



# Advocate

VOLUME 25 | NUMBER 1

WINTER 2021

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Happy Winter!** Although it is no secret that winter is not my favorite season, I do love looking over the Baraboo Valley when it is blanketed in snow. And I am really enjoying the look of Devil's Lake State Park wearing its fresh new white winter coat.

For weeks, we were able to enjoy beautiful intricate rime ice in the park. I recently learned the difference between hoar frost and rime ice. Rime ice forms from dense fog, when "supercooled" water droplets contact surfaces at temperatures below freezing. Hoar frost is formed when water vapor in air contacts surfaces at temperatures below freezing. The delicate acicular (needle-shaped) crystals of the rime ice were amazing to see. Winter is a beautiful time to visit the park. The cold air temperatures and icy patches on the trails are always outweighed by the exceptional peace and tranquility the park has to offer in the winter.

Because I am not a lover of the cold, I am really looking forward to being able to enjoy the park by the warmth of a fire in the future educational/interpretive center. As you may already know, we have hired Baker Street Consulting Group (BSCG), a firm from Stevens Point, Wisconsin to perform a feasibility study. The study, which is expected to take three months, is being performed to determine the feasibility of raising the funds necessary to build the new center. The committee, comprised of members from the Friends board, Devil's Lake Concessions Corporation board and the WDNR, unanimously chose BSCG. Some of the reasons why

BSCG was chosen was not only due to their exceptional reputation, success rates, and references, but also because they have a true connection to the park; several members of their team regularly visit and rock climb at the park, and BSCG demonstrated that they truly understand our mission. BSCG also offered the most comprehensive services. We are really excited to be moving forward with the center project. Please visit our website for news and updates.

I would like to thank all of our friends, both members and non-members, who supported us in 2020. *Thank you!* Although we were not able to be at the park for most of our events, we were honored to receive 94 donations totaling \$7,600. Despite COVID-19, our membership our membership has ever grown slightly this year to 222 members. Donations were designated for general support, trail maintenance, graffiti removal, the nature center, and new educational/interpretive center.

Membership dues and generous contributions to the Friends helped fund several park projects this year such as graffiti removal, the construction of two new natural stone fire pits at the North Shore by the WDNR, and the purchase of picnic grills, fire rings, and other related picnic area and campsite improvements.

During the past year, many donations were given in the memory of the following individuals who loved and supported the park over the years: Marilyn Karch, James Karch, Richard Forrest Bates, Donald Treutler, Colin Brandt, Mark Fosdal, Joan Kelly and Jim Kelly. We hope

to share some of their stories with you this year so we can learn more about their family history and why the park was so special to them.

In addition, the Friends received 32 donations from our dedication paver program in 2020, and installed 32 pavers from paver orders/donations from December 2019 to November 2020. Unfortunately, paver orders that came in late-November have not been installed yet due to winter setting in. We will notify donors in the spring when the pavers are installed.

**Important Dates:** We are actively planning for 2021 for Friends-sponsored events and to assist the WDNR with their work including repairing benches and performing trail maintenance. Some of our regular events such as Music in the Park may be delayed or cancelled again this year, but we are able to sponsor Friends Volunteer Days every second Saturday of the month starting in April (A rain date will be the third Saturday of each month). We will meet by Rock Elm Shelter at 9 a.m. (The location is subject to change.) Until further notice, all volunteers must wear masks and practice socially distant protocols. Please visit our social media sites (Facebook,

Instagram, and Twitter) or our website for updates.

Finally, I would like to thank Pat Michals and Sandy Snow for their service to the Friends. Pat stepped down from the board in October 2020, and Sandy stepped down as treasurer ex-officio at the end of December. We are sorry to see them go, but this is not good-bye, as I know we will still see their smiling faces at Devil's Lake and they both plan on remaining active Friends members.

We are happy to welcome Eric Bauman and David Parr into Pat's and Sandy's positions, respectively. Eric was elected at our November 2020 board meeting with a unanimous vote, and we highlight Eric in the following section. David, a current board member, was voted in unanimously as treasurer at our board meeting in January 2021. We are truly appreciative of David's work on the board, and for his commitment to take on additional responsibilities as board treasurer, and we look forward to getting to know and working with Eric.

And as always, we truly appreciate the support of our members and look forward to all 2021 has to offer.

