
Friends



Advocate

of Devil's Lake
State Park

Volume 22 Number 4

Fall 2018

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acres) that encompasses much of the area near Devil's Doorway and the South Bluff/Devil's Nose State Natural Area (3492 acres) as well. My point about all this? There is always something more to learn about Devil's Lake no matter how many times you visit.

Like me, I'm sure many of you who frequent the Park have gotten to know it as I have—a little here, a little more there. Instead, wouldn't it be nice to have a place in the Park where you could easily find all sorts of things out about Devil's Lake? Well, that place is currently in the early stages of development! The concept for such a facility was first envisioned in the 1982 Master Plan for the Park, and now a facility is finally coming to life! The Friends of Devil's Lake, the Devil's Lake Concession Corporation, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources have started working with GWWO Architects. The work is in the early stages and you will be hearing more in the next few months about what and when things are to happen. Exciting times! The FODL Board will endeavor to keep you informed along the way as the facility goes from concept to completion. Stay tuned!

—Dave Barger, FODL President

Ya Learn Something New Every Day

I first visited Devil's Lake more than 50 years ago when my parents would take us kids to have a picnic on a Sunday afternoon. We sure enjoyed the water, but the view of the boulders and bluffs were inviting, so we soon expanded our recreation to include hiking the trails—first around the lake and later up to the bluffs. In time, the number and variety of trails became evident and provided even more ways to enjoy the Park—the possibility of new and unique rock formations made the hikes kinda thrilling. A couple outings in the winter opened up a whole new appreciation for solitude and serenity in a special place on Earth. A little research discovers that nearby are other special places such as the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, Parfrey's Glen State Natural Area, and Pewits Nest State Natural Area, to name a few. Just last month I learned that within the Park is the East Bluff State Natural Area (254

Interpretative Center Update

Our hired architect GWWO and their concept team came to DLSP on October 3 and spent a few days visiting areas within park boundaries in an effort to discover some potential sites for the center. Some of those sites visited were already on the list of potential locations as a component of the park master plan. The master plan had incorporated a center just like what we envision! We were well represented in this first meeting by members of the Wisconsin DNR team, three members of the Devil's Lake Concession Corporation, three board members of Friends of Devil's Lake State Park, and the park Superintendent and Naturalist. One entire day was devoted to walking the proposed sites considering access, ease of visitation, infrastructure (existing and potentially needed), proximity

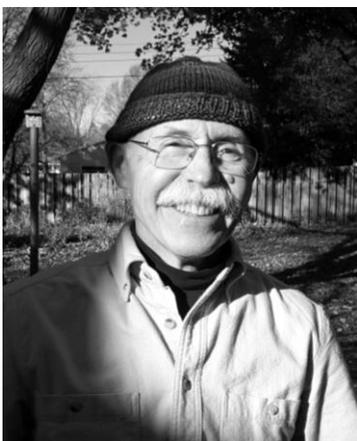
to camping facilities, parking options, and buildability.

Considering that Devil's Lake State Park is the flagship park of the Wisconsin State Park System and on par with National Parks, we had lengthy discussions about natural, cultural, and recreational resources here. In addition, we flushed out our programming needs considering the fact that when school tours come to the Park, the Nature Center can only really comfortably accommodate about 40 people. It just so happened that one of the days when the work team was meeting, the Naturalist had four busloads of kids arrive in the pouring rain. Case in point—there was nowhere to go with them considering hiking was treacherous on slippery rocks. Thus, there is a need for classroom/lecture space, communing space for lunch and outdoor observations, as well as the opportunity to really focus on education through interactive and life-size displays of what Wisconsin's natural beauty has to offer.

As we work through the real needs for the property, as well as wish list items, the intended schedule will include other site meetings, contact with our stakeholders, and a narrowing of potential sites in the Park that might best suit all that we might hope this facility to be.

Our next meeting with the concept design team will be mid-November at which time we will address the project priorities and scheduling of further communication to our members and community stakeholders. This is an exciting process. We will ultimately have a facility with a design and function that will be truly wonderful, bringing out the best of what nature offers at Devil's Lake State Park. Thank you for your patience throughout this process.

Meet New Board Member: Gilbert "Gib" Bird



I was raised in Merrill, Wisconsin enjoying fishing and paddling on the Prairie and Wisconsin Rivers. I left to go to the University of Montana where I earned a BS in zoology and where I worked summers doing fish habitat, big game, and timber surveys for the US Forest Service. After graduation I took a

job with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Florida where I realized that a career there would lead to desks and paperwork.

