



Advocate

VOLUME 24 | NUMBER 3 SUMMER 2020

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings! I hope you all get a chance to take in the wonders of nature, albeit at a distance from others. Even in these challenging times, nature never lets us down. The wildlife at the park is flourishing, and the blues of Devil's Lake are as breathtaking as ever. There is nothing better than to be on top of West Bluff Trail to watch the turkey vultures float in the warming upward currents along the rocky cliffs. Sue Johansen-Mayoeth, the park naturalist, has an article in this newsletter entitled "Backyard Nature" provides great ideas for you to connect to nature, even if you can't get to the Park. Even with the pandemic, or possibly because of it, the park has seen record crowds of late, which may cause difficulty or give pause for those who would like to visit, but would also like to do so at a distance from others. As many of you already know, the best time to visit the park is first thing in the morning, or toward evening. My favorite time at the park in the summer is on Sunday around 4 or 5 p.m., at which time, we can typically put our boat in without waiting at the South Shore boat launch. The water is usually calm then, and most of the crowds have left for the day.

The Friends typically organize and sponsor many events throughout the year such as Music in the Park, birdwatching, trail cleanup/work, and seasonal candlelit hikes. We are feeling sad and missing these activities and

have been trying to figure out ways to continue to help the park from a distance. With our firewood sales income gone, and no access to the Visitor's Center, we decided to create an online store. We are working on a few more items to sell, but for now have a limited supply of our popular "Devil's Lake Rocks" t-shirts along with hats, stickers, gift cards, and backpacks. You can access our online store by going to our website and scrolling down to the bottom of the page, or by clicking the "Store" tab at the top. We also have the opportunity for you to purchase Dedication Pavers that are installed in front of the Chateau at North Shore. We have been busy this summer installing pavers, and are happy to say that all pavers that were ordered before June 2020 have now been installed! If you are interested in ordering a paver, you can visit our website and click "initiatives" or go to the following link to download an application: <https://www.friendsofdevilslake.org/initiatives/fundraising>

We have also been busy regaining official "ownership" of the section of DL from North Shore Drive to Highway 113 for the Sauk County Adopt-a-Highway program. Our new signs will be up soon, and we have scheduled a cleanup event for Saturday, October 24, 2020 at 9 a.m. Physical distancing and masks will be required. If you are interested in helping, or as always, if you have

any questions or concerns, please contact us via email to friendsofdevillakestatepark@gmail.com.


Lastly, an important question came up at our last board meeting. What about our Annual Meeting in September? At this writing, we are thinking of having a virtual Annual Meeting. We will discuss this topic further at our next board meeting on August 10th and let you know.

As always, thank you so much for supporting the Friends and Devil's Lake State Park. We appreciate your contributions of time, talent and monetary support, and can't wait until we can all be together again, up closer and more personal!

Best Regards, and Stay Safe,

Bernadette Greenwood
Friends of Devil's Lake President

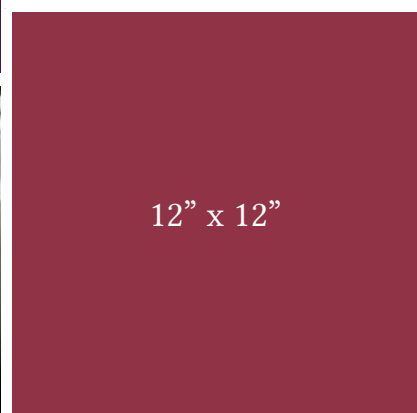
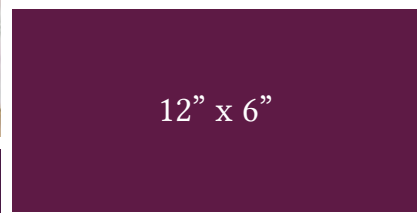
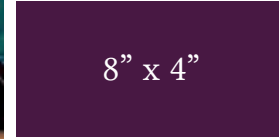


 [Shop our online store at friendsofdevillake.org](http://friendsofdevillake.org)



