



Advocate

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings! I am the new President of the Friends Board, replacing Bernadette Greenwood, whose shoes I can't hope to fill. Her hard work and dedication to the Friends group is greatly appreciated, and I will endeavor to continue her mission of improving the Friends group. Thank you, Bernadette, for your leadership over the past few years, and your consistent helpfulness in getting me up to speed on organizational items. Bernadette will still be around, helping us transition to the new board and serving as a Co-Chair for the Interpretive Center campaign. She can be reached at bgreenwood@friendsofdevilslake.org.

Additional board changes include Dave Barger, former Friends President moving up from Secretary to Vice-President, and Steve Swallen accepting the secretary position. These positions were voted on and approved at our October board meeting. I would also like to introduce our new board member, Kevin Olson. Kevin and I worked together for many years, and he was gracious enough to accept my prodding to join the board. I think he will be a great addition.

Seth Taft has re-joined the Friends as our social media guru. I'm sure you've noticed his wonderful Fall color reports on Facebook and Instagram, along with information on events and activities in the park.

And, the Friends now has an Executive Assistant to help

us out! Welcome to Susan Hall, our new EA who started in mid-August. With her help we will be able to much better organized and provide more consistent services to the membership and the Park. Susan can be contacted at shall@friendsofdevilslake.org.

We've had an incredibly busy Summer and early Fall, with great activities throughout the park. While summer activities like Music in the Park and Yoga in the Park were coming to an end, we were gearing up for Fall activities including the Annual Friends meeting and the Halloween Hike and Pumpkin Carving Contest. I hope that many of you were able to participate in the events, and more information about them can be found throughout this newsletter. And don't forget the monthly volunteer events, which occur the second Saturday of every month. We will be ending them over the winter, but they will resume in the Spring. They're a great way to contribute to maintaining the park as the beautiful and special place that it is.

For the winter, while things slow down at the park, we still have events planned to help folks get out to enjoy the woods and lake in winter. There will be monthly candlelight hikes, with free snowshoe rentals provided if there's snow on the trails. And winter is the time that we sit down and take a deep breath and recover from the summer events and

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start to plan next years schedule. If there are any events you would like to see at the park or if you would be interested in getting involved in the planning process, we'd love to hear from you!

Jayne Englebert, President
jenglebert@friendsofdevilslake.org



VOLUNTEER WORK DAY

Written By Jayne Englebert

In August we held our monthly volunteer day on Saturday, August 13th. Our goal for this volunteer day was to make improvements to the volleyball courts on the south shore. We initially had three volunteers for the August volunteer event at the volleyball court on the South Shore picnic area.

We had to dig out the edges of the volleyball court that had become overgrown with grass and weeds. After that was done, we had two truckloads of sand to spread out evenly across the court. After working about an hour, we realized there was no way the three of us could finish this task.

David noticed some military types in a group way

across the south shore picnic area, and half jokingly he said we should ask them to come help. I went over and spoke with their Staff Sergeant, asking who they were and what they were planning to do in the park. She stated they were Army recruits, out for a day of training and volunteer activity. They were planning on picking up garbage.

I asked if they could help with the volleyball court project and she said they'd be happy to! After finishing their snack and break, they came over and quickly finished the project in about an hour. We were very grateful for their help! Our sincere gratitude to Wisconsin Det 1 A Co RSP-SSG (Staff Sergeant) Savannah Lipinski and Army recruits.

Thank you so much for your generous donations, memberships, and continued support to the Friends of Devil's Lake State Park.

Your donation helps the Friends continue our mission to support the WI DNR with interpretive, scientific, historical, educational, recreational, and related visitor services at the park.

The Friends are planning on publishing the names only of new and renewing members and donors in future newsletters. If you do not wish to have your name published, please notify us at the time of renewal/donation or e-mail us at: info@friendsofdevilslake.org

