
Friends



of Devil's Lake
State Park

Advocate

Volume 18 Number 4

Fall 2014

Au Revoir Summer, Bonjour Fall!

Today is the first day of fall. The hectic pace at the park is beginning to wind down and I see light red colors as the sumac leaves begin to change color. Fall is my favorite time of the year at the park. You get the awesome 70 degree days and the nice cool nights. When I look back at our summer season, I see another record summer. Last year in my fall article I pointed out that we had our busiest summer ever. Well we surpassed that this year by probably another 140,000 visitors. I'm guessing we will top out this year around 2 million visitors.

The fall season in the park is also construction season. The contractors will be starting to raze the five 1960's era toilet shower buildings in the Quartzite and Northern Lights Campgrounds. They will then be constructing two new centralized toilet shower buildings to take their place. The one in the Quartzite campground will be a four season building that we could operate year-round if we wanted. We will most likely operate it about 8 months of the year to start out. Currently, none of our buildings can sustain any weather much below freezing,

so they can only be operated around 6 months during the year. We will also be replacing sewer lines in the North and South Shore picnic areas and replacing some manhole vaults. Most of this infrastructure is well over 80 years old and is in dire need of replacement. The plan for the spring is then to do some shoreline improvement on the North Shore and reside the Chateau. Hopefully, poor weather will not delay these projects too much.

Take some time this fall to come out to the park and enjoy a hike or other outdoor activity. We have the Halloween candlelight hike scheduled for 10/25 this fall also. Put on a costume and come out to the park for a nice hike through the park guided by the torch light. See you all at the park.

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Greetings from the President

Greetings Friends of Devil's Lake State Park. Crisp nights of wood smoke and flight calls from migrating birds are upon us. I hope that you were able to catch at least one of our Sunday night concerts this past summer. There's already a lot to do at the park, but we are hoping to begin adding more events to get the family out for.

This will be my last year as the Friends' President. I'm hoping to work with the park staff and our board to create the aforementioned events. As we've mentioned in the past, Mark Tully has begun to get our communications in order, but it will take some time to define his role with our organization. We believe that he can help to strengthen our working model going forward.

The main reason to grow our group is because we are trying to get a handle on what can be done to help improve and enjoy our wonderful natural treasure.

Every year the state provides less staffing so that many simple things, like basic camp ground/trail maintenance is continually put off for lack of personnel. It's amazing to me what the current staff is able to accomplish, but they could use assistance.

I know many of us are working more hours to make ends meet these days, but if you had some spare time to help us out, we'd love it. Once a person spends time here at the park, the place really starts to grow on them. So if you're seeking fresh inspiration from the same old same old, please consider joining our group. Devil's Lake is a great place to rally around.

Todd Persche, President
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The last of the Friends of Devil's Lake State Park "Music in the Park" Series featured the No Name String Band out of Madison. The event was well attending on a beautiful (if a bit breezy) Sunday evening in August. Other bands featured included the grassroots folks band Graminy and local favorites The Swing Crew

Devil's Lake State Park Events & Activities

Photo Hike

Saturday, October 11,

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Join us for a photography hike and workshop during peak fall color in the Baraboo Hills! Photographer Derrick Mayoeth of Skillet Creek Media will lead you on a learning experience to some of the most beautiful locations on Devil's Lake State Park's East Bluff for creating wonderful color images.

Bring your cameras and your questions! We'll talk about manual camera controls, lighting, composition, and being flexible to get the most from your environment and weather conditions. Expect to spend at least 3 hours roaming the east bluff. It's a good idea to bring a backpack with warm clothes, sun glasses, gloves, snacks, water and any other comfort items you may need.

October weather can be unpredictable! Other suggested gear: If you have an SLR, a polarizing filter is a must! You may want to bring a tripod, your camera's manual and any other lens and filters you may wish to use. Meet at the Nature Center.

Exploration Station – GO!

Geocaching

Saturday, October 18,

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Drop by the Exploration Station to learn to geocache! We'll show you how to use a GPS and then send you off on this high-tech treasure hunt. These activities will happen outside the Nature Center.

