This program was designed to expose participants to the wonders of the Perseids meteor showers, summer night stars, and the planets.

The public is invited to come see the stars at 9 p.m. on August 9<sup>th</sup>. The location will be at the amphitheater, loop D at Buckhorn Campgrounds. Participants are encouraged to bring a chair or blanket.

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

Release Date August 8, 2008

For Immediate Release

Susie Staples, 580/622-7220

### **Local Fire Departments Receive Funds from National Park Service**

A total of \$20,000 of federal funds will be distributed to two local departments, says Chickasaw National Recreation Area Superintendent Bruce Noble.

“CNRA has long depended on support from the local fire departments. Our rural fire partners are often the only firefighting resources immediately available to protect government property,” said Chief Ranger Dennis Weiland, program manager for wild land fire suppression. On behalf of these departments, Chickasaw NRA applied for Rural Fire Assistance grant funding to enhance the rural fire departments wildland fire suppression capability.

Cedar Blue Volunteer Fire Department received \$12,000 and Sulphur Fire Department received \$8,000. Funding is targeted for wildland fire personal protective clothing, wildland fire equipment, training, and communications equipment.

Beginning with the National Fire Plan which established funding in FY2001, and continuing since, the National Park Service has been able to help local cooperators through the Rural Fire Assistance Program. The Rural Fire Assistance Program is primarily designed to increase firefighter safety and enhance the wildland fire protection capabilities of rural fire departments. Priority is given to departments who pursue accepted standards of wildland fire personal protective equipment, training, and communications. Emphasis is placed on departments that protect rural communities and play a substantial cooperative role in the protection of NPS lands and support interagency fire efforts.

Each rural fire department must meet a minimum of six eligibility criteria to qualify for the funding including a formalized cooperative relationship between the NPS and the rural fire department, the NPS unit is a Department of Interior wildland fire entity that cooperates with the rural fire department, the rural fire department serves a community with a population of 10,000 or less with wildland/urban interface, funds are limited to wildland fire training, wildland fire related equipment or supplies, and the rural fire department must meet a cost share minimum of 10%.

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

22 August 2008

For Immediate Release

Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### LOCAL VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT TO PITCH IN AT CHICKASAW NATIONAL RECREATION AREA ON NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY, SATURDAY, SEPT. 27

Local volunteers will roll up their sleeves and devote their morning to cutting down invasive Eastern redcedar trees at the Platt Historic District of Chickasaw National Recreation Area as part of the 15th annual National Public Lands Day (NPLD) on Saturday, September 27.

This year, National Public Lands Day will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). By educating volunteers at sites across the country, NPLD maintains the legacy of the CCC, an army of 3 million Americans who in the 1930's countered the devastation of the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression by planting more than 3 billion trees, building 800 state parks, and fighting forest fires. At Platt National Park [today's Platt Historic District], Company 808 of the CCC worked for eight years, planting trees, building roads, pavilions and campsites.

Volunteers who work at a site managed by any of five federal agencies will be rewarded with a pass good for free entry any day during the next year at public land sites managed by those agencies: National Park Service, USDA Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

“This is the first year that the park has participated in this national event,” said Park Superintendent Bruce Noble. “We invite you to join us for a morning of work improving your national park.”

Volunteers are encouraged to wear long pants and sturdy shoes. Bring work gloves and pruning shears. The park will provide gloves and tools, if needed. For more information or to sign up for the event, contact volunteer coordinator Lauren Gurniewicz at 580 622-7285.

-NPS-



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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

5 September 2008

For Immediate Release

Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### **Bromide Hill Trail Closure**

Beginning September 5<sup>th</sup> and extending through the end of September, the switchback portion of the Bromide Hill Trail will be closed to public use for trail maintenance. A four man National Park Service crew from Bandelier National Monument will construct a 25 foot long and 5 foot high stone masonry wall to support a wall that has been undercut by water erosion. Water from the hillside has eroded soft shale and soil material from underneath the tallest Bromide Hill Trail wall. Without this repair the trail wall could crack and fall at any time.

