



# Advocate

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Exciting Update For The New Educational/Interpretive Center

It is my great pleasure to let you, our dedicated Friends member, be among the first to know that after nearly 40 years of visioning, studies, and preparation, we are finally set to begin the early phases of the Capital Campaign to raise funds to build a new multi-use Educational / Interpretive Center at Devil's Lake State Park!

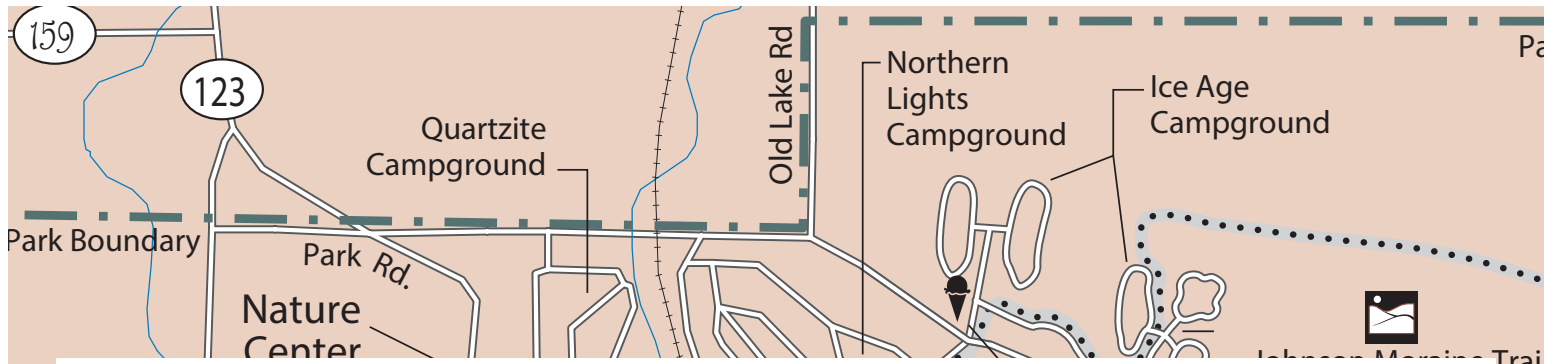
The Friends of Devil's Lake State Park (Friends) in partnership with the Devil's Lake Concessions Corporation (DLCC) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) have retained the Stevens Point, Wisconsin-based firm of Baker Street Consulting Group to organize, direct, and implement the campaign. Baker Street is the same firm that recently completed a Planning and Feasibility Study to verify the very encouraging feasibility of conducting a successful fundraising campaign to achieve our vision for a new Educational / Interpretive Center.

Our first step will be to work on organizing our campaign plan and structuring its framework so we can conduct a first-rate, best practices guided fundraising initiative to make our vision become a reality.

The campaign will be largely volunteer led, with many important roles to be filled as we begin this project, and we'd love to have you join the effort. One area, for example, will be the development of Action Teams, which will be formed in the coming months to work on specific areas related to advancing the campaign (the Grants Action Team, Climbing Community Action Team, or Community Relations Action Team, for instance). Whether or not you have fundraising experience, please consider joining us as a volunteer! More information will be available soon on ways you can get involved in the campaign. If you think you or someone you know might be interested in joining our efforts, please send a note to [bgreenwood@friendsofdevilslake.org](mailto:bgreenwood@friendsofdevilslake.org).

Thank you for your support and patience as we have worked our way through the planning process – this is a big undertaking, and we want to make sure we are doing everything correctly. Now, we invite your continued support and participation as we begin the next exciting chapter of Devil's Lake State Park!

Bernadette Greenwood  
**President**



## MEET CAMP HOSTS RICHARD AND JOANNE!

*By Seth Taft*

Devil's Lake State Park hosts are remarkable volunteers who help maintain the campsites, answer visitor questions and help make everyone's experience a memorable one. Meet Richard and Joanne, hosts at Quartzite Campground.

Originally from West Palm Beach, Florida, Richard and Joanne have been camp hosting throughout the country for the last 15 years. Five of those years have been at Devil's Lake. Since their first year hosting at the Park, they have decided they wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

"It's the appreciation I enjoy the most when being here," said Richard. "I enjoy the conversations and helping people escape and relax. This place does it for us, and we want to share it with others." Joanne adds, "We enjoy the people and appreciation of being here. It's a volunteer role, but we are visitors like everyone else."

Thank you, Richard and Joanne, for making Quartzite Campground a relaxing and welcoming getaway for all!

