

the TRILLIUM

NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Summer 2018

Message from the Board President – Dick Heil

Spring, 2018 was a season of weather extremes in Door County. According to the weather service forecast office in Green Bay, it brought record cold, record heat and record snowfall to the region. It was the record snowfall that caused us to reschedule our April 21st Earth Day Workday event to May 12th. Fortunately, the snow had melted by then and we enjoyed a beautiful sunny spring morning at the park. Thanks to the volunteers who helped us spruce up the park for the coming visitor season, all of whom enjoyed a nice lunch afterwards.

The Newport Wilderness Society sold \$509 worth of Dark Sky-themed merchandise on May 4th and 5th at the North Central Region Astronomical League conference in Sturgeon Bay. Newport's Naturalist, Beth Bartoli, gave the opening talk at the conference, telling the story of how Newport became an International Dark Sky park. Another interesting talk was given by a NASA contractor whose job is to hunt for near-Earth asteroids capable of impacting our planet. If one is on the way, at least the dark skies at Newport would give us a front row seat.

Speaking of dark skies, the June 15th stargazing event at Newport was going to be filmed by Chicago PBS station WTTW as part of a documentary production about historical Midwestern vacation spots. Unfortunately, Mother Nature had other plans with clouds and thunderstorms for the evening and overnight hours.

And continuing with the astronomy theme, at the Society's June 1st board meeting, the board approved the expenditure of \$2250 for a 10" diameter telescope, accessories and several pairs of binoculars for use by park visitors. This equipment will nicely complement the smaller telescopes currently available. The Dark Sky information kiosk I mentioned in the last issue is being fabricated, and we hope to have it installed near parking lot 3 this summer. The board also agreed to proceed with the masonry repair of the Hotz Gate on Europe Bay Road. The years have taken their toll on the iconic stone archway, and it needs restoration to preserve the structural integrity. Last year, the board approved \$2000 for the masonry repair. Additional restoration of the metal and woodwork will follow later.

The Society's board decided to make some changes for our annual meeting this year, which is scheduled for Saturday, July 28th. Due to low attendance at our recent annual meetings, we feel it's no longer cost effective to plan them around an evening meal event. There are too many competing Saturday evening venues in Door County, and it's difficult to find a caterer willing to prepare a meal for a relatively small group at a reasonable price. So instead, we have scheduled a morning meeting to start at 9:30 and will have coffee and pastries available. Following the meeting, the shelter will be open until 1:00 pm for any member to use.

Board members Amy Dwyer and Tom Turriff will be retiring from the board at the end of their terms on June 30th, so we will recognize them at the annual meeting as well as Karen Studebaker, who has been the editor of this newsletter for many years. We thank them all for their service.

I will also be retiring from the board after having served a three-year term as president and as a board member prior to that. It has been a privilege to have been on the board, but I feel it's time for new leadership. In addition, the demands of my job for the next several years will prevent me from spending much time in volunteer work. I will remain to chair the annual meeting in my last act as president. As required by our bylaws, the board will elect a new slate of officers in their August meeting.



