



Newport Wilderness Society, Inc.

2023 Annual Report

A Not-for-Profit Friends Group

for

Newport State Park
Door County, Wisconsin

<https://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

Note: the date in paranthesis is when the Board Member's term expires.

Carol Ash (2025)

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 (2025)

Jim Black retired as an attorney after 34 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 (2025)

Deb retired from nursing and moved to Ellison Bay from northern California in 2019. She is an avid birder and recreational photographer. She enjoys exploring Newport in all seasons and is very happy to help support the work of NWS.

Mark Glasser (2023)

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.

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 Northeast WI Land Steward, where she does conservation planning and manages lands that include the Mink River Estuary adjacent to Newport. From 2012-2018, Kari was also the coordinator for the Door County Invasive Species Team. In her free time, she enjoys running, hiking, birding and camping with her husband, Tyler, and son, Edwin.
Terry Heidenreiter (2023)	Terry Heidenreiter is a retired Army nurse who lives in Ellison Bay. 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)	Gene 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 (2025)

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. Julia loves everything about being outdoors in Door County and has been a frequent visitor to Newport State Park since childhood.

Jann Kostecke (2026)

Jann is originally from Kansas City but has lived in Appleton, Wisconsin for many years. She has worked as an accountant for over 40 years, mostly at large companies, and has been happily self-employed most recently. She and her husband Keith own a home in Liberty Grove and spend every minute they can in Door County. Jann enjoys spending time at Newport State Park hiking or snowshoeing in the woods and listening to the birds.

Jeanne Rabel (2023)

A retired federal civil service employee with an MBA in health care administration and healthcare finance. She lives in Ellison Bay and enjoys hiking and snowshoeing at Newport.

Dave Vermillion (2024)

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.

Greg Wilde (2023)

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

2022-2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mark Glasser - President
Jim Black - Vice President
Kari Hagenow - Secretary
Jann Kostecke - Treasurer
Deb Ford - Member

NOMINATING – Mark Glasser, Chair

FINANCE – Jim Black

MEMBERSHIP & FUND RAISING – Greg Wilde, Chair

NATURE INTERPRETATION & STEWARDSHIP – Kari Hagenow, Chair

MERCHANDISING - Terry Heidenreiter, Chair

VOLUNTEER SERVICES – Mark Glasser, Chair

COMMUNICATIONS – Deb Ford and Julia Keepper, Chairs

LONG RANGE PLANNING - Gene Kenny, Chair

President's Report

By Mark Glasser

Thank you for reading our Annual Report and for your support of the Newport Wilderness Society! Without you and the many others who donate their time and resources, we would not be able to accomplish our mission at Newport State Park.

The Newport Wilderness Society experienced an exceptional year for Fiscal 2023. (Please note that our fiscal year is from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, coinciding with the DNR's fiscal year.) Membership and revenues were strong, volunteer hours grew, and multiple projects were completed to enhance accessibility and enjoyment of the Park visitors. Your Board of Directors was active and supportive of all the work that was completed. In particular, I would like to thank Terry Heidenreiter, Jeanne Rabel, and Greg Wilde for their service as they leave the Board. Terry managed our merchandise sales which has continued to grow, Jeanne spent countless hours managing our finances as Treasurer, and Greg served as Co-President while also leading our Membership Committee.



As you read further in our Annual Report, the scope of our accomplishments in this fiscal year will be detailed. It is something we can all take pride in

In closing, I would like to again thank you for your support. If you have not been as involved as you might like to be, please let me know as we welcome all volunteers and supporters!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jann Kostecke, 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 Finance Committee and the NWS Board of Directors.

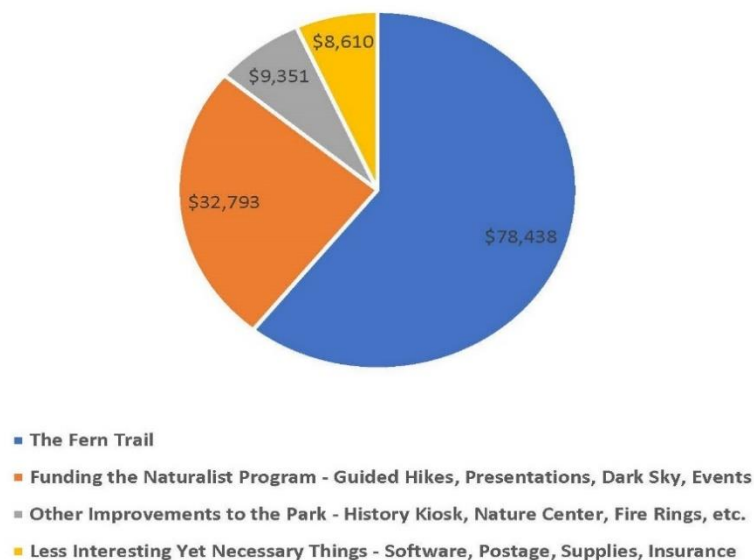
The following graph illustrates the net worth of NWS over the past 5 fiscal years.

