

presenting

IBC 2007



THE **THUNDER GROWS**
RAPID CITY, SD • JULY 24 - 28 2007

**The herd is gathering...
let the thunder begin!**

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, July 20 through Tuesday, July 24, 2007 - Plains, Trains & Tatanka - Wagon Train/Horseback Ride.

Tuesday, July 24 - Opening ceremonies of the 2007 IBC at Mt. Rushmore National Memorial.

Wednesday, July 25 - Bison Heritage and History. The optional Foundation Dinner will take place at Crazy Horse Monument.

Thursday, July 26 - Bison In The Marketplace. Afternoon and evening activities in the Rapid City area. There will be optional motorcycle tours of the Black Hills.

Friday, July 27 - Bison Production and Animal Husbandry. In the afternoon, we will load up and head north to Deadwood for an afternoon and evening of wild west fun!

Saturday, July 28 - Ranch Day at Custer State Park. Buffalo herd tours, fly fishing, trail rides, a festive lunch and historical time at the corrals, as we celebrate the birthplace of our modern buffalo industry.

HOST HOTEL: Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center in Rapid City. Call (605) 343-8550 for reservations. Please ask for the International Bison Conference room block.

FUND RAISING RAFFLES HAVE BEGUN!

- Buffalo Hair-On Coat
- Commemorative Artwork Saddle
- 2007 Harley Davidson Heritage Softail Motorcycle

See the details at www.ibc2007.com or call (605) 923-6383 for tickets and information.

www.ibc2007.com



Rapid City and DTBA To Host 2007 International Bison Conference

While 2007 may seem like it's a long way out, members of the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association (DTBA) are already hitting high gear with plans for the International Bison Conference (IBC) in 2007.

For a number of years, the DTBA has been planning to put in a bid to host this event in their home territory of Rapid City, SD. Members had talked about bidding for a summer National Bison Association conference, but opted to put their efforts into making a run at the International conference. These IBC events are held every seven years, alternating between the United States and Canada. They are a joint effort of the National Bison Association (NBA) and the Canadian Bison Association (CBA). The first event was held in LaCrosse, WI in 1993 and the most recent IBC event was held in Edmonton, Alberta in 2000.

A number of cities began the quest for the IBC a couple of years ago. However, in the past year or two, the national associations have found that these events are much easier to put on with the help of a local buffalo association working in conjunction with them. Given that criteria, the field was narrowed down to five finalist, with Rapid City being one of them. Late last summer, DTBA got word that the list had been shortened to two candidates, Rapid City, SD and Louisville, KY.

Working in conjunction with the Rapid City Chamber of Commerce, members of the DTBA began planning presentations that would be made to the Board of Directors of both the CBA and the NBA. It had already been decided that Custer State Park would be the "host ranch" for an IBC event, should it be held in Rapid City. Rapid City, Custer State Park and DTBA members put together a presentation to take to Regina, Canada for the CBA meeting last November.

DTBA President, Scott Peterson, Executive Director, Karen Conley and Custer State Park Resource Manager, Ron Walker, made the frigid trip to Regina to make their pitch to the Canadian board. The focus of the presentation was the beauty of the Black Hills, the variety of events and activities for the whole family to enjoy and mostly, the ties with Custer State Park and their world famous herd of buffalo. Walker's presentation about the park included a "coming home" theme, as many will remember that the park is considered the birthplace of the buffalo industry as we know it today.

The reception in Canada was wonderful and plenty of questions were asked and answered. Despite all the obstacles facing

Canadian buffalo producers at this time, they took time out of their schedule to take in the presentation and their interest was most welcome. DTBA members left Regina on a positive note, hoping for their favorable consideration.

More meetings ensued and the group spiced up their presentation and headed to Denver, CO in mid-January for the National Bison Association conference. This time, the original group was joined by DTBA Vice-President, Jud Seaman, DTBA Secretary/Treasurer, Jacki Limpert and Rapid City Convention and Visitor's Bureau Sales and Servicing Manager, Sandy Heintz. Another presentation was made to the NBA group, more questions were asked and answers given. The group held their breath as they awaited the outcome of voting from the two national organizations.

A yes vote from both the NBA and the CBA has given Rapid City and the DTBA the go-ahead to begin planning for the 2007 event. Members are excited about this opportunity and the entire Rapid City and Black Hills area will be involved in showing our visitors what Dakota hospitality is all about.

"Rapid City put together an outstanding proposal that will help the international bison community celebrate the heritage—as well as the future—of our industry," said Dave Carter, executive director of the National Bison Association.