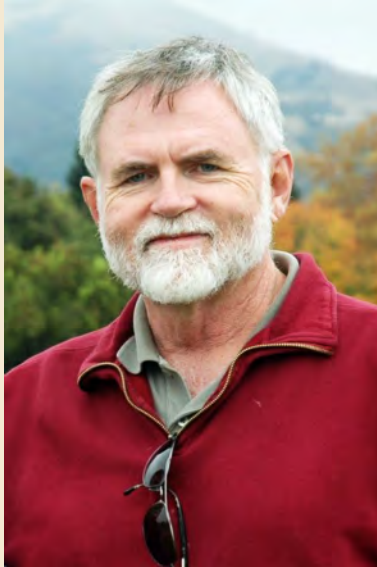
WE'RE DOING
 MORE WITH YOUR SUPPORT

Thank you

FOR YOUR DONATION



MEET NEW FRIENDS
BOARD MEMBER
KEVIN OLSON



I grew up on the north side of Madison. My first camping trip as a young boy in the early 1960s was on the South Shore of Devil's Lake. Except for a stint in the Navy and time away during college, regular visits to DLSP every year were the norm. The lake and trails never disappoint.

My favorite hangout at the lake as a kid was Diving Rock, aka Rock 8. In 1990, Carol and I moved to Baraboo with our two young sons. One year, weather permitting, Carol and I visited the park two or three days every week to hike what we called the 'up-and-down-and-all-around' -- Up and down both bluffs and all round the lake. It beat joining a gym!

For a few summers before the pandemic, I enjoyed volunteering at the Nature Center working with Sue to greet Park visitors and answer their questions. My favorite questions from visitors were about geology.

While at the Nature Center, I thoroughly enjoyed perusing the shelves and cupboards for notes, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, research papers, etc. on the geology, biology, and human history of the park.

I also enjoyed paddling along with Sue on some of her evening Kayak Tours and leading the tour on a couple occasions in Sue's absence.

During the pandemic years and to this day, a favorite pastime has been stand-up-paddling our 18-foot wood-canvas canoe around the lake, picking up trash along the way. Devil's Lake has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember.

Another passion in my life is canoeing. For the past 30 years, Carol and I have enjoyed paddling whitewater rivers and quiet water rivers and lakes with Sierra Club's 'River Touring Section' (RTS). RTS typically leads 30+ paddling trips each year, mostly in Wisconsin, but also in Montana, Florida, and the Ozarks. RTS also offers canoeing and kayaking clinics each year, teaching paddling skills to novice enthusiasts. I lead a few of the trips, help teach the canoe clinics, and participate in as many of the trips as our schedule permits.

For four of the past seven years, and at present, it has been my honor to Chair RTS, taking the lead organizing its trips and clinics each year, recruiting and training trip leaders, handling the finances, and miscellaneous administrative functions.

I have a BS in Geology and Geophysics (UW-Madison), and an MS in Hydrology and Water Resources (UA-Tucson). I worked as a hydrogeologist for 25 years investigating and cleaning up contaminated soil and groundwater at commercial and industrial properties, before retiring in 2012.

LOOK WHAT JUST ARRIVED IN STORE!

Now available for a limited time in the Friend's retail store, located inside the Visitor's Center at Devil's Lake State Park. Get your hands on one of these super cute "Friends of Devil's Lake State Park" mug ornaments. These would also make a great succulent planter, espresso cup, or paper clip holder.

Perfect for that hard to shop for person on your holiday giving list or as a stocking stuffer. Purchase one at the Visitor's Center or online, while supplies last at www.friendsofdevilslake.org/store. Still not sure what to get that special someone on your gift giving list? How about a Friends membership, Dedication Paver, or Friends sweatshirt. Thank you for supporting The Friends of Devil's Lake State Park. We could not do it without your support!

Measures 2"Wx1.75"H



WHY YOU SHOULDN'T SQUISH THAT SPIDER, EVEN IF IT GIVES YOU THE CREEPS

Written By Sue Johansen-Mayoleth, Park Naturalist

When you see a picture of a spider, is your first reaction, “how cool is that critter” or is it, “if that was found in my house I’d have to move or just burn the house down?” It’s not surprising that many people’s reaction to spiders is a negative one, with movies featuring eight-legged stars as the villain and Halloween décor characterizing spiders as spooky, these all play on our fears of these arachnids. But even though you may not be a fan of spiders, these creatures are actually an important part of the ecosystem and a great benefit to humans.

