



Advocate

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

So here we are in the middle of spring. The red-winged blackbirds, the robins, the turkey vultures, and even the barn swallows have arrived. But we are homebound because a novel virus has decided to arrive sometime in winter before our feathered companions. In early February, the Friends were pretty much business as usual. The board was planning events for the new year. We had an incredibly successful Candlelight Snowshoe at Devil's Lake State Park (DLSP). Approximately 500 participants came to enjoy a moon-lit hike on the candlelit trail. Participants were able to get warm by the fires and there was plenty of hot chocolate and smores for all to enjoy. Our Friends group gathered over a dozen volunteers who worked hard to help guest with snowshoes, tended the fires and served refreshments. We really appreciate our volunteers and could not do what we do without them. We would like to say "Thank you" to all of our wonderful volunteers who made this event a special night for all.

By mid-February, we were focused on our members' only meeting held on February 12th at the Baraboo Municipal Building. Our goal was to gather information and ideas from our members with regard to updating the master plan of the area including DLSP. This information would then be evaluated so recommendations could be provided to the Wisconsin Department of Natural

Resources (WDNR) during their master planning process. We had a lot of great ideas from our members. When asked what the best feature of DLSP is, over half said the "park's natural features and uniqueness," and a third of the participants said "the view." With regard to what one feature could use the most improvement, about half of the members said "crowd management and parking," and a third said the "Nature Center." As the night went on, it was apparent that the topic that garnered the most interest was "trails." We had ideas for trail management, better trails for climbing access, the need for wheelchair assessable trails, bike trails, snowshoe trails, cross-country ski trails, trails signage, bridle trails, I could go on and on. I suppose it makes sense, because without trails, there is no way to truly enjoy all that the park has to offer. My goal is to send out a questionnaire to our members via email to allow anyone who did not get a chance to come to the meeting in February share their thoughts and ideas with regard to the future of DLSP. This has been on my "to do" list. I hope to soon move it to my "done" list!

In February, the Friends were also working on reviewing proposals from fundraising firms for the Educational/Interpretive center capital campaign with the Devil's Lake Concessions Corporation and the

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WDNR (Committee). The Committee met at the Nature Center to go over the proposals and decide which firms to interview/meet with face to face. After the Committee made our choices, we set a date for the firms to present their proposals on March 31, 2020.

At first, we thought we could do the meetings remotely, but by the middle of March, it became apparent that trying to raise funds during the beginning of a global pandemic would be an uphill battle. Accordingly, we decided to suspend our efforts for now, and revisit fundraising at a future date when the time is right. With that said, if there is anyone out there who would like to help with fundraising in the future, or help with any other park projects, please reach out to us at our email (friendsofdevillakestatepark@gmail.com) and let us know.

The Friends Board of Directors had our first virtual meeting in April. I have to say, I think it went pretty well. The highlight of the meeting was welcoming a new member to our board, David Parr (read about him below). David took over Gib Bird's board position. He has very big shoes to fill, but we are so very happy to have David on board, and look forward to working with him at the park (once we get back to the park).

I would like to give you a homework assignment while you are safe at home. If you happen to find yourself sifting through old pictures of the park, we would love for you to share them with us along with their stories. We have come across so many of our members and friends who have shared their love of the park and shared their generational history of coming to the park as a child with their families and friends. So this is your homework assignment; send your photographs and stories to our email address. We would love the opportunity to share some of them with other DLSP friends via social media and future newsletters.

To get you started, we have included a wonderful story from Dennis Gilbert in this newsletter for you to enjoy (see Page 3). Your stories and photographs will help bridge the gap of missing DLSP, because for now, we must now support the park from a safe distance. However, if we all do our part and stay at home, the sooner we can all get back to our new normal and get back on the trails, take more photographs and make more memories to share for future generations.

Bernadette Greenwood
Friends of Devil's Lake President



 *Contributed by David Parr, cropped*

David owns and operates a produce farm market and wholesale food distribution company based out of south central Wisconsin. Through his work, David promotes environmental stewardship and economic development, partnering with over 150 producers to grow, aggregate, and distribute produce to make it easier and more accessible for people to eat healthy food and support small family farms. David graduated from UW Platteville in 2013 with a degree in agricultural business. He has been going to Devil's Lake for 20 years and has a passion for exploring natural areas. In his free time, he enjoys hiking, canoeing, and traveling.