"It will be a great opportunity for the industry to share knowledge, evaluate the last two decades of progress and share the industry vision" said Mark Silzer, president of the Canadian Bison Association.

"We are excited to be able to host this event in our backyard," commented DTBA President, Scott Peterson. "The DTBA, along with Rapid City and Custer State Park, has the ability and the resources to make this an event that attendees won't soon forget. We appreciate all that Rapid City has done to support this bid and everyone at Custer State Park has given us 100 percent as well. Our members are already stepping up to form committees and tackle projects and there will much more activity in the near future."

"We want to invite everyone to keep the week of July 23 through July 28, 2007 open on their calendars," said Peterson. "There will be family activities and learning opportunities. Working with the national organizations, we are striving to offer something for everyone and it will be an event you won't want to miss."

Membership Directory Available

Included in this mailing, you will find the new DTBA Membership Directory. It was printed in late January and distributed at our winter conference and the Black Hills Stock Show booth.

If you already have a copy, please share this one with someone interested in the industry or in becoming a producer.

New this year, you will find a listing of resources in the back of the directory. That information came from the membership forms you LOVE to fill out every year. See, we do use that information, so it's important to keep it current and to fill out those forms.

The listings are designed to help you, the members, sell your products and services to potential customers. This same information is available on our web site, enhancing your exposure to a much broader audience.

The membership directories will be distributed at the DTBA booth outings, new producer seminars and any other applicable places. If you would some extra copies to distribute, please contact the office and arrangements can be made to do so. Thank you to all of the advertisers for supporting this important project.

DID YOU KNOW...

Thanks to YOUR support of the DTBA/NDBA cookbook project, the association has, at the end of 2003, raised well over \$4,000 in profit from this project. Keep up the good work! More cookbooks are still available!



Larry Rolfstad, Connie Beavers and Linda Rolfstad.

*Our Thanks to:
Larry and Linda Rolfstad,
Rocking R Bison Leather, for the
buffalo leather vest they donated
for a drawing at the Dakota
Territory Buffalo Association
Conference. The vest is absolutely
beautiful and we sincerely thank
the Rolfstad's for their generous donation.*

*Brad and Connie Beavers,
Beaver Creek Buffalo Company, Jefferson, SD*



“Bison, The Thunder Grows” Is Theme For 2007 IBC Event

The wheels have begun to turn and planning is starting to come together for the International Bison Conference slated for July 2007 in Rapid City, SD.

A September planning session involved members of the National Bison Association and the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association. The main purpose of the meeting was to establish responsibilities and brainstorm for ideas. The one goal of the meeting was to come away with a theme so that conference planning could begin.

A call went out to members of both associations to help establish a theme. Jerry Mardian, a DTBA member from Mina, South Dakota, put in a suggestion for “Bison, the thunder rolls”. Many of the committee members liked the idea, but were concerned about it being too close to a song with a similar title. After some thought and a little tweaking, the group adopted “Bison, the Thunder Grows” as the theme for the conference.

There is speculation that there could be close to one million buffalo by the year 2007, which led the group to the growth-oriented theme. Of course, hopes are that the industry will be well on the way to growing and prospering by that time, so the group wanted a theme that would reflect all those things.

Other ideas that came out of the planning session included opening ceremonies at Mt. Rushmore National Monument;

motorcycle tours through the Black Hills; something involving Crazy Horse monument; a buffalo run down the main street of Deadwood, SD and other ideas that are still being kicked around.

One of the highlights of the conference will be a wagon trek of sorts through Custer State Park. Ron Walker, the Resource Manager for the park, has been busy lining this event out and he has a solid plan already in place.

In addition to event planning, there are a number of ideas for fundraising that will soon be underway. Be on the lookout for a commemorative motorcycle raffle that might be part of our fundraising activity.

Other ideas that are being investigated include a major concert and even website advertising and commemorative items for the event.

For now, the next course of action is to select a logo for the IBC. With the theme in place, the committee is asking for anyone interested to submit a logo, or logos, that could be considered for the event. It could be worth your time, as the winner will take home a \$500 prize if his or her logo is selected to represent the IBC.

The contest is open to anyone wishing to enter. The winning logo will be selected by January 1, 2005 and the award will be presented at the 2005 NBA Winter Conference in Denver. Please see the accompanying information box for details about the contest.

Once the logo is selected, a web site, www.IBC2007.com will be launched and more committees will be formed at the NBA conference and the DTBA conference, both held in January. From there, the sky is the limit as fundraising and serious planning will get underway.

