



Advocate

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We hope everyone is having a wonderful summer. Here are some of the event highlights the Friends have been or will be doing this year. We have been busy with our volunteer days cleaning up the park and removing graffiti. We tended a booth at Baraboo's Big Top Parade, and sponsored two Music in the Park performances. We still have two more performances at North Shore, one on August 12th at 7:00 pm (Gin Mill Hollow) and one on August 28th at 6:00 pm (Dan Walkner and Friends). The Friends-sponsored Lakeside Yoga provided by Carla Weissing and her team at Kingfisher Yoga continues every Saturday at South Shore through September 3rd. Our volunteer work days continue through November, weather-permitting, and our Friends-sponsored torchlit hikes will be held from October 2022 through March 2023.

We also continue to work on the exciting Interpretive Center Project. If you or your friends or family members are interested in getting involved, please feel free to share this link (or forward this message) to sign up for a Volunteer Training Session: bit.ly/CampaignVolunteerSignUp.

Look for our Annual Meeting invitation to come to you by USPS mail soon. It will be held at 5:00 pm on Sunday, September 25th.

I am sorry to say that my board term will be ending on September 25th, and thus, I want to let you know that there will be an open board member position. I am aware of several individuals who are interested in this position, which I am

grateful for, but if you would like to be considered as well, please contact me at bgreenwood@friendsofdevilslake.org for more information and to be added to our ballot for our annual meeting election.

It has been an honor to serve on the Friends board and lead this great organization over the past few years. I plan on staying involved with the Friends, and specifically as co-chair of the Capital Campaign for America's State Park with Dave Considine. This Interpretive Center project is near and dear to my heart. It will teach our visitors from near and far how significant this park is, from its Precambrian beginnings all the way through the Pleistocene and Holocene Epoch of the Cenozoic Era, quite an amazing geological, and ecological history, and later human history of the Native Americans who first walked these shores as the last glaciers receded, to the park's founding in 1911 to today. I could go on and on - and often I do!

We have an obligation to those who came before us to tell these stories accurately to promote the respect and admiration for this special place to foster stewardship, which will in turn help us preserve this Baraboo gem for generations. Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve on the Friends Board of Directors, and as always, thank you so much for supporting the Friends and Devil's Lake State Park!

Bernadette Greenwood
President



REQUEST RECEIVED

Written By Sue Johansen-Mayolett, Park Naturalist

 Pixnio, a live peregrine falcon

Working as a naturalist, I receive some interesting requests from the public. For example, I had a woman call who started the conversation with, “I know this is an odd question, but can you help me to identify some animal poop?” (Really, for a naturalist, it’s not that odd). I was happy to help her figure out that there was possibly a red squirrel that had been living behind her corner bookshelf. Another interesting, yet completely heartwarming, request was helping a woman full-fill her dying wish to be in a kayak one more time. I had been contacted back in early June by Agrace hospice about the types of kayaks we have in the park and if one would be suitable for the person whose dying wish was to be in a kayak. I was able to help Ellie with that wish; a very wonderful 97-year-old mother of 5 children (4 boys and 1 girl) who started kayaking when she was in her 70s. A volunteer and I escorted Ellie and her daughter on Ellie’s last kayak trip here at Devil’s Lake. Ellie made it around the whole lake, loving every minute of being out in the water. This was definitely one request that will always stand out as one of those very special requests that may never come again.

Other requests, like having a peregrine falcon mount donated to the nature center, can take years to come into fruition. This request goes back to 2018 when I received an email in July asking if the nature center would like to have a peregrine mount. Devil’s Lake has been home to a pair of peregrine falcons since the spring/summer of 2014; when a pair decided to nest on the cliffs of the old quarry area on the southeast end of Devil’s Lake. When this

nesting pair was found at Devil’s Lake, it was definitely something to be excited about since peregrines have been in a severe decline in numbers the 1950s due to the highly toxic insecticide DDT. DDT caused females to lay eggs with very thin shells, which caused the eggs to be crushed when incubated. The chemical even changed the adult’s behavior causing them to stop feeding and caring for their young. By the early 1970s there were no nesting peregrines in Wisconsin, even in all of the Eastern United States! To help these birds recover, biologists bred falcons in captivity in hopes of releasing the birds into areas where they once lived. This type of project involves much more than just turning a bunch of birds loose on a cliff. The birds are “hacked,” a technique by which chicks are provided with food and shelter at a release site (such as a cliff or tall building), until they become familiar with it and old enough to leave the nest to hunt on their own. When they fledge, biologists hope they will find a mate and return to nest the following year. Hacking is not easy though, sometimes chicks die from predation from great horned owls or raccoons. Many states have had some success, including Wisconsin. Today, Wisconsin has several locations where biologists have hacked chicks and these chicks have successfully found new places to nest and breed, like the ones who came to nest on the cliffs of Devil’s Lake. Today, Wisconsin has many active breeding sites on buildings, smokestacks, and cliffs found throughout the state.