BALANCE SHEET SUMMARY NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY

	June-19	June-20	June-21	June-22	June-23
Cash and Savings	\$ 28,321	\$ 44,864	\$ 71,193	\$ 170,839	\$ 136,436
Investments	198,068	199,488	250,895	232,717	261,858
Inventory and Other	5,912	18,389	10,547	9,916	12,944
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 232,301	\$ 262,741	\$ 332,635	\$ 413,472	\$ 411,238
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-	-	-	-	2,289
TOTAL NET WORTH	\$ 232,301	\$ 262,741	\$ 332,635	\$ 413,472	\$ 408,949

The financial position of Newport Wilderness Society remains strong. NWS had more expenses last year related to the park and the Fern Trail project, yet the asset balances only decreased slightly. Donations and grants were \$86,123 in F2023, versus \$113,665 in F2022. The chart below summarizes our expenditures in F2023.

What Does Your Donation Pay For?



NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

by Mark Glasser

The following Board Members are up for re-election to another 3-year term, unless noted otherwise, at the Annual Meeting. They are:

Mark Glasser
Kari Hagenow
Gene Kenny

We have 4 new Board members that are nominated this year for a vote at the Annual Meeting. They are:

Maureen Flatley
Rick Foster
Larry Gales
Sherry Seubert

Terry Heidenreiter, Jeanne Rabel, and Greg Wilde will be leaving the Board and we thank them for their many years of service.

Membership Committee Report

By Greg Wilde

Nothing speaks to the health and heart of NWS members than when plans are announced for a major construction project in our park --- and it will be built by our volunteers!

The first phase of the reconstruction of the elevated, handicap-accessible Fern Trail was built last fall. During October and November, more than 50 volunteers contributed 1231 hours of their time to finish the 600-foot section boardwalk. It is an amazing structure built by amazing people. The remaining 1200 feet of boardwalk will be completed this summer and fall. Again, all done by friends who support NSP.

We are very fortunate to have a loyal and committed group of businesses who support Newport State Park and the Newport Wilderness Society. These businesses are listed below:

Al Johnsons Restaurant & Butik, Sister Bay, WI
Chompeau Flooring, Sister Bay, WI
Door County North, Ellison Bay, WI
Ecology Sports, Sister Bay, WI
Ellison Bay Service Club, Ellison Bay, WI
Gills Rock Coffee, Gills Rock, WI
Grasse's Grill, Sister Bay, WI
Henriksen Fisheries, Ellison Bay, WI
Husby's Food & Spirits, Sister Bay, WI
Innovative Printing, Sister Bay, WI
Island Orchard Cider, Ellison Bay, WI
Jerry's Flowers, Sister Bay, WI
Kick Ash Coffee, Ellison Bay, WI
Nicolet National Bank, Sturgeon Bay, WI
Pirate's Cove Adventure Golf, Sister Bay, WI
Sister Bay Advancement Associates, Sister Bay, WI
Sister Bay Bowl, Sister Bay, WI
Twisted Tree at the Pharm, Sister Bay, WI
Wagon Trail Campground, Ellison Bay, WI
Washington Island Ferry, Washington Island, WI
Wickman House, Ellison Bay, WI
Wolfe Horticulture, Fish Creek, WI

We hope you will support the organizations who have invested in our park.

NATURE INTERPRETATION AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

By Beth Bartoli, Naturalist

During the last year, approximately 1700 visitors enjoyed taking part in over 60 programs offered at Newport in 2022. OutWiGo Challenge hikes took us through the summer and into the fall, as well as many seasonal offerings to learn about flora, fauna, trees, geology and park history. Our annual First Day Hike was well attended, as were the ever-popular Candlelight ski and Perseid Meteor shower events. Dark Sky viewing programs continue to be a substantial draw. I am proud of the fact that we continue our commitment to preserving and protecting our dark skies for future generations. Newport Wilderness Society volunteers continue to put in the hard work to help make these events happen.

Ever supportive of continuing education, NWS provided funding for me to attend a four-day certification training offered by the National Association for Interpretation. My presentation was well received, and I was awarded a Certified Interpretive Guide certification, which is good for four years. You may learn more about NAI here: <https://www.interpnet.com/>

As Newport's naturalist, I feel it is a rare privilege to be able to connect with returning and new visitors alike. This would not be possible without NWS's unwavering support.