We hope you will be able to join in this momentous event. It will certainly be one you won't want to miss.

BISON, THE THUNDER GROWS LOGO CONTEST

The contest is open to anyone wishing to participate. You may enter multiple times, but only one logo will be selected. Entries must be a completed design, either computer-generated or hand-drawn. There is no specific size requirement, but make sure your entry can be enlarged or reduced to accommodate various medias and uses. The design should elaborate on the theme, but you do not have to include the year in the design. Submissions can be in black and white or color, but should be kept simple, as elaborate designs or photographs typically do not work well for logo usage.

Entry deadline is: December 1, 2004

Send entries, along with your name and contact information, to: National Bison Association, 1400 W. 122nd Ave., Suite 106, Westminster, CO 80234.

If you have any questions about the contest, contact the NBA at (303) 292-2833 or DTBA at (605) 923-6383.

At the mention of the buffalo run, there were a few concerns raised among members of the NBA. However, rest assured that the committee is not interested in having them chase people through the streets nor are they going to do anything that would harm animals, people or in general, wreak havoc. Should this event occur, it will be handled by professionals who have done this same thing before and the utmost of care will be taken to ensure the safety of everyone and everything involved.

The event will take place the weekend before the official start of the conference and will involve both horseback riders and wagons for those who don't want to ride. A nice, leisurely ride through the park is what it's all about and for those of you who have never been off the roads in Custer State Park, this event is one you won't want to miss. Some of the most spectacular scenery in the region will be on display for our visitors. This is sure to be one of the highlights of the entire week.

Buffalo Calendars Make A Great Holiday Gift! Order Yours Today

The National Bison Association is once again offering buffalo calendars for sale.

The calendar project was coordinated by Gail Griffin through the Minnesota Buffalo Association. Members of the group sponsored pages in the 16 month calendar in exchange for advertising space for the ranch, products and/or services related to the buffalo industry.

The project was brought about as a way to help reduce the costs of attending the 2005 NBA Summer Conference which will be held in Rochester, Minnesota from July 28 through July 30, 2005. The Minnesota group is co-hosting the conference with ranch hosts, Mark and Kathy Gehl, Gehl's Buffalo Hill Ranch.

The calendar will debut at the upcoming NBA Summer Conference in Ogden, Utah where it will be available to purchase. Complete with buffalo photos, buffalo meat recipes and

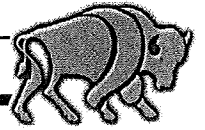
industry event dates, the calendars would make fantastic gifts for friends, family and customers.

The calendars are available from the National Bison Association. The cost is \$12 each, \$11 each if you purchase five or more and \$10 each if you purchase 10 or more. Additional discounts are available for bulk purchases for retail outlets.

Calendars will also be available from the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association and the Minnesota Buffalo Association.

You can find purchase information on the NBA website at: www.bisoncentral.com or call them at (303) 292-2833. DTBA can be reached at (605) 923-6383 or info@dakotabuffalo.com and MnBA can be contacted at (507) 454-2828 or info@mnbi-son.org.

Get yours today. They will be THE GIFT this holiday season!



2007 International Bison Conference Plans Are Growing Every Day!

The thunder is growing...the distant rumble is getting louder by the day! It won't be long and the thundering hooves will be pounding prairies and Black Hills of South Dakota during the 2007 International Bison Conference. This is one gathering you won't want to miss.

One of the signature events is the wagon train and horseback ride through Custer State Park. The committee searched and searched for just the right name and we are happy to announce that our event has now been dubbed "Plains, Trains and Tatanka". This optional event will be the kickoff to the International Bison Conference and will be limited to 150 paid participants. The committee felt that with all the support crew and staff that will be needed, there will be over 200 participants which will make for a very large group in the park's backcountry.

Plains, Trains and Tatanka participants will gather at the Custer State Park Buffalo Corrals on Friday, July 20. An evening meal will be served and the guests will have the opportunity to glimpse their future as campsites spring up around the corral area. This first night will offer the change to meet, greet and get yourself prepared for the long road ahead.

On Saturday morning, the group will leave the corral area and head out on the trail. Custer State Park Herd Manager, Chad Kremer, has done an outstanding job of lining out the trail we'll follow and selecting campsites for each night on the trail. Traveling approximately ten miles each day, the group will enjoy touring parts of the park that many people never have the opportunity to see. Wildlife is abundant and of course, we hope to see the buffalo along the trail!