Friends Halloween Hike

Saturday, October 25,

6:00 – 8:30 pm

Join us for lots of Halloween fun! There's a lot to do at this annual event sponsored by the Friends of Devil's Lake. You can go on a 1-mile torch lit hike; show off your costume by the campfire

while roasting a marshmallow or two and listen to the songs of Campfire Kevin; enjoy some tasty treats sold by the Friends group; and find out about Wisconsin bats! You can even make a bat to take home with you. The event is held at the Rock Elm Shelter on the park's north shore.

November 2014:

Trail Trek – Parfrey's Glen

Saturday, November 8,

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Take a nature break! We'll spend a late fall hiking Parfrey's Glen. If the stream is high, the trail can be a bit wet to walk through, so wear shoes that you don't mind getting a little soggy. Meet at the Parfrey's Glen parking lot.

Trail Trek – West Bluff

Saturday, November 15,

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Take a nature break! Travel back in time as we visit the site of what was to be Palisades Park, "the Catskills of the Midwest". Find out why this area never became a resort and visit the remaining signs of the cottages and 85-foot viewing tower. This is can be a challenging hike as we head up the bluff from the north end. Meet at the Nature Center.

Go on a Storywalk® – Goodbye Geese

Saturday, November 22,

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Try out this new, fun way to enjoy a story – go on a StoryWalk®! The pages of the book will be placed on a trail right by the Nature Center. As you stroll down the trail, you'll find the next page of the story. Drop-in anytime to read the story, but make sure to stop back inside for a fun activity to do. This month's story will be Goodbye Geese. The stories are best for kids ages 3 to 8 years old, but any age kid is welcome to join! Meet at the Nature Center.

December 2014:

Go on a Storywalk® –

The Snowy Day

Saturday, December 6,

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Try out this new, fun way to enjoy a story – go on a StoryWalk®! The pages of the book will be placed on a trail right by the Nature Center. As you stroll down the trail, you'll find the next page of the story. Drop-in anytime to read the story, but make sure to stop back inside for a fun activity to do. This month's story will be The Snowy Day. The stories are best for kids ages 3 to 8 years old, but any age kid is welcome to join! Meet at the Nature Center.

Winter Solstice Celebration

Saturday, December 20,

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Join us for a celebration of the first day of winter and the shortest day of the year. We'll have a self-guided hike, a bonfire, and fun activities to celebrate the coming of winter. Meet at the Nature Center.

First Day Hike

Saturday, January 1, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Wisconsin State Parks is once again hosting First Day Hikes on New Year's Day. These hikes offer visitors an opportunity to begin the New Year rejuvenated and connected with nature. This year at Devil's Lake, we are going to take a twilight hike/snowshoe. Dress warm and bring a flashlight and your snowshoes. We'll have snowshoes to loan as well. Meeting place to be determined.



Remembering Tom Osborne

Thomas Llewelyn Osborne, 80, of Baraboo, had a voice from heaven which uplifted sanctuaries and playhouses alike. He lived a life distinguished by service, generosity, and integrity of character.

Thomas was born in Milwaukee on November 25, 1933, to Julia (Daly) Osborne and Robert H. Osborne. In 1935, his family moved to Baraboo where he lived most of his life. He graduated from Baraboo High School in 1952 and served two years active duty in the U.S. Army, stationed at Fort Shafter U.S. Army Headquarters Pacific in the Military Police Corps, followed by four years in the Army Reserves and an honorable discharge. Tom met Jane Ilene Kulseth while he was stationed in the Pacific and they were married shortly after in the Episcopal Church in Honolulu, Hawaii on March 23, 1957.

After his military service, Tom attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison; he joined the Theta Chi Fraternity and graduated with a bachelor of arts in business administration in 1959. He then embarked upon a successful 40-year career in the insurance industry, teaching, working in claims adjustment and as branch manager for Zurich American and in insurance sales for National Union Insurance Company, both in Sacramento, California, and as a partner in Lange, Wilkinson, Osborne Insurance Company in Baraboo.

