

Message from the Board President – Dick Heil

It's hard to believe that summer is upon us already, but it's evident on the trails at Newport State Park from the abundant shade below the leafy tree canopy that wasn't there just a few weeks ago. The relatively long distances that you used to be able to see at eye level from the trails in early spring have diminished considerably now that the undergrowth is present. Earlier in the season, the spring peepers made quite a racket, but now they are suddenly quiet when approached. Speaking of sounds, on a recent hike I startled two whitetail does at different points along the trail and was surprised to hear each one make a type of bleating sound as it scampered away. I've encountered many deer before, but never heard any make sounds like that. It made me wonder if each doe was warning a nearby fawn. You never know what you will find at Newport State Park.

Our Earth Day Workday in the Park Event last April was blessed with perfect spring weather that morning. Comfortably warm temperatures, plenty of sunshine and calm winds made it very enjoyable. A total of 16 volunteers and park staff spent the morning doing various tasks to get the park ready for the coming season. After working up an appetite, we gathered together to enjoy lunch in the Hotz Wilderness Room at the park office.



Our most exciting news since the last issue is that the International Dark Sky Association has designated Newport State Park as Wisconsin's first **International Dark Sky Park**, only the second such park in the Midwest. It's the result of a lot of hard work by our park naturalist, Beth Bartoli, with important help from the Door Peninsula Astronomical Society. The dedication ceremony was held on June 22 and you can read more about that elsewhere in this issue.

Newport State Park: International Dark Sky Park How we Got Here; Where We are Going – Beth Bartoli

It finally happened. Our beautiful Newport State Park has now become the first state park in Wisconsin to be designated an **International Dark Sky Park**, one of just 48 parks in the world to earn the designation.

The idea for applying for the designation began over four years ago when Michelle Hefty approached Ray Stonecipher, a local Door County amateur astronomer and member of the Door Peninsula Astronomical Society, about seeking the designation. International Dark-Sky Association, based in Tucson, AZ, is a non-profit

organization founded in 1988. It is dedicated to protecting the night skies for present and future generations. The association advocates for the protection of the night sky, educates the public and policymakers about night sky conservation, promotes environmentally responsible outdoor lighting and empowers the public with the tools and resources to help bring back the night.

The association board unanimously approved Newport State Park as an International Dark Sky Park on April 27, joining the ranks of Big Bend, Glacier and Grand Canyon national parks. Only 13 other state parks in the United States have received the designation. The association has program guidelines that outline specifics for Dark Sky Park designation, which included sky meter readings from 14 locations with the park, lighting policies of the park and local municipalities, restoration projects, and continuing education plans.

Newport's supporting partners include the Door Peninsula Astronomical Society and a committee of dedicated volunteers. Many thanks go out to Dave Udell, Al Wittenkeller and Tim and Holly Erskine for their efforts to make this happen. Park staff carried out the work to complete the lengthy 63 page application and will continue to ensure the park meets IDA guidelines. From lighting projects to community education and outreach, our commitment to protect our dark sky is a priority we take seriously.

"The prestigious Dark Sky Park designation opens the park to local, regional, national and international astronomical clubs and societies, increasing tourism, especially ecotourism. Obtaining this honor will accord national and international recognition to Newport State Park and the Wisconsin State Park system," said Michelle Hefty, park manager.

A huge **thank you** goes out to Denny Moutray who provided all of our night sky photos, including this spectacular shot:



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www.dennymoutrayphotography.smugmug.com

