

Newport Wilderness Society, Inc.

2020 Annual Report

A Not-for-Profit Friends Group

for

Newport State Park
Door County, Wisconsin

July 2020

<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

Mary Hansen, Greg Wilde
Gene Kenny
Office of the President

(see below)

Mary Hansen (2022)
Vice President

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 working as an event planner.

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.

Karen Studebaker (2021)
5th Officer

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

Board of Directors for Newport Wilderness Society (continued)

Carol Ash (2022) 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) 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.

Deb Ford (2022) Deb recently relocated to Ellison Bay from northern California, where she had a delightful 24-year career as a labor and delivery nurse. She is an avid birder and recreational photographer and continues to volunteer as the website editor for the Yolo Audubon Society in Davis, CA. On frequent visits to Door County, she has enjoyed hiking and birding at Newport and is very happy to work more closely with NWS.

Mark Glasser (2022) Mark's professional background includes 20 years of business ownership, with a focus on talent development and career management. Additionally, he spent 24 years selling and marketing industrial products globally.

When not working, Mark travels and hikes all over the world, is a certified sawyer, and volunteers with organizations including the Ice Age Trail Alliance, Newport State Park, The Clearing, Door County Land Trust, and the Nature Conservancy. He is a current Board member of the Ice Age Trail and a past Board member of Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity.

Terry Heidenreiter (2022) 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 after 32 years. He and his wife Helen moved to Door County full time and live on Europe Lake. Gene is an avid woodworker and volunteers with Habitat for Humanity, The Clearing and Newport State Park.

Julia Keepper (2022)

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.

Brian Schimp (2022)

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.

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
Committee Assignments**

2019-2020 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS 2018-2019

NOMINATING - open Chair

MEMBERSHIP & FUND RAISING Greg Wilde, Chair

NATURE INTERPRETATION AND STEWARDSHIP Brian Schimp, Chair

MERCHANDISING Terry Heidenreiter, Chair

VOLUNTEER SERVICES Karen Studebaker, Chair

COMMUNICATIONS Carol Ash, Chair

LONG RANGE PLANNING, Gene Kenny, Chair

NEW Work Groups 2020

Planned Giving Jim Black, Coordinator

Web-Site Redesign Karen Studebaker and Deb Ford, Coordinators

Trail Maintenance Volunteer Program Mark Glasser and Deb Ford, Co-ordinators

Office of the President's Report

by Greg Wilde

It can be difficult to imagine Newport State Park in the midst of a pandemic. Park office closed, facilities closed, no camping, no naturalist programs, no services. As Wisconsin's only formally designated wilderness park, it certainly has taken on that appearance of late. Fortunately, the trails have been open to offer some relief from the shelter-in-place lives we have been living.

The Newport Wilderness Society, the friend's organization that supports Newport State Park, has had to adapt to life governed by social distancing. Board and committee meetings have been conducted by video conferencing. Communication with members has been through email or mailings. Our Annual Meeting scheduled for July 25th was canceled with the safety of members, park staff and board members in mind. The North Star News, our monthly newsletter, has become an important link to membership. It is distributed via email to keep members abreast of DNR and park plans. If you are not receiving the newsletter, please send us your email address so we can add you to distribution or check out our website each month. It is a terrific newsletter. By the way, photos in the newsletter confirm that normal things are going on in the park - flowers, birds and butterflies have returned - it's just the visitors who are scarce.

Despite the challenges, much has been accomplished over the past 4-5 months.

- Our new committee, Long Range Planning, has made progress with its first major project, reconstruction of the Fern Trail. This is the park's only handicap accessible trail, and it spends most of spring and early summer under water. It is a major project that will span several years and require considerable volunteer and fund-raising efforts. You can get more of the details in the Committee Report that follows.
- A special work group is well into the process of redesigning the Newport Wilderness Society webpage. That project will be completed and introduced before summer gets away from us.
- A small team of park staff and board members are developing and formalizing a trail maintenance volunteer program to keep our 26 miles of trails in peak condition.
- The last work group that you will read about compiled information about "planned giving" through estate plans or trusts. So, even if you are unable to help on the trail maintenance crew or the construction of the new boardwalk your financial support through your continued membership and annual donations will help the NWS complete its mission to support Newport State Park.

These first five months of 2020 have been different, unique, and filled with challenges for all of us. We are so fortunate that our Friend's group is blessed with a very talented, engaged and resourceful group of individuals to deal with these issues.

ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT 2020

Jeanne Rabel, Treasurer

The fiscal year for the Newport Wilderness Society (NWS) runs from July 1 to June 30. Finances are managed by the treasurer subject to guidance and oversight by the NWS Board of Directors.

The following graph illustrates the net worth of NWS over the past four fiscal years.

NET WORTH				
	As of	As of	As of	As of
	6/30/2017	6/30/2018	6/30/2019	6/30/2020
Cash-Nicolet Checking	\$ 3,367	\$ 4,600	\$ 9,687	\$ 22,719
Cash-Nicolet Savings	\$ 15,151	\$ 11,166	\$ 17,729	\$ 21,748
Cash-Nicolet-Pay Pal	\$ 254	\$ 355	\$ 200	\$ 397
Cash on Hand	\$ 2,179	\$ -	\$ 705	\$ -
Subtotal	\$ 20,951	\$ 16,121	\$ 28,321	\$ 44,864
Merchandise Inventory	\$ 5,938	\$ 10,010	\$ 5,912	\$ 18,389
RBC Operating Fund Investment	\$ 65,543	\$ 79,248	\$ 80,470	\$ 79,995
RBC Endowment Fund Investment	\$ 95,225	\$ 106,751	\$ 117,598	\$ 119,493
Total Assets	\$ 187,657	\$ 212,130	\$ 232,301	\$ 262,741
Total Liabilities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Total Net Worth	\$ 187,657	\$ 212,130	\$ 232,301	\$ 262,741

Notes:

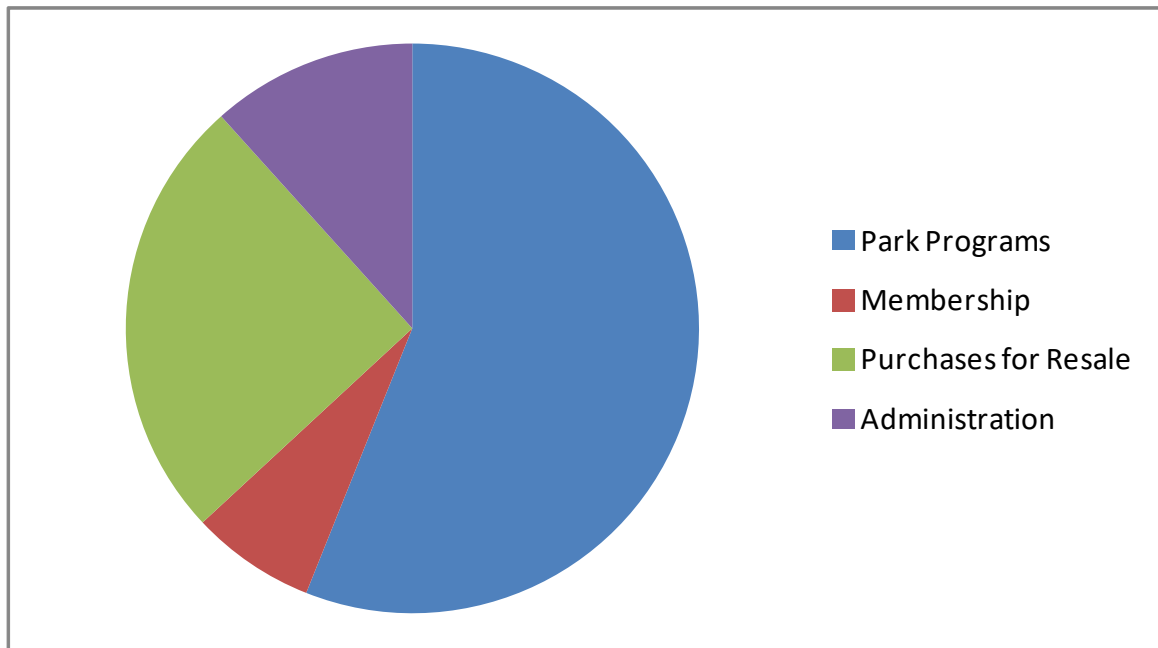
1. The checking account contains a recently received \$10,000 check from the Department of Natural Resources for the Fern Trail Restoration Project. The value of the Merchandise Inventory is higher than average because the NWS store has been closed from the middle of March through June. Summer and spring months account for the largest volume of sales.