Upon retirement from the insurance industry, Tom co-managed the Devil's Lake concessions for seven years with his wife, Janie. The Devil's Lake Concession Corporation took over concessions at the park in 1949, becoming the first such organization to partner with the state parks.

Thomas chose to live in a small town, but in doing so he lived a large life full of love, art, duty, and family. His presence offered a greater stage for the talents of his fellow community members. He adored Devil's Lake, but also traveled to much of the United States, Western Europe, and Canada. History fascinated him; natural landscapes awed him; dogs cheered him.

Thomas bore his illness with humor and grace. He died peacefully with his family present, and they, his many friends and the Friends of Devil's Lake State Park will miss him tremendously.

Memberships Due!

Please take a moment to check your address label affixed to the back of this newsletter. Along the top edge (just above your name) you will see a year listed. This is the year that your Friends of Devil's Lake State Park membership expires.

If this date is 2014 or earlier your membership will expire with this issue and you must renew in order to keep receiving these newsletters and enjoying other membership benefits.

We truly appreciate your ongoing support. Please renew your membership to Friends of Devil's Lake State Park today using the membership form on the back page. We have added some new member benefits to offer (see form) plus keeping your membership current ensures that you will continue to receive this newsletter with exclusive content that you will not find included on our website (www.devillakefriends.org) or facebook page.

How about giving a gift membership?

What better way to share your love of Devil's Lake State Park with family and friends near and far than giving them a membership to FODLSP? Sign them up today and we will make sure they receive a postcard notifying them of your gift in time for the upcoming holidays!

Please consider an additional gift!

FODLSP always welcomes your additional gift to help us fund Park projects and special events. You can specify your gift go to things like trail maintenance, the Nature Center or youth programs, or you can leave it up to the FODLSP Board of Directors to determine the area of greatest need.

Friends of Devil's Lake State Park is a 501(c)(3) organization, so your additional contribution may tax-deductible (consult your tax preparer).

Stay Up-to-Date!

There is always something going on at Devil's Lake State Park! For the latest schedule of events, news and information, please like us on facebook or visit www.devillakefriends.org Not online? You can always call us at **608.356.8301** or stop by the Nature Center or Park Office.



A Busy, Yet Rewarding Summer

It's a chilly September morning as I sit up at the Nature Center going over the statistics from this summer. And what a busy summer it was! The staff and I presented over 320 programs and had over 6,300 people attend the offered programs. We also had over 13,200 people visit the nature center, which is up by 600 people compared to last year. It was great to see so many people wanting to go explore the natural world with us.

Of all these people who come to the programs or who visit the Nature Center, you never really know how it affects them. Some people tell you, like at the bat programs I've done. Many times I have people who are terrified of bats and tell you they came "for their kids". These are the people that, as the program goes on, are the ones standing right underneath the bat house telling you what a wonderful experience they are having. If we're lucky, we'll get an e-mail or letter like the one we got from a Dad who came on one of the kayak tours. He and his daughter didn't make it far; his daughter was struggling to move her kayak through the choppy water we had that day. Because of this we had one of the volunteers, who helped on the tour, take them back to shore as the rest of the tour continued on. You wouldn't think that this family would have had a good experience at all, but here's what the Dad sent me in an e-mail:

"Please let the volunteer that paddled my family back know how appreciative and grateful we are for all the courage, words of wisdom, and compassion he shared with Amber [the daughter]."

He truly comforted Amber back to shore and turned a potentially bad experience into one that we will definitely come back to someday conquer. One thought that stands out during the paddle back was when the volunteer told Amber 'knowing when you've had enough, can't do something and saying something about it is a huge quality to have'. Amber and I will forever remember that moment. Amber learning a life lesson and I, as a father, humbled for not remembering it. So, if you get bogged down with "life" out of the water, know that your kayak tour does so much more, at least a family in Chicago. It is so hard to put into words how thankful we are and how much I would like to extend thanks to your volunteers and your tour."

