



Advocate

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank You To Our Members and Halloween Happenings

The Friends Annual Members Meeting was held on Sunday, September 24th at the Chateau building on the north shore at the park. Unfortunately, the weather forecast was sketchy, so the last Music in the Park event scheduled for just prior to the meeting was canceled and rescheduled to our Halloween event on Saturday October 21st. And then of course it didn't rain at the park.

We had a great turnout for the meeting, and it was nice to get a chance to talk with the members who made it there. We enjoyed yummy food catered by The Relish Tray in Baraboo, followed by a series of talks including a summary of the events and things the Friends have been working on over the past year. Jim Carter spoke about

happenings at the park, including the new beach wall construction.

I hope that many of you enjoyed the Halloween event on Saturday October 21st. There was definitely something for everyone this year, including two music sessions, the Dan Walkner Band in the afternoon and Campfire Kevin at night by the bonfire. The event included pumpkin carving in the afternoon and kid's games and crafts in the evening at the Rock Elm shelter. And to end the night, the torches were lit for a hike around the park in the dark, followed by roasting s'mores at the bonfire. A wonderful way to celebrate Fall at the park!

Jayne Englebert, President
jenglebert@friendsofdevillake.org



A FUN (AND BUSY) SUMMER SEASON

By Sue Johansen-Mayolett

 Sue Johansen-Mayolett

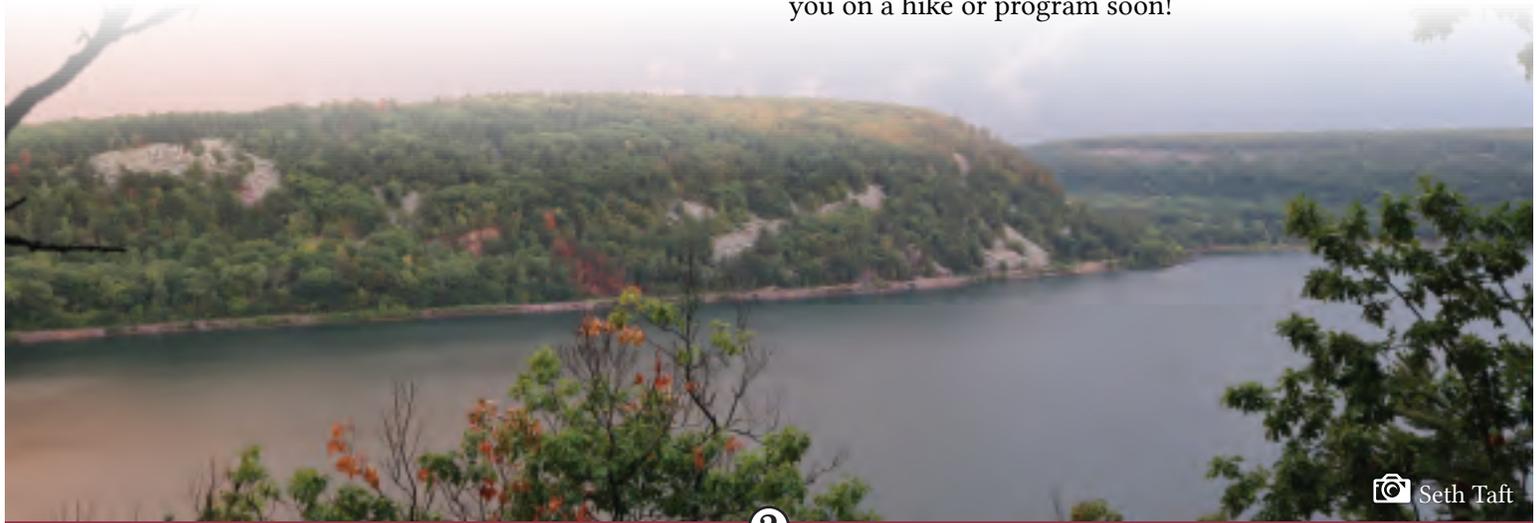
By the time you read this newsletter, fall will have arrived. We'll be bundling up against the cooler weather, watching the leaves change colors, and thinking about Halloween. It's a good opportunity to look back at the busy summer and all the visitors who attended programs.