NWS relies primarily on donations and secondarily on membership dues and sales to fund Park programs. This year we were very fortunate to receive two \$10,000 donations: one to help fund the Park naturalist and one to begin the restoration of the Fern Trail. Donations were up this year but membership dues were down slightly and sales were down by over \$2000.

During this fiscal year NWS received \$40,573 in donations and membership dues totaled \$5,325. Sales receipts totaled \$16,248. Once the store re-opens NWS expects to see sales increase particularly for dark sky merchandise.

The following pie chart illustrates that the majority of NWS funds, 63%, are spent on Park programs. Two of our biggest disbursements this year were \$18,700 to fund the Park

Naturalist and \$4,000 for a new ski trail tenderizer. Another 25% was spent for purchases for resale and 7% was used for membership related expenses.



Administration fees include such items as insurance, finance fees for credit card processing, printing and office supplies.

For this upcoming year, the largest amount of funds (almost the largest in our history) will be needed to fund the restoration of the Fern Trail, the Park’s only handicapped accessible trail. It is estimated that this restoration will cost at least \$150,000. A fund raising effort will be established in order to request grants from organizations. To date NWS has raised \$15,150 with another \$10,000 promised so far in grant funding for trail restoration.

In addition, NWS will continue to need to raise \$18,000 to support the Park naturalist position.

Investments in the Operating and Endowment Funds consist of publicly traded mutual funds and exchange traded funds. NWS’s 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. In the spring both funds experienced losses due to the downturn in the stock market. The Operating Fund has not yet recovered from last year’s high, but the Endowment Fund recovered and saw an approximate \$1,900 gain.

NWS continues to be grateful to our donors and members for their continued support.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

by Gene Kenny

The Newport Wilderness Society Nominating Committee lost its chairman with the retirement of Dick Smythe in 2019. He coordinated this activity for many years. The Executive Committee has filled this role as a group. One of the goals this year is to begin the process of succession to diversify our Executive Committee and expand and define the role of committee chairs.

We have two excellent new candidates willing to serve on the NWS Board who were voted by the Board during this fiscal year and are presented for full membership approval. In addition, two current board members have agreed to continue their service on the board with full membership approval.

Deb Ford recently relocated to Ellison Bay from northern California after retiring from the United State Air Force as a labor and delivery nurse. She is an avid birder and recreational photographer and continues to volunteer as the website editor for the Yolo Audubon Society in Davis, CA. Over the past few months Deb has helped with the re-design of the NWS website and the Trail Volunteer work group. (see bio page 5)

Our second new board member is Mark Glasser. His professional background includes business ownership with a focus on talent development and career management. Additionally, he is a certified sawyer, and volunteers with organizations including the Ice Age Trail Alliance, Newport State Park, The Clearing, Door County Land Trust, and the Nature Conservancy. He is a current Board member of the Ice Age Trail and a past Board member of Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity. Over the past 6 months Mark has worked to develop a team of volunteers to maintain trails throughout Newport State Park. He has also implemented an email network to communicate trail needs to volunteers. (see bio page 5)

Jeanne Rabel currently serves as the Treasurer and an Executive Committee member. She has agreed to serve an additional three year term. (see Treasurer's report)

Gene Kenny currently serves in the Office of the President, the Executive Committee and as the Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee. He has also agreed to serve an additional three year term. (see Long Term Planning Committee Report)

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

Newport Wilderness Society membership has been stable over the past several years. There are 77 individual memberships. There are 151 family members that support our Friends' group. We also have 23 business members who are listed below:

Grasses Grill LLC, Sister Bay
Sister Bay Bowl, Sister Bay
Kick Ash Products LLC, Ellison Bay
The Clearing, Ellison Bay
State Farm Insurance, Sturgeon Bay
The Last Stop, Ellison Bay
Ecology Sports, Sister Bay
Jerry's Flowers, Sister Bay
Blue Dolphin House, Ephraim
Shoreline Restaurant LLC, Gills Rock
Husby's Restaurant, Sister Bay

Wagon Trail Campground, Ellison Bay
Twisted Tree, Sister Bay
Door County North, Ellison Bay
Champeau Flooring Covering, Sister Bay
Timothy D. Tishler, DDS, Ltd, Sister Bay
Voight Enterprises, Sister Bay
Bay Shore Outfitters, Sister Bay
Pirate's Cove Adventure Golf, Sister Bay
Jungwirth Ace Hardware, LLC, Sister Bay
JJ's & Waterfront Restaurants, Sister Bay
Sister Bay Advancement Assoc, Sister Bay

We hope you will support these businesses who have invested in our park. Given the economic stress associated with the COVID - 19 pandemic, we have postponed the solicitation of new members until 2021. It is difficult to request financial support from either businesses or families who have been closed or out of work for the past three months. We are hopeful for better circumstances in 2021.

