



# Advocate

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## CHANGE IS UPON US

*President's Message*

Change is upon us. The air is cooler, the leaves are in full color, and winter will soon be knocking on our doors. This time of year is a great time to visit Devil's Lake State Park. The summer crowds are now behind us, and the major crowds at the park are flocks of turkey vultures and geese gathering to head south, and squirrels scurrying to collect their winter feasts.

Another change has occurred besides the change of seasons: Dave Barger's term as the Friends Board of Directors president has ended, and I am honored to take his place as president. These are big shoes to fill, especially with our continuing work on the future interpretive center project. However, I am up for the challenge with the support of our dedicated Board of Directors and our amazing Friends members.

I encourage our members to reach out to us if they have any questions or concerns. We can be contacted via email, our online forms, Facebook, and Instagram. We are happy to answer any questions about the park, our mission, or any other questions you may have. If we do not know the answer, we will try to find it.

I hope you are able to make it to the park during this wonderful transition into winter. There is nothing more spectacular than seeing the fall colors against the deep blue waters of Devil's Lake.

Bernadette Greenwood  
Friends of Devil's Lake President





## GREETINGS FROM THE PARK!

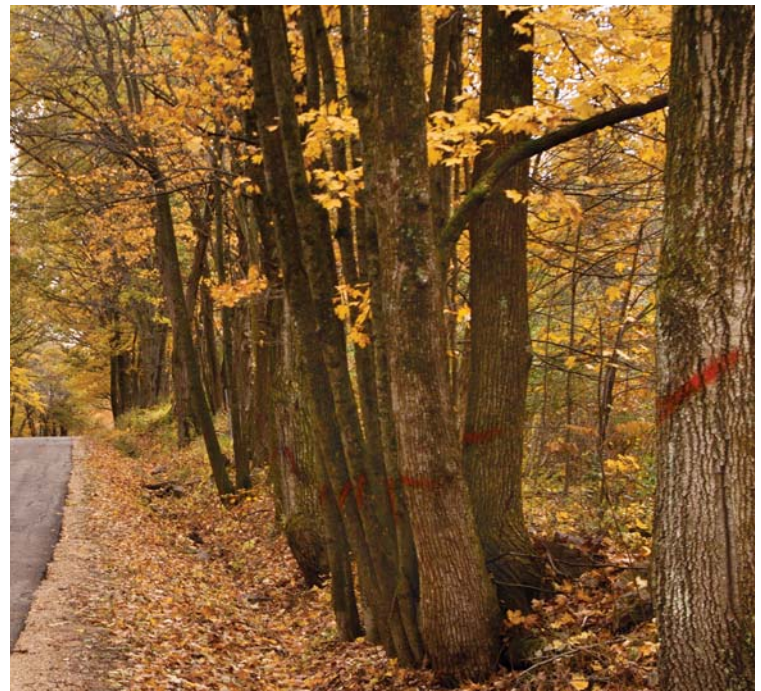
*Park Superintendent's Report*

As I look out my window today, the colors of fall are starting to take hold. We have survived another busy summer here at Devil's Lake and I always look forward to the fall and all that it brings. The long lines of summer have eased, and we have started the rhythm of shutting down some campgrounds and buildings as we prepare for the winter. Sometimes we feel like squirrels gathering the acorns and hickory nuts for the winter as we scurry about trying to get everything done before winter sets in. It is easy to get wrapped up in all we do and forget to take some time to stop and enjoy the journey. I've been blessed to be able to call the park my home for 28 seasons. I've truly enjoyed every season meeting the new visitors and connecting with ones I've known for years and getting out in the park.

