



**The Newport Wilderness Society, Inc.**

**2016 ANNUAL REPORT**

of

**The Newport Wilderness Society, Inc.**

A

**Not-for-Profit Friends Group**

for

**Newport State Park**

in

**Door County, Wisconsin**

**July 23, 2016**

<http://newportwildernesssociety.org>

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**Date of Incorporation:** August 26, 1985

**Mission of the Society:**

To work with the management of Newport State Park, Door County, Wisconsin, to help preserve the natural beauty of the Park's forest, meadow and shore areas for appropriate public use.

**Goals of the Society:**

1. Help preserve Newport State Park as a minimal development natural Park;
2. Encourage the individual study and the preservation of Wilderness and Nature in Newport State Park and elsewhere in the County;
3. Seek volunteers to help the Newport State Park management with projects to maintain the Park and facilitate its proper use;
4. Develop other projects and programs appropriate for the Park as may be determined by the Board of Directors working with the Park management.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY**

### Executive Committee

Dick Heil, President:	Semi-retired engineer. Frequent Newport hiker. Lives in Ellison Bay with his wife Carol.
Dick Smythe, Vice President	Retired from the United States Forest Service. Has a Ph.D. degree in Entomology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
Dan Fetterley, Secretary (Retiring from board):	Retired patent attorney from Milwaukee. Has worked as volunteer at Riveredge Nature Center in Newburg, WI and at the Urban Ecology Center in Milwaukee.
Neil Smith, Treasurer:	Retired CPA. Owned and operated a tax and consulting services business. Served as Vice President and Principal Accounting Officer for NAVTEQ Corporation and Corporate Controller for Snap-on Incorporated. Enjoys hiking, paddling and biking in and around Newport State Park.
Vacant, 5 <sup>th</sup> Officer:	

### Board Members

Judy Brodd:	Retired university administrator. Worked as Director International Student Services at UW-Madison and as Asst. Director Study Abroad and International Student Services at UW-Milwaukee. Currently serves as Board President UUFDC.
Jack Burnett (Retiring from board):	Jack is a University of Wisconsin trained scientist and formerly a local cider maker. He is 24 years old and now lives in West Lafayette, Indiana with his wife Christina and their dog Lou.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY  
(continued)**

- Amy Dwyer: Amy moved to Door County in 2012 after being a visitor for 25 years. She loves to hike with her dog and kayak, star-gaze, camp, cross country ski, and snowshoe!
- Mary Hansen:  
(Candidate for election) Mary was raised on Washington Island, and attended college at UW-La Crosse. She moved back to Door County in 2014, and has since been hired as Production Manager at Island Orchard Cider.
- Tom MacDonald  
(Retiring from board): Tom is semi-retired and living on Europe Lake. He gets to look at Newport every morning upon rising.
- Jack Travis: Professor emeritus of geology and serves on the Board of Directors for Friends of Wisconsin State Parks. Past President of Newport Wilderness Society.
- Tom Turriff: Retired CFO living in Ellison Bay with his wife Jo Ann. Enjoys being outdoors and photographing nature. Active in many nature/environment related organizations.
- Dave Vermillion: Dave and Meg have lived north of Ellison Bay since 2000. Before retirement worked for Continental Can, Schlitz, and Carnation in the manufacture of tin cans. Volunteer naturalist training at Riveredge and Retzer nature centers. Several board positions with the DC Unitarian Fellowship, including president.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY  
(continued)**

Greg Wilde:  
(Candidate for election)

Before retirement, Greg worked as Executive VP of a Midwestern insurance company. He is a Board member and volunteer with Pine View Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center. He and his wife Jean split their time between Ellison Bay and Milwaukee.

Data Base Administrator

Marc Demoly:

Professional spread-sheet administrator.

Trillium Editor

Karen Studebaker

Graduate of Purdue University; Educator; LWV activist; business owner; loves living in Door County and having Newport Wilderness State park as my “neighbor”.

NWS Website Manager

David Studebaker:

Software consultant and technical writer since the early 1960s (aka programming dinosaur). Software business owner with partner Karen for 35 years; life partner with Karen for 50+ years. Volunteer with Northern Sky Theater and various Liberty Grove Town Committees.

Ex officio Member

Michelle Hefty

Park Manager, Newport and Rock Island State Parks.