NATURE INTERPRETATION AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

by Brian Schimp, Chair

Over the past fiscal year, nature interpretation & stewardship at Newport State Park continues to be a success under the leadership of Naturalist Beth Bartoli. As in past years, the Newport Wilderness Society funds the salary of the park Naturalist, which has proven to be an excellent use of member contributions.

In 2019, approximately 2,866 visitors enjoyed taking part in the 90 programs offered. Commencing on January 1st with the First Day hike, and continuing each month, the Naturalist hosts activities which reach visitors of all ages. The spring season starts a bit slow, but commencing in April through the end of October, there is no shortage of activities which bring visitors to Newport State Park. While the list is too extensive to include in this summary, listed below are some of the more popular activities:

Arbor Day hike, Birding hikes, Bluebird Monitoring, Dark Sky night viewing programs, Herb hikes, Monarchs 101, Monarch larvae/egg collection, Monarch Watch monitoring, Mushroom hikes, Newport Wilderness Days, State Park Open House Hike with the Naturalist, Trees and Shrubs of Door County, Universe in the Park - Perseid Meteor shower, Wildflower hikes

Another highlight of 2019 was the resurrection of the OutWiGo Trails of Newport Challenge Hikes. The hikes started mid-May and ran until August 22nd. We reached our goal of hiking every trail in Newport, from shortest to longest. With groups as small as 9 and as large as 35, we hiked an average of 40 total miles. These hikes were run in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources (DR) OutWiGo state initiative to get people out doing healthy activities. There was great comradery among this group, which was wonderful to see develop over the summer. After the last hike (7 miles on Europe Bay Trail), we all enjoyed a potluck picnic together.

As our designation as an International Dark-Sky Park continues to garner much attention, our Naturalist is personally very proud of this accomplishment. This designation brings many visitors in during the evening hours to check out the incredible skies at Newport State Park. The night sky viewing programs continue to be a huge draw for the park. We are fortunate to have some top-notch astronomy volunteers, whom along with the equipment purchased by the Newport Wilderness Society are able to give our visitors an awe-inspiring experience.

As of this writing, the 2020 season has already started. Our Naturalist used the spring season as an opportunity to complete online continuing education with a course on Tree Identification offered through the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. In January, in coordination with The Clearing, a two-session class on Animal Tracking was conducted. The class covered tracking basics, including identifying, interpreting and following animal tracks. As 2020 was a Leap Year, a special Leap Day Hike was conducted. With exceptional spring-like weather, this event was well attended and will be incorporated into future Leap Year planning.

Unfortunately, when the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the United States in March, all of the planned activities were cancelled. As we navigate this period of time, our Naturalist is adjusting her programs in compliance with Department of Natural Resources requirements and the recommendations of local government. Clearly the impact that the pandemic has had thus far and the unknowns as we move forward, remains the biggest challenge for the Nature Interpretation & Stewardship committee, especially considering the amount of social interaction that is a mainstay of the Naturalist position and this committee. However, with that stated, our Naturalist has been quite creative and has continued her outreach through the preparation of short video presentations which have been posted to the Newport Wilderness Society's Facebook page (the rumor in the park is that in the near future, these video presentations will also be available on the Newport Wilderness Society webpage, for those who may not have access to social media platforms). While operating under the "new normal", the use of this medium has allowed our Naturalist to share what is happening in and around Newport State Park, which serves to keep people connected while social distancing and operating under the Safer-At-Home orders. As we move forward, we remain hopeful that the programs will be able to resume, while ensuring the safety of our Naturalist and those visitors whom participate in the various programs.

Chair Comment: After the resignation of Neil Smith from the board, I assumed the role of Chair - Nature Interpretation & Stewardship in September of 2019. With the knowledge and expertise of Beth Bartoli (Naturalist), this committee is well positioned for success. As Chair, it is my intention that the committee continue to allow the Naturalist to do what she does best, providing her with the necessary support of the Newport Wilderness Society. I would like to extend an invitation and encourage anyone who has an interest in joining this committee to feel free to contact me.

