



North Star News

Spetember, 2020



Beautiful Lynd Point with Lake Michigan at record level highs.

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

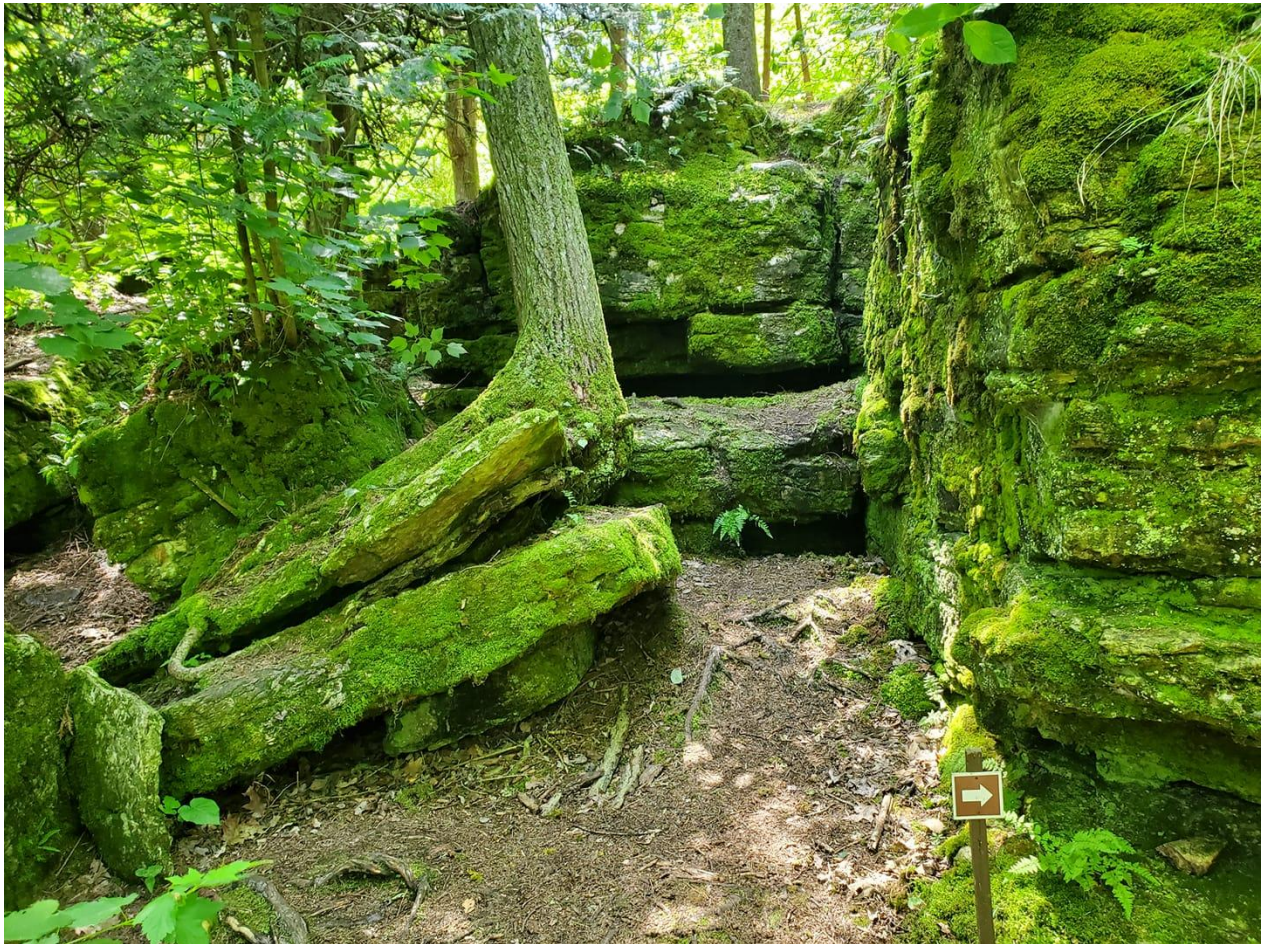
NWS Board meeting

October 2nd

Park News: Newport State Park is Open!

- **Park office is closed**, but the **drive-up window is now open** for visitors to purchase daily or annual admission passes using credit card, cash or check. Credit cards must not require a pin. Visitors may also seek park information from staff through the drive-up windows. Measures to ensure social distancing will be in place and all equipment used in customer transactions will be disinfected after each use. (Continued on Page 2)

- The self-registration kiosk is available whenever the drive-up window is closed.
- You may purchase an *annual state park pass* over the phone (1-888-305-0398) or online.
- Backpack or bike-in camping is available. Reservations required. Make reservations by phone (1-888-947-2757) or online.
- Group camping for 50 people or less will be available starting July 13. Reservations required. Make reservations by phone (1-888-947-2757) or online.
- **All park programs and events are cancelled until further notice.**
- Park hours are 6:00am to 11:00pm.



