



# Advocate

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

So, we made it to fall after a very interesting summer. It seems too soon to have such cold temperatures. As I was walking through the woods a few days ago, the snow was “raining” down on the crisp leaves that were still clinging to their branches, creating a beautiful symphony of nature. I was grudgingly scrambling to “tuck in” the plants in my yard for the abrupt cold-snap last week, but the peaceful walk in the newly leaf-carpeted snowy woods, lifted my spirits. It also reminded me to keep checking for ticks. This week, between my husband and me, we have picked 3 deer ticks off ourselves. If you plan to visit the park, or go anywhere in the woods, make sure you do a tick check afterward.

We had a successful virtual annual meeting. I had no idea how it was going to work out, but we made it work. Our main attraction, Paul Wolter, Director of the Sauk County Historical Society gave us an amazing trip back in time into Devil's Lake's past. We are truly so lucky to have such a knowledgeable and dedicated person preserving our local history. We were able to have a virtual election and voted in our newest board member, Jayne Englebert. We welcome Jayne and we are looking forward to having her on our team. In order to have a new board member, we had to say good-bye to another,

Suzanne Covoloskie. Suzanne served on the board since September 2017. We appreciate her service and all of the hard work she did on the Board and at volunteer events and Friends' events such as the Halloween Hike and Candlelight Snowshoe.



📷 Suzanne Covoloskie (R) with Park Naturalist Sue Johansen-Mayo (L)

We were so happy to be able to do our second official event at/near the park this year on October 24th. The weather was cool, but there was no breeze. It was just a perfect fall day to clean up around our park. We had 17

enthusiastic, masked, socially / physically distant members and friends cleaning up garbage along DL from North Shore to HWY113, on HWY113 from DL to South Lake Road, as well as a portion of South Lake Road to the overlook. We also had a crew that picked up garbage in the park and they even provided garbage bags to some visitors who also joined in the fun on the park trails. Thank you to all our volunteers who pitched in to help make our wonderful park shine! I can't say it enough, how much we appreciate our members and friends.

Another bright spot in our fall is restarting our work on the Educational/Interpretive Center project. Thanks to an amazingly generous \$200,000 grant from the Devil's Lake Concessions Corporation (DLCC) the Friends now have the seed money necessary to hire a fundraiser and move forward with the project. The project committee

plans to meet with potential fundraising firms in November to decide which firm is the best fit for our project. We are very excited to be once again "back in the saddle", as they say. The DLCC also donated an additional \$20,000 to be added to our endowment fund. We are so grateful for the continued support of the DLCC! For updates on the project, please visit our website at [friendsofdevilslake.org](http://friendsofdevilslake.org).

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, ideas, or notice anything at the park that needs attention such as graffiti, dumping, missing signage, etc. please feel free to email us at [friendsofdevilslakestatepark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofdevilslakestatepark@gmail.com).

Thank you again for supporting the Friends!

Bernadette Greenwood  
*Friends of Devil's Lake State Park President*



## WELCOME, JAYNE ENGLEBERT!

*Meet the newest face on the Board*

I moved to the Baraboo area approximately 29 years ago to work at a local engineering firm as a hydrogeologist. I have degrees in geology from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh (BS) and the University of Minnesota-Duluth (MS). I chose hydrogeology as a career as I love to be outdoors. One of the reasons I chose to move to this area was due to the proximity to Devil's Lake, and in my free time my husband and I enjoy accessing the park for hiking, snowshoeing, and cross country skiing. I have recently retired and am looking forward to having more time to devote to working with the Friends group.



**THANK YOU TO OUR FRIENDS!**  
*Volunteer Committee - 10/24/2020*

📷 Volunteers came to pick up litter in various areas of the park. The litter we collected was later picked up for proper disposal.



# BOBCAT AT DEVIL'S LAKE

By Sue Johansen-Mayolett, Park Naturalist



📷 Critter Cam at Devil's Lake State Park • 25 MAY 2020 12:45 PM

## Bobcat or Mountain Lion?

If you are every lucky enough to see a bobcat in the wild, here's some ways to help you know if it's a bobcat or the much larger mountain lion (also known as a cougar).



📷 Critter Cam at Devil's Lake State Park • 1 JUN 2020 3:34 PM

### Size

- Bobcats are about 30 inches long and weigh between 15 to 35 pounds.
- Mountain lions are usually 52 to 54 inches long and weigh between 100 and 175 pounds.

### Tail

- Bobcats have a short bobtail that's about five inches long.
- Mountain lions have a long and cylindrical tail with a dark tip. The tail is usually 30 to 36 inches long.

### Color

- Bobcats are an orangish color and have black spots.
- Mountain lions are uniform in color and have a tawny coloration (a tan orangish-brownish color).

