

# North Star News

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Perseid Meteor Shower with a storm over Lake Michigan.

*(by Denny Moutrav)*



Page 2-Welcome!  
[What's Happening  
This Month?](#)

Programs and other  
events

Page 3  
[Did You Know?](#)

Interesting facts and  
nature trivia

Page 3  
[A Walk in the  
Woods](#)

News about our  
Wilderness Park

## UNIVERSE IN THE PARK

View the Perseid Meteor Shower at Newport with University of Wisconsin Graduate Astronomy students. We hold this annual event on August 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 pm. Bring a chair or a blanket, flashlight or head lamp with a red lens (to protect night vision) and bug spray. Check out the students PowerPoint presentation and stay for nature's show! Meets by the shelter building.



© 2015 Denny Murray Photography  
www.dennymurrayphotography.si.edu/mug.com

## What's Happening This Month?

Summer is in full swing at Newport. Visitors are plenty and many are enjoying our quieter beaches (what's left of them with the water levels so high). Our campsites have been booked up most of the summer, particularly on weekends. The new reservation system was a bit challenging, but the bugs are being worked out and folks are navigating it just fine. New this year is the fact that all of our campsites are reservable, no more first come first serve sites.

August will see the end of our OutWiGo Challenge Hikes. This weekly hike started in May, with the goal of hiking every trail in the park. Average attendance has been about 22 fun and lively hikers. Our final hike will be on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will hike the whole 7 mile, Europe Bay loop and enjoy a picnic lunch when we are finished. There is still time to participate. Check the schedule on page 4.

There are several chances to attend a Dark Sky event at our International Dark Sky Park. Our annual Persied Meteor shower event will be on August 12<sup>th</sup>, a full moon hike on August 13<sup>th</sup> and a Campfire under the full moon on August 16<sup>th</sup>. There will be more opportunities in September for viewing. The beautiful telescopes, binoculars and other equipment is being well used and enthusiastically received. Many thanks to the NWS for supplying most of the equipment that makes this all possible. And special thanks to James Krumenacher for taking such good care of our equipment and helping at the programs. We couldn't do it without him.

Two things from our Friends of Wisconsin State Parks:

There is a photo contest going on for the 2020 Friends of Wisconsin State Park calendar. If you have great photos of Newport, here's your chance to show them off! Follow this link for more information: <https://friendswiparks.blogspot.com/2019/05/photo-contest-for-friends-of-wisconsin.html> Contest ends September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

They are also asking for your votes for the 2020 Gold Seal Awards. One of the categories is, "Best Rustic Campsite". Could you think of a better place than Newport? Vote now! And spread the word! Here's the link: <https://friendswiparks.blogspot.com/2018/07/2019-gold-seal-award-contest.html> Voting ends August 30<sup>th</sup>.

**See Page 4 for complete schedule information.**

## DID YOU KNOW?



Newport has been part of the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project for 2 years now. Our naturalist Beth Bartoli and volunteers Jim Blair and Debbie Wolfe are out in the test area counting eggs, larvae (including which instar they are at), chrysalis's and adult monarchs. This laborious task is done plant by plant, every week that milkweed and monarchs are present. Also recorded are temperature in the shade, rainfall, plants that are blooming in the area, if aphids are present and anything that may be going on in the garden area. MLMP is run by Monarch Lab through the University of Minnesota. We are excited to be part of this international project.

Find out more at:

[www.monarchlab.org](http://www.monarchlab.org).

Search for Newport on the map, also listed as Site #4290.

## A Walk in the Woods

Some of the frequent questions we get this time of year are, "What is that plant growing so profusely in the woods with the big, fuzzy, maple-like leaves? The berries are turning red. Are they edible?"

This is the native Thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*), a shrub that typically grows in northern boreal forest climates. Rare within most areas of WI, it is found only in far northern Michigan and its Upper Peninsula, west through northern Wisconsin, and into the Pacific Northwest (according to the [UW-Green Bay Herbarium](#)). Thimbleberry needs cool summer temperatures to thrive.

The flowers are large, white and showy, with fruit showing up by late summer. Their berries, actually a drupe, resemble raspberries but are much more fragile. This looks to be an excellent year for thimbleberry fruit. With enough patience, one would be able to pick enough for a pie or some jam. Please remember to leave some for the many birds and animals that feed on these delicious fruits!

## AUGUST SCHEDULE

- August 1<sup>st</sup> OutWiGo Trails of Newport Challenge Hike #10 - Newport/Ridge Trail, 9:00 am, Lot 3
- August 3<sup>rd</sup> Meet the Monarchs! 1:00 pm, Nature Center
- August 8<sup>th</sup> -- OutWiGo Trails of Newport Challenge Hike #11 - Rowleys Bay Trail, 9:00 am. Lot 1
- August 10<sup>th</sup> Herb Hike with Dave LaLuzerne, 10:00 am, Nature Center
- August 12<sup>th</sup> Special Event; Universe in the Park, 8:30 pm, Shelter building, Lot 3
- August 13<sup>th</sup> Moon Hike, 9:00 pm, Monarch Trail, Lot 1
- August 14<sup>th</sup> Meet the Monarchs! 1:00 pm, Nature Center
- August 15<sup>th</sup> OutWiGo Trails of Newport Challenge Hike #12, 9:00 am, Newport Trail, Lot 2
- August 16<sup>th</sup> Full Moon Campfire, 9:00 pm, Fire ring by shelter building, Lot 3
- August 21<sup>st</sup> Monarch Madness, 10:00 am. Nature Center
- August 22<sup>nd</sup> OutWiGo Trails of Newport Challenge Hike #13 - Europe Bay Trail, 9:00 am, Lot 3.  
Potluck picnic to follow at shelter building. Park supplies main course and beverages.  
Bring a dish or dessert to pass.
- August 23<sup>rd</sup> What's All the Buzz About Bees? Beekeeping demo by Bill Meyer from the Door County  
Beekeepers Club, 10:00 am, Picnic area, Lot 3
- August 24<sup>th</sup> Navigation Skills; Orienteering, Map and Compass with Ken Foszcz, 2:00 pm, Nature  
Center with outdoor time to follow
- August 29<sup>th</sup> Naturalist Led Hike, 10:00 am, Lot 3
- August 30<sup>th</sup> Open Door Bird Sanctuary Raptor Program, 1:00 pm, Nature Center
- August 31<sup>st</sup>-Sept 1<sup>st</sup> Newport Wilderness Days

## CONTACT US

PO Box 187

Ellison Bay, WI 54210

[www.newportwildernesssociety.org](http://www.newportwildernesssociety.org)

[info@newportwildernesssociety.org](mailto:info@newportwildernesssociety.org)

The Newport Wilderness Society, Inc. is the Official Friends Group for Newport State Park and is a 501[c] [3] non-profit, tax exempt, dynamic organization - dues and donations are tax deductible within the limits of the law.