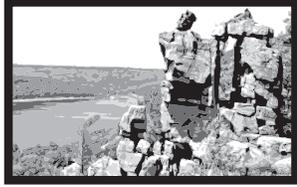

Friends



of Devil's Lake
State Park

Advocate

Volume 20 Number 4

Fall 2016

Change is Good!

Dear Friends, As I write this letter to you, it is just a week before our Friends of Devil's Lake Annual meeting where the announcement will be made that the board has resolved to make some changes. In late August, the board received the resignation of our Treasurer, Nic Tarczynski. Our gratitude is extended to Nic Tarczynski who is leaving to pursue added responsibilities in his profession as well as a new business venture. Upon receiving his resignation, the board agreed that the timing was appropriate to create a Financial Sub-Committee. Along with the formation of that sub-committee, we have determined that some changes in board positions would be advantageous to our mission. This resolution was drafted and unanimously approved where Jackie Murphy, a five-year board member, will be taking over as President. Doug Hemken, a member of the board for four years will step in as Vice-President, and I will take the position of Treasurer. As an accountant by trade, I am happy to help the organization in this new position and I regret that I am unable to continue on as President. Jackie has been faithful supporter of Devil's Lake State Park and the Friends organization for many years and is well-suited to direct her passion for the park as head of the board.

This new Financial Sub-Committee (of which I will be a part) will work closely with park staff, its consultants, and benefactors to review budgets, coordinate use of existing funds, and begin to raise

money for the planned Ice Age Interpretive Center. As a committee, we will be able to streamline some of the work that the entire board has been doing. That work includes audits of accounting records within our fiscal year, budgeting to meet the needs of the park, staff, and growth of membership, as well as management of incoming funds through grants to best serve Devil's Lake State Park. As funds grow through memorials, restricted and general donations, memberships, and specified grants support, we will carefully monitor financial activity to address all of the requests for park maintenance, Nature Center exploration activities and visitor engagement, and support other needs by project. The result of these changes is the ability of the board to examine the needs of the organization where challenges and opportunities will be matched with clear goals for the park.

As we celebrate our 20th anniversary in 2016 and embark on a new fiscal year, I encourage you to take a part of this journey with us – to contribute to the legacy of the Friends of Devil's Lake State Park spirit, support, and service. It has been my pleasure to interact with park staff and visitors, our community, and all who support the park. Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve!

Sandy Snow, Outgoing President
snowsis3@yahoo.com

1



First snow at the Roznos Meadow trail head.