It will be extremely dangerous to enter this area during this three week construction period. Trail crew members will excavate soil, pour a concrete footing, and lay stone. Material from this construction process is likely to fall and land on trail sections below. This retaining wall has been repaired at least two other times since it was constructed in by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s. This wall is one of over 300 stone structures built at Platt National Park [today's Platt Historic District] by the CCC.

“We have known about this condition for some time, and have been seeking special project funds,” said park Superintendent Bruce Noble, “and we are fortunate to have a park service crew that has experience with historic stone projects and can work on steep slopes with proper fall protection equipment.”

-NPS-



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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

5 September, 2008

For Immediate Release

Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### **Reservations now being taken for the Historic Candlelight Tour**

Chickasaw National Recreation Area Superintendent Bruce Noble would like to invite the public to the park's Historic Candlelight Tour during school fall break, on October 18, 2008. Tours will begin every twenty minutes from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM. The tour will focus on the story of Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Company 808 and their experiences in Platt National Park [today's Platt Historic District]. This is the third event the park has held to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the CCC.

During the Great Depression, CCC Company 808 worked at Platt National Park for eight years maintaining a work force of 200 young men, between the ages of 18 to 24. Their work contribution was largely responsible for building the Historic Platt District into the beautiful environment we enjoy today at Chickasaw National Recreation Area. The park looks forward to presenting this special event honoring the work of CCC Company 808. We hope that all interested parties will plan to attend the event.

Tours will be escorted on a half-mile walk through the historic Bromide Springs area of the park, where one thousand luminaries will light the grounds. Visitors will be guided through a series of vignettes presented by park staff and volunteers dressed in period costume that depict scenes from the 1930s. Beginning at 6:00 PM tours will leave every 20 minutes and will last approximately 50 minutes. Care should be taken along the route due to the dim lighting from the luminaries. Each tour is limited to 20 people. Reservations are required and can be made beginning Monday, September 8. Make your reservations early by calling the Travertine Nature Center at 580 622-7234.

Chickasaw National Recreation Area, Oklahoma's oldest National Park unit, is located near Sulphur, Oklahoma. The park contains mineral and freshwater springs, creeks, lakes, over 20 miles of hiking trails, and over 380 campsites. Recreational opportunities include hiking, swimming, camping, fishing, boating, and water sports.

-NPS-



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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

5 September, 2008

For Immediate Release

Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### **Oklahoma's National Parks at the Oklahoma State Fair**

Chickasaw National Recreation Area Superintendent and Oklahoma State Coordinator Bruce Noble are pleased to announce that Oklahoma's national parks will staff a National Park Service (NPS) booth at the 2008 Oklahoma State Fair, which runs from September 11 through September 21. Park rangers from the state's three national park areas [the Chickasaw National Recreation Area, Oklahoma City National Memorial and the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site] will staff the booth and provide information about national park sites and programs. The NPS booth is located in the Oklahoma Expo Hall #1, which is open from 10:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m., Sunday through Thursday, and 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. The fair closes at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 21.

The interagency Access, Annual and Senior Passes will also be issued and sold to eligible members of the public at the NPS booth from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily, during the fair. The cost of the Annual Pass is \$80 and is valid for one year from the month of purchase. The \$10 Senior Pass is a lifetime pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents age 62 or over. The Access Pass is a free lifetime pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents with permanent disabilities. You must present your Driver's License to obtain each of the passes. Additional documentation to validate a permanent disability is required to obtain the Access Pass. Acceptable documentation includes: statement by a licensed physician; document issued by a Federal agency such as the Veteran's Administration, Social Security Disability Income or Supplemental Security Income; or document issued by a State agency such as a vocational rehabilitation agency. For more information, please call (405) 609-8859 or visit the website [http://www.nps.gov/fees\\_passes.htm](http://www.nps.gov/fees_passes.htm).