There was a lot of kayaking, hiking, and learning about nature here at Devil's Lake this past summer. In June, July, and August, there were 106 programs, 3,626 visitors attended the programs, and 6,930 people visited the nature center during these 3 months. Besides public programs, 196 people participated in requested programs from organizations like the Natural Resources Foundation, Northern Kettle Moraine Junior Rockhounds, Wisconsin Master Naturalists, and Sauk Prairie Community Center.

Several of the summer programs were paid for through the Incentive Grant awarded to the Friends Group. This grant, along with matching funds from the Friends, supported 10 programs ranging from voyageur canoe rides, learning about raptor, creating campfire treats, and the telling of the haunted tales of Baraboo, to programs about the Ho-Chunk, the first inhabitants of this area. Over 1,130 people attended these programs made possible by the grant.

All the programs and events offered each year are designed to connect visitors to the natural and cultural resources of the park. The programs at the Nature Center reveal meanings about the park that may not be immediately obvious. Our interpretive programs spark visitors' curiosity and help them better understand the significance of the park. With this understanding, interpretive programs can inspire visitors to be more mindful of their impact on the landscape and participate in stewardship activities. Plus, the programs are designed for everyone to have fun and enhance their experiences here. Guided hikes, campfire talks, and wildlife programs can all add to the enjoyment for individuals and families.

The interpretive programs at Devil's Lake allow visitors to connect more deeply and meaningfully with the park. They lead to greater awareness and appreciation for caring for the natural and cultural treasures we protect here. Although summer programming has ended, there are still many opportunities to participate in interpretive programs offered by the Nature Center and Friends group. You can find everything happening on the Wisconsin DNR events calendar - go to www.dnr.wi.gov, click the calendar, and search for Devil's Lake. We look forward to seeing you on a hike or program soon!



 Seth Taft

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

On Sunday, September 24, 2023, present Members at the Friends Annual Members Meeting voted in three new board members. Congratulations to Taylar Foster, Pete Schmidt, and Jennifer Graf! We have included their biographies below. We would also like to extend our gratitude to our outgoing Board Members: Nick Wilkes, Steve Swallen, and Marie Homolkova-Michalek for their service.



Taylar Foster

I grew up in Portage, spent several years living out of state, and returned to Wisconsin in 2020. I currently work for the UW-Madison at the Wisconsin Crop Innovation Center. I enjoy rock climbing, trail running, cross-country skiing, and other indoor and outdoor activities. I love being at Devil's Lake State Park and I want to help ensure the park is a place that can meet the needs of current and future visitors while remaining an unspoiled jewel of nature!

My work and volunteer experiences are varied. I recently worked at the Wisconsin DNR, doing communications and events for the Wisconsin State Park System. There, I experienced firsthand some of the challenges and opportunities of Devil's Lake and the WSPS. I have experience in communications, event planning, social media, grant writing, and strengthening collaborations to leverage resources. I bring enthusiasm for the park and for balancing outdoor recreation with natural resource management. I am on the Board of Directors for the Wisconsin Climbers Association. I bring an understanding of what the park contributes to the local economy and the state economy and want to make sure I'm doing my part to help the park thrive and adapt.

Pete Schmidt

I started working at a specialty sporting goods store in Baraboo in the early 90's. This introduced me to the spiritual magic of Devils Lake State Park. The Lake taught me many things about recreation from climbing, cycling, hiking, paddling, skiing, and scuba. It became a place for me to learn these activities. Over the years I've become an advocate for everyone that uses this resource. I've become involved with many Master Planning projects in Sauk County. I've built trails, assembled volunteers, and fundraised. I eventually opened my own ski/climb/bike specialty store in Baraboo eighteen years ago.

I would like to help with the new Interpretive Center Initiative. My time spent as a small business owner will be valuable for this initiative. My experience with sales, marketing, planning, and accounting will all be very beneficial to the Friends. The advocacy projects, trail projects, and grant writing I've done will be beneficial to the team. I've spent many years following the Master Planning process for the Sauk Prairie State Recreation Area and the Great Sauk State Trail and feel this is a great time to be on the Friends board.

