the TRILLIUM
NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Winter 2017

Message from the Board President – Dick Heil

Happy New Year to all members and friends of the Newport Wilderness Society!

It's January 1st as I write this article following our First Day hike in the Park. First Day Hikes are a national initiative to get people outdoors in America's state parks. In Wisconsin, the DNR promotes this initiative by registering the events in the national database and the Wisconsin DNR calendar, helping with publicity, and gathering data on participation. At Newport State Park, 2017 is the third year that the Newport Wilderness Society (NWS) has sponsored a First Day Hike. This year was also our highest level of participation with 27 hikers, including many children, a baby and, not included in the total, a dog. Everyone had an enjoyable time, and it's easy to see why: the conditions were perfect. There was not a cloud in the sky, the temperature was in the high twenties, the winds were calm, the conifers were beautifully flocked with recent snow, and the Upland trail had about 4 inches of fresh snow on top of the existing snow base.

After the hike, the group gathered in the Hotz Wilderness Room in the park office for hot chocolate and cider and all hikers received a First Day Hike medallion to commemorate the event. It was a memorable way to begin the new year.

On November 5th, The Friends of Wisconsin State Parks (FWSP) held workshops for Friends Groups and their annual awards banquet in Stevens Point. Representing Newport State Park and the NWS were Park Manager Michelle Hefty, Naturalist Beth Bartoli, NWS Past President and retiring FWSP board member Jack Travis, and NWS President Dick Heil. At the awards banquet, **Jack Travis** was a keynote speaker and was honored for his many years of service to FWSP since its inception. Later in the evening, Newport State Park was recognized as the recipient of the 2016 Gold Seal Award for the "Best backpack campsite". In addition, the night sky photo at Newport State Park taken by NWS member Dennis Moutray was selected to be the inside cover photo in the 2017 FWSP state parks calendar! You can see both the Gold Seal Award and the stunning night sky photo during your next visit to the park office.

On November 30th, Wisconsin State Parks Director Ben Bergey announced a realignment of the DNR which he communicated to the Friends Groups on the same day that it was announced to the staff. Soon after, we discussed the realignment at the December 2nd NWS Board Meeting. Now, I will be the first to admit that I have never had an intimate knowledge of how the DNR is organized, but thanks to the perspective provided by Park Manager Michelle Hefty, it sounds like the local impacts will be minimal. Perhaps the most noticeable change is that law enforcement responsibilities will eventually be transferred to something called (appropriately) the Bureau of Law Enforcement. In Door County, that means that the two wardens will be writing those sticker violations rather than the park ranger.

Looking ahead, our annual Candlelight Ski, Hike and Snowshoe event is scheduled for Saturday, February 11th. We've had some bad luck the last two years with less than ideal conditions, so we are hoping the weather gods will smile on our efforts as they did for the First Day Hike and be kind to us this year. More information on this event is available elsewhere in this issue.

Finally, I'd like to thank the many people, businesses and organizations that have supported our 2017 membership renewal and donation appeal drives. While we have been very fortunate to have experienced increases in the Society's net worth over the past year, our resources are not sufficient to sustain our ongoing support of the park and its programs without your help. Best wishes to all for the coming year.

