



Advocate

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► WHAT'S INSIDE

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 President's Message | 5 Climbers' Activities |
| 2 Park Superintendent's Report | 6 Friends' Grotto |
| 3 Board of Directors Agenda | 7 Upcoming Park Events |
| 4 Friends Sponsored Events | 8 Membership Specials |

SPIRITS ARE AMONG US

President's Message

The Native Americans who knew our lake centuries before we did called it Spirit Lake. If you spend any amount of time in The Park – in the water, on the bluffs, on a beach, in the forest – events turn into experiences. You become rejuvenated by swimming in the water. You are elevated and soar over the bluffs on a climb. You relax and connect with others while picnicking on the beach. You immerse yourself deep into nature on a hike in the forest.

We all have been to many of our other fine Wisconsin state parks and natural areas. They offer interesting and unique things to see and do. We enjoy them and benefit from having visited them.

There is something about Spirit Lake that sets it apart from other state parks. Maybe the unique geology gets us thinking beyond the events of the day to the

numerous events over millions of years that caused the rock formations to happen. It could be that those turkey vultures circling above remind us that there is more to life than my swim, my hike or my climb. With 50 visitors in the park on some days and 50,000 visitors on others, different types of energy are on tap for us. Or perhaps there really are spirits of the lake that heighten our interest and appreciation for The Park.

The millions of visitors that visit The Park each year is testimony in itself that Spirit Lake is special. I suspect that the draw for us is not so much because of what is in The Park, but because of our experiences in The Park.

Happy Trails,
Dave Barger, Friends President

Chad Canfield



GREETINGS FROM THE PARK!

Park Superintendent's Report

Greetings from San Diego! My family and I took a trip out west to San Diego for a few days. What do park managers do on their vacation you ask? We go to parks of course. A couple highlights were going to Joshua Tree National Park and Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve in California. What a difference in landscape! It is always interesting to delve into the history of the forming of various parks. In many cases, these special places were protected by a few likeminded individuals or groups who sought to protect these special places for future generations, much like the beginnings of Devil's

Lake. I would highly recommend a visit to both if you ever get out west to southern California.

We are now in the throngs of summer and our busiest time of the year here at the park. As many visitors come and go from the park, I have had the opportunity to talk to our park visitors as the Department has rolled out a survey in preparation for our master planning process which will officially begin in 2020. This survey asks visitors about why they visit the park and what they would like to see for changes in the park in the future. One of the best parts of my job is to talk to and interact with the wide range of visitors who visit the park.

In one day, last week I talked to groups from Turkey, Ukraine, and Mexico who were visiting the park with family from the US. These visitors were extremely friendly and all of them offered me to sit down and have a meal with them. Needless to say, all their food looked and smelled fantastic. I told them I appreciated their generosity, but I was not really allowed to take their offerings. All said they would be happy to fill out our survey. The surveys will be distributed at the Visitor Center and at remote parking lots throughout the summer and fall. Please stop by the visitor center and ask for one to fill out. Take some time out of your busy schedules and come and visit Devil's Lake or any other park. I'll see you all at the park.

—Steve Schmelzer, Park Superintendent



BOARD OF DIRECTORS – ON THE AGENDA



The past year has been a whirl-wind for the Friends, so we thought it would be a good idea to detail some of our activities we have been working on this past year.

One obvious activity is our work with the proposed Educational/Interpretive Center (Center). A committee made up of three Friends' BOD, WDNR representatives and three board members from the Devil's Lake Concessions Corporation (DLCC) hired GWWO to prepare a conceptual design and preferred location for the proposed Center. The funds for this first step in this process were donated to the Friends by the DLCC. GWWO will prepare a report that will provide a conceptual design, proposed location and proposed amenities for the Center. The report will have a detailed account of the process that the committee and GWWO used to reach their conclusions. With the completion of this report, we hope to begin our process of hiring a fundraiser to continue moving the project forward. This is only the first step in a long journey.

The WDNR is beginning work on its updated Master Plan for Devil's Lake State Park. The final plan is anticipated to be complete by the beginning of 2021. The report prepared by GWWO is one tool that the WDNR will use in its completion of the Master Plan. The Center project will not break ground until the Master Plan is complete.

Other activities that the Friends group has participated in this year are the Candlelight Snowshoe, Ice Age Trail Conference at Ho Chunk Casino, the Big 10 Regatta, Birds and Bagels, Geology Field Trip, and Music in the Park (Swing Crew, and Noah John and Ringing Iron). (Don't forget, our last concert is from 5-7 pm on August 25th.)