Dedication Pavers

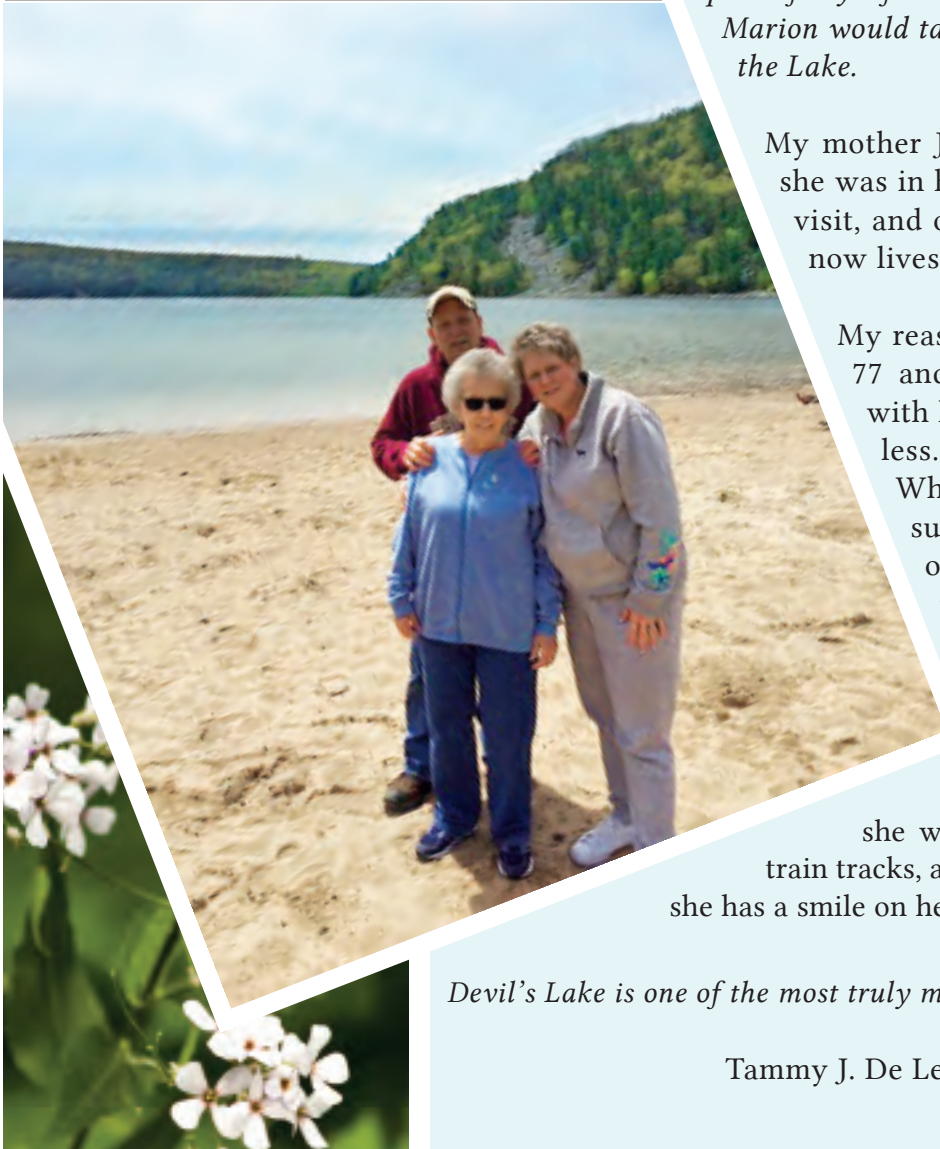
Thank you for your support!
 Visit our website for more information:
friendsofdevillake.org/initiatives/fundraising



The dedication brick pavers in front of the Chateau at North Shore

A MAGICAL PLACE FOR MY MOM

Friends' Grotto



I am 56 years old and I have been coming to Baraboo, Wisconsin & Devil's Lake since I was 5 years old. My Grandpa moved up to Baraboo, WI in the 1970s. Devil's Lake has been so much a part of my life. My grandfather, Louis Okapal and his wife, Marion would take their 8 children and vacation to camp at the Lake.