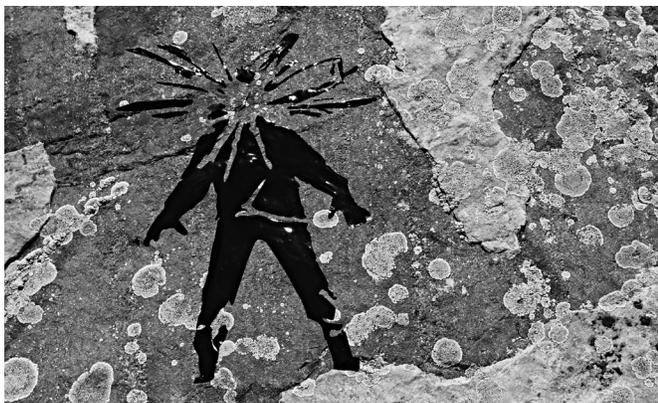
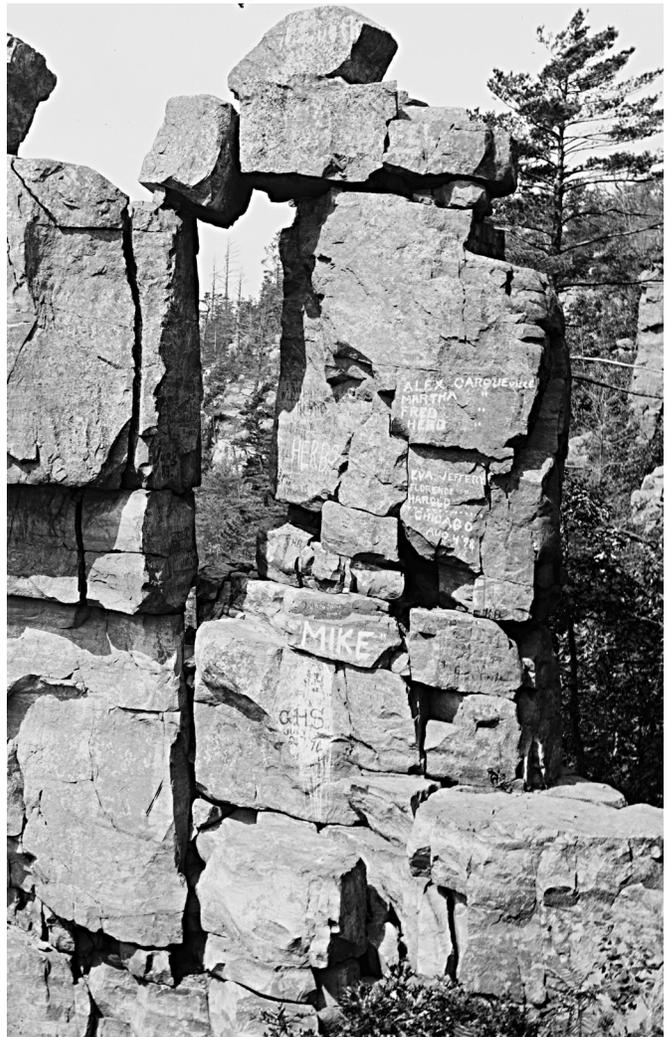
Graffiti

There have been several recent news stories on graffiti vandalism at Devil's Lake—most recently the identification and arrest of the individual who painted sinister slogans on park signage and the iconic pillars that marked the entrance to the Park from the old Warner road. In recent years there has been a fair amount of graffiti on the billion year old quartzite talus fields and rock formations as well.

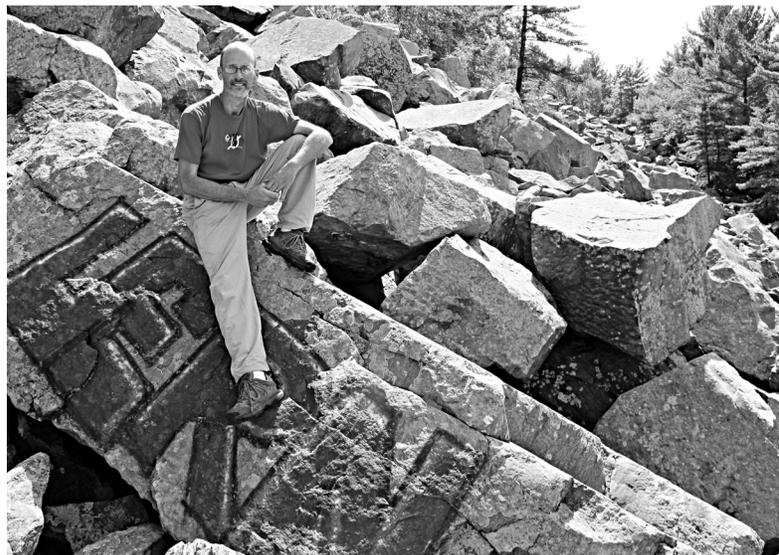
Unfortunately, graffiti has been a problem at Devil's Lake since even before it was a state park. In this detail from an 1898 image preserved in the Library of Congress (at right), for example, just about every reachable surface of Devil's Doorway is covered in various names and dates. Presumably this graffiti was made with chalk or whitewash or some other non-durable paint, as it has mostly weathered away over the past 100+ years.

