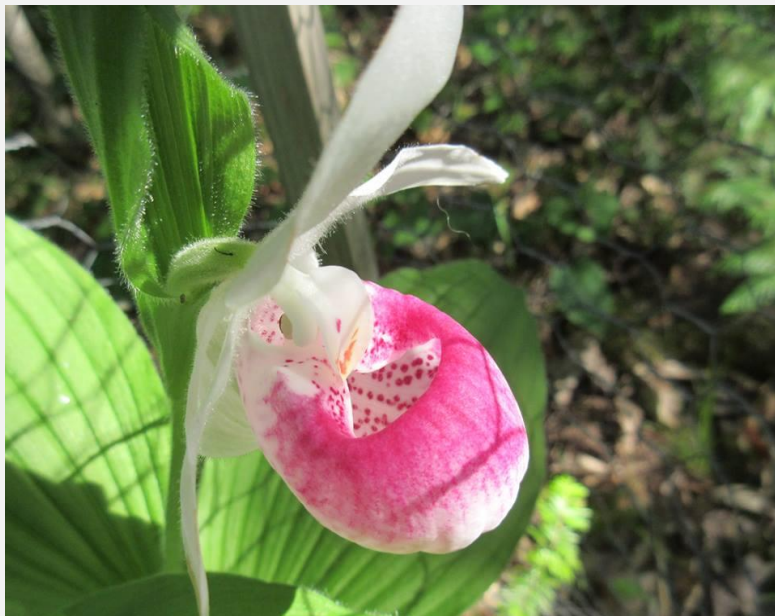




North Star News

July, 2020



Showy lady's slipper orchid blooming at Newport

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

August 7th

NWS Annual Meeting Cancelled

Given the current circumstances, The NWS board has decided to cancel the Annual Meeting, scheduled to be held July 25th. 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.

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: <https://friendsofnewport.org/2020-annual-meeting-cancelled/>

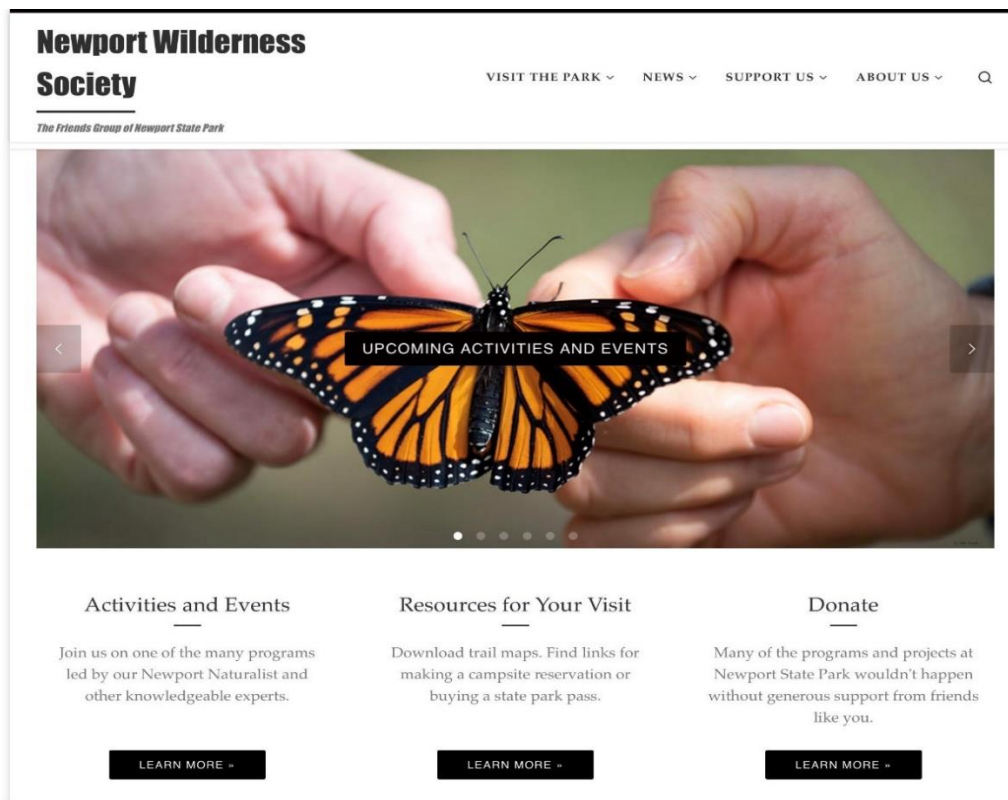
NWS has a New Website

Submitted by Deb Ford

Newport Wilderness Society's website has received an update and has a new location on the web at <https://friendsofnewport.org>.