For those of you who enjoy the luxury of a soft bed, a warm shower and the nightly news on television, well, this event might not be for you. At the campsites on Saturday and Monday nights, there will be water available for washing, but the shower facilities (and there aren't many of them!) will only be available on Sunday night. Just make sure and bring plenty of deodorant and bug spray and no one will know the difference. This is camping, South Dakota style!

The committee is planning nightly entertainment and it's a sure bet with that many people and horses in one spot, there might be some unexpected entertainment along the trail or in the camps. It is certain to be an adventure you won't soon forget. On Tuesday, July 24, our adventure will come to a close as we break camp for the final time. Participants will then head to Rapid City to find their accommodations and a hot shower!

Some of the other details you might be interested in knowing are what to bring on your adventure. If you plan to bring your own horses, they are welcome. Coming from outside of South Dakota, they will need some health paperwork and testing to be allowed in. All horses will be allowed to stay at the buffalo corrals, free of charge, for the duration of the IBC conference until Saturday, July 28. The park will provide hay and water and someone to feed the hay, but any other special needs will be the owner's responsibility. If they need to stay longer, you will need to make prior arrangements in order to do so. Of course, no stallions will be allowed, as the horses will be mingling throughout the ride, so find yourself a good mare or gelding and bring them along.

For those of you who wish to ride a horse, but don't want to bring your own or don't have your own, we will do our best to put you in contact with parties that might be interested in renting horses for the event. However, these arrangements will be up to

each individual and the IBC personnel will not be responsible for any animals other than their own.

If you would like to come along on our journey, but don't ride horses, never fear! We have wagons lined up for those who are brave enough to leave the driving to someone else. At this time, we are planning for approximately 20 wagons that will hold various numbers of people and gear. The ride might be a bit rough at times, but isn't that what our adventure is all about?

At this time, the wagon train committee is estimating a cost of approximately \$750 per person (US funds) to participate in the event. This will include breakfast, a sack lunch and evening meal for each day. For safety reasons, the youngsters will need to be ten years or older and have an adult guardian with them at all times. Although there are some limitations, such as numbers and ages, interest in this event is extremely high. The committee is anticipating more registrants than spots available, so plans are being made to conduct a lottery drawing if that should happen. At this time, it looks like registration will open up this summer and

plenty of advance notice will be given to all buffalo organizations, associations and publications so that everyone will have an equal chance to participate. Our discussions have led us to believe that a mail in registration, with a specific opening date, will be the fairest way to conduct registration. The committee feels this is the only way to give everyone the same chance to register and if it should come down to a lottery drawing, all those with registrations postmarked on the opening day will have the same chance to draw a spot on the wagon train.

On the evening of Tuesday, July 24, the IBC 2007 opening ceremonies will take place at Mt. Rushmore National Memorial. The memorial is truly awe-inspiring and one of South Dakota's proudest offerings. We will have a private reception in the terrace area and plans are to have a guest speaker address the attendees. At dusk, the memorial conducts a lighting ceremony and our group will have the opportunity to view the faces after darkness before we head back to Rapid City.

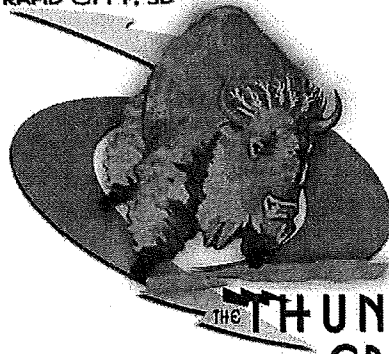
On Wednesday, our morning will start off with greetings from the host committees and associations. Our morning sessions will take place at the host hotel, the Best Western Ramkota. The National Bison Association and the Canadian Bison Association are working together to put in place a lineup of speakers and topics that will cover a variety of aspects of the buffalo industry. Plans right now are to offer two tracks of speakers each day, thus giving attendees the opportunity to take in as many of the sessions as they can. The committees felt that too many sessions might be detrimental to the learning opportunity.

In conjunction with the conference, there will be trade show located at the Ramkota hotel. Vendors will be open on Wednesday and Thursday from early morning until late afternoon and then on Friday until noon. There is room for both outdoor and indoor vendors and anyone interested in becoming a vendor for this event is encouraged to contact the IBC committee.

Each afternoon and evening there will be scheduled activities of some type. However, if you choose to do your own thing or part of your family wants a real vacation, there are endless opportunities in the Rapid City and Black Hills areas. We are working with our local Chamber of Commerce to put together information packets, tours and attraction specials for the entire week. This

Continued on Page 9

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