I have received a few questions recently regarding the trees that are marked along South Shore Road and throughout the park. We are currently working with the Town of Baraboo to remove hazard and low-quality trees in the road right of way. The trees will be part of a timber sale and will be used for firewood and saw logs. This helps the Town of Baraboo get the work done, prevents traffic hazards and delays when they do fall, and provides a small amount of timber sale proceeds to the park. A number of these trees are also ash trees. We have confirmed Emerald Ash Borer in the park so if the remaining ash trees do not have it by now, I would expect the remaining untreated trees to get it. It eventually kills almost all varieties of ash trees and after 2-3 years they

become a big safety hazard. We also have about 300 more ash and hazard trees to take down in the campgrounds and picnic areas this fall and winter. We are down to treating about 70 high value trees in the park currently. We do plan to use some of these trees for fish cribs that will be going in this winter, a few may be cut for lumber we use for projects at the park, and the leftover will go out for firewood permits.

–Steve Schmelzer, Park Superintendent



 *Certain trees along South Shore Road have been marked in red.*



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS – ON THE AGENDA



📷 Assist WI presenting at the Annual Member Meeting 09-29-19

We held our Annual Membership Meeting during the evening of Sunday, September 29th, and our special guest for the evening was Megan Makos, Outreach Director for Assist WI. Megan spoke about all of the wonderful ways they help individuals with disabilities and their families share the wonders of our special local venues such as our beautiful natural areas and water parks.



Two board members' terms have ended (Dave Barger and Sandy Snow). We thank them both for their dedication and service to the Friends and to Devil's Lake. Although we are sorry to see Dave and Sandy go as board members, we are excited to announce their replacements. Please welcome Kristen Holm and Kurt Goeckermann! *(Continue reading to the next page.)*



The meeting this year was held at the recently renovated Red Oak Shelter (South Shore), and catered by Broadway Diner. Our President, Dave Barger opened the event, followed by Park superintendent Steve Schmelzer who gave a report on park projects that occurred this year and what will be needed for next year going forward.

**For more information about Assist WI and providing accessibility services, please visit [www.assistwi.org](http://www.assistwi.org)**



# PLEASE WELCOME KRISTEN HOLM AND KURT GOECKERMANN!

*New Board of Directors for the Friends of Devil's Lake State Park*



*By unanimous vote on September 29, 2019, Kristen and Kurt were appointed as the newest members on the Friends Board of Directors. We are honored to have you both join us!*

**Kristen Holm** is a registered nurse who has lived in the Midwest her entire adult life. She earned a BSN in Leadership and Management from Western Governors University, a BSN from UW Green Bay, and an ADN from Highland Community College. Kristen recently moved to the Baraboo area for her current position at the Veteran's Health Administration. She has two grown sons who are independent and living on their own, one of whom has blessed her with a granddaughter. Kristen enjoys the outdoors and likes to stay active. Her hobbies include hiking, crafts, and photography. She enjoys having Devil's Lake State Park in her own backyard, and visits the park often. She has been seeking volunteer opportunities in our community that match her passion. When the opportunity to be on the Board of Directors came up, she knew it would be a great fit.

**Kurt Goeckermann** has a long history with Wisconsin State Parks. His father, Kent Goeckermann, was the Manager at Copper Falls State Park near Mellen, Wisconsin for 30 plus years. Kurt's home was a log cabin right in the middle of the park. After high school he attended UW-Madison where he met his wife Cheryl and graduated with Journalism and History degrees. He followed Cheryl to medical school in Milwaukee and attended UW-Milwaukee obtaining a degree in Social Work. After a couple moves, in 1999 Kurt landed in Baraboo for Cheryl's job as a family practice doctor at Medical Associates. Kurt has been working as a social worker at the nursing facility in Lodi for 27 years and for the last few years has also been here in Baraboo at St. Clare Meadows. Kurt and Cheryl have three children, a sophomore at UW-Madison, a senior at Baraboo High School, and a 6th grader at the middle school. Kurt is currently the secretary of the Baraboo Music Support Group and coaches 6th grade basketball. The whole family loves the outdoors and vacationing, mostly in Florida with grandparents and trying to see as many national parks as possible. Kurt likes to garden, hunt/fish and enjoys going to UW athletic events. For relaxation he enjoys reading, mostly history. This summer he is occupied with a new endeavor raising chickens and helping his son John dig a large Koi pond in the yard.







