



**The Newport Wilderness Society, Inc.**

**2017 ANNUAL REPORT**

of

**The Newport Wilderness Society, Inc.**

A

**Not-for-Profit Friends Group**

for

**Newport State Park**

in

**Door County, Wisconsin**

**July 29, 2017**

<http://newportwildernesssociety.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:**

1. Help preserve Newport State Park as a minimal development natural Park;
2. Encourage the individual study and the preservation of Wilderness and Nature in Newport State Park and elsewhere in the County;
3. Seek volunteers to help the Newport State Park management with projects to maintain the Park and facilitate its proper use;
4. 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 FOR NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY**

### Executive Committee

Dick Heil, President	Semi-retired engineer. Frequent Newport hiker. Lives in Ellison Bay with his wife Carol.
Dick Smythe, Vice President	Retired from the United States Forest Service. Has a Ph.D. degree in Entomology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
Dave Vermillion, Secretary	Dave and Meg have 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.
Neil Smith, Treasurer	Retired CPA. Owned and operated a tax and consulting services business. Served as Vice President and Principal Accounting Officer for NAVTEQ Corporation and Corporate Controller for Snap-on Incorporated. Enjoys hiking, paddling and biking in and around Newport State Park.
Mary Hansen, 5 <sup>th</sup> Officer	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 hired as Production Manager at Island Orchard Cider.

### Board Members

Judy Brodd (Retiring from board)	Retired university administrator. Worked as Director International Student Services at UW-Madison and as Asst. Director Study Abroad and International Student Services at UW-Milwaukee. Currently serves as Board President UUFDC.
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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY  
(continued)**

- Amy Dwyer  
Amy moved to Door County in 2012 after being a visitor for 25 years. She loves to hike with her dog and kayak, star-gaze, camp, cross country ski, and snowshoe!
- Gene Kenny  
(Candidate for election)  
Retired from the University of Wisconsin as a Physician Assistant in pediatric cardiac surgery in 2016. He and his wife Helen moved to Door County full time and live on Europe Lake. Gene is an avid woodworker, recently completed the Master Gardener program through the UW Extension and is volunteering on a Habitat home build.
- Jeanne Rabel  
(Candidate for election)  
Retired federal civil service employee with a MBA in health care administration and health care finance. Lives in Ellison Bay and enjoys hiking and snow shoeing at Newport.
- Jack Travis  
(Retiring from board)  
Professor emeritus of geology and serves on the Board of Directors for Friends of Wisconsin State Parks. Past President of Newport Wilderness Society.
- Tom Turriff  
Retired CFO living in Ellison Bay with his wife Jo Ann. Enjoys being outdoors and photographing nature. Active in many nature/environment related organizations.
- Greg Wilde  
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 FOR NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY  
(continued)**

Data Base Administrator

Marc Demoly

Professional spread-sheet administrator.

Trillium Editor

Karen Studebaker

Graduate of Purdue University; Educator; LWV activist; business owner; loves living in Door County and having Newport Wilderness State park as my “neighbor”.

NWS Website Manager

David Studebaker

Software consultant and technical writer since the early 1960s (aka programming dinosaur). Software business owner with partner Karen for 35 years; life partner with Karen for 50+ years. Volunteer with Northern Sky Theater and various Liberty Grove Town Committees.

Ex officio Member

Michelle Hefty

Park Manager, Newport and Rock Island State Parks.

## **NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY**

### **2016-2017 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Dick Heil, President  
Dick Smythe, Vice President  
Dave Vermillion, Secretary  
Neil Smith, Treasurer  
Mary Hansen, 5<sup>th</sup> Member

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS' COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS 2016-2017**

#### **BUDGET AND FINANCE**

- Neil Smith, Chair
- Mary Rosecky
- Tom Turriff
- President (Ex Officio)
- Park Manager (Ex officio)

#### **MEMBERSHIP & FUND RAISING**

- Jack Travis, Chair
- Judy Brodd
- Dick Smythe
- President (Ex Officio)
- Park Manager (Ex officio)

