



# Advocate

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WINTER 2023

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year! Unfortunately, for the outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy cross country skiing and snowshoeing, the weather in Southern Wisconsin has not been cooperative for the first half of January. No snow, warm, and rainy, it has not been very January-like. The local weather forecasters keep promising that we will still see snow and colder temps later in the month. The FRIENDS torchlit hike scheduled for January 14th at the park was canceled due to icy conditions on the trail making it unsafe for hiking. Fingers crossed that the conditions for the torchlit hike on February 11th will be more favorable. The FRIENDS are also looking into potential other locations for future winter hikes, perhaps out at Steinke Basin.

I'd like to welcome new board member Marie Homolkova-Michalek to the FRIENDS board. See the later article with more information about Marie, I think she will be a great addition to the board. She replaces Kristin Holm who served the last three years on the board, part of the time as the board secretary. Thank you, Kristin, for your help and support and best wishes for the future!

For the first time we offered Christmas ornaments for sale online and at the visitor center, and sales were great!

The mini-campfire mugs were very popular. There are still a few available if you did not get a chance to grab one...or two. Thanks to park superintendent Jim Carter for the suggestion!

We are always looking for more members and volunteers to serve on the various committees, including event planning, volunteer opportunities, and the marketing committee. If you are interested in getting involved, please fill out the volunteer form on our website or email [info@friendsofdevilslake.org](mailto:info@friendsofdevilslake.org).

Jayne Englebert, President

[jenglebert@friendsofdevilslake.org](mailto:jenglebert@friendsofdevilslake.org)





Submitted by Dave and Joy Carroll

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

*A note from Friends Volunteers Dave and Joy Carroll*

Why do Dave and I enjoy volunteering at Devil's Lake so much? There are many answers to that question. We do what we love to do, talk to the public about the importance of honeybees and why they are so vital to our environment. Visit the Nature Center to learn more, we love doing the kayaking tours, meeting new people, and answering their questions about the surrounding area. Bonfires and torch-lit hikes are also so much fun, listening to people as they return from the hike and hearing all the "Thank you so much for doing this" and "Whew, we made it, and it was beautiful." Mainly we love Devil's Lake, all the rock formations, history of the surrounding area, answering visitors' questions, and learning about different cultures from all over the world.

*Life is interesting:  
You don't ever want to stop learning!*

*A special thank you is extended to Dave Carroll and Joy Carroll for their dedication to the Friends and the park, volunteering their time at the nature center and for Friends events. We are so grateful for their dedication and time spent making the park experience better for visitors.*

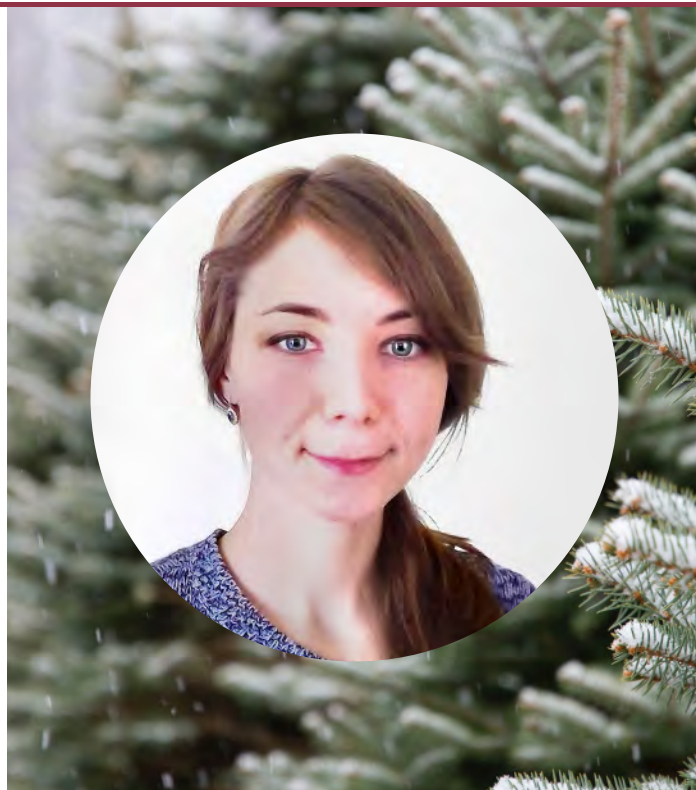


Meet New Friends Board Member

### MARIE HOMOLKOVA-MICHALEK

Marie is an artist and a corporate trainer for a mortgage company. Marie was originally raised in a small village in the Czech Republic but, at the age of 9, her family emigrated to the USA. She enjoys just about any outdoor activities as well as crafts, chess, and swing dancing. Volunteering at the Oschner Park Zoo is another activity that keeps Marie occupied.

