



2014 Park Visitation is up!

I hope your early summer has been going well so far. Our spring and early summer has been fairly busy here at the park. I think the long cold winter really made people want to get outdoors. Because of this, our sticker sales/visitation is up over 20% from last year.

Early this spring we started meeting with a group of individuals that included Department staff, National Park Service Staff, Friends of Devil's Lake board members and Devil's Lake Concession board members to begin discussing where our new Ice Age Interpretive Center will be built and what amenities it may have. The hope is to have this part of the process completed by the end of the year so we can begin to raise monies for the facility. Previously, the process was going to be done by a team of private contractors but it was determined the Department could do it in house. I hope to report later this year that we are moving along in the process and we have a preferred site and some design components. Our naturalist, Sue Johansen, continues to offer a wide array of programs that continue to gain in popularity. A new state of the art facility would allow our visitors to comfortably enjoy the programs and exhibits that we have to offer and expand upon the services available.

While doing trail inspections the other day I was surprised to find a large timber rattlesnake sprawled across

the trail! This is only the 2nd one I have seen in my 22 seasons at the park. This one just was just content to lay on the trail. It was close to a curve in the trail and I didn't want an unsuspecting hiker to be surprised by it so I clapped my hands a couple times and stomped the ground a few times in an effort to get it to move. It just continued to lay on the trail so I shuffled some gravel near it and then it slowly slid off the trail. It did rattle its tail at me briefly, but it clearly just wanted to go its own way. These snakes are non-aggressive and mainly just want to be left alone. Each year we have a couple sightings of rattlesnakes in the park. So, 1 or 2 sightings out of 1.9 million visitors make seeing one quite rare. Check out the picture of it on the trail and the one where it is off the trail. As you can see, it is quite hard to make it out while it remains motionless.

I hope you have the opportunity to come out to the park for a visit soon as summer begins to take hold. I'll see you all at the park.

Steve Schmelzer
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Greetings from the President

Hello Friends of Devil's Lake State Park. You will notice that this issue of *The Friends of Devil's Lake State Park Advocate* has a whole new look and feel to it. The Board of Directors has hired local graphic artist Mark Tully of Bananaboat Advertising Graphics to coordinate and produce our publication going forward.

As a result, we must thank our previous editor Brenda Rotzoll and board member Carol Fleishauer for all of their efforts in publishing the newsletter ever since I arrived here five years ago. If you see them around Baraboo, please thank them for their quality service to your favorite State Park.

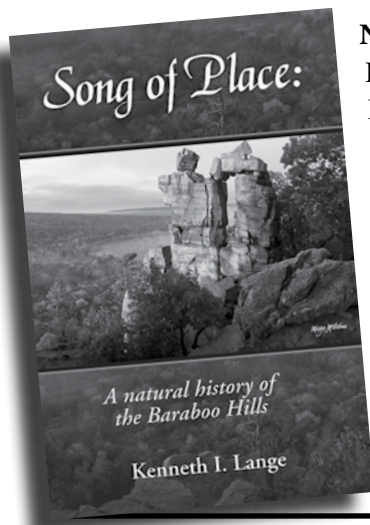
Those of you who know Mark Tully will enjoy what he has to offer our group in terms of his excellent knowledge of local history and his deep passion for our local landscape. He also plays a pretty good blues guitar! We look forward to working with him in the future and the new energy that he will bring to our organization.

Speaking of energy, I'll see you at the park for this summer's concert series on the last Sunday of July and August!

2

Todd Persche, President
Friends of Devil's Lake State Park
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In our next issue:
**Remembering Tom Osborne
(1933-2014)**



NEW from retired Devil's Lake State Park Naturalist Ken Lange. An extensive work on the flora, fauna, geology and human history of Devil's Lake State Park and the Baraboo Hills. Available in August from Village Booksmith in Downtown Baraboo, Devil's Lake State Park Concessions or the author.

Thanks To Brenda!

If you have been impressed by the professionalism of the *Advocate* over the last seven years, it's because a professional was editing it. Brenda Rotzoll graduated (as Valedictorian) from Baraboo High School in 1957, and four years later from the University of Wisconsin, with a degree in Journalism. She went on to a life-long newspaper career, working as a writer and editor for UPI for twenty-three years, and then for the *Chicago Sun-Times* for twenty years. In addition to "stateside" assignments, she worked in both London and Rome.