PARK MEMORIES

Friends' Grotto

The Friends love to meet DLSP enthusiasts and hear about their individual stories about the park. A Friend's volunteer, and one such enthusiast, Dennis Gilbert wrote the Friends an email during the time the proposed cell tower was being discussed. In our email correspondences he shared about his love of the park and his family's personal experiences at the park. The following is a wonderful story that he told that we are happy to share.

My mother-in-law's family would camp on North Shore beach for two weeks every summer when she was a child... as far back as 1920s. When my wife was a kid, her family would stay for two weeks in the cottages. The men would play golf every morning, and then come to the lake for lunch. After lunch, the Moms would play golf in the afternoon, while the dads took a nap and the kids explored the park, swam, and climbed the bluffs, all with no supervision. So, when we had kids, we did the same.

In 1970, with a brand new driver's license, my girlfriend (now my wife) and I would drive from Berwyn, Illinois to the lake when her aunts and uncles were on vacation at the Park. We would spend the day with her family and then drive home the same day.

Our Honeymoon was spent in a tent at Devil's Lake and we haven't missed at least one trip there every year since. Now, our grandkids are already experts on Devil's Lake at the ages of 11, 9, 7 and 5 years old. My son-in-law wanted to take them to Disney in Florida, last year, but the kids wanted to go to Devil's Lake to camp for a week instead.

It's always a special day when we sign in at the Nature Center. My grandkids always want to check out their names from last year. It was a problem when the park got a new log book. My wife is in a picture on the wall at the age of about 5 or 6 years old where she and her siblings and cousins are aboard the little ferry on Devil's Lake. And many years later, we now have a bench in memory of her Mom on one of the trails. The kids always want to see Great Grandma's bench, although she passed away a week before the oldest was born, missing her 90th birthday by ten minutes. Our grandkids represent the 5th generation of the family to enjoy "The Lake."

Dennis Gilbert

WORD SEARCH

DEVILS DOORWAY
NATURE CENTER
TUMBLER ROCK
BOATHOUSE
QUARTZITE
CAMPFIRE
BEACH
GROTTO
FISH

PROSPECT POINT
ELEPHANT CAVE
SOUTH SHORE
NORTH SHORE
ROCK EIGHT
MORAINE
FRIENDS
CAMP
HIKE

STEINKE BASIN
EFFIGY MOUNDS
BOAT LAUNCH
EAST BLUFF
POTHOLES
CHATEAU
GLACIER
SCUBA
SWIM

BALANCED ROCK
PRECAMBRIAN
SPIRIT LAKE
WEST BLUFF
SYNCLINE
PICNIC
CLIMB
LAKE
CCC

C U L I K E F F I G Y M O U N D S A G L S C M O V S U I S H
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R D P R O S P E C T P O I N T N E O H P M N R H R I G N B V
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G B I L X Q J C D C G L Z I V Z J J Q T Y M G M C U L V C H
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M X I P F W L S H X G H K O N G S J Y S E T G S S R K T Q N
A Z S U O K F S Q O C L T K A X Q L A Q P H I K T Q E Z L E
F I H K F D X I D W U P A D A M Q R D K H N S Q H B N R E F
I P L H L G Q A W O I S D C V J S R D J A P L G M B L J O A
R K V G P L U V S M O B E X I C L I M B N Q I F D G S U A U
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C Z T V H Y G V U H O U W G J Q R D U W C I N I B Z S W F F
C C X K V J P U E I K R T A H I K U X J A Y U W O M T N J T
C X U K A O S X U F O W P B Y N I C G K V V P O T H O L E S
O B G U S V I O B M I L N V R O I B O X E K G O A M Z O X N
P T C H A T E A U U G H A R A U X G T W M R C C A M P U J C
E T W W I W D A E Q T U M B L E D R O C K U J D B R Y S A L
Q S Y N C L I N E D N O R T H S H O R E V B R G R O T T O R
Y K M F Q U A R T Z I T E P I G U X Y Y S N F L I J Q T A K
S T R U W K B A X B C I C E Y B A L A N C E D R O C K Y Y K