My mother Joan has been visiting Devil's Lake since she was in her early years. We are 3 generations who visit, and one of Louis' great grandchildren, Megan, now lives in Wisconsin.

My reason for this story is my mom, Joan. She is 77 and has dementia. Every day is a blessing with her and each day she remembers just a bit less. However, she recalls her visits to the lake. When I am visiting with her, this is one of the subjects that she still recalls. She recalls only good memories of spending time at the park with her father, her 7 siblings, and other family members.

I recall her talking about spending time at Devil's Lake with her father, cooking out and camping. She remembers the times she went to dances at the pavilion, walking the train tracks, and climbing the bluffs. Her eyes light up and she has a smile on her face as she recalls the fading memories.

Devil's Lake is one of the most truly magical places, and thanks for the memories...

Tammy J. De Leonardis



▶ SUBMISSIONS ARE WELCOME!

If you would like to share a photo or creative writing like a poem or a unique park experience, please make a submission to the board email friendsofdevillakestatepark@gmail.com. We like to see Friends sharing their talent with us!

Submissions sent by the 15th of January, April, July, and October will be posted for consideration on the upcoming quarterly newsletter and/or our Facebook page at facebook.com/friendsofdevillake.

BACKYARD NATURE – SUMMER EDITION

By Sue Johansen-Mayolett, Park Naturalist

In the last Friends newsletter, we all needed to be “Safer at Home” and explore the nature in our own backyards and neighborhoods. Now that we’re able to explore parks and natural areas, it’s a great time to get out, discover, and share your observations with DNR scientists! There’s lots of different monitoring programs through the WIDNR’s citizen-base monitoring programs that need volunteers like you to help them monitor the state’s plants and animals which helps guide the environmental and conservation needs in our home state. Check below for some of the programs you can join to share your observations while you are out and about this summer.

Join the Bumble Bee Brigade!