Jennifer Graf

I was introduced to Devil's Lake Park as a UW-Madison student and fell in love with the area. Throughout the years I have enjoyed many hikes, swims, paddles, picnics, and camps at the park. I hold a Bachelor of Business Degree from UW-Madison and have been working as a project manager in the insurance industry for more than two decades. Prior to my work in the private sector, I worked as the Property & Liability Manager for the Department of Natural Resources. I want to join the board of directors for the Friends of Devil's Lake Park because I am enthusiastic about the Friend's mission and preserving and improving the park so it can continue to be enjoyed by visitors in the future.

I have extensive project management experience, an understanding of the WI DNR, demonstrated board of director leadership for non-profits and a personal passion for the park. Through my prior work experience as the Property & Liability Manager for the DNR I gained an understanding of the unique opportunities and challenges that are inherent to the Wisconsin State Park System. I have experience managing budgets, vendor contracting and implementing organizational change. My non-profit experience includes serving in an executive leadership position for the Madison Reading Project and also volunteering with the Ice Age Trail Alliance.

SULLIVAN FAMILY STORY

The following is a story in memory of John and Barb Sullivan, former frequent and passionate visitors to Devil's Lake State Park.

"At the beginning of June 1974, I just ended my first year at Harper Junior College and was in the "Medical Technician" program. We only had one week off until we returned for the summer semester. Judy, a friend from the program, and I decided to go camping for a couple days during that time off from school. I had never camped before but she had all the gear. We decided to go camping at Devil's Lake! At that time, camping was popular in your teens/20's.

That night while meeting other campers, some guys asked where we were from. I said Cary and he said there's a couple of guys from Cary down the street. I explain no, believe me there is no one else here from Cary, as back then Cary was a small town. I told him he's probably from Gary (Indiana). At some point we meet another individual and we figured out they really are from Cary!

The next day, we are all at the beach and we meet up with the campers from Cary. Turns out he's nice, funny, and handsome! I bumped into him later on the East Bluff Trail. I give him my number and he says he'll call but I think he probably won't. But he did!"



John + Barb



NEW & RENEWED FRIENDS MEMBERS

Thank you to these members who have joined or renewed their membership July 16, 2023 through September 25, 2023.

Bozic, Petar-Woodstock, IL

Cotromanes, Angela-Chicago, IL

Henderson, Christopher-Belgium, WI

Horenberger, Mark-Baraboo, WI

Horn, Mark and Anette Phibbs-Baraboo, WI

Horner, Brad-La Valle, WI

Karch, Lydia-Chicago, IL

Kieselhorst, Karl-Saukville, WI

Maurer, Gigi Royko-Arena, WI

McNamara, Michael-Reedsburg, WI

Pond, Lynn-Wisconsin Dells, WI

Stone, Dawn-Grand Marsh, WI

Thompson, Heidi-Greenville, WI

Thompson, Trudy-McHenry, IL

Wittwer, Tom-Waunakee, WI

Yoss, Cher'rie Lynn-Janesville, WI



2023 DONORS

Jul. 15, 2023 - Sep. 25, 2023

WE'RE DOING
MORE WITH YOUR SUPPORT

Thank you

FOR YOUR DONATION

General Support

Bozarth, Daniel
Esser, Jared
Palese, Anthony
Redenkirch, Michelle
Sprecher, Susan

Dedication Pavers

Bozic, Petar
Carroll, David
Cotromanes, Angela
Dahlke, Briand
Feldhausen, Heather
Hendersen, Christopher
Murry, Michael
Thompson, Heidi
Thompson, Trudy
Zana, Betty

Educational Interpretive Center

Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous

Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anderson, Catie
Bradley, Jennifer
Brown, Kimberly
Burnette, Isaac
Castellanos, Benjamin
Conroy, Jack
Cousino, Jill
Craig C. Culver Family Foundation
Crowley, Samantha
Ealy, David E
Fisher, Sarah
Goellner, Matt
Hamner, Polly Benesch
Hsu, Cecilia
Hunt, Kevin
Kaminski, Autumn
Kollath, Michael

Kooiman, Branden
Leland, Julie
Maerz, Lance
Mason, Emily
Miller, Jan
Nolan, Sarah
Palacios, Tayla
Palm, Kristin
Riggs, Olivia
Roberts, Elizabeth
Sinsky, Thomas
Sweeny, Elizabeth
Thompson, Cecelia
Thompson, Matthew
Timm, Jenna
Tomaka, Michael
Van Lankvelt, Steven
Weghorst, Taylor
Woodruff, Grant
Zhu, Yilin

Thank you to all of our wonderful donors who support the park throughout the year.