Upon retiring in 2005, Brenda returned to her childhood home in Baraboo, and soon after volunteered to edit the Friends of Devil's Lake State Park newsletter. We have been fortunate to benefit from her expertise. She wrote much of the content of the newsletter herself, including the recurring "bios" of new Board members. She also nagged others to meet deadlines for articles and photos so that every issue could be published on schedule. Her knowledge of the intricacies of the English language resulted in discriminating text-editing, and her mastery of Microsoft Publisher software provided for effective lay-out.

As the FODL Board now bundles responsibility for this newsletter with that for digital information channels to be managed by Mark Tully we wish to extend our sincere gratitude to Brenda for the good work she has done for us as a willing volunteer for these many years.

Save the Dates!

Saturday, September 27th, 5:00pm
North Shore Chateau

**Friends of Devil's Lake State Park
Annual Meeting**

Featured speaker: Bob Dewel

Saturday, October 25th. 6:00pm-8:00pm
Halloween Hike

Devil's Lake State Park Events & Activities

Moth Watch

Thursday, July 24, Starts @ 9:00 p.m.
Do some moth watching. Check out the moth light station and see what's attracted to the nightlight. Or, take a self-guided walk to the moth bait stations and see what's attracted to our special moth juice. Drop in anytime to find out why moths rule the night! Meet at the Nature Center.

Universe in the Park

Thursday, July 24, 9:00 – 10:00 p.m.
Join astronomers from the UW-Madison Astronomy Program for an evening of exploring the Universe! If there is rain, the presentation will be moved to the Nature Center. Meet at the Northern Lights Amphitheater.

Lawn Chair Bat Watch

Friday, July 25, Starting at 8:30 p.m.
It's a great time to bring a comfy lawn chair and watch the bats! We'll park our chairs by the bat condo and watch the bats emerge from the houses. We'll have fun bat information and a bat scavenger hunt for the kids to do while the wait to the bats to emerge. Meet at the bat condo (near north shore boat launch).

Archery Days

Saturday, July 26 & Sunday, July 27, 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Join us for a fun afternoon of archery! Drop in any time to try your hand with a bow and arrow. Whether you are experienced with a bow or never tried, we'll have certified instructors to help kids of all ages with some target practice. Meet near the north shore boat launch.

Dance to the Big Bands

Saturday, July 26, 7:30 – 10:30 pm
Dance to the Big Band sounds of the Hal Edwards Orchestra in Wisconsin's celebrated "most romantic dance pavilion" - the North Shore Chateau. Cost is \$10

Stuck on the Rocks

Saturday, July 26, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Presented by the Baraboo District Ambulance Service
Find out what happens when there's a climbing emergency on the bluffs of Devil Lake. Members of the Baraboo District Ambulance Service will show you the techniques and equipment used in rope rescues. Meet by the Chateau (North Shore Concessions).

Music in the Park – Swing Crew

Sunday, July 27, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Spend a Sunday evening at the North Shore of Devil's Lake State Park with Swing Crew! The shows feature a wide variety of music, audience participation, jokes, stunts, cornball humor and toasts. The concert will happen on the north shore, just by the Chateau. This is a free concert sponsored by the Friends of Devil's Lake State Park.

Learn to Fish

Thursday, August 7, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Want to try fishing? Join our Learn to Fish program! We'll have fun activities that will teach you the basics of fishing, before sending you off to catch some fish. If you are 16 and older, you'll need a fishing license. We'll supply all of the equipment and bait. Meet at the north shore boat launch.

Moth Watch

Thursday, August 7, 9:00 p.m.
At the Nature Center

Lawn Chair Bat Watch

Friday, August 8, 8:00 p.m.
North Shore Bat Condo

Dance to the Big Bands

Saturday, August 9, 7:30 – 10:30 pm
North Shore Chateau

Moth Watch

Thursday, August 14, 9:00 p.m.
At the Nature Center

Universe in the Park

Thursday, August 14, 9:00 – 10:00 p.m. Northern Lights Amphitheater.