#### **MERCHANDISING**

- Amy Dwyer, Chair
- Beth Bartoli
- Neil Smith
- President (Ex Officio)
- Park Manager (Ex officio)

#### **NATURE INTERPRETATION AND STEWARDSHIP**

- Greg Wilde, Chair
- Jack Travis
- Marilyn Hansotia
- Al Schneider
- President (Ex Officio)
- Park Manager (Ex officio)

#### **NOMINATING**

- Dick Smythe, Chair
- President (Ex Officio)
- Park Manager (Ex officio)

#### **PUBLICITY**

- Dave Vermillion, Chair
- Nancy Rafal
- Karen Studebaker
- President (Ex Officio)
- Park Manager (Ex officio)

#### **VOLUNTEER SERVICES**

- Judy Brodd, Chair
- President (Ex Officio)
- Park Manager (Ex officio)

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY**

Newport Wilderness Society is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, Friends group organization that was formed to support nature interpretive programs at Newport State Park

For the past several years, Friends of Wisconsin State Parks (FWSP) has conducted a Gold Seal Award program to recognize state parks in a variety of categories based on popular vote. Newport State Park has received the following Gold Seal Awards:

- “Best Friend’s Group Website” (2013)
- “Best Place for Quiet Recreating” (2014)
- “Best Backpack Campsite” (2016)

Newport Wilderness Society raised enough money to build (\$180,000) and outfit (\$50,000) the nature interpretive room (Hotz Wilderness Room), the park naturalist office and a storage room. This project was completed in April 2008 and dedicated on July 26, 2008.

In addition, Newport Wilderness Society

- Provided \$8,000 for hiring two part-time park naturalists for the 2015 and 2016 seasons. For 2017, an \$8000 payment for funding the part-time naturalist is pending. The payment this year was delayed due to problems that arose after the state converted to a new accounting system.
- Provided \$4000 for hiring a part-time employee for invasive species control work for the 2015 and 2016 seasons. For 2017, Park Manager Michelle Hefty said that invasive species control work would be funded from the DNR account used for trail maintenance. Unspent donations to NWS for invasive species control will be reserved for use in 2018.
- Provided \$10,052 additional support funds in 2017 for these park activities and programs:
  - Nature Center equipment, books, shelving and display cases
  - Open Door Bird Sanctuary programs
  - Volunteer support (meals and supplies)
  - International Dark Sky Association membership
  - Laser pointer, headlamps and star finder for astronomy programs
  - Purchase of merchandise for resale
  - Wildlife lithographs for nature programs
  - Advertising for Newport Wilderness Days
  - Program expenses for International Dark Sky Park activities
- Provided \$5992 in 2016 to fund various park activities.
- Provided over \$1000 in 2015 to fund various park activities.
- Provided \$450 in 2015 to purchase a slide converter and document camera for the nature center.
- Supported Newport State Park’s application to the International Dark Sky Association as Wisconsin’s first Dark Sky Park.