I have to say, this was a great email to receive in the middle of August when we were all tired and getting a little burnt out from our busy summer. It makes you realized that in all the programs we do, we never know just how that event or moment will touch someone. It always makes me realize why I do what I do because being outside—hiking, kayaking, biking—can be a powerful experience for people. We all need moments like these to remember why outdoor places are important and why we need to give people these chances to experience it.

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Annual Meeting

The 2014 meeting of the Friends of Devil's Lake State Park, held at the Chateau on September 27th was well attended. The Garden Party Restaurant provided the food and local historian Dr. Robert Dewel offered an interesting program on the Warner Memorial Highway—constructed in 1921 as the first concrete highway in Wisconsin that connected the City of Baraboo to Devil's Lake State Park (now HWY 123). The stone columns near Baraboo Tent and Awning and at the entrance of the Park that marked the route still survive.

Melissa Hage and Susan Miller were also inducted as our newest board members, filling the very large shoes of Carol Fleishauer and Joan Kaul. Many thanks to Joan and Carol and welcome Melissa and Sue!



The freshly constructed, one-lane Warner Memorial Highway. Note the stone columns that still mark the entrance to Devil's Lake State Park at top center. (Photo courtesy of Sauk County Historical Society)

Earliest Depiction of Devil's Lake?

ON September third of 1766, a Massachusetts-born English explorer named Jonathan Carver set out from Fort Michilimackinac (present-day Mackinac City, Michigan) on a year-long journey to find a new route to China—the fabled Northwest Passage. He was sent by the fort's commanding officer and governor of the territory, Major Robert Rogers, who had achieved fame leading Roger's Rangers during the French and Indian War.

Carver's expedition took him and his entourage across the straits of Mackinac and westward along north shore of Lake Michigan, across the Grand Traverse to Washington Island, into the head of Green Bay, up the Fox River, across the portage, and down the Wisconsin River to Prairie du Chien before they turned upstream and followed the Mississippi River, eventually paddling as far as the Falls of St. Anthony in present-day Minneapolis.

Countless Native Americans, French/Canadian voyageurs, traders and missionaries had been traveling this same route for centuries, but what made Carver's trip unique was that he was surveyor and mapmaker by trade. Using only a compass, a sextant, plus his own observations and intuitions Carver kept meticulous notes and a detailed survey journal during his expedition.

Unfortunately, Carver's expedition had not been officially authorized and the British government refused to reimburse his expenses. In order to recoup the costs associated with his adventure, Carver traveled to England and, in 1778, he published a book detailing his explorations. "Travels Through the Interior Parts of America..." was a smash hit and went through more than 30 printings in several languages (it is still in print today).

Of particular interest to us is the map that was bound into the first editions of Carver's *Travels*. Using his survey journal for reference, he created one of the earliest detailed and surprisingly accurate maps of the Fox/Wisconsin watershed to accompany his book.

In the text of the book, Carver skips over the journey from the Portage to the "town of the Sawgies" (Sauk City), but in his survey journal the entry for October 13th, 1766—248 years ago this month—states: "In the Ouifconfin River. [Eight miles below the portage] comes in a small river from NW."

This is one of the earliest known written references to the Baraboo River, and Carver included it on his map. He correctly indicates the river's course flowing in from the northwest, but what is most interesting is that he drew a small lake as the source of the Baraboo River—a lake that is approximately located where Devil's Lake is situated.

At its closest point the Baraboo River comes within one-and-one-half miles of Devil's Lake (south of Baraboo near Kessler Road) and could very easily be mistaken as the headwaters of the Baraboo River watershed.

Was Jonathan Carver guessing about the Baraboo River's origins? Did someone among his party know of Devil's Lake? Could Carver himself have visited it?

After noting the location of the Baraboo River, Carver writes that he arrived at the Sauk village "the next day." It is only 28 miles from the Portage to Prairie du Sac by river. Even by simply drifting along with the current at a leisurely pace the trip can be completed in just six hours—surely there would have been ample time for him to have explored the Baraboo Hills?