I returned to Wisconsin to pursue my first love: teaching. Armed with a BA in education I came to Baraboo in 1975 to begin my 31-year career teaching at G.L. Wilson Elementary School. During two summers in the early '80s I worked as an LTE at Devil's Lake.

Over the years my wife, Gail, and I have spent many hours with our family in the Park hiking, swimming, canoeing, rowing, skiing, geocaching, and camping. What a wonderful resource it has been for us! We love it.

So, thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve this great place and The Friends of Devil's Lake.

Meet New Park Employees: Pat and Duane



My name is Pat Cieslewicz and I grew up in Green Bay, WI. I graduated from UW-Stevens Point in 2007 with a degree in biology. I worked at Devil's Lake as an LTE during the summers of 2007 and 2008. I then went on to work for the City of Platteville for nearly 10 years and returned to Devil's Lake as a full-time employee in the winter of

2018. I'm married and have two little boys and enjoy the outdoors and spending time with my family.



My name is Duane Hartwick and I am a Wisconsin native. After graduating high school, I went to boot camp and spent 9 years in the Marine Corps. Upon my discharge I met the woman who is now my wife and have a family with her and our five children. I attended college at Virginia Tech where I got a BS in wildlife science. While attending college, I

worked for the US Forest Service for several years as a recreation technician. I began working as a Park Ranger at Devil's Lake State Park in January of 2018. A park I am familiar with as it is where my parents would bring me and my two sisters to camp when we were children. We are a family that enjoys spending time with family and outdoors. We enjoy camping, fishing, hiking, biking, and hunting.

Upcoming Park Events

Nature Trivia Walk

Saturday, Nov. 3 / Drop-in between 10:00am & 2:30pm

Drop-in anytime between 10:00am and 2:30pm to test your nature knowledge! Stop first at the Nature Center to pick up your clue card, then head down an easy trail and look for the trivia signs along the way. There will be prizes too. It's a great activity for families to get out and enjoy a fall day. Meet at the Nature Center.

Letterboxing Adventure

Saturday, Nov. 17 / Drop-in between 10:00am & 2:30pm

Letterboxing combines elements of hiking and treasure hunting into an activity that the whole family can enjoy. Participants seek out hidden letterboxes by following clues and recording their discovery in their personal journal stamping the rubber stamp that's found in the letterbox. Drop-in anytime between 10:00am and 2:30pm to go on a letterboxing adventure! We'll have journals for you to take with you or you can bring your own. Stop at the Nature Center to pick up the clues you need for this adventure. Meet at the Nature Center.

Nature Trivia Walk

Saturday, Dec. 8 / Drop-in between 10:00am & 2:30pm

Drop-in anytime between 10:00am and 2:30pm to test your nature knowledge! Stop first at the Nature Center to pick up your clue card, then head down an easy trail and look for the trivia signs along the way. There will be prizes too. It's a great activity for families to get out and enjoy a fall day. Meet at the Nature Center.

Winter Star Party

Saturday, Dec. 29 / Drop-in between 7:00 & 9:30pm

Come see the glorious stars and planets out during winter. The winter sky is home to more bright stars and easy-to-recognize constellations than any other time of year! We'll have a couple of telescopes set up for you to look through, a fire to keep you warm, and a marshmallow or two to roast. Bundle up and see some wonderful winter skies (weather permitting). The program will be happening just behind the Rock Elm Shelter near the North Shore Boat Launch.

First Day Hike

Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019 / 3:30-5:30pm

Wisconsin State Parks is once again hosting First Day Hikes on New Year's Day. These hikes offer visitors an opportunity to begin the New Year rejuvenated and connected with nature. This year at Devil's Lake, we are going to take a twilight hike/snowshoe through Steinke Basin. Dress warm and bring a flashlight and your snowshoes (if we have snow). We'll have snowshoes to loan as well. Meet at the Steinke Basin parking lot on Hwy DL.

Volunteer Vacation Promo 2019

Looking ahead to 2019 for a unique and special experience? A rewarding outing with a sense of community? How about a Volunteer Vacation at Devil's Lake?

From August 11 to 17, 2019, you can join a dozen other outdoor enthusiasts to work together to improve the trails at Devil's Lake State Park. We will also camp together for that week at one of the Park's group campsites. Meals are provided for every day of the entire week (breakfast, lunch, and dinner), as well as snacks for breaks during the work day. All work and no play is no fun, so one day (or parts of a couple days) of that week we will skip the work and enjoy whatever you want around the Park!

