

Newport Wilderness Society, Inc.

2021 Annual Report

A Not-for-Profit Friends Group

for

Newport State Park
Door County, Wisconsin

July 2021

friendsofnewport.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

Executive Committee

Mary Lyons, Greg Wilde
Gene Kenny
Office of the President

(see below)

Mary Lyons (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 (2023)
Treasurer

Retired federal civil service employee with an MBA in health care administration and healthcare 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 (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. 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, 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.

Board of Directors (continued)

- 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 (2024) 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 (2023) 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.
- 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.

Board of Directors (continued)

Kari Hagenow (2023)

Kari fell in love with Newport while spending time in the Park conducting surveys for the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II. She currently works for The Nature Conservancy as the Door Peninsula Land Steward, managing conservation lands that include the Mink River Estuary adjacent to Newport. She also previously served seven years as the coordinator for the Door County Invasive Species Team. In her free time she enjoys running, hiking and camping with her husband Tyler, new son Edwin, and their dog Brewer.

NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY Committee Assignments

2020-2021 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

NOMINATING – open, Chair

MEMBERSHIP & FUND RAISING – Greg Wilde, Chair

NATURE INTERPRETATION AND STEWARDSHIP - open, Chair

MERCHANDISING - Terry Heidenreiter, Chair

VOLUNTEER SERVICES – Karen Studebaker/Mark Glasser, Chairs

COMMUNICATIONS – Deb Ford and Julia Keeper, Chairs

LONG RANGE PLANNING - Gene Kenny, Chair

Office of the President's Report

By Greg Wilde

It would be easy to think that there would be little to report on 2020 activities within Newport State Park. After all, with pandemic protocols in place, park offices were fully closed, staff was sent home, all programs were cancelled, and no support services were in place. And yet --- the park had close to 260,000 visitors last year! That is by far the most visitors ever registered and a whopping 36% increase over 2019. Both July and August registered more than 40,000 visitors. Campsites were fully reserved well into late fall. There is so much to be said for the value of an escape to the wilderness park.

In spite of complications associated with working in a lockdown environment, much was accomplished by the Newport Wilderness Society board. Meetings were conducted via Zoom. Our newsletter, North Star News, was conceived and has been published on a monthly basis. Planning moved forward on our significant Fern Trail Project, rebuilding the Park's only handicap accessible trail. Trail maintenance and small park projects were handled by individual volunteers rather than through organized workdays.

As we return to normal schedules and activities, we were reminded in 2020 of the value of the park we support.

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 table illustrates the net worth of NWS over the past five fiscal years.

NET WORTH					
	As of	As of	As of	As of	As of
	6/30/2017	6/30/2018	6/30/2019	6/30/2020	6/30/2021
Cash-Nicolet Checking	\$ 3,367	\$ 4,600	\$ 9,687	\$ 22,719	\$ 27,285
Cash-Nicolet Savings	\$ 15,151	\$ 11,166	\$ 17,729	\$ 21,748	\$ 41,764
Cash-Nicolet-Pay Pal	\$ 254	\$ 355	\$ 200	\$ 397	\$ 1,736
Cash on Hand	\$ 2,179	\$ -	\$ 705	\$ -	\$ 408
Subtotal	\$ 20,951	\$ 16,121	\$ 28,321	\$ 44,864	\$ 71,193
Merchandise Inventory	\$ 5,938	\$ 10,010	\$ 5,912	\$ 18,389	\$ 10,547
RBC Operating Fund Investment	\$ 65,543	\$ 79,248	\$ 80,470	\$ 79,995	\$ 97,925
RBC Endowment Fund Investment	\$ 95,225	\$ 106,751	\$ 117,598	\$ 119,493	\$ 152,970
Total Assets	\$ 187,657	\$ 212,130	\$ 232,301	\$ 262,741	\$ 332,635
Total Liabilities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Net Worth	\$ 187,657	\$ 212,130	\$ 232,301	\$ 262,741	\$ 332,635

The checking account still contains a \$10,000 donation from the Department of Natural Resources for the Fern Trail Restoration Project. This project is been on hold.