A SPIDER’S EATING HABITS BENEFIT HUMANS

Spiders are one piece of the environment’s natural pest control. Spiders are known as obligate predators, which means they must eat other animals to stay alive, not many vegetarian spiders out there! They are also not picky about what they eat, with their most common prey being insects. It is estimated that a single spider can eat as many as 2,000 insects in a year! Because they like a smorgasbord of prey, spiders play an important role in a habitat by regulating the density of other insects. So when you account for the variety of insects and the sheer volume they consume, spiders are one of the most important predators of invertebrates in our ecosystems.

Not convinced yet that spiders are the greatest creatures on the planet? Well, did you know they eat many insects that are a nuisance and even harm humans? Lots of spiders eat mosquitoes that transmit

viruses like malaria and yellow fever. In fact, there are two species of jumping spiders that are known as “mosquito terminators” preferring to eat mosquitoes over any other insect. Scientists have shown that spiders that prey on mosquitos are known to directly lower the numbers of these pests and help reduce the spread of mosquito-born diseases.

Another way spiders are also known to benefit humans is by consuming agricultural pests like aphids, grasshoppers, beetles and caterpillars that feed on the crops we harvest for food. Farmers spend billions of dollars annually in the U.S. on pesticides that are designed to kill agricultural pests. With the reduction of pesticide use and allowing spiders to do what spiders do best, eat insects, the amount of crop damage is reduced, crop yields are increased, and the farmers save money.

A SPIDER’S SILK IS INCREDIBLE STUFF

Spider silk is pretty much the world’s coolest material. It’s extremely flexible, tougher than Kevlar, and weight for weight, it’s stronger than steel. It’s even been found to have antimicrobial properties. Spiders can produce seven different types of silk and their dragline silk has been the most interesting type for scientists. Dragline silk is used to create the framework of a spider’s web and its strength lies in the hundreds of protein fibers stacked and linked together like building blocks. This unique structure gives it a toughness and elasticity that is stronger than Kevlar, more flexible than nylon, and thinner than a strand of human hair! The amazing properties of spider silk also has the potential to revolutionize the medical and textile industries with bulletproof body armor, wear resistant lightweight clothing, alloy for suspension bridges, surgical thread, antimicrobial bandages, and more.

A SPIDER IS CONSIDERED GOOD LUCK

If medical discoveries and pest control haven’t won you over into thinking that spiders are pretty incredible creatures, knowing that many cultures consider spiders bringers of good luck might change your opinion. Many cultures see spiders as a sign of good luck and symbols of happiness, creativity, and wealth. In England, one of their common spiders, called a money spider, is



considered a sign of wealth. If you eliminate this spider from your home, your financial prospects go with it. This tradition actually dates to Roman times when people wore spider amulets to attract success in business. In Japan, spider webs are often placed in the home or business to bring prosperity. In Spain, spider webs are thought to protect people from being bitten by snakes and other dangerous creatures. And in Thailand, spider webs are a symbol of good luck in love and marriage. There's even an old rhyme that says, "if you want to live and thrive, let the spider run alive."

Hopefully you now have a little more appreciation for these fascinating creatures and even look at them as good luck charms rather than something to be squished. Learning more about these incredible creatures can help you realize that these little arachnids are nothing to fear. As a famous naturalist once said, "If [one] learns admiration instead of disgust for the tiny spinner, [they] will have learned one of the greatest lessons in nature – that all life is sacred."



CAMPAIGN FOR AMERICA'S STATE PARK SWINGS INTO A NEW PHASE

Written By Jim Radford, President and Founder of Baker Street Consulting Group

On the heels of a game-changing million-dollar gift this summer, the Campaign for America's State Park is reaching out to the community and major donors and gaining an enthusiastic reception.

The \$1 million gift from the Devil's Lake Concessions Corporation, announced at the campaign kickoff in July, made front-page news and boosted the profile of the campaign to raise \$18 million for a new park interpretive center.

Representative of Baker Street Consulting Group, the campaign committee are reaching out to strategic partners and building relationships with potential partners in a series of one-on-one meetings. They are also seeking foundation grants and government funding sources for the project.

The climbing community has shown strong support for the project. Notably, three honorary campaign committee members – Pete Cleveland, John Gill, and Jay Knowler – are renowned climbers. The campaign has also met with representatives of the American Alpine Club, who are spreading word of the project among their thousands of contacts.

We had a table at the October Devil's Lake Craggin' Classic Climbing Festival to promote the campaign.

In September, we also rolled out our new, full-color brochures that do a deeper dive on the campaign and why it makes a difference.