- Provided \$8,000 for hiring two part-time park naturalists for the 2014 season.
- Provided \$6,000 for hiring part-time park naturalists for the 2013 season.
- Provided \$12,000 for the purchase of a new UTV for park maintenance personnel to use while maintaining trails and campsites and fighting invasive plant species (Garlic mustard) in December 2012.
- Provided meals for nine students and one instructor on March 29-30, 2012 from the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department of Fox Valley Technical College that was contracted by Wisconsin DNR to make up-to-date global positioning system (GPS) maps of Newport State Parks.
- Provided \$ 6,000.00 for hiring part-time park naturalists for the 2012 season.
- Provided \$ 4,950.00 for hiring a part-time park naturalist for the 2011 season.
- Partnered with Newport State Park and three Door County poetry groups (Wallace Group, The Unabridged Poetry Group and Word Women Poetry Group) to install a walking poetry trail at Newport State Park in 2010.
- Was one of several partners with the Wisconsin Natural Resources Foundation for an all-day (6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.) Great Lakes BioBlitz at Europe Bay State Natural Area (SNA) in Newport State Park on June 26, 2010.
- Provided \$ 5,000.00 for hiring a part-time park naturalist for the 2010 season.
- Paid registration fees and lodging for two individuals to attend a cross-country ski trail grooming workshop (2009).
- Sponsored a presentation by Lincoln Brower, “Mr. Monarch”, on the fate of Monarch Butterflies (2009).
- Underwrote the development and printing of a brochure titled “*Geology of Newport State Park*”, which is available free to park visitors (2008).
- Underwrote the development and printing of the Newport State Park *Summer and Fall Flowers* brochure, which is available free to park visitors (2008).
- Purchased a computer for the park naturalist. Assisted in the purchase of trail grooming equipment for cross-country skiing
- Supported a study of monarch butterfly population in the butterfly garden area of Newport State Park (2002).
- Sponsored the development of a booklet titled “*The Ferdinand Hotz Legacy – a Door County Family History*” (1998).
- Underwrote the development and printing of the Newport State Park *Bird Checklist* brochure, which is available free to park visitors (1994).
- Underwrote the development and printing of the Newport State Park *Spring Flowers* brochure, which is available free to park visitors (1994).
- Sponsored a cultural history study of Newport, which produced a booklet titled “*Newport –Out of Wilderness into Wilderness*”, which is available free to park visitors (1994).
- Underwrote the development and printing of booklet titled “*Forest Heritage Tour – Newport State Park*”, which is available free to park visitors (1994).
- Underwrote the development and printing of *Mammals of Newport State Parks* brochure, which is available free to park visitors (1994).
- Provided funds to establish a small nature center next to the old park office (1994).

- Partially financed the construction of a three-sided cultural history kiosk near the former location of the village of Newport (1991).
- Underwrote the development and printing of Newport State Park Silurian Sea Fossil brochure (1989).

Members of Newport Wilderness Society lead various types of nature and cultural history hikes each year, serve as docents at the Hotz Wilderness Room, assist with the annual Candlelight Cross-country Ski event and assist in trying to eradicate invasive plant species in the Park.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The 2016-2017 fiscal year of the Newport Wilderness Society ended on June 30<sup>th</sup> and marked the end of another busy year for the Society. My personal thanks go to the other members of the board who have done so much to advance our mission of supporting Newport State Park. We bid farewell to Judy Brodd, our Volunteer Services Coordinator, who is retiring from the board at the completion of her three-year term. Also retiring from the board is long-time board member, Membership and Fundraising Committee Chair and past president Jack Travis. We will miss them both. At the same time, we recently welcomed new board members Gene Kenny and Jeanne Rabel, both of whom are full-time residents of Ellison Bay. Jeanne will become our new treasurer but we are thrilled to retain Neil Smith, our treasurer for the last several years, as a member of the board.

I'm sure you know by now that Newport State Park was designated an International Dark Sky Park by the International Dark Sky Association. The dedication ceremony took place on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at the park. This makes Newport the first state park in Wisconsin to become an International Dark Sky Park, one of only 48 parks worldwide to have this recognition. In addition to the naturally dark skies, this was made possible by the work of our Naturalist and Park Manager with valuable support from the Door Peninsula Astronomical Society.

Another recent development was the debut of the redesigned NWS web site. The new site went "live" in June and was the result of several years of work by our website administrator, Dave Studebaker. Dave solicited feedback from the board as the design evolved and the result is something we are very happy with. I encourage you to visit it when you have the opportunity. In addition to adding fresh content, especially about the Dark Sky programs mentioned above, one of the key goals was to make the new site mobile friendly. Since most park visitors are now using mobile devices to access information about events and activities when visiting Door County, we wanted the NWS web site to display content in a useful way on those devices. We think the new web site has accomplished that goal.

