



Advocate

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

 Mike A.

The Friends have been quite busy this year. We have organized eight volunteer days, held highway cleanup and Music in the Park events, began work on fundraising for the educational/interpretive center, participated in the Fair on the Square, volunteered at the Devil's Challenge Triathlon, held our first Pumpkin Carving Contest and once again sponsored and volunteered at the very well attended Halloween Hike! The Friends work hard to make our beautiful park the best that it can be.

We want to personally thank all those who have volunteered at the park during our volunteer days and at our events. Dozens of volunteers have helped at our events this year and at least 9 volunteers helped at the Devil's Challenge Triathlon. By volunteering at the triathlon, a total of \$180 was raised for the Friends. Thank you!

Since May 1st, the Friends have received \$3,989 in generous donations. Donations were received in memory of Mary Louise Sinner, Mary K. Vitek, and Roger Thomas, who all shared a love of Devil's Lake State Park and recently passed. Donation designations included \$2,163 for general support, \$390 for the educational/interpretive center, and \$125 for trail maintenance. The Friends additionally raised \$1,311 in donations at events such as Music in the Park, Fair on the Square and the Halloween Hike and Pumpkin Carving Contest. We cannot thank our

Friends members and supporters enough for helping us with our mission.

In the Spring Newsletter, we featured the Devi-Bara, and discovered a place called "Shadow Town." Shadow Town was located near the north shore exit, between the exit and the railroad tracks (Dewel, 2009). It was formed around the same time in the early 1870s when the Minniwauken House was enlarged into a new structure called the Cliff House and train service began at the park (a stop on the main line of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad which ran between Chicago and Minneapolis-St. Paul) (Lange and Berdt, 1980).

By day, resort guests could rent fishing gear and rowboats. Visitors played croquet or quoits, practiced their archery skills, swam and could even take a "day trip" to Wisconsin Dells or other local tourist spots. At that time there was a wood-fueled sidewheel steamboat called the Minniwauken that could carry 100 passengers across the lake (which replaced the Capitola steamboat that began operating at Devil's Lake in 1869). However, at night, many of the resort guests would venture to Shadow Town to listen to records played on one of the first Edison phonographs in the area. They would drink pop and eat Cracker Jack. A poem was even penned about

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Shadow Town, but only a portion of it was preserved, "...where three roads meet, and deep shadows fall, there Thompsons had to make friends glad....from that place came shadow town" (Dewel, 2009).

Baraboo and Devil's Lake have such a rich history which has been preserved by dedicated individuals like Kenneth Lange and Bob Dewel. For further information about the park's history, you can visit the Carnegie-Schadde Memorial Public Library or the Sauk County Historical Society.

I was not familiar with the game "quoits" so I had to look it up. According to Britannica, quoits is game where players toss three-pound iron rings at a stake called a hob.

The game was played in Roman-occupied Britain in the 1st through 5th centuries, and apparently in the late 1800s in Baraboo, Wisconsin! Quoits was eventually replaced by the modern-day game of horseshoes.

I hope everyone has been able to get out to see the glorious colors of fall! Stay safe, stay warm, and I will see you at the park!

Bernadette Greenwood
President

Sources: Lange, Kenneth I., and Berdt. "Devil's Lake State Park: The History of Its Establishment." Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters Vol. 68. (1980): p 149-166., and Dewel, Robert C. "Sauk County and Baraboo" Vol. I "The 1890s" (2009): p 305-387.



Just in time for your holiday shopping needs!

The Friends have stocked their shelves with new merchandise including baseball caps, trucker hats, stocking caps, and bandanas. We also have our very popular long sleeve and short sleeve t-shirts and sweatshirts and we will be stocking stainless steel water bottles in the next few weeks.

You can purchase our merchandise at the Visitor's Center at the park everyday, or online at <https://www.friendsofdevilslake.org/store>.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Volunteer Day
 Meet at Rock Elm Shelter
 November 13, 2021 • 9:00 am-12:00 pm
(Check Facebook Event page for updates)
Candlelight Snowshoe
 Meet at Rock Elm Shelter
 January 29, 2022 • 6:00 pm-8:30 pm

WELCOME BACK, DAVE!

Dave Barger was a former board member and recent board president, and he has returned to the Friends board to continue his mission to support the park and to help make the new Educational/Interpretive Center a reality. We are very happy to have Dave back on our team!





FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING 2021

Written and Photographed By Seth Taft

You could not have asked for a finer autumn evening to welcome back our annual meeting held in person! It's a time to celebrate and thank all of our friends who strive to make the park welcoming for all who come to visit and explore.

