

Newport Wilderness Society, Inc.

2019 Annual Report

A Not-for-Profit Friends Group

for

Newport State Park
Door County, Wisconsin

July 27, 2019

<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:

- Help preserve Newport State Park as a minimal development natural Park;
- Encourage the individual study and the preservation of Wilderness and Nature in Newport State Park and elsewhere in the County;
- Seek volunteers to help the Newport State Park management with projects to maintain the Park and facilitate its proper use;
- 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 Smythe, Greg Wilde
Gene Kenny
Office of the President

(see below)

Dick Smythe (2019)
Vice President
(Retiring from Board)

Retired from the United States Forest Service. Has a Ph.D. degree in Entomology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Dave Vermillion (2022)
Secretary

Dave has 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.

Jeanne Rabel (2020)
Treasurer

Retired federal civil service employee with an MBA in health care administration and health care finance. Lives in Ellison Bay and enjoys hiking and snow shoeing at Newport.

Mary Hansen (2022)
5th Officer

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY (continued)

- Carol Ash (2022)
(Candidate for election)
- Carol Ash grew up just a few miles from Newport State Park. After returning to Door County she made many family memories hiking the trails at Newport State Park with her four children. The Ash Family runs Kick Ash Coffee and Door County Love Granola in Ellison Bay.
- Jim Black (2022)
(Candidate for election)
- Jim Black retired as an attorney after thirty-four years. Prior to being an attorney he was an outdoor leader for six years leading backpacking, canoeing, skiing, and natural adventures. He and his family have spent many hours at Newport camping, hiking, skiing, snowshoeing and simply enjoying Newport.
- Terry Heidenreiter (2022)
(Candidate for election)
- Terry Heidenreiter is a retired Army nurse who has lived in Ellison Bay for the past 8 years. He worked at Newport State Park in customer service each summer from 2012 through 2014. He has also been involved with various volunteer activities at NSP over the years.
- Sheryl Honig (2021)
- A teacher and teacher educator, Dr. Honig is thoroughly enjoying her position at The Ridges Sanctuary as Environmental Educator. Recently transplanted to Door County, she is grateful for all the time and space to be in the woods and on Lake Michigan! She is committed to supporting Newport State Park!
- Gene Kenny (2020)
- Retired from the University of Wisconsin as a Physician Assistant in pediatric cardiac surgery in 2016. He and his wife Helen moved to Door County full time and live on Europe Lake. Gene is an avid woodworker and volunteers on the Habitat home build.
- Brian Schimp (2022)
(Candidate for election)
- Having grown up in Wisconsin, Door County and specifically Newport State Park has been an integral part of my life. After an aviation career as an airline pilot and most recently as a production test pilot for an aircraft manufacturer, I look forward to more time in Door County. I am a resident of Ellison Bay and enjoy outdoor activities throughout all four seasons.

Julia Keepper (2022)
(Candidate for election)

Julia Keepper and her husband Les, moved to Ellison Bay from Mt. Pleasant, Michigan in 2017. Julia worked as an Exercise Physiologist at McClaren Central Michigan Hospital in Cardiopulmonary Rehab and subsequently as Manager of the Fitness and Wellness Center there. She currently works at Kick Ash Products in Ellison Bay. Julia loves everything about being outdoors in Door County and has been a frequent visitor to Newport State Park since childhood.

Karen Studebaker (2021)

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

Neil Smith (2019)
(Retiring from Board)

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.

Greg Wilde (2022)

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.

NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY

2018-2019 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dick Smythe, Greg Wilde and Gene Kenny - Office of the President
Dick Smythe - Vice President
Dave Vermillion - Secretary
Jeanne Rabel - Treasurer
Mary Hansen - 5th Member

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS 2018-2019

NOMINATING Dick Smythe, Chair

MEMBERSHIP & FUND RAISING Greg Wilde, Chair

NATURE INTERPRETATION AND STEWARDSHIP Neil Smith, Chair

MERCHANDISING Gene Kenny, Chair

VOLUNTEER SERVICES Karen Studebaker, Chair

NEW COMMITTEES 2019

COMMUNICATIONS Carol Ash, Chair

LONG RANGE PLANNING, Gene Kenny, Chair

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Office of the Presidents Report

Whoever said “The only thing that is constant is change” must have spent time in a small volunteer organization. The Newport Wilderness Society has been incredibly fortunate to have had many talented, committed volunteers over the years to support both the Friend’s group and Newport State Park. Voids are created when individuals retire from the Society. Voids are filled and transitions made when new, equally talented volunteers step into new roles.