Please consider a year end tax-deductible donation to the Friends to help ensure our continued success.

Donate online at friendsofdevilslake.org/donate

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." -- Helen Keller

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, November 11th

Volunteer Day
Location TBD at 9:00am

Saturday, November 25th

Torchlit Hike
Rock Elm Shelter 600pm-8:30pm

Saturday, December 16th

Torchlit Hike
Rock Elm Shelter 600pm-8:30pm

*"Good Things Take Time,
Great Things Take a Little Longer
– Raimund Laqua"*

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR AMERICA'S STATE PARK – UPDATE

By Bernadette Greenwood

The Campaign for America's State Park continues... Baker Street Consulting Group (Baker Street) provided the tools, expertise and positioning to the Friends of Devil's Lake State Park (Friends) so we could continue our work to raise funds for this amazing – once in a lifetime project.

We encountered much enthusiasm for the project early-on, but found that when we reached out to major donors, the question of where the facility was going to be built was a common theme, and rightly so. Most of the folks we met with were not opposed to the location, just a bit wary of the uncertainty. We had hoped that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) would have finished the Master Plan for the Central Sand Hills Region, the final location of the center would be established, and we could move forward to make this much needed amenity a reality.

Unfortunately, we encountered a pandemic, and all the pieces did not fall into place as planned. However, the wheels of progress are moving, and we are very excited that we have entered into a new phase, the public phase for the WDNR's vision for the region, which is one more step closer to the Master Plan's completion, which will include the location of the center.

The project team has had some really wonderful successes this year. We have received very generous donations and pledges of over \$500 and up to \$50,000 from supporters like our local Walmart Store, Gerald

and Ellen Dargel, Baraboo State Bank, W. Jerome Frautschi, William Schallert, Jennifer Graf, David Gerdman, the Felburn Foundation, and the Craig C. Culver Family Foundation. The Friends was the "charity of the year" for the Devil's Challenge Triathlon and received \$1,000 in donations from entrants in the event. These donations and pledges in addition to other smaller donations for the project totaled \$146,000 this year, and for a total of almost \$1.2 million raised so far.

This summer, signage for the Campaign was installed in the Visitor's Center by Econoprint. The display will house a television screen where we can highlight the project. Econoprint will also be donating a banner that will be displayed at the Nature Center. An additional display is in the works that will be installed outside the Chateau to highlight the work of the Friends including the educational center project.

The plan for now is to continue fundraising efforts, increase public awareness, and hold off on adding a fundraising firm to the team until the location of the center is "set in stone" so to say. It will be amazing to have the first school group in the new center and to be able to accommodate all of their needs. This center will greatly enhance the ability to teach students of all ages how special Devil's Lake State Park is, which will help preserve this special place for generations... it will be so worth the wait!

The project is a partnership of the Friends, the Devil's Lake Concessions Corporation and the Wisconsin DNR.

A MEMORIAL DONATION IN BRAD'S HONOR

By Jennifer Graf, Friends Board Member

Our nephew Brad Utegaard was always up for an adventure and was on an epic one when he was taken from us too soon while hiking in White Sands National Park during July 2022.

Brad loved the outdoors, especially the Devil's Lake area. We cherish our memories of many day trips with him. He loved hiking through the Baraboo hills, swimming in Spirit Lake and bouldering up the cliff faces. After enjoying the activities that Devil's Lake has to offer Brad was fond of taking in the beauty of the park while relaxing on the beach and camping with friends.

Brad was passionate about the environment and was a life-long learner. He would have enthusiastically supported the goals of the planned educational center to incorporate modern technology to provide educational opportunities for all ages and abilities in a design that compliments the natural beauty of the park.

Making a positive impact on the lives of others was something that Brad embodied, and we felt that making a memorial donation to the Campaign for America's State Park in Brad's honor would be one small way that we can strive to keep paying it forward in his honor.





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*).



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WANT TO JOIN US?

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