## 2021 BOARD ELECTIONS

The Friends are currently accepting board member nominations to fill one position starting in October 2021. The Friends group is represented by nine volunteer board members who are elected to serve three-year terms. The Friends partner with park staff and volunteers to complete environmental and beautification projects, sponsor educational and recreational activities for park visitors, and raise funds to support special park needs.

Board members are required to attend monthly board meetings generally on the second Monday of each month in the evening, either in person at Devil's Lake State Park or virtually through Google Meetings (due to COVID-19). Elected board members are expected to participate on committees of their choice, including events planning, marketing, finance, and membership among others, and during periodic volunteer days including garbage pickup and trail and bench maintenance. etc.

Computer skills including knowledge of document sharing via Google Drive and use of word processing programs and spreadsheets are useful to participate in

board activities. Special events planning or committee meetings may be conducted virtually or in person. Fund raising/marketing experience, design of marketing materials, or legal knowledge would be a benefit to the Board.

The Friends prefer to have all nominations for the director vacancy in by August 20, 2021 so they can be included in our annual meeting notification. However, nominations may come from voting members from the floor at the annual meeting.

Please send nominations for the director vacancy to [bgreenwood@friendsofdevilslake.org](mailto:bgreenwood@friendsofdevilslake.org), or to P.O. Box 209, Baraboo, WI 53913. Please provide a short one to two paragraph summary of why you would like to be on the board, a bio, and a resume including a description of any skills you have that may be of particular value to furthering the Friends mission. For nominations from the floor, please bring the summary including a bio and a resume to the annual meeting for member consideration.

Voting will take place at the Friends Annual Meeting at Devil's Lake State Park on Sunday September 26, 2021.



### UPCOMING EVENTS *(So happy to finally have a calendar to share!)*

#### **Volunteer Days**

August 14, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.

September 11, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.

October 9, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.

*(Rain dates are the following Saturdays)*

Location and event information will be available on our website and on our event page on Facebook.

#### **Music in the Park**

Noah John & Ringing Iron – August 29, 2021

#### **Annual Friends Meeting**

September 26, 2021

#### **Halloween Hike**

October 23, 2021

## SUMMER OF FUN!

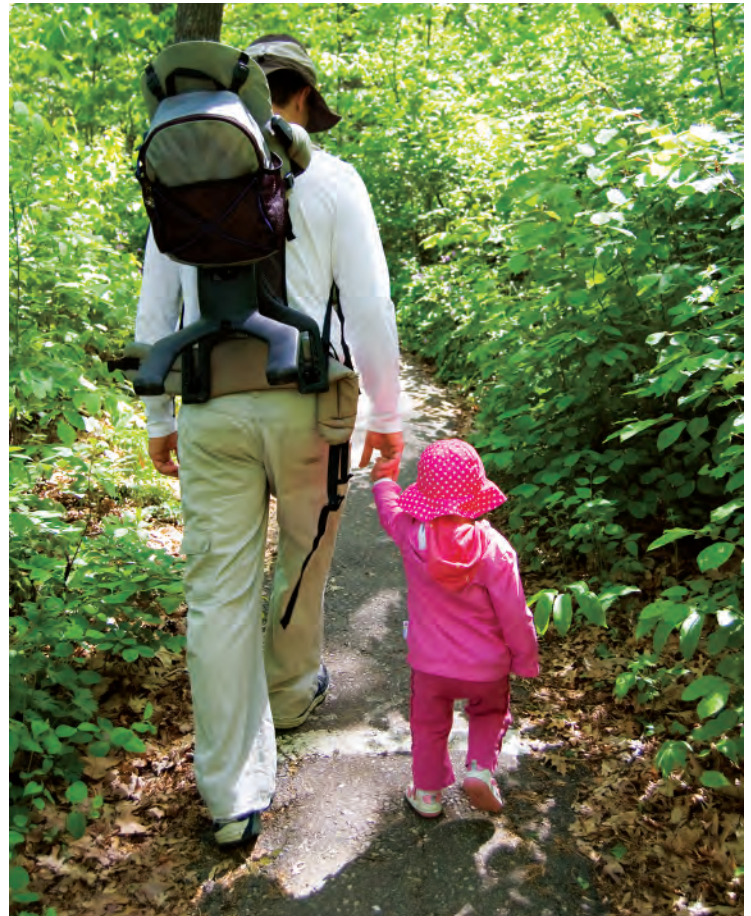
By Sue Johansen-Mayoleth, Park Naturalist

I love being a naturalist: it allows me to share my love of nature with others and see how my enthusiasm for the outdoors changes and affects the way my program participants experience nature. I've been at Devil's Lake for 11 years now and I still love hearing families tell me how much fun they had at a program or a dad and daughter remembering the time they came to watch the snake being fed and thought it was the coolest thing ever. The influence the nature center programs have on participants are not always apparent because we don't often get feedback. However, when we do get feedback, it makes the long hours worthwhile.