Under the direction of Friends of Devil's Lake State Park board member Doug Hemken, the Chicago Mountaineering Club and other groups have been making great progress in cleaning up much of the graffiti. Doug notes that "Removing graffiti from the rocks requires solvents, elbow grease, and hauling many gallons of water up the trails and over the talus fields. Because many vandals do their deeds in locations where they will not be caught in the act, it can be rough work just getting our graffiti removal supplies to site. We spray on solvent, and use wire brushes to break up the paint and work the solvent in. After 15-20 minutes, we hose off the solvent and paint with a stream of water and a hand pump (these tools are ordinarily used to control managed fires). Depending on the paint, it may take several rounds of this treatment to get the rocks clean."

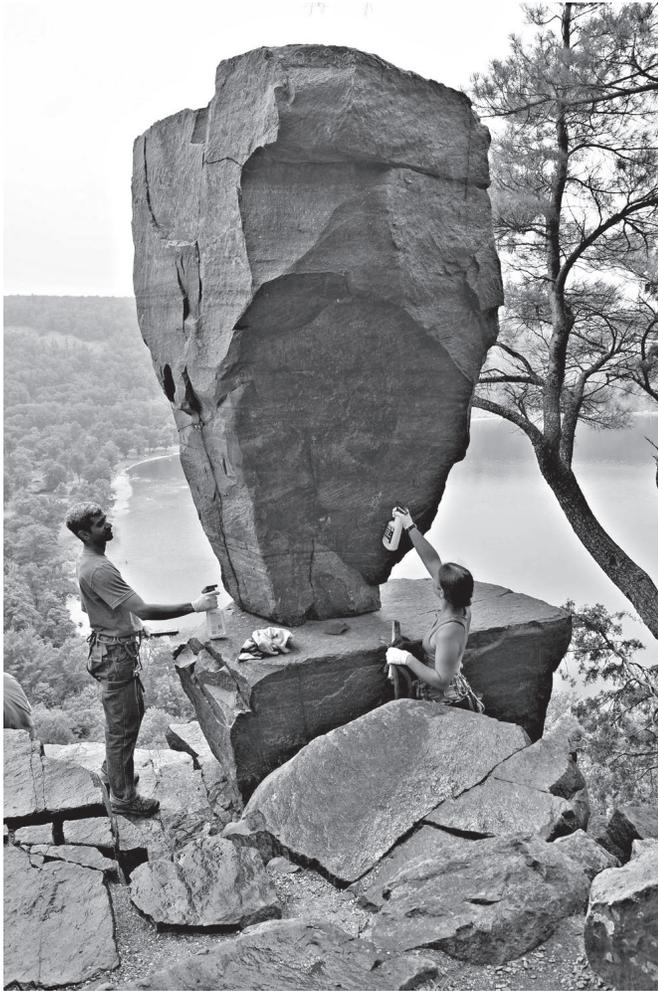
2



Most vandals use spray paint, but some graffiti is easier to remove. This one in the talus below Tomabawk rock is made of black plastic tape and was easily removed by picking at it with a fingernail.



Doug Hemken sits atop the graffiti created by "Fobaone" (see image at right). It was first spotted by Andy Haffele, a ranger at Devil's Lake State Park, in a photo published to Instagram. It was removed in December of 2012 by the Hooper Mountaineering Club. Unfortunately, removing the paint can also mean the lichens are washed away, leaving a conspicuous "bald spot" among the talus.



