

Message from the Board President

The past summer season at Newport State Park was a busy one. While I don't have the official numbers, my impression is that the park had more visitors than it has had for the past several summers. The weather helped make the trails and campsites inviting, with enough rain (usually at night) to keep things green but not enough to make the mosquitos bothersome. The one drawback to rain at night was that one of those nights was our annual Perseid Meteor Shower event. Despite the clouds and drizzle that evening, the Astronomy Department from the University of Wisconsin-Madison gave a presentation in the shelter that the visitors enjoyed. As a consolation prize, there have also been many excellent clear sky evenings recently with many reports of the northern lights being visible in Door County.

The Society held its annual meeting a week earlier than usual due to a wedding that was booked for the shelter on our normal meeting date, the last Saturday of July. You can find the 2015 Annual Report on our web site. During the business portion of the meeting, the members re-elected Dick Smythe and elected new board members Mary Hansen and Greg Wilde each to three year terms on the board. Our guest speaker was Dave Udell of the Door Peninsula Astronomical Society, who spoke on the importance of preserving the night sky. As required by our by-laws, the board elected officers for the coming year at its first meeting following the annual meeting. These board members were elected to the positions indicated below:

- President Dick Heil
- Vice-President Dick Smythe
- Treasurer Neil Smith
- Secretary (Vacant)
- Fifth Member Mary Hansen

Newport Wilderness Day was held on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend. For the first time this year, we ran an advertisement in the Peninsula Pulse to better publicize our program amid the many other events occurring in Door County during the busy holiday weekend. There was good attendance at the three events I was able to join that day, and several people said that they had come in response to seeing the ad. You'll find more information about Newport Wilderness Day in this issue's article by our naturalist, Beth Bartoli.

Since the summer issue of *The Trillium* was published, the Society has purchased several items for the benefit of the park and the naturalist programs:

- A green laser pointer for astronomy events
- Two headlamps
- Three astronomy planispheres
- Two books (Astronomy and Mushrooms)
- Additional book shelves for the park office lobby

Looking ahead this fall, be sure to mark your calendars for our annual Fall Workday in the Park to be held on Saturday, October 29th. Last year's workday was rained out, so we're hoping to have a beautiful fall day this year. See the article in this issue for more information. There are many other activities and events planned this fall which you can find listed on our web site. In addition to those, we hope you will have a chance to visit Newport to view the fall foliage. As always, we thank you for your support of the Newport Wilderness Society.

Solar-Powered Water Pump Operational



Newport State Park now has potable water available near the lot 3 shelter. The new solar-powered pump was installed by a DNR contractor last year and passed all quality tests in time for the "destination" wedding event at the park shelter on July 30th. In addition to providing power for the water pump, the solar array and battery/inverter system will eventually provide AC power for the shelter.

Thanks to Base Camp Coffee Bar

Base Camp Coffee Bar in Sister Bay once again donated the coffee and pastries for the Newport Wilderness Day "Coffee on the Beach" program this year. Everyone enjoyed the delicious start to the day, with one group of vacationers impressed enough to ask for directions to Base Camp. The Newport Wilderness Society thanks Base Camp Coffee Bar for their continued support!

Autumn Joys – We've Got You Covered!