Stuck on the Rocks

Friday, August 15, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.
North Shore Chateau

Archery Days

Saturday, August 16 & August 17, 12:30 – 3:00 p.m.
Meet near the north shore boat launch.

History in the Soil

Saturday, August 16, 8:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Join Eric Carson, Associate Professor at the Wisconsin Geologic and Natural History Survey at the University of Wisconsin Extension, to learn about what they've discovered about Devil's Lake through the many soil cores they've taken. Meet at the Northern Lights Amphitheater.

Drop in on Cranes

Saturday, August 23, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Presented by the International Crane Foundation

North American's tallest flying bird lives in Wisconsin. Learn more about the endangered Whooping Crane and the work being done to protect them. Test out your flight feathers with a scientist from the International Crane Foundation; touch crane feathers, bones, legs, and eggs; try to outsmart a Sandhill Crane; take a 'tiptoe' walk, and practice building a nest of your own. Activities will take place on the North Shore Beach by the Chateau.

Meet the Ranger

Saturday, August 23, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Visit with a ranger to see what their job is like. Check out the equipment and the squad they use. See what you can do to become a Jr. Ranger Meet at the Northern Lights Amphitheater.

Dance to the Big Bands

Saturday, August 23, 7:30 – 10:30 pm

Explore the Night Sky

Saturday, August 23 8:00 – 10:30 pm
Presented by the Madison Astronomy Society.

Join the Madison Astronomy Society (MAS) to learn about the night sky. MAS will have several telescopes set up and show you cool features about the moon, point you towards some winter constellations. This is more of an informal program where you can come anytime and the MAS volunteers will help you get to know the night sky. Meet at the north shore boat launch parking lot.

Lawn Chair Bat Watch

Friday, August 29, Starting 7:45 p.m.

Music in the Park –

No Name String Band

Sunday, August 31, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
The No Name Stringband lead by claw-hammer banjo player Brian Zimmerman & guitarist Matt Manske. They combine a broad understanding of traditional Appalachian old-time music with a slew of original acoustic compositions. The music ranges from fiddle-led, foot-stomping barn dances to slower, introspective classical-bluegrass numbers.

Lots of Summer Fun at Nature Center!

Summer is in full swing here at the park and there are lots of programs activities happening every day of the week! In this newsletter we have highlighted some of the activities and events happening, but for the full calendar of events, check out the Friends website at <http://www.devilslakefriends.org>. You can also sign up to be on our mailing list and get regular emails about programs and events happening this summer. Check out below for descriptions of the programs you can attend during the summer.

Monday Strolls – Take a leisurely walk and explore nature! These walks are great for families with kids ages three and up.

Animal Feeding Day – Join us on Tuesdays and Saturdays at the Nature Center to watch the animals be fed! Watch the box turtles munch on some salad. See the gartersnake slurp down a fish. Watch the treefrogs as they tackle a cricket or two.

Nature Tales - Join us for an hour of stories – naturally! Fun awaits your 3 to 8 year old as we read stories, explore nature, and make a project to take home.

Exploration Stations – Drop by to do some exploring! We have lots of fun, hands-on activities set up outside the nature center. You can explore birds, bugs, geocaching and more!

Nature Hikes and Programs – there's lots of hikes and programs to help your family learn about the natural world here at Devil's Lake. These programs happen Thursday through Sunday mornings and meet at the Nature Center.

Drop-in at the Beach – Take a moment for swimming to stop in at the activities happening at the beach! We have lots of hands-on activities to explore right by the north shore beach. These activities take place on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

Hope to see you at the Nature Center this summer!

Sue Johansen, Park Naturalist
(608) 356-8301 ext. 140
SusanA.Johansen@wisconsin.gov

Kayak Tours!

Once again we are offering a great way to explore the lake – by kayak! We have tours each day of the week, throughout the summer. The majority of these tours will be in the evening, but we've scheduled some for the mornings as well.

If you are interested in joining us on one of these tours, see below for more information.