Such a transition occurred at the end of our 2018 fiscal year when Dick Heil retired. Dick was a very capable leader and President of the Board for a number of years. When Dick’s work and travel demands led to his decision to retire, that statement about change became our reality. After an evaluation of the role and responsibilities of President of NWS, the Board of Directors made the decision to create a new and different leadership role. The Board wanted the flexibility to fill this position in a traditional manner, a single person assuming the role of President, or to create an “Office of the President” with several Board members dividing and sharing the responsibilities of the position.

To effect this change required amending the Bylaws of the Society.

At a special Board meeting held on October 5, 2018, the Board considered and discussed an amendment to *Article IV Officers: Section 1* changing the definition of the role of President to include up to a three-person group of Board members chosen by the Board.

At a special Board meeting held on December 7, 2018, the Board unanimously passed the amendment to create an Office of the President as an option to fill this Board position.

The new language follows:

Article IV Officers: Section 1

The officers of the Society shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. **THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT CAN BE HELD BY A SINGLE INDIVIDUAL OR CAN BE JOINTLY HELD BY UP TO THREE (3) BOARD MEMBERS. IF JOINTLY SHARED, THE POSITION SHALL BE CALLED OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT. ALL REFERENCES TO THE TERM PRESIDENT THROUGHOUT THESE BYLAWS SHALL APPLY TO EITHER THE POSITION HELD BY A SINGLE INDIVIDUAL OR THE POSITION HELD BY UP TO THREE (3) BOARD MEMBERS. IF THE OFFICE IS HELD BY A SINGLE INDIVIDUAL, THAT PERSON SHALL NOT HOLD ANY OTHER OFFICE. IF THE POSITION IS JOINTLY HELD, THIS EXCLUSION SHALL NOT APPLY.** The officers shall constitute an Executive Committee along with a Fifth Member elected by the Board. **THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT SHALL HAVE ONLY ONE VOTE IN THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.** The Executive Committee shall have the authority to act on behalf of the Board during the interim between Board meetings. Actions taken by the Executive Committee shall be subject to the Board’s review and approval at the next Board meeting.

We currently are managing and directing Society business matters with three individuals supporting the Office of the President.

During the 2018/19 fiscal year, the Board created two new committees while also working to strengthen the role of committee chairpersons. The two new committees are Communication and Long Range Planning. The effects of the Communication Committee are evident with a new NWS membership brochure and the implementation of email updates for Park/Naturalist activities. The Long Range Planning group will be working with the Park Manager, Michelle Hefty, to identify Park capital improvement projects and investigate potential grant/funding options.

You will notice in the Annual Report that many of the activities/accomplishments of NWS are covered in the Committee reports.

In summary, this has been an eventful year. NWS has transitioned both its leadership roles and committee structure. It was a terrific year for the Park by just about any measurement. Visitors to the Park were up. Our new Dark Sky kiosk is in place. Creative, informative programs offered by our Naturalist boosted attendance and participation. It's been a great year!

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Jeanne Rabel

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019 NWS finances were managed by the treasurer subject to guidance and oversight by the NWS Board of Directors.

The following table lists major income and expense categories for fiscal years 2018 and 2019.

INCOME		FY 2018 \$	FY 2019 \$
	Donations	25,575	29,280
	Membership Dues	6,205	5,810
	Sales	17,417	18,469
	Raffle Receipts	590	170
	Endowment Fund Donations	2,350	6,450
	TOTAL INCOME	52,137	60,179
EXPENSES			
	Park Programs	21,968	24,284
	Membership	2,594	1,851
	Purchases for Resale	13,519	12,624
	Administration	1,344	4,471
	TOTAL EXPENSES	39,425	43,230

NWS Fiscal Year FY runs from July 1 to June 30.

Donations increased from FY '18 to FY '19 by 14%. Most donations were targeted by donors to the area of greatest need. Several donors contributed generously to fund the naturalist position and the renovation of the Hotz Gate. A total of 102 donors contributed to NWS projects.

