

# Great Places

South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation increases efforts to preserve State's "Great Places"

By Sue & Dick Brown, Development Directors, SD Parks and Wildlife Foundation



**F**rom the waters of the Missouri River to the Badlands and Hills, from the elk of the west to the pheasants of the east, South Dakota is home to a unique array of lands, waters, and wildlife. This is a special heritage that helps forge us as a people, and a legacy that we are called to pass on to future generations.

South Dakota local and state governments have been good stewards of these resources, but they need help. These resources are a special heritage that help forge us as a people and represent a legacy that we are called to pass on to future generations. The South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation has been working quietly for over two decades to preserve our state's natural resources. It has a solid record of accomplishment. It has recently added staff to increase its efforts to preserve more of the State's great places before they are lost to development; to meet the needs of our youth for more outdoor recreational and educational opportunities; and to provide South Dakotans and their guests with more access to places to hunt, fish, hike, bike, and enjoy the unique beauty of our state.

## *What is the South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation?*

The Foundation's mission is "To solicit and encourage private and public support for conservation and management of our state's natural resources, for the benefit and enjoyment of South Dakotans and their guests." Foundation President Ev Hoyt of Rapid City says that in a nutshell, the Foundation exists to provide "fun for people and homes for animals."

The Foundation is a separate, nongovernmental, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Gifts to the Foundation are tax deductible. It accepts the full range of charitable gifts, including cash, stocks, life insurance, retirement assets, trusts, annuities, and bequests and specializes in gifts of land, life estates, and conservation easements. Since 1985, South Dakota donors have given the Foundation thousands of acres of land that have become park areas or public hunting and fishing lands. These

areas provide habitat for a variety of wildlife and plant species and opportunities for public education and recreation. A few of the Foundation's past projects include:

- Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve, McCook Lake
- Burlington Northern/Mickelson Trail, Black Hills
- The Outdoor Campus, Sioux Falls
- Spirit Mound Historic Prairie, Vermillion
- Ft. Sisseton State Historical Park, Lake City
- Conservation Easements to protect the natural beauty of some of the state's most treasured areas, including Spearfish Canyon.

## *What does the Foundation plan to accomplish?*

An ambitious three-year expansion program will include development of:

- **New Outdoor Campus for western South Dakota:** Located in Rapid City, the Campus will be similar to the Campus in Sioux Falls but will feature geography, wildlife, interests, and activities unique to the region.
- **Bear Butte conservation easements:** With the help of private funds, the Foundation will preserve the views and tranquility of this northwestern South Dakota park.
- **Custer State Park conservation easements:** Private funds donated to the Foundation will help acquire easements that preserve the scenic character along the Wildlife Loop Road and other viewsheds.
- **George S. Mickelson Trail extension to Mount Rushmore**
- **Blood Run Historic Site:** Located near Sioux Falls, private funds will help preserve this Native American site.

- **Tony Dean's Acres Memorial:** Dean's friends and fans will acquire land through the Foundation for a public hunting area in central or eastern South Dakota. Outdoor education may also be offered.

Securing the funds necessary for these projects will involve both project-specific fund-raising and a new membership program to increase the funds the Foundation needs to respond to these and other opportunities to preserve great places.

The Foundation is launching an annual "Friends of Parks and Wildlife" program to attract more private funds for its many vital projects and provide an opportunity for more stakeholders to share in its mission. Friends of Parks and Wildlife will be the leaders of a new charitable movement to preserve all that is wild and free in South Dakota.

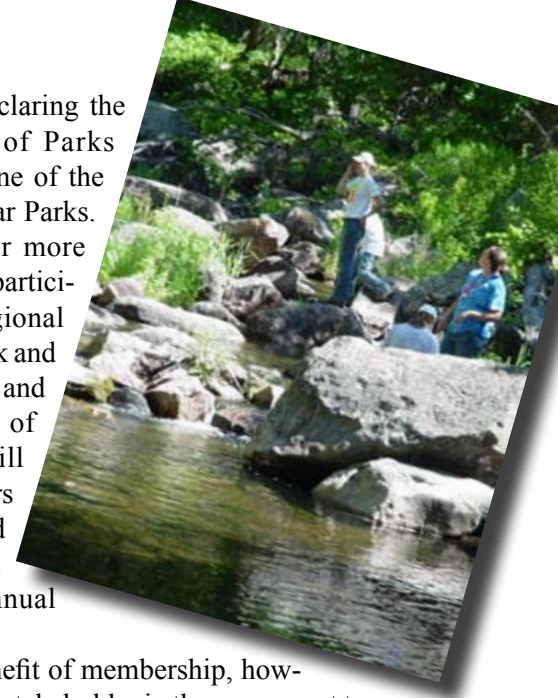
***How can I become a Friend of Parks and Wildlife?***

For a minimum contribution of \$25, donors can become a "Friend of Parks and Wildlife." Friends will receive a free, one-year subscription to the Conservation Digest and a

window sticker declaring the donor a "Friend of Parks and Wildlife" or one of the State's most popular Parks.

Donors of \$100 or more will be invited to participate in annual regional forums on state park and wildlife conditions and activities. Donors of \$1000 or more will be listed as sponsors of these forums and will receive at least one State Park annual entrance license.

The greatest benefit of membership, however, is becoming a stakeholder in the movement to save our great places.



**Yes, I want to be a Friend of Parks and Wildlife in 2009!**

- Ranger \$25
- Adventurer \$50
- Explorer \$100
- Trailblazer \$500
- Pathfinder \$1000
- Dakota Steward \$5000+

Please send me a "Friend" window sticker for (check one)

- Friend of Parks and Wildlife
- Friend of Custer State Park
- Friend of Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve
- Friend of Lewis and Clark State Park
- Friend of the Mickelson Trail
- Friend of the Sioux Falls Outdoor Campus

If you would like to make a contribution by credit card, visit the Parks and Wildlife Foundation's Web site at [www.parkswildlifefoundation.org](http://www.parkswildlifefoundation.org) and click "Make a Contribution"

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Please call me to discuss the following Foundation project or gift \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this card with your check to: South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation  
523 East Capitol  
Pierre, SD 57501-3182

For further information, contact Dick and Sue Brown, Development Directors for the South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation, 24866 Rocky Road, Custer, SD 57730, 605-673-4017, [brownassociates@goldenwest.net](mailto:brownassociates@goldenwest.net)

**Thank you for your support!**