Gokul Gopal and Angela Limbach, scrubbing graffiti off of one of the Park's most iconic landmarks; Balanced Rock



This man, nicknamed "Fobaone", posted photos of himself defacing rocks in the talus field on social media (see the finished graffiti - which has since been removed—at left)

Annual Halloween Hike

Join us again this year for lots of spooky Halloween fun! There's a lot to do at this annual event sponsored by the Friends of Devil's Lake. Go on a one-mile torch lit hike and show off your Halloween costume by the campfire while roasting a marshmallow or two. Campfire Kevin will be performing his diverse, family-friendly variety of rock and roll, folk, and traditional sing-alongs, plus he will likely sing a few Halloween-themed songs. You can also enjoy some tasty refreshments sold by the Friends group as part of their ongoing fundraising efforts to support the park. Devil's Lake State Park Naturalist, Sue Johansen, will be on hand to tell us all about about owls, and you can even make an owl to take home with you.

The event will be held at Chateau (North Shore Concessions). For more information, contact:

Sue Johansen, Naturalist

Phone: (608)356-8301 ext. 140

SusanA.Johansen@wisconsin.gov

**Friends of Devil's Lake State
Park Halloween Hike
Saturday, October 22, 2016
6:00 – 8:30 pm**



For a complete listing of events, visit:
www.devilslakefriends.org/events
or call the Nature Center at (608)356-8301 ext. 140

Forgotten Formations: Cleopatra's Needle

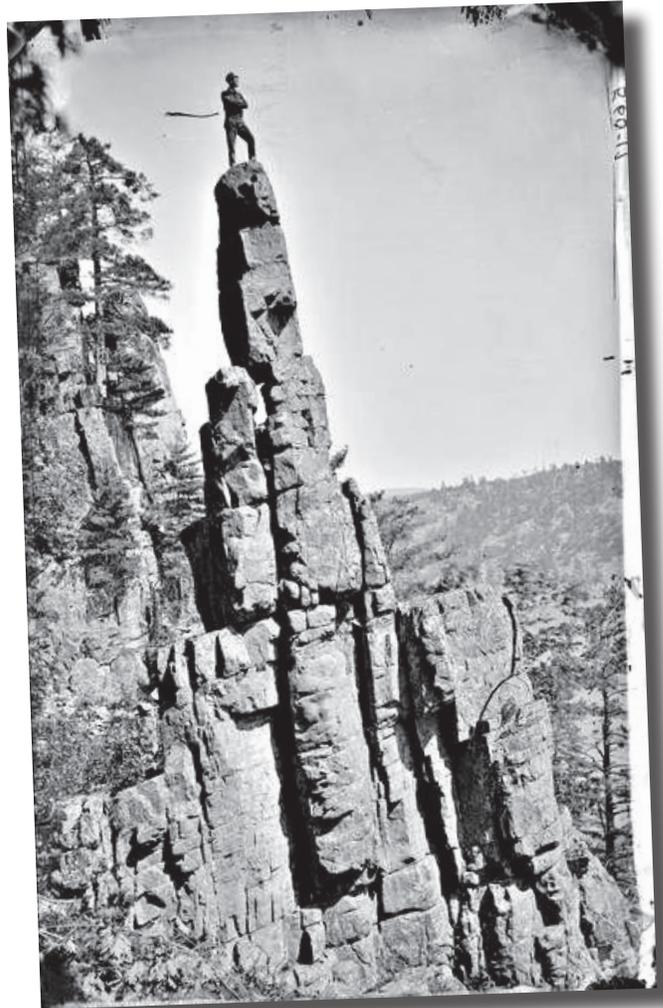
Mark Tully, Editor and Publisher
bananaboat@centurytel.net

First, a word or two on how our formations, forgotten and otherwise, were created. In their 1900 work *The Geography of the Region About Devil's Lake and the Dalles of the Wisconsin, with Some Notes on its Surface Geology*, Salisbury and Atwood wrote:

“On the bluffs at Devil's lake there are many minor features which are sure to attract the attention of visitors. Such are ‘Cleopatra's Needle’, ‘Turk's Head’, and the ‘Devil's Doorway.’ These particular forms have resulted from the peculiar weathering of the quartzite. The rock is affected by several systems of vertical or nearly vertical joint planes (cracks), which divide the whole formation into a series of vertical columns. There are also horizontal and oblique planes of cleavage dividing the columns, so that the great quartzite pile may be said to be made up of a series of blocks, which are generally in contact with one another. The isolated pillars and columns which have received special names have been left as they now stand by the falling away of the blocks which once surrounded them. They themselves must soon follow. The great talus slopes at the base of the bluffs, such as those on the west side of the lake and on the East bluff near its southeast corner, are silent witnesses of the extent to which this process has already gone. The blocks of rock of which they are composed have been loosened by freezing water, by the roots of trees, and by expansion and contraction due to changing temperature, and have fallen from their former positions to those they now occupy. Their descent, effected by gravity directly, is, it will be noted, the first step in their journey to the sea, the final resting place of all products of land degradation.”

As mentioned by Salisbury and Atwood, in the early days of Devil's Lake State Park, Cleopatra's needle was a well known formation. Henry Elsworth Cole also mentions this formation in his early descriptions of the Park, and it was once a popular hiking destination and picnicking spot and was featured on postcards in the 1930s (see example at upper far right).

This formation certainly gets its name from its tall, needle-like shape and the distinctive “eye” located about three quarters of the way up. However, right about the time Devil's Lake was becoming a popular tourist destination in the 19th century, three stone obelisks, dating from around 1400-1200 BC were removed from

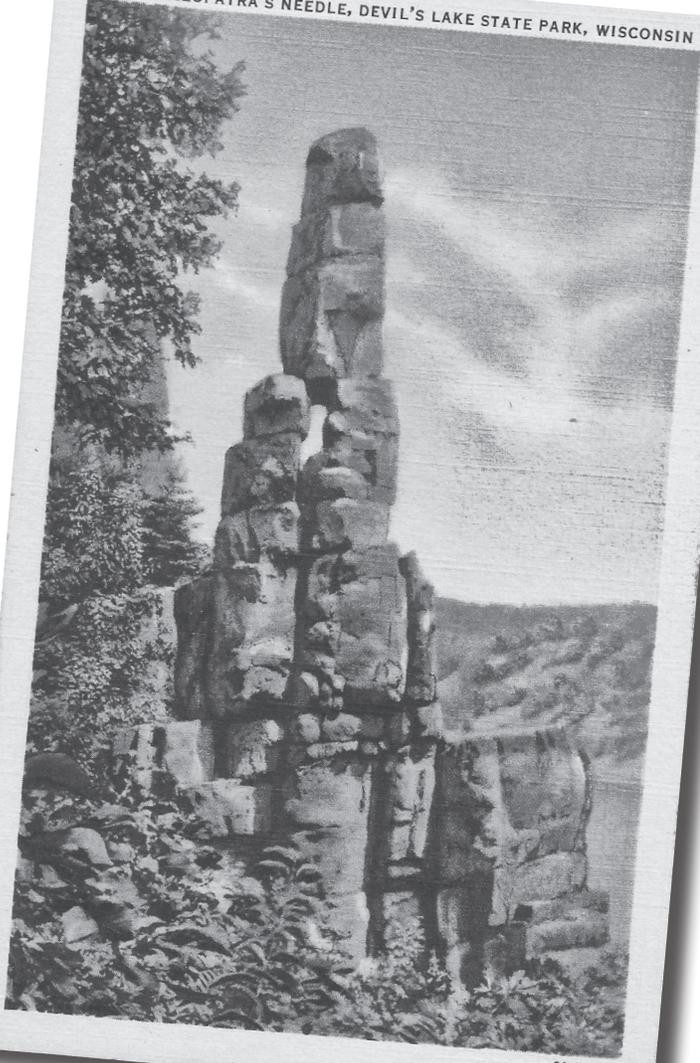


It took some effort (and quite a bit of nerve) for this man to climb up on Cleopatra's Needle and hold still for the camera in this c. 1900 image. There is not a lot of room on top and it is a long way down!