NWS Merchandise – Amy Dwyer

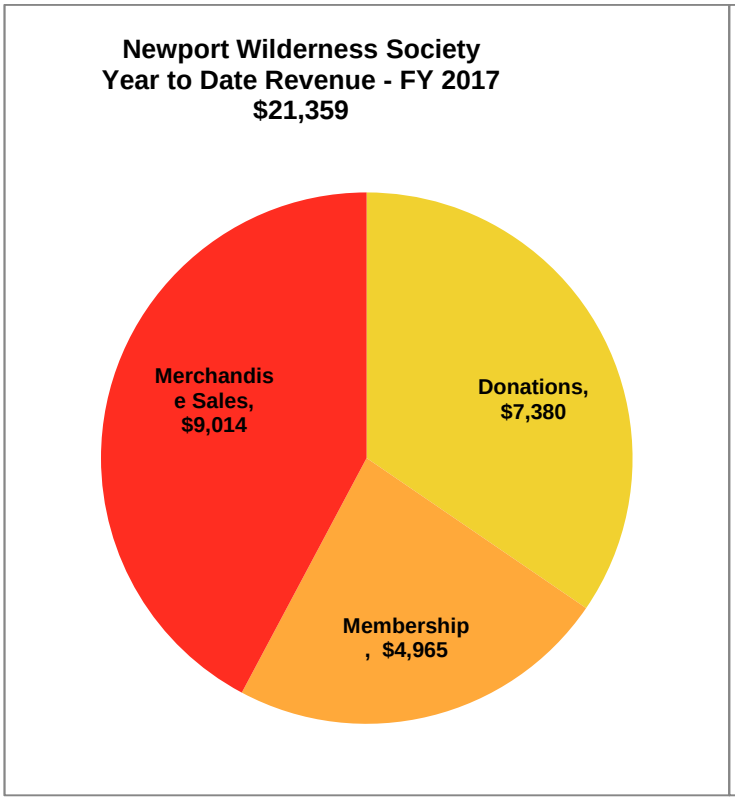
Winter – a time to slow down and listen to the quiet. The quiet beauty of Door County's winter is abundant on the trails of Newport State Park, especially after a snowfall; that's when you may hear the ethereal silence of nothing at all. It is exquisite. Or perhaps instead you'll hear a cacophony of bird chatter on the wind. Either way, we've got gear in the park office to help ensure a good experience, including lip balm, sweatshirts, and guide books to help identify birds and animal tracks you're bound to encounter. This year we plan to carry homemade fire starters made from 100% recycled materials.

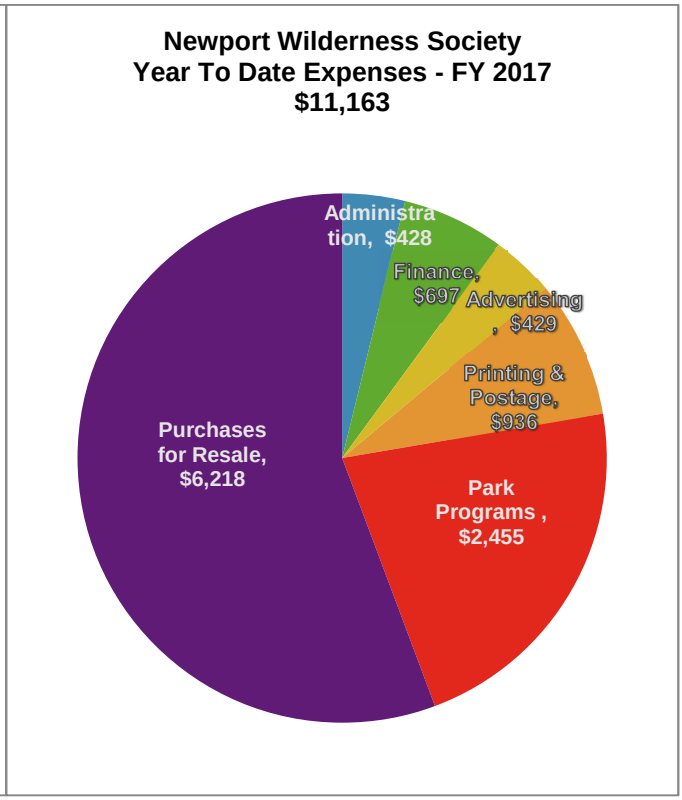
Our park office is staffed in the winter, but the hours are abbreviated. Generally speaking, we're there from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Feel free to swing by or call ahead to see if we're open (920-854-2500), but don't miss the unique opportunity to breathe-in the solitude, quiet and beauty of Newport in Winter.

