

# *North Star News*

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY



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



# Newport Wilderness Days!

Saturday, August 31<sup>st</sup>  
And Sunday September 1<sup>st</sup>

## What's Happening This Month?

Labor Day is soon upon us, and that means it is time for our annual **Newport Wilderness Days**. This event was started in 1992 as a way for the Newport Wilderness Society to showcase this special park. Then, as it is today, volunteers lead a variety of hikes and programs. Several years ago, we expanded it to a 2-day event, so there is truly something for everyone. This year's schedule is as follows:

### Saturday, August 31st

**8:30 am Coffee on the Beach** donated by Kick Ash Coffee. What a great way to start your day with a hot cup of coffee on the beach. Meet at the picnic area, Lot 3. ***In case of rain, this will be held at the shelter building, Lot 3.***

**10:00 am Mushroom Hike with Charlotte Lukes** Charlotte has studying mushrooms for over 40 years. On this easy hike, Charlotte will share her vast knowledge of the fascinating world of fungi. Meet at Lot 3.

**1:00 pm Bug Walk** Join entomologist Dick Smythe as he explores the world of insects. Spend an hour learning about whatever "little critters" we find at Newport-spiders, butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies, and whatever else is out there. Bring a butterfly net if you have one. Meet at the Nature Center with a hike to follow.

### Sunday, Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>

**11:30 am– Trees and Shrubs of Door County** Join arborist and horticulturist Tom Wolfe as he shares his vast knowledge about trees and shrubs. There will be plenty of time for questions. Weather permitting, we will spend some time in the woods. Meet in the Nature Center, parking lot 1.

**1:00 pm Herb Hike** Dave LaLuzerne was born with a green spark in his heart. (Interestingly, his last name is the French word for alfalfa.) Nurtured through pharmacy school and many years as an herbal pharmacist in his own herb shop, he now finds his passion is educating people about the numerous and wondrous ways to use herbs for our health and well-being. Learning how the plants that flourish in this climate can help you flourish as well. Meet at the Nature Center, Lot 1.

**9:00 pm Star Gazing at the Dark Sky Park** Join the park naturalist and astronomy enthusiasts James Krumenacher and Maury Brancamp as they search the skies for galaxies, star clusters, nebula, asterisms and planets. Telescopes and binoculars will be on hand for viewing. Bring lawn chairs or blankets, flashlight or headlamp with red lens (to protect night vision) and bug spray. Meet at the viewing area east of Lot 3. **This program will be cancelled if conditions are poor.**



## DID YOU KNOW?



Here is some great news about the Hotz Trail stone gate. Built in the 1920's, time has taken its toll on the old stone gate. This past month, mason Steve Shumway (pictured below, right) repaired the stone columns and archway and Gene Kenny, Gerry Swanson and Terry Heidenreiter, volunteers from NWS, reconstructed and rehung the wood gate. (Gerry and Terry, pictured above, right.)

This project had many facets, from doing stonework at the right time of year, to finding and preparing the cedar timber and counterweight for the gate. Seeing it all come together has really been exciting! After a winter of drying out the new wood, we expect it to be all good to go. What a wonderful job these tireless workers did to preserve this important part of the Hotz legacy and Newport's history. See more pictures, Page 5.



## A Walk in the Woods

The road edges, beaches and meadow area are showing us that fall is, indeed, on its way. Various types of goldenrod (Solidago family) are in bloom, filling the fields with golden yellow. Common types around the park are Ohio goldenrod, Canada goldenrod and the state threatened Dune Goldenrod. Zigzag Goldenrod prefers wooded areas, and can be easily recognized by its zigzag stem growth pattern. Many people mistake goldenrod for ragweed, blaming their allergies on this hapless victim. Goldenrod pollen is heavy and somewhat waxy, much too heavy to be carried by the wind. Its pollen is distributed by insects. Ragweed has rather inconspicuous, green colored flowers, with pollen that is minute and can be easily carried by the wind.

Asters are also blooming this time of year. Large Leaf Aster and Calico Aster prefer deciduous and coniferous woods, while New England Aster will grow in open fields, roadsides and woodlands. These native perennials are important to our pollinators, especially migrating monarchs. Take a moment to enjoy these late blooming, native flowers, for soon they'll be gone!

## SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

August 31 <sup>st</sup> and Sept. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Newport Wilderness Days (see schedule above)
Sept. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Mushroom Hike with Charlotte Lukes, 9:30 am, Nature Center.
Sept 7 <sup>th</sup>	Universe in the Park, 7:00 pm, Lot 3 Shelter Building
Sept. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Monarchs 101, 10:00 am, Nature Center
Sept. 13 <sup>th</sup>	Full Moon Hike, 8:00 pm, Monarch Trail, Lot 1
Sept. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Naturalist Led Hike, 1:00 pm, Sugarbush Trail, Lot 4
Sept. 21 <sup>st</sup>	History of Newport, 10:00 am, Lot 3
Sept. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Fall Equinox Fireside Chat with the Naturalist, 6:30 pm, Fire ring, Lot 3
Sept. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Mushroom Hike with Charlotte Lukes, 9:30 am, Nature Center

**Find more information about programs at [newportwildernesssociety.org](http://newportwildernesssociety.org), Activities and Events**

**Or on the NWS Facebook page**

## 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.



### NWS Wilderness Days Photos

(upper left) Dick Smythe starting his Bug Walk. (upper Left) Charlotte Lukes during a Mushroom Hike.

(lower) Coffee on the Beach



### Hotz Gate Repair

(left) Terry Heidenreiter, Gene Kenny, Gerry Swanson and helpers at the newly installed gate.

(right) A little help from Gene's grandson Charlie.