Egypt and erected in Paris, London, and New York City. Each was known as Cleopatra's needle, even though they were carved well before the reign of Cleopatra (51 BC-30 BC). The relocation of these ancient landmarks was all over the newspapers of the day and likely contributed to the naming of this distinctive local rock formation.

Today, Cleopatra's Needle is well known by rock climbers, but unless you know where it is it can be difficult for the casual day tripper or hiker to see as it is mostly obscured by trees. It can be glimpsed from above by following the west bluff trail up from the south end of the lake and taking the first well-worn access trail leading towards the lake to your right.

4808 CLEOPATRA'S NEEDLE, DEVIL'S LAKE STATE PARK, WISCONSIN



3A-H890



London's Cleopatra's Needle (above), located along the Embankment on London's West End (more-or-less across from the London Eye) is remarkably well-preserved considering it is over 3,000 years old and constantly exposed to the corrosive exhaust fumes from a major thoroughfare.

An Autumn Poem

The moon is full, the autumn nights grow longer,
In the forests, startled crows cry out.
Still high overhead, the star river stretches,
The Dipper's handle set to southwest.
The cold cricket grieves deep in the chambers,
Of the notes of sweet birds, none remain.
Then one evening gusts of autumn come,
One who sleeps alone thinks fondly on thick quilts.
Past loves are a thousand miles farther each day,
Blocked from my drifting and my sinking.
Man's life is not as the grass and trees;
Still the season's changes can stir the heart.

Wei Ying Wu

5

Year-End Giving

AS 2016 comes to a close, please consider a year-end gift to the Friends of Devil's Lake State Park. Tax-deductible donations are welcome year-round and can be designated for special projects like Nature Center programs, trail or memorial bench maintenance, picnic table or building painting and repairs, scholarships, graffiti removal (see article on opposite page) or given towards general operations of the park.

If you are interested in making a year-end gift, add it to the membership renewal form on the back page of this issue, or contact the Friends of Devil's Lake State Park Treasurer:

Sandy Snow
(608) 844-9545
snowsis3@yahoo.com

Ice Age Trail Interpretive Center

At the Friends of Devil's Lake State Park annual meeting on September 25th we were treated to a presentation by Sarah Kotnik that detailed her concept for the Ice Age Interpretive Center. Ms. Kotnik had undertaken this proposal as her Senior Capstone Project as a part of her Landscape Architecture degree requirement at UW Madison. Sarah's project was to site a new Interpretive Center at Devil's Lake and provide some preliminary design concepts. She provided us with extensive background work she had done on visitation trends, visitor flow and traffic patterns within the park that she considered when choosing a site for the Center.

Sarah's proposed site for the Ice Age Interpretive Center would be in the picnic area northeast of the railroad tracks and adjacent to (but keeping a respectful distance from) the Bear Mound. Some features that Sarah discussed were large windows that offered panoramic vistas of Devil's Lake, exhibit space that would tell the story of the glaciers that formed Devil's Lake, an artificial climbing wall in the shape of Devil's Doorway so young people could safely try their climbing skills, both indoor and outdoor areas for educational programming and other enhancements to the visitor experience, and an underground parking area with a green roof comprised of prairie plantings.

