



## **National Bison Association**

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### **Weekly Update from the National Bison Association**

A news and update service *exclusively* for members of the National Bison Association.  
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**November 18, 2016**

### **Vote for the 2016 NBA Member of the Year**

Less than two weeks remain before the December 1st deadline to nominate the 2016 National Bison Association Member of the Year!

The National Bison Association's Past President's Council will announce the 2016 NBA Member of the Year at the Winter Conference on Friday, January 20th at the annual Gold Trophy Banquet Dinner. The member of the year award recognizes one NBA member each year who has gone above and beyond to promote our collective business and the American bison.

- The nominee should be a rancher, farmer, or citizen whose efforts enhance the bison industry for all.
- The nominee should support and promote the NBA and state and regional organizations.
- The nominee should be a role model to persons in the bison industry. Role model status will be weighed heavily in the decision process.
- State and regional involvement is encouraged

The Council is now accepting nominations from the NBA membership through December 1st. To nominate an outstanding NBA member who has gone above and beyond to promote bison and move our industry forward, please take a moment to download a nomination form here, <http://www.bisoncentral.com/sites/default/files/memberofyearnom.pdf> and email to Past President's Council chair, Gail Griffin at [buffalo@hbc.com](mailto:buffalo@hbc.com), or fax the nomination to (303) 845-9081 by December 1.

### **NBA Celebrates National Mammal and National Bison Day**

NBA executive director Dave Carter and assistant director Jim Matheson were on hand in Washington, DC this week to celebrate the passing of the United State's National Mammal.

An event at the Russell Senate building saw approximately 200 attendees, including some NBA members, on Wednesday evening. Guests included Chief Old Person, political leader and chief of the Blackfeet tribe in Montana, as well as congressional champions of the bill including Sen. Hoeven, Sen. Heinrich, Rep. Clay and Rep. Fortenberry, who all spoke at the event praising the bison for its cultural, economic and ecological importance. The event also featured television star Kristin Bauer who praised the work of all involved in designating bison as our first national mammal.

Matheson will be involved with a similar event in New York City this weekend at the Museum of the American Indian, along with the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Inter-tribal Buffalo Council.

### **Just 3 Weeks to Consign in GTSS and Save 10%**

Just three weeks remain to take advantage of your early-bird discount by consigning animals to the 2017 Gold Trophy Show and Sale (GTSS)! Consign by December 9th and receiving a 10% discount on your consignment fees. Consign 7 or more animals, both live and market classes apply, and get one free Winter Conference registration - a \$175 value!

Please consider bringing animals to the NBA's Gold Trophy Show and Sale this January 17 - 21! The first major bison auction results of the season are just in from Antelope Island State Park in Utah, and indicate a very strong year for selling live animals. See the results here .

To consign quickly and securely online, please click [here](#). Please also see the revised 2017 rules and regulations as a couple of the testing dates have changed. For all other documents, please visit <http://bisoncentral.com/about-nba/gold-trophy>

We also have some very cost-effective GTSS catalog advertising opportunities available, but space is limited. Please see this year's ad rates and specs here . The catalog will again be shared both in print and digital editions the week leading up to the sale, and distributed at the NBA Winter Conference, the Gold Trophy Show and Sale, and to those bidding and watching the sale online, thereby ensuring a wide audience.

Finally, we have some great trophy sponsorships available for those who want to support the Gold Trophy Show and Sale while promoting their business to the most targeted group of buffalo folks out there. Whole class (1st - 3rd plus honorable mention) sponsorships are available for \$500 with your business or ranch name engraved on the back of our popular belt buckle trophies that we'll be bringing back this year. You'll also enjoy more recognition with your logo on banners as well as in Bison World magazine and the Weekly Update. Please email Jim Matheson at [jim@bisoncentral.com](mailto:jim@bisoncentral.com), or call 303-292-2833, to inquire.