Answers are on Page 5



MY FIRST AND LAST DAYS AT DEVIL'S LAKE

By Steve Schmelzer

We all have had many beginnings and endings in our life. My first day at Devil's Lake State Park was in May of 1992 and this is how it happened. I was very excited that after graduating from UW Madison I had landed a job at Devil's Lake. As my wife (fiancé then) and I were driving to Devil's Lake for orientation bright and early on that weekend in May, I was thinking about my first day on the job. As I was driving, our brand new Jeep Wrangler (with only about 300 miles on it!) started to stall on Hwy 12 near Springfield Corners. I coasted the Jeep over onto the shoulder while I slipped the transmission into neutral and tried restarting the vehicle. A number of questions started to race through my mind. Why was our brand new Jeep stalling? I had plenty of gas, so maybe the gas was bad. Would I be late for my first job at Devil's Lake? We came to a stop and I tried restarting the Jeep again until I noticed something a little alarming. You see our Jeep had a vinyl soft top and there were flames lapping at the driver's side door! This called for immediate action. My wife and I piled out the passenger side and started to get away from the burning Jeep. Then I remembered that my briefcase with all my start paperwork was still in the Jeep. Much to the dismay of my wife, I ran back to the Jeep and grabbed my paperwork.

As the Jeep began to burn even more, I knew my chances of arriving on time were slowly slipping away. A guy in a dump truck pulled over and tried putting the fire out with his fire extinguisher. It worked for a bit but the fire still kept burning. The fire department and the Sheriff's Deputy arrived a short time later to a burnt and totaled brand-new Jeep. The fire fighters put out the fire fairly quickly, but it was clear the Jeep was not going to be taking me to Devil's Lake that day. When I explained to the deputy that I was headed to my first day as a law enforcement Park Ranger, he took pity on me. He said he would call the park and let them know I would be late, and he would give us a ride to the dealership (this was before we had cell phones).

We arrived at the dealership and the deputy marched in and told them that they were to give me a

vehicle to drive to my new job. What a guy! Of course, it is hard to argue with a guy that has a gun on his hip. We were given a Ford Taurus and were back on the road to Devil's Lake. Although, this is where it dawned on me that having the deputy call in for me on my first day of work to tell my new employer that I would be late, might not have been the best option.

As I rolled into the main parking lot of the North Shore I was a bit worried because I was now almost 3 hours late. I ran down to the Chateau where the orientation was and tried opening the doors. The doors were locked, but my frantic tugging on them alerted most of the people at the orientation that I was the guy who almost 3 hours late on his first day. I slithered in and sat in the back as everyone looked at me. I'm sure my face was a redder than our now burned up red Jeep as I sat down in the back. About 5 minutes later, the group broke for lunch. My new boss came up to me and asked what had happened? I guess the deputy hadn't really told him the story, so I had to detail to him and all the other Park Rangers there that day what had happened. By the end of the day I knew that I would be fine. I heard many exciting stories from other Park Rangers returning to the park from previous seasons and I could sense my boss was going to be great. Too bad I couldn't say the same for our Jeep. To this day, I still tell this story to new employees.

