



# North Star News

June, 2020

Dear members and friends,

As we juggle to find our balance and move forward, our new normal is anything but. At this time, all state park buildings, shelters and campgrounds remain closed until June 8<sup>th</sup>. Most bathrooms opened on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. We have not been informed of what will happen after that.

If you would like to purchase an annual vehicle sticker or trail pass, you can do so by following this link:  
<https://dnr.wi.gov/news/releases/article/?id=5126>

## Upcoming Events

(No events scheduled at this time)

**“Out With the Naturalist”-**  
See Newport Wilderness Society's Facebook page for short videos with our naturalist Beth Bartoli

**NWS Board meeting**  
June 5<sup>th</sup> via Zoom

## Easy Way to Donate to NWS

*Submitted by Jeanne Rabel*

**Do you shop on Amazon? Did you know Amazon will make a donation to a charity of your choice at no cost to you by using Amazon Smile?**

If you would like to make donations to the Newport Wilderness Society and you shop on Amazon, you can use smile.amazon.com. It is the same shopping experience as your normal Amazon account, you'll just be logging into Amazon Smile.

After logging in choose our charity, the Newport Wilderness Society, from the menu on the right. You can search for a charity by name or location.

The best part of this donation is that it is free for you. Select any item marked "Eligible for Amazon Smile" and select "Proceed To Checkout". Amazon will then donate 0.5% of the purchase to Newport.

Small donations added together assist the Society to continue to offer programs and provide support to Newport State Park. We appreciate all of your donations.

# **Fern Trail Project Update**

*Submitted by Gene Kenny*



Gerry Swanson on Fern Trail  
April, 2020

*photo by Micky Swanson*

It's been a tough spring for many reasons, but as we look to the future, we have some good news to share with our NWS Friends Group members. The Department of Natural Resources approved the request for a Stewardship Friends Grant on April 3rd, 2020. This \$20,000 "matching" grant will be used for the Fern Trail Restoration Project.

In November 2019, the Newport Wilderness Society applied to the DNR for approval to replace the ground-level segmented boardwalk on the Fern Trail. As you may know, the Fern Trail is Newport State Park's "wheelchair accessible" trail. This trail is often flooded from the final snowfall well into the summer months. Many years the flooding extends beyond the existing boardwalk which was constructed in 2003. This Stewardship Friends Grant gives us a good start in funding this project. The NWS has to provide matching funds to cover the cost of materials and any contracting services. The majority, if not all the work will be accomplished with volunteer support.

Currently, NWS board members are working with NSP management to plan all aspects of this project. A detailed design has to be approved by the DNR Engineering department. The project has to be reviewed by the DNR Archeologist and the Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation before any construction can start. Since it's an existing trail, some of these may be accomplished quickly.

The NWS has also started the planning process to recognize those individuals who contribute to this project. Your financial as well as volunteer support is greatly appreciated. Future emails and newsletters will explain how you can contribute.

## NWS Annual Meeting Cancelled

Given the current circumstances, The NWS board has decided to cancel the Annual Meeting, scheduled to be held July 25<sup>th</sup>. For those who wish to read it, the Annual Report will be available on the NWS website at the end of July. You can print a hard copy from there. If you would like a hard copy mailed to you, please contact NWS at: [president@newportwildernessociety.org](mailto:president@newportwildernessociety.org).

**One important matter of business**, the election of new members to 3-year terms on the NWS Board. Information about how to cast your ballot: [Annual Meeting Cancellation; Submitting Ballot](#)

## Spring at Newport



Beautiful carpet of trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*)





Yellow crab spider waiting for dinner on a yellow lady's slipper orchid

*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.*