"We look forward to seeing you at the fair and answering your questions about national parks in Oklahoma and across America," said Superintendent Noble.

-NPS-



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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

19 September, 2008

For Immediate Release

Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### **CHICKASAW NATIONAL RECREATION AREA SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO CUT EASTERN REDCEDAR ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**

For National Public Lands Day, volunteers at Chickasaw National Recreation Area will lend a hand to America's lands on Saturday, September 27. There is still time for additional volunteers to sign-up to assist in this work-day event.

This event is part of a year-long celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC was an army of 3 million Americans who in the 1930's countered the devastation of the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression by planting more than 3 billion trees, building 800 state parks, and fighting forest fires. At Platt National Park [today's Platt Historic District], Company 808 of the CCC worked for eight years, planting trees, building roads, pavilions and campsites.

The redcedar trees are being removed to allow the native grass to re-establish and the prairie and remaining deciduous trees to prosper. "Although Eastern redcedar is a native species to Oklahoma, the trees are extremely invasive and can only be controlled by fire or mechanical means, such as cutting," said Superintendent Bruce Noble.

**WHO:** Volunteers interested in helping out their park. Pre-registration is requested.

**WHAT:** Volunteers will be cutting down invasive Eastern red cedar trees in the Platt Historic District. Volunteers are encouraged to wear long pants and sturdy shoes. Bring work gloves and pruning shears. The park will provide gloves and tools, if needed.

**WHEN:** Saturday, September 27, 2008 from 8:30 AM until 12:00 noon. Water and snacks provided for participants.

**WHERE:** Meet at the Travertine Nature Center in the Platt Historic District.

**CONTACT:** For more information or to sign up for the event, contact volunteer coordinator Lauren Gurniewicz at 580 622-7285.

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## **Chickasaw NRA News Release**

3 October 2008

For Immediate Release

Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### **National Public Lands Day a Success at Chickasaw NRA**

Thirty-one volunteers from seven Oklahoma communities joined together to lend a hand at Chickasaw National Recreation Area on National Public Lands Day, Saturday 27, 2008. Cub Scouts and their parents worked with Park Ranger Eric Leonard, removing trash along the Travertine Creek Trail and at Little Niagara. Ranger Leonard also provided the group with an interpretive walk to Buffalo and Antelope Springs. Park Guide Natasha Moore worked alongside other volunteers, using loppers to cut invasive Eastern redcedars along the Veterans Lake Trail. Thanks to Community Bank of the Arbuckles, Sooner Foods, Sulphur Chamber of Commerce, and WalMart, park volunteers enjoyed food and drink before heading out to their projects.

National Public Lands Day is an annual event that takes place in federal, state, and local parks around the country. It is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance public lands. In recognition of their contribution, National Public Lands Day participants were issued a coupon for a "fee free" day to participating public lands.

-NPS-



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Chickasaw National  
Recreation Area

1008 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

3 October, 2008

For Immediate Release

Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### **Historic Candlelight Tour at Chickasaw National Recreation Area**

Bank failures, rising unemployment, a presidential election, and an economy in turmoil: these current events seem almost ripped from the pages of American history. Seventy-five years ago President Franklin Roosevelt led the country out of the Great Depression through the programs of “the New Deal.” The public is invited to learn how a previous generation confronted their own economic challenges during this year’s Historic Candlelight Tour scheduled for October 18, 2008.

The tour will focus on the story of Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Company 808 and their experiences in Platt National Park [today’s Platt Historic District]. During the Great Depression, CCC Company 808 worked at Platt National Park for eight years maintaining a work force of 200 young men, between the ages of 18 to 24. Their work contribution was largely responsible for building the Platt Historic District into the beautiful environment we enjoy today at Chickasaw National Recreation Area. This is the third event the park has held to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the CCC.