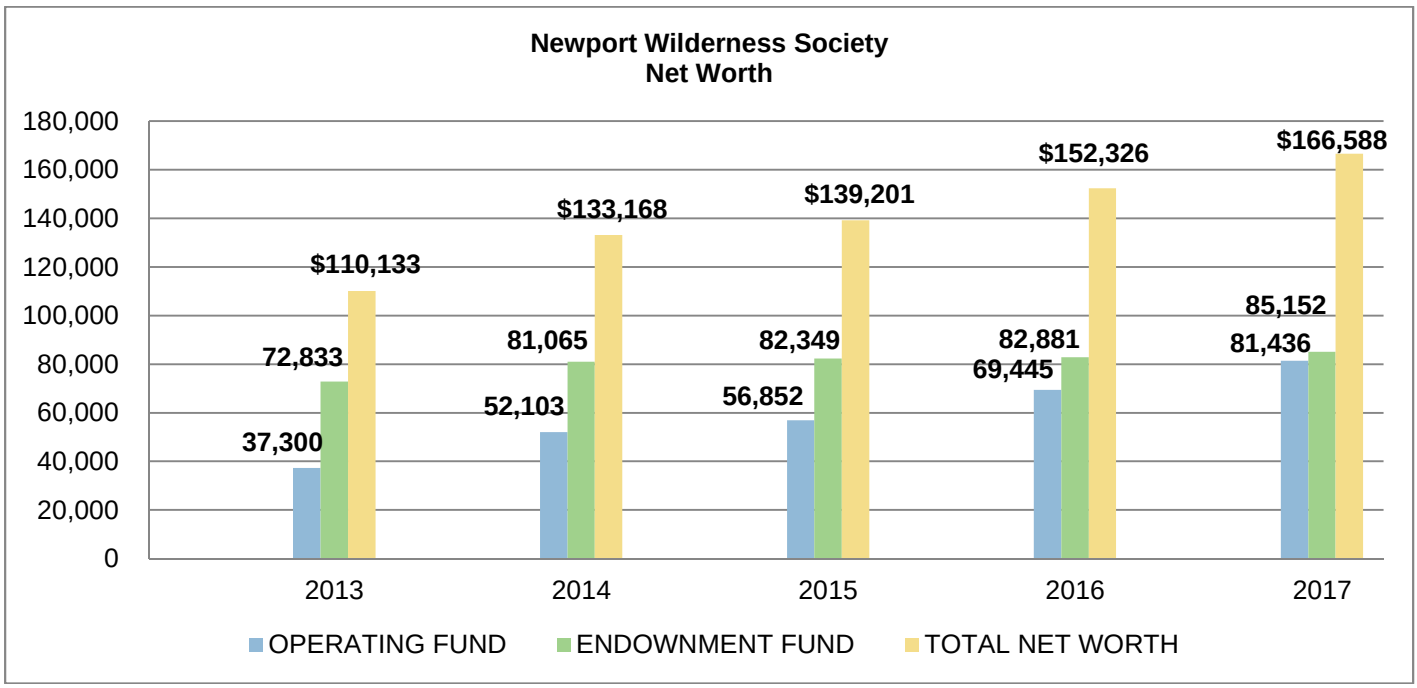
N.W.S. TREASURER'S REPORT – FISCAL YEAR TO DATE ENDING DECEMBER 2016 – Neil Smith

The Society's revenue for the first six months of the fiscal year was $21,359, and grew 17% over last year's revenue. Increased merchandise sales, memberships and donations all contributed to this growth. Year to date expenses of $11,163 were also above last year and reflect higher spending on park programs and the purchase of merchandise for resale to support the increase in sales. Expenses will increase by $12,000 later in the fiscal year when we fund the Naturalist and Invasive Species Control programs.

Net worth increased to $166,588 as of the end of December. This increase was due to the operating performance (revenue less expenses) discussed above plus earnings from our investments. The endowment fund totaled $85,152, and remains the largest single component of net worth. In December the Board of Directors decided that all current and future contributions to the endowment fund will not be invested in fossil fuel energy (oil, gas and coal) companies.