A challenge we have faced the past year has been the lack of information on balances in the DNR accounts to which our naturalist and invasive species moneys have been deposited. Wisconsin has been converting to a new enterprise resource planning system and during the changeover, the residual amounts left in these accounts were unavailable. Without that information, the board had budgeted for an \$8000 donation for the naturalists and \$4000 for invasive species control in fiscal 2016 – 2017, as in recent years. However, when DNR account balance information became available in June, Park Manager Michelle Hefty said that only the naturalist donation would be required since the invasive species control work could be covered under the DNR account used for trail maintenance. Because the request came so late in the year, this year's naturalist donation will appear as an expenditure in the next fiscal year. The previously budgeted \$4000 invasive species donation will not be made, but money donated to NWS for invasive species control will remain reserved for that purpose in 2017 – 2018.

Other than a few adverse weather impacts, our popular annual programs such as the Candlelight Ski, Perseid Meteor Shower Viewing and Newport Wilderness Day were a success once again this year as described in past issues of *The Trillium*.

Finally, special thanks go to all friends of the Society who have again been very generous in their donations. As of June 30th, we received these amounts: \$5355 (Area of Greatest Need), \$8925 (Naturalist), \$750 (Invasive Species Coordination), and \$1480 (Endowment Fund). At a time when all Wisconsin state parks are facing financial challenges, your donations have made a significant impact.

Dick Heil, July 22, 2017

## **BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017

The Budget and Finance Committee includes Neil Smith - Treasurer and Chair, Mary Rosecky, Tom Turriff, Jeanne Rabel and ex-officio members Dick Heil and Michelle Hefty. The committee met several times during the year to review the budget and financial performance and to consider the question of fossil fuel free investing that was raised by members at the 2016 Annual Meeting. After much study and discussion, the committee recommended to the board that NWS invest up to 10% of the endowment fund in a leading fossil fuel free ETF (exchange traded fund). The committee further recommended that NWS build up to the 10% investment level in the next 2 years to allow time to assess the performance of this new investment before making additional investments. The board approved the committee's recommendation, and it has been implemented.

## **NWS TREASURER'S REPORT**

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017

The NWS finances are managed by the treasurer, subject to guidance by the NWS Budget and Finance Committee and oversight by the NWS Board of Directors. Financial statements for the fiscal year are compiled by the Certified Public Accounting firm of KerberRose SC in accordance with Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

As shown on the Statement of Net Worth presented on the following page, the Society's Net Worth increased to \$187,657 this year. Our assets include cash, bank accounts and the investments of our operating and endowment funds. The investments of the operating and endowment funds consist of publicly traded mutual funds and exchange traded funds. These funds contain equity and fixed income securities in keeping with our long-term investment objectives of low risk, capital preservation, growth and a steady income stream. NWS has no liabilities.

The Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Change in Net Worth presented on the following page shows a comparison of income and expense items, and the resulting increase in Net Worth for each of the last two years. Here are some highlights from this statement.

- Donations were the largest single component of the Society's revenue in FY 2017. They remained at the same level as they were in FY 2016. This year we were again fortunate to receive an \$8,000 donation to help fund the park's naturalist program. A total of 73 individuals, families and organizations made donations during the year.
- Membership revenue increased this year due primarily to the addition of 5 new lifetime memberships and 12 new members.
- Sales of merchandise increased 36% this year. Sales benefited from increased demand and an expansion of products offered for sale.
- Investment performance was much improved this year as growth in world financial markets produced the unrealized gains in our portfolio.
- Program support for Newport State Park accounted for over 70% of total NWS expenses in 2017. Support includes funding for the naturalist program, interpretive programs, park membership and activities in the International Dark Skies Association, and the purchase of books and equipment for the Nature Center. All of this was made possible by the generous support of our members, volunteers and donors. We are grateful for their continuing support of the NWS mission.

**NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY, INC.  
STATEMENT OF NET WORTH**

	As of	
	June 30, 2016	June 30, 2017
Cash - Nicolet Checking	\$ 2,202	\$ 3,367
Cash - Nicolet Savings	4,242	15,151
Cash - Pay Pal	200	254
Cash on Hand	1,165	2,179
Subtotal	<u>7,809</u>	<u>20,951</u>
Merchandise Inventory	4,530	5,938
RBC Operating Fund Investment	57,107	65,543
RBC Endowment Fund Investment	<u>82,881</u>	<u>95,225</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>152,327</b>	<b>187,657</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u><b>0</b></u>	<u><b>0</b></u>
<b>TOTAL NET WORTH</b>	<u><b>\$ 152,327</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 187,657</b></u>

**NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY, INC.  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGE IN NET WORTH**

For the Year Ended	June 30, 2016	June 30, 2017
<b>REVENUES:</b>		
Donations	\$ 17,082	\$ 17,205
Membership - Annual	4,180	4,245
Membership - Life	1,000	2,250
Merchandise Sales	9,851	13,379
Dividend and Interest Income	5,973	4,504
Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Investments	(3,378)	8,035
	<u>34,708</u>	<u>49,618</u>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>		
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
Program Support	17,991	10,052
Management and General	2,800	3,712
Fundraising	790	524
	<u>21,581</u>	<u>14,288</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		
<b>CHANGE IN NET WORTH</b>	13,127	35,330
<b>NET WORTH - BEGINNING</b>	<u>139,200</u>	<u>152,327</u>
<b>NET WORTH - ENDING</b>	<u>\$ 152,327</u>	<u>\$ 187,657</u>

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

The nominating committee recruited two new board members in the 2016 - 2017 year.

We continue to so seek out individuals to serve on the board. If you would like to be a part of helping to shape the future of the NWS, we would like to talk to you. Please feel free to contact us at the telephone number below.

The following board members are nominated for terms ending in the year indicated:

- Gene Kenny (2020)\*
- Jeanne Rabel (2020)\*
- Neil Smith (2020)
- Dave Vermillion (2020)

\* Candidate board member

Respectfully submitted, Richard Smythe (920-854-3330).

## **MERCHANDISING COMMITTEE REPORT**

For the NWS year ending June 30, 2017

Committee Members: Amy Dwyer - Chair, Beth Bartoli

Ex-officio members: Dick Heil, NWS Board President and Michelle Hefty, Park Manager

Newport Wilderness Society merchandise showed another banner year in fiscal year 2016-2017, with a total sales figure of \$13,379 for the year. That's 36% above last year's numbers, continuing an upward trajectory! Thanks to your support, we're able to turn around and put that money right back into the park - a win/win for all. Please feel free to drop us a line or call the office to let us know if there are other items you'd like to see stocked on our shelves.

## RESULTS OF 2016 FUND RAISING DRIVE

Near the end of 2016, all members received an invitation to make a donation to support a Naturalist, the Nature Center Fund, As Needed Fund and Endowment Fund. Contributions to the 2016-2017 annual Newport Wilderness Society end-of-year fund drive has yielded \$5,355 for the As Needed Fund, \$1,480 for the Endowment Fund, \$8,925 for the Naturalist Fund and \$750 for the Invasive Species Coordinator; totaling \$16,510. 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. Donors included:

### **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

### **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

Senator Fred Risser – Madison, 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**

GE Foundation Matching Gifts Program - Boston, MA

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

Deborah K. Johnson – Fairfield, IA

Judy & John Turner – Ephraim, WI

Beth Varney – Ellison Bay, 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

(In memory of Roy Lukes)

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

Mary Rosecky – Ellison Bay, WI

(In memory of Jon Peterson)

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

Neil & Barbara Smith – Gurnee, IL

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

Dr. G. Leonard Apfelbach – Fish Creek, WI

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

Dennis & Mary Fales – Ellison Bay, WI

### **Hotz Trail Club (\$1,000 and >) - Naturalist**



## 2016-2017 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

2016-2017 Membership Report as of July 1, 2017

The Membership Committee for 2016-2017: Jack Travis, Chair; Judy Brodd and Dick Smythe; ex officio, Dick Heil and Michelle Hefty.

We are pleased to continue to have professional support provided by Marc Demoly, assisting us in the administration of membership services. Our membership database information is fully computerized resulting in more accurate and efficient processing along with providing more effective management opportunities for the board.