Endowment Fund donations vary greatly from year to year. FY '19 showed some substantial donations to the Endowment Fund, most of which were in memoriam donations for Ray Dilulio, a former NWS Board member, and for Dr. Mary Beth Dietz, a Newport Park lover.

Sales of merchandise increased by 6%, mostly due to the popularity of dark sky merchandise. Our available merchandise continues to expand and we continue to see a good return on our investment in merchandise.

Membership dues experienced a small decline due to one fewer lifetime membership. However, during FY' 19 we did welcome three new lifetime members.

NWS continued to spend 34% of its revenue to support the Newport State Park naturalist. This year the NWS Board voted to increase our support of the naturalist to enable her to conduct some winter programs. We will need to raise \$14,000 to continue to make that happen.

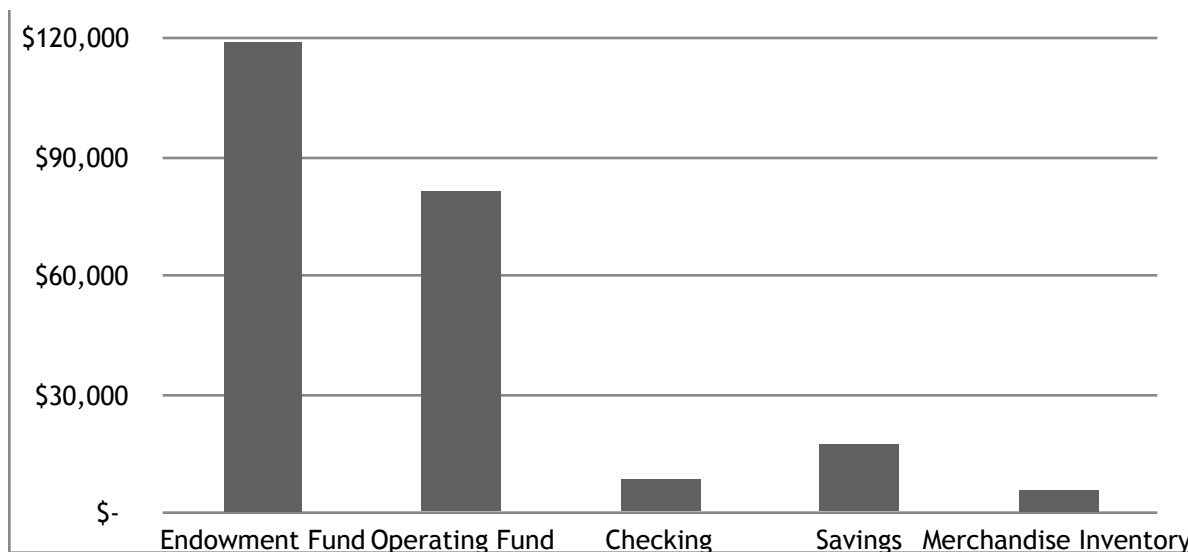
We spent 18% of our revenue for the dark sky initiative. We were fortunate to receive a grant from Cellcom which helped to support the construction of a new dark sky kiosk. NWS also purchased dark sky brochures to assist visitors to the park.

Another significant initiative this year was the renovation of the historic Hotz Gate. Money was spent for needed masonry work. The remaining work should be completed by the Annual meeting.

NWS has also begun a natural planting program around the Nature Center. This year a small area was planted as a pollinator garden, NWS hopes to expand plantings to more areas in the coming year. It is estimated that we will need \$3,000 for that initiative.

Administration expenses increased over the two years due mostly to more advertising and an increase of funding to maintain the NWS internet service.

The NWS net worth increased by 13% over last year to \$233,152.



Investments in the operating and endowment funds consist of publicly traded mutual funds and exchange traded funds. Our long term investment objective is low risk, capital preservation, growth and a steady income stream. A portion of funds is invested in a fossil free fund in keeping with NWS environmental consciousness. Funds in these accounts act as a reserve for future large projects.