Gaywings

Photo by Tom Turriff

GDPR? – Dick Heil

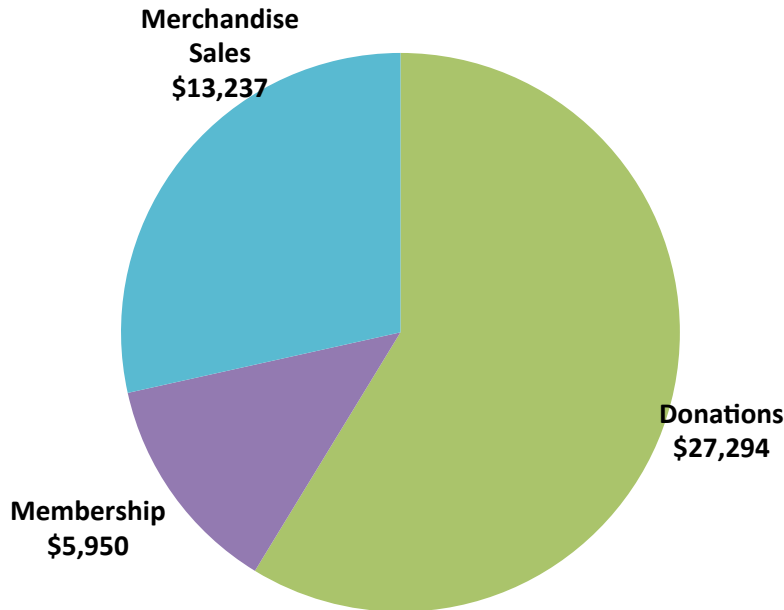
While you could probably think of some interesting things that the acronym "GDPR" might stand for, in this context it's the rather dull sounding "General Data Protection Regulation". You may have seen GDPR in the news around May 25th, the date when the European Union (EU) required it to be implemented.

Newport Wilderness Society uses the "MailChimp" marketing platform to send email to our members, as do some other Door County state park Friend's groups (it's free for us). Since MailChimp can be used for marketing to EU citizens, they apparently must comply with the GDPR.

This is why NWS email subscribers received an email from us prior to May 25th asking them to click a button to affirm their desire to continue receiving NWS email. Without that electronic confirmation, the GDPR prohibits MailChimp from delivering NWS email to the subscriber.

This has been a bit of a problem for us since we have lost the ability to send email to about 55% of our members who had previously indicated a desire to receive NWS email. Some people may not have seen the email if delivered to a "junk" folder or may have been understandingly reluctant to click on an unsolicited email. We are planning to implement on our web site a way for members to electronically "opt-in" or out to receive NWS email at some point in the future. We're sorry for the inconvenience!

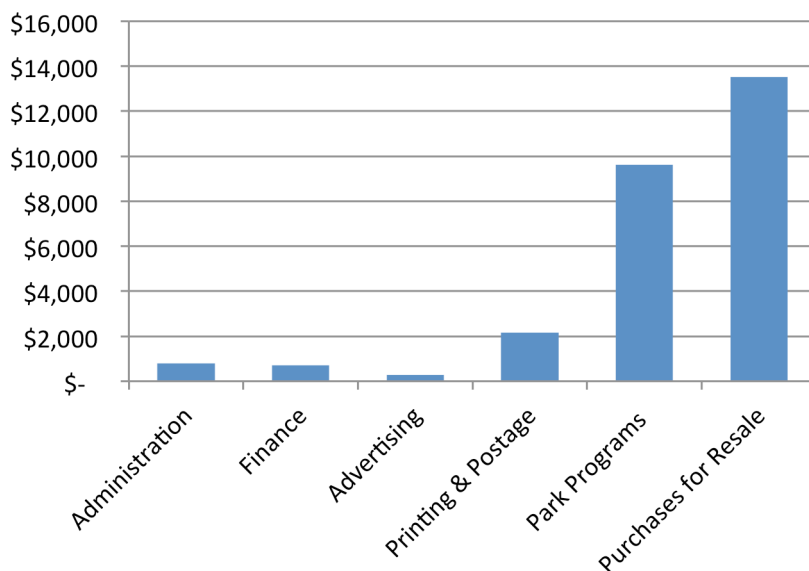
Newport Wilderness Society Year to Date Revenue - FY 2018 \$42,348



Thanks to the generous support of our members, the Newport Wilderness Society (NWS) received over \$27,000 in donations this fiscal year. Coupled with membership dues of approximately \$6,000, NWS was able to support park programs such as funding for the naturalist and expenses to support the dark sky program at the Park.

To date 26% of all of the revenue went to support park programs, and another 10% supported operations such as mailings, insurance, and professional fees during this fiscal year. Most of the rest of the expenses were for the purchase of merchandise to sell at the Park office. In the very near future \$12,000 will be transferred to DNR to support the naturalist position for another year. Additional expenses will be incurred shortly to purchase equipment and to prepare a kiosk to support the Park's designation as an International Dark Sky Park.