The following table shows the membership by category:

### Types of Membership and Totals – 2016-2017

Couple Life			70		
Individual Life			44		
Business or Organization Life			2		
Business or Organization			25		
Delinquent	7				
Family			71		
Delinquent	15				
Individual			20		
Delinquent	6				
<b>Sub-Total - Delinquent</b>	<b>28</b>				
<b>Sub-Total – Paid</b>			<b>232</b>		
Honorary (Non-paying)			16		
<b>GRAND TOTAL (all categories)</b>	<b>28</b>	+	<b>248</b>	=	<b>276</b>

## NATURE INTERPRETATION AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The most exciting news from this past year was the official announcement of the designation of Newport State Park as an International Dark Sky Park. This is a significant recognition for the park. We are one of only 13 parks in the US to receive the designation and one of two in the Upper Midwest. We join only 48 other sites around the world who have satisfied the requirements to receive the designation. Exclusive company to be sure.

This was a journey that covered several years. It involved managing the requirements of the International Dark Association, coordinating a diverse group of resources, directing the many volunteers who supported the efforts and more than a few cancelled nighttime star counting events due to weather. Beth and Michelle managed them all, and as a result of their efforts, Newport State Park will be a well-known destination for astronomers and stargazers alike.

Our dedication ceremony was held on June 22, 2017. In spite of persistent showers, the event was attended by more than 60 individuals. Many thanks to Beth and Michelle for a job well done.

Some highlights of activities in the park

Winter is always a special time in Newport. The New Year First Day Hike is always well attended as is the Candlelight Ski/Snowshoe event. Other activities include winter bird hikes, hands-on winter tree identification, and winter sky and star-chart reading.

Spring brings programs focused on bluebirds and placing their nesting boxes which are monitored through the breeding season. Programs were offered on trees and shrubs of Door County. Birding hikes, monitoring rare plants for the DNR, and the never-ending battle with invasive species. Earth Day was celebrated with volunteers helping with projects throughout the Park.

With summer comes wildflower hikes, Smokey the Bear/Fire Safety, and Wings of the Night Bat Program. New this year, Beth has introduced Trails of Newport, a weekly robust hike featuring all the trails in the Park. Last year the Monarch Nursery was a tremendous hit with visitors. More than 75 healthy monarchs were raised in the Nature Center and released. Programs were also offered on Mushrooms of Newport, Orchids of Door County, a Geology hike, and of course, the Perseid Meteor Shower.

It has been a busy and very rewarding year. While the International Dark Sky designation is a highlight, not to be overlooked are the day-to-day programs offered to Park visitors. Nature hikes, wildlife hikes, and educational seminars all contribute to the meaningful experience for Park visitors.

## **VOLUNTEER SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Park volunteers have contributed a great deal to Newport this past year and here is a list of our accomplishments:

- Last summer assisted staff with invasive species removal
- Assisted with the July Newport Wilderness Society (NWS) Annual Meeting
- Fall Work Day held October 29 to clean up park and get it ready for winter
- Hosted Annual Candlelight Ski Event held February 13 (largest one hosted to date)
- Hosted Work/Earth Day April 22 – 16 volunteers – prepared park and facilities and campgrounds for the summer
- Assisted with providing hike leaders for the Bridges Program (international students in Door County)
- Perseid meteor shower viewing program
- Provided snacks for the Dark Sky Dedication Ceremony

We wish to thank all the NWS volunteers for their many hours of service to Newport State Park and the Newport Wilderness Society! Our beautiful park really counts on all of you to give a little of your time and talent to maintain the beauty of our park and to help host some of the many events our park offers to our community and to visitors from around the state and region. THANK YOU!!

## **PUBLICITY COMMITTEE**

The members of the Publicity Committee are listed on page 7 of the report. The primary means for disseminating publicity about the Newport Wilderness Society and Newport State Park are:

1. *The Trillium* newsletter. Karen Studebaker edited and distributed four issues of *The Trillium* in the 2016-2017 fiscal year.
2. [www.newportwildernesssociety.org](http://www.newportwildernesssociety.org). Dave Studebaker serves as our web administrator.
3. facebook. The Society has a facebook page that is linked to our web page.
4. Other media. The committee created an ad for the Peninsula Pulse to publicize 2016 Newport Wilderness Days.
5. NWS brochures. The committee reprinted several of the brochures offered to park visitors.