Our financial challenges for the next year include raising sufficient funds to support the naturalist position at the Park plus funds for needed supplies that support the programs that she offers. Additional funds will be needed to support the natural planting program as areas around the nature center are expanded with native and pollinator plants. The dark sky program continues to expand with evening programs that may require financial support, plus we continue to provide printed dark sky brochures to assist visitors to the park with information needed after the park office closes for the night.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

by Richard Smythe

A strong Friends Group is a must for our perennially understaffed and underfunded State Parks. Newport is no exception. Fortunately, even though one long-time member and an officer are retiring this year, we have several excellent candidates willing to serve.

Jim Black is a retired attorney who specialized in worker's compensation and disability cases. He has the unusual distinction of having spent 5 years between college and law school working with inner-city Chicago kids—taking them on outings including rock climbing and mountain hiking.

Terry Heidenreiter served his country as an Army Nurse Practitioner and is now retired. He worked at NSP from 2012-2014. Recently he has been an active Newport volunteer and is now ready to assume additional responsibilities.

Additionally, several board members joined us during this fiscal year. We will officially be voting on them at this meeting as well. Carol Ash is the owner of Kick Ash coffee house. Julia Keepper is an Exercise Physiologist and works part-time at Kick Ash coffee. Both were active on the Communications Committee. Brian Schimp is nearing retirement and trains airline pilots. Some of his work over the past year was in Atlanta, Georgia.

We are fortunate to have such capable and willing volunteers to help manage the park we all care for so deeply.

Membership Committee Report

by Greg Wilde

We have been fortunate to have had a stable group of businesses, family, and individual members who support the Newport Wilderness Society. In late 2018, we initiated an effort to build our base of business memberships. Over the past year or so, those memberships have increased from 25 to 35. A list of business members follows:

Al Johnson's Swedish Restaurant
Bay Shore Outfitters
Bernal T. Chomeau Foundation
Blue Dolphin, LTD
Champeau Floor Covering
Door County Brewing
Door County North
Dovetail Trading, LLC
Ecology Sports
Garden Lady
Gills Rock Enterprises
Grasses's Grill
Hammersmith TV Sales and Service
Husby's
Innovative Printing LLC
Island Orchard Cider
JJ's and Waterfront Restaurants
Jerry's Flowers

Joe Jo's LLC
Jungwirth Ace Hardware
Kick Ash Products
Last Stop
Night Sky Ventures, Inc.
Pirate's Cove
Shoreline Restaurant
Sister Bay Bowl
Sister Bay Advancement Association
State Farm Insurance
Terra Wisconsin LLC
The Clearing
Timothy Tishler, DDS
Top Shelf Gourmet
Twisted Tree at the Pharm
Wagon Trail Campground
Washington Island Ferry Line

With the support of the Communication Committee, we produced a new, color membership application that fits perfectly with our Dark Sky Park designation. With new membership application in hand, we will be working to build our base of family and individuals to provide financial support for NWS who can participate in the programs and activities in Newport State Park.

NATURE INTERPRETATION AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

by Neil Smith, Chair

The committee met four times during the year. I am pleased to report that nature interpretation and stewardship are alive and well in Newport State Park! In the past year NWS funded the salary for the park Naturalist, and this has once again proven to be an excellent use of member contributions. Under the tireless leadership of park Naturalist Beth Bartoli, Newport offered 93 nature programs that were enjoyed by 3,387 visitors last season. The current season is now underway, and early indications are that this year's programs will be as popular as ever. Factors driving the popularity of these programs include the creativity of the program design, the diversity of programs offered and the dedication and expertise of the program presenters. Here are the highlights,

Newport just completed its second year as Wisconsin's only designated International Dark Sky Park, and now offers many programs and tools for those interested in viewing the park's beautiful night skies. A new instructional kiosk with audio support, new signage and reflective pathway markings were installed to help orient visitors to nighttime viewing. A new telescope and binoculars were purchased to add to those already on hand for visitor use. The popular Stargazing in the Park programs offered twice a month in season allow visitors to view the stars and learn from local amateur astronomers. Audio-visual programs on dark sky viewing, the effects of light pollution and using good lighting practices further enhance visitor education. Other popular programs include the viewing of the Perseid Meteor shower in August, moon and planet viewing and the Universe in the Park programs put on by UW Madison astronomers. It is easy to see why so many new visitors are coming to Newport to experience and learn about the critically important and increasingly endangered natural resource that is our night sky.

