



SUMMER & EARLY FALL CALENDAR

CONCERT TIME

North Shore, outside the Chateau

Enjoy free Sunday night concerts sponsored by the Friends of Devil's Lake State Park (your car needs a park sticker). Bring a lawn chair. Ice cream and sodas available. **Sunday, July 28 — 6-8 p.m.** The Wrannock Celtic Trio: the family trio of Mike, Lisa and Angus Mossman. **Sunday, August 25 — 5-7 p.m.** Gramity: a "class grass" ensemble from Madison. (Note the earlier start time.)

HALLOWEEN HIKE

Saturday, October 26, 6-8:30 p.m.

Meet at the Rock Elm Shelter on the North Shore to start the mile-long torch-lit hike. Come in costume or not, but do dress warmly. There will be warming fires and marshmallow roasting. Hot drinks, chili and sweet goodies will be available.

ANNUAL MEETING AND PICNIC

Sept. 28. Details to follow in separate mailing.

NATURE CENTER NEWS

Our Superwoman naturalist Sue Johansen has so much going on it would fill the entire newsletter. Here are some samples, plus a website for details on everything.

Nature Center hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily Memorial Day to Labor Day. From Labor Day to Columbus Day, the Nature Center is open Thursday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Off to a Wet Start, but No Major Floods

Steve Schmelzer

Park Superintendent

Devil's Lake State Park

Tel. 608-356-8301 Ext. 111

E-Mail: Steven.Schmelzer@Wisconsin.gov



Dear Friends of Devil's Lake State Park,

Greetings from the park! I hope you had a good spring and Fourth of July holiday. We have had a very wet spring and start of the summer here. Since April 1 we have received over 18 inches of rain. While we haven't experienced any huge flooding events like 2008, things have been pretty saturated.

We have been operating the lake siphon pretty much all late spring (except for about a week) and we will continue to operate it until the level is down below the ordinary high water mark.

We have a Department of Natural Resources manual code that allows us to operate the siphon for flood control when the lake is at or above the ordinary high water mark in the spring and summer. The DNR and USGS (United States Geological Service) operate a lake level gauge on the lake that has real time data on the lake level and precipitation data.

If you are interested in accessing the site, it can be found at: http://waterdata.usgs.gov/wi/nwis/uv/?site_no=05404500&PARAMeter_cd=0006500060

Our visitation has been down compared to last year, but I don't know if we will ever match our visitation of the estimated 2.1 million visitors that we had last year. In some ways, this is good so we don't continue to adversely impact the park with crowds that are over our capacity. Most weekends after the middle of June last year we filled up all of our parking on North and South Shore and then put a couple hundred vehicles in overflow parking. After everything is full, we are forced to send people away from the park and tell them to come back to the park in the early evening or another day.

The Fourth of July weekend this year the weather was great and we saw the park was as busy as it was last year. I'd much rather take temps in the 80s this year as opposed to the 100s we experienced last year. If you plan on visiting the park on a weekend the remainder of this summer, I would recommend coming early (before 10 a.m.) to get a prime spot, or later (after 4 p.m.) to avoid waiting in the long lines.

The Friends hosted their first concert this year on June 30 with the popular Swing Crew entertaining everyone on the North Shore. I would highly recommend coming out to one of the two remaining concerts on July 28 or August 25.

Have a good rest of the summer and I'll see you all out at the park.

Sincerely,
Steve

Nature Center News



More Nature Center News

(Continued from Page 1)

