



Friends of Utah State Parks

A coalition of individuals, businesses and organizations supporting our Utah State Parks

Fall, 2015

www.friendsofUtahStateParks.org

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From Friends of Utah State Parks President Jay Christianson



“This summer, FUSP implemented an ongoing grant program to provide matching funds to individual state parks”

Greetings, Friends of Utah State Parks!

The past few months I've had the pleasure of visiting and working with a number of parks on our “Flashback Friday” Facebook project. It has been very educational and fun to reflect on some of the unique history of our Utah State Parks and the many special events they've hosted since the Division of Parks and Recreation was created in 1957.

This summer, FUSP implemented an ongoing grant program to provide matching funds to individual state parks for programs and projects that help generate park revenue, create or grow park events, develop interpretive programs and materials, and fund park improvements. Nine parks were awarded grants of \$500 for a variety of projects for park programs and improvements. Most of the projects are now complete, with the remainder scheduled to be finished in the next few months. We are very excited to see that this year's grant program has generated over \$16,000 in project returns to state parks, not including the value of related volunteer hours.

FUSP has accomplished a lot in our short history. I think the aspect of our organization that makes me the proudest is the dedication, hard work and accomplishments of the volunteers who serve on our board of directors. They donate countless hours in an unwavering effort to fulfill our mission. Still, we could not do anything without the ongoing support from our sponsors and members. It's gratifying that we can count on your support. As you will see in this edition, you are truly making a difference.

Finally, on behalf of the FUSP Board and membership I'd like to thank our outgoing State Parks Board Chair Irene Hansen. Our state parks system is much better off because of Irene's years of service and leadership. We hope she keeps in touch.

As the 2015 season cools down and moves into winter I look forward to attending the Antelope Island Annual Bison Roundup the end of October. I hope you'll join me in taking advantage of what Utah's beautiful state parks have to offer during the fall and winter.

Bottom Line Continues Upward Trend, Complaints Down in 2015

By Utah Division of Parks and Recreation Director Fred Hayes

Schoolchildren all around the state have returned to their classrooms and Labor Day is long past. In our business, those two events signify the end of summer and the end of our summer visitor season.

In the “old days” we would begin closing facilities right after Labor Day and many of our northern parks would lie dormant until spring. Not anymore! We have all kinds of great days ahead through the fall, winter and spring, and our folks are working hard to keep their facilities full and people having fun. Keep an eye on the news for great activities for you and your families to join in on!

As most of you know, Utah's budget year ends on June 30, and the new fiscal year begins bright and early each year on July 1. I'm not sure the timing could be worse for our agency, but DPR's Financial Officer Scott Strong and his team do a great job of wrapping up the old year and getting the budgets established for the new, despite a constant workload.

When Scott came in to report on the year end information, he was wearing quite a grin! Fiscal year 2014 was a real winner for the Division! In addition to finishing the year with an

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Director Hayes *(from page 1)*

overall improvement of \$906,000 in the Division's bottom line, we saw an amazing transformation in many of our parks. In total, 30 parks had an improvement in their bottom line as measured by their profit/loss ratio. That is amazing! We hosted more visitors than ever before, and even saw six parks make the leap from closing "in the red" to closing in the black! Our park managers and their staffs are truly the best, and just when we think it can't possibly get any better, they surprise us!

We often measure our success on the relative abundance or lack of complaints that make it to the DPR's Salt Lake Office. We really want those situations solved in the field so that customers go home happy and excited to return. If the com-

plaint gets to Salt Lake, we've missed an opportunity. We are happy to report the number of complaints getting to my desk or to my Deputy Director's desk were way down this year. Whereas I would generally deal with a half-dozen or so issues in a normal year, this year I dealt with one. Again, we have great staff out there.

Plans are already taking shape for next year, and they promise to make it another banner year for State Parks. We'll see new activities, some new facilities, and a whole host of exciting opportunities waiting when the crowds return. For now, it's on to fall, winter and spring and to the excitement that the "off-season" activities bring.

Relationships Developed Through Utah State Parks Board Have Enriched My Life

By Outgoing Utah State Parks Board Chair Irene Hansen



I think any of us can consider ourselves very lucky if, once in our lifetime, we get the opportunity to work with people who inspire us, educate us and make us a much better person. I have been truly blessed to be one of those people.

My time on the Utah State Parks Board, including the last four years as board chair, has changed my life forever. I know that is a dramatic statement, but it is so sincerely true. The relationships I have developed with board members, employees, Friends organizations and our Utah State Parks customers has enriched my professional and personal life. I have observed the most dedicated group of employees at work in every department.

I will continue to be their advocate. I have observed board members who have such a passion for everyday life, and truly want to make a difference. I will consider them dear and cherished friends always.

I have come to have a greater love and appreciation for Utah, and our governor and legislative process. What an amazing place Utah is—a wonderful diverse place—and our state parks are our crown jewels!

I have no doubt that, with the exceptional leadership of Fred Hayes and his leadership team, the future is bright and full of promise.

Thanks to each of you for the wonderful opportunity I was given and your amazing gift of friendship.

2015 Highlights of Friends of Utah State Parks Activities, Events, and Programs

- Hosted a sponsored break for state legislators during the 2015 legislative session (*February*)
- Participated in Utah Tourism Day activities at the Utah Capitol during the 2015 legislative session (*February*)
- Participated in the Utah Outdoor Recreation Summit (*March*)
- Engaged in non-profit fundraising through Love Utah/Give Utah, Smith's Community Rewards, and Amazon Smiles programs.
- Forged partnership with Utah State Parks to recognize FUSP Platinum and Gold sponsors on annual parks passes.
- Initiated FUSP matching grant program, which distributed \$5,000 for projects at nine state parks in first year
- Hosted Antelope VIP Horse Ride Bison Roundup (*October*)
- Partnered in: Dead Horse Point State Park Visitor Center Interpretive Display with MDU Foundation; Utah Lake State Park Beach/Park Enhancements with Comcast Cares Funds
- Hosted the FUSP Annual Meeting that includes, members, board members, Friends chapters and affiliates and Utah State Parks personnel (*November*)
- Participated in Antelope Island Bison Roundup (*October*)

Thanks to Our Sponsors!