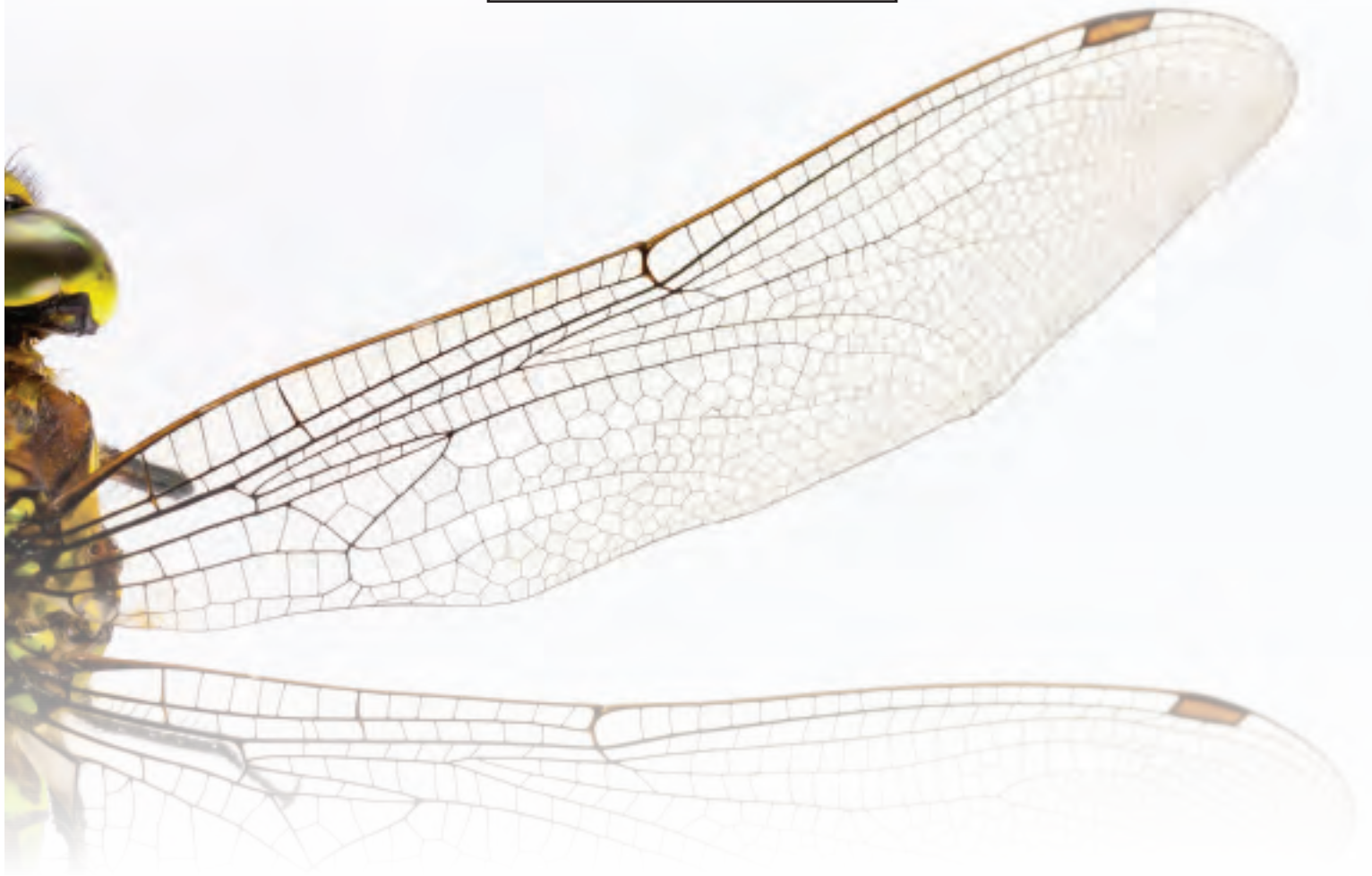
Summertime is flower time and that means there are lots of bees out and about! The Wisconsin Bumble Bee Brigade is a photography-based volunteer monitoring project that focuses specifically on bumble bees. In Wisconsin, many of our bumble bee species are in decline. Of the 20 bumble bee species that are found or historically been found in Wisconsin, one is listed as federally endangered (rusty patched bumble bee), seven are considered state species of greatest conservation need, and an additional three are classified by the state as species with information needs.



There is a lot scientists don’t know about the distribution and habits of all of Wisconsin’s bumble bees. They need accurate information on where these bumble bee species are found, what their habitat requirements are (especially overwintering habitat) and what their population status are to improve habitat management for these important pollinators. Don’t know that much about bumble bees? Don’t worry, there’s lots of training videos and information to help you identify the species you are seeing. For more information or to get started check out the Bumble Bee Brigade’s website at <http://wiatri.net/inventory/BBB/>

Take Time for Dragon - and Damselflies – the Wisconsin Odonata Survey

Looking to challenge your identifications skills? Join the Wisconsin Odonata Survey (WOS) and learn how to identify the 164 species of Wisconsin dragonfly and damselfly species. This survey depends mainly on volunteers to help scientists learn more about Wisconsin Odonatas (dragon- and damselflies) since there are few professionals who study these insects. The focus of the WOS is to document the state’s dragonflies and damselflies by identifying the adults, the nymphs (the young who live in the water), and the skins left by the nymphs when they transform into adults (the exuviae).



Identifying these aerial insects can be a challenging! Some species can only be identified under magnification, but don't let that stop you from helping! You can just simply learn how to identify those species that you see flying or help by collecting the skin/exuviae. There's lots of materials on the WOS's website to help you get started.

For more information or to get started check out the WOS's website at <http://wiatri.net/inventory/Odonata/>

Show Us Your Mussel – Wisconsin Mussel Monitoring Program

With the hot and humid summer weather, you might want a monitoring program that takes you into the water. The Wisconsin Mussel Monitoring Program (WMMP) needs volunteers to help monitor Wisconsin's 50 species of native mussels in over 15,000 lakes and 12,600 rivers and streams throughout the state. Although freshwater mussels can be found in most of the state's aquatic habitats, their populations can change rapidly due increasing sedimentation, pollution, habitat loss, and other aquatic invasive species. Because of this, nearly half the state's 50 mussels are listed as threatened, endangered, or special concern (which means their populations are low or declining).