Tours will depart the Arbuckle Historical Society Museum located at 402 W. Muskogee in downtown Sulphur every twenty minutes from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM. Tours will be escorted on a half-mile walk through the historic Bromide Springs area of the park, where one thousand luminaries will light the grounds. Visitors will be guided through a series of vignettes presented by park staff and volunteers dressed in period costume that depict scenes from the 1930s. Care should be taken along the route due to the dim lighting from the luminaries. Each tour is limited to 20 people. Admission is free to the public. In the event of inclement weather, the performance will be held at the Travertine Nature Center. Reservations are required and can be made by calling the Travertine Nature Center at 580 622-7234.

In conjunction with the candlelight tour, the Sulphur Main Street program will sponsor a historic home tour and chili supper on Saturday. Downtown merchants will stay open for extended hours and offer cookies and hot apple cider.

Come join us for a fun and unique way to learn more about the “New Deal for Platt National Park.”

-NPS-

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

10 October, 2008

For Immediate Release

Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### **Gail McCurry Retires from Chickasaw National Recreation Area**

Gail McCurry, Chief of Administration, retired recently from Chickasaw National Recreation Area after 36 years of service. McCurry began her career at Platt National Park working with the Youth Corps for two and a half years beginning in 1970. In 1972 Gail was hired by the National Park Service as a clerk and in the intervening years performed a variety of roles for three different divisions in the park. She served as Chief of Administration for five years.

Superintendent Bruce Noble welcomes the community to say thanks and farewell to Gail McCurry at an afternoon open house scheduled from 2:00 – 4:00PM on Tuesday, October 21, 2008 at the Sulphur Chamber of Commerce located at 717 W. Broadway.

If you would like to send congratulations, stories, or pictures, please forward to Rosalind Sorrell via email or by mail to: 1008 West 2nd Street, Sulphur, Oklahoma 73086.

Cards and notes can be sent directly to Gail at 603 West Green Ave., Davis, OK 73030.

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

17 October 2008

For Immediate Release

Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### **Hazardous Fuels reduction at Chickasaw National Recreation Area**

Chickasaw National Recreation Area is continuing with fuel reduction projects throughout the park. Two contractors from the state of Oregon, Eagle Pass Reforestation and Summitt Forests, have begun work to treat 233 acres. The areas of treatment include the boundary along the west side of the Lake of the Arbuckles, Guy Sandy, East Hunting Area, and the Historic Platt District.

The focus of these projects is to reduce fire fuels around the perimeter of the park. The reduction of fuels will create buffer zones that will lessen the likelihood that a fire will start inside the park and then escape outside the park to damage private property. Fuel breaks alone are not enough to prevent wildfires, but they will allow for more effective fire management and provide an additional measure of security for home owners just outside the park.

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

24 October 2008

For Immediate Release

Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### **Candlelight Tour a success at Chickasaw National Recreation Area**

On Saturday, October 18th, staff and volunteers at Chickasaw National Recreation Area presented the story of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) at Platt National Park [the present day Platt Historic District] in a candlelight tour setting. Over 450 visitors were escorted through a series of twelve vignettes that explored the experience of the CCC. The scenes on the tour began by depicting the stock market crash of 1929 and how it affected Americans. The fireside chat where President Franklin Roosevelt announced the establishment of the CCC was recreated. The remainder of the scenes focused on the story of the boys of Company 808, stationed at Platt National Park from 1933-1940. Individual scenes told the story of the camp from a variety of perspectives, and ended with the closure of the camp and the coming of the Second World War. Many visitors found parallels between the stories of a previous generation combating economic uncertainty with the hope of public programs such as the CCC. This is the third event the park has held to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CCC.

Over seventy volunteers contributed nearly five hundred volunteer hours to help make the tour a success. Staff from the other national park areas in Oklahoma also participated in the event. In conjunction with the candlelight tour, the Sulphur Main Street program sponsored a historic home tour and chili; downtown merchants stayed open for extended hours to offer cookies and hot apple cider to tour participants. The Sulphur Chamber of Commerce provided valuable assistance to park staff and local merchants behind the scenes. Numerous local businesses contributed to the success of the event, including The Getting' Place and Barbara's Flowers. The Sulphur Rotary and the Sulphur High School Key Club provided valuable assistance in assembling and keeping lit the one thousand luminaries that brightened the Bromide area.