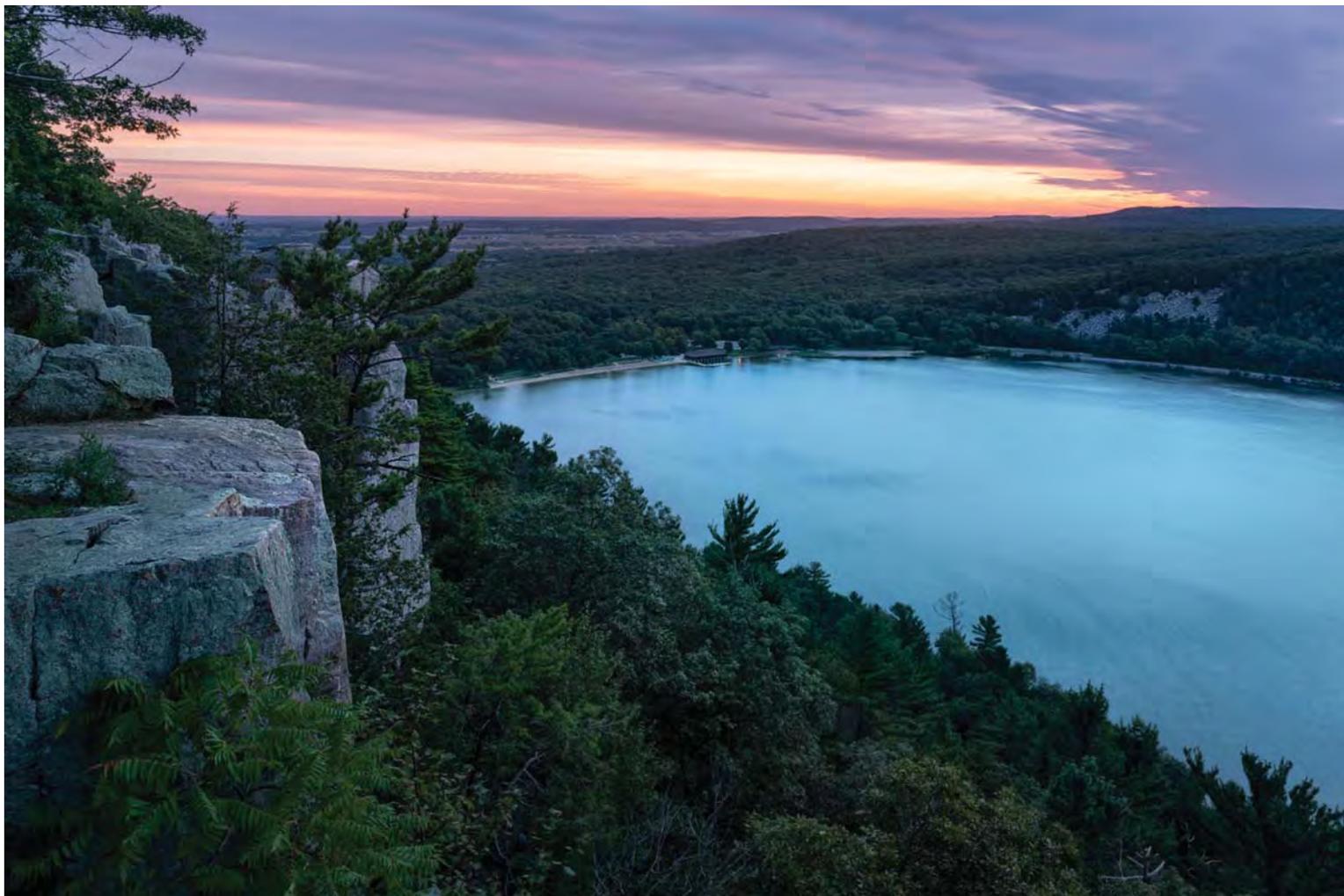
If you are every lucky enough to spot a bobcat at Devil's Lake, let Sue, the Park Naturalist, know! You can email her at [Susan.JohansenMayolett@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Susan.JohansenMayolett@wisconsin.gov). She always wants to hear and know about the movement of wildlife through the park.

## ▶ TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Thanks to the work of our board member, David Parr, the unfortunate graffiti problem on the wooden signage is being addressed. If you see graffiti at any time at the park, contact us for the details. We use trail maintenance donations to help fund supplies needed.