Possibly! Carver himself wrote in his journal:

"Whilst I staid [at the Sauk Village], I took a view of some mountains that lie about 15 miles to the southward, and abound in lead ore. I ascended one of the highest of these, and had an extensive view of the country."

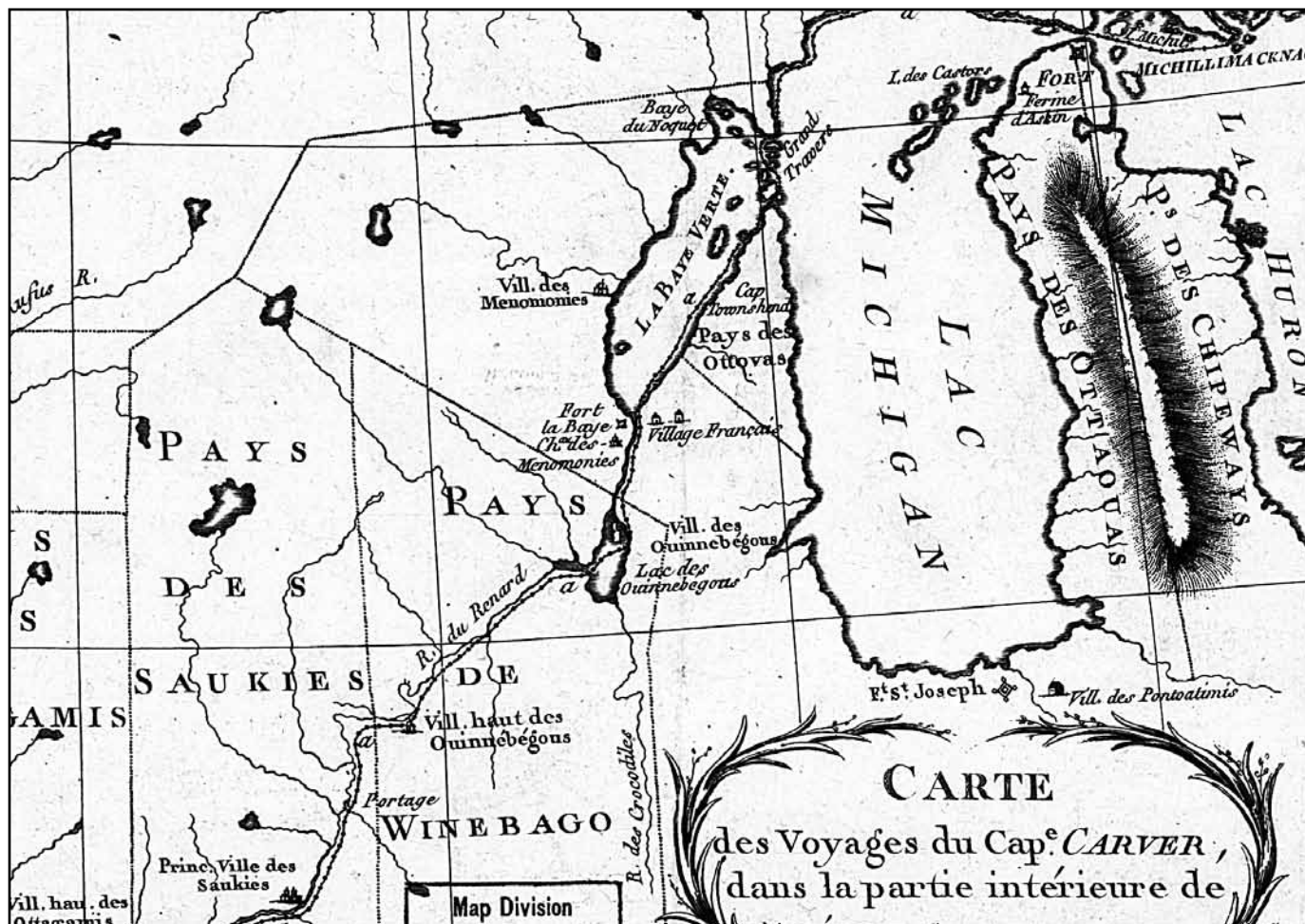
Carver may have explored the South Bluff above the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant in order to "take a view of some mountains"—the south bluff is only a few miles above where the Sauk village stood. However, it is more likely that he scaled Ferry Bluff, which stands several miles south of Sauk City. If he had climbed the south bluff and chanced across Devil's Lake he almost certainly would have written of the crystal clear lake surrounded by high bluffs strewn with huge boulders.