### **Cause Celeb: 'True Blood' actress Kristin Bauer van Straten gets choked up about the American bison**

*(From The Washington Post)*

**Celeb:** Actress Kristin Bauer van Straten, who played the vampire madame Pam on HBO's "True Blood" for seven seasons.

**Cause:** Celebrating the American bison, a once-endangered species that is now, thanks to the bipartisan efforts of the American Bison Coalition, the country's national mammal. Don't worry: The bald eagle is safe.

**Scene:** Remember that scene from "Forrest Gump" where Bubba lists the litany of amazing things you can do with shrimp: "Anyway, like I was sayin', shrimp is the fruit of the sea. You can barbecue it, boil it, broil it, bake it, saute it. There's uh, shrimp-kabobs, shrimp Creole, shrimp gumbo ..." Well, National Bison Day on the Hill, a celebration of the country's new national mammal, was a lot like that.

There were bison sliders and bison socks. Fingerless gloves and finger food. A cheery bison mascot and meaty bison chili. "So are we celebrating or eating it?" asked one staffer with a plate of pigs in a blanket — but with bison. The answer is a bit of both. There were ranchers there in cowboy boots, congressmen in suits, and Native American tribal leaders paying tribute to the "majestic," "authentically American" and "noble" animal.

Word is that the bison is neither a "Democrat or a Republican," said John F. Calvelli, executive vice president for public affairs at the Wildlife Conservation Society. So elephants and donkeys are safe, too.

When Bauer van Straten, the national mammal's official ambassador, arrived in an understated black blazer and loose trousers, the actress took in the scene quietly. No one asked for selfies. Probably because they did not recognize her like this — contemplative and even a little teary-eyed as she talked about the Native Americans she had met with over the past two days in Washington. Bauer van Straten's role, she told us, was to ramp up the emotion surrounding an economic and ecological issue that on its face seems sort of silly.

**Sound bite:** "I found the story of the bison to be incredibly compelling because it encompasses the worst of humanity and the best of humanity. It's a story that we in Hollywood would love to do a movie about. There were 50 to 60 million bison when Europeans landed, and by 1902, there were 21 left in the wild."

Read more. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/reliable-source/wp/2016/11/17/cause-celeb-true-blood-actress-kristin-bauer-van-straten-gets-choked-up-about-the-american-bison/>

## **Rare albino bison White Cloud passes away**

*(From the Jamestown Sun)*

An icon of Jamestown for nearly 20 years has passed away, according to the National Buffalo Museum.

White Cloud, the albino buffalo that was a fixture in the museum's pasture from 1997 until her return to the ranch where she was born in May, died peacefully of old age Monday.

During White Cloud's time in the museum herd, she was visited by an estimated 3 million people.

White bison are rare and considered sacred to indigenous peoples of North America, National Buffalo Museum Director Ilana Xinos wrote in a press release announcing the death.

Future plans include a full body mount for display at the museum.

Source. <http://www.jamestownsun.com/news/local/4159635-rare-albino-bison-white-cloud-passes-away>

## **Raising bison on the 'Back Forty'**

*(From FarmTalk)*

There were days when bison were commonplace, roaming the prairies and providing meat to Native Americans. Today, however, they cause traffic on a busy highway near Stockton Lake to come to a halt as people whip out their smartphones to take a picture for their Facebook and Instagram pages.

“We were following someone and were like ‘Why are they slowing down? Oh, they’re looking at our bison!’” recounted Becky Roller, who owns and operates Back Forty Bison with her husband, John, and their business partners Keith and Tammy Ashton.

Back Forty Bison has three separate herds near Dadeville, Bona and Greenfield, Missouri. The enterprise was born through an interest in health and after extensive research.

“We were interested because we were trying to eat healthier,” John said, adding bison meat reminded them of beef and was an appealing alternative to chicken and turkey.

He said they owned land so they thought maybe they should try their hand at raising their own bison.

Keith explained they spent about a year doing research before they bought a herd from a former secretary of the Missouri Bison Association who was leaving the business.