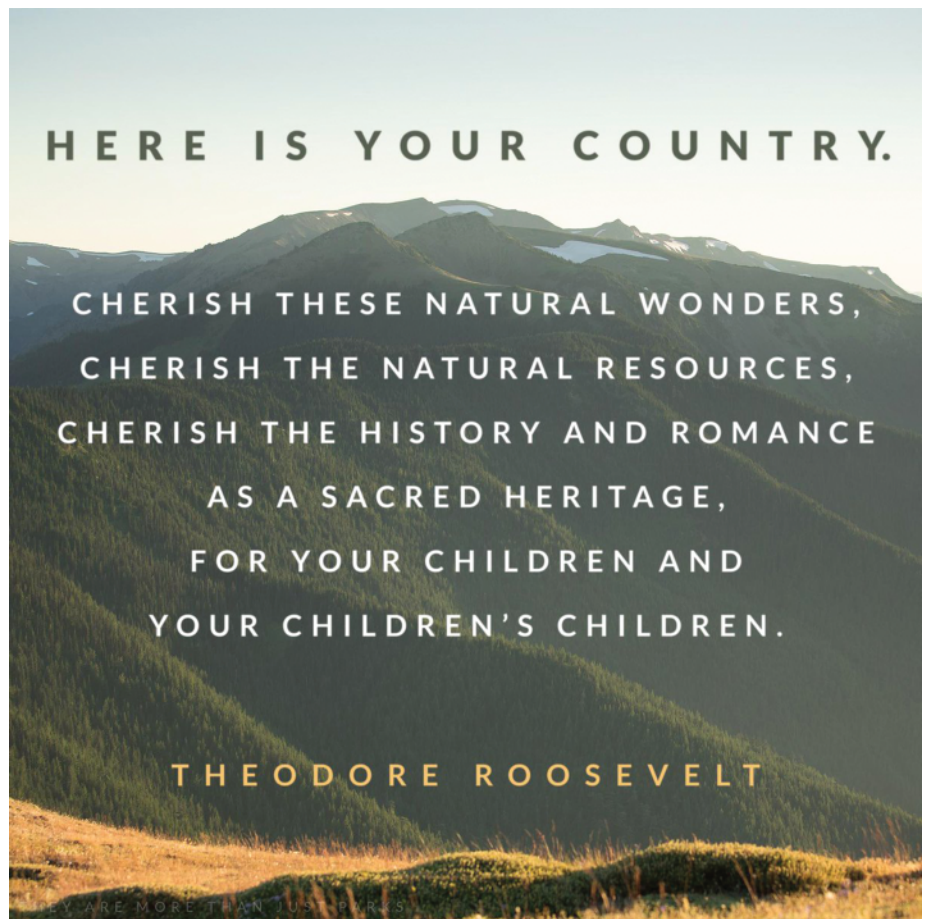
My last day working at Devil's Lake was a solitary affair. There wasn't a large group of people or even any employees around. It was just me and the park. You see when I accepted the District Park Supervisor position in the beginning of February, I had ambitions of still working on a number of Devil's Lake projects. Part of this was to lend a hand where needed and part of it was because it was hard to leave. The position I was taking had been vacant since August, so I was needed right away. My visions of hanging around the park a bit to help out faded fast. If you would have asked me in 1992 if I thought I would be at Devil's Lake for 27 years I probably wouldn't have believed you. As I cleaned out my office, a flood of memories came over me like a wave. You may be wondering what has kept

me at Devil’s Lake for all this time. While I cleaned out my office I thought about the same thing. The two draws that I kept thinking about were the park itself and the people.

One of the fundamental precepts of the founding of the Friends of Devil’s Lake was to protect, preserve, and improve the park. The “park” itself is a fundamental being that has been around for thousands of years. We all have ideas on how the park was formed. Whatever your belief is on this, it is likely that it may have involve some sort of higher being or purpose. The Ho Chunk People talk about Devil’s Lake being a sacred spirit lake that should be cherished. My spirit soars like a bird riding the thermals over the lake as I lived and experienced all the wonders of the park. I have so many memories of the park and what I have experienced, seen, and heard that it has become a part of me as it may have for you.

Working at Wisconsin’s busiest state park means there are usually lots of people around. I have had the opportunity to work with and meet some of the finest people you could ever meet. Opening those desk drawers as I cleaned them out was like opening a window into the past. I came across the pictures, mementoes, and the memories of all those years and the people I had experienced it with. These people included supervisors, coworkers, volunteers, friends group members, concession members and the public. These people have given of themselves for a higher purpose so they and others could enjoy the park in all its wonder. I know my time at the park would not have been as fullfilling without all the great people. I will be eternally grateful for the opportunity to work with all these people at park. I wish you all the best. I will see you all at the park.

Your Friend,
Steve Schmelzer



As one of stalwarts of conservation and public lands, Theodore Roosevelt penned the following quote about our public lands that I will leave you with this above.