## PROFOUND CHANGE

*Fall certainly is here now! The trees are finally changing to some yellows and reds, and I suspect the color season may be short this year. The weather has been fairly warm up to now, but the recent hard frost is a harbinger for change too. Darkness falls early this time of year, but come November, daylight savings time will end and make the days seem even shorter.*

Change occurs to each of us personally at certain times in our lives, and I think change is active for the Friends of Devil's Lake these days as well.

Personally, change over the past year or so has been profound for me. My parents, though in their 80s, were fairly healthy and living at home last year; this year, Mom passed away in April and we had to move Dad to an assisted living home in July due to his mental and physical deterioration. I am getting my house spruced up so I can sell it in the spring, even though my plans for where I would move are uncertain. I have been working happily at my job for years, but I expect to retire sometime next year. Lastly, I have been on the Friends board for several years and lucky to be its President for the last couple, active especially with getting the Interpretive Center going over the past year, but I will be off the board and not involved in it the coming year. Some profound changes, eh?

Likewise, I see that the Friends is making changes and will continue to make changes, big and small. Our beloved logo got a makeover and update last year, now looking better than ever. Our website last year got overhauled, updated and streamlined. Our bylaws and policies have served us well over the years, but when looking to the future, we decided to review and revise them to meet future needs.

By the way, my eternal gratitude to the board members for their hours/days/weeks of effort, passion, and achievement on these matters. And lastly, we are organizing volunteers more than ever to assist park staff to make physical improvements to the park (trail fixing, trash pickup, invasive removal), a matter near and dear to my heart that I plan to continue to be a part of. The Friends' involvement with the Interpretive Center and

other activities in the coming years will mean that changes and improvements will need to continue.

I look forward to seeing where the Friends will go in the future!

Happy Trails!

Dave Barger, Former President



 Dave (left) led the 2019 Volunteer Vacation last August



# FRIENDS' GROTTO



Photo credit: C. Newkirk



Madtown Mannish Boys, August 25, 2019

## ▶ SUBMISSIONS ARE WELCOME!

If you would like to share a photo or creative writing like a poem or a unique park experience, please make a submission to the board email [friendsofdevilslakestatepark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofdevilslakestatepark@gmail.com). We like to see Friends sharing their talent with us!

Submissions sent by the 15th of January, April, July, and October will be posted for consideration on the upcoming quarterly newsletter and/or our Facebook page at [facebook.com/friendsofdevilslake](https://facebook.com/friendsofdevilslake)

## RECAP: MUSIC IN THE PARK

*Last August, we concluded our concert series “Music in the Park” that featured Madtown Mannish Boys. We had three musical acts in total: one for every last Sunday of the summer months and coincidentally, each one hosted on a different location as their stage. Here is our little recap for each concert:*

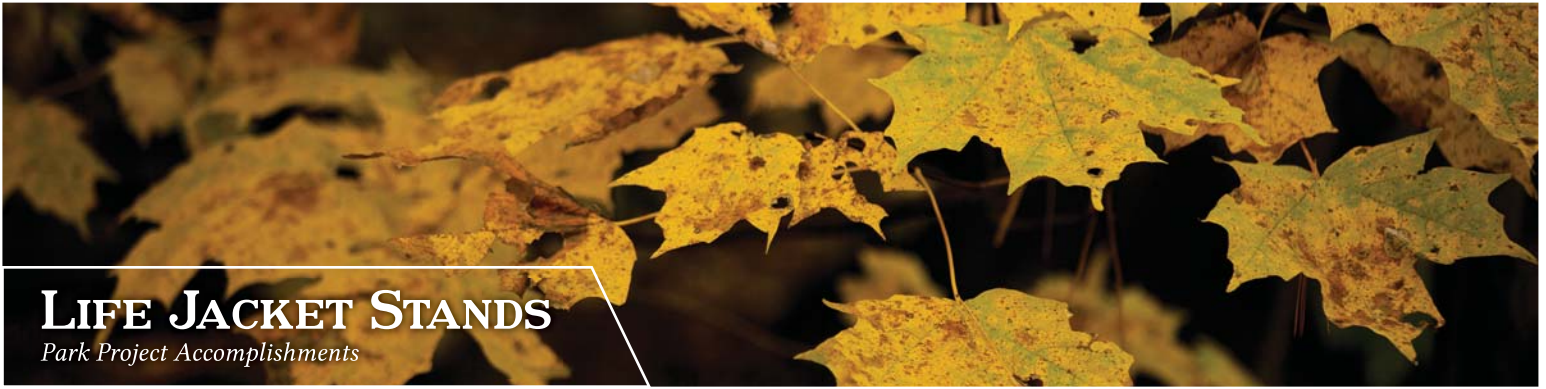
Swing Crew hosted in the Rock Elm Shelter (due to inclement weather) on Sunday, June 30th. Both the band and concert goers braved the elements and had a cozy evening of laughter and interactive acoustic music to put everyone in a good spirit. Swing Crew brought in a couple special guests to perform a couple numbers with them.