Lynd Point Trail.

Volunteering at Newport

Submitted by Mark Glasser

If you like to be outside in nature and help keep one of Wisconsin's most beautiful state parks a place to enjoy, then you might consider joining our group of volunteers. The Newport Wilderness Society supports our beautiful park by keeping trails open in summer and winter, monitoring flora and fauna, removing invasive species, providing support for visitor programs, and keeping our facilities looking good. Next year, we are planning to start construction of a boardwalk on the Fern Trail to enable its use year-round.

If interested in being a volunteer, please contact us: info@friendsofnewport.org. You are guaranteed to have fun, make new friends, and make a difference.

Volunteers Mark Glasser and Les Keepper tackle a large dead spruce tree.



Newport Volunteers Collect Data for the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project

When a visitor arrives at Newport State Park during the summer, they may (or may not) notice the pollinator habitat gardens located around the park office. What might look like a patch of unruly shrubs to the untrained eye is actually a Monarch Butterfly 'way station'. Once a week, from spring through fall, volunteer citizen scientists gather here with clipboards and magnifying glasses. They are collecting data for the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project, a program developed in 1997 by researchers at the University of Minnesota to analyze long-term data on larval monarch populations and milkweed habitat. (It is now a collaboration of multiple agencies, including the University of Wisconsin–Madison Arboretum.)



Volunteers Pat and Jim Blair

At the beginning of the spring season, volunteers first count milkweed plants as they emerge. As the season progresses, the survey focuses on the number of eggs and larvae (caterpillars). The instar stage of each larva is recorded, along with details such as evidence of predation or mortality. When the larvae eventually pupate, the number of resulting chrysalis are added to the count.

Newport Volunteers, continued...



Volunteer Debbie Wolf

Other important data is also collected: time of day, temperature, rainfall, presence of other insect infiltration, nectar sources that may be in bloom, and the presence of adult Monarchs in the area and whether they are male or female. Newport has participated in this data collection project since 2018. [Annual site results are here.](#) It is painstaking but rewarding work, as reflected in Newport Naturalist Beth Bartoli's recent comments:

This year in particular, it seems the monarchs were late in starting the egg laying process here at Newport. Checking back on our previous data collected, it shows that the monarchs did indeed start later this year; 1 week later from 2019 and a full 2 weeks later than 2018. That's a significant change in just three seasons. All of the information we gather helps MLMP look at the larger international picture to see why these trends may be occurring.

Though this is a labor intensive process, it is rewarding to see the fruits of our labor help on such a large scale. I couldn't do this without the consistent efforts of volunteers Jim, Pat and Debbie. They have been out there in the trenches with me, training extensively to make sure our data is accurate. It also works out to be an outdoor classroom of sorts, as visitors are curious about what we are doing, asking questions and even getting involved in the process. It has even inspired some to start their own pollinator gardens.

Newport Naturalist Beth Bartoli

NWS Merchandise Available

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. Merchandise options change, so stop in frequently. And while you're there, enjoy some of Kick Ash's great coffee, baked goods, salads, snack packs and beverages. Enjoy the gardens or relax on the deck overlooking Ellison Bay.



Terry Heidenreiter, NWS Merchandise Chair, sets up merchandise at Kick Ash Products,

Located at: 12001 Mink River Road, Downtown Ellison Bay

Business Members

The Newport Wilderness Society is profoundly grateful for the generous support that we receive from members of our business community. The COVID-19 public health emergency has resulted in trying times for all of us in 2020. Please reach out and support these businesses in any way that you are able.

- [Al Johnson's Restaurant & Butik](#)
- [Bay Shore Outfitters](#)
- [Blue Dolphin House](#)
- [Champeau Floor Covering](#)
- [Door County North](#)
- [Ecology Sports](#)
- [Grasse's Grill](#)
- [Jerry's Flowers](#)
- [JJ's & Waterfront Restaurants](#)
- [Jungwirth Ace Hardware](#)
- [Kick Ash Products](#)
- [Pirate's Cove Adventure Golf](#)
- [Shoreline Restaurant](#)
- [Sister Bay Advancement Association](#)
- [Sister Bay Bowl](#)

- State Farm Insurance – Carol DeVault
- The Clearing
- The Last Stop
- Timothy D. Tishler, DDS
- Twisted Tree at the Pharm
- Voight Enterprises
- Washington Island Ferry Line
- Anonymous Foundation

Thank You

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.