- **Preregistration is required** – To register, please call the Nature Center at (608) 356-8301 Ext. 140.
- **Kayak rentals** – rental fees are \$25 for a single or \$45 for a double kayak. Fee includes your kayak, paddle, and PFD.
- **Cancellation Policy** - If the weather is bad or the lake is rough, we will cancel the tour for that day. Any kayak rental fees will be reimbursed to you.
- **Where to meet** – If you have rented a kayak, check out your kayak *at the Chateau*, then paddle over to the *North Shore Boat Launch*. Please leave yourself at least a half an hour before we start to pay for your kayak and meet at the boat launch.

If you have your own kayak, please meet at the *North Shore Boat Launch* 15-30 minutes before the tour starts.

- **How long will the tour last?** – The tours typically last 2 hours as we'll cover the circumference of the lake. We'll stop along the way to look at wildlife and to learn about the rich past of the area.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact me!

Sue Johansen, Park Naturalist
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SusanA.Johansen@wisconsin.gov



Photo by Skillet Creek Media



Above left: this quartzite boulder along the Tumbled Rocks Trail features distinctive rippled surface—evidence of a billion-year-old lake bed. Identical ripple patterns can be seen along the sandy shores of Devil's Lake even today (above right). Photos by Bill Schallert.

The Mysterious Ripple Rocks

When hiking the bluffs around Devil's Lake, one will often encounter very large rocks covered with ripples—there are quite a few of these on the Tumbled Rocks Trail that runs along the base of the West Bluff. Where did they come from?

About 1.7 billion years ago, a thick blanket of quartz sand was deposited on the floor of a shallow sea that covered Wisconsin. The back-and-forth movement of surface waves in the shallow, nearshore environment formed oscillation ripples. These ripples can also be seen in modern shallow water environments, such as along the sandy beaches of Devils Lake.

There is no accurate way to date when the ancient sand ripples actually became sandstone. We do know that some time after they were formed, the sand ripples became buried under other sediments. The pressure of and slightly higher temperatures of this burial resulted in compaction and cementation of the sand grains into sandstone.

Some time between 1.65 and 1.465 billion years ago, these rocks were exposed to great compressional forces, which folded the quartz sandstone into a large asymmetrical downward fold (syncline).

The cause of the folding is not clear, but it may have been caused by a small micro-continent colliding with North America along an east-west zone that was located somewhere beneath southernmost Wisconsin and Illinois. During folding, the sandstone was metamorphosed into

the resistant reddish quartzite we see today. During metamorphism, the increased temperature and pressure causes the quartz grains in the sandstone to fuse together and become interlocking, which accounts for the strength of the rocks. This recrystallization is often so complete that when broken, quartzite will split through the quartz grains rather than along the grain boundaries.

Original textures in the Baraboo Quartzite are remarkably well preserved, which is why many of the original sedimentary features, such as ripple marks, can still be seen today.

Most Baraboo Quartzite is some shade of red, pink, or maroon, which is caused by small grains of hematite, an iron oxide mineral. This indicates a fully oxidizing environment of deposition. The Earth's atmosphere was already full of oxygen by 1.5 billion years ago, but the Great Oxidation Event (when the atmosphere went from anoxic to oxic) happened about a billion years prior to this—around 2.4 billion years ago. However, it was likely that deep ocean basins were still anoxic, so the hematite content and ripple marks present in Baraboo Quartzite means that the sand was originally deposited in shallow water, not deep water.

Melissa Hage
Assistant Professor of Geology
University of Wisconsin – Baraboo/Sauk County

Invasive Species Have Long History

Some introduced species, like the honey bee, are considered beneficial, but when plants and animals reproduce unchecked and threaten native biodiversity they become a serious problem. Anyone who spends much time in Devil's Lake State Park has heard their names (usually hissed through clenched teeth with great contempt): garlic mustard, buckthorn, emerald ash borer, Gypsy moth, Asian long-horned beetle, Eurasian watermilfoil.