On September 26, 2021, we were delighted to have Baker Street Consulting Group address the capital campaign for the proposed Educational/Interpretive Center. Additionally, Dan Dingmann's term on the board expired. Dave Barger was unanimously voted onto the board of directors. Thank you, Dan, for your years of service on the Friends' board. Welcome back, Dave!

Moreover, we had the honor of welcoming Bill Quackenbush, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Ho-Chunk Nation, as keynote presenter. Bill provided wonderful insight into the long connection between Indigenous People and the landscape of "Te Wakacak" (meaning "Spirit Lake") and "Maa Wakacak" ("Sacred Earth"). Thank you, Bill, for an engaging presentation on the Ho-Chunk Nation!



Bill Quackenbush, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Ho-Chunk Nation



Spirit the Crane

An additional note from the Friends:

Seth Taft has taken a new position with the Minnesota Historical Society, and thus, will no longer be our Social Media Director. We truly appreciate all the work he has done over the past year and we will truly miss him. We wish the best of luck to Seth, and Spirit, pictured above, is also sad, but we believe he will continue his mission at the park!

NO ONE LEFT INSIDE

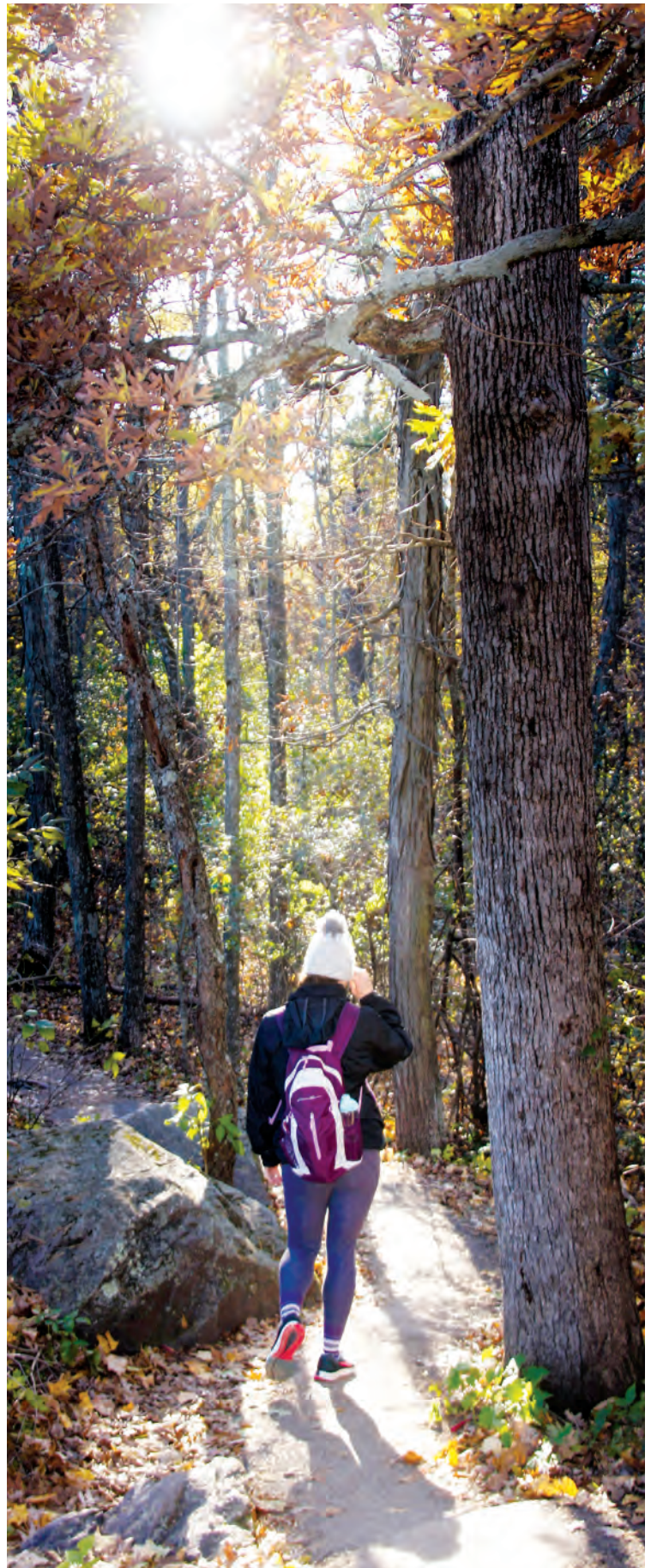
By Sue Johansen, Environmental Education Specialist

It's hard to believe that as of November of this year, I will have worked as the naturalist at Devil's Lake for 11 years (and 27 years in the Wisconsin Parks). In all of these years of working in an outdoor setting, I never get tired of being outside; whether it's leading programs during the summer, taking a school group up the bluff or taking a walk on a trail or in the woods on my days off. I had one of those "I love being outside moments," when I went for a walk on a foggy day here in Baraboo. The fog was so thick, that once I got a short distance up the trail, the trail was lost; swallowed up in a gray cloud. As I continued along, surrounded by this thick, gray mist, I came across four deer. It's always special to be able to encounter any animal during a walk, but the fog is what made this encounter so unique. After a brief moment of mutual staring between the deer and myself, the deer decided they had enough and melted into the fog like spirits, with only their brilliant white tails visible in the mist. It is moments like this that makes me realize how special it can be to spend time out in nature and how few people ever have experiences like this, much less get a chance to experience the natural world in their day-to-day lives.