-NPS-



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## **Chickasaw NRA News Release**

24 October 2008

For Immediate Release

Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### **Tim Jarrell to serve as acting superintendent at the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site**

Bruce Noble, Oklahoma State Coordinator for the National Park Service, is pleased to announce that Tim Jarrell has accepted a temporary assignment as acting Superintendent at Washita Battlefield National Historic Site. Mr. Jarrell will begin his acting duties at Washita Battlefield on November 9, 2008 and serve until a permanent Superintendent is selected.

“I am very glad Tim accepted this assignment,” Noble commented. “He is a highly experienced National Park Service manager who will do a good job leading the staff at Washita Battlefield and working with park partners until such time as a permanent Superintendent is hired.”

Tim Jarrell has 32 years of experience with the National Park Service and currently serves as the Chief of Facility Management at Chickasaw National Recreation Area in Sulphur, OK. Tim has been at Chickasaw NRA for 12 years and has held his current position for over 5 years. Prior to serving at Chickasaw NRA, Tim spent 6 years at Padre Island National Seashore in Texas and 13 years at Hot Springs National Park in Arkansas.

Tim will step into his acting role following Wendy Lauritzen’s move to accept the job as Superintendent of the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve located in Cottonwood Falls, Kansas.

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

5 December 2008  
For Immediate Release  
Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### ***The City of Sulphur and the National Park Service Announce a Partnership to Facilitate Long-term Water Resource Planning in South Central Oklahoma***

The City of Sulphur announced today that the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (Rivers & Trails) of the National Park Service will work with the City, Chickasaw National Recreation Area, the Chickasaw Nation, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Arbuckle Master Conservancy District, local rural water districts and other stakeholders to facilitate a planning effort to address long-term water resource issues in the region. Clean, reliable sources of drinking water for people, water to supply agriculture and industry, and water to support the recreation and tourism benefits of the Chickasaw National Recreation Area are all to be discussed in a series of open meetings over the coming 12 months.

Rivers & Trails offers a national network of professionals who provide guidance on conservation and nature-based recreation planning to interested communities. The Rivers & Trails role in this effort will be as a neutral facilitator, working to bring all viewpoints and issues to the discussions and helping the people of the region to come to consensus on water resource needs. According to Steve Bonner of the National Park Service, “We look forward to working with the people of Murray County and South-Central Oklahoma to discuss the thorny issues of water in an open and productive way. Our program is all about building partnerships to find creative solutions to challenges, and we pledge our best efforts to ensure that all stakeholders have a voice in the future of their region.”

For more information about the project contact Bill Holley, (580) 622-5096. For more information about the Chickasaw National Recreation Area contact Bruce Noble, (580) 622-7220. For more information on the Rivers & Trails Program or its current and past projects, contact Steve Bonner, (512) 245-7263 or visit the website at [www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca).

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## Chickasaw NRA News Release

20 December 2008

For Immediate Release

Eric Leonard, 580 622-7282

### **New hours for the New Year at the Travertine Nature Center**

Travertine Nature Center will be closed Monday, January 5, 2009 through Thursday, January 8, 2009, to conduct annual cleaning and maintenance on the exhibits and facilities inside the Travertine Nature Center. The nature center is a popular park site to visit and is intensively used by area school groups for interpretive and educational programs.

According to Park Superintendent Bruce Noble, "This four day closure is necessary to complete work on exhibit displays and rearranging existing live animal and other exhibits. We apologize for this inconvenience to park visitors, but look forward to their next visit".

Beginning on Friday, January 9, 2009 the Travertine Nature Center will adopt new operating hours of 9:00 am to 4:30 pm daily Labor Day to Memorial Day and 9:00 am to 5:30 pm daily Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day. The Travertine Nature Center is closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years days.

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