

## **Message from the Board President – Dick Heil**

Spring greetings to all members and friends of the Newport Wilderness Society. It's snowing in Ellison Bay as I write this, but the late March sunshine is bright enough to quickly diminish any snow when the clouds depart.

Speaking of snow, February's Candlelight Ski/Hike/Snowshoe event was very successful and well attended. Participants of all ages enjoyed the snowy trail that was lighted start-to-finish with the warm glow of many candles. After finishing the trail, visitors enjoyed refreshments served in the shelter and a bonfire that was blazing away nearby. Our thanks to the volunteers who prepared the park for the event and helped the participants with parking and directions.

We are hoping for a beautiful spring morning on Earth Day, Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup>, when the Newport Wilderness Society sponsors our annual Earth Day Workday in the Park. Please see the article on this event elsewhere in this issue. We hope you will be able attend and help prepare the park for the busy upcoming visitor season.

The spring issue of *The Trillium* is traditionally devoted to recognizing and thanking our donors for their generous support this year. We include a list of the donors who are helping us fund the programs and activities that are so important to the overall mission of the Park.

Finally, just a reminder to visit our web site:

<http://www.newportwildernesssociety.org/>

and check the Events and Activities link for the current list of programs at Newport State Park. Programs are offered year-round, so please take advantage of them when you are in the area!

## **News From the Naturalist – Beth Bartoli**

Though there are still signs that winter hasn't quite left us, spring will be upon us before we know it. When late winter storms gave the park fresh snow, folks came out for winter sports and enjoyed cross country skiing, snow shoeing and hiking. Unfortunately, rain and ice usually followed the snow, so we had to deal with slippery, sometimes hazardous conditions. Such is winter life in Wisconsin. Some of us like the quiet & cold of winter. But most of us don't want it in April!

Quiet sports, a quiet time of year and fewer visitors means time to get caught up. Typically, winter is not a time of year for a lot of park programs, but I have been fortunate to spend some time at Newport this winter.

Some of our winter programs were:

■ **Star Counts** for International Dark Sky designation.

The star counts proved to be challenging weather wise, but we got them done. Our application has been sent off, so now we wait for news of being accepted as the first park in WI (and only the second in the Midwest) to achieve International Dark Sky Park status.

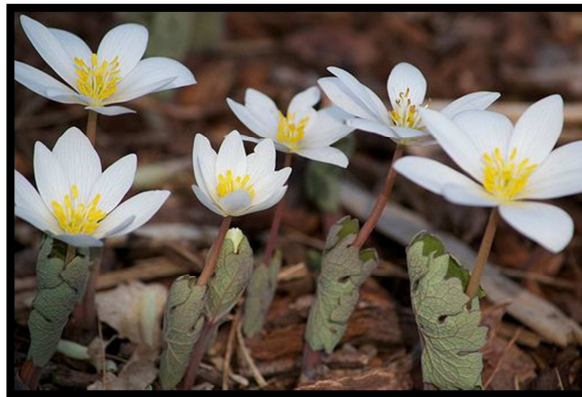
■ **Winter Tree Identification** taught by arborist Tom Wolfe. There was a good showing for this tree identification program. Tom's knowledge of trees and shrubs is astounding. He is so

generous with his time and will be doing more tree programs this year. You won't want to miss them.

■ **Bluebirds.** The end of March has Charlotte Lukes returning to do a program on bluebirds. She continues to be heavily involved with the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin and is helping Newport with placement of bluebird boxes. The boxes will be monitored throughout the breeding season. Watch for opportunities to help. And also watch for more programs from Charlotte throughout the year, such as finding orchids and mushrooms in Newport, to name a few.

Also new this year will be an opportunity to be part of a rare plant monitoring program for the DNR. This citizen science project will be done several times during the growing season, depending on which plants we are monitoring. This is a great way to be the eyes that truly help enlighten all. I will be going to Green Bay in early April for training, so stay tuned on that.

Spring will have us in the park soon, searching out all signs of life. Whether it be spring ephemerals, ferns unfurling, trees budding, birds migrating and/or nesting, or other signs of the earth awakening, it is the time to really pay attention and look around you. As with many of my programs, we will be doing just that. I look forward to you joining me on the trails!



***Bloodroot (Sanguinaria Canadensis), one of the earliest spring wildflowers, with leaves curled around stems.***

## **SPRING NEWPORT PARK WORK DAY Earth Day on Saturday April 22**

Enjoy a beautiful Spring Day in *your* Newport Wilderness Park!!!