News From the Naturalist – Beth Bartoli

With the hush of winter upon us, it is the perfect time to get out and enjoy the quiet beauty of Newport. The early snow (and cold!) got manager Michelle, along with volunteers Dale Krolick and Maury Brancamp, out grooming the trails. I hope many of you will get out and enjoy them. Many thanks to the groomers and to our ranger Chad for keeping things running in tip top shape.

This is usually the time of year when I spend most of my time in SE Wisconsin. As fate, and my boss, would have it, I am pleased to say I will be at the park more this winter. Along with getting ready for spring/ summer programs, I will be presenting some winter programs.

As many of you know, our quest for International Dark Sky Park has had many twists and turns. There have been many loose ends to gather up, and we have been trying since summer to get this last hurdle, an organized star count, behind us. Many factors kept us from getting a good count; rain, clouds, haze, humidity, light from the moon, you name it. We will try one last time this winter, just before new moon in January. We are going to try to be out, weather permitting and all things cooperating, between the dates of January 23-25. Since this is so weather/sky conditions dependent, the date will be chosen then. If you are interested in helping, call the office or email me for more information: newportnaturalist@gmail.com, or call 920-854-2500. It does not take long and you will be instructed on where and how to count. It is a great way to be part of this legacy for our park.

New this year, bird enthusiasts Bill and Sarah Krouse will be leading a Winter Bird Hike on February 11th at 10:00 AM. They have shared their expertise with us many a time in the spring, so I am thrilled to have them back in the park for a winter birding adventure. We may even be doing some carpooling to other areas of birding interest, so stay tuned on that.

Our Candlelight Ski is coming up soon on February 11th from 5:30-8:30. This is always a well-attended event. Refreshments and a bonfire are always part of our fun, so please plan on joining us.

On February 19th, arborist and horticulturist Tom Wolfe will be doing a hands-on program about winter tree identification. This could be an indoor/outdoor event, depending on the weather. Tom also has done many programs at Newport, so having him here for a winter tree ID class will be fun, challenging and informative.

The weather will be a determining factor in all of these events, so please check the park or the Facebook page for up to date information. There will be more programs scheduled as weather permits, so check the NWS website or on Facebook for the latest information. And if you see snow angels in the park, you know I am back. Dress warm and come join me!

Newport's 27th Annual Candlelight Event

On Saturday, February 11th, from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm
NWS will hold its 27th Candlelight Ski/Hike/Snowshoe event!

Twenty-seven years ago, Newport State Park began this candlelight ski tradition. A portion of a trail will once again be alight with candles, guiding skiers, hikers, and snowshoers into a glowing, magical winter wonderland.

Park staff and volunteers will place over 300 candle luminaires guiding participants on a one-mile wooded trail. Candlelight skiing requires no special talent or technique and the terrain is flat and suited to the beginning skier as well as the experienced. Participants may want to bring a small flashlight to assist putting on equipment or finding your vehicle after the event.

Skiers and hikers can start at the Picnic Area #3 parking lot beginning at 5:30 pm. A bonfire, fireplace and refreshments will be available at the shelter building.

A Wisconsin State Park Vehicle Admission Sticker is required and can be purchased at the park office or at any other State Park office during the day. For more information or conditions, contact the office at 854-2500.

PLEASE NOTE: The Candlelight Event will be held with or without adequate skiing snow. Only extreme cold temperatures or unsafe trail conditions would cause cancellation of the event.

Volunteer to Make Newport's Annual Candlelight Event a Success!

Coming up on Saturday, February 11, from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm, Newport Wilderness Society (NWS) is asking for volunteers to set the scene for the 27th annual *Candlelight Ski/Hike/Snowshoe* event.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED to serve as parking assistants, candle lighters, fire tenders, greeters and refreshment servers !

Please contact **Judy Brodd at 920-854-2478** or judy@thelittlecottage.com before Feb. 10 to sign-up! Hope to see you there!