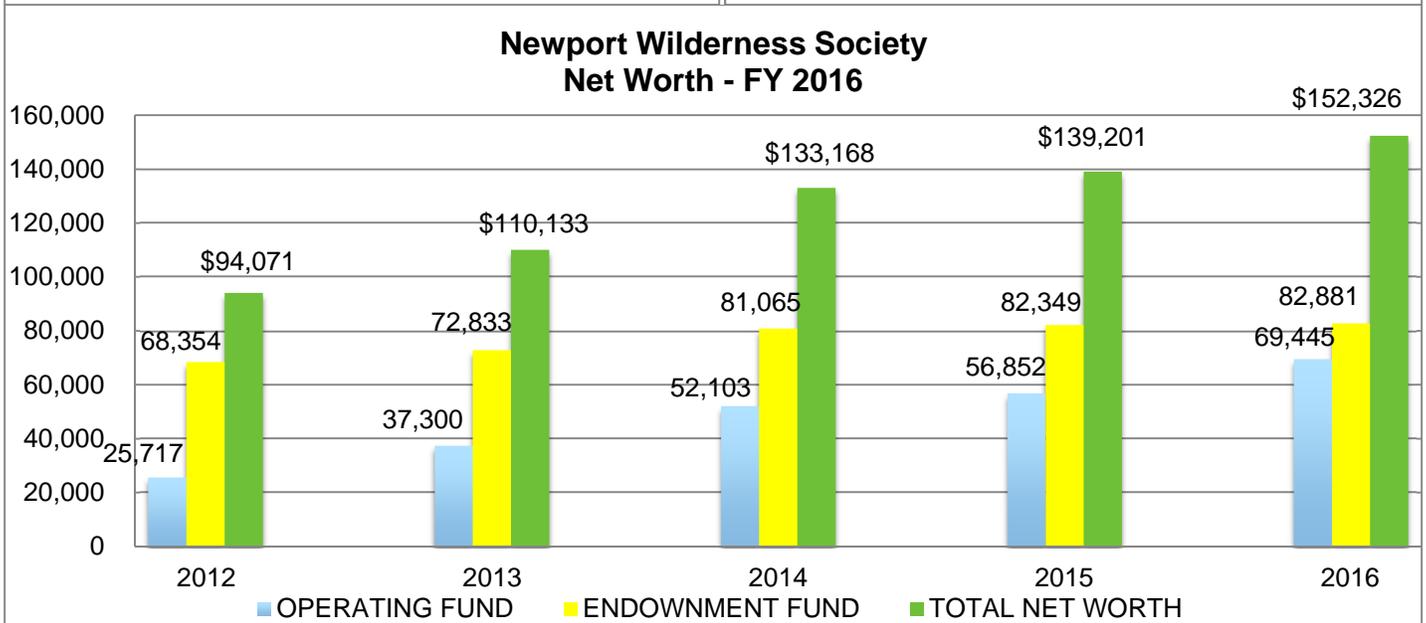
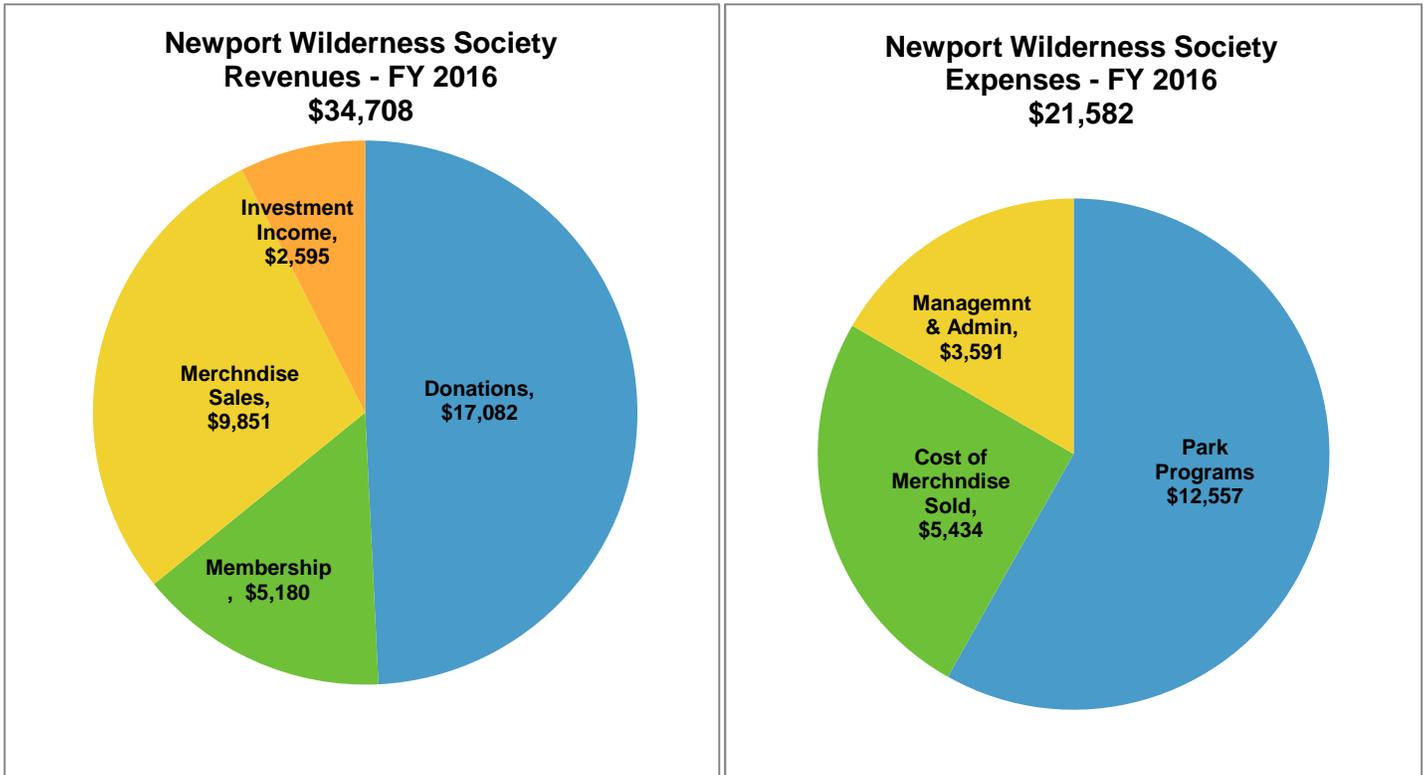
Don't you just love the fall? It's one of the most beautiful seasons in Door County, and Newport State Park is just the place to see an amazing array of colors. Crisp days and chilly night time temperatures mean gorgeous displays of color, spectacular star-studded skies, and time to enjoy s'mores while sitting around the camp fire. You are cordially invited to stop by the Newport Wilderness Society's gift shop at the Newport State Park office to find all you need to enjoy your walk through the trails. We have a variety of shirts and warm sweatshirts for layering, and books to guide you while exploring in the Park. The glow-in-the-dark Night Sky t-shirts, sweatshirts, and Pocket Guides are favorites, but so are the mushroom themed shirts and books. Plus, we've got stickers and hats, patches and bandanas, and more. Once you've shopped and spent the day hiking Newport's fabulous trails and view the amazing dark night sky, you may be ready to relax at home. We've got you covered there, too, for we now carry the locally produced film, *The Emissary*. Did you know parts of that movie were filmed in our very own Newport State Park and that it features Door County locals as the actors? We thank you for your support. Remember, your purchases help sustain Newport State Park and all it provides – including habitat for abundant wildlife, and exercise, peace, joy, and wonder for those who spend time here. Don't miss out on the fall season; it's one of our best!