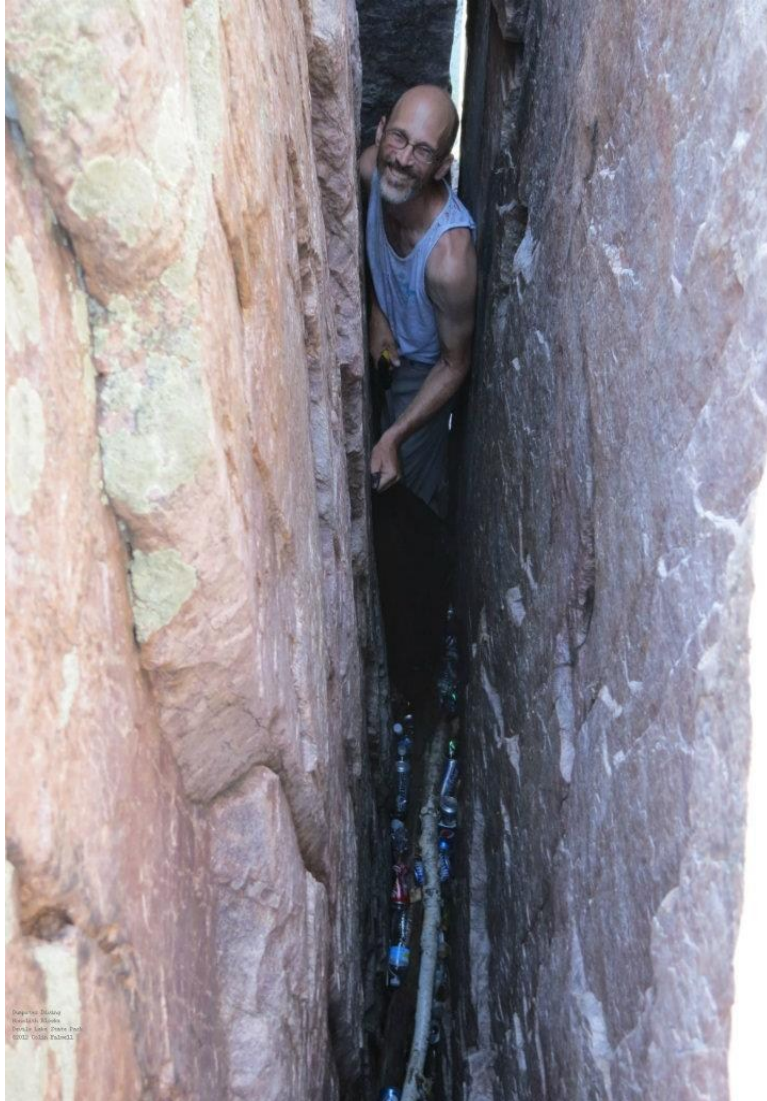
You can meet snakes, frogs, bats and birds, listen to and feed birds, learn about animal tracks, learn how paper is made, take archery lessons, learn to kayak, go on a photo scavenger hunt, learn to fish, and learn about Wisconsin's late great naturalist Aldo Leopold.

For full details go to <http://www.devilslakefriends.org/events>. The Nature Center telephone is 608-356-8301, ext. 140.

RIGHT: A Swing Crew band member plays the saw at the free concert Sunday, June 30.

BELOW: A big crowd turned out for the concert. People sat, ate, listened, and danced to the music.





ABOVE: Doug Hemken picking up trash (photo by Colin Farlow) BELOW: AJ climbs "There is No White Knight" (photo by Chris Eggert)



BOARD MEMBER DOUG HEMKEN — INSIDE THE ROCKS

The next guy you see literally hanging around *between* a couple of boulders atop the bluffs could well be Friends of Devil's Lake board member Doug Hemken, who has belonged to the organization since the late 1990s.

An enthusiastic rock climber, he is a member of the University of Wisconsin Hoofers mountaineering club, which is big on doing conservation projects. One of the first with which he was involved was when the park acquired the Martin farm.

"We hauled a bunch of junk out of there and took down a lot of barbed wire fences," Hemken said. "We do trash pickups. People drop junk down between rocks. Climbing down there to pick up the trash has been a very popular challenge. We've spent quite a bit of time in recent years scrubbing graffiti off the rocks. We have a name for every single rock in the park."

"I want people to take care of the park and I want people to enjoy the park," he said.

Hemken was born in Maryland in 1959 and grew up in Kentucky, where he started climbing in the Red River Gorge, a national natural landmark. Much of the gorge is inside the Daniel Boone National Forest. The abundance of high sandstone cliffs, natural bridges, rock shelters and waterfalls has made the gorge one of the world's top rock-climbing destinations.

"Devil's Lake was nationally well known for the quality of the climbing," he said. When he moved to Madison, Devil's Lake was one of the first places he went.

Hemken is a statistician at the University of Wisconsin, where he helps students with research and homework. He and his wife, Elizabeth, like hiking, camping and gardening. Most of their yard is shady so they have lots of perennials and wildflowers such as bluebells, columbine and Shasta daisies.

"I've always enjoyed giving back," he said. He was a Boy Scout, and after college joined the Peace Corps to teach math and science in Nepal.

In the winter the Hemkens like to snowshoe, ski and hike in various Wisconsin state parks

"Winter is a great time to get out and see animal tracks. At Devil's Lake if you walk along the base of the cliffs there are all kinds of interesting animal tracks, small mammals that in summertime you would never know were there," he said.

A Field Guide to Climbing Styles at Devil's Lake

By Doug Hemken

Friends of Devil's Lake board member and rock climbing enthusiast

The first rule of climbing is: There are no rules. For many, scrambling and climbing is a way to explore beyond the beaten track, to get off the trails and gain another point of view. For others, climbing is a challenge of muscle, balance and nerve, a test of your capabilities. Add in the beauty to be found in the boulders and cliffs, and the camaraderie of a challenge shared, and you have a sport that keeps many of us going for decades.