NWS relies primarily on donations and secondarily on merchandise sales and membership dues to fund Park programs. This year we were fortunate to receive \$24,459 in donations, but that was down by about \$6,000 from the previous year. Members were offered a complimentary extension of their membership for this fiscal year, but NWS still received over \$1,800 in membership dues donations. Merchandise sales declined this year due to the closure of the park office, but fortunately Kick Ash Coffee allowed us to sell merchandise at their store so we were able to realize about \$10,000 in sales.

Expenses for the fiscal year totaled \$9,158 spent primarily on merchandise inventory and some administrative expenses (e.g. insurance, membership roster maintenance).

For this upcoming year, it is hoped that the Fern Trail Restoration Project will begin. A fund-raising effort will be established in order to request grants from organizations. To date NWS has raised \$15,650 with another \$10,000 promised so far in grant funding for trail restoration.

NWS will also be funding an update of the history kiosk near Parking Lot 3.

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. Both funds had healthy returns during this fiscal year. The Endowment fund increased by \$33,477 and the Operating Fund increased by \$17,930.

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

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

by Gene Kenny

Two new candidates joined the NWS Board of Directors this past year and will present for approval of the full membership at the annual meeting.

First, Kari Hagenow joined the board in October of 2020. She currently works for the Nature Conservancy as the Door Peninsula Land Steward, managing conservation lands that include the Mink River Estuary. She also served seven years as the coordinator for the Door County Invasive Species Team.

Secondly, Rosemary Kluge offered to serve on the NWS Board of Directors at the June 2021 meeting.

Rosemary retired in 2017 as a Senior Vice-President/Director in finance and data management in corporate banking. She was born in Ellison Bay (1 of 10 Grasse children) but lived most of her adult life out of WI. She served in US Army stationed in South Korea and in Germany. Rosemary is active at the YMCA, gardens, and volunteers at several organizations.

We are fortunate to have such capable volunteers to help manage the park we all care for so deeply.

Membership Committee Report

By Greg Wilde

The economic hardships associated with the pandemic, lockdown orders, and a shelter-in-place lifestyle give pause to fundraising and membership activities. All individual,

family, and business memberships were extended to the end of 2021 with renewal fees waived. We felt it difficult to solicit memberships from businesses with no access to customers. As such, our membership base remains the same as 2020: 77 individual members and 151 family members. We have 23 business members listed below:

Grasses Grill LLC, Sister Bay
Sister Bay Bowl, Sister Bay
Kick Ash Products LLC, Ellison Bay
Pirate's Cove Adventure Golf, Sister Bay
State Farm Insurance, Sturgeon Bay
The Last Stop, Ellison Bay
JJ's & Waterfront Restaurants, Sister Bay
Jungwirth Ace Hardware, LLC, Sister Bay
Ecology Sports, Sister Bay
Jerry's Flowers, Sister Bay

Blue Dolphin House, Ephraim
Shoreline Restaurant LLC, Gills Rock
Sister Bay Advancement Assoc, Sister Bay
Twisted Tree At The Pharm, Sister Bay
Door County North, Ellison Bay
Champeau Flooring Covering, Sister Bay
The Clearing, Ellison Bay
Timothy D. Tishler, DDS, Ltd, Sister Bay
Voight Enterprises, Sister Bay
Bay Shore Outfitters, Sister Bay

We hope you will support these businesses who have invested in our park.

NATURE INTERPRETATION AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

by Mark Glasser

As we look ahead to the upcoming year, we are excited about resuming the naturalist and interpretation programs at Newport. These may include: Arbor Day hike, First 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. We are also continuing our OutWiGo hikes.

For information on all of our activities, please visit our website. You may also subscribe to our monthly newsletter.