N.W.S. Treasurer's Report – Fiscal Year 2016

The Society's total revenues for FY 2016 of \$34,708 were on budget and well above last year. This result is due to merchandise sales growth and improved investment results. Donations and annual membership receipts remained steady compared to FY 2015. A total of 134 individuals, families and organizations contributed to NWS during year.

Total NWS expenses for the year of \$21,562 were under budget and at the same level as last year. This is due mainly to lower management and administrative expenses. Park program spending, our largest expenditure by far, includes funding for our park naturalists, resources to control the spread of invasive species in the park, interpretive nature programs and the purchase of equipment, supplies and merchandise for the Nature Center.

Net worth increased to \$152,326 in FY 2016 due to the favorable financial results discussed above. NWS assets consist of cash, mutual fund investments and merchandise inventory. The Society has no liabilities. The endowment fund totaled \$82,881 at year end, and remains the largest single component of net worth.



News From the Naturalist

Ever so slowly, fall is creeping into our beautiful park. Many flowers have gone to seed or berries, birds are getting ready to migrate and the squirrels and other critters are storing caches of food to sustain them through the impending winter. It is hard to believe that our busy summer season is behind us.

This summer was indeed a busy one at Newport. Our campsites were almost always full, with a steady stream of visitors enjoying the hiking and biking trails. Our programs were also well attended. One of the highlights in the Nature Center again this year was the monarch nursery. Though the monarchs were slow in getting here and not very abundant, we have released 62 healthy monarchs as of this writing. There are 13 more



chrysalis's that will hopefully produce more healthy monarchs that we will have the privilege of watching take flight for the very first time. I never tire of this whole miraculous process. I held monarch programs almost every week during their peak time. It was especially fun to see the faces of the children as they held a monarch in their hands. Truth be told, most adults that helped release these delicate creatures were just as thrilled as the kids.

Another one of our summer highlights was unfortunately hampered by bad weather. The Perseid Meteor Shower and Universe in the Park is held on August 12th every year. This year it was a cloudy night, so there was no sky viewing going on. The UW-Madison graduate students and their director gave a great astronomy presentation about our solar system and about 40 people still showed up at the picnic shelter. We have continued to offer programs promoting our dark sky. As the process with IDA drags on, we are tying up loose ends to make everything seamless for our International Dark Sky Park designation. It should be approved very soon. Stay tuned on that.



Though Labor Day signals the unofficial end of the summer season, it looked like anything but on that weekend. Since 1992, the Sunday of Labor Day weekend has been Newport Wilderness Day. NWS members and park staff take the opportunity to showcase our

park. This year, there happened to picture perfect weather, and there were over 135 people enjoying the many programs offered that day. The day started with coffee on the beach donated by Base Camp Coffee. Other events during the day were a geology hike led by Jack Travis, trees of Door County given by Tom Wolfe, a bug walk led by Dick Smythe, a presentation by Open Door Bird Sanctuary and Hotz family history given by Steve Uglinica. It was a great day to be at our park and I heard many positive comments about the hikes and programs. Mark your calendars for next year, as this event seems to get better every year.



It was a crazy, busy day, and I had to take few moments to look around me to remind myself of how fortunate I am to work at this glorious place. This fall, GET OUT AND ENJOY YOUR PARK. I hope to see you on the trails.