“I think during the research we kind of fell in love with the animal,” Keith said. “We enjoy the animal.”

“We’ve raised cattle before,” Tammy added, “and I’ve never had an animal that I can just sit out in the herd and just watch.”

Becky said they talked to other producers, attended conferences and researched heavily before taking the plunge.

“One of the things we noticed was, in general, how happy the bison producers were,” Becky said. “They were a very eclectic group. You will find every gamut of the social spectrum raising bison and they are also extremely forthcoming with information — lots of invitations to visit farms, to talk about things.”

They recommended going to the Missouri Bison Association or the National Bison Association for information if people are interested in potentially raising bison. John is currently president of

MoBA. Keith is a MoBA director. They're also active in the MoBA sales, which take place annually in December at Macon and in March at Butler.

Read more.

[http://www.farmtalknewspaper.com/news/raising-bison-on-the-back-forty/article\\_a3cad502-aaae-11e6-aefd-f74fda120112.html](http://www.farmtalknewspaper.com/news/raising-bison-on-the-back-forty/article_a3cad502-aaae-11e6-aefd-f74fda120112.html)

## **Man admits illegal bison killing, eagle possession**

*(From the Billings Gazette)*

A Pryor man on Monday admitted federal charges that he illegally shot, butchered and took the meat of a bison in 2014 and illegally possessed a bald eagle carcass.

As part of a plea deal that reduced initial felony charges to misdemeanors, the defendant, Tyler Dale Medicine Horse Sr., 58, agreed to pay \$8,000 restitution to the bison's owners, Trisha and Brandon Siemion.

Medicine Horse pleaded guilty to theft and to unlawfully possessing an eagle during a hearing before U.S. District Judge Susan Watters in Billings.

Assistant Federal Defender Dave Merchant told the judge that while the defense doesn't agree with the restitution amount, it accepted it as part of the plea deal.

The agreement also calls for a probationary sentence. Medicine Horse faces a maximum one year in prison and a \$100,000 fine on the theft.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John Sullivan said the case began in December 2014 when Medicine Horse's estranged wife, Veronnica Medicine Horse, reported to the Yellowstone County sheriff's office that her husband had stolen her cellphone and iPad.

During an interview of Veronnica Medicine Horse, the deputy learned that Medicine Horse had recently left at her residence an eagle carcass and bags of meat, Sullivan said.

The deputy found the eagle carcass and contacted the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Veronnica Medicine Horse told a game warden that her husband had texted her on Nov. 28, 2014, that his nephew had "shot an eagle with a .243 cal. rifle" and that they also had shot a buffalo that had run away from a buffalo ranch.

Read more. [http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/man-admits-illegal-bison-killing-eagle-possession/article\\_5f65751a-addb-5eee-bb91-82cc2c9ba37a.html](http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/man-admits-illegal-bison-killing-eagle-possession/article_5f65751a-addb-5eee-bb91-82cc2c9ba37a.html)

## **How we discovered the 'Higgs bison', hiding in plain sight in ancient cave art**

*(From ScienceAlert)*

More than 30,000 years ago, early cave artists in what is now southwestern France ventured deep underground into limestone caves, where they painted elaborate and detailed frescoes of the huge animals that dominated their lives.

The accuracy of the depictions was remarkable – far better than most of us could manage crouched under a sloping damp wall under the flickering light cast by flaming bundles of vegetation and fat.

he paintings record a world of cave lions, mammoth, bison, and horses, which we are only just beginning to unravel using the combined technologies of ancient DNA and radiocarbon dating.

The results show that despite studying cave art for hundreds of years, we have been blind to some of the important stories the artists were telling.

Our research, published today, is a case in point. We have used ancient DNA from fossil bones to deduce the existence of a newly discovered bison species – only to discover that it was already recorded on the walls of caves across Europe, such as in Niaux Cave in southwestern France 17,000 years ago.