How else might Carver have known of the small lake he shows on his map?

A man named Stanley Goddard was to have accompanied Carver's expedition, but Carver departed ahead of schedule. Goddard followed about ten days behind, and made the following entry in his own journal:

"Two leagues [12 miles] distant from the carrying place, in the west side, is a small river called River de Barboux, so called from a Frenchman of that name, wintering in it many years ago: the Indians frequently go up this river to their winter hunting, in which they make a tolerable hunt, having plenty of deer, bears, raccoons, beaver &ca."

Goddard offers us a bit more detail about the Baraboo River (and is the first to record an early version of its modern name), but he says nothing of its possible



Detail from a French copy of Jonathan Carver's map showing Michilimackinac (at upper right) and what is probably meant to represent Devil's Lake (lower left) just west of Portage and northeast of the Sauk village. (Library of Congress map division #G3301.A851767)

source or of Devil's Lake. It is almost certain that Goddard gleaned his information on the name of Baraboo River and its popularity as a hunting place from the French Canadian voyageurs that comprised his party. It is likely that Carver received similar information from his own engagés—voyageurs had certainly been travelling and trading in the area for one hundred years before Carver and for well after him as well.

John T. de La Ronde is usually credited as the first non-Native American to describe Devil's Lake. In his memoir de La Ronde recalls that in mid-July of 1832:

"I went and saw Devil's Lake, which is a little south of the village of Baraboo. The lake is surrounded by high bluffs; and I could not see the sun till about 10 or 11 o'clock in the forenoon, and it would disappear about two or three o'clock, so hemmed in by bluffs is this romantic body of water. The Indians gave it the name of Holy water, declaring that there is a spirit or Manitou that resides there. ... The French voyageurs denominated it the Devil's Lake, from the sound

resembling hammering, and tinkling of a bell, that we hear all the time, and from the darkness of the place."

We can never be 100% certain that Carver's map does indeed show the earliest depiction of Devil's Lake—it may just be a coincidence as he shows the origins of several rivers as lakes. However, if we trust de La Ronde's statement that voyageurs had already named Devil's Lake before he was "the first" to visit it in 1832, we might also assume that one or more of the voyageurs among Carver's entourage had prior knowledge of it.

Perhaps as Carver and his party paddled past the mouth of the Baraboo River in October of 1766, he turned to his voyageur engagés and asked "what's up that river?" One of them may have responded "oh, *mon ami*, there is a pretty little lake up there tucked among those hills" (with an outrageous French accent, of course)!

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Friends



of Devil's Lake
State Park

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If you would like to contribute a story, photograph, poem or artwork relating to Devil's Lake State Park, please contact the editor, Mark Tully at 608.356.1836 or info@ballindalloch-press.com

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Friends of Devil's Lake State Park Membership Categories & Benefits

One Year Membership - \$20

- Subscription to *Friends of Devil's Lake State Park Advocate* newsletter

Three Year Membership - \$55

- Subscription to *Friends of Devil's Lake State Park Advocate* newsletter
- *Friends of Devil's Lake State Park* decal

One-year Explorer Membership - \$100

- Subscription to *Friends of Devil's Lake State Park Advocate* newsletter
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- Annual Wisconsin State Parks admission sticker

NEW: All memberships also receive a 10% discount on food and boat rentals at Devil's Lake State Park concessions (some exclusions apply).

I am renewing my current membership.

This is a new membership with Friends of Devil's Lake State Park.

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