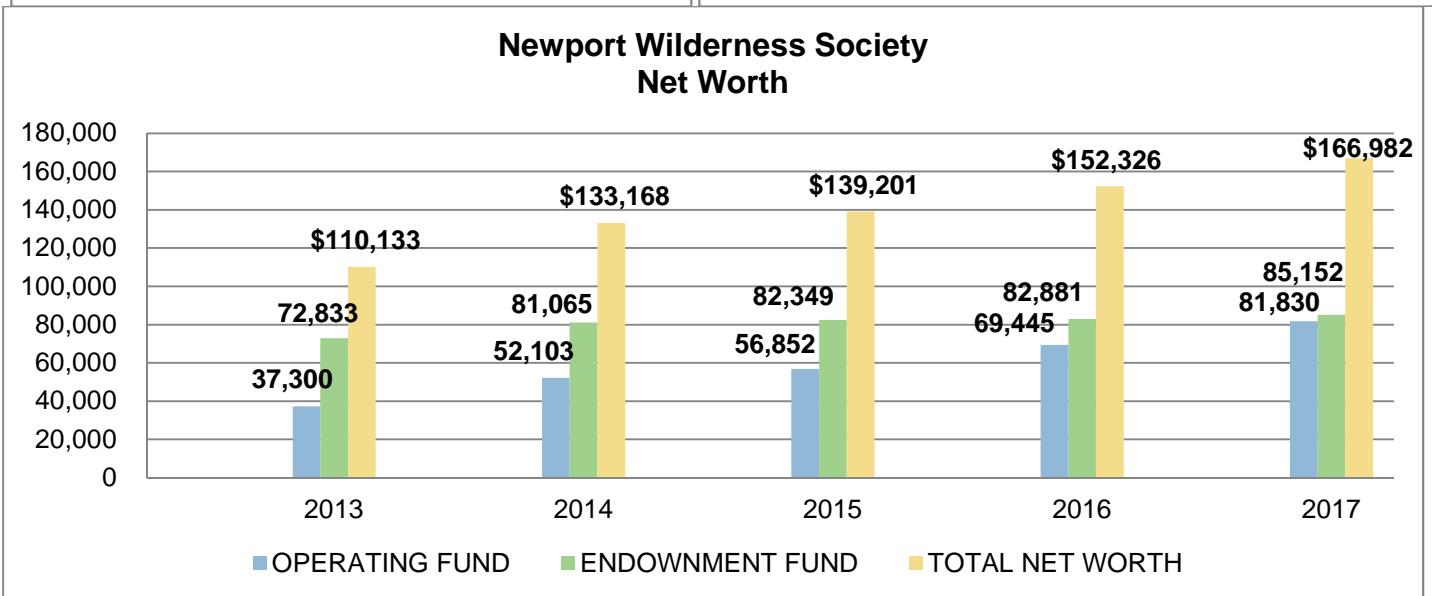
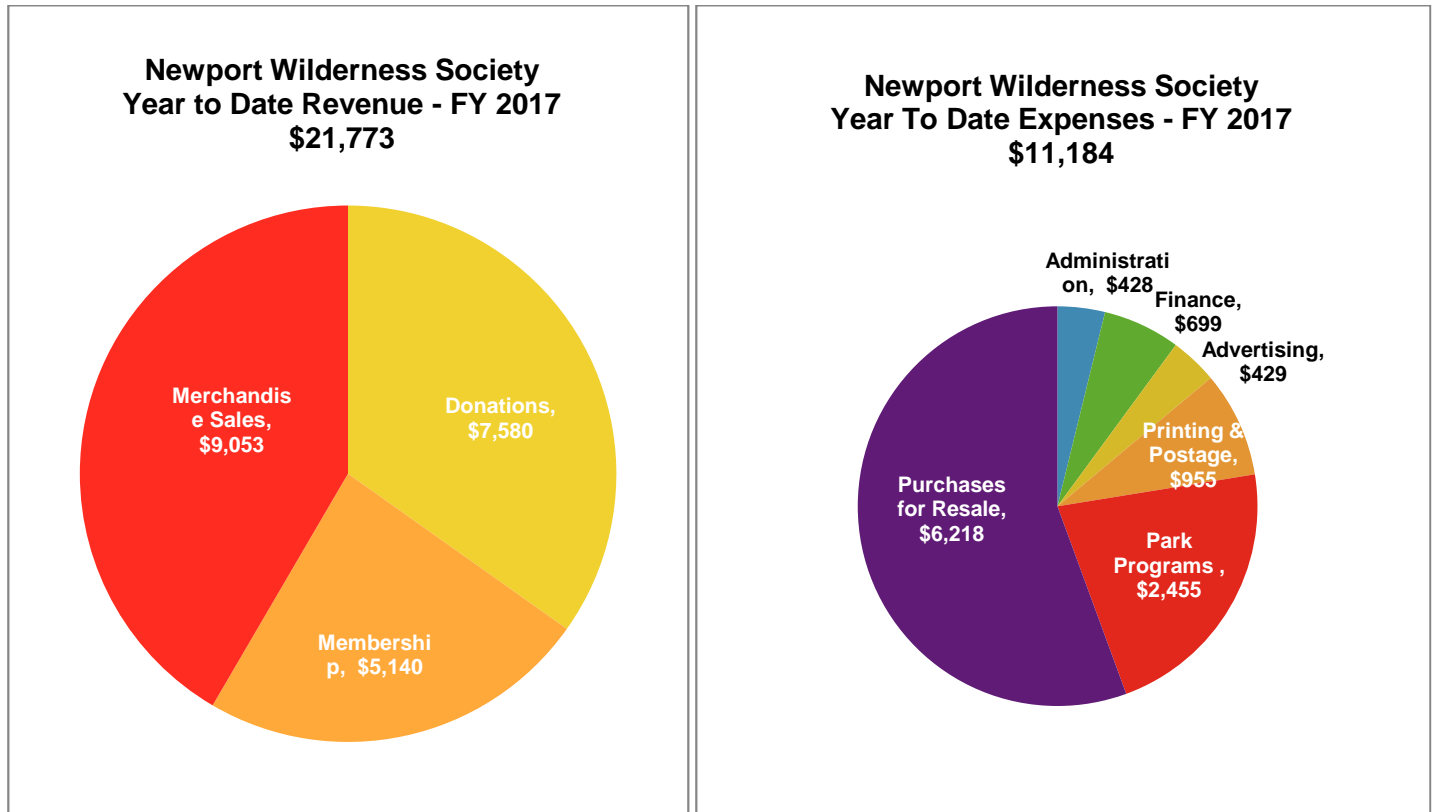
On Saturday, April 22, please come and celebrate Earth Day by participating in the Newport Park Spring Cleanup, from 9:00 a.m. through 12:00 noon. We will clean the shelter, wash windows at the nature/center office, rake debris from the flower beds, clear trails of low branches or downed trees, and in general do what is needed to get the park ready for visitors.