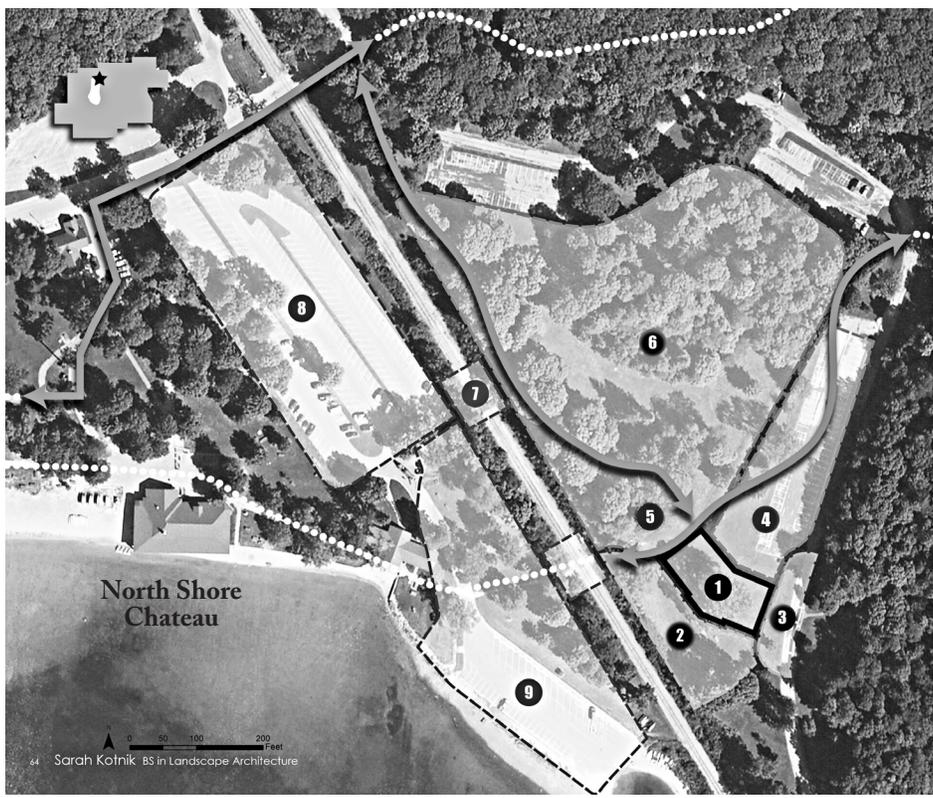
The members in attendance asked Sarah several questions mostly concerned with congestion that would result from adding an additional tourist destination to the North Shore. Sarah repeated numerous times that her presentation was conceptual — an example of the possibilities for a modern Ice Age Interpretive Center—and that no formal site assessments, architectural studies or cost analysis had been done as those were not requirements of her project.

Part of Sarah's proposal involved reducing the parking area by the North shore boat landing and reclaiming much of that shoreline to provide a more natural ecosystem that would enhance views from the Ice Age Interpretive Center. This also raised some concerns as the North shore parking lots regularly overflow on summer weekends. Several members felt that removing parking spaces would limit lake access and make the parking problem worse.

Overall, Sarah's presentation was a very thorough, professional, thoughtful, well-researched and nicely designed concept proposal.



6



(Left) Sarah's plan of the proposed site. The Ice Age Interpretive Center itself would be sited at (1). A large area (6) would be outdoor activity space much as it is today. The current picnic area (2) would be relandscaped with a fire pit and outdoor gathering spaces. The current parking area (4) would feature underground parking in place of existing surface parking and would be planted over as prairie. Part of the north shore boat launch and parking lot (9) would be reclaimed as natural shoreline.

