



# North Star News

October/November, 2020

Dear members and friends,

As another season comes to an end here at Newport, we look back on a year we'll all remember. In spite of COVID-19 dominating our headlines (and lives), record numbers of visitors flocked to Wisconsin state parks, in search of peace, rest, nature and some kind of normalcy.

Newport was no exception. Our campsites were booked all summer long and well into the fall, with summer attendance up and average of 32%. Capacity limits and social distancing were addressed, and sanitizing restrooms and public areas became our daily ritual.

For more COVID policies and information from the WI DNR, please visit: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/covid-19>.

## Upcoming Events

(No events scheduled at this time)

### **NWS Board meeting**

December 4<sup>th</sup> via Zoom

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## **NWS News**

With the board meeting via Zoom and volunteering just starting to come around, it may seem like things have slowed down for us. Nothing could be further from the truth! The board (and volunteers) are navigating their way through the many challenges of these times. Projects are still being planned, namely the redo of Fern Trail, and things are being put into place to carry on in whatever manner we can. As you see from this newsletter, there was a crew of volunteers cleaning up the office building. State mandates were followed, like the use masks and social distancing, bringing their own hand tools and working without staff participation (other than email communication).

We're hopeful that volunteer trail grooming for the winter will be a go, but are bracing for the possible cancellation of our Candlelight Ski in February. Stay tuned for information.

# NWS Fall Clean-up Morning at Newport

*Photos and story by Deb Ford*



On Saturday, October 10, which happened to be one of those iconically beautiful Door County fall mornings, several Newport Wilderness Society volunteers met at the park to give the outside of the Visitors Center a much needed sprucing-up. Walls and windows were scrubbed, weeds were pulled, storm gutters cleaned out, and sidewalks were hosed down.

It was a socially-distanced, masked-up, small group effort organized and led by Mark Glasser. Jim Black, Deb Ford, Rick Foster, and Les Keepper participated. They worked hard to get the bulk of the work finished before the drive-up window opened at 10am. They don't believe any park visitors were hosed down in the process!

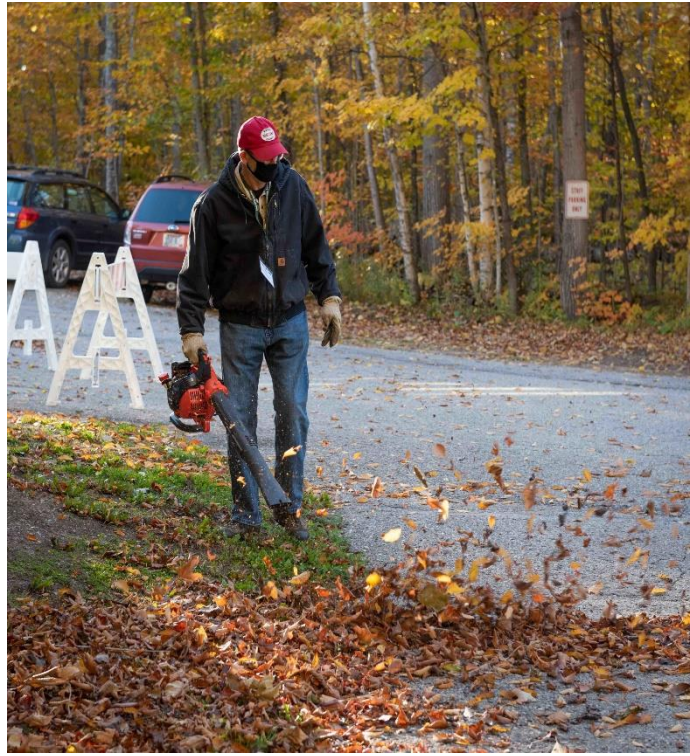
Although Newport has had one of its busiest summer seasons, Covid-related restrictions have made it difficult for volunteers to gather to help park staff with routine maintenance projects. Nevertheless, planning continues for future work and improvement projects in the park. We will keep you apprised of those plans as they develop.



## Photos from Fall Clean-up Morning



Jim Black, Mark Glasser



Les Keeper



Les Keeper, Mark Glasser, Jim Black, Rick Foster

# Best State Park to Snowshoe!



by Deb Ford

The votes are in and Newport State Park has won a 2020 Gold Seal Award in the category *Best State Park System to Snowshoe*!

Annual Gold Seal Awards are conferred by the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks (FWSP). Members of the public vote for their favorite state park in a variety of categories. In the past, Newport has won Gold Seal Awards for the best park for star gazing and the best park for backpack camping.

To see a list of all this year's winners, go [here on the FWSP website](#).





*Beth Bartoli on the trails*



*Michelle Hefty, Park Manager and Beth Bartoli, Park Naturalist...practicing social distancing*

**Remember that NWS/Newport merchandise is available at Kick Ash Coffee/Door County Love Artisan Granola in Ellison Bay! Their hours change this time of year; open Sundays 8-12, and Monday through Saturday 8-3, through December 31<sup>st</sup>.**

**Keep in mind that they will be closed the beginning of November for the much anticipated kitchen relocation.**



*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.*