In fact, the peregrine falcon mount came from a

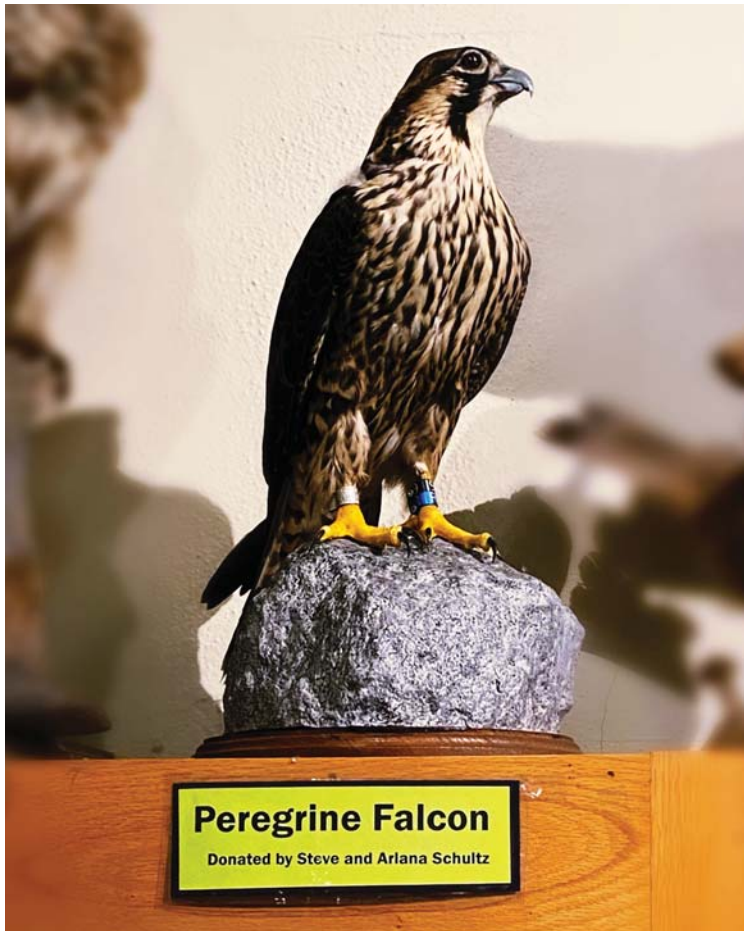
gentleman who built and monitors the peregrine falcon nest box on Madison Gas and Electric's Blount Generation Station. He sent me an email because he remembered a discussion he and I had back in 2012. He thought about Devil's Lake Nature Center when one of the peregrine chicks from "his" nest box died due to a

collision with a window. He wanted to have the bird mounted and donated to the Nature Center so people could learn more about these birds living here in the park. Of course, I was thrilled to have him think of us and accepted his generous offer.

Now, fast forward to June of 2022 – we finally received the mount! It only took 3 years for the nature center to finally be able to display such a wonderful bird and share the success story of the peregrine falcon's recovery. I hope you'll take a moment or two, when you come to visit Devil's Lake, to stop in the Nature Center and check out our new peregrine falcon; he's quite something to see!

Background about the Peregrine Falcon Mount and the Nest Box that Produced Him

The fledgling was a male whose name was Babcock named after Babcock Hall and ice cream. He was hatched between May 23 and May 27, 2018, banded on June 12, 2018, and fledged on July 3, 2018. He was found dead after hitting a downtown Madison building on July 12, 2018. Although it was an unfortunate and an untimely death, he did have 3 other siblings, that to the best of our knowledge, are alive and well. Through the 2022 nesting season the downtown Madison nest box has produced 53 offspring and those known offspring have produced more than 75 offspring of their own. We are sure that there are more but do not know all locations where they have nested. All in all, the downtown nest box is directly and indirectly responsible for over 125 peregrine falcons that otherwise would not have existed in the wild today.