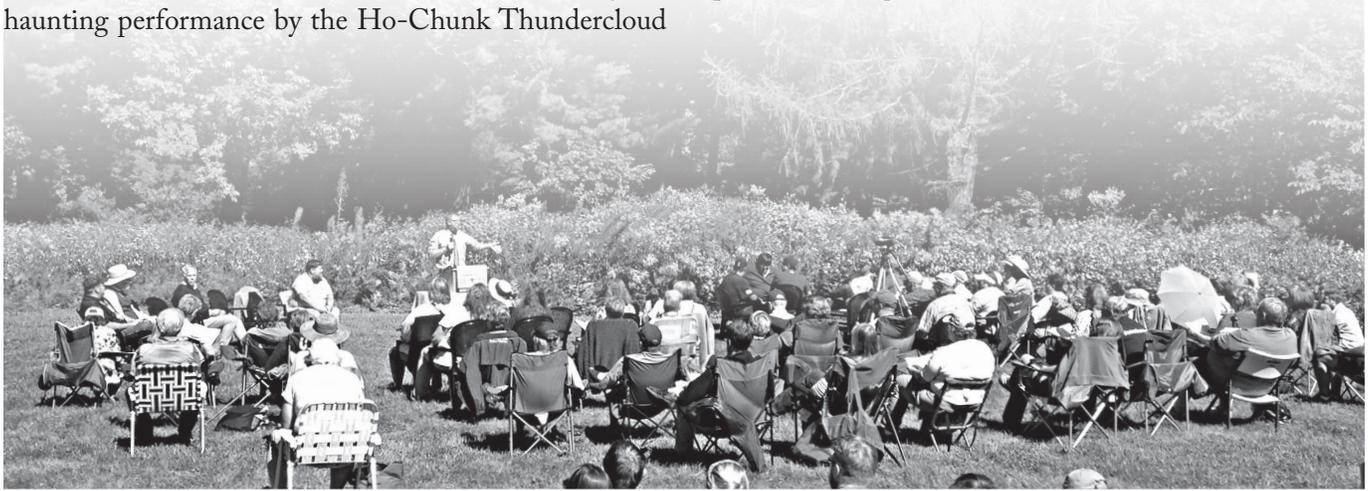
Bird Mound Ceremony

Last Sunday, September 11, 2016 around 100 people attended the centennial commemoration of the placing of the marker at the bird mound at the southeast corner of Devil's Lake. The program began with a brief introduction on effigy mounds by George Christiansen, Director of the Center for Wisconsin Archeology at UW-Baraboo/Sauk County. Although linear and conical mounds can be found all over North America, effigy mounds are exclusive to the driftless area of Wisconsin, northeastern Iowa and southeastern Minnesota.

Christiansen's comments were followed by an haunting performance by the Ho-Chunk Thundercloud

Singers. Todd Leibman, President of the Sauk County Historical Society and Kurt Sampson, President of the Wisconsin Archeological Society also spoke on the importance of preserving of effigy mounds.

One of the more interesting comments came from Carlyle Greendeer, Executive Director of the Ho-Chunk Nation's Heritage Preservation Department, spoke on the spiritual connection mounds like the bird mound have in connecting all inhabitants of earth to nature. Retired Devil's Lake State Park Naturalist, Ken Lange echoed these sentiments in saying "The sun goes up and the sun goes down and the bird mound remains."



Fall Fishing Adventures



Fall can be the best time to get out and enjoy an evening paddle on Devil's Lake. On weekday evenings (like the one shown here) you can often have the whole lake to yourself, and because of reduced pressure fall fishing can be some of the best of the entire year. You will find smallmouth bass actively patrolling along the north shore near the boat landing and along the rocks in the southeast bay near the old Kirkland boat landing. Fat bluegills are hiding in the weed beds about 30 yards out from the north shore boat landing parking lot. Northern Pike tend to lurk near the mouth of Messenger Creek, and green sunfish and rock bass are plentiful along the tumbled rocks trail and all along south shore road. Be sure to pay attention to fishing seasons and the minimum size and bag limits posted near the boat landings!

Friends



of Devil's Lake
State Park

P.O. Box 209
Baraboo WI 53913

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BARABOO, WI
PERMIT 131

Contact Us

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 bananaboat@centurytel.net

Membership paid through year shown on label

Two large empty brackets, one on the left and one on the right, intended for a membership year label.

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

Student Membership - \$10

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

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

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.

_____ Student Membership (\$10)

_____ Three Year Membership (\$55)

_____ One Year Membership (\$20)

_____ Additional gift to support DLSP projects \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Total Enclosed \$ _____

GIFT MEMBERSHIP — share your passion for Devil's Lake State Park!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Please return to: Friends of Devil's Lake State Park • P.O. Box 209 • Baraboo, WI 53913