## **NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY**

### **2015-2016 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Dick Heil, President  
Dick Smythe, Vice President  
Dan Fetterley, Secretary  
Neil Smith, Treasurer  
Vacant, 5<sup>th</sup> Member

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS' COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS 2015-2016**

#### **BUDGET AND FINANCE**

- Neil Smith, Chair
- Mary Rosecky
- Tom Turriff
- President (Ex Officio)
- Park Manager (Ex officio)

#### **MEMBERSHIP & FUND RAISING**

- Jack Travis, Chair
- Judy Brodd
- Dick Smythe
- President (Ex Officio)
- Park Manager (Ex officio)

#### **MERCHANDISING**

- Amy Dwyer, Chair
- Beth Bartoli
- Neil Smith
- President (Ex Officio)
- Park Manager (Ex officio)

#### **NATURE INTERPRETATION AND STEWARDSHIP**

- Jack Burnette, Chair
- Jack Travis
- Marilyn Hansotia
- Al Schneider
- President (Ex Officio)
- Park Manager (Ex officio)

#### **NOMINATING**

- Tom MacDonald, Chair
- Dick Smythe
- President (Ex Officio)
- Park Manager (Ex officio)

#### **PUBLICITY**

- Dave Vermillion, Chair
- Dan Fetterley
- Nancy Rafal
- Karen Studebaker
- President (Ex Officio)
- Park Manager (Ex officio)

#### **VOLUNTEER SERVICES**

- Judy Brodd, Chair
- Tom MacDonald
- President (Ex Officio)
- Park Manager (Ex officio)

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY**

Newport Wilderness Society is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, Friends group organization that was formed to support the nature interpretive program at Newport State Park

Friends of Wisconsin State Parks (FWSP) presented a Gold Seal Award to Newport State Park for having the best friend's group website in 2013. This is the first time this particular award has been presented by FWSP. At the 2014 FWSP Annual Awards Banquet in Madison, Newport State Park received another Gold Seal Award as the "Best Place for Quiet Recreating".

Newport Wilderness Society raised enough money to build (\$180,000) and outfit (\$50,000) the nature interpretive room (Hotz Wilderness Room), the park naturalist office and a storage room. This project was completed in April 2008 and dedicated on July 26, 2008.

In addition, Newport Wilderness Society

- Provided \$8,000 for hiring two part-time park naturalists for the 2015 and 2016 seasons
- Provided \$4000 for hiring a part-time employee for invasive species control work for the 2015 and 2016 seasons.
- Provided \$5992 additional program support funds in 2016 for other park activities and programs including:
  - Nature Center equipment and books
  - Open Door Bird Sanctuary programs
  - Volunteer support (meals and supplies)
  - International Dark Sky Association membership
  - Purchase of merchandise for resale
- Provided over \$1000 in 2015 to fund various park activities.
- Provided \$450 in 2015 to purchase a slide converter and document camera for the nature center.
- Supported Newport State Park's application to the International Dark Sky Association as Wisconsin's first Dark Sky Park.
- Provided \$8,000 for hiring two part-time park naturalists for the 2014 season.
- Provided \$6,000 for hiring part-time park naturalists for the 2013 season.
- Provided \$12,000 for the purchase of a new UTV for park maintenance personnel to use while maintaining trails and campsites and fighting invasive plant species (Garlic mustard) in December 2012.
- Provided meals for nine students and one instructor on March 29-30, 2012 from the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department of Fox Valley Technical College that was contracted by Wisconsin DNR to make up-to-date global positioning system (GPS) maps of Newport State Parks.
- Provided \$ 6,000.00 for hiring part-time park naturalists for the 2012 season.



- Provided \$ 4,950.00 for hiring a part-time park naturalist for the 2011 season.
- Partnered with Newport State Park and three Door County poetry groups (Wallace Group, The Unabridged Poetry Group and Word Women Poetry Group) to install a walking poetry trail at Newport State Park in 2010.
- Was one of several partners with the Wisconsin Natural Resources Foundation for an all-day (6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.) Great Lakes BioBlitz at Europe Bay State Natural Area (SNA) in Newport State Park on June 26, 2010.
- Provided \$ 5,000.00 for hiring a part-time park naturalist for the 2010 season.
- Paid registration fees and lodging for two individuals to attend a cross-country ski trail grooming workshop (2009).
- Sponsored a presentation by Lincoln Brower, “Mr. Monarch”, on the fate of Monarch Butterflies (2009).
- Underwrote the development and printing of a brochure titled “*Geology of Newport State Park*”, which is available free to park visitors (2008).
- Underwrote the development and printing of the Newport State Park *Summer and Fall Flowers* brochure, which is available free to park visitors (2008).
- Purchased a computer for the park naturalist. Assisted in the purchase of trail grooming equipment for cross-country skiing
- Supported a study of monarch butterfly population in the butterfly garden area of Newport State Park (2002).
- Sponsored the development of a booklet titled “*The Ferdinand Hotz Legacy – a Door County Family History*” (1998).
- Underwrote the development and printing of the Newport State Park *Bird Checklist* brochure, which is available free to park visitors (1994).
- Underwrote the development and printing of the Newport State Park *Spring Flowers* brochure, which is available free to park visitors (1994).
- Sponsored a cultural history study of Newport, which produced a booklet titled “*Newport –Out of Wilderness into Wilderness*”, which is available free to park visitors (1994).
- Underwrote the development and printing of booklet titled “*Forest Heritage Tour – Newport State Park*”, which is available free to park visitors (1994).
- Underwrote the development and printing of *Mammals of Newport State Parks* brochure, which is available free to park visitors (1994).
- Provided funds to establish a small nature center next to the old park office (1994).
- Partially financed the construction of a three-sided cultural history kiosk near the former location of the village of Newport (1991).
- Underwrote the development and printing of Newport State Park Silurian Sea Fossil brochure (1989).