DEVIL'S LAKE CONCESSIONS CORPORATION'S \$1 MILLION DONATION PROPELS INTERPRETIVE CENTER CAMPAIGN

Written By Baker Street Group

A \$1 million gift from the Devil's Lake Concession Corporation laid the foundation for a capital campaign to construct an \$18 million Interpretive Center at Devil's Lake State Park.

"We're proud to make this important investment in Devil's Lake State Park to help visitors to our community understand the history, culture and natural forces that converged to make this a special place," said John Darrow, corporation president. "This long-envisioned educational resource will help future generations discover its wonders and appreciate the importance of stewardship."

The donation was one of the highlights of a campaign kick-off celebration at the North Shore Chateau in late

July that also celebrated Ho-Chunk artists, musicians, dancers and rich historic tribal accounts, and featured an appearance by Department of Natural Resources Secretary Preston Cole.

Cole pointed to the capital campaign as a potential "gold standard" model for others statewide in enriching the experience of visitors and boosting the state's \$18 billion tourist economy.

"I have all the hope in the world and the surety in the world that because of who you are and how you've organized yourselves that you'll get this done," Cole said.

The not-for-profit Devil's Lake Concession Corporation, organized nearly 60 years ago, operates gift

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shops, concession stands, boat and paddleboard rentals and a campground store. Its revenues help support park operations.

“We see the center as a way to enhance the visitor experience, teach about nature and the park’s background and serve our area by offering warm and welcoming gathering spaces,” Darrow said.

The year-round Interpretive Center will focus on education, including interactive and interpretive exhibits for all ages, classroom and meeting spaces, outdoor recreation displays, a café, gift shop and administrative space for park staff.

It will also offer dynamic historical, cultural and educational exhibits and be built with a green ethic and with versatility in mind to serve a broad range of functions. The center will honor Native American cultures that revere this spiritual place.

Additionally, the center will introduce visitors to the Baraboo Hills region, Wisconsin’s other state parks and other area attractions. It will be a gateway, helping visitors venture beyond the park and boost the state economy.

State Rep. Dave Considine, co-chair of the campaign committee, voiced the group’s deep appreciation for the corporation’s gift, which he said will “give us even more

momentum in reaching our goal of making the center a reality.”

Park Superintendent James Carter also praised the gift. “A donation of this size demonstrates the longstanding strength of the partnerships we are able to foster between other supportive organizations,” Carter said.