Bernadette Greenwood  
President

## WELCOME, ERIC BAUMAN!

*Meet the newest face on the Board*



Growing up in Madison (Madison West HS Class of 1985) made Devil's Lake a favorite destination for me. A driver's license resulted in a real uptick in visits to the park. I still remember the excitement of my early "scrambling" (bouldering) experiences, later technical rock climbing adventures and rope rescue training as a volunteer Fire/EMS provider. The focus of my career has been in academic healthcare, but I also served 30 years in the volunteer Fire/EMS service. In the last handful of years, I've been a regular, if not a frequent visitor to the park, grateful for the opportunity to spend time outdoors during my free time. I enjoy sharing my park adventures with friends and family through a love of photography. I spend most of my time at Devil's Lake hiking, but plan to take up paddle boarding soon. While serving on the board, I hope to contribute to the betterment of the park. I'm most concerned with how to keep the Park accessible and beautiful given the impact of the Park's popularity. It is important for me to help inspire new generations of youth to visit the great outdoors here in Wisconsin.

## Thank You, Pat!

We want to extend our appreciation to Pat Michals for serving on the Friends Board since May 2018. Pat has volunteered countless hours at the park's Nature Center over the past 7 years, assisted at many Friends events, and still remains on the newsletter committee. Pat also spent 25 years as a member of the National Ski Patrol and has taught classes in Nordic skiing at the park. We truly appreciate her work on the newsletter committee making sure that our grammar is correct and that "our i's are dotted, and our t's are crossed." Her 35 years of experience teaching science at the high school and college levels in Chicago really come in handy. We look forward to having her as an active Friends member, seeing her at the park, and even perhaps having her back on the board again.



# “VOLUNTEER DAYS” RETURNS FOR 2021!

*The latest news from our Volunteer Committee*

After a year of anticipation, the Friends are happy to host volunteer events again at the park.

*What?* We will be working with the DNR park staff to undertake much needed general maintenance tasks including bench repair, improving trail tread, removing invasive plant species, garbage and graffiti cleanup.


*When?* Held every 2nd Saturday of the month starting in April (A rain date will be the third Saturday of each month). Meet by Rock Elm Shelter at 9 a.m. (The location is subject to change).

*Why?* Some park maintenance tasks require more “hands on deck”, and it’s a great way to get involved to help keep Devil’s Lake beautiful!

*Precautions:* Until conditions change, all volunteers must wear masks and practice socially distant protocols.

*Stay In Touch:* Please visit our social media sites (Facebook @friendsofdevilslake, Instagram @devilslakefriends, and Twitter @devilslakewi) or our website [friendsofdevilslake.org](http://friendsofdevilslake.org) for updates. Feel free to contact us at [info@friendsofdevilslake.org](mailto:info@friendsofdevilslake.org) if you have any questions.



 Volunteer Photos taken from 2019-2020



# FISHERS AT DEVIL'S LAKE

By Sue Johansen-Mayoleth, Park Naturalist



 Critter Cam at Devil's Lake State Park • 10 JAN 2020 05:35 PM

Over the past few years, fishers have been photographed by the park's Critter Cams! This medium-sized member of the weasel family is typically not known to be as far south in Wisconsin as the area around Devil's Lake. They are typically found in the northern portion of the state. The first "capture" of a fisher, on the critter cams, was in December 2018 and since then, one has shown up on a couple of the cameras each year.

## Color/Appearance

A fisher is typically chocolate, brown, in color. The fur on its face, neck, and shoulders can have a lighter, grizzled gray appearance. It has a long body, short legs, and a broad, flat head. Its ears are round and sit low on the head.

## Size

Adults vary in length from 2 ½ to 4 feet. Males weigh between 7 to 13 pounds and females weigh between 3 to 5 ½ pounds.

## Habitat

Even though a fisher prefers coniferous forests, it can also be found deciduous forests and mixed deciduous/pine forests. It prefers areas that have lots of hollow trees that it uses for dens.

## Diet

The fisher is primarily a carnivore and eats mice, porcupines, squirrels, snowshoe hares, birds, shrews, and scavenged deer carcasses. Even though its diet is mostly meat, it is also known to eat fruits and berries, and nuts.

## Fun Facts

The fisher is one of the only predators of porcupines. It attacks the porcupine's face, repeatedly, until the porcupine is weakened from trying to defend itself. To eat it, the fisher will flip the porcupine over, where there are no quills. A fisher doesn't always win a porcupine meal. It can be badly injured or even killed by the porcupine's quills.

A fisher has retractable claws and can rotate its large, back feet to point backwards, allowing it to run headfirst down trees like a squirrel.

Their hind paws have scent glands that release a distinctive odor. It's believed this odor is used to mark territories and to communicate with other fishers, especially during the breeding season.

Even though their name is "fisher," they rarely eat fish. It's believed their name came from the French word "fitch;" the name of the European polecat. The European polecat is also a weasel who looks much like our American fishers.

The fisher is nocturnal and lives a solitary life, only coming together to breed.

Say "hi" to Sue at [Susan.JohansenMayoleth@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Susan.JohansenMayoleth@wisconsin.gov) and ask to be added to her mailing list for upcoming park news!