## 2016-2017 LOCAL BUSINESS AND ORGANIZATION SUPPORTERS OF NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY

The following local businesses and organizations are supporters of Newport Wilderness Society:

Al Johnson's Swedish Restaurant & Buttik, Inc. 10698 N Bay Shore Drive Sister Bay, WI 54234	Bayshore Outdoor, Inc. 2457 S. Bay Shore Drive Sister Bay, WI 54234
Blue Dolphin LTD 10320 Hwy 42 Ephraim, WI	Champeau Floor Covering 2613 S. Bay Shore Drive Sister Bay, WI 54234
Chop Restaurant 2345 Mill Rd Sister Bay, WI 54234	Cook Book Store 10590 Country Walk Dr #2 Sister Bay, WI 54234
Dogma Diggs and Grooming Studio 10592 Country Walk Dr Sister Bay, WI 54234	Dovetail Trading 10282 Hwy 57 Sister Bay, WI 54234
Ecology Sports 10740 N Bay Shore Drive Sister Bay, WI 54234	Going Garbage & Recycling Inc. 10564 Old Stage Road Sister Bay, WI 54234
Hammersmith TV & Electronics 10514 Country Lane Sister Bay, WI 54234	Husby's Food and Spirits 10641 N Bay Shore Dr Sister Bay, WI 54234
Island Orchard Cider 12040 Garrett Bay Rd Ellison Bay, WI 54210	Innovative Printing LLC 2414- # 1, Country Walk Drive Sister Bay, WI 54234
JJ's La Puerta 10961 N. Hwy 42 Sister Bay, WI 54234	Joe Jo's Pizza & Gelato 10420 Hwy 42 Sister Bay, WI 54234
Jungwirth Ace Hardware, LLC 10636 N. Bay Shore Drive Sister Bay, WI 54234	Liberty Grove Market, LLC 11996 Hwy 42 Ellison Bay, WI 54210
Ludwigsen & Tischler DDS 2596 S. Bay Shore Drive Sister Bay, WI 54234	Lure Restaurant 10627 N Bay Shore Dr Sister Bay, WI 54234
Nicolet National Bank (formerly Baylake Bank) 636 S. Bayshore Drive Sister Bay, WI 54234	Pirate's Cove Adventure Golf 2502 S. Bay Shore Drive Sister Bay, WI 54234
Shoreline Resort & Condos 12747 Hwy 42 Ellison Bay, WI 54210	Shoreline Restaurant 12747 Hwy 42 Ellison Bay, WI 54210
Sister Bay Bowl 10640 N. Bay Shore Drive Sister Bay, WI 54234	Sister Bay Advancement Association P. O. Box 351 Sister Bay, WI 54234
State Farm Insurance Companies (Agent: Carol DeVault) 920 Egg Harbor Road Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235	The Garden Lady – Beth Coleman 1581 Ranch Lane Ellison Bay, WI 54210
Sub Express 2579 S. Bayshore Drive Sister Bay, WI 54234	Washington Island Ferry Line P.O. Box 39 Washington Island, WI 54246
Wickman House Restaurant 11976 Mink River Road Ellison Bay, WI 54210	Voight Automotive 2439 S Bay Shore Dr Sister Bay, WI 54210

## **NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY**

### **MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING - JULY 23, 2016**

**Call to Order** - The Annual Meeting of the Newport Wilderness Society, the official friends group of Newport State Park, was called to order by President Dick Heil at 6:00 P.M. The Meeting was held at the shelter in the Park. The Annual Meeting was preceded by a fried chicken dinner catered by the Viking Restaurant in Ellison Bay. The dinner was enjoyed by the approximately 30 Society members and guests.

**President's Introductory Remarks** - President Heil welcomed members of the Society to the Annual Meeting. He reviewed the many activities of the Society over the last year, including the naturalist activities lead by Beth Bartoli and Derek Ferrier, the International Dark-Sky Assoc. application, the annual Perseid meteor shower event, NPS Wilderness Day, the Candlelight ski event, and others. He noted that Park Naturalist Beth Bartoli received an award from the Girl Scouts of Northeast Wisconsin.