MERCHANDISE COMMITTEE REPORT

by Terry Heidenreiter

Merchandise sales for fiscal year 2020 were \$16,082, which was a decrease of 13% from fiscal year 2019. This decrease was primarily due to the fact that there were no sales in the last quarter of 2020. Park closure during that period, secondary to the COVID-19 pandemic, allowed for no customer purchases. We anticipate robust sales with the reopening of the park at the start of fiscal year 2021.

We continue to have a large stock of Dark Sky merchandise on hand and have added Dark Sky refrigerator magnets and various new nature books to that inventory this year. With the reopening of the park and the office this summer, we will also have resumption of programs by our Naturalist, Beth Bartoli. These programs always draw well. That gets more visitors into the office/nature center and exposes them to our many attractive Newport/Dark Sky merchandise offerings.

Sales of merchandise at the park are one of our major sources of income for the many projects funded by the Newport Wilderness Society. Although not as significant, perhaps, as our membership dues and donations from our many benefactors, these sales provide a flexible source of funds for various uses. We hope to see you all enjoying our wonderful park in the coming year and stopping by the office to help support the financial health of the Newport Wilderness.

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
- 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
- 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 (<https://friendsofnewport.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:

Communications Team Report

(Team members Karen Studebaker, Dave Studebaker, Deb Ford, Julia Keeper, Carol Ash, Beth Bartoli)

by Beth Bartoli

Many of the changes implemented since last year's inception of the Communication Team have been met with positive feedback. The team conquered many issues right off the bat. The Trillium newsletter got a big revamp. Now known as The Northstar News, this monthly publication is sent electronically to all members. NWS bookmarks (new last year) are given out at all programs. New brochures are eye catching and informative. The Facebook page garners much attention, with a record number of "likes" at 1270. Local advertising kept us at the forefront of locals and visitors alike. Considering the current pandemic situation, this is all best-case scenario.

One of the biggest challenges has been keeping up with the website. This is where many visitors start their journey into finding out more about the park and NWS. As a team, it was decided that the website should be a priority. Dave Studebaker has lovingly taken to that task for the past few years, spending hundreds of volunteer hours on it. As a self-proclaimed novice to web design, he did an amazing job of reorganizing and updating things.

Fast forward to this past spring, with new board member Deb Ford getting involved with the Communications Team. After Zoom meetings and discussions, Deb graciously volunteered to take on redesigning the website. With Dave's blessing, Deb has spent countless hours researching and redesigning NWS's website. At this writing, it is still a prototype, but be prepared to be dazzled by what is in store for our new website. The official launch will be brought to the attention of all members, so stay tuned.

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

by Gene Kenny

The Long Range Planning Committee and work group had a busy year. I'd like to report on 2 projects that started early in this fiscal year.

First, in November of 2019, an application for a Knowles-Nelson grant was submitted to the Department of Natural Resources. These "matching grants" can be used for major projects that support a state park's master plan. We proposed a project to restore the Fern Trail boardwalk which is often flooded well in to the summer months. This trail is designated as Newport State Park's wheelchair accessible trail.

In March 2020 the DNR approved a \$20,000 "matching" grant for this project. Although the coronavirus pandemic with the "stay-at-home" recommendations has slowed our start, we are hopeful we can begin later this summer. This project may take several years and many volunteer hours to complete.

Secondly, at the beginning of this fiscal year, the NWS completed repairs to the Hotz gate. This was possible through volunteer support and a significant donation to cover expenses. A local mason was hired and along with park staff the restoration of the gate was completed in August 2019. Preparations were started for a dedication ceremony to thank the many people who donated their time and money to complete this repair. That celebration was planned for this summer, 2020. This celebration has been postponed for this year.

The SARS-Cov 2 virus has limited our ability to maintain some of our connections over the past few months. It's not merely an epidemic that has affected Newport State Park and Door County, but everyone in the world. It is truly a pandemic.

Thank you and stay safe and healthy.

Planned Giving is a way for you to participate in the future of the Newport Wilderness Society

by Jim Black

Planned giving is a donation made through a will or other formal designation. The donor has the necessary documents prepared by a financial planner or estate attorney. Most often the donation is made upon someone's death through a will or trust, but not always. Some of the forms of planned giving include:

- Bequest in a will naming the Newport Wilderness Society as a recipient of your gift.
- Bequest via a living trust provides you with control of your funds during your lifetime and is a revocable gift during your life.
- Life insurance naming the Newport Wilderness Society as beneficiary and owner of a life insurance policy results in a large gift with little cost, and there may be tax advantages.
- Designation of Newport Wilderness Society as a beneficiary in a Retirement Plan or IRA may avoid huge tax burdens while benefiting the Newport Wilderness Society.
- Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust, Charitable Remainder Trust and Charitable Lead Trust may provide a tax advantage while benefiting the Newport Wilderness Society.