The BOD has also been working on our Bylaws and Governing Policies, a task that we have found both tedious and very time-consuming. Before we moved forward with fundraising for the new Center, we wanted to do a check on

Geology Trip, May 25, 2019, Ableman's Gorge

our corporate documents, and indeed discovered that some of our corporate documents needed to be brought up to date with attorney oversight. We will be posting the updated documents on our website when they are complete. We also plan to send out information with regard to changes in our Articles of Incorporation, which will be voted on at the annual meeting by our members. Speaking of Annual Meeting, our Annual Meeting will be September 29, 2019. Formal notice and details will be sent out via email to our members and posted on our website. We have two Board Members retiring their positions and thus, we are looking for people interested in joining the board. The BOD typically recommends Board candidates at the Annual Meeting, but candidates can also be nominated "from the floor" at the Annual Meeting. If you are interested, or know anyone who may be interested in being a candidate for our BOD, please let us know.

Another project we have been working on is reaching out to our members for volunteer opportunities. Dave Barger, our current president has been pulling double duty as our Volunteer Coordinator. He will be leading volunteer weekend opportunities (August 10th and 11th , and August 17th and 18th). If you are interested, please let us know. Dave's term as president will be up in September. While we are sorry to see him go as president, he will now have more time to focus his efforts as Volunteer Coordinator.

I think that covers most of what we have been doing as of late. Please feel free to contact the Friends BOD if you have questions or concerns with regard to Friends' happenings via email at friendsofdevilstakestatepark@gmail.com. Also remember to visit our website at friendsofdevilstake.org to get updates with regard to the proposed Center and calendar of events.

–Bernadette Greenwood, Friends Vice President

FRIENDS EVENTS

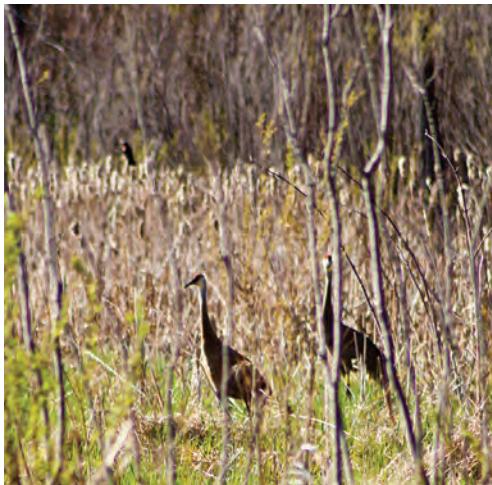


Swing Crew performing in the Rock Elm Shelter, North Shore. Photo credit: Aileen DeJesus

07/28 • Noah John and Ringing Iron • 6pm



08/25 • Madtown Mannish Boys • 5pm



Sandhill Cranes were spotted along with other birds during our "Birds & Bagels" bird watching event!

Ice Age Trail Alliance ▶

Members of the Board attended the Ice Age Trail Alliance 2019 Conference & Membership Meeting on Thursday, April 11th. We had a great time sharing stories and talking to everyone!



◀ Music in the Park

How many people can be fit in the Rock Elm Shelter? Well the first show of "Music in the Park" certainly had audience members huddled into this room to escape the weather and enjoy an evening of acoustic music with The Swing Crew! Check out our August show on the North Shore by the Chateau.

▼ Birds & Bagels

Thank you all who attended the birdwatching event Birds & Bagels hosted by Park Naturalist Sue Johansen-Mayoleth! The Friends provided the bagels and juice for this event. We had clear skies, and our feathered friends did not disappoint.

CLIMBERS' ACTIVITIES



WCA Board Member Kyle Harding soaks a graffitied rock with solvent in preparation for scrubbing. Photo credit: Paul Kalifatidi

It's been another busy year for local climbers at Devil's Lake. Here's a brief summary of recent conservation events:

In early May, the Wisconsin Climbers Association (WCA) was honored to co-host the annual meeting of The Access Fund, a national non-profit group focused on developing, improving and supporting relationships between private climbers and public land managers. Climbers and land managers gathered from throughout the Midwest and beyond to attend workshops and conduct service work in the Park.