DNA detective story

In 1999, we began studying DNA from ancient bison bones found across the northern hemisphere, where Steppe bison had ranged from modern-day Britain to Mexico during the late Ice Age.

Our aim was to study the impacts of climate change on animal populations, and sure enough we quickly found that in North America, populations of bison collapsed dramatically around the Last Glacial Maximum (between about 18,000 and 21,000 years ago).

This was well before humans arrived in North America, and it was the first clear demonstration of the key role played by climate change in the extinctions of bison, along with a range of other large species collectively known as megafauna.

Read more. <http://www.sciencealert.com/how-we-discovered-the-higgs-bison-hiding-in-plain-sight-in-ancient-cave-art>

## **Bison herd given spotlight at annual Tallgrass roundup**

*(From The Pawhuska Journal Capital)*

It's been a big year for bison. That was the consensus earlier this month during the annual Bison Roundup at Tallgrass Prairie Preserve.

Located on approximately 40,000 acres of rolling bluestem prairie north of Pawhuska, the preserve is home to a herd of 2,700 bison.

So, it's nearly always a big year for bison at Tallgrass, where members of the massive modern herd are descended from the original herd of 300 was released here in 1993 — a few years after the former ranch property had been acquired by The Nature Conservancy.

Every November for the past 25 years, The Tallgrass bison have been rounded up, weighed, examined and evaluated as part of the preserve's comprehensive herd-management program. The event has become a way for the Conservancy to build public support for the local herd, as well as for the organization's mission regarding the conservation of ecologically-important sites.

In May, the American bison was officially named as the national mammal of the U.S. (That federal decree was the original source of the "Big year for bison" comment.)

During the recent bison roundup event, Tallgrass spokesman Harvey Payne spoke about the possibility of the Osage Nation launching a bison operation on property the tribe acquired earlier this year from conservationist/media mogul Ted Turner.

"The tribe and Mr. Turner are to be applauded for having the courage and fortitude to make it happen," Payne said, who is the community relations coordinator for the Pawhuska preserve.

Located between Pawhuska and Fairfax, the Bluestem property constituted a vast section of the former Osage Indian Reservation and the purchase returned Osage ownership to the 43,000-acre tract.

Read more. <http://www.pawhuskajournalcapital.com/news/20161116/bison-herd-given-spotlight-at-annual-tallgrass-roundup>

## **Young bison making Elgin its new home**

*(From The Chicago Daily Herald)*

A young bison is the newest resident of Lords Park Zoo in Elgin, and the community -- especially youths -- will be invited to help name it in the spring.

he nearly 6-month-old female -- which weighs about 350 pounds and is strong enough to withstand cold up to 30 degrees below zero -- is acclimating well to her new home after arriving Monday, said Terry Gabel, president of the volunteer organization Friends of Lords Park Zoo, which purchased it from Fermilab in Batavia. The zoo has two other bison, Drew and Becky, both females and about 16 years old. The new bison is being kept in an adjacent but separate area for about a month to ease the transition, Gabel said.

"Drew has taken interest toward her, which is good. They frequently lay across each other between the fence, and they sniff and smell and lick, and all that," he said. "Becky is the dominant female, and she doesn't show much concern and interest at this point."

The city of Elgin this year made improvements to the zoo's bison area, including a new chute, fence and shelter, at a cost of about \$200,000 funded by the city's share of riverboat funds. The Friends group contributed about \$9,500 for the chute and paid \$1,500 to buy the bison, which was taken to Lords Park at no cost by farmer Will Duchaj, Gabel said.

Bison, which this year were named the United States' first national mammal, have lived at Lords Park Zoo since 1905.

"The community wants it and it gives us something that no other community has," Gabel said. "They require amazingly little care. They need to be fed and watered, of course, because there is no grazing out there. But they are perfectly happy to be in the area."

Read more. <http://www.dailyherald.com/article/20161111/news/161119717/>