Contact your financial planner, or estate attorney, to further explore the various options. Please contact the **Newport Wilderness Society, at PO Box 187, Ellison Bay, WI 54210** to let us know you have included us in your planned giving.



Exempt Organizations Select Check

[Exempt Organizations Select Check Home](#)

Organizations Eligible to Receive Tax-Deductible Charitable Contributions (Pub. 78 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: < Prev | 1-1 | Next >

EIN	Legal Name (Doing Business As)	City	State	Country	Deductibility Status
39-1536852	Newport Wilderness Society Inc.	Liberal Mo	MO	United States	DC

 < Prev | 1-1 | Next >

Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions

Strengthening Wisconsin's Financial Future

Search for: [Search](#) [Advanced Search](#) [Data Availability](#)

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	<u>THE NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY, INC.</u> 06 - Non-Stock Corporation	08/26/1985	Incorporated/Qualified/Registered 08/25/1985

2018 Newport Wilderness Society Annual Meeting Minutes

July 27, 2019

Newport State Park Shelter

Call to Order: Gene Kenny called the meeting to order at 9:30AM. All present enjoyed coffee and sweets from Kick Ash Coffee Shop.

President's Introductory Remarks: Gene welcomed all to the 34th NWS Annual Meeting as a member of the Office of the President. He explained that this is a three person group composed of board members and only in effect in the absence of a President. The President's Report in the packet contains information as to why the Society now has an "Office of the President". It has been a very good year for the Park and the Society. He called on everyone to read the Annual Report Packet as it contains much more detailed information than presented during the meeting. He noted the board members present and thanked them for their service. 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, Candle Light Ski, Earth Day Workday, and the Every Day is Earth Day Conference. Other significant events were the Gibraltar students building of bat houses, the bat census, and the Hotz gate rebuild. The summer weekly programs have been well attended with the Thursday hikes averaging over twenty folks.

In addition to adding The Office of the President the board added two committees. First the Communications Committee which has revised Membership Brochures and created the "North Star News" - a full color monthly newsletter detailing park activities. Check this out on the web site. The second new group is for Long Range Planning. Their goal is to enable the Park to apply for matching grants for significant needs, such as the rebuild of the Fern Trail boardwalk.

Other committees have had outstanding years and Gene suggested that we read their reports in the packet.

We continue to have excellent feedback and interest in our Dark Sky Status.

The final paragraph of the President's Report reads - "...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!"

Park Manager's Remarks: Michelle thanked the Society and referenced its critical importance to the Park's continued success and strong reputation in Door County and northeast Wisconsin. Dark Sky recognition has made Newport a destination park be-

yond its reputation of providing a great camping experience. In 2018 we had 195,000 visitors. We now have a Northern Door Astronomy Club that uses our new telescope.

Treasurer's Report: Jeanne Rabel reported. The full report is in the packet. We continue to be on solid financial footing. Expenses were up approximately \$4,000 and income up \$8,000.

Recognition for Departing Board Members: Dick Smythe and Neil Smith both are reluctantly leaving the board due to family commitments. Both have been quite important to the success of the Society's efforts and will be sorely missed! Stay in touch!

Nominating Committee Report: Gene introduced Terry Heidenreiter and Jim Black as the two newest board members. Both were nominated and elected to the board. Bios for both are in the packet. The Society is so pleased to have them on board. We now have twelve board members and could still use a couple more! Others who joined the board earlier this year are Carol Ash, Julia Keeper, and Brian Schimp.

Motion to dispense with other Committee Reports: Gene 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.

Beth Bartoli: Spoke to her being so pleased to have the opportunity to be the park naturalist. The Monarch Larva Monitoring Project is going well. We have had many successful raisings in the Monarch nursery. Bat numbers are up this year and we plan to install the houses this fall. Weekly events are well attended. North Star News has had much positive feedback. We have a full schedule of events set for Wilderness Days.

Closing Remarks: Gene thanked all for coming and reminded everyone to read the 2019 Annual Report.

With good weather we should have an excellent Perseid Meteor event on August 12th.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:15.

Respectfully submitted

Dave Vermillion