Newport Wilderness Society Year To Date Operating Expenses - FY 2018 \$21,723



Although not reflected on the charts on this page \$10,000 and \$2,350 were transferred into our Operating and Endowment Funds respectively to support long term Park projects.

Merchandise has been purchased to celebrate the Park's Dark Sky designation and that merchandise has been selling extremely well and has had to be reordered.

News from the Naturalist – Beth Bartoli

After April snows that seemed to never end, summer is in full swing at the park. Spring wildflower hikes are always well attended. The carpet of large white trillium was a sight to behold this year. Maybe we have the snow to thank for that!

From amateur photographers to curious visitors, there has been much interest in our dark sky park. We were busy over the quiet months making preparations to enhance visitor's experiences and help them get the information they're looking for. A beautiful new informational kiosk with an audio component is in its final stages of development. This will be placed by the existing kiosk in the picnic area by Lot 3.

New dark sky park brochures have been printed and are very useful in giving people a source of information in one, easy to read format. Thanks to some hearty volunteers (thank you Greg, Gerry, Mickie, Wiley and Chad), there are now 4 new telescope pads down in the viewing area north of the shelter building. New reflective tape has been placed on the blacktop paths, guiding the way to optimal viewing areas.

New equipment has been purchased and donated for star gazing events. We have beautiful new telescopes (6" and 10" dobsonians), eyepieces, binoculars, power supplies and much more. It is exciting to have this great equipment to share with our visitors. Astronomer enthusiast James Krumenacher has helped immensely with advice and equipment. A huge thank you goes out to the Newport Wilderness Society for their support and for providing funds for the equipment, signage and brochures.

Speaking of Dark Sky Park successes, on May 5th, I had the distinct honor of speaking at The North Central Region Astronomical Conference (NCRAL) in Sturgeon Bay. This event was sponsored by the Door Peninsula Astronomical League specifically because of our dark sky park designation. My presentation was very well received and many came up to view the dark skies here at Newport.

Viewing nights are scheduled throughout the summer, so come out and join us on the dark side!

Membership and Fundraising – Dick Heil

The Newport Wilderness Society has applied for a Wisconsin State Park System grant to help offset the cost of the Dark Sky information kiosk planned for lot 3. These grants are being made available under the DNR Maintenance and Enhancement program. The DNR plans to notify applicants of their project status on July 20th. We hope to have good news to share at the July 28th annual meeting!

NWS Board Nominating Committee – Dick Smythe

It's time for members and friends of Newport Park to step up. We have an 11 member board and will soon have only 8 members as 3 current members are resigning this summer. We need at least 11 board members to conduct the park's business. And that's only part of the problem. One of the 3 members stepping down is our President.

I have discussed this matter with all current board members and no one has yet successfully identified any new board member nor have we identified an individual who is both willing and able to serve as Board President.

Folks, we have a problem. Surely there are individuals who would be willing to serve as board members. We need you to step forward and indicate your willingness to serve. Feel free to contact any current board member. If you don't know any of us, give me a call or send me an email. I will be out of the country, and for the most part unreachable, from June 11 to July 5. But I will respond as promptly as possible. Let's all pitch in and help Newport Park

Dick Smythe (dick.smythe@yahoo.com) 920-854-3330, 920-421-0069

The Newport Store – Gene Kenny

Certification of Newport State Park as a designated Dark Sky Park in summer 2017 brought a new level of excitement to all park visitors.

Aside from the generous donations from our business partners and individual donors, profits from the sale of merchandise are the single most important way that the Newport Wilderness Society can fund the programs and projects that benefit our state park. Everything from contributing to the Naturalist salary or supporting the wonderful activities like the new "Dark Sky kiosk" (coming this summer) and the repair of the Hotz Trail gate would not be possible without you.

Sales were bolstered by the addition of the dark sky products starting in October of 2017 and have continued to increase throughout this year. A big thank you to all the people who visited the park office and purchased this merchandise.