Newport Wilderness Society
2017 Calendar of Events

Sunday	January	1	First Day Hike	10 am - 11:30 am	Lot 1
Friday	February	3	NWS Board Meeting	2:30 pm - 4:30 pm	HWR
Saturday	February	11	27th Annual Candlelight Event	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Lot 3
Friday	April	7	NWS Board Meeting	2:30 pm - 4:30 pm	HWR
Saturday	April	22	Earth Day Workday in the Park	9 am - 12 pm	
Friday	June	2	NWS Board Meeting	2:30 pm - 4:30 pm	HWR
Saturday	June	24	Olde Ellison Bay Days Parade	10:30 am - 1 pm	SOB
Friday	June	30	Exec. Committee Meeting	2:30 pm - 4:30 pm	HWR
Saturday	July	29	NWS Annual Meeting	5 pm - 7 pm	Lot 3
Friday	August	4	NWS Board Meeting	2:30 pm - 4:30 pm	HWR
Saturday	August	12	Perseid Meteor Shower Event	8:30 pm - 10 pm	Lot 3
Sunday	September	3	Newport Wilderness Day		
Friday	October	6	NWS Board Meeting	2:30 pm - 4:30 pm	HWR
Saturday	October	28	Fall Work Day in Park	9 am - 12 pm	
Friday	December	1	NWS Board Meeting	2:30 pm - 4:30 pm	HWR

Note: HWR = Holtz Wilderness Room; SOB = Shepard of the Bay Church

Newport Wilderness State Park *FACTOID*

Newport State Wilderness Park is one of Wisconsin's wild and undeveloped parks. NWP encompasses 2,200 acres of rugged, scenic beauty stretching along 11 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline. It provides a great variety – rocky headlands, coves, sandy beaches, second-growth forests, wetlands, and a network of trails. Just west of the park's entrance, grass covers old sand dunes. Visitors may hike, backpack camp, swim, snowshoe and cross-country ski in the 90% wooded park.

Native Americans first lived here and the French traders undoubtedly passed by in the late 1600s. In the 1800s Europeans settled and built a thriving sawmill with a pier for loading lumber. Hikers might find the foundations of old logging cabins left over from the lumbering days (late 1800s). At that time Newport was a bustling logging town. It was one of the many isolated "pier towns" along Lake Michigan. Great Lakes schooners would dock here to take on cord wood and Christmas trees for larger cities of the Lakes region. After the forests were cutover, Newport deteriorated into a ghost town. The outlines of the store and post office can still be seen through the overgrown lilac bushes and grapevines in the beach and picnic area.

ref: "Guide to Wisconsin Outdoors" by Jim Umhoefer, NorthWord Press, Inc., 1990
and "Roadside Geology of Wisconsin" by Robert H. Dott, Jr. and John W. Attig, Mountain Press Publishing Company, 2004

In honor of Valentine's Day, we invite all who cherish our amazing Newport Wilderness Park, to compose a few sentences describing one of your favorite experiences at Newport Park. Please send your "NWP Love Note" to karenks42@gmail.com and we will compile all the "love" and place it on the NWS website for sharing. Thank you!

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

the NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY, INC.
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"The cosmos is within us. We are made of star-stuff. We are a way for the universe to know itself."
— Carl Sagan

PLEASE SUPPORT THESE LOCAL BUSINESS MEMBERS OF THE NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY

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- Nicolet Bank
- Bay Shore Outfitters
- Blue Dolphin, Ltd.
- Champeau Floor Covering
- Cook Book Store
- Dogma Diggs and Grooming Studio
- Ecology Sports
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- Hammersmith TV & Electronics
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- JJ's LaPuerta
- Joe Jo's Pizza & Gelato
- Jungwirth Ace Hardware, LLC
- Liberty Grove Market, LLC
- Ludwigsen & Tischler DDS
- Lure
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- Shoreline Restaurant
- Sister Bay Advancement Association
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The Newport Wilderness Society, Inc. is the Official Friends Group for Newport State Park and is a 501[c] [3] non-profit, tax exempt educational organization - dues and donations are tax deductible within the limits of the law. **http://www.newportwildernesssociety.org/**