Wear boots, bring work gloves. If you can, bring a rake or a saw. Enjoy the company of fellow volunteers and the beauty of our park as it awakens in the spring. Lunch is on the NWS!!

**N.W.S. TREASURER'S REPORT – FISCAL YEAR TO DATE ENDING JANUARY 2017 by Neil Smith**

The Society's revenue for the first seven months of the fiscal year was \$21,773, 13% more than the same period last year. Increased merchandise sales and memberships contributed to overall growth, while donations were less than last year. Year to date expenses of \$11,184 were above last year and reflect increased spending on advertising, park programs and the purchase of merchandise for resale to support increased sales.

Net worth increased to \$166,982 as of the end of January. This increase was due to the operating performance (revenue less expenses) discussed above plus earnings from our investments. The endowment fund totaled \$85,152, and remains the largest single component of net worth.



## 2016 Fund-Raising Drive Results by Jack Travis

Thank you to all who have generously donated to support the many projects the Newport Wilderness Society funds to benefit our Newport Wilderness Park. A total of \$8,455 was designated to support specific NWS Funds:

Fund	Donated Amount
As Needed Fund	\$5,175
Endowment Fund	\$1,480
Naturalist Fund	\$1,050
Invasive Species Coordinator Fund	\$ 750

Newport Wilderness Society has pledged \$8,000 to cover salary and benefits for two part-time naturalists and \$4,000 for an invasive specialist coordinator for this summer.