On May 19th, the WCA held a conservation work project day in May. Volunteers split up to attack a variety of

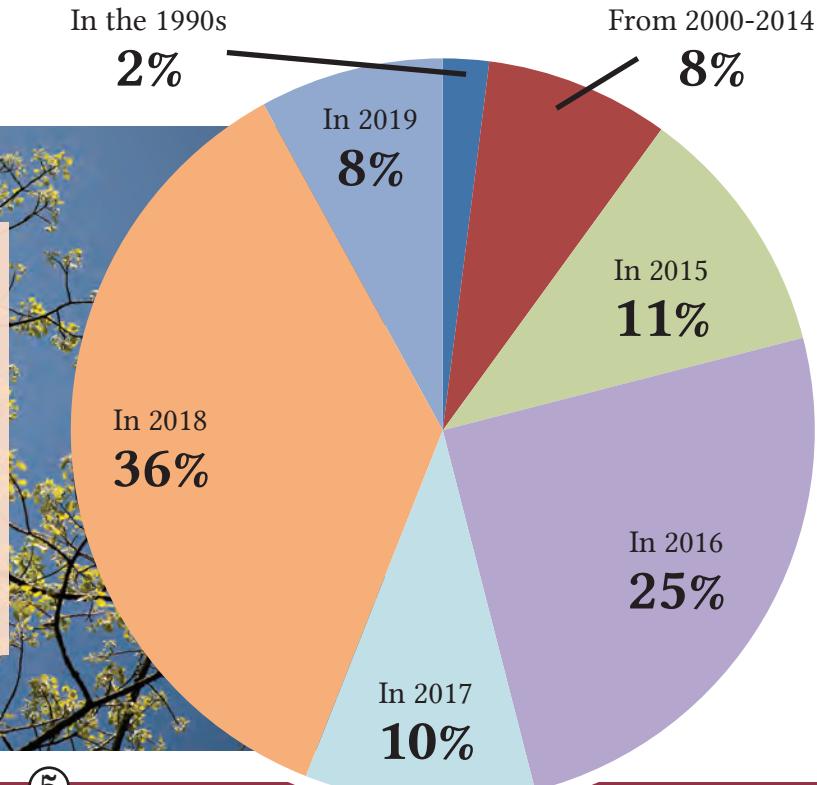
projects; some pulled mustard garlic, others eliminated graffiti and still others picked up trash.

The first weekend of August, the Access Fund will be sending their mobile trail building team to Devil's Lake for the fourth year to conduct a focused trail rehabilitation. The on-going goal is to stabilize and sustain high-quality climbing access trails within Devil's Lake State Park, and reduce erosion and impacts to flora and fauna.

In early October, the American Alpine Club will hold the fifth annual Craggin' Classic climbing festival. On Sunday, the climbers will conduct a service project in coordination with Park staff and the WCA.

—Nick Wilkes, Board Member at Large

WHEN DID OUR FRIENDS MEMBERS JOIN?



FRIENDS' GROTTO



Keri Olson, cropped

"HOME"

Submitted by Keri Olson, Friends Member; Baraboo, WI; July 15, 2019

Home. We all have those places that feel as if they are so much a part of us that we are a part of them. When we are there, we have a deep knowing that we are home. That's how I feel about Devil's Lake State Park.

From the time I was a child, I have been in love with Devil's Lake. It's not just the water that draws me. It's the purple quartzite bluffs, the well-trodden paths, the Dutchman's breeches and the Queen Anne's lace, the songs of the red-winged blackbirds and the spring peepers, the dragonflies and damselflies darting across the lake's edge. The wildness woos me.

My husband, Larry McCoy, and I often find ourselves at Devil's Lake, walking the familiar trails and witnessing the sunset dancing off of the tranquil water.

I frequently blog about my experiences and observations of this place I call home. Here are my reflections from one such experience:

While enjoying a walk at Devil's Lake, Larry and I stopped momentarily to take in the spectacular view of the setting sun reflecting on the water. All of a sudden, we heard fluttering.

A lone Great Blue Heron hidden in the tall grasses that dot the water's edge was disturbed by our approach. It flew away a few yards down the lakeshore and watched us.

Herons are comprised primarily of long legs, an equally long neck and a gigantic wingspan. As the magnificent bird flapped furiously, it stretched out its long legs and neck and flew right past us. We were tempted to follow to get a closer look, but decided that our blue companion preferred a solo experience.

A few evenings later, we encountered the heron once again along the shore. This time, it stood still allowing us to get closer, but still wary: Were we friends or foes?

The three of us stood in silence for a while, studying one another. Although we may have not looked the same, we were the same. We were each enjoying a lovely evening at home, at Devil's Lake.