Even though there are programs year-round at the Nature Center, the summer is the busiest time of the year. In the summer, there are programs scheduled pretty much every day of the week and the topics range from the night sky to what might be hiding under the soil. There are hikes, outdoor skill programs, critter corners, kayak tours, learn to fish programs, nature exploration, and nature art – variety being the spice of life! All of these programs could be considered “gateways” to nature; a way for them to experience nature in ways they never would before.

The kayak tours are one of these great “gateway” programs. Not only do kayak tour participants learn a little more about the park's geology and history, but they also have a chance to experience nature and the park in a whole new way. In a kayak, you are low to the water, making it a much more intimate experience. They also have a chance to see things that they would not be able to if they were hiking. For example, on several of my kayak tours, we have been able to sit quietly and watch a heron hunting for fish along the water's edge. Or another time when the participants were able to watch ospreys and a bald eagle fishing on the south end of the lake. The best part was when the eagle caused an osprey to drop its fish; the bald eagle grabbed it and took it up into a tree to eat. We paddled to where the eagle was sitting and one of the young boys on the tour, was the first one to the tree and saw that huge bald eagle fly out over him. How did that awesome moment change the way he looked at the natural world?

A lot of my program are for families and these programs are gateways for kids to have positive experiences in nature – their gateways to the outdoor world. For example, when I have led an Under the Water program, where the kids take nets and catch “stuff” in the lake, the kids become engrossed in looking for life in the lake. You know kids are really into and activities when they could care less if they are hip deep in water, in their shorts and T-shirt, just so they can catch a minnow or a whirligig beetle. One time when I was leading



📷 C. Jenkins, cropped

this program there was a girl who saw a painted turtle and a water snake in the same spot and spent over a half an hour just watching and waiting, trying to catch one of those animals. I saw this same joy and engagement from a child during one of our Learn to Fish events. A young boy caught a small largemouth bass, but you'd think he had reeled in a 100 lb. sailfish! This was the first time he had ever gone fishing and was the only one to catch a fish. As his parents said, “guess we're going to have to stop on the way home and pick up a fishing pole. He's hooked!” That same boy, comes every year with his family to the park, is loves fishing and wants to be a fish biologist now – all from coming to a program run through the Nature Center.

During one of the astronomy programs, a woman approached me and said “you probably don't remember me, but I came to one of your bat programs.” She was right, I didn't remember her. I'd often get 30 to 70 people for the bat programs, so it is hard to remember everyone. She then told me after coming to one of the bat watch programs we used to have (before whitenose syndrome was in the area), she and her daughter were hooked on watching the bats. They would come a few times a week to watch the bats emerge and head out into the night to catch their breakfast. How cool is that! This was someone who, if they had not come to the program, would probably never even thought about bats, is now coming

throughout the summer because they think it's the neatest thing ever!

There are always fun experiences throughout the summer, and really the whole year, watching people enjoy being out in nature. It always amazes me when families tell stories from past programs and they say, "remember that time

when we . . . yeah that was great!" The "stories" told to me by the people who come to the programs keeps me fueled to find new and fun ways to teach people about nature. I hope you'll come to one of the nature center's programs this year. To find out what's happening, check out the DNR's outdoor calendar to find out what's happening through the nature center.



## MEMORIAL BENCHES AT DEVIL'S LAKE STATE PARK

*Friends' Grotto Submission By the Multra Family*

Many park visitors walk the trails at Devil's Lake State Park, and take a welcome break by sitting on one of the many benches situated all around the park. The benches were installed years ago when they were offered for purchase to park visitors. The bench purchasers could specify a memorial message for a plaque which was later affixed to the bench, so each bench has its own message. Here's the story behind one of those memorial benches.

Sitting in a very sunny place on the North side of Devil's Lake, between the Sugar Maple Shelter and the beach, the memorial bench (*pictured above*) for Stanley and Sylvia Multra has had a lot of use over the years.

Stanley's mother Pearl Askey Multra Wise camped at Devil's Lake during the 1930s for long periods since exposure to pure fresh air was recommended for respiratory problems at that time. The young family of Stanley and Sylvia spent annual 2-week vacations at Devil's Lake during the 1940s/1950s/1960s, first using the rental cabins along the railroad tracks, and later using the Panoramic Resort cabins just outside the Devil's Lake entrance. The typical daily schedule included hiking, lunch at the Chateau, swimming, long sun exposure on the beach,

dinner at the A&W Root Beer stand in Baraboo, and evening drives in the Baraboo hills.