She and her husband, Pavel, did not know this would be their home the first time they hiked Devil's Lake Park. Since then, they fell in love with the area and hiked the trails countless times. Both feel incredibly grateful to be a part of Baraboo, not only for the beautiful bluffs, hills, and nature, but also for the culture, freedom, and community.





## SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

By Jim Carter

Explore more and break out of your favorite state park comfort zone this year. Being the largest state park in Wisconsin doesn't mean we offer everything for recreational opportunities. Whether it is a new year resolution or just a simple goal, I encourage you to explore one of the other state parks, forests, trails, or recreation areas in the Wisconsin State Park System. Some recreational activities require travel, such as horseback riding, which I enjoy with my family. There are extensive equestrian trail systems in both the Northern and Southern Kettle Moraine State Forests, as well as Governor Dodge and Wildcat Mountain State Parks.

If a bicycle is the most power you want to sit on, explore some of the more challenging mountain bike trails or the gentle grades of some of our linear trails such as the 400 or Great Sauk State Trails. I enjoy discovering what other friends' groups do to support their properties and

what innovative ideas they bring forward for other recreational users.

*Have you been somewhere and seen an idea that you thought would be a great fit for Devil's Lake State Park?*

I would love to hear about it. As another challenge to our members and those who read these articles – be one of the first ten members to call me and leave your name, phone number and a message that says, "Great Idea" and you will be entered into a drawing for one of this season's campfire mug ornaments after you share your observation from another recreation area.

Enjoy your time outdoors and I'll see you at one of the next events at the park.

Jim Carter, Superintendent

[James.carter@wisconsin.gov](mailto:James.carter@wisconsin.gov) | 608-356-8301 Ext. 111

## END OF FISCAL YEAR FINANCIALS

The FRIENDS fiscal year ended October 31, 2022, and the new financial sheets have been uploaded to our website [friendsofdevillake.org](http://friendsofdevillake.org). They can be found by hovering over the "About" button on the top right of the picture on our main page and clicking on "Overview" in the box that opens. Scroll down the Overview page to review the Financial Statements for the Nov 2021 – Oct 2022 fiscal year.

Our income for last year (excluding the Interpretive Center project) was \$161,966.42, and our expenses were \$107,114.08, for net income of \$54,852.34. General donations were \$16,468.27. Our main sources of income are firewood and merchandise sales, memberships, donations, paver sales, bank interest, and grants. After operational expenses, we fund Music in the Park events, volunteer and

member events, supplies for graffiti removal, torchlit hike events, and much more. This year we also funded removal of a paved walkway in the north shore picnic area that was too close to a burial mound and new sand for one of the south shore volleyball courts.

We applied for and received a 2022-2024 Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Friends Grant, a 2022 Friends of Wisconsin State Parks Incentive Grant, and a 2022 Friends Heritage Trust Grant. These grants are used to fund maintenance and improvements at the park, including the new fish interpretive panels you may have noticed on the north and south shores. We have already applied for a 2023 Friends Heritage Trust Grant and continue to look for opportunities for funds that can be used to improve the park.



## MAKE A DIFFERENCE: JOIN THE CAMPAIGN

The Campaign for America's State Park, energized by a \$1 million donation from the Devil's Lake Concessions Board in mid-2022, is mobilizing volunteers to raise funds for an \$18 million Interpretive Center. "We're getting into the community, building awareness and interacting with potential donors," said Bernadette Greenwood, co-chair of the capital campaign. "Citizens are reacting positively to our presentations and the need for a new center to teach about the park's culture and history." Volunteers have also taken the campaign into the park and community at events. We hope you join in as a volunteer or donor by sending an email to Bernadette at [bgreenwood@friendsofdevilslake.org](mailto:bgreenwood@friendsofdevilslake.org) to help make the center a reality. Gifts are accepted at [friendsofdevilslake.org/donate](http://friendsofdevilslake.org/donate) or to the Friends at P.O. Box 209, Baraboo, WI 53913.