Members of Newport Wilderness Society lead various types of nature and cultural history hikes each year, serve as docents at the Hotz Wilderness Room, assist with the annual Candlelight Cross-country Ski event and assist in trying to eradicate invasive plant species in the Park.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

June 30<sup>th</sup> marked the end of another busy year for the Newport Wilderness Society. Fortunately, we have less turnover on the board going into the new fiscal year than we experienced last year at this time. Managing the business of a non-profit organization like ours takes more time and talent than I have, so I continue to be grateful for the dedication of the members who volunteer their time to serve on our board and do so many things for the Society and Newport State Park. This spirit of volunteerism is strong in Door County, making it possible to sustain organizations like the Newport Wilderness Society.

Jack Travis and I recently attended a meeting of Friends' groups representatives from the five State Parks in Door County, along with Wisconsin DNR staff from the parks. One of the things the meeting reinforced for me was how unique and special Newport State Park is. Other parks may have their observation towers or lighthouses, and draw more visitors, but as a limited development state park situated where we are, Newport has dark skies. And these dark skies have allowed us to apply for the designation as an International Dark Sky Park. There is currently only one Midwest park with this designation (it's across the lake in Michigan), but thanks to the work of our Naturalist, Park Manager and support from the Door Peninsula Astronomical Society, we expect Newport to be designated an International Dark Sky Park very soon. Look for more information on this exciting development in the near future. It will become a key theme for our future park programs.

Another development this year has been the work by our web administrator to redesign the NWS web site. The board previewed a "beta" version at our April board meeting, and we are excited by how it is shaping up. In addition to adding fresh content, especially about the Dark Sky programs mentioned above, one of the key goals has been to make the new site mobile friendly. Since most park visitors are now using mobile devices to access information about events and activities when visiting Door County, we want the NWS web site to display content in a useful way on those devices.

Other than a few adverse weather impacts, our popular annual programs such as the Candlelight Ski, Perseid Meteor Shower Viewing and Newport Wilderness Day were a success once again this year as described in past issues of *The Trillium*.

Finally, a special thanks go to all friends of the Society who have again been very generous in their donations. As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, we received these amounts: \$7182 (Area of Greatest Need); \$8605 (Naturalist); \$700 (Invasive Species Coordination); \$60 (undesignated); and \$535 (Endowment Fund). At a time when all Wisconsin state parks are facing financial challenges, your donations have made a significant impact.

Dick Heil, July 8, 2016

## **BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

For the NWS year ending June 30, 2016

The Budget and Finance Committee includes Neil Smith - Treasurer and Chair, Mary Rosecky, Tom Turriff and ex-officio members Dick Heil and Michelle Hefty.

Committee accomplishments during the year include the drafting and implementation of the NWS Expenditure Policy, an in depth review of our RBC investment portfolio and the implementation of changes to portfolio asset allocation to better reflect our investment objectives.

### **NWS TREASURER'S REPORT**

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016

The NWS finances are managed by the Treasurer, subject to guidance by the NWS Budget and Finance Committee and oversight by the NWS Board of Directors. Financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015 were compiled by the Certified Public Accounting firm of KerberRose SC in accordance with Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

As shown on the Statement of Net Worth presented on the following page, NWS assets increased to \$152,326 this year. Net Worth consists of cash, bank accounts, merchandise inventory and mutual fund investments. The mutual fund investments of the Endowment and Operating Funds are held with RBC Wealth Management. They contain a mix of equity and fixed income securities in keeping with our long-term investment objectives of low risk, capital preservation, growth and a steady income stream. NWS has no liabilities.

The Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Change in Net Worth presented on the following page shows a comparison of income and expense items, and the resulting increase in Net Worth for each of the last two years. Important details from this report are discussed below.

- Donations and annual membership revenues remained steady in 2016. A total of 134 individuals, families and organizations contributed for membership in fiscal 2016, and 77 made additional donations. This year we were again fortunate to receive an \$8,000 donation to fund the employment of our park naturalists.
- Sales of merchandise increased 38% this year. Sales in 2016 benefited from increased demand for nature guide books and nature themed apparel.
- Increased dividend income from our investments, and lower unrealized losses due to the impact of declining financial markets on our investments resulted in improved investment performance in 2016.
- Program support which accounts for over 83% of total NWS expenses remained at the same level in 2016. It includes funding for our park naturalists, invasive

species eradication, interpretive programs, park membership in the International Dark Skies Association, and the purchase of books and equipment for the Nature Center. All of this was made possible by the generous support of our members, volunteers and donors. We are grateful for their continuing support of the NWS mission.

**NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY, INC.  
STATEMENT OF NET WORTH**

	As of	
	June 30, 2015	June 30, 2016
<b>Cash - Nicolet Checking</b>	\$ 2,173	\$ 2,202
<b>Cash - Nicolet Savings</b>	4,063	4,242
<b>Cash - Pay Pal</b>	200	200
<b>Cash - RBC</b>	1459	0
<b>Cash on Hand</b>	797	1165
<b>Subtotal</b>	<u>8,692</u>	<u>7,809</u>
<b>Merchandise Inventory</b>	4,567	4,530
<b>RBC Operating Fund Investment</b>	45,051	57,107
<b>RBC Endowment Fund Investment</b>	<u>80,891</u>	<u>82,881</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	139,201	152,327
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>TOTAL NET WORTH</b>	<u>\$ 139,201</u>	<u>\$ 152,327</u>

**NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY, INC.  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGE IN NET WORTH**

For the Year Ended	June 30, 2015	June 30, 2016
<b>REVENUES:</b>		
Donations	\$ 17,322	\$ 17,082
Membership - Annual	4,315	4,180
Membership - Life	2,000	1,000
Merchandise Sales	7,133	9,851
Dividend and Interest Income	5,424	5,973
Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Investments	(7,799)	(3,378)
	<u>28,395</u>	<u>34,708</u>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>		
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
Program Support	17,861	17,991
Management and General	3,792	2,800
Fundraising	710	791
	<u>22,363</u>	<u>21,582</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		
<b>CHANGE IN NET WORTH</b>	6,032	13,126
<b>NET WORTH - BEGINNING</b>	<u>133,168</u>	<u>139,200</u>
<b>NET WORTH - ENDING</b>	<u>\$ 139,200</u>	<u>\$ 152,326</u>

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

The nominating committee has secured a commitment for one new board member and is following up on a second prospect to serve on the NWS board.

We continue to so seek out individuals to serve on the board. If you would like to be a part of helping to shape the future of the NWS, we would like to talk to you. Please feel free to contact us at the telephone numbers below.

The following board members are nominated for terms ending in the year indicated:

- Mary Hansen (2019)\*
- Dick Smythe (2019)
- Greg Wilde (2019)\*

\* Candidate board member

Respectfully submitted, Tom MacDonald (retiring from board) and Richard Smythe (920-854-3330).

## **MERCHANDISING COMMITTEE REPORT For the NWS year ending June 30, 2016**

Committee Members: Amy Dwyer - Chair, Beth Bartoli, Neil Smith

Ex-officio members: Dick Heil, NWS Board President and Michelle Hefty, Park Manager

Newport Wilderness Society merchandise showed month after month of record sales during fiscal year 2015-2016, with a total figure of \$9,851.00 for the year! This 38% improvement over the previous year's final numbers continues a positive trend in sales and is no doubt due to the increased inventory being stocked. We've loaded up on favorites like "May the forest be with you" t-shirts, an even greater variety of the popular nature books and pocket guides, as well as new and often requested park stickers for the upcoming season. What's on the horizon for this next year? We intend to follow the winning formula of increased offerings and, in addition to our current selection, we anticipate carrying ladies' t-shirts, fleece items, wonderful children's books, natural bug repellent, and just in case a spot gets missed, some handy dandy tick removers, too! These are just a few of the items visitors to the park office can expect to find on the shelves in the months ahead.

## RESULTS OF 2015 FUND RAISING DRIVE

Near the end of 2015, all members received an invitation to make a donation to support a Naturalist, an Invasive Specialist fund, the Nature Center Fund, As Needed Fund, Endowment Fund and other. As of June 30, 2016, contributions to the 2015-2016 annual Newport Wilderness Society end-of-year fund drive has yielded \$7,177 for the As Needed Fund, \$ 535 for the Endowment Fund, \$8,680 for the Naturalist Fund, \$700 for the Invasive Species Specialist Fund and \$ 60 for other; totaling \$ 16,077. Newport Wilderness Society has pledged \$8,000 to cover salary and benefits for two part-time naturalists and \$4,000 to cover salary and benefits costs for an Invasive Species specialist this summer. The Board of Directors wishes to thank each and every one of you that made a donation this year. You can be assured; however, your donations will be used as you specified, solely for the benefit of the park. Donors include:

### **Duck Bay Trail Club (<\$100) - Endowment**

Lee T. Koehler – Cincinnati, OH  
John & Judy Turner – Ephraim, WI  
Robert S. Lindahl – Ellison Bay, WI  
Bill & Barbara Perloff – Baileys Harbor, WI