### **Duck Bay Trail Club (<\$100) – Endowment**

Judy & Nick Brashi – Ellison Bay, WI  
Daniel R. Dineen – West Bend, WI  
Mary Rosecky – Ellison Bay, WI (In memory of Jon Peterson)  
Allan & Betty Schneider – Racine, WI  
Kaye Wagner – Baileys Harbor, WI  
Audrey White – Minneapolis, MN – in memory of Ronald Ericsson

### **Duck Bay Trail Club (<\$100) – As Needed**

Jim & Joanne Gustafson – Ellison Bay, WI  
Bob Lindahl – Ellison Bay, WI  
Martin & Hilary Ford – Ellison Bay, WI  
Terry Heidenreiter & Jeanne Rabel – Ellison Bay, WI  
Marilyn McDonald – Oberlin, OH  
Nancy Rahal – Baileys Harbor, WI  
Jim & Patricia Blair – Monona, WI  
Charlotte Lukes – Egg Harbor, WI  
Stefan & Glenna Peters – Sister Bay, WI  
Jody Hergert-Andersen, Oshkosh, WI  
Donna Danielson, Wheaton, IL  
Susan Gogola-Corby, Menominee Falls, WI  
Jean & Peter Nowak, Lake Villa, IL  
William Rack, Wauwatosa, WI  
Frank Rogers – Belleville, IL  
Marc & Julie Savard – Nokomis, FL  
Randall Elder – Nichols, IA  
CHOP- Sister Bay, WI  
LURE- Sister Bay, WI

### **Duck Bay Trail Club (<\$100) – Naturalist**

Allan & Betty Schneider – Racine, WI  
Ray & Helene DiIulio – Ellison Bay, WI  
Shoreline Restaurant - Gills Rock, WI

### **Duck Bay Trail Club (<\$100) – Invasive Species**

Neena Schwartz – Evanston, IL

### **Sand Cove Trail Club (\$100-\$249) – Endowment**

Neena Schwartz – Evanston, IL

### **Sand Cove Trail Club (\$100-\$249) – Endowment**

Werner & Susan Krause – Ellison Bay, WI  
Marilyn & Phi Hansotia – Ellison Bay, WI  
Bill & Rolliana Scheckler – Madison, WI (In memory of Roy Lukes)

### **Sand Cove Trail Club (\$100-\$249) - As Needed**

Robert Judd – Ellison Bay, WI  
Jack Travis & Diane Morgan – Ellison Bay, WI  
Donald F. Fuhrman – Riverwoods, IL  
Bob & Megan O’Leary, Jr. – St. Paul, MN  
Paul Burton – Ephraim, WI  
Kaye Wagner – Baileys Harbor, WI  
Tom MacDonald – Ellison Bay, WI  
Richard & Mary Smythe – Sister Bay, WI  
Greg & Jean Wilde – Mequon, WI  
Dan & Pat Fetterley – Milwaukee, WI  
Peter & Jill Hanley – Dunlap, IL  
Tim & Sue Stone – Baileys Harbor, WI  
Linda & Peter Brooks – Sister Bay, WI  
Sister Bay Bowl – Sister Bay, WI  
Ecology Sports – Sister Bay, WI

### **Sand Cove Trail Club (\$100-\$249) - Naturalist**

Beth & Don Bartoli – Kenosha, WI  
Terry Heidenreiter & Jeanne Rabel – Ellison Bay, WI  
Deborah K. Johnson – Fairfield, IA  
Judy & John Turner – Ephraim, WI  
Ryan & Deborah Wubben – Middleton, WI  
Ecology Sports – Sister Bay, WI

### **Sand Cove Trail Club (\$100-\$249) – Invasive Species**

Don & Coggin Heeringa – Sturgeon Bay, WI  
Richard & Carol Heil – Ellison Bay, WI  
Judy & John Turner – Ephraim, WI  
Ryan & Deborah Wubben – Middleton, WI

### **Fern Trail Club (\$250-\$499) - Endowment**

Don Luker – Sister Bay, WI

### **Fern Trail Club (\$250-\$499) – As Needed**

David & LaVonne Callisen – Ellison Bay, WI  
Bill & Rolliana Scheckler – Madison, WI

### **Fern Trail Club (\$250-\$499) - Invasive Species**

Mary Rosecky – Ellison Bay, WI

### **Ridge Trail Club (\$500-\$999) – As Needed**

Mike & Marcia Eischen – Ellison Bay, WI

### **Ridge Trail Club (\$500-\$999) Endowment**

Neil & Barbara Smith – Gurnee, IL

### **Hotz Trail Club (\$1,000 and >) – As Needed**

Dennis & Mary Fales – Ellison Bay, WI

**The Board of Directors thank each and every one who made a donation this year. Although the economy has not been the best in recent years, your donations have been generous and continue to benefit our park.**

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## Merchandise Report – by Amy Dwver

*Spring Forward!* We’ve set the clocks ahead, the days are getting longer, and we’re preparing to leave the dormancy of winter behind. Spring can be short, but like all other seasons it offers its own glory as nature springs back to life in Newport. Look down to see spring flowers peeking up through the snow or look up to see migrating birds returning. If you listen carefully you may even hear fiddlehead ferns unfurling.