## THE CONCEPT OF FRILUFTSLIV

By Sue Johansen-Mayoeth, Park Naturalist

Welcome to January and it seems like we've been stuck in gray, cloudy days for weeks now. All the wonderful snow the area received in December has melted into icy, crusty layers with lots of icy patches underneath making it a bit of a challenge to get out onto the trails. Nothing about our recent weather makes you want to get up and get outside, which is why my husband and I have been practicing the Scandinavian concept of **friluftsliv** (pronounced *free-loofts-liv*) which translates roughly to 'open-air living.' This concept is widely popular across the Nordic countries where, despite freezing temperatures and very few hours of sunlight throughout the winter months, getting outside and embracing the outdoors is an important part of life, not only in the winter months, but all year around.

It's not a secret that getting outdoors in nature is good for your mental and physical health. From the serotonin boosting effects of sunlight exposure to the impact a walk in a natural setting can have on your mood. No matter where you get outside, whether it's in a



place like Devil's Lake or your local green space, being outside can provide a whole host of benefits. Not only does getting out reconnect us with nature, but it's also been proven to reduce levels of anxiety, stress and depression. A recent study found that spending at least 120 minutes a week in nature leads to a greater well-being and makes us happier. Although, when the weather isn't the best, like it's pouring rain, there's gray skies for days or the temperatures are below zero, and you'd rather stay inside and enjoy coffee while reading, embracing the concept of **friluftsliv** is all about putting those hesitations behind you. There's a couple of Norwegian sayings I try to remember when the weather just doesn't motivate me to get outside. One saying is "Det finnes ikke dårlig vær, bare dårlig klær!" which translates to "There is no bad weather, only bad clothes!" And the other is "Ut på tur, aldri sur", directly translating to "Out on hike, never in a bad mood". That last saying I needed recently when my husband and I looked at each other, neither of us motivated to get out. We then

reminded each other the key part of **friluftsliv** is making the most of the outdoors no matter what the weather conditions are, and we were rewarded by the most beautiful hoar frost covering the top of the east bluff and a peak of the sun while we were out! It was a wonderful reminder of why it's important to get out because you'll never know what you'll find, and you are often rewarded with the beauty nature has to offer when you do.

Whether or not you're an "outdoorsy" person, making time for the outdoors is a great way to embrace these Wisconsin winter months. Here's some tips on how to embrace the winter and start your own **friluftsliv** practice this winter.

- ◆ Get outside rain, shine, cold or snow - No matter what the weather, **friluftsliv** is about getting outside and exploring what the natural world has to offer. It's all about adapting to what the weather gives you.

- ◆ Make the most of your lunch – Take some time to head outside during your lunch break. It could be for a short walk or just sitting outside for 10 to 15 minutes. Taking a break, especially when its outside, can help with your creativity and concentration.

- ◆ Think like an onion and wear layers – Spending time outside won't be fun if you're not properly dressed.

Wearing layers, especially if they are wicking layers, can make a difference in your enjoyment in the outdoors. Bring a backpack or bag along with you to carry extra layers to put on if you're feeling chilly or to take off when you start to warm up.

- ◆ Start a Sit Spot practice – If you're not quite up to being outside on days where the weather is less than perfect, you can still acquire the benefits of being outside by creating a sit spot practice. A sit spot is simply a favorite place in nature (or looking out a window at nature) that is visited regularly to cultivate awareness, expand senses and study patterns of local plants, birds, trees, and animals.

I hope you spend some time creating your own **friluftsliv**, whether it's on your own or with family and friends. If you're looking for some motivation to get you started, check out the DNR's events calendar at [dnr.wisconsin.gov/events](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov/events) - we have events happening on the weekends here for you to participate in at Devil's Lake. I'd also love to hear about your own **friluftsliv** experiences this winter. Feel free to send an email to me at [Susan.JohansenMayoleth@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Susan.JohansenMayoleth@wisconsin.gov) to let me know what fun, interesting or grand adventure you have or had this winter by emailing . *Happy Hiking!*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Saturday, February 11th

Candlelight Snowshoe Hike  
Meet at the Rock Elm Shelter 6:00pm-8:30pm

### Saturday, March 11th

Torch-Lit Hike  
Meet at the Rock Elm Shelter 6:00pm-8:30pm

### Starting Saturday, April 8th

Volunteer Day (Weather Permitting)  
Second Saturday of the Month 9:00am-12:00pm  
Specific tasks will be selected prior to the date.