### **Duck Bay Trail Club (<\$100) - As Needed**

John & Judith Turner – Ephraim, WI  
Barbara Ziegler – Nauvoo, IL  
Julie Sara & Gary Martin – Sister Bay, WI  
William J. Rack – Milwaukee, WI  
Ray & Helene DiIulio – Ellison Bay, WI  
Robert Lindahl – Ellison Bay, WI  
Stefan & Glenna Peters – Sister Bay, WI  
Senator Fred Risser – Madison, WI  
Les & Roxanne Lucas – Milwaukee, WI  
Bill & Barbara Perloff – Baileys Harbor, WI  
Jack Burnett – Ellison Bay, WI  
Lail Herman – Evanston, IL  
Dave & Judy Anderson – Oshkosh, WI  
Duane & Jo Ann Kexel – Madison, WI  
Jim & Joanne Gustafson – Ellison Bay, WI  
Peter & Linda Brooks – Sister Bay, WI  
Ann Sheridan – Sturgeon Bay, WI  
Robert H. Brogan – Sister Bay  
Leslie Helpert – Sister Bay, WI  
Peter & Jean Ann Nowak – Lake Villa, IL  
Greg Scheckler & Laura Christenson –  
Williamstown, MA

### **Duck Bay Trail Club (<\$100) - As Needed**

Robert & Linda Merline – Fish Creek, WI  
Lee & Alane Vernilkea-Boutelle – Madison, WI

Mr. & Mrs. Franklin Rogers – Bellville, IL  
David & Karen Studebaker – Ellison Bay, WI  
Sister Bay Bowl – Sister Bay, WI  
Mike & Judy Brodd – Sister Bay, WI  
Carl & Sandy Zapffe – Ellison Bay, WI  
Beth & Don Bartoli – Kenosha, WI  
Steve & Marjorie Karges – Janesville, WI

### **Duck Bay Trail Club (<\$100) – Naturalist**

Marc & Julie Savard – Nokomis, FL  
Dr. James & Janet Foster – Pleasant Prairie, WI  
Donna Danielson- Wheaton, IL  
Roy & Charlotte Lukes – Egg Harbor, WI  
Michael & Judy Brodd – Sister Bay, WI  
Deb Johnson – Fairfield, IA

### **Duck Bay Trail Club (<\$100) – Invasives**

Robert & Linda Merline – Fish Creek, WI

### **Duck Bay Trail Club (<\$100) –Other**

Donna Danielson, Wheaton, IL  
Anthony & Cheryl Furlick – Wauwatosa, WI  
**Sand Cove Trail Club (\$100-\$249) – Endowment**  
Don & Lynne Luker – Sister Bay, WI  
Edward & Linda Hayes – Hortonville, WI  
Werner & Susan Krause – Ellison Bay, WI

### **Sand Cove Trail Club (\$100-\$249) - As Needed**

Going Garbage & Recycling Inc. – Sister Bay, WI  
Ecology Sports – Sister Bay, WI  
Robert Judd – Ellison Bay, WI  
Tim & Susan Stone – Baileys Harbor, WI  
Jack Travis & Diane Morgan – Ellison Bay, WI  
Ann Rothschild – Chicago, IL  
Richard & Mary Smythe – Sister Bay, WI  
Kaye Wagner – Baileys Harbor, WI  
Dan & Pat Fetterley – Milwaukee, WI  
Jon & Marilyn Peterson – Ellison Bay, WI  
Don & Barbara Fuhrmann – Riverwoods, IL  
Carol Kopriwa – Lake Bluff, IL  
Catherine Parks – Oak Creek, IL  
Jim & Janet Wolfenbergs – Adell, WI  
Martin & Hillary Ford – Ellison Bay, WI  
Susan & Steven Bell – Menlo Park, CA  
Gloria Dougherty – Ellison Bay, WI  
Robert & Nancy Davis – Ephraim, WI  
Pete & Jill Hanley – Dunlap, IL  
Terry Heidenreiter & Jeanne Rabel – Ellison Bay,  
WI

William & Judith Schuele – Muskego, WI

### **Sand Cove Trail Club (\$100-\$249) - As Needed**

Brent Sieling & Megan Sclesman – Madison, WI  
Herb Kohl Philanthropies - Milwaukee, WI

### **Sand Cove Trail Club (\$100-\$249) - Invasives**

Richard & Carol Heil – Ellison Bay, WI  
Don & Coggin Heeringa – Sturgeon Bay, WI  
Gwyne Schultz – Sister Bay, WI

