



North Star News

January/February, 2021

Upcoming Events

(No events scheduled at this time)

NWS Board meeting
February 5th via Zoom

Dear members and friends,

Winter is typically a quiet time at Newport. This year, even with the minimal amount of snow we have received to date, visitors have been steady, particularly on the weekends. There were a few decent weeks of snow and mild temperatures, and people were out enjoying winter activities.

If you are looking for Annual Vehicle Stickers, the park office drive up window is open on Saturdays, from 10:00-2:00. You can also purchase at: <https://yourpassnow.com/ParkPass/wi>

NWS News

Board meetings are still being held via Zoom, as per COVID safety procedures. The DNR has announced that the protocol being followed now (offices closed, no programs, no volunteers in buildings) will be in effect until April. No official word about what will happen come summer.

The Fern Trail reconstruction plan is still moving along, albeit slowly. More information on that will be forthcoming when available.

The Candlelight Ski has been cancelled for this year.

Mark Glasser reports the following about the Volunteer Group:

“Our Newport State Park volunteers had two workdays this past fall. In October, we cleaned the outside of the Visitor Center. In November we did a general cleanup of the trails in preparation for the skiing season. As we write this, we are still waiting for the skiing season to begin! Thank you, volunteers, and we are looking forward to many more fun times ahead in 2021.”

If you are interested in volunteering on projects at the park and would like to be contacted, you can get in touch with Mark at: markglasser8@gmail.com.

Park Manager Michelle Hefty Retires



Thank you Michelle!

The Newport Wilderness Society would like to recognize and thank Michelle Hefty for her 32 years of service to Newport State Park.

The make up of the Wilderness Society Board of Directors has changed periodically throughout the course of her tenure. But the management of this great park was a constant since 1989 due to her leadership.

Under her guidance, staff and volunteers have accomplished many things including the building of the Nature Center with the fundraising efforts and donations from our society and grants from the Knowles – Nelson Grant Program.

Newport State Park has been recognized through numerous awards from the WI Department of Natural Resources, Friends of WI State Parks as well as the International Dark Sky Association. It is recognized as one of the gems of Door County and the State of Wisconsin.

We want to thank Michelle for her service, leadership and wish her all the best in retirement.

Newport Wilderness Society

Board of Directors

Newport State Park Masks Available Now!

Check out the beautiful new masks featuring Newport's Dark sky! The double fabric mask with nose wire features Denny Moutray's photo of the Milky Way. It is available at Kick Ash Products in Ellison Bay or at the park office drive up window on Saturdays, between 10:00-2:00. If you would like one shipped to you, you can call the office on Tuesday or Saturday and Beth will be glad to take your information and ship it out to you. Cost of the mask is \$15.00 (plus \$4.00 S & H).



New masks!

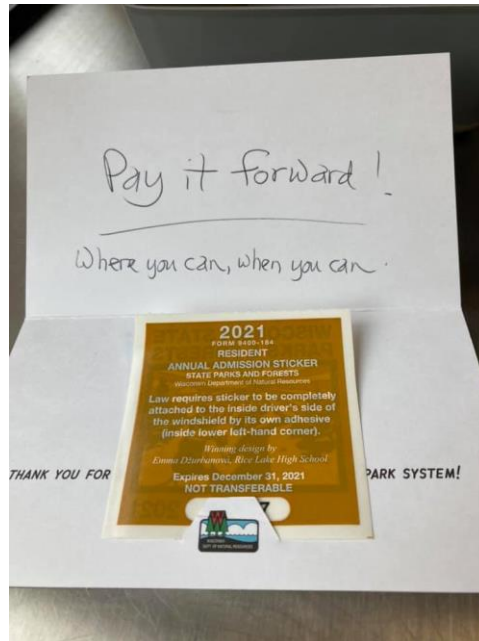
Remember that NWS/Newport merchandise is available at Kick Ash Coffee/Door County Love Artisan Granola in downtown Ellison Bay! They are open Tuesday–Saturday, 8-3 and Sunday 8-1. Closed Mondays.

Good Things Happening at the Park

With all the negative things we've been bombarded with, here's a feel good story that happened at Newport.

One Saturday, a man stopped at the window and asked to purchase an annual sticker. He already had one on his car so was asked if he needed an additional one. He replied that it wasn't for him, it was for the next person in line.

His message is in the card. The young couple that came up after him were thrilled to be the recipient of such a kind gesture.



Dark Sky Video Narrated by Beth Bartoli

Newport Naturalist Beth Bartoli worked with [Brett Kosmider](#) of [Peninsula Filmworks](#) to narrate a beautiful video about the magic of the dark sky that we are fortunate to enjoy at the park. The video was a project of Destination Door County and can be [viewed on YouTube here](#).

Learn more about dark sky viewing and how to prepare for your nighttime visit to Newport State Park [here on our website](#).



Support Newport Wilderness Society

The generous support that we receive through donations helps us fund a wide variety of programs and projects at Newport State Park. For example:

- The Park Naturalist salary is fully underwritten by NWS.
- Funding of educational programs, presentations and events at the park.
- Trail maintenance and grooming equipment (partial funding).
- Telescopes, binoculars, and accessories for Dark Sky astronomy programs.
- Books, equipment, and supplies used in the Nature Center.
- Development and management of informational kiosks and displays.
- Development and printing of brochures and other informational materials for visitors.
- NWS has fully- or partially-funded several infrastructure improvement projects in the park.

Your donations ensure that the work of Newport Wilderness Society continues. To donate easily and securely, [see this page on our website](#). Thank you so much for your support!



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.