The cost is a mere \$50 per person for members of FODL and \$75 per person for non-members (includes new membership to FODL). Wow... less than the cost of eating at home! Each participant must be 18 years of age or older (as of August 10, 2019) and commit to participate for the entire week. Equipment, tools, and gloves will be provided... participants need to provide a tent, sleeping bag/pad, rain gear, work boots, and durable clothing suitable for outdoor work. On rainy days we will work on indoor projects (e.g., painting picnic tables).

The project that is planned for the week will be identified soon. Fair warning... you may get hooked and want to do a Volunteer Vacation EVERY year! Please send an email to Dave Barger (tgiacb717@yahoo.com) to let us know that you want more information or that you want to participate in the Devil's Lake Volunteer Vacation!

New QR Codes

Have you seen our QR code signs?

Perhaps these QR codes are familiar to you, but did you know that QR stands for "quick response" system and is a matrix barcode designed in 1994 for the auto industry in Japan?

Widely used now, the Friends of Devil's Lake State Park have their



own QR code. It enables park visitors using phones or other devices to instantly access our website, our latest *Advocate* newsletter, Park events, and so much more.

We've recently placed the Friends of Devil's Lake QR signs throughout the Park and adjacent properties. So, the next time you come across one, open up your camera, point it at the code, and discover what's happening at the Park. (The QR code reader app is free to download from your smart phone's app store.) You can even join the Friends of Devil's Lake and help support ongoing and future programs in the Park!

2019 Summer Concert Series

2019 summer concert series dates are Sunday, June 30; Sunday, July 28; and Sunday, August 25. Bands to be announced. Please join us on those evenings to enjoy the sights and sounds!



Spare Time Blues Band pictured performing at the Park this past summer.

Giving to the Park

How can I gift funds to Devil's Lake State Park? Required Minimum Distributions are a win-win!

As you may know, the government requires individuals over the age of 70½ to take annual distributions (withdrawals) from their retirement accounts, a provision known as the Required Minimum Distribution or RMD. Up to a certain amount, these distributions may be made tax-free as long as they are directed to a qualified 501(c)(3) organization (we may be a little biased, but our favorite one is Friends of Devil's Lake), an option known as the Qualified Charitable Distribution or QCD.

Below is a Q&A with more information. Because each person's tax situation is unique, we recommend that you consult your financial advisor and/or your tax advisor to discuss your options.

What is an RMD? Upon turning 70½, retirement account holders are obligated to take annual distributions (withdrawals) from their accounts. These mandatory withdrawals are known as the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). If you do not take any distributions, or if the distributions are not large enough, you may have to pay a 50% excise tax on the required amount not distributed.

Why do I have to take an RMD? When you put money into your retirement plan account on a pre-tax basis, you have not yet paid taxes on it. In addition, you also receive a tax deduction if you save in an IRA. When your account grows, it continues to grow tax-deferred. To ensure that taxes are eventually paid on this money, the IRS has determined that distributions must begin (and income taxes be paid) at age 70½ on a specific schedule.

What is a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)? Up to \$100,000 of your annual RMD from IRAs may be distributed directly to a 501(c)(3) public charity, enabling you to avoid paying income taxes on that amount. This option is known as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). The QCD applies to traditional, rollover, and Roth IRAs. Dormant SEP and Simple IRAs also qualify. However, employer-sponsored plans such as 401Ks do not allow for QCD treatment.

Contact us at fodlboard@yahoo.com if you are considering charitable giving to FODL by means of a QCD, a gift of a highly appreciated asset, life insurance, or a gift through your estate or will. It's a lot easier than you think, and the benefits to you and your family's good name: priceless!

Friends



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P.O Box 209
Baraboo WI 53913

Return Service Requested

Contact Us

If you would like to contribute a story, photograph, poem, or artwork relating to Devil's Lake State Park, please contact Dave Barger at FODLboard@yahoo.com.

Membership paid through year shown on label

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Friends of Devil's Lake State Park – Membership Specials Effective 12/1/18

Membership Options:

- _____ \$10 – 1 year student membership
- _____ \$20 – 1 year regular membership
- _____ \$55 – 3 year discounted regular membership
- _____ Donation to Friends of Devil's Lake to support ongoing Park projects

Add a 2019 Wisconsin State Park pass:

- _____ \$28 Wisconsin Resident
- _____ \$38 Non-Wisconsin Resident
- _____ \$13.50 Senior Wisconsin Resident
- _____ Gifted membership – please include recipient's name, address, and email contact information

Preferred method of contact:

- Email Mail Either

Name: _____

Address/City/State/Zip: _____

Email address*: _____

*Required for membership database – will NOT be disclosed to any other parties

Total enclosed today: _____

Please mail this form and check to: Friends of Devil's Lake State Park | P.O. Box 209 | Baraboo, WI 53913