**Sand Cove Trail Club (\$100-\$249) – Naturalist**  
 Steve Racker – Chicago, IL  
 Marilyn & Phil Hansotia – Ellison Bay, WI  
**Fern Trail Club (\$250-\$499) – Naturalist**  
 Mary Rosecky – Ellison Bay, WI  
**Fern Trail Club (\$250-\$499) – Invasive Species**  
 David & LaVonne Callsen – Ellison Bay, WI  
**Ridge Trail Club (\$500-\$999) – As Needed**  
 Neil & Barbara Smith – Gurnee, IL

Dr. G. Leonard Apfelbach – Sarasota, FL  
**Hotz Trail Club (\$1,000 and >) – As Needed**  
 Carol & Bruce Olson - Fish Creek, WI  
 Dennis & Mary Fales – Venice, FL  
**Hotz Trail Club (\$1,000 and >) - Naturalist**  
 David & Lisa Varney Beckwith – Wheaton, IL

The Board of Directors wishes to thank each and every one of you that made a donation this year. Your donations will be used as you specified, solely for the benefit of the park.

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**

2015-2016 Membership Report as of July 1, 2016

The Membership Committee for 2015-2016: Jack Travis, Chair; Judy Brodd and Dick Smythe; ex officio, Dick Heil and Michelle Hefty.

We are pleased to continue to have professional support provided by Marc Demoly, assisting us in the administration of membership services. Our membership database information is fully computerized resulting in more accurate and efficient processing along with providing more effective management opportunities for the board.

The following table shows the membership by category:

### Types of Membership – 2015-2016

• Business/Organization – Life	1
• Business/Organization	24
• Family	73
• Individual	20
• Individual – Life	47
• Couple – Life	65
• Honorary	17
TOTAL	247

There are 13 and 20 membership units that are delinquent for one year and two years, respectively, in dues.



## NATURE INTERPRETATION AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

It was a busy and successful year for Naturalists Beth Bartoli and Derek Ferrier, both of whom are more than happy to be working their third season at Newport.

Many visitors enjoyed our park, and the many programs were well attended. As guided by the DNR's focus on outdoor skills, some of the 80+ programs included:

- Wildflower and tree identification
- Invasive species control
- Poison ivy identification
- Primitive fire building
- Geology
- Spider collection and study
- Monarch butterfly study, collection and release
- Wild edibles
- Mammals and wolves
- Dragon fly hike
- Nature journaling
- Bat surveys
- Park history
- Navigation skills
- Field preparedness for hiking/camping
- Mushroom identification
- Star charts and the night sky
- Bug walks
- Plants and animals preparing for winter
- Milkweed workshop
- Dark sky programs

Open Door Bird Sanctuary came several times to the park to give programs with their resident education birds. Many visitors enjoyed not only the programs, but also the ability to see these beautiful birds up close. Smokey Bear made his appearance at the park and at Olde Ellison Bay Days parade. Fire safety was stressed as kids and adults alike enjoyed their time meeting Smokey.

A big attraction last summer was the Monarch butterfly "nursery" in the Nature Center. We have an official Monarch Waystation at Newport, registered with Monarch Watch. Beth spent much of mid to late summer collecting eggs and monarch larvae (caterpillars) from the milkweed at the park, rearing them in enclosures and releasing the monarchs when they emerged and were ready to go. Visitors, many of them children, got to help when it was time to "launch" the butterflies on their maiden voyage. The chance to hold a

monarch on your hand is one experience not soon forgotten. A total of 61 monarchs were released at Newport State Park in 2015. All results were recorded and reported to Monarch Watch.

This summer, there are two new butterfly enclosures in the Nature Center. We hope to release more monarchs this year. Milkweed planting workshops will continue, increasing awareness of the monarch's decline and what we can do to help.

One of the great parts of working in a state park is the ability to connect with people on so many different levels. Beth had the wonderful opportunity to work with several Girl Scout groups, working on outdoors skills like tree and plant identification, preparing for hikes, spiders and insects and night sky knowledge. As a result of this opportunity, Beth and Newport State Park were presented with the Community Partnership Award from the Girl Scout Council of the Northwestern Great Lakes. This was truly an honor for all involved.

As of this writing, we are anxiously awaiting word from the International Dark-Sky Association on our pending application as an International Dark Sky Park. The application process has been a tedious one to say the least, with many hours going into all that was involved. We expect to get approval very soon, making Newport State Park the only park in Wisconsin (and only the second in the Midwest) to receive this designation. We are optimistic that a formal announcement and a ribbon cutting ceremony will be in our future this summer. For more information on IDA, check out their website at: [www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org).

As part of our commitment to IDA, we will continue to provide night sky programs throughout the year. We had the pleasure of having UW-Madison graduate students of astronomy do presentations at Newport three times during the season. They do a PowerPoint presentation, followed by a chance to view the night skies through their high powered telescope. One of those events is during the Perseid Meteor shower, always held at the park on August 12th. When the weather cooperates and the skies are clear, this is a wonderful night of sky gazing. In 2015, we had over 520 visitors attend this spectacular event.