The park is a registered monarch butterfly way-station tasked to create, conserve and protect monarch habitats. Nature programs offered in support of this mission include milkweed planting, monarch observation and monarch rearing. These programs are among the most popular with Newport visitors. They are also quite successful. This past year 171 monarchs were released, up from 122 in 2017.

Newport Wilderness Days was very well received. The combination of a variety of interesting nature hikes and programs put on with the help of NWS volunteers and local advertising paid for by NWS brought in record numbers of park visitors for this two day event held over the Labor Day weekend.

The many nature education hikes and programs offered to visitors covered wildflower identification, trees and shrubs of Door County, blue bird monitoring, mushrooms, herbs, birds, bat monitoring, bugs, animals of land and water, wolves of WI and several other subjects.

A pollinator garden and new bird feeder/viewing station located at the Nature Center have been completed for the current season.

A great big thank you to the dedicated Newport staff and NWS members/volunteers for making this season and those to follow such great successes.

MERCHANDISE COMMITTEE REPORT

by Gene Kenny

The Newport Wilderness Society had another wonderful year for merchandise sales in fiscal year 2019. Sales were \$18,469 and represent a 6% increase over 2018. Sales of Dark Sky merchandise continued to lead the way throughout the fiscal year. The 93 programs lead by our Naturalist, Beth Bartoli, attracted nearly 3400 additional visitors to the park during this year. New merchandise emphasizing many of these programs added significantly to sales.

The DNR has asked that the sale of merchandise be separated from the sale of park stickers and licenses, etc. This is in part due to credit card fees required by banks and credit card companies. In response, our NWS treasurer has purchased a new cash register which will be used for all merchandise sales. Credit card fees will negatively impact merchandise profits going forward.

Some board members have arranged with park management to train on this new cash register system. This would allow NWS members to help at the front desk when programs and special events take the park staff from the front office. This may increase merchandise sales during these periods. NWS general members are welcome to volunteer for this training also.

Aside from the generous donations from our business partners and individual donors, profits from the sale of merchandise is the most important way for the Newport Wilderness Society to fund programs and projects that benefit our beautiful state park.

Whether you are at the park for a hike, presentation, star gazing or any of the wonderful activities led by our park Naturalist, stop at the visitor center and check out some of the new merchandise and thank you for supporting our Newport State Park again this year.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES COMMITTEE

by Karen Studebaker

Just about every time I tell someone I meet in Door County that I live only one mile from Newport State Park, I get a reply such as “Oh! I love Newport!” or “We go camping there every summer.” In other words, if you visit or live in Door County, you’re sure to find someone who has experienced and admires Newport State Park.

That admiration leads to new and continued memberships in the Newport Wilderness Society. NWS members show their support of Newport in many ways, including giving freely of their time and talents. There are many volunteer opportunities throughout the year, including the following:

- Candlelight Ski
- Stargazing gatherings
- Perseid Meteor Shower event
- Earth Day Workday in the Park
- Newport Wilderness Days
- Fall and Spring Workdays in the Park
- Serving on the board of the Newport Wilderness Society
- Building and installing bat houses
- Hikes and presentations on Newport’s flora and fauna
- Helping to spread the wonder of Newport’s Dark Sky
- Every Day is Earth Day Conference
- Trail work, clearing brush, removing invasive plants, etc.
- Working in the office (background check required)
- Parking attendant and helpers for events, particularly dark sky events
- Special projects, such as: updating displays and kiosks; making signs; helping in the Nature Center.

We thank the many volunteers who made the choice to enhance Newport State Park by sharing their time, energy, and expertise. Their devoted work insures the enjoyable experience of all visitors, and adds immeasurable benefit to our community and state.

Please take time to review the attached Volunteer Talent and Interest Survey. This form can also be found on line at the Newport Wilderness website (newportwildernesssociety.org) If you have an interest in volunteering, please complete the form and return it to the attention of:

Karen Studebaker, NWS Volunteer Chair
P.O. Box 215
Ellison Bay, WI 54210

or email the completed form to kks189@tigereye.com

Newport Wilderness Society Volunteer Talent and Interest Survey

Thank you for your interest in volunteering at Newport State Park. Please take a moment to answer a few questions so we know what your areas of interest are. Your answers will help us see how you would most like to spend your time here. Please check all that apply. All volunteers must fill out a Volunteer Agreement. Certain positions require a background check and/or special training or certification.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