WORD SEARCH ANSWERS

CULIKEFFFIGYMOUNDSAGLSCMOV@SUI@SH
 TPZETTOE@PLEUMFFEB@YAWIPXMXWWZSJ
 RD@PROSPECT@POINT@NE@OHPMNRHR@IGNBV
 ZM@FLT@SWU@SPIRIT@LAKE@AEXLGZBM@CRI@H
 GB@ILXQJ@CDCGLZIVZ@J@JOTYMGMCULV@CH
 JE@YVNA@JPXIV@EAST@BLUFF@LQIMGR@J@MBI
 MA@DVA@PRE@CAMBRIAN@HRCXQAAHNN@NOOK
 XC@STEIN@KEBASIN@JJ@RSC@NXUUC@PIZ@REE
 MH@UYR@GFHO@QRP@DROU@J@GOAG@DON@WBLA@OL
 SZ@HZOO@IRHF@WYCLC@PFL@FUMBR@ZCX@SIPA
 ICE@JTSC@IVMB@TKOH@VRUC@J@TPY@CWH@UNIK
 MC@D@BSG@K@ZE@JBG@V@J@ITTL@GH@FR@BUY@ECE
 KC@Y@E@V@OX@E@E@XS@OLAVE@CN@X@PH@S@I@VEL@BNZ
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 @ET@WW@I@WDA@EQ@TUMBLE@DROCK@U@J@DBR@YS@AL
 @Q@SYN@CLINE@D@NORTH@SHORE@V@BR@G@ROTTOR
 @Y@KMF@QUARTZ@ITE@PI@GUX@Y@YS@NFL@IJ@Q@TAK
 @S@TRU@WK@BAX@BC@ICE@Y@BALANCE@DROCK@Y@Y@K

BACKYARD NATURE

By Sue Johansen-Mayoleth, Park Naturalist

Our spring is a little different this year with the Governor's "Safer at Home" directive and the closing of most of the state parks due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but that doesn't mean that you can't enjoy nature! There's lots of ways to enjoy the natural world from your home or apartment. Whether you live in a city or out in the country, check out all the different ways you can observe the natural things happening around you. Listed below are several ways to explore the nature in your neighborhood and even help scientists study and learn more about our natural world.



Phenology: The Science of Appearance

Phenology is nature's calendar, noticing seasonal changes and typically recording the first occurrence for the year; like when buds first appear on the trees or when the red-wing blackbirds return. Phenology is the "science of appearance!" Phenologists are not just professional scientists, but anyone who's interested in paying attention to the timing of natural phenomenon. Aldo Leopold, former head of the Wildlife Ecology Department, UW Madison, and author of *A Sand County Almanac*, had a life-long passion for phenology. As a young boy, Aldo was exposed to a Progressive Era (late 1800s through the 1920s) school program promoted by the Nature Study Movement which aimed to instill an appreciation of nature among children.

The program required students to record their outdoor observations and this is where Aldo started his passion for phenology. Through his observations and recordings, he was able to bring new insight into the interconnectedness of living things. You too can be a phenologist and start recording the firsts in your neck of the woods. There are a couple of great websites for you to share your backyard phenology.

The website Nature's Notebook is a great way for you to share your observations and help scientists across the U.S. collect data about our environment. Visit the website at https://www.usanpn.org/natures_notebook to set up your account. Another great site for phenology is Journey North <https://journeynorth.org/>. This site looks at more specific natural phenomenon, like when you first hear frogs singing, the first time a hummingbird comes to your feeder, or you see or when the leaves on the trees come out. For both these websites you can explore what people all over the United States are observing.

Sit Spots

If you just want a way to just enjoy nature without technology, try a Sit Spot! Nature is all around and as we become more aware of what's around us, the more connected and fascinated we become with the natural world. One of the best ways to do this is simply by spending time outdoors, sitting quietly, and observing. By visiting the same place multiple times, you develop a relationship with that area. You get to know the place in all kinds of weather, times of day, and throughout the seasons.

Ideally, you'll want to spend at least 15 minutes in your Sit Spot, just quietly observing. If fifteen minutes seems a long time, you may want to start out with just sitting for 5 minutes and building up to fifteen. Take a few minutes afterward write down what you saw or heard that day. How many different birds did you hear singing? Was there a bug crawling through the grass or along the sidewalk? What did the clouds look like? You'll be amazed at the nature that is around you! Don't worry if you don't have a big backyard or you live in an apartment, your Sit Spot might need to be inside looking out a window and observing nature from there. Even in a city, there's nature to be observed and found.