# FRIENDS' GROTTO | *Submissions from the Devil's Lake community*



📷 John Anderson



*Nighttime at the Northshore Chalet* • Watercolor by Ricki Bishop



📷 Jason Larson

▶ **SUBMISSIONS  
ARE WELCOME!**

*We want to showcase the talent in our community! Please send your creative work or favorite memory to the board for review at [friendsofdevilslakestatepark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofdevilslakestatepark@gmail.com).*

# GREETINGS FROM THE PARK

*Superintendent's Report*



Fall and even the first bite of winter has come quickly to Devil's Lake. Although not quite November, temperatures dipped several times into the 20's at night and there have been several days when the park has had a dusting of snow. The colder rainy weather closed out another busy season for everyone who has worked, stayed or played at the park. Through everything that has made 2020 such a stressful year for so many, getting outdoors, exercising and enjoying nature has also provided a record number of visitors an escape from the worries of the day. There will be some that want to detract or make discouraging remarks from what the increased traffic and crowds meant for our gem of a state park. What I see is meaningful admiration and attention which has come from such an influx of visitors. This park means so much for so many people that come from near and far. The depth and diversity of the visitors demonstrates the importance in outdoor recreation and support that crosses all groups.

The Wisconsin DNR also understood the importance Devil's Lake State Park this season and the staffing required for operations. The agency supported the filling of multiple positions and brought the vacancies of six down to one with the most recent filling of our Assistant Superintendent position. Staff from across the agency and from various programs volunteered to fill shifts throughout the summer so everyone could enjoy a memorable but safe experience.

As the seasons change and we head into winter I would encourage everyone to get out and enjoy Devil's Lake. Staff at the park and members of the board are continuing to explore new ways to provide recreational experiences to our visitors. Although some of our favorite and treasured events may have been canceled this year, I look forward to the future and new experiences we will be able to share together.

**Jim Carter**  
*Superintendent*

## ▶ CHARITABLE GIVING TIMES ARE A CHANGIN' IN 2020

*By Jim Greenwood*

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security or CARES Act, signed into law in late March, includes a provision that will make it easier for many taxpayers to receive at least a small tax break for charitable giving once again, something they may have not been able to do since 2018.

The CARES Act included so many components, including stimulus checks, small-business loans, and the pause on Required Minimum Distributions from IRAs and other retirement accounts for 2020, that some of the provisions related to charitable giving got lost in the shuffle! A key one is that, starting for the 2020 tax year (the return you'll file in 2021) and going forward, taxpayers who claim the standard deduction will be able to take a new above-the-line deduction for cash gifts to qualified charities (this typically means a charity that is registered as a 501(c)(3)). This means their charitable contributions up to the \$300 limit will reduce their adjusted gross incomes.

Now don't get too excited: the deduction limit is fairly small, just \$300, regardless of tax-filing status. But the above-the-line detail

helps ensure that the many taxpayers who recently may not have been able to claim a tax benefit for charitable contributions may now be able to deduct at least some of their contributions. Since the new tax laws went into effect in 2018, many fewer taxpayers have itemized their deductions. Without itemized deductions, including charitable contributions, they couldn't get credit for their charitable gifts. That appears to have had a chilling effect on charitable contributions in 2018 (it's too early to say whether that falloff in giving persisted into 2019).

If you've been claiming the standard deduction recently, you may have gotten a bit lax about saving receipts for charitable contributions. But for 2020, you have an incentive to hang on to proof of your contributions - at least up to the \$300 limit! If 2020 has been good to you despite the challenges that the Coronavirus has presented, why not remember the Friends in your year-end charitable contributions! Oh, I almost forgot, the obligatory disclaimer: this article should not be perceived as tax advice; consult your personal tax advisor for more details.



**SWEATER WEATHER**  
New Hoodies Added To Our Online Shop!

📷 Hooded sweatshirts in Heather Navy, Heather Maroon, and Heather Green



Have you visited our website lately? We have added new t-shirts (both long sleeve and short sleeve) and sweatshirts for the Fall.

To see our entire line of Friends' stickers, greeting cards, apparel, and more, visit our website, [friendsofdevilslake.org](http://friendsofdevilslake.org). You can get your holiday shopping done early!



## FRIENDS OF DEVIL'S LAKE STATE PARK – MEMBERSHIP FORM

### 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 jump-start 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Contact for Newsletters/General Information:    Email    Postal Address    (circle one)

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 [friendsofdevilslake.org](http://friendsofdevilslake.org) to join or donate!

Memberships can be gifted too; just provide the name and contact information for the recipient.



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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

*Membership paid through year shown on label.*



## **SPREAD THE WORD... *About the Friends!***

Our members are special advocates for our unique, beautiful wonder we call Devil's Lake State Park. Will you also be an advocate to help build our membership?

### ***Tell a friend the value of a Friends' Membership:***

1. Membership fees go directly toward supporting Devil's Lake State Park.
2. Members receive a quarterly newsletter, the "Advocate" by mail and/or email.

3. Members are updated first when we have news to share or for volunteer opportunities.
4. Know that members fees also go toward funding Devil's Lake State Park community events such as the Halloween Hike and Candlelight Snowshoe.
5. Friends are invited to member-only events and annual meeting.
6. Receive 10% discount on food and merchandise at Devil's Lake State Park concessions (*some exclusions may apply*).

## **GEESE SWIMMING** *Photo taken on October 11, 2020*