1. How do you prefer to be contacted? Phone _____ Email _____

2. Approximately how often would you consider volunteering?

Once a week _____ Once a month _____ Occasionally _____ Events only _____

3. Approximate hours?

4 or less hours/week _____ 4 or less hours per month _____ As needed _____

4. How would you most like to volunteer? (Scale of 1-10, 1 being highest priority. Mark only those that apply to you.)

Visitor services in the office _____ (background check required)

Nature Center docent _____

Program/Hike leader _____

Program/Hike helper _____

Trail maintenance _____

Trail grooming (winter) _____

Tree removal _____ (chainsaw safety certification required)

General park clean up _____

Invasive species removal _____

Event parking _____

Event set up _____

Special projects, other suggestions or comments: 17

Communication Team Report

by Beth Bartoli

Our newly formed Communication Team got off to a great start this year. After discussions at board meetings, the team forged ahead with new ideas and changes to the way NWS presents itself, not only to our members but to the public as well.

Some of the changes implemented were:

- Updating the newsletter (previously The Trillium, now The North Star News)
- Creating new bookmarks to explain our mission and to publicize our wonderful park
- Revamping the NWS website
- Redoing and updating the NWS membership form
- Maintaining a constant Facebook presence
- Linking Instagram to our Facebook page
- Advertising in Door County Living Philanthropy issue

Members will see that The North Star News is being sent out via a monthly email. This not only cuts out printing and mailing costs, but it gives us the opportunity to send out a full color, multipage publication monthly rather than quarterly. Please check your e-mail for the newsletter toward the end of each month. Some are getting sent to "Promotions folder" or "Junk folders," particularly Gmail accounts, so be sure check all folders. The annual report will be sent electronically prior to the Annual meeting, giving detailed information from the board and each committee chair. Printed copies will be available on request at the Annual meeting.

The team looks forward to seeing how the changes positively affect the Newport Wilderness Society.

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

by Gene Kenny

The Long Range Planning group will be working with the Park Manager, Michelle Hefty, to identify Park capital improvement projects and investigate potential grant/donation opportunities.

At a recent meeting, board members discussed the importance of being better prepared for potential grant/funding options that occur through the DNR, the state-wide friends group and potential private donors. Much of the money that is dedicated for park improvements is distributed through grants which have very specific datelines.

Michelle Hefty is the park manager for both Newport and Rock Island State Parks and this committee will support her work with planning and attempting to obtain these grants.

During this fiscal year, the repair of the Hotz gate on Europe Bay Road was started. The masonry portion of the work was completed in June by a local artist, Steve Shumway. The final steps with gate replacement should be completed by the annual meeting. Preparations are started for a dedication ceremony to thank the many people who have donated to complete this restoration.

Planning has also started for restoration/improvement of the boardwalk on the Fern Trail. This is a handicap accessible trail which is routinely "under water" from the end of winter snows, through spring and well into the summer months. This is impossible to pass for most able bodied hikers, but clearly impossible for wheelchairs or walker limited hikers. Plans are underway to create an ADA compliant elevated boardwalk to allow passage during the "wet" months. This may take several years to complete depending on DNR approval, grant funding and donations.



Exempt Organizations Select Check

[Exempt Organizations Select Check Home](#)

Organizations Eligible to Receive Tax-Deductible Charitable Contributions (Pub. 781 only) - Search Results

The following list includes tax-exempt organizations that are eligible to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions. Click on the "Deductibility Status" column for an explanation of limitations on the deductibility of contributions made to different types of tax-exempt organizations.

Results are sorted by EIN. To sort results by another category, click on the icon next to the column heading for that category. Clicking on that icon a second time will reverse the sort order. Click on a column heading for an explanation of information in that column.

1-1 of 1 results

Results Per Page:

33-1538862 Newport Wilderness Society, Inc. WI United States DC

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Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions

Strengthening Wisconsin's Financial Future

Search for: Source: Wisconsin State Data Authority

Corporate Records

1 record for N019914. (0.05 s, at 3/23/2018 1:56 PM)

ID	Entity Name / Type	Registered Effective Date	Status / Status Date
N019914	THE NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY, INC. 06 - Non-Stock Corporation	08/26/1985	Incorporated/Qualified/Registered 08/26/1985

2018 Newport Wilderness Society Annual Meeting Minutes

July 28, 2018

Newport State Park Shelter

Call to Order: Dick Heil called the meeting to order at 9:30AM. All present enjoyed coffee and sweets from Base Camp.

