



## Helping Hands

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**A Newsletter to Commend Volunteers, Interns and Retired Persons in the SCSEP**

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### VOLUNTEERS IN THE BHNF & THE NNF

#### Volunteering on the National Grasslands

All the way from New York State, Doug LaGarry knows the Oglala National Grassland quite well. Eleven years ago, Doug started traveling to Toadstool Geologic Park for quiet summer vacations. After hearing about volunteer opportunities within the National Forest, he decided this would be an excellent experience for him to participate in.



*Doug LaGarry stands in front of a kiosk at Hudson-Meng Bison Bonebed.*

Before making the decision to become a volunteer, Doug was working for an aluminum

company in New York State. Once the host opportunity arose at Toadstool Park; however, he came to the conclusion that it was finally time to retire. Last summer was Doug's first time volunteering for the Nebraska National Forest. Working as a host at Toadstool Geologic Park, Doug was in charge of greeting people, giving directions, and answering any questions that he was able to.

Toadstool was a place Doug loved to visit and work, but when he was offered a volunteer position at the Hudson-Meng Bison Bonebed this year, he couldn't pass it up. With no archeology background, Doug was unable to participate in the excavating of the bison bones. He has; however, become very familiar with the bonebed by giving daily tours throughout the summer.

According to Doug, the majority of visitors this summer seem to be mainly those from within Nebraska - which doesn't bother him one bit. Doug expressed his primary attraction on the Oglala National Grasslands is the people. "They (the visitors) are much friendlier as opposed

to those in the east", Doug explained. He is also very eager to involve the younger children during his tours. "Being able to read the tourists is very important. It is vital to know how much detail and information your audience is seeking and can understand", mentioned Doug.

The wonderful experience he has received at Toadstool Park and Hudson-Meng will only grow stronger. Doug plans on returning to the Bison Bonebed again next year; volunteering for those who appreciate his hard work and dedication.

#### Job Opportunity Arises From Volunteering

Working along side Doug LaGarry at the Hudson-Meng Bison Bonebed is Deb Scharlau. From Eugene, Oregon, this is Deb's first time to the Oglala National Grasslands; as well as her first time to this part of Nebraska. Because Deb has been very interested in our environment and the research done on artifacts found, she was quite enthusiastic about traveling to Nebraska to work as a

volunteer.

Through the National Association of Interpretation, Deb found a posting for a volunteer position as an interpreter at Hudson-Meng. She stated that she wasn't looking for a particular area, just a position. Only having traveled along the flatness of Nebraska Highway 80, she was very thrilled about driving to Crawford, Nebraska (site of Hudson-Meng). Deb explained that she loves taking her time driving to the Bonebed site and enjoying her surroundings.



*Deb Scharlau enjoys the experience she has received at Hudson-Meng.*

Originally from Wisconsin, Deb has always had an interest for the environment. She stated that the best thing about interpreting is bringing the research and education together. Her goal at the Bison Bonebed is to make others aware of what archaeologists are finding within the revealed bones. Deb has only been at Hudson-Meng since May of 2001; however, since then, she

has received a paid job position doing various duties. For example, she is still involved with giving tours of the Bonebed, but Deb is also currently working on developing a recycling program to make people more aware of taking care of their environment. These are just a couple of examples of the new duties Deb has been assigned to since becoming an employee at Hudson-Meng. Like Doug, Deb does not have the experience in archaeology required to take part in the excavating of the bison bones. She has; however, become very knowledgeable about the history of the bonebed.

Becoming a volunteer offers a great opportunity to future job positions. And, as Deb found, that option is extremely realistic. "One of the main reasons I decided to become a volunteer was to get a foot in the 'Forest Service door'", she explained. Deb is definitely on her way to that goal. By offering her time to the Nebraska National Forest, she has received the great feeling of volunteering; and along with that, much more.

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### **Volunteer to Intern at Hudson-Meng**

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Erik Otaroli-Castillo, originally from Long-Island, New York, is a senior at the State University of New York - Stonybrook. Studying as an

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archeology major, Erik's advisor encouraged him to find a field school to participate in for the summer. After looking over twenty different schools, Erik decided on Colorado State University. CSU travels to the Hudson-Meng Bison Bonebed each year to participate in the excavating of bison bones. Because Erik was curious as to what Nebraska consisted of, he made the decision to attend the field school with CSU.

Starting May 29th, the field school attended the bonebed to begin its two-week study. During this time, the school received four days off from the work they were doing. Erik; on the other hand, wanted to learn more about Hudson-Meng and the rewards of volunteering, so he decided to participate in giving tours during this time off.

After the two-week stay with CSU, Erik wasn't quite ready to return home. Because he is receiving a degree in Archeology, Erik was hoping to stay at Hudson-Meng and work as a volunteer; as well as an intern through Stonybrook College. After getting the okay from both his school and Hudson-Meng, Erik became a volunteer as an Interpreter, and also was able to apply his experience towards his college education.

Along with giving tours at the bonebed, Erik has developed an educational program on lithics gearing towards children from

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fourth to eight grade. The PowerPoint presentation on the making of stone tools; together with posters he has created, will be implemented by those at Hudson-Meng as a learning tool for children visitors. Erik hopes that the work he has done on this project will allow young students to better understand the making of stone tools.

Erik has truly enjoyed his time here in Nebraska working with the people at Hudson-Meng. "I miss home, but have really enjoyed my summer here", he stated. The experience Erik has received will only benefit him in the future. Along with volunteering, he has had the opportunity to apply his experience in Nebraska to his college education through an internship.

*Pictures of Erik were not available. Our interview was in the Supervisor's Office as he was tirelessly working on his lithics project.*



*The Hudson-Meng Bison Bonebed site where hundreds of bison bones are being found and researched.*

Internships in Public Interpretation and Recreation Management are Offered at...

Oglala National Grassland  
Hudson-Meng Research and  
Education Center

Twenty-five miles north of  
Crawford, Nebraska

**For more information about the Hudson-Meng Bison Bonebed, please visit the volunteer web site at:**

**<http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/nebraska/volunteer/hm.htm>**

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**EDITOR'S NOTE**

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*This newsletter was written to recognize those who put in the effort to volunteer for our National Forests. A big thank you goes out to everyone who took the time to visit with me.*

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**WAYS TO RECOGNIZE VOLUNTEERS**

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1. Take time to get to know the volunteer.
2. Focus on success.
3. Have projects ready when volunteer arrives.
4. Say "good morning".
5. Provide the opportunity to grow.

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**ADDITIONAL NOTE**

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*If anyone has volunteers that you would like an article written about, or if you have any comments or suggestions, please contact Bridget Daniels by e-mail or phone:*  
**bmdaniels@fs.fed.us**  
**308-432-0328**

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**QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

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*"We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give."  
--Winston Churchill*

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**RIDDLE OF THE MONTH**

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*The part of a bird that's not in the sky, who can swim in the ocean and yet remain dry.*

*--Answer in next month's newsletter*

**Answer to last month's riddle: A RING**