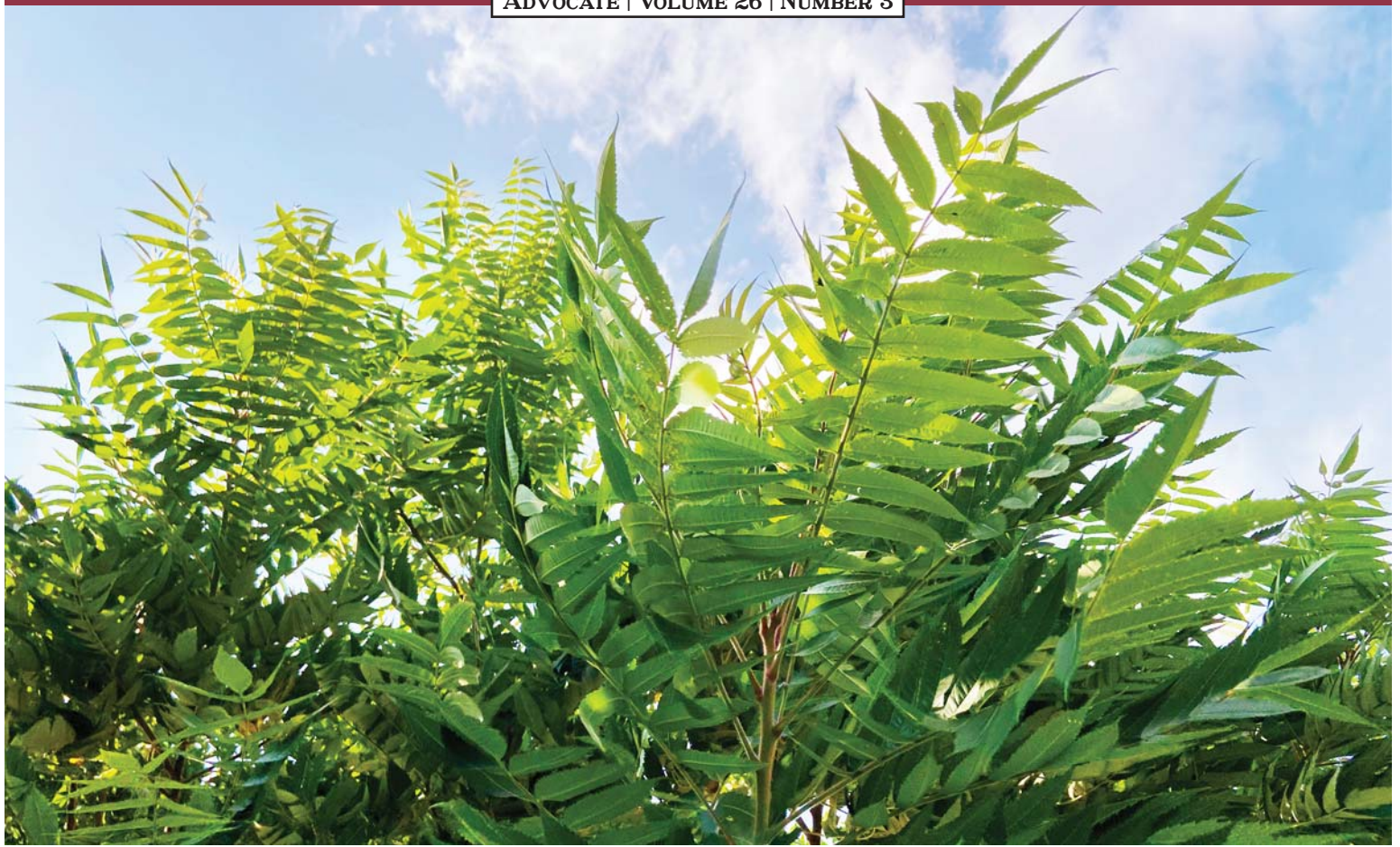
Friends of Devil’s Lake State Park President Bernadette Greenwood said the corporation’s gift will go far in advancing the campaign and she urged community members to join the campaign.

“The center will foster a love of learning and nature by people of all ages and abilities, serving as a hub of knowledge for the more than 2.5 million annual park visitors and the thousands of schoolchildren, university students and nature and sports enthusiasts who flock to Devil’s Lake,” Greenwood said.

The Campaign for America’s State Park is a partnership between the Friends of Devil’s Lake State Park, the Devil’s Lake Concessions Corporation and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

For more information on the project and to donate or become involved, visit: www.friendsofdevilslake.org/center





SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Working at Wisconsin's largest state park has provided me wonderful opportunities to work with some exceptional staff. This season we have had the great fortune of welcoming three new rangers to the park: Harrison Stone, Andrew Braun, and Damon Jaeger who join seasoned park staff specialist Ranger Zach Shelton. It is wonderful to see staff being promoted and/or returning to Devil's Lake.

This summer, Sam Kujak took on the position of Park Manager overseeing our maintenance operations and the Sauk Prairie State Recreation Area. Aaron Loenhorst returns as our Park Manager overseeing our visitor services operations. Their brief bios are provided as follows.

Sam Kujak -- Greetings, my name is Sam Kujak, and I am one of the Park Managers for Devil's Lake and the Sauk Prairie State Recreation Area. I started with the DNR in 2020 as a Park Ranger at Devil's Lake. Prior to that, I had worked for the Baraboo Parks Department and EC3 Environmental Consulting Group. Some of my favorite things about working at Devil's Lake is our great staff, the diversity of tasks and responsibilities that I get to do, and the overall size of the park itself.

My wife, two daughters, and I live in Baraboo. I spend much of my spare time coaching my daughters in softball, taking trips, hunting, and working on our property.

Aaron Loenhorst -- I grew up in southern California constantly enjoying the outdoors, either hiking, biking, fishing or camping. My family (wife Janelle, daughter Vivian, and another baby on the way) live in the Wisconsin Dells area. We enjoy exploring State Parks across Wisconsin all seasons of the year.

I enjoy a variety of hobbies including bird watching, canoe camping, and photography. My career with the Wisconsin DNR started in 2018 as a Park Ranger at Devil's Lake State Park. I have also worked as a Park Manager at New Glarus Woods State Park and MacKenzie Center. I am very happy to be returning to Devil's Lake and all the excitement this place has to offer.