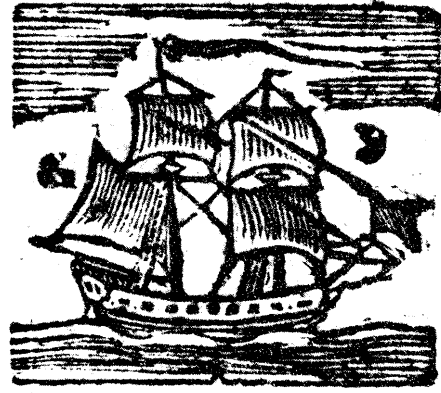
Many invaders came to America hidden away in the ballast water of merchant vessels, burrowed deep inside wooden shipping pallets, or secreted among the soil or foliage of exotic garden plants. A few were once sold openly through greenhouses and pet supply and bait shops. Individuals plus federal, state and local governments spend huge sums each year combatting these unwelcome invaders—the U.S. federal government alone spends around \$125 billion annually trying to control various invasive species.

It may be of little comfort, but this not a new problem. For as long as man has been engaged in trade and exploration, unwelcome “guests” have been either deliberately redistributed or have tagged along.

6

One of the earliest examples is the black rat (*Rattus rattus*). These pests originated in tropical Asia and spread along trade routes into the Middle East during Roman times and then into Europe around the first century AD, where they would cause extensive crop damage and spread disease, including several devastating plagues. As early as the 16th century, black rats hiding in the holds of Portuguese, Dutch, French and English merchant ships were being transported around much of the globe. Rats are voracious omnivores and wherever they landed they quickly threatened or caused the extinction of native plant and animal species. On the island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean alone they were partly responsible for the disappearance of the Dodo (*Raphus cucullatus*, extinct 1681), Réunion Solitaire (*Raphus solitarius*, extinct by 1746), and the Rodrigues Solitaire (*Pezophaps solitaria*, extinct by 1790).

Sometimes the ravages of foreign species are not so easily observed. Earthworms, for example, may be the most important invasive species in history. It is believed that they were probably accidentally introduced from Europe hidden in soil used as ship ballast or to transport



plants being brought to America for cultivation during the 18th century. Earthworms do have benefits to agriculture, but earthworms also eat the spongy “duff” layer of rotting leaves on the forest floor, depriving younger trees and native ferns and wildflowers of needed nutrients, which can completely change the ecosystem of a forest. For better or worse, Charles Darwin considered the earthworm the most influential creature on the planet.

The rats and worms were unintentional invaders—stowaways brought over in the holds of ships—but some invasive species were also spread on purpose. For example, during the 17th and 18th centuries it was common to maroon pigs and other livestock on islands—especially those situated along important trade routes like the West Indies—in order to provide a source of fresh meat for hungry, often malnourished sailors. In an age before refrigeration a series of reliable food caches was essential to global exploration and trade. Like the rats, pigs can (and do) eat almost anything, and the ship captains of centuries gone by probably didn't notice or particularly care that island plant and animal species were being completely wiped out by their marooned swine, goats and other animals.

Some invaders were also introduced purely out of nostalgia. The European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) was purposely brought to America in the late 1800s by a man named Eugene Schiffelin. Schiffelin was a well-meaning intellectual who felt that each of the bird species referred to in Shakespeare's works should be present in America. The Starling is only briefly mentioned in Shakespeare's 1597 play *History of Henry IV*, but today it is one of the most common and widespread birds in the Americas, competing with native species for food and causing millions of dollars worth of crop damage each year.

A variety of invasive plants were also purposely brought to the Americas from Europe. Some of these plants were considered beneficial until they escaped the agricultural fields and herb gardens of our forefathers to become invasive species.

Black Medic (*Medicago lupulina*), for example,

is a low, creeping, clover-like legume with tiny, bright yellow flowers. It was known as “noneseuch” during the 18th century, and it was deliberately imported from the Mediterranean into England and then into the American colonies primarily for use as cattle forage. The entire plant was also used as a potherb and as a home remedy—aqueous extracts of the plant are known to have antibacterial properties and also contain compounds that relieve pain. Today, Black Medic is the most widespread noxious weed in North America, having naturalized in the lawns of every state including Alaska and Hawaii (yes, it is likely abundant in your lawn).