Platinum (\$10,000+)



Gold (\$5,000–\$9,999)



Bronze (\$1,000–\$2,499)



Sponsor (Up to \$999)



Sponsorships are vital to accomplishing the mission of Friends of Utah State Parks. Click here to connect with our sponsors online or click here to find out how to become an FUSP sponsor.

Fundraising

FUSP Partnerships

Anyone can help provide financial support to FUSP without spending an extra dime. Smith's and Amazon will donate a percentage of everything you spend with them to FUSP. All you have to do is register with Smith's Community Rewards and Amazon Smiles. Click here for more information on the FUSP website.

Smith's Community Rewards

Supporting Friends of Utah state Parks has never been easier — just shop at Smith's and swipe your rewards Card!

Learn more at SmithsCommunityRewards.com, and thank you for your support. You'll need to re-enroll every December. Also, enrolling in this program DOES NOT effect your fuel points.

Amazon Smiles

Amazon.com will donate 0.5% of your purchases to Friends of Utah State Parks. You can register at smile.amazon.com by signing in to your personal Amazon account and choosing Friends of Utah State Parks as your preferred non-profit. You receive the same products, same prices and same service, but you will help YOUR Utah State Parks at the same time.

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P. O. Box 712027, Salt Lake City, UT 84171

www.friendsofUtahstateparks.org

Executive Committee

All FUSP board members are unpaid volunteers

- President.....Jay Christianson
- Executive VP, Communications/EducationSteve Burr
- Executive VP, MembershipLouAnn Christensen
- Executive VP, MarketingBarbara Riddle
- TreasurerJanet Bunger

To make a donation or become a sponsor, please contact one of our Executive Committee members or visit our website.

Web Resources

- FUSP Website • FUSP Facebook
- Join FUSP • Utah State Parks

2015 Friends of Utah State Parks Project/Program Grants

Because of the generosity of our corporate sponsors, members and other donors, Friends of Utah State Parks was able to launch our grant program for the first time this year. FUSP awarded a total of \$4,500 in Project/Program Grants to nine state parks. Projects were selected from 16 grant proposals that were received. Criteria established by the Friends Executive Board considered need and benefits, project description, objectives, budget, and partnerships.

Nine projects were awarded a \$500 grant each:

Anasazi State Park and Museum

To create a \$1,500 “Technological Advancement of Tools Among the Anasazi” display with additional funds provided by the Edge of the Cedars State Park, the Division’s SE Region, and the Natural History Museum of Utah.

Camp Floyd State Park and Museum

To support the \$1000 needed to purchase a historic M1842 Mississippi Rifle, with matching funds provided by park visitor donations.

Dead Horse Point State Park

Toward the \$1,000 needed to enhance a night sky telescope, with matching funds provided by the park and Canyonlands National Park.

Deer Creek State Park

To support the creation of a “Heavenly Honey Wildflower” display, with matching funds provided by the Department of Natural Resources and Deer Creek State Park, along with the Boy Scouts of America, who provided the manual labor.

East Canyon State Park

Toward a \$3,200 program to plant trees in the campground, with the additional funds provided by Rocky Moun-

tain Power, along with the University of Utah, park staff, and volunteers, who provided the manual labor.

Fremont Indian State Park

To be used for the \$2,330 needed to install a visitor center entryway pergola, with the additional funds provided by the Friends of Fremont Indian State Park and the park.

Frontier Homestead State Park

To support an \$8,100 program to develop an Annual Christmas Market, with the additional funds provided by the Museum Foundation, the Cedar City - Brian Head Tourism Bureau, Cedar City, and the Shakespeare Festival.

Great Salt Lake State Park

To support the development of a self-guided walking tour of the Great Salt Lake, with matching funds provided by the park.

Palisade State Park

Toward the \$1,500 purchase of an OHV Kiosk, with matching funds provided by the park.

We appreciate our sponsors, members and other donors for making this program possible. Friends of Utah State Parks welcomes donations from businesses, organizations or individuals. One of our goals is to make this grant program bigger and better in the future.

Donations are tax deductible. For more information contact an Executive Board member (*see page 3*) or visit friendsofUtahstateparks.org/make-donation.

2015 FUSP Annual Meeting Nov. 14 at Utah Lake State Park

Friends of Utah State Parks will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, November 14, 2015, at Utah Lake State Park 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Agenda items will include a Welcome and Introductions from Board President Jay Christianson, Director’s Report from Utah State Parks Director Fred Hayes, and an Open Learning Session, followed by the General Business meeting, and updates on projects and activities of Friends Chapters and Affiliates.

Representatives of FUSP chapters and affiliates are encouraged to attend.

Thank You Members!

By LouAnn Christensen, VP for Membership

We are grateful for your support of the Friends of the Utah State Parks. Your membership is important to the mission of the Friends, and we encourage you to sign up for membership renewal for the coming year. In addition to your membership you will receive: two one day passes to any state park; 20 percent off items in parks gift and book stores, an “I Support Utah State Parks,” decal for your vehicle or window

Join or renew on-line at www.friendsofUtahstateparks.org or download the membership form and send it with a check to the address listed on the form. Yearly dues are \$5 for students, \$15 for individuals, and \$25 for couples.

We appreciate your support!