MERCHANDISE COMMITTEE REPORT

by Terry Heidenreiter

Fiscal year 2021 showed a marked decrease in merchandise sales due to the closing of the visitors' center during the pandemic. We had some significant improvement during the last six months after Kick Ash Coffee in Ellison Bay began selling our products. Additionally, Kick Ash is selling a new coffee roast, Dark Sky, with a portion of the proceeds going to NWS. With the reopening of the Park office and continued placement of our merchandise at Kick Ash, fiscal year 2022 should return us to our pre-pandemic merchandise sales earnings.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES COMMITTEE

by Mark Glasser

Volunteering at Newport State Park is a great way to give back to the community, meet new friends and have fun outdoors during all 4 seasons. There are many ways to be involved and getting started requires joining our internet-based communication tool: groups.io. This is the way we communicate volunteer opportunities to everyone and share thoughts on what work needs to be done.

Listed below are just of the volunteer opportunities throughout the year:

- 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.
- Every Day is Earth Day Conference
- Trail work, clearing brush, removing invasive plants, etc.
- Working in the office (background check required)
- Special projects, such as: updating displays and kiosks; making signs; helping in the Nature Center.
- Cross-country ski trail grooming.

To join our volunteer groups, please send an email to markglasser8@gmail.com and indicate your interest in becoming a Newport State Park volunteer.

Communications Committee Report

By Deb Ford

It was a productive year for NWS Communications. Board member Deb Ford redesigned and updated the NWS **website**, which is now found at <https://friendsofnewport.org>. It features a stream-lined event calendar and secure pages to join NWS, renew memberships, or donate to NWS. It is packed with articles and information about park resources, park history, and information about NWS and the work we do at Newport.

The NWS monthly **e-newsletter** *North Star News* also received a style make-over. It reaches over 300 subscribers and provides information about park programs and articles written by Park Naturalist Beth Bartoli and members of the NWS Board.

The NWS **Facebook page** has over 1,600 followers. We also rely on our local newspapers to help get the word out about naturalist-led programs and NWS events at the park.

Board member Julia Keepper is researching and, with Beth Bartoli, coordinating the redesign of the park's Newport History kiosk near Lot 3. We hope to have it installed later in 2021.

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

by Gene Kenny

Despite limited volunteer accessibility for park activities during the past fiscal year, planning for the Fern Trail boardwalk restoration has continued. Improved wheelchair accessibility for this trail is an important goal for the Newport Wilderness Society, park management and the WI DNR.

During this fiscal year, a tentative construction plan was approved by the DNR Engineering Department. However, wood prices and availability, have slowed the start of the project. Since closure of the trail will be required for safety during removal of the existing boardwalk and construction, a temporary pause is in place.

The Knowles -Nelson Grant, which provided an initial \$20,000 toward this improvement, extends until June 30, 2023. Fundraising will also continue this year.

Legacy Giving - Everything from Trail Maintenance To a Bequest

By Jim Black

Legacy Giving, also known as planned giving, is the gift of something given to following generations. The gift can be a tree, an act, a bequest, or just about anything which enhances following generations. As Nelson Henderson said. "The true meaning of life is to plant trees; under whose shade you do not expect to sit."

The acts of the many volunteers pulling invasive plant species not only improve the immediate, they stave off the invasive species from taking over, thus preserving Newport for following generations. The act of including Newport Wilderness Society in your estate plans not only offers the immediate good feelings of gifting, it financially provides for the well being of Newport for following generations.

There are many ways to volunteer at Newport. Simply go to friendsofnewport.org under the drop-down menu "support us". There are many ways to include Newport Wilderness Society in your estate planning. Simply ask your estate attorney or financial planner for what is best for you.

Newport Wilderness Society Annual Meeting Minutes

There was no annual meeting last year due to the pandemic.



Exempt Organizations Select Check

[Correct Organization Select Check Errors](#)

Organizations Eligible to Receive Tax-Deductible Charitable Contributions (Pub. 70 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:

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EIN	Legal Name (Doing Business As)	City	State	Country	Deductibility Status
30-1526862	Newport Wilderness Society, Inc.	Forest Park	WI	United States	FC

« Prev | 1-1 | Next »

Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions

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