This past winter saw Beth at the park doing a few winter programs. During snowshoe hikes, she had the opportunity to share with the group some mammal tracking and winter plant identification skills. Our hope is that next winter, there will be more scheduled programs for those of us who brave the winter here.

But for now, let's enjoy the nice weather that summer and fall bring us. Better yet, plan on joining Beth and Derek at the park for one of their programs. To the woods!

## **VOLUNTEER SERVICES COMMITTEE**

The members of the Volunteer Services Committee are listed on page 7 of the report.

- Summer 2015 – Cleared out area and caged Showy Lady Slippers plants to ensure protection and growth
- Assisted staff with invasive species removal
- Assisted with the July Annual Meeting of the Newport Wilderness Society
- Fall Work Day (cancelled due to heavy rain)
- Hosted Annual Candlelight Ski Event (limited trails due to ice)
- Hosted Work/Earth Day April 23 – prepared park and facilities and campgrounds for the summer
- Hosted Annual Newport Wilderness Day
- Assisted Bridges Program by providing hike leaders
- Perseid meteor shower viewing program
- Summer 2016 – participated in Olde Ellison Bay Days Parade and booth

We wish to thank all the NWS volunteers for their many hours of service to Newport State Park and the Newport Wilderness Society!

## **PUBLICITY COMMITTEE**

The members of the Publicity Committee are listed on page 7 of the report. The primary means for disseminating publicity about the Newport Wilderness Society and Newport State Park are:

1. *The Trillium* newsletter. Karen Studebaker edited and distributed four issues of *The Trillium* in the 2015-2016 fiscal year.
2. [www.newportwildernesssociety.org](http://www.newportwildernesssociety.org). Dave Studebaker serves as our web administrator.
3. facebook. The Society has a facebook page that is linked to our web page.
4. Other media. Wisconsin DNR regulations now require DNR approval of publicity about events in the parks before it is published. As a result, local park staff must initiate the approval process. After approval, it appears on the Wisconsin DNR “Get Outdoors!” web page, the Peninsula Pulse “Outdoor” calendar of events or other local media.

**2015-2016 LOCAL BUSINESS AND ORGANIZATION SUPPORTERS  
OF  
NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY**

The following local businesses and organizations are supporters of Newport Wilderness Society:

Al Johnson's Swedish Restaurant & Buttik, Inc. 10698 N Bay Shore Drive Sister Bay, WI 54234	Bayshore Outdoor, Inc. 2457 S. Bay Shore Drive Sister Bay, WI 54234
Blue Dolphin LTD 10320 Hwy 42 Ephraim, WI	Champeau Floor Covering 2613 S. Bay Shore Drive Sister Bay, WI 54234
Ecology Sports 10740 N Bay Shore Drive Sister Bay, WI 54234	Going Garbage & Recycling Inc. 10564 Old Stage Road Sister Bay, WI 54234
Hammersmith TV & Electronics 10514 Country Lane Sister Bay, WI 54234	Innovative Printing LLC 2414- # 1, Country Walk Drive Sister Bay, WI 54234
JJ's La Puerta 10961 N. Hwy 42 Sister Bay, WI 54234	Joe Jo's Pizza & Gelato 10420 Hwy 42 Sister Bay, WI 54234
John Ludwigsen DDS 2596 S. Bay Shore Drive Sister Bay, WI 54234	Jungwirth Ace Hardware, LLC 10636 N. Bay Shore Drive Sister Bay, WI 54234
Liberty Grove Market, LLC 11996 Hwy 42 Ellison Bay, WI 54210	Nicolet National Bank (formerly Baylake Bank) 636 S. Bayshore Drive Sister Bay, WI 54234
Pirate's Cove Adventure Golf 2502 S. Bay Shore Drive Sister Bay, WI 54234	Shoreline Resort & Condos 12747 Hwy 42 Ellison Bay, WI 54210
Shoreline Restaurant 12747 Hwy 42 Ellison Bay, WI 54210	Sister Bay Advancement Association P. O. Box 351 Sister Bay, WI 54234
Sister Bay Bowl 10640 N. Bay Shore Drive Sister Bay, WI 54234	State Farm Insurance Companies (Agent: Carol DeVault) 920 Egg Harbor Road Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
Sub Express 2579 S. Bayshore Drive Sister Bay, WI 54234	The Cook Book 326 Country Walk Lane Sister Bay, WI 54234
The Garden Lady – Beth Coleman 1581 Ranch Lane Ellison Bay, WI 54210	Top Shelf Gourmet 10588 Country Walk Drive Sister Bay WI 54234
Washington Island Ferry Line P.O. Box 39 Washington Island, WI 54246	

The Board of Directors of NWS thanks these businesses and organizations and request that members extend their thanks also.