The website committee (Karen Studebaker, Dave Studebaker, Beth Bartoli, Julia Keeper, and Deb Ford) first met (via Zoom) on April 22 to start the planning process. The committee wanted the new website 1) to inform the public about the history, activities, and programs at Newport State Park, 2) to promote the work of Newport Wilderness Society in support of the park, and 3) to encourage the growth and participation of NWS members, donors, and volunteers.

The website features a new Events and Activities calendar (currently empty due to the Covid-19 situation), a new History of the Park page, and a News section which has updates from the Park Naturalist and the NWS Board. The Membership and Donation pages have been streamlined for ease of use. We invite you to take a look around the new website. If you have any comments or suggestions, please send a note to webmaster@friendsofnewport.org.



~New website home page~

Passing of Dr. G. Leonard Apfelbach

Submitted by Gene Kenny, Office of the President, NWS

The Newport Wilderness Society and the people of Wisconsin lost a good friend and benefactor last week with the passing of Dr. G Leonard Apfelbach.

While assembling the Annual Report of the Newport Wilderness Society this week I received two email messages. These messages were very different, but actually were linked.

The first was from an out-of-state women who asked if the Newport Wilderness Society had an astronomy program scheduled for July 20 or 21st at Newport State Park. She had seen an article describing great places and dates for viewing the Milky Way. She had never seen the Milky Way. I had to tell her that all of our programs at the Newport State Park were on hold do to the Covid-19 pandemic. She understood and thanked me.

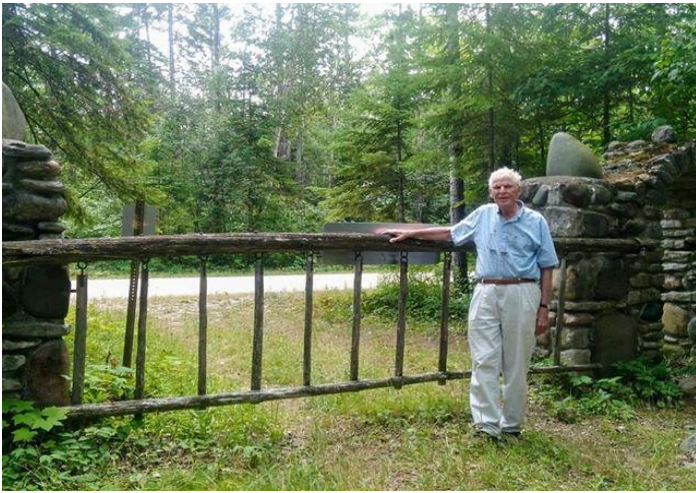
The second message was about the passing of Dr. G. Leonard "Len" Apfelbach on June 25th, 2020. Dr. Apfelbach was a Urologist for more than 30 years in Wisconsin. He was a husband and father. He was active in Rotary and active in the Newport Wilderness Society.

One of the friends group's accomplishments last summer was the restoration of the Hotz gate. Through mostly a volunteer effort and an important anonymous donation to cover expenses, the Hotz gate was restored.



Caretaker cottage and gate, Hotz property

The gate is on Europe Bay Road and was the entrance to the Hotz family summer home from 1915 until 1978. Today it is the entrance to the Hotz trail which links to the Europe Bay trail. After completing the restoration, preparations were started for a dedication ceremony for the summer of 2020. That celebration is now postponed.



Dr. Apfelbach at the Hotz gate

You may know that Ferdinand Hotz built a summer home on land north of Europe Bay Road. It was 170 acres of land with more than 3 miles of shoreline on Lake Michigan to the East and overlooking Europe Lake to the West. One of the most beautiful tracts of land in Door County. This property was eventually inherited by Dr G Leonard Apfelbach, who was Ferdinand Hotz's grandson.