There has been a lot of press about how kids, and even adults, are becoming more and more disconnected from the natural world. It seems we are all spending more and more time inside watching TV, playing video games, surfing the internet, or text messaging on our cell phones. Children just don't have the same experiences that many of us had 30 to 40 years ago, where our free time was spent playing outside. We are seeing children experience a "nature deficit disorder," a term taken from Richard Louv's book *Last Child in the Woods*: saving our children from nature-deficit disorder. This term is being used to describe the symptoms children show when they are cut off from nature and spend time inside with electronic devices.

Electronics are not the only aspect of this modern world keeping kids inside. Today, parents live with the fear of "stranger danger" and worry about kidnapers and sexual predators where their children play. A study from the early 1990s, found children allowed to wander outside the boundaries of their home decreased to a ninth of what it was 20 years before (*Orion Magazine*, March/April 2007). The types of communities we live in are also contributing to our children's nature deficit disorder. Many families live in neighborhoods governed by condominium or homeowner's associations that exclude families from having gardens, building tree houses, or even having green spaces for their children to play in.

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📷 J. Shilts, cropped

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What are the risks to children and all of us, if they don't spend time in nature? Studies show that kids who are not allowed unstructured time in a natural environment begin to lose their independent judgment and value of place, their ability to feel awe and wonder, their sense of stewardship for our planet Earth, and most immediately, their psychological and physical health. However, children who play in natural settings show increases in self-esteem and problem solving and are motivated to learn. Studies have also found that these children perform better at school in social studies, science, language arts, and math. "Natural spaces and materials stimulate children's limitless imaginations and serve as the medium of inventiveness and creativity," states Robin Moore an authority on the design of environments for children's play, learning, and education (Orion Magazine, March/April 2007).

Being outside and having unstructured time in nature is

becoming more and more important for everyone, but especially for children. Harvard professor E.O. Wilson realized this importance when he stated, "we are innately attracted to nature . . . and there is something in us, which we do not fully understand, that needs an occasional immersion in nature." I hope all of you will take time and explore the many great places in Sauk County to fulfill your need to be in the outdoors. I know I do, and I find that there's always a wonderful experience to be had and a feeling of joy and peace after I spend time outside in nature. I leave you with a quote from Richard Louv that will hopefully inspire you to spend more time enjoying the natural world; "Nature – the sublime, the harsh, and the beautiful - offers something that the street or gated community or computer game cannot. Nature presents the young with something so much greater than they are; it offers an environment where they can easily contemplate infinity and eternity."



PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST AND HALLOWEEN HIKE

Written and Photographed By Bernadette Greenwood

What an amazing day at the park! The Friends held our first ever pumpkin carving contest, and we received a generous donation of pumpkins for kids of all ages to carve. We had over a hundred participants join in the carving fun and had 66 official entries in four age categories. The four winners under the age of 18 won \$25 Culver's gift cards (who doesn't love Culver's?) and the 18+ category winner will receive a 2022 park sticker, which will go on sale beginning Friday, November 26th. The contest was followed by the

always popular and well attended Halloween Hike. Guests had a great time roasting marshmallows for smores at the new fire pit funded by the Friends near Rock Elm Shelter. Volunteers helped with Sue Johansen-Mayo's trivia and craft activities, and also helped the Friends with our popular selfie-station and tending to the fire. The pumpkin carving contest was judged by the Halloween Hikers. Thanks to all who lent a hand to make this very special spooky fun-filled day (and night) so special. *(Photo gallery on the last page.)*



SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

By Jim Carter

 Mike A., cropped

The fall season has seemed longer than most, and the warm weather has extended our increased visitation. This September we expanded camping opportunities for visitors during the week in the Northern Lights Campground through October, and we provided an additional weekend of camping in October in the Northern Lights and Lower Ice Age Campgrounds. Staff have shifted focus to hazardous tree removal throughout the park and they have begun campground and other facility inspections. These inspections help guide our work planning for the winter

and spring seasons. Park stickers will be available for the first time the day after Thanksgiving this year. They make great stocking stuffers or gifts in general, so make sure to order online or stop at the park when the visitor center is open to guarantee you have them before the start of the new year. They are valid from the date of purchase until the end of the 2022 calendar year. For the winter sports enthusiasts or those that just prefer the cooler weather, you should find the park far less crowded. Bundle up the kids or your loved ones and gather by one of the fire rings on the North Shore.