## **NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY**

### **MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING - JULY 25, 2015**

**Call to Order** - The Annual Meeting of the Newport Wilderness Society, the official friends group of Newport State Park, was called to order by President Dick Heil at 6:05 P.M. The Meeting was held at the shelter in the Park. The Annual Meeting was preceded by a pig roast dinner. The dinner was enjoyed by the approximately 50 Society members plus a number of guests.

**President's Introductory Remarks** - President Heil welcomed members of the Society to the Annual Meeting. He reminded members that this was the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Newport Wilderness Society and that the Society was the first state park friend's group formed in the State of Wisconsin.

**Minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting** - A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading the minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting. The motion carried. The minutes are found on pages 23 - 25 the 2015 Annual Report of the Society.

**Treasurer's Report** - President Heil called on Neil Smith, Treasurer of the Society, to present his report. Neil thanked outgoing Treasurer Martin Ford for his years of service as treasurer of the Society.

Neil referred to the accounts of the Society as set out on pages 11 - 13 of the Annual Report showing a statement of net worth and a statement of revenues, expenses, and change in net worth for the Society for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. He pointed out that the net worth of the Society now stands at approximately \$139,000. He also noted that membership fees and donations amounted to approximately \$24,000 and that these monies covered most of the Park program support expenses of the Society.

President Heil thanked Neil for his report and called for a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, which motion was made, seconded and carried.

**Recognition of Board and Society Members** - President Heil noted that Martin Ford, Bob Judd, and Mary Lou Serchen will not be on the Board in the coming year. President Heil presented a plaques to Martin and Mary Lou in recognition of their years of service to the Society. A similar plaque is being mailed to Bob, who could not be present at the Annual Meeting.

A plaque was also presented to Rolliana Scheckler. Rolliana was a founding member of the Society and served for 11 years on its Board. Most recently, she was the administrator of the website of the Society for the last 7 years.

The presentation of the plaques was greeted with applause.

The Society previously expressed its appreciation to Angela Foster for her years of work in invasive species eradication in the Park at the June meeting of its Board of Directors.

**Nominating Committee Report** – In the absence of Tom MacDonald, chair of the Nominating Committee, President Heil presented the report of the Nominating Committee. The report is found on page 14 of the Annual Report. Placed in nomination for the terms ending as indicated are the following: Jack Burnett (2018), Amy Dwyer (2018), Dick Heil (2018), Tom Turriff (2018), and Dave Vermillion (2017).

There being no nominations from the floor, the nominees were duly elected by the members to the Board of the Society.

**Other Committee Reports** - President Heil called for a motion to dispense with discussing all of the other committee reports, urging members to read those committee reports in the Annual Report. Such motion was made, seconded, and carried.

**Park Manager's Report** – Park Manager, Michelle Hefty, reported that attendance in the Park this year has been good. 41 people attended the recent Universe in the Park program presented by the UW-Madison Astronomy Department.

Four new employees are working in the Park this year, either in the Office or in the field.

The application by the Park for a “dark skies” designation by the International Darksky Association will be submitted shortly. Newport State Park will be the first dark sky park in the state and the second such park in the Midwest.

Bids are out for the installation of a solar powered water fountain at the shelter. The solar panels will be located in a visible location north of the shelter.

**Remembrances** – President Heil asked for a moment of silence to honor the following members of the Society who passed away in the last year.

John Maring  
Sid Gault

**The Program** - Past President Jack Travis introduced Bill Zager, President of the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks (FWSP). Bill stated that there were 81 state park friends groups in Wisconsin. The FWSP acts as a coordinating, umbrella organization for these groups. It has recently become involved in providing funding for state park friends groups, making money available for naturalists in the parks. It encourages friends groups to make politicians aware that they are part of the political constituency, noting that \$250,000 in matching funds for state parks was recently returned to the final state budget. Friends groups also get the attention of politicians by pointing out that, among

other things, the groups contribute large numbers of volunteer hours to the state parks - approximately 186,000 state park volunteer hours in 2014.

Bill explained there is adequate funding for state parks for the next two years from state segregated funds. But in 2017, these monies will run out and parks will need to become more self-sufficient.

**Good of the Order** – President Heil noted upcoming events in the Park. These include the Perseid meteor shower event on August 12th and Newport Wilderness Day on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend.

Past President Jack Travis announced that Al Johnson's Swedish Restaurant and Butik has become the Society's first Business-Life Member.

**Adjournment** - There being no further business to come before the Society at its Annual Meeting, President Heil called for a motion to adjourn. Such motion was made, seconded, and carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

The next Annual Meeting of the Newport Wilderness Society will be held on the last Saturday in July 2016. Members were asked to mark their calendars for July 30, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dan Fetterley  
Secretary