Products like sweat shirts, short sleeve tee-shirts, hats, stickers, and merchandise highlighting the dark sky have continued to sell well. To complement these, we have added new dark sky items this spring which include "long sleeve tee-shirts" as well as pocket guides and books highlighting astronomy. In addition, Dennis Motray has generously donated several new night sky photographs for sale.

So, stop by the park office and see all the great new merchandise available. And thank you for continuing to support the Newport Wilderness Society and your Newport State Park.



Newport Wilderness Society Annual Meeting Saturday, July 28, 2018 9:30 am – 11:00 am Lot 3 Shelter Newport State Park

This year's annual meeting will be held in the morning rather than in the evening as in past years. While there will not be an accompanying meal, coffee and pastries will be available. There is no need to register to attend. We will hold a brief business meeting followed by a presentation by Newport Naturalist Beth Bartoli. Beth will tell the story of how Newport became an International Dark Sky Park. After the meeting, you are free to hike, swim or bring a picnic lunch to enjoy. The shelter will be available for your use until 1:00 pm.



Arrowhead Spiketail Dragonfly *Phot by Tom Turriff*

Volunteers Are the Best!

Amy Dwyer

We had a nice group of volunteers celebrate Earth day together in April by helping spruce up the park during our annual spring clean-up. It's important to start the busy season feeling ready and spending time with like-minded people is rewarding. We ended the morning together with pizza from one of our business sponsors, Joe Jo's Pizza and Gelato in Ephraim.

If you've never volunteered with us, please wait no longer! The next official opportunity to support the park will be Sunday night, August 12 when we gather for the spectacular light show that is the Perseid Meteor Shower! We need several volunteers to assist people in the dark parking lot and others to help set-up and guide the way to the viewing station! But really, you should feel free to inquire at the office any time you like to see if maybe they need help clearing trails or organizing something in the nature center, etc. Who knows...you might be just the help that is needed! They can be reached at: 920-854-2500.

PLEASE SUPPORT THESE LOCAL BUSINESS MEMBERS OF THE NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY

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|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ● Al Johnsons Swedish Restaurant & Butik, Inc | ● Husby's Food & Spirits | ● Risser Law Office |
| ● Bay Shore Outfitters | ● Innovative Printing LLC | ● Shoreline Restaurant |
| ● Bernal T. Chomeau Private Foundation | ● Island Orchard Cider | ● Shoreline Resort & Condos |
| ● Blue Dolphin House | ● JJ's LaPuerta | ● Sister Bay Advancement Association |
| ● Champeau Floor Covering | ● Jerry's Flowers | ● Sister Bay Bowl |
| ● CHOP | ● Joe Jo's Pizza & Gelato | ● Sub Express at Sister Bay Mobil |
| ● The Cook Book | ● Jungwirth Ace Hardware, LLC | ● State Farm Insurance-Carol DeVault |
| ● Country Walk BP | ● Kick Ash Products | ● Surly Brewing Company |
| ● Dovetail Trading | ● Liberty Grove Market, LLC | ● Top Shelf Gourmet |
| ● Ecology Sports | ● Ludwigen & Tischler DDS | ● The Fireside Restaurant |
| ● Garden Lady | ● LURE | ● The Wickman House |
| ● Grasses Grill LLC | ● Nicolet Bank | ● Wild Tomato |
| ● Going Garbage & Recycling, Inc. | ● Night Sky Ventures | ● Washington Island Ferry Line |
| ● Hammersmith TV & Electronics | ● Pirate's Cove Adventure Golf | ● Island Orchard Cider |

Spring Issue Correction: After publishing the spring issue of *The Trillium*, we discovered we had not listed all the business members of the Society. We apologize for omitting the following businesses and foundation: Al Johnsons Swedish Restaurant & Butik, Inc.; Bernal T. Chomeau Private Foundation; Island Orchard Cider; Washington Island Ferry Line.