And, we have welcomed new committee members to join the effort and four additional honorary committee

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday November 12th

Friends Volunteer Day at the Park
Rock Elm Shelter (Meet at 9:00 am)

Saturday November 26th

Torch-lit Hike (North Shore) 6:00-8:30pm

Saturday December 17th

Torch-lit Hike (North Shore) 6:00-8:30pm



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members – Fred Kruse, Ken Lange, and former state Senator Dale Schultz and his wife Rachel.

We hope you become involved as a volunteer or donor to help make the center a reality by contacting campaign Co-Chair Bernadette Greenwood, at bgreenwood@friendsofdevilslake.org. Gifts are always accepted at the Friends at P.O. Box 209, Baraboo, WI 53913 or to www.friendsofdevilslake.org/.

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.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF ROBERT AND NANCY MCGANN

We understand that the park was such a special place to Nancy, her husband Robert, and to the entire family, and we feel privileged to share their story with our members through our Newsletter and to honor their memories at the park in the new interpretive center.

In the donation letter to Devil's Lake State Park, one of Nancy and Robert's children named Mary writes:

"The McGann family had a cottage on Devil's Lake for several years. My family grew up with the best front door view ever! We so enjoyed spending our summers there while growing up. We met so many great neighbors and people just stopping by to say hello and ask us the story of our cottage. To this day, my siblings and I try to get out to the lake as often as possible.

My father was quite an amazing skier back in the day when motors were allowed on the lake. The pictures of him on one ski with a huge smile on his face meant so much. Dad drove through the lake every day as part of his daily ritual as he got older. His truck was always parked and he was out hiking by himself. I think it brought him great peace and time to think of his childhood. We all have so many great memories growing up at the lake."



*Our sincere gratitude to the McGann Family
for their recent donation from the
"Nancy McGann Memorial Fund."*

THIS YEAR'S HALLOWEEN HIKE WAS A BIG SUCCESS WITH OVER 600 ATTENDEES.



We could not have asked for a more perfect Fall day for this year's pumpkin carving contest and halloween hike. We are so grateful to have received a generous donation of pumpkins and gourds again this year for guests of all ages to carve. We had over 130 participants join in the carving fun and had 107 official contest entries. Congratulations to our three winners under the age of 18, who won a \$25 Culver's gift card, and the 18+ category winner who will receive a 2023 park sticker, once available in late November.

Guests enjoyed our always popular Halloween Hike, roasting marshmallows, sing-a-long with "Campfire Kevin" and 3 spooky spider crafts with Sue Johansen-Mayoeth, the park naturalist. Special thanks to all who helped make this year's event a big success especially Devil's Lake State Park staff, Sue Johansen-Mayoeth, numerous member volunteers, and all of our attendees. Thank you all for attending and helping support this year's event. We look forward to seeing all of you again next year!

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Written by: Jim Carter, DNR Park Superintendent

Find time these next few months to enjoy the outdoors between the upcoming rush of the fall and winter holidays. You don't need to try too hard to find time to enjoy the outdoors without the summer crowds. Fall weekdays and even the early mornings of the weekend remain some of the least visited times at the park. Watching the steam rise from the lake's surface on a cold crisp morning or getting the first glimpse of a hard frost over the landscape are views less commonly seen by those visiting during peak visitation. Better yet, be one of those who ventures out to the park after one of the first snowfalls of the season and see the trees covered in a white blanket before the warming rays of the sun begin to melt it from the tips of the trees.

Park admission stickers will go on sale again in

December and make a great gift to share with friends and family. While you are at it, stop inside at the visitor center and see the new historic picture display on the north wall. There will be additional displays being installed throughout the park along walking paths and near the parks larger iconic building, the Chateau.

As always, if you want to share your experience, have an interest you would like to be involved in, or just have a park related topic you would like to discuss, please reach out to me directly.

Jim Carter
 Superintendent
james.carter@wisconsin.gov
 608-356-8301 Ext. 111



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 meetings.
6. Receive 10% discount on food and merchandise at Devil's Lake State Park concessions (*some exclusions may apply*).

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



@friendsofdevillake @devillakefriends @devillakewi

WANT TO JOIN US?

Visit our website at friendsofdevillake.org or scan the QR code below to become a member.