President's Introductory Remarks: President Heil welcomed all to the 33rd NWS Annual Meeting. It has been a good year for the Park and the Society. He called on everyone to read the Annual Report Packet as it contains more detailed information than presented during the meeting. He noted the board members present and thanked them for their service. Of special note was that Bill Scheckler, founder and first president of the Society was present. We have had many interesting programs during the year. A few highlights were the Perseid Meteor Event, Newport Wilderness Day, Fall Workday, First Day Hike with 20 hardy souls and 1 dog, participated in the North Central Region Astronomy League meeting in May where Beth Bartoli was a highlight speaking on our Dark Skies, Candlelight Ski with an excellent turnout, and an Earth Day Workday that was delayed by snow but rescheduled on a sunny Spring day. Karen Studebaker published four great issues of the Trillium.

We continue to have excellent feedback and interest in our Dark Sky Status. An information kiosk is to be placed in the parking lot three area and brochures published. The Hotz Trail archway and gate will soon be restored.

Park Manager's Remarks: Michelle thanked Dick Heil and the Society for their support. Challenges continue as she still has Rock Island as well as Newport. She much appreciates the help given by all.

Dark Sky recognition has made Newport a destination park beyond its reputation of providing a great camping experience.

She spoke further on the Dark Sky kiosk. It will have three panels and solar powered audio. The Ellison Bay Service club donated \$2,000 toward the kiosk and we will also be getting money from the DNR through a recently approved grant. She complimented Beth on a great job creating the brochures – now printed and ready for use.

We are already planning for 2019 and looking forward to lots of park activity.

Treasurer's Report: Jeanne Rabel reported. The full report is in the packet. We had \$34,000 in income and \$25,000 in expenses. We have completed the telescope purchase. We expect expenses for the Hotz Arch repair and dark sky kiosk. There will again be a raffle as member Dennis Moutray has donated one of his beautiful prints. Motion was made and seconded to approve the report and was carried. Jeanne thanked her fellow members of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Recognition for Departing Board Members: Three members are leaving the board and Karen retiring as Trillium Editor.

Dick Heil: After three outstanding years as board president Dick is retiring. He leaves a very large hole as he is such a “can do” guy. He has done so much for the Society that those remaining on the board are concerned!

Amy Dwyer: Amy was instrumental in expansion of the merchandise area – particularly with Dark Sky items. She then took over coordination of volunteers.

Tom Turriff: Tom has been on the board in several capacities – most recently as a member of the Budget and Finance Committee.

We will miss you all!

Karen Studebaker: Karen has done a great job as editor of the Trillium. She is retiring from that responsibility but joining the board as an at large member.

Nominating Committee Report: Dick Smythe presented the report of the Nominating Committee. Placed in nomination and voted onto the board for three year terms were Karen Studebaker and Sheryl Honig.

Motion to dispense with other Committee Reports: President Heil called for a motion to dispense with discussion of other committee reports while urging all to read such in the packet. Motion was made, seconded and carried.

Remembrances: President Heil asked for a moment of silence to honor the following members of the Society known to have passed away in the last year.

Judy Rheberg – Evan (Shelly) Kjellenberg – Leonard Pederson

Lincoln Brower also passed - a renowned Monarch butterfly expert who spoke at Newport several times.

Guest Speaker: Beth first mentioned that there is interest in creating a northern Door Astronomy club. She also referred to the self-illuminating sidewalk markers in the Dark Sky viewing area. She then gave the presentation given at the NCRAL meeting. This excellent slide show discussed the importance of reducing light pollution and also the difficulties involved in attaining dark sky status. Well done, Beth!

Closing Remarks: President Dick thanked all for coming and reminded everyone to read the 2018 Annual Report and to vote for Newport in the FWSP Gold Seal Awards. Newport should be a strong contender for Winter Recreating, Star Gazing, Sunrise, and others. With good weather we should have an excellent Perseid Meteor event on August 12th. Wilderness Days are September 1st and 2nd..

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by President Dick at 11:30.

Respectfully submitted

Dave Vermillion