The adult children of Stanley and Sylvia have returned to Devil's Lake for camping vacations with their families since the 1970s, and the next generation now does likewise. The Stanley and Sylvia Multra memorial bench was installed in the late 1990s after their passing. Each year, numerous family pictures are taken around the bench (*pictured below*).

In retirement, Bob Multra (adult son of Stanley and Sylvia) started to volunteer at Devil's Lake, commuting from Wheaton, IL



*(continued on Page 6)*

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Special thanks to the several members of the extended Multra family who contributed to this article.

for volunteer park maintenance work in the early 2000s. He built and installed many benches along with the park staff, including repairing the family bench. Bob also conducted a survey of all the memorial benches, producing a very detailed spreadsheet for park staff use.

Recently on July 4th weekend, several members of the extended Multra family from around the USA visited Devil's Lake to enjoy hiking, swimming and the beach....and to check on the family bench (*pictured right*).

The park staff and Friends group have been very good stewards of the memorial benches, and the Friends group website includes detailed information. There is also a Memorial Bench information binder available in the Visitor's Center that includes an old spreadsheet of detailed memorial bench information. If you see the entry for the Stanley and Sylvia Multra bench, there is a comment that says "Great Family"... I wonder who might have inserted that many years ago!



*Multra Family - July 4th 2021 Weekend*

## GREETINGS FROM THE PARK

### *Superintendent's Report*

Exciting news to announce regarding past employees of Devil's Lake State Park. Steve Schmelzer, prior park superintendent, was named the new State Parks Bureau Director of Wisconsin. He began a new chapter in his career this month, but undoubtedly, he will bring attention and highlight a property he has worked at more than any other in the state park system. I spoke with Steve just the other day and he plans to hold as many meetings as possible at the park and showcase the importance of Devil's Lake and the benefits strong partnerships provide. The Friends of Devil's Lake State Park and the Devil's Lake Concession Corporation continue to adapt and provide unwavering support through the challenges the park experiences.

The Friend's Saturday workdays have been a challenge this year. Motivated members have attended but planned activities have been altered to fit the immediate needs of the park. As I mentioned above, we continue to adapt. We are seeking volunteers on weekday mornings and afternoon/evenings. Traditions change and not everyone works a typical workweek, nor do people want to give up time on a cherished weekend. Anyone who would like to volunteer weekday mornings on the North Shore can reach out directly to me. We will

be coordinating groups in morning activities such as litter clean-up, picnic grill cleaning and charcoal removal, path cleaning and other light landscaping activities. Everyday following these activities, the group will be treated to complimentary coffee and donuts at the Chateau at 10AM. We are also gauging interest in a weekday afternoon/evening volunteer day, so we also want to hear from the non-early risers. These workdays may be followed by a light meal and complimentary beverage. If you are interested and willing please do not hesitate to reach out directly to me or to the Friends.

The final thoughts I'll leave you with are enjoying the park! The attendance at Sunday evening's Concert in the Park was great to see after a year of canceled events. These events are a great time for locals to come and enjoy the park. They also serve to boost interest in activities that are outside of the heaviest visitation times. One of my goals is to increase these types of activities and special events. As the torchlight hikes in the fall and the Friday fish fry returns, be ready for some new and memorable experiences in the future. Hope to see you in the park!

**Jim Carter**  
*Superintendent*



North Shore Fog

 B. Greenwood



## FRIENDS OF DEVIL'S LAKE STATE PARK - MEMBERSHIP FORM

### 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:

I wish to make a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Friends toward  
 General Support, or specifically toward (circle one):  
    Educational Interpretive Center      Trail Maintenance

Publish this donation as Anonymous

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

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

or visit our website [friendsofdevillake.org](http://friendsofdevillake.org) to join or donate!



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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

*Membership paid through year shown on label.*



## **SPREAD THE WORD... *About the Friends!***

Our members are special advocates for our unique, beautiful wonder we call Devil's Lake State Park. Will you also be an advocate to help build our membership?

### ***Tell a friend the value of a Friends' Membership:***

1. Membership fees go directly toward supporting Devil's Lake State Park.
2. Members receive a quarterly newsletter, the "Advocate" by mail and/or email.

3. Members are updated first when we have news to share or for volunteer opportunities.
4. Know that members' fees also go toward funding Devil's Lake State Park community events such as the Halloween Hike and Candlelight Snowshoe.
5. Friends are invited to member-only events and meetings.
6. Receive 10% discount on food and merchandise at Devil's Lake State Park concessions (*some exclusions may apply*).



 *B. Kluck, cropped*