Backyard Bird Watching

Bird watching is a great backyard hobby. Even if you don't have a feeder at your home or apartment, you'll still have birds in your neighborhood. There's lots of resources out there to help beginner birders learn to identify birds and places to record your sightings. If you don't have a field guide to birds, head over to the Cornell Lab's All About Birds website: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Merlin/overview> or download their free Merlin Bird App. It's a great tool to help beginner birders identify the birds they are seeing. Want a way to keep record your bird sightings in your backyard or around your neighborhood? Join eBird, an online bird checklist that allows you to keep track of the birds you are spotting. Plus, your observations help scientists study and learn more about birds and bird migration. Visit <https://ebird.org/home> to sign up for your eBird account.

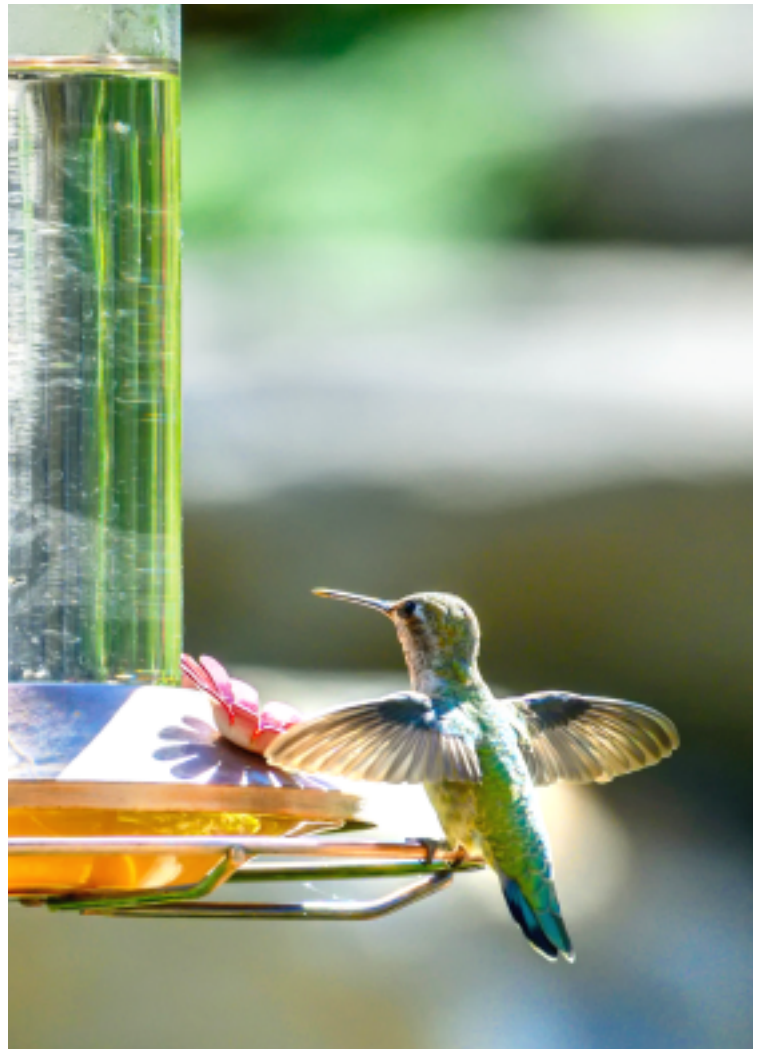
iNaturalist

There's lots of interesting natural things happening everywhere and iNaturalist is there to help you keep track and identify it all. Not sure what that bug, flower, or animal is? By uploading your pictures and observations to iNaturalists you

become connected to a community of over a million scientists and naturalists who can help you identify what you are finding. What's more, by recording and sharing your observations, you help create a database for scientists who are working to better understand and protect our environment. To sign up for an account and to start uploading your pictures and observations, visit <https://www.inaturalist.org/>.

Even though we are not able to get out to our local parks, there's still lots of ways to connect with nature right at home. Even if you live in an apartment, in a city, or have a home in a rural area, there is always nature around you. While we are all spending time "Safer at Home," I hope you take time to get to know the nature that is right around you and have fun finding out what's natural in your 'hood.'

Sue Johansen-Mayoleth
DLSP Naturalist





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: _____

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 friendsofdevillake.org to join or donate!

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