**Park Manager's Remarks** – Park Manager Michelle Hefty thanked the Society and its members for supporting the Park and recognized the work of Park employees Chad Slaby, Beth Bartoli, and Gail Jacobs at the Park.

Michelle announced that the solar powered water supply adjacent the Park shelter will be operational as soon as the final water tests are complete. Plans call for placing solar powered electrical outlets in the shelter in the future.

Approval of the Park's application to the International Dark-Sky Assoc. for designation as a dark sky park is nearing completion.

More generally on the subject of state parks, Michelle noted that Wisconsin state parks are now totally revenue supported and receive no tax dollars from the state. The DNR is working on an updated master plan for the state parks. There is the possibility of expanding the land holdings of Newport State Park.

The Friends of Wisconsin State Parks is conducting its annual Gold Seal Awards program for the parks. Newport State Park would be good candidates for having

the best handicap facilities or for having the best backpacking camp site. Voting ends September 9th and can be carried out on the FWSP web site.

**Minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting** - A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading the minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting. The motion carried. The minutes are found on pages 21 - 23 the 2016 Annual Report of the Society.

**Treasurer's Report** - President Heil called on Neil Smith, Treasurer of the Society, to present his report. Neil referred to the accounts of the Society as set out on pages 11 - 13 of the Annual Report showing a statement of net worth and a statement of revenues, expenses, and change in net worth for the Society for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. He pointed out that the net worth of the Society now stands at approximately \$152,000. He also noted that membership fees and donations amounted to approximately \$22,000 or about 65% of the Society's total revenue.

President Heil thanked Neil for his report and called for a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, which motion was made, seconded and carried.

**Recognition of Retiring Board Members** - President Heil noted that Jack Burnett, Dan Fetterley, and Tom MacDonald will not be on the Board in the coming year. President Heil presented plaques to Dan Fetterley, in person, and Jack Burnett and Tom MacDonald, in absentia, in recognition of their years of service to the Society.

**Nominating Committee Report** – President Heil presented the report of the Nominating Committee. The report is found on page 14 of the Annual Report. Placed in nomination for three year terms ending in 2019 are: Mary Hansen, Dick Smythe, and Greg Wilde.

There being no nominations from the floor, the nominees were duly elected by the members to the Board of the Society.

**Other Committee Reports** - President Heil called for a motion to dispense with discussing all of the other committee reports, urging members to read those committee reports in the Annual Report. Such motion was made, seconded, and carried.

**Remembrances** – President Heil asked for a moment of silence to honor the following members of the Society know to have passed away in the last year.

Priscilla Ann Jungwirth

Roy Lukes (charter member of NWS)  
Barbara MacDonald  
Margot Warch

**The Program** - President Dick Heil introduced Dave Udell, President of the Door County Astronomical Society. Dave noted the increasing problem of light pollution, brought on, in part, by urbanization. It is estimated that 2/3s of the earth's population cannot see the Milky Way. Light pollution not only impacts astronomers, it is also detrimental to wildlife, a large part of which is nocturnal.

The International Dark-Sky Assoc. (IDA) works to identify locations having a dark sky and to preserve that condition. Newport State Park is in the final stages of dark sky certification by the IDA.

Such certification will draw local and national attention to the Park and visits by astronomy clubs.

Dave noted there will be an eclipse of the sun in August of next year (2017) that will be partially visible from the Park.

**Good of the Order** – In concluding the meeting, President Heil noted upcoming events in the Park. These include the Perseid meteor shower event on August 12th and Newport Wilderness Day on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend.

**Adjournment** - There being no further business to come before the Society at its Annual Meeting, President Heil called for a motion to adjourn. Such motion was made, seconded, and carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

The next Annual Meeting of the Newport Wilderness Society is scheduled to be held on the last Saturday in July 2017. Members were asked to mark their calendars for July 29, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dan Fetterley  
Secretary