MERCHANDISE COMMITTEE REPORT

by Terry Heidenreiter

While FY 2022 showed a significant increase in merchandise sales over FY 2020 and 2021, FY 2023 had a decrease of nearly 26%. Sales for the first eleven months of the fiscal year were \$23,000 compared to \$30,000 in FY 2022. Part of this decrease may have been caused by problems with our credit card machine and by limitations in park office opening hours in 2023. Hopefully, this will not recur in 2024. Kick Ash sales continued strong in 2023 with 28% of total sales receipts.

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. To indicate your interest in becoming a volunteer, please go to our website, friendsofnewport.org, and click on “volunteer”.

Looking back on the last year, our volunteers worked on projects including the Fern Trail boardwalk, tree planting, brush removal, perennial garden, building new Leopold benches, Nature Center renewal, and kiosk roof replacements. Looking ahead, here are some of the volunteer opportunities where you can help enhance the Park:

- Candlelight Ski
- Perseid Meteor Shower event
- 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.
- Cross-country ski trail grooming.
- Boardwalk construction
- Monitoring birds and butterflies

We look forward to having you join us a volunteer. You will have a good time, make new friends, and make a difference as we support the Park!

Communications Committee Report

By Deb Ford

The NWS Communications Committee (Julia Keepper, Deb Ford, Carol Ash, and Beth Bartoli) utilize a variety of media to publicize information about park programs, volunteer opportunities, and NWS projects at Newport.

The NWS **website** is found at <https://friendsofnewport.org>. It features a stream-lined event calendar and secure pages to join NWS, to renew memberships, or to make a donation. It is packed with articles and information about park resources, park history, and about NWS and the work we do at Newport.

The NWS monthly **e-newsletter** *North Star News* continues to grow. It reaches over 450 subscribers, providing information about park programs and articles written by Park Naturalist Beth Bartoli and members of the NWS Board. The NWS **Facebook page** has over 1,800 followers. We also rely on our local newspapers to help get the word out about naturalist-led programs and NWS events at the park.

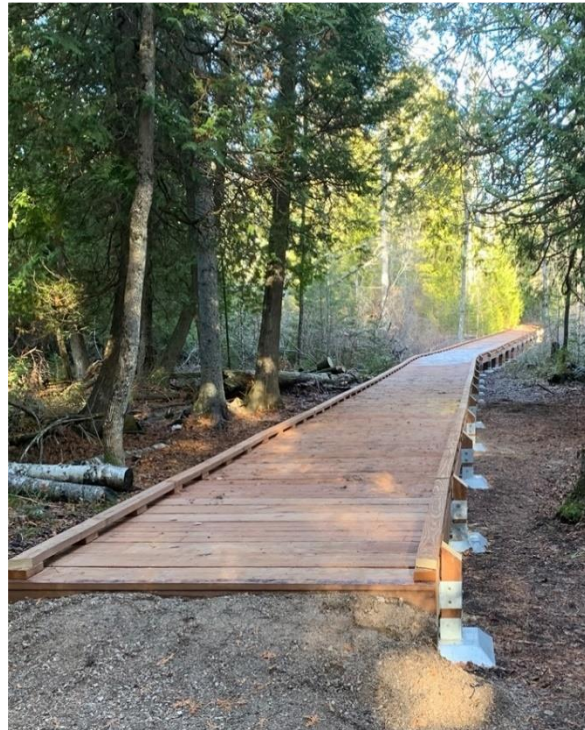
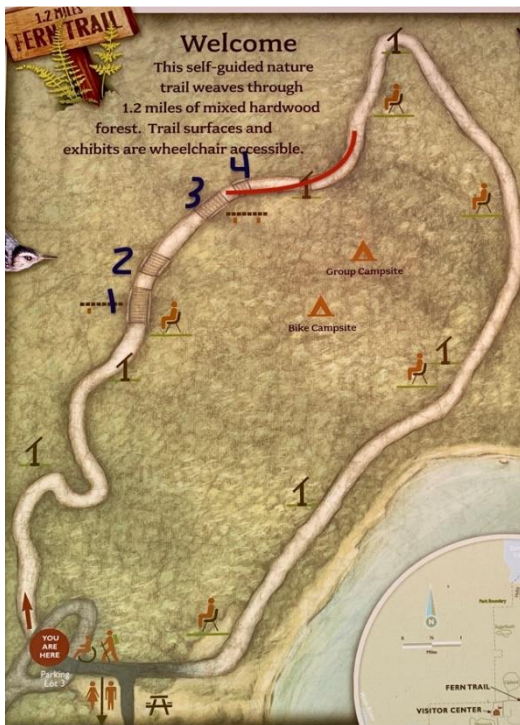
Our Newport Friends and Volunteers email group was created to help us organize and communicate volunteer needs at the park. It can be found at: <https://newportfriendsandvolunteers.groups.io/g/main>. We now reach 110 enthusiastic people for help with a variety of projects and events.

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

by Gene Kenny

The Long Range Planning Committee had a very successful year thanks to our wonderful Newport Wilderness Society volunteers.