Nominating Committee Report

The nominating committee is constantly looking for new board members. It is an exciting time to get involved with NWS at the board level. We have recently elected Mary Hansen and Greg Wilde to the NWS board. If you have an interest in becoming more involved with the NWS, please contact Dick Smythe (920-854-3330). We'd love to talk with you. The board meets on Friday every other month for about 2 hours.

Fall Newport Park Work Day

Coming up on Saturday, October 29, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, Newport Wilderness Society is asking for volunteers to get the park ready for winter. We will be doing trail cleanup, trimming trails and lots, and more. Bring loppers, handsaws, gloves, etc. Wear work boots and come prepared to enjoy FALL as you help us prepare for the next season at Newport. We will provide lunch! Meet at 9:00 am at the Service/Shop Building. Lunch will be at the Hotz Room. Come and meet other volunteers and spend an inspiring morning outside enjoying our beautiful Newport State Park and the fall colors!

Mark Your Calendar

Newport Wilderness Society - 2016 Upcoming Events

Fri., **October 7** - NWS Board Meeting, 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm, Hotz Wilderness
Sat., **October 29** - Fall Work Day in the Park, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Fri., **December 2** - NWS Board Meeting, 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm, Hotz Wilderness

Membership and Fund Raising Committee Report

Since three months and a few days are left in 2016, the Membership and Fund Raising committees are starting to think about their end-of-year letters to members and donors. Membership renewal information will be mailed by the end of October and end-of-year fund raising letters will be mailed by the end of November.

Lake Michigan Water Levels

As of September 2, 2016, the water level of Lake Michigan is 0.96 feet higher than it was on December 4, 2015. Therefore, Lake Michigan water is still flooding the bedding planes of the Cordell Dolostone containing the fossils at Newport State Park.

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers forecasted the water level for Lake Michigan to be 580.09 feet on September 2, 2016; which is 31 inches above chart datum of 577.5 feet, about 4 inches above the September 2, 2015 water level, 41 inches greater than the lowest monthly average for the month of September and 22 inches less than the highest monthly average for the month of September¹.

¹ <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/Great-Lakes-Information/Great-Lakes-Water-Levels/Water-Level-Forecast/Weekly-Great-Lakes-Water-Levels/>

On September 3, 2016, the water temperature was 71° F at NOAA Bouy 45002, which is in the middle of Lake Michigan off the coast of Rock Island, Door County, Wisconsin².

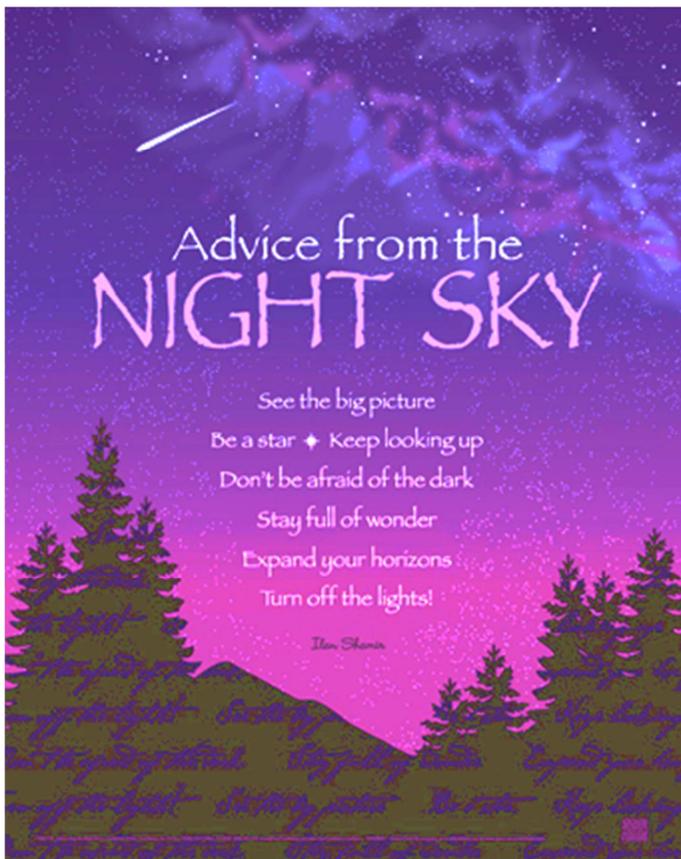
² <https://www.wunderground.com/MAR/LM/563.html>

Publicity

The board approved the placement of two ads in the local newspaper: one as an open invitation to all Door County readers to attend our annual Newport Wilderness Day event; and one to publically thank our many local business members. If you saw both or either of these ads, please let an NWS Board member know what you thought of this effort. And please check out the NWS website and Like us on FaceBook!



p.o. box 187
ellison bay wisconsin
54210



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

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