We look forward to welcoming you back to Newport Park. Merchandise orders have been placed so the shelves will be stocked in anticipation of your visit. This year we’re especially pleased to offer a selection of children’s books; be sure check them out when you stop in for other items, including field guides, your favorite t-shirts, sweatshirts, fire starters, and more. We’ll also have new bandana choices, including Packer colors (woo hoo!) and one with a map of the park! We love our park in all seasons and, as always, appreciate the support you offer with your purchases.

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## A note from the Niagara Escarpment Resource Network (NERN)

Please come to the April 26<sup>th</sup> Niagara Escarpment Film Fest! Get your tickets and register today for the showing of *The Great Ledge!*

The fans of The Ledge will have a rare opportunity to see two world premier films on April 26. The Niagara Escarpment Resource Network (NERN) together with Trout Springs Winery and several regional organizations will be hosting showings of two Wisconsin produced documentary films. The films feature the Niagara Escarpment, its geology, cultural significance and natural history. In collaboration with Celebrate Earth Week, the Climate Change Coalition of Door County, and others, three free showings will be offered in Door County:

- Saturday, April 22, 6:30 – 8:30 pm at the Door County Auditorium
  - Saturday, April 29, 1:30 – 3:00 pm at The Clearing
  - Saturday, April 29, 5:30 – 8:30 pm at Crossroads at Big Creek
- All showings will include an introduction and comments from the filmmaker and will follow with a question and answer discussion. For more information, please go to NERN’s website: [www.escarpmentnetwork.org](http://www.escarpmentnetwork.org).



p.o. box 187  
 ellison bay wisconsin  
 54210

**Newport Wilderness Society  
 2017 Calendar of Events**

Friday, April 7	NWS Board Meeting	2:30 p.m.- 4:30 p.m.	Holtz Wilderness Room
Saturday, April 22	Earth Day Workday in the Park	9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.	
Friday, June 2	NWS Board Meeting	2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Holtz Wilderness Room
Saturday, June 24	Old Ellison Bay Days Parade	10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.,	Shepard of the Bay
Friday, June 30	Exec. Committee Meeting	2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.,	Holtz Wilderness Room
Saturday, July 29	NWS Annual Meeting	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.,	Lot 3 Shelter
Friday, August 4	NWS Board Meeting	2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.,	Holtz Wilderness Room
Saturday, August 12	Perseid Meteor Shower Event	8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.,	Lot 3
Sunday, September 3	Newport Wilderness Day	All DAY EVENT	
Friday, October 6	NWS Board Meeting	2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.,	Holtz Wilderness Room
Saturday, October 28	Fall Work Day in the Park	9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	
Friday, December 1	NWS Board Meeting	2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.,	Holtz Wilderness Room

**PLEASE SUPPORT THESE LOCAL BUSINESS MEMBERS OF THE NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY**

- |  |                               |   |
|--|-------------------------------|---|
| ●Al Johnson's Swedish Restaurant & Butik | ●Husby's Food & Spirits       | ●Shoreline Restaurant                   |
| ●Bay Shore Outfitters                    | ●Innovative Printing LLC      | ●Sister Bay Advancement Association     |
| ●Blue Dolphin, Ltd.                      | ●JJ's LaPuerta                | ●Sister Bay Bowl                        |
| ●Champeau Floor Covering                 | ●Joe Jo's Pizza & Gelato      | ●State Farm Insurance-Carol DeVault     |
| ●Chop Restaurant                         | ●Jungwirth Ace Hardware, LLC  | ●The Shoreline Resort & Condos          |
| ●Cook Book Store                         | ●Liberty Grove Market, LLC    | ●The Wickman House                      |
| ●Dogma Diggs and Grooming Studio         | ●Ludwigsen & Tischler DDS     | ●Washington Island Ferry Line           |
| ●Ecology Sports                          | ●LURE                         | ●Wm Caxton Ltd - Bookseller & Publisher |
| ●Going Garbage & Recycling, Inc.         | ●Nicolet Bank                 | ●Voight Automotive                      |
| ●Hammersmith TV & Electronics            | ●Pirate's Cove Adventure Golf |   |

The Newport Wilderness Society, Inc. is the Official Friends Group for Newport State Park and is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax exempt educational organization - dues and donations are tax deductible within the limits of the law. <http://www.newportwildernesssociety.org/>