Hotz Summer Cottage, Europe Lake

In 1978, Dr Apfelbach sold this land to the Department of Natural Resources and to the people of Wisconsin. It is the north end of Newport State Park . Because of that transfer, we have 7 miles of hiking, biking and ski trails and several wilderness campsites. Dr Apfelbach stipulated that the land had to remain undeveloped. The DNR agreed.

This transfer to the DNR benefitted all of us. But more importantly, our country has a "dark sky" along Newport's Lake Michigan shore. It is one of only three certified dark-sky parks east of the Mississippi River.

This is where these two messages converge. If Dr G Leonard Apfelbach hadn't sold this land to the DNR in 1978, we might not have a dark sky to see the Milky Way. Thanks Len.

Dr Apfelbach also wrote "*The Ferdinand Hotz Legacy*" which honors the Hotz family's history. His most recent contribution was the renovation of the Hotz Trail stone entry gate at Newport State Park.

Park News

Following the State of Wisconsin and Wisconsin DNR's Bounce Back plans, Newport's office remains closed. Bathrooms, trails, picnic area, shoreline access and campsites are all open. Maintenance and bathroom cleaning and disinfecting is being conducted following DNR protocol. There has been no official word as to when offices will open. Below are links to the Wisconsin DNR's official statements and updates.



COVID-19 Update

Wisconsin state park system properties are operating 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week. Most campgrounds are open with [special conditions](#).

An [annual park sticker](#) or trail pass is required to visit state parks and trails. Buy before you go: annual and daily passes are NOT available for purchase at individual properties.

Office buildings, visitor centers, observation towers, shelters and playgrounds remain closed. For more information, please see:

- [COVID-19 Information Webpage](#)

Properties may be limiting admission based on capacity. Please make sure to seek out current property information on our website before visiting:

- [Wisconsin State Park Capacity Updates](#)

NWS Merchandise Available Soon

At Kick Ash Coffee/Door County Love Artisan Granola!

With the park office closed for the time being, the great merchandise selections sold by NWS have been under quarantine as well. Carol Ash has graciously offered space at her business to NWS for merchandise sales. Watch for tee shirts, ball caps, stickers and more in the very near future. And while you're there, enjoy some of Kick Ash's great coffee, baked goods, salads and snack packs and beverages. Enjoy the gardens or relax on the deck overlooking Ellison Bay. Look for them soon!



A sampling of some of the merchandise that will be available at Kick Ash.

2020 Gold Seal Award Contest



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Friends of Wisconsin State Parks are asking for your vote in this year's contest categories. If you are a camper, biker, hunter, hiker, angler, or park visitor, **cast your vote for your favorite state park, forest, trail or recreation area in the categories at right.**

The winning parks, forests, trails and recreation areas will be presented with a **Gold Seal Award** in November 2020. The statewide Friends of Wisconsin State Parks organization runs the **Gold Seal Award** program each year to highlight Wisconsin's parks, trails, and forests.

- Best state park system property for fishing
- Best state park system trail along a creek or waterfall
- Best state park system property to see spring wildflowers
- Best state park system property to take a selfie
- Best state park system property to see fall foliage
- Best state park system property to snow shoe
- Best state park system property for bird watching
- Best state park system property for sledding
- Best paved state trail for bike riding
- Best state park system property for hunting

NOTE - State parks include state forests and state recreation areas.

Nominate at FWSP.org

Contest ends Monday, August 31, 2020

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Patty Loosen
Executive Director - Friends of Wisconsin State Parks
patricia.loosen@fwsp.org • 608-294-0810



Don't forget to vote for Newport State Park for a 2020 Gold Seal Award. Choose your favorite activity at Newport: Spring wildflowers, fall foliage, snow shoeing, bird watching, or hunting. So many to choose from; vote for one, some or all! Tell your friends! Vote by August 31st!

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScmxwBG8yo4v3qmKdk3PzIPjgM_8i516Nif39ULHE4cRgfTmg/viewform

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.