Devil's Lake has been attracting climbers to the Baraboo quartzite since before it became a state park. Technical rock climbing (the use of ropes and other paraphernalia) got its start here in the 1920s, among the earliest sites in the United States. Baraboo quartzite is wonderfully solid, maddeningly slick, and hosts enough cracks and small holds to present many opportunities for ascent.

Although there are no rules, climbers have an extensive nomenclature for the various forms that climbing can take.

Scrambling – scrambling begins where the hiking ends ... but where is that, exactly? Once you get into the talus and boulder fields, you often need to place your hands on the rocks in order to keep your balance as you move around. You may even need to grip the rock and pull in order to get around. If you can stand comfortably with your hands in your pockets when you aren't moving, then you have been scrambling. If you hike the Tumbled Rocks trail, you will often see people scrambling around in the boulder fields above you.

Most technical rock climbers do not consider scrambling to be climbing. We divide the world into hiking on trails, hiking off trails, scrambling, and climbing. When you need to use your hands to keep from falling off, both moving and at rest, then you are climbing.

Bouldering – climbers approach boulders as problems in pure gymnastics, sans equipment beyond gymnast's chalk and sticky rubber shoes. However, every fall is a ground fall, and the ground around here is often very rocky and uneven, so boulderers typically use thick bouldering pads to reduce the chance of injury. Over the last 15 years there has been a boom in the popularity of bouldering at Devil's Lake, and many new problems have been added to the local repertoire. You will see climbers bouldering in many of the same boulder fields where you see scrambling, but there are many hidden boulders scattered through the woods around Devil's Lake as well.

Soloing ("free soloing") – at some height, falls from bouldering problems get to be really wrenching, and who wants to get hurt? Then bouldering pads are not enough protection for most of us and we want ropes as our backup. However, a few individuals have the nerve and confidence to tackle taller, riskier problems without a rope. When there is no room for mistakes, you are soloing. You won't actually see much of this at Devil's Lake these days, but in the 1960s we had a resident solo climber of some notoriety.

Top-roping – the most common form of climbing at Devil's Lake. Climbers build an anchor at the top of a cliff, hang a rope from it, and then climb up from the bottom with the rope as backup in case of a fall. This provides a wide margin of safety, and can be used on problems of any degree of gymnastic difficulty. If you hike up the Balanced Rock trail, the CCC trail, or the south end of the West Bluff, you will surely see someone top-roping.

Nearly every major outcrop at Devil's Lake has a name, and climbers have given names to over a thousand climbing routes and boulder problems. Route names may be descriptive (Curving Crack, Upper Diagonal), eponymous (Peter's Project, Gill's Nose), inviting (Beginner's Delight), warning (Beginner's Demise), teasing (Short Man's Anguish), or poetic (Full Moon over Baraboo, Cleopatra's Needle).

Leading – like bouldering, lead climbing begins purely from the ground up. The lead climber trails a rope and places gear in cracks as he or she goes. This adds a whole new layer of strategy to climbing problems: Where can I find adequate cracks? Do I have the right gear? Can I hang on long enough to place my gear? The falls are typically longer and harder than top-rope falls, so climbers are conservative and try to take fewer of them when leading. Leading is the only way to climb something taller than 100 feet, but is not necessary to enjoy Devil's Lake. Any place you can see roped climbing, you might see leading, but you will have to look sharply to distinguish it from top-roping.

Aid climbing – pulling on gear to make upward progress. So far, everything we have considered has been "free climbing," where climbers rely on strength, gymnastic ability, and the rock to make upward progress. It is also possible to pull on gear, and in places you can make your way from the bottom to the top of the cliff by leading on aid. Difficult aid involves hammering thin steel pitons into narrow, shallow cracks. Because this has potential to damage the rock, this practice was largely abandoned at Devil's Lake in the early 1970s. You will very occasionally see someone practicing "clean" (non-hammered) aid, but even that is rare.