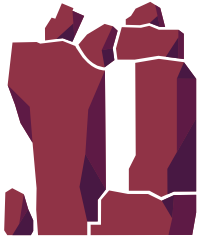
### Saturday, April 22nd

Earth Day Hike & Volunteer Day  
Second Saturday of the Month 9:00am-12:00pm



Visit our website or follow us on social media for the most up-to-date information!





## NEW & RENEWED FRIENDS MEMBERS

**Thank you to these members who have joined or renewed their membership in 2022 through January 16th, 2023.**

Anderson, Richard-Wauconda, IL  
 Andrew, Casey-Baraboo, WI  
 Aslesen, David-Reedsburg, WI  
 Axtell, Gina-Dubuque, IA  
 Barger, Dave-Oregon, WI  
 Bauer, Bill-Wisconsin Dells, WI  
 Bauer, Dave-Asbury, IA  
 Bauman, Eric B.-Middleton, WI  
 Baumann, Kenneth-Green Bay, WI  
 Beers, Lisa-Baraboo, WI  
 Benn, Elizabeth-Sun Prairie, WI  
 Bennin, John-Baraboo, WI  
 Bertram, Rick & Denise-Lakeville, MN  
 Bozarth, Daniel-Pleasant Prairie, WI  
 Briel, Ronald-Lincoln, NE  
 Brunty, Jeanne-Huntley, IL  
 Burger, Caroline-Sauk City, WI  
 Callaghan, Yoit-Lake Mary, FL  
 Campos, Christine-Urbana, IL  
 Canepa, Jane-Chicago, IL  
 Capener, Debby-Portage, WI  
 Carrier, John-Madison, WI  
 Carroll, Joy-Rock Springs, WI  
 Carter, Jim-Baraboo, WI  
 Chovonec, Mike-Timonium, MD  
 Christensen, Lau & Bea-Madison, WI  
 Clausen, Matthew-Spokane, WA  
 Collins, Stephen F-Baraboo, WI  
 Conservation Media, LLC-Baraboo, WI  
 Cresca, Karl-West Allis, WI  
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 DeLeonardis, Tammy-Sugar Grove, IL  
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 Dingmann, Dan-Baraboo, WI  
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 Dwyer, Claire-Baraboo, WI  
 Eastman Hill, Larry & Sharon-Baraboo, WI  
 Eckstein, Brian & Ann-Prairie du Sac, WI  
 Ellis, Kay-Middleton, WI  
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 Englebert, Jayne-Baraboo, WI

Erickson, Alice & Dave-Madison, WI  
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 Foster, Taylor & Ian Cotter-Brown-Madison, WI  
 Frank, Ken & Rhonda-Mazomanie, WI  
 Gaetzke, Patrick-Theresa, WI  
 Gander, Alissa-Wisconsin Dells, WI  
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 Geenen, Robert & Bridgitte-Baraboo, WI  
 Geist, Mary-Tinley Park, IL  
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 Gerdman, Lynn-Baraboo, WI  
 Getsinger, Ruth-Baraboo, WI  
 Goeckermann, Kurt-Baraboo, WI  
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 Grams, Mike-Ripon, WI  
 Green, Michael-Tallahassee, FL  
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Thank you for your support!