## FRIENDS' GROTTO | *Submissions from the Devil's Lake community*



📷 *Hahm Family at Devil's Lake State Park, 1981*

### ESCAPE TO WISCONSIN

*By Jina Kramer*

Since my parents immigrated to America in 1978, our family has been driving 2 and a half hours to the campgrounds of Devil's Lake every holiday weekend of my childhood that I can remember from Memorial Day to Labor Day. At the break of dawn when the sun crests the horizon, we were on the road, our red Chevy station wagon packed with several "Escape to Wisconsin" bumper stickers to show the world where our family "escaped" to. We would fish, swim, hike, eat meals and sing around the campfire. I remember the fourth of July fireworks over the trees, like it was a private show just for us. The hamburgers at the North Shore Chateau were out of this world after swimming all morning. When I got to high school and my friends were going to Disney World and Mexico on their vacations, I stopped going camping with my parents. I went to college, got married and had a family. We've been all

over the world; Asia, Europe, Central America, tropical islands and almost every state in this great nation. Travel was stymied in 2020 and I remembered Devil's Lake. I didn't realize how much this place was a part of me and I of it. Memories flooded back and I was telling stories as we hiked the East Bluff, the West Bluff, and the Tumbled Rocks trails, and swam in the lake. I was bridging the past with the future. This is what tradition feels like.

The fisherman casts his line. It breaks the glass-like water and creates a ripple of increasing rings panning out. He is one with the surrounding, almost like another protrusion from the boulder he is standing on. Though I can only see his silhouette with the sunrise behind him, I know this figure is my dad. The fog is lifting from Devil's Lake and I can see the fish coming up to the surface to breathe. This is how I will always remember the Devil's Lake of my childhood.

▶ **SUBMISSIONS  
ARE WELCOME!**

*We want to showcase the talent in our community! Please send your creative work or favorite memory to [info@friendsofdevillake.org](mailto:info@friendsofdevillake.org) for the the board to review.*

# GREETINGS FROM THE PARK

*Superintendent's Report*



📷 *Jim Carter, North Shore, circa January 5, 2021*

Although it seems as if winter is a quieter time of year to visit the park, staff are in full swing working towards preparing the property for the return of the masses. Devil's Lake has more than a record number of park visitors to contend with each year. During the winter months most of the repairs are made to the 1,200 picnic tables that are scattered across the campsites and picnic areas. Friends Group members and volunteers help stain and stack new boards throughout the warmer months, while park staff inventory, identify and replace the boards and bolts of seats and tabletops. Each picnic table is inspected by staff twice each year and either passed over for continued use or pulled from service to await further repair. Campground hosts also serve as inspectors in the campgrounds as they make their rounds cleaning ash from each of the campfire rings throughout the camping season.

Designated use inspections continue from the end of fall when our seasonal operations shut down to the beginning of spring when we turn around and open everything back up. Anything the public walks on, sleeps on or touches has been reviewed by a Park Ranger or Manager. Each campsite is inspected, and plans are made

for hazard tree removal or future tree plantings. Each fire ring and electrical pedestal is checked and internal components such as breakers and outlets are reviewed for safety. Every one of the park's 80+ picnic grills are checked for excessive heat deterioration and either repaired or scheduled for replacement. Drinking fountains are checked for leaks, needed repairs are noted and they are reviewed for accessibility. The lists go on and include buildings and parking areas as well.

It is no small task to keep a park with the size and complexity of Devil's Lake running smoothly. The Friends Group has long been a dedicated and helpful organization that has assisted the park with resources and more importantly volunteers. As I look forward to the coming months of spring, I am optimistic of the continued support of all volunteers. There will be new opportunities to participate in workdays and activities at the park, and I encourage anyone interested, no matter how insignificant they may believe it to be, to participate. All hands are welcome!

**Jim Carter**  
*Superintendent*



**THANK YOU, SANDY!**  
*Honoring your service on the Board*



📷 Sandy Snow (Front Center) at the 2019 Geology Trip

The Friends would like to share our sincere appreciation to Sandy Snow, who stepped down as the ex-officio Board of Directors (Board) treasurer on December 31, 2020. Sandy joined the Friends Board in 2013. After serving two years on the Board, she was elected as Board President, and served a two-year term. She remained on the Board and served as treasurer for another two years.

When her two-term Board limit was reached in September 2019, Sandy continued as ex-officio treasurer. Sandy has spent countless hours working at and organizing Friends events, managing the day-to-day operations of the Friends and making sure our records and financial documents are in order. We truly appreciate all the work Sandy has done over the years and will truly miss her. With that said, she does plan to remain an active member of the Friends and we would not be surprised to see her smiling face at future Friends events.



**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 towards General Support, or specifically towards (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

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

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



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*).

## **LOOK OUT VIEW**