Since 2009, volunteers have been helping the WMMP by collecting shells, photographing the shells and/or the

live mussels, and using iNaturalist to share their sightings. To learn more about this monitoring program or share your mussel sightings, visit their website at <http://wiatri.net/inventory/mussels/>

This is just a sampling of the WIDNR's citizen-base monitoring programs available for you to participate in. You can check out all the monitoring programs that are available at <http://wiatri.net/cbm/GetInvolved/programs.cfm>

These programs can help you learn more about the plants and animals that you are seeing on your summer adventures while helping scientists learn more about Wisconsin's 700+ endangered, threatened, and declining plant and animal species. Your information helps track population sizes and locations which in turn helps guide habitat work and other protections that help preserve our state's rich biodiversity.



GREETINGS FROM THE PARK

Superintendent's Report

It's amazing how things change in just a year, and I'm not talking about the current pandemic. Just a year ago, Devil's Lake State Park had four permanent Park Rangers on staff. By the end of this past winter, we had zero. Three of the four took Park Manager promotions within the Bureau of Parks and Recreation Management, and one took a position in another program, but remains employed with the Department of Natural Resources. I am grateful to announce that we have two new Park Rangers who started just toward the end of June, and we have a third scheduled to start later in August. It has been a change for everyone getting them familiar with the property and training them in our day to day operations. COVID-19 mitigation efforts have changed how we do everything.

Fortunately, we continue to recruit and hire exceptionally dedicated and knowledgeable staff. It is my pleasure to introduce the first of our new Park Rangers.

Jim Carter
Assistant Superintendent

Greetings,

My name is Sam Kujak, and in June of 2020, I began my position as a Park Ranger at Devil's Lake State Park. Prior to becoming a Park Ranger, I was with the City of Baraboo Parks Department from 2014 to 2020. From 2009 to 2014, I worked at EC3 Environmental Consulting Company. In 2012, I received my bachelor's degree in Soil and Land Management from the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point. I grew up and still live in Baraboo, Wisconsin and feel very fortunate to be able to work at Devil's Lake State Park. In my free time, I enjoy taking trips with my wife Angie and my two daughters, Hailey and Harper, as well as hunting and taking care of our family land located in northern Sauk County.

 Sam Kujak, Park Ranger



THANK YOU TO OUR FRIENDS!

Volunteer Committee



Our volunteers are dedicated to carrying out maintenance tasks throughout the year, either on their own or accompanied by DNR staff. COVID-19 may have dampened our plans for Earth Day and our end-of-the-summer Volunteer Vacation weekends, but Dave Barger, former Friends president and now Friends Volunteer Coordinator, has been venturing out on his own.

In the spring, Dave pulled garlic mustard, and has been picking up litter in various areas of the park this summer. For some brighter news, we are hosting a volunteer clean-up event on October 24th at 9:00am on the section of County Road DL from North Shore Road to State HWY 113 (via “Adopt-A-Highway” program). The stretch of land from the road to the forest is wide enough for us to practice safe social distancing for this event. Please see our event page on our friendsofdevilslake.org website or on our Facebook page for future Friends’ events and updates.


We would also like to acknowledge the efforts of our Friends who have taken time out of their day and brought an extra bag to help clean up the park this year. Thank you for your love and support of Devil’s Lake!



BEFORE

Another former Friends president and Devil’s Lake enthusiast, Doug Hemken, has been taking solvents, scrubbing tools, and about 40 lbs. of water along the trails to remove graffiti from the rock surfaces. There has been a total of 4 trips documented by Doug on social media as of July 30, 2020, and we are grateful for Doug’s efforts in preserving our natural landscapes.

If you spot additional graffiti throughout the park, notice garbage, or see other items that need attention, please contact us on social media or by email or contact the park directly to help keep Devil’s Lake State Park the pristine gem that we all love.

 Photos sourced from social media via Doug Hemken



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.