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 Radford, Zach  
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 Wilhelm, Joseph & Debra  
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**Affiliated Real Estate**

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**Recognition: Reedsburg**

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Drummer, Dailbor & Jaquelyn

Radford, James-

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Dahms, Bailey-

**In memory of Jennifer Brannan**

**Kimball and Penny Brannan Elkins**

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 Persche, Dorothy Earlene-  
 \*R.E. or D.E. Persche living trust  
 Bozarth, Daniel

**IN MEMORY OF JOHN CONNELL**

Connell, Kerry & Amy Ellis-Connell  
 Connell/Peloquin, Marilyn & Russell  
 Hill, Corine  
 Lawinger, Gregory & Darlys  
 Michel, Francis & Mary Ann  
 Ristow, Judith  
 Wilson, Kay

#### BENCH FUND

Kaczmarowski, Ken

#### NATURE CENTER

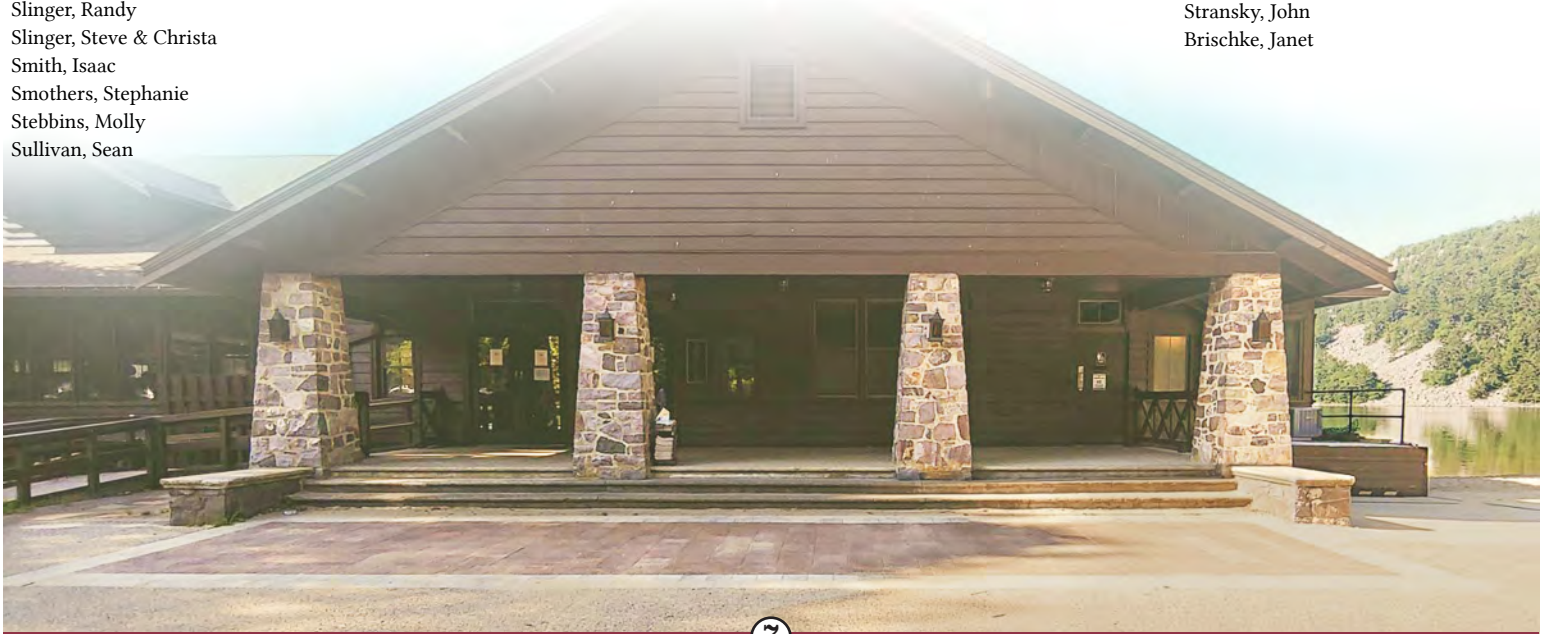
Hermesen, BJ and Jodi-Marie

#### TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Deleonardis, Tammy  
 Virtue, Paula  
 Cunningham, Sean  
 Paquette, Peter and Carol  
 McGee, Jonathan  
 Fosdal, Jennifer

**IN MEMORY OF JOHN CONNELL**

Hutter, Shelly  
 Stransky, John  
 Brischke, Janet





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*).

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



@friendsofdevillake @devillakefriends @devillakewi

## WANT TO JOIN US?

Visit our website at [friendsofdevillake.org](http://friendsofdevillake.org) or scan the QR code below to become a member.