As always, if you want to share your experience, have an interest you would like to be involved in, or just have a park related topic you would like to discuss, please reach out to me directly.

Jim Carter
james.carter@wisconsin.gov | 608-356-8301 ext. 111

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday August 6th

Free Yoga Class at the South Shore
South Shore Beach (Meet at 9:00 am)

Friday August 12th

Music in the Park
With Gin Mill Hollow (North Shore 6:30 pm)

Saturday August 13th

Friends Volunteer Day at the Park
Rock Elm Shelter (Meet at 9:00 am)

Free Yoga Class at the South Shore

South Shore Beach (Meet at 9:00 am)

Saturday August 20th

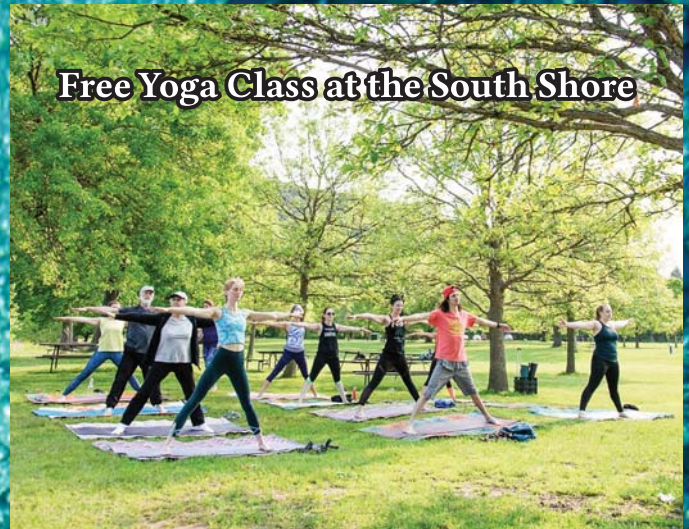
Free Yoga Class at the South Shore
South Shore Beach (Meet at 9:00 am)

Saturday August 27th

Free Yoga Class at the South Shore
South Shore Beach (Meet at 9:00 am)

Sunday August 28th

Music in the Park
With Dan Walkner & Friends (North Shore 6:00 pm)



Saturday September 3rd

Free Yoga Class at the South Shore
South Shore Beach (Meet at 9:00 am)

Saturday September 10th

Friends Volunteer Day at the Park
Rock Elm Shelter (Meet at 9:00 am)

Sunday September 25th

Friends Members Annual Meeting & Dinner

Saturday October 8th

Friends Volunteer Day at the Park
Rock Elm Shelter (Meet at 9:00 am)

Saturday October 22nd

Halloween Hike & Pumpkin Carving Contest
North Shore (Meet at 3:00 pm)

Saturday November 12th

Friends Volunteer Day at the Park
Rock Elm Shelter (Meet at 9:00 am)

Saturday November 26th

Torch-lit Hike

Saturday December 17th

Torch-lit Hike



Dan Walkner & Friends

DID YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT FISHING AT DEVIL'S LAKE STATE PARK?

The park is a popular spot for anglers of all ages who fish from the lakeshore or by boat. According to the Wisconsin DNR website, the lake is home to brown trout, walleye, northern pike, bass and panfish. A fishing license is required for anyone age 16 or over and a trout stamp is required for trout fishing.

Fun Fact: Did you know that all motorboats, including outboard motors, were banned on Devils Lake at the end of the 1964 season? Did you also know that the park offers a Tackle Loaner Program?

Visitors can check out a rod and reel and entire set up to fish at the park on a first-come, first-served basis (including both open and closed face reels, bobbers, hooks, lines and sinkers). There is no charge to borrow the equipment, visitors just need to return the items in the same condition they received it. The equipment can be borrowed for up to one week, and extensions may be offered if the demand is low. Bait must be purchased separately and is available at local vendors or at the Chateau.



Want to try fishing but don't know what to do? Join the Park's Learn to Fish program, and they'll show you how!

Sue Johansen-Mayolett will be holding a Learn to Fish program on Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at 9:00 – 10:00 am at the North Shore boat launch.

She'll have fun activities to teach you the basics before sending you off to catch some fish. They'll supply all the equipment and bait, and if you are 16 years and older, you will need a fishing license. This program's activities are designed with families in mind but open to kids of all ages.



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*).