Noah John & Ringing Iron hosted in the patio area near the Chateau on Sunday, July 28th. We couldn’t have asked for a better day to host an outdoor music concert! This trio delighted concert goers and even park visitors passing through with Americana country bluegrass music.

Madtown Mannish Boys hosted in the grassy area between the North Shore parking lot and the Chateau on Sunday, August 25th. The Madtown Mannish Boys brought all shades of blues to the evening, even trading off vocals and instruments on some songs! We’re happy to see folks get up and dance along with the children.

We are thankful for all of the bands and everyone who attended this 2019 summer concert series 2019, and we are looking forward to next year’s run! Stay tuned for an announcement for music act submissions on our website and social media.





## LIFE JACKET STANDS

*Park Project Accomplishments*



Did you know that two life jacket stands were built this year at the park by a local Eagle Scout? The life jackets are loaned out to park guests for free. This life-saving project was funded by the Friends through the Heritage State Parks and Forests Trust Fund.

Please read the instructions for how to secure the life jackets, especially when putting them on children. The jackets will only be available for a little while longer before they will be stored for the winter, but these life jacket stands will be a permanent fixture at the park.



## GIFT THE GIFT OF A



## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Here's your chance to give a gift of supporting Devil's Lake State Park! Please mail this form along with your payment to:

Friends of Devil's Lake State Park  
PO Box 209  
Baraboo, WI 53913

or visit our website at [friendsofdevilslake.org](http://friendsofdevilslake.org).



Gift Recipient's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Options:

- \$30 - 1 year individual
- \$80 - 3 year discounted individual
- \$50 - 1 year family
- \$140 - 3 year discounted family

If you would like to be acknowledged to your gift recipient, please include

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_



Friends of Devil's Lake State Park  
P.O. Box 209  
Baraboo, WI 53913

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

*Membership paid through year shown on label.*

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## FRIENDS' ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Did you know the Friends of Devil's Lake State Park have Members from all parts of the US? Some Members are from states as distant as California, Florida, and Virginia! Members support and assist the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in their interpretive, scientific, historical, educational, and recreational mission at Devil's Lake State Park. We appreciate all the

support our Members provide. Not a Member? We would love for you to join us. You can also extend your membership or provide support for our programs.

We are also raising funds for a new Interpretive / Nature Center building, and we have included a section in the form below to donate directly to this project.



## FRIENDS OF DEVIL'S LAKE STATE PARK - MEMBERSHIP SPECIALS

### *Membership Options:*

- \$30 - 1 year individual
- \$80 - 3 year discounted individual
- \$50 - 1 year family
- \$140 - 3 year discounted family

### *Support for Devil's Lake:*

To jumpstart fundraising efforts for the Interpretive / Nature Center Project,  
I wish to make a donation of  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_.\_\_\_\_ to the Friends.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ *(Required for membership database -- will NOT be disclosed to any other parties)*

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_

*Please mail payments to:*

**Friends of Devil's Lake State Park, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 209  
Baraboo, WI 53913

or visit our website [friendsofdevillake.org](http://friendsofdevillake.org) to join or donate!

Memberships can be gifted too; use the back side of this form to gift a membership!