ABOVE: Chris Eggert climbs "Amazing Pillar" (photo: Chris Eggert)
BELOW: Joshua Schmale aids "Brinton's Crack" (photo: Doug Hemken)



ABOVE: Burt Lindquist seconds "Grand Illusion" (photo: Doug Hemken)



BELOW: Alex Grosvenor follows his father up "Bloody Finger" (photo: Matt Grosvenor)

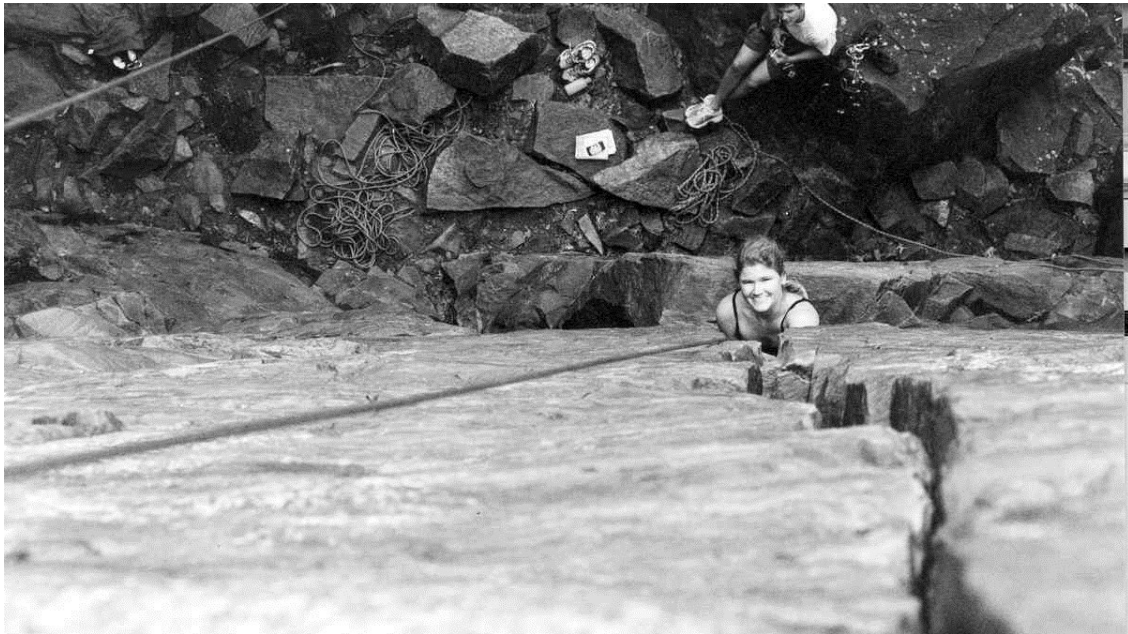


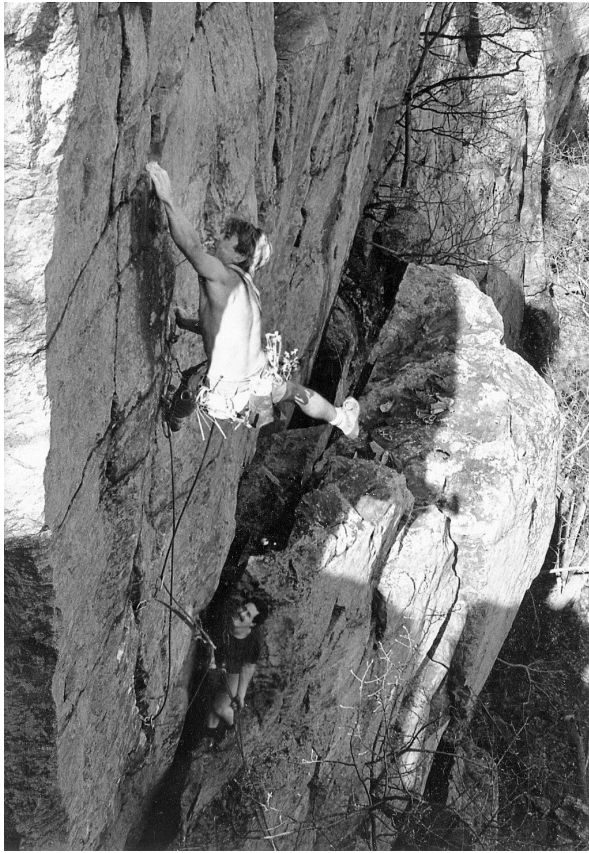


Left: Tiana Riebe atop Devil's Doorway (photo: Joshua Schmale)

Below: Suzanne Williams starting "Birch Tree" (photo: Doug Hemken)

BOTTOM PHOTO: Christina Freschl puzzles over "Caesarian West Face" (photo: Doug Hemken)





ABOVE LEFT: David Groth leads "The Good, the Bad, and the Jacked" (photo: Dave Langhoff)

ABOVE RIGHT: Darin Limvere leads "American Dream Roof" (photo: Krzysztof Gorny)

BELOW: Henning Boldt leads "Via Apia" (photo: Krzysztof Gorny)



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