



Prairie Dog Camp hosts, Mike and Vicki Bailey of Jennings tend to one of several flower beds in their camp site; top. Andrew Knuth and Angie Hager of Norton check on the cabins. One of several duties they have as the Shady Rest Camp hosts for the 2010 camping season at Sebelius Reservoir.

— Telegram photos by Dana Paxton



Two couples volunteer their services by being camp hosts at the lake

The Prairie Dog State Park has several beautiful camping sites. Two families have volunteered to spend their time being camp hosts. The biggest part of their duties run from Mid April to mid October when the water is shut off.

Angie Hager and Andrew Knuth of Norton are in their first year as the camp hosts for the Shady Rest camping area as well as for the cabins. Angie is the Norton Head Start Director and teacher which is full time during the school year and works at the park part time as a seasonal worker in the summer. Andrew is a full time truck driver for Swine Transportation Service (STS) out of Long Island.

Their duties include trash pick up, checking to be sure all campers have current park permits, re-coding and cleaning of the cabins just name a few of their duties. During the off season they check things to be sure all is well with the camping areas and cabins. Andrew has recently started offering his services to dump the waste wells for the campers.

When asked why they do this Angie said, "I like being out here, it is relaxing and I like meeting new and different people from all over." She did say that the weather did spook her a couple of times this summer and she did go to her home but the rest of the time she, Andrew and her two sons spend

all their time at the camp, fishing or cooling off in the water.

The other camp hosts are Mike and Vicki Bailey from Jennings. Their camp is the Prairie Dog campgrounds. It is their fourth year hosting. They too check for current park passes, help other campers find spots and set up, pick up trash and help others with their boats from time to time. They also sell ice and park permits from their camping spot. They provide, plant and care for all the flowers in the camping area. They keep watch of the weather on their phones so that they can alert others of potential bad weather among other things.

Vicki works in Oberlin full time at the abstract office and Mike works full time out of Oberlin as an auctioneer, selling livestock and real estate.

When asked why they do this Vicki said, "I like to be outside, to fish and be at the lake." She said the people are great, like the out of state visitors who come on an annual basis for example. She has been told several times by people that have been here before, they come out of their way to return because they think that the park is beautiful and well taken care of.

There is no pay for being a park camp host. The only thing they get is a free camping spot and the duties required of a volunteer host.



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