Ground Ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*), commonly known as Creeping Charlie, was also introduced during the 18th century. This low, evergreen member of the mint family blooms with small, orchid-like purple flowers each Spring. Its early name, Alehoof, points to its use by the Saxons as a hop substitute for adding bitterness to beer and ale. It was also used medicinally as a sort of cure-all—when brewed as a tea it was claimed to suppress coughs, lower fever, relieve ringing in the ears, soothe irritated eyes and cure sores, ulcers and even the itch. It was also added to medicinal salves to help relieve pain and speed healing of burns from gunpowder. According to *Culpeper’s Compleat Herbal* (1653) the juice from the bruised leaves, when snuffed up the nose, would “cure the headache when other remedies will fail”—which seems ironic as today Creeping Charlie is a major headache to many homeowners!

We all cringe at the very mention of the name Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), but it was once considered beneficial, being commonly used medicinally as a disinfectant and diuretic. It is a native of Europe and parts of Asia where, over 6,000 years ago, it was one of the earliest plants to be cultivated as an herb for culinary use. The earliest report of escaped garlic mustard growing wild in the United States dates back to 1868 on Long Island, New York. In the less than 150 years since then it has spread across much of North America and is now the bane of Devil’s Lake and many other State Parks.

Invasive species have been a problem for thousands of years and, unfortunately, they are probably here to stay. Perhaps the best we can do is to be vigilant and make every effort to try to help prevent their further spread, especially into pristine, native areas. With ongoing eradication efforts, over time, the local flora and fauna will adjust and adapt to these problem species.

Mark R. Tully
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If You Can’t Beat it, Eat it!

GARLIC MUSTARD has been used as an herb to give a little zing to salads and cooking for millennia. It begins to wilt rather quickly, so pick it fresh and use as soon as you can. You can also enjoy it all year ’round by making it into pesto and freezing it.

Garlic Mustard Pesto

INGREDIENTS

3 cups garlic mustard leaves (not stems or seed pods)*

1 cup toasted walnuts, sunflower seeds, or cashews

¾ cup olive oil

½ cup grated parmesan cheese

Salt to taste

Collect only untreated, unsprayed plants. Rinse the garlic mustard leaves thoroughly and dry in a salad spinner. Use a food processor to blend the garlic mustard, nuts, and parmesan cheese. Slowly drizzle in the olive oil while you are blending. Add salt to taste and serve! Refrigerate or freeze unused portions for future use.

Garlic mustard pesto can be used in a number of ways. It makes an excellent sandwich spread. Try it on your next BLT, gourmet melted cheese or Italian-style sandwich. It can be used straight or mixed half-and-half with mayonnaise or whipped cream cheese.

Spread it directly on crackers and top with a shavings of hard cheese and a cherry tomato.

A delicious bruschetta can be made by spreading garlic mustard pesto on toasted French bread, then topping with diced tomatoes, shredded Romano cheese and a drizzle of olive oil and balsamic vinegar—a perfect appetizer on a hot summer day!

Make a light and delicious side dish by tossing a big dollop of garlic mustard pesto, a little olive oil, grated Italian cheese and some chopped walnuts with any freshly-cooked, drained pasta (it is especially delicious with whole-grain pastas).

Bon appétit!

* According to Devil’s Lake State Park Superintendent, Steve Schmelzer it is indeed lawful to collect edible fruits, nuts, and mushrooms from any Wisconsin State Park.

Friends



of Devil's Lake
State Park

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If you would like to contribute a story, photograph, poem or artwork relating to Devil's Lake State Park, please contact the editor, Mark Tully at 608.356.1836 or info@ballindalloch-press.com

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Friends of Devil's Lake State Park Membership Categories & Benefits

One Year Membership - \$20

- Subscription to *Friends of Devil's Lake State Park Advocate* newsletter

Three Year Membership - \$55

- Subscription to *Friends of Devil's Lake State Park Advocate* newsletter
- *Friends of Devil's Lake State Park* decal

One-year Explorer Membership - \$100

- Subscription to *Friends of Devil's Lake State Park Advocate* newsletter
- *Friends of Devil's Lake State Park* decal
- Annual Wisconsin State Parks admission sticker

NEW: All memberships also receive a 10% discount on food and boat rentals at Devil's Lake State Park concessions (some exclusions apply).

I am renewing my current membership.

This is a new membership with Friends of Devil's Lake State Park.

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