Our primary focus was the Fern Trail boardwalk restoration. Boardwalk drawings were approved by the DNR Engineering Department in late July 2022. The NWS proceeded with ordering materials for the first 600 feet of boardwalk and construction began on September 24th.

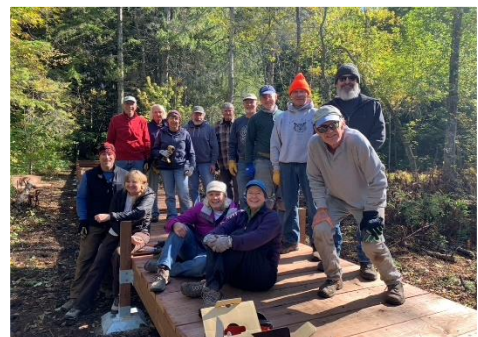


Over the following 10 weeks, 50 volunteers put in more than 1200 hours in the construction of the boardwalk. The first section was completed at the northernmost portion of the flooded area. One of the previous 4 ground-level boardwalk areas was covered.



Materials including frames, wood and hardware should be delivered in late June and work on the next 1200 feet of boardwalk will begin in July.

The fund raising committee identified several sources of funding this year and the NWS was granted a Phase II matching grant from the Knowles-Nelson grant program. Individual members and business members have again shown their tremendous generosity and commitment to Newport State Park.



Legacy Giving

By Jim Black

“When you are intimately connected to the forest through all five of your senses you feel restored and refreshed.” (From Shinrin Yoku the Japanese initiative which encourages people to spend more time in nature.) There are many ways to help ensure the forests are protected, one of which is financially through donations to the Newport Wilderness Society. One way to donate to Newport Wilderness Society is a gift through your will, a bequest, trust, annuity, insurance or other planned or deferred gift. This is an important way you can preserve Newport State Park for future generations!

If you have already named the *Newport Wilderness Society* in your estate planning documents, please let us know so we may thank you.

For information about including the Newport Wilderness Society in your planned giving through your will, bequest, trust, insurance, or other planned giving please contact NWS at: Newport Wilderness Society P.O. Box 187, Ellison Bay, WI 54210, or your financial planner or estate attorney.

Newport Wilderness Society Annual Meeting Minutes

July 30, 2022

Newport Park Shelter

Call to Order: On a beautiful clear Saturday morning the meeting was called to order at 9:00AM by Mark Glasser with 27 folks present. All enjoyed coffee and tasty treats supplied by Kick Ash coffee.

President's Remarks: Mark welcomed everyone to the 37th NWS Annual Meeting. All board members present were introduced and thanked for their service. While Covid restrictions continued to affect programming the Park has had a very good year. Attendance continues to be strong as folks realize that hiking the trails is outside in the fresh air and carries little risk of catching the virus.

Mark mentioned several of the accomplishments of 2021/2022. The shelter was painted and repaired. A new wildlife garden was put in near the nature center by volunteers from the Clearing. The History Kiosk by the lake was rebuilt with new information postings. New fire rings have been ordered. Gene will speak to the Fern Trail.

Deb Ford and the Communications Committee were just outstanding in expanding and developing the newsletter and informing the membership of volunteer opportunities.

Gene Kenny was asked about the Fern Trail and he reported that the first 600 feet of boardwalk has been ordered to arrive mid-September. There are 70 – 80 folks that have volunteered but more are needed and welcome.

Treasurers Report: Jeanne reported that we have had a good year financially. We have had \$132,000 income and only \$32,000 in expenses. Fern trail expenses will soon amount to more than \$100,000. Jeanne gave special thanks to Carol Ash for coffee donations and the table in her shop loaded with park items. Dark Sky Coffee sales have been wonderful.

Nominating Committee: Jan Kostecke has been nominated to be a board member and will be joining at the next board meeting.

Park Manager: Brian Grube started in February as manager of both Newport and Rock Island. While most recently in Arizona he and his wife are natives of Wisconsin and so pleased to return. She grew up in Sturgeon Bay. He is listening and learning at present. Some changes coming are the Fern Trail rebuild, an Equestrian Trail, and five new campsites. The Equestrian Trail and new campsites are in early planning stage. There will probably be an electronic Kiosk at the Visitor Center.

Recognition for Departing Board Members: Mary Hanson-Lyons and Greg Wilde were warmly thanked for their service and given Newport baseball hats.

Motion to Dispense with the reading of the 2022 NWS Annual Report: Moved, seconded, and passed.

Motion to dispense with the reading of other Committee Reports: Moved, seconded, and passed.

Closing Remarks: Mark asked for comments and questions. Some attendees thanked the board for another year of progress even though hampered somewhat by Covid.
Adjournment was at 9:50AM

Sincerely
Dave Vermillion
August 8, 2022