QCD – WHAT THE WHAT?

By Jim Greenwood

In 2017, congress passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. This basically doubled the standard deduction from \$6,000 to \$12,000 for single persons and from \$12,000 to \$24,000 for married couples. This caused millions of taxpayers to file the 1040EZ instead of itemizing their deductions on the good ol' 1040 long form. But this meant that for most people, charitable deductions made from one's checkbook were no longer deductible. It was a sea change – a harsh reality for millions of people who were accustomed to donating to their favorite organizations each year. Not to worry though – if you are of a certain age, there's a work around you may have heard of.

If you are partially or fully retired, you may find that your lifestyle is fine as-is and you don't need additional money from your IRA. However, even if you don't need (or want) the extra funds, at age 72 (it was age 70½ prior to January 1, 2020), the IRS requires you to take traditional IRA withdrawals in statutorily mandated, annual increments known as the dreadful "Required Minimum Distributions" (RMDs). Why don't people like RMDs? It's because they are subject to ordinary income taxes and thus additional taxable income may push you into a higher tax bracket, which can lead to adverse events, including changing the taxability of your Social Security income and the cost of your Medicare benefits. What's more, if you don't take your RMDs, you could be subject to a

50% penalty on the amount that wasn't withdrawn, and that could be painful!

Thankfully, for charitably-minded retirees with Traditional IRAs, there is a tax-relief strategy available to you: the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). The QCD gifting option allows you, starting at age 70½, to instruct your IRA custodian to send your IRA distributions - up to \$100,000 per year - to a qualified 501(c)(3) charity like The Friends of Devils Lake State Park. And because the IRA distribution goes directly to your charity, you do not report the QCD as taxable income and you do not owe any taxes on the QCD, which may be particularly beneficial to you if you are forced to take RMDs and don't need the extra money. In addition to avoiding taxable income, your IRA distribution can be put to good use by your favorite qualified charity. It's truly a win-win situation! To learn more about all the ins and outs of QCDs, consult with your financial advisor or your bank or credit union if you have your IRAs there. Just tell them you want to do a QCD (they will be impressed by your mastery of financial lingo!) and have them mail a check made payable to your favorite qualified 501(c)(3) charity such as the Friends. You'll be glad you did.

(When giving to the Friends, you can always designate your donation to categories such as trail maintenance, general support, the nature center, or the educational/interpretive center.)

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PLANNING BUILDS MOMENTUM

By Jim Radford, President and Founder, Baker Street Consulting Group, Stevens Point, WI

Our capital campaign to raise \$18 million to build a much-needed educational/interpretive center for the park has begun, with organizational meetings and strategic planning in full swing.

Thoughtfully building the infrastructure for the 38-month campaign is crucial to our success. Already, a steering committee has been created and action teams of volunteers are mapping strategy and tactics for communicating about the project and attracting major gifts.

More volunteer action teams are expected to join the planning and implementation process in coming weeks and months.

We're being very intentional about our planning and messaging. And, we're convinced we have a compelling case for broad support that will make the center a reality. We welcome volunteers with a diversity of perspectives, backgrounds and cultures who are interested in helping us advance the campaign.

That's why we're urging you to join us. We

need your talents, your enthusiasm and your ambassadorship to make the campaign a success. It's a great chance to join a project that will enhance the park and illuminate its history and its unique character for generations to come.

Baker Street will endeavor to keep you informed of campaign developments in future issues of this newsletter. Meanwhile, I would like to extend my personal appreciation to the Friends for your continued support of this exciting initiative.

If you're interested in volunteering, contact Bernadette Greenwood, president of the Friends board at bgreenwood@friendsofdevilslake.org. Gifts to the project are always accepted at www.friendsofdevilslake.org/donate or to the Friends at P.O. Box 209, Baraboo, WI 53913.

The project is a partnership of the Friends, the Devil's Lake Concessions Corporation and the Wisconsin DNR. Baker Street is helping to organize, direct and implement the campaign.



FRIENDS OF DEVIL'S LAKE STATE PARK – MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership Options:

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

Support for Devil's Lake:

- I wish to make a donation of \$ _____ to the Friends toward General Support, or specifically toward (circle one):
- Educational Interpretive Center Trail Maintenance
- Publish this donation as Anonymous

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

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

or visit our website friendsofdevilslake.org to join or donate!



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Membership paid through year shown on label.



Nick Wilkes



Nick Wilkes

 *Nick Wilkes, cropped*