FRIENDS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

at our local University of Wisconsin-Platteville Baraboo Sauk County campus

One of the exciting activities the Friends does each year is to support the education of a local student who demonstrates a commitment to the outdoors. We have funded a scholarship at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville Baraboo Sauk County that is awarded annually to a particularly promising student. They are chosen for their success in natural-world related science courses, such as Geology or Archeology, and their enthusiasm in contributions to community service.

This year's exceptionally worthy recipient is Isaac Powers. He has been on the Dean's List for

Academic Achievement since he first came to the college campus as a high school student. Beyond that, he has been called a local "community service legend." One of his memorable service projects was a recent volunteer trip to New Mexico where he helped pave trails. Waking up each morning at 5 am, he carried his 50-pound backpack to the trail site at 12,000 feet for the days work. And he certainly hasn't stopped there. Since returning from that trip, he has completed more than 100 hours of volunteer service work. Isaac's certainly an inspiration for all of us!

-Stephen Swallen, Board Member at Large

UPCOMING PARK EVENTS



2019 VOLUNTEER WORK & FREE VACATION OPPORTUNITY

Aug. 10/11 & Aug. 17/18 Weekends

Want to help improve part of West Bluff Trail? Here's your chance! We will have two weekends in August when we will be doing work: Saturday & Sunday Aug 10-11 and then again Saturday & Sunday Aug 17-18, 9:00 am-2:00 pm each day. We will be repairing parts of the trail with cold patch asphalt. The asphalt will be dropped off at the work site by kind hikers as they carry buckets from the trail base to the work site from now until the work weeks.

In addition, after we are done working we will offer afternoon activities you can participate in FOR FREE on Saturday, such as rock climbing or kayaking. Another perk... you get a chance to camp overnight in a unique spot in the park FOR FREE on Saturday night! That's not all! If you choose to camp with us on Saturday night your meal will be provided FOR FREE on Saturday night, Sunday morning and Sunday noon! Such a deal! You get

to give back to the park and get rewarded in return.

Equipment, tools, and gloves will be provided... participants need to provide raingear, work boots and durable clothing suitable for outdoor work. If you are camping with us Saturday night, you need to bring your own tent, sleeping bag/pad, and eating utensils. For rainy days, we likely would work on indoor projects (e.g. painting picnic tables). Each participant must be 18 years of age or older (as of Aug 10, 2019). You do not need to be a Friends member to participate in the work, but you DO need to be a member to camp FREE overnight and get the FREE meals.

If interested, please email Dave Barger (dbarger717@gmail.com) with contact info (name, phone, email) and include what date(s) you intend to work and whether you plan to camp on one of the Saturdays.

We look forward to working with you to improve the trail!

NATURE CENTER

SUMMER HOURS:

Open from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, 7 days a week from Memorial Day to Labor Day.



Laura Dierbeck

Located just off the north shore entrance road, the Nature Center hosts a variety of activities for all ages. You will have a chance to meet the Park Naturalist, Sue Johansen-Mayoleth, enjoy the exhibits on display, and see the calendar for more upcoming events!



2019 EVENTS

**August 10/11 &
August 17/18 -
Volunteer Vacation**
Camping & working in the park
(see left for details)

**August 25 - Summer
concert by Madtown
Mannish Boys**
5:00 - 7:00 p.m., North Shore

**September 29 -
Annual Members Meeting**
(see email invitation for details)

**October 26 -
Halloween Hike**
6:00 - 8:00 p.m., North Shore



Friends of Devil's Lake State Park
P.O. Box 209
Baraboo, WI 53913

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Membership paid through year shown on label.



FRIENDS' 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 need your help! While supplies last, for any donation amount of \$50 or more, we will mail you one shirt as a token of our appreciation.



FRIENDS OF DEVIL'S LAKE STATE PARK - MEMBERSHIP SPECIALS

Membership Options:

- \$30 - 1 year regular
- \$80 - 3 year discounted regular

Support for Devil's Lake:

\$ _____. To jumpstart fundraising efforts for the Interpretive / Nature Center Project, I wish to make a donation of \$50 or more to the Friends.

Receive one shirt for your \$50+ donation (Sizes S-XL)

- Short-sleeved (lime green), Size _____
- Long-sleeved (light blue), Size _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State: _____, _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____ (*Required for membership database -- will NOT be disclosed to any other parties*)

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 friendsofdevilstake.org to join or donate!

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