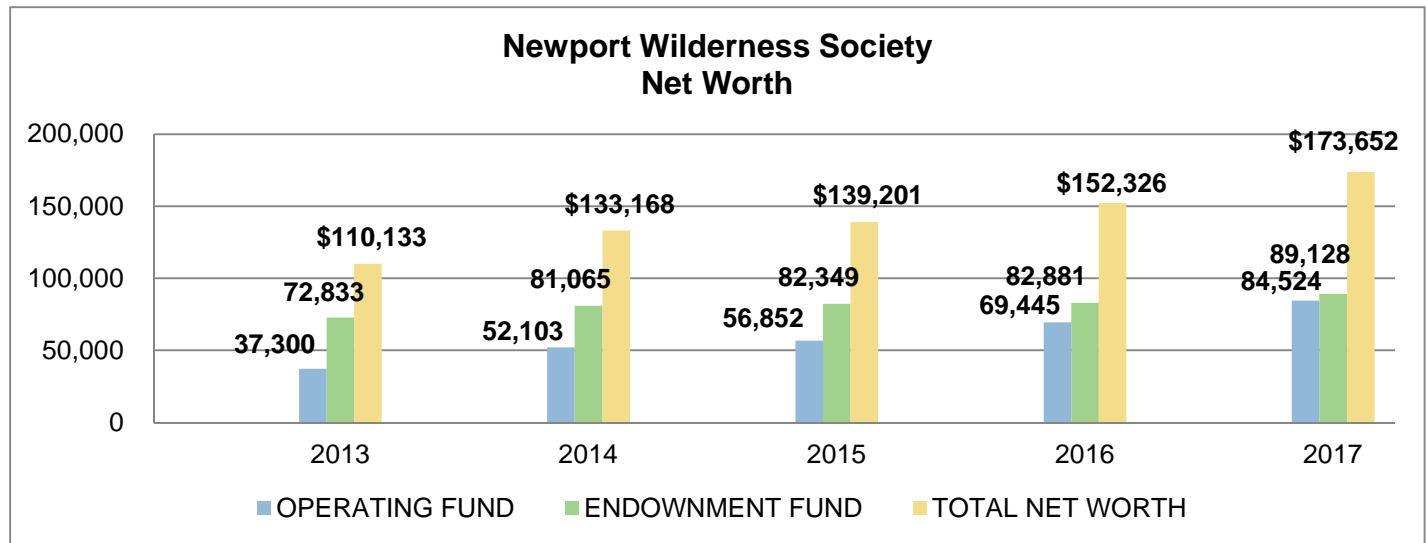
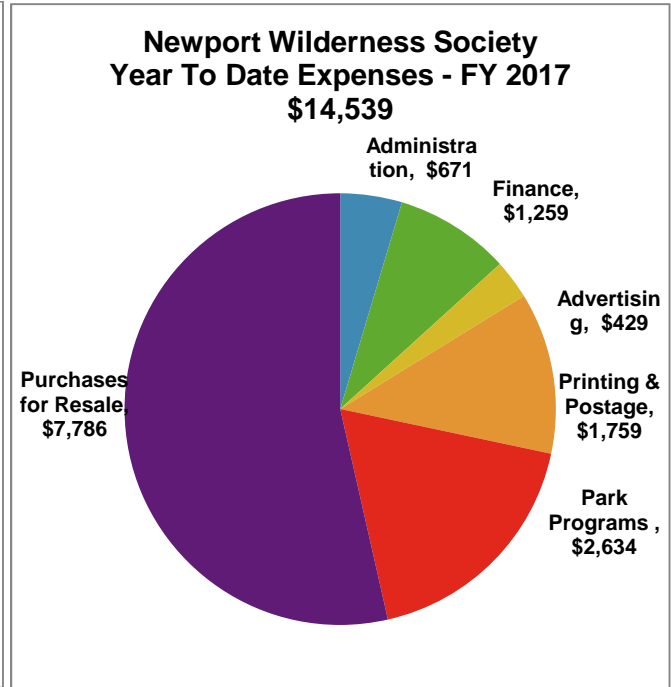
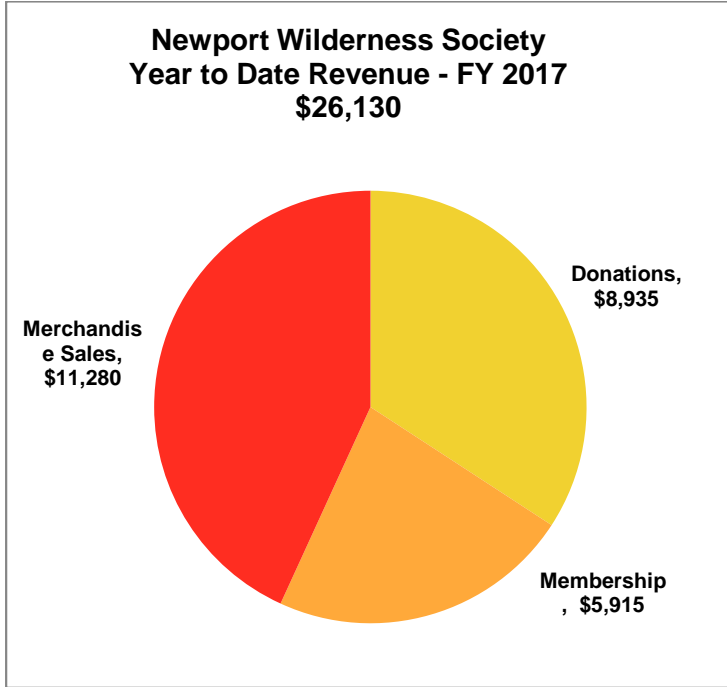
More information can be found on the International Dark Sky Association website <http://darksky.org/ifdp/pstkd/>.

N.W.S. TREASURER'S REPORT – FISCAL YEAR TO DATE – MAY 2017

The Society's fiscal year to date revenue as of the end of May was \$26,130. This result was 15% or \$4,678 less than last year. Merchandise sales were 26% above last year and membership was up 23%, but donations were below last year with the bulk of the shortfall occurring in donations for the naturalist program.

Year to date expenses of \$14,539 were above last year and reflect increased spending on park programs, advertising and the purchase of merchandise for resale to support increased sales. Year to date operating income (revenue less expense) was \$11,591 compared \$16,981 last year. Since the end of May, we have received \$8,600 in donations and memberships that will result in improved results for the year.

Net worth increased to \$173,652 as of the end of May. This increase was due to year to date operating income (discussed above) plus dividends and unrealized gains from our investments. The endowment fund totaled \$89,128, and remains the largest single component of net worth.



Volunteers Shine at Newport this Spring
by Judy Brodd

We had many events going on in the park this spring with volunteers willingly giving of their time and talents to help Newport State Park be ready for summer visitors, celebrate the International Dark Skies Designation, and host international students on a hike in our beautiful park.

Newport Wilderness Society (NWS) had 16 volunteers participate in the April 22nd Earth Day Workday in the park – trimming trees along the trails, cleaning up campsites and gardens, washing windows and raking away the leaves at the office. It was a beautiful day and we thank all of you who participated in this fun event!

On June 22nd we celebrated the International Dark Skies Designation and volunteers provided tons of wonderful homemade snacks. The rain did not deter our enthusiastic support for all the staff and volunteers who made this tremendous designation happen after over four years of hard work. We thank all of you who worked on the Dark Sky project and all of you who brought the delicious snacks to our celebrative dedication!

On June 27th international students hiked the Fern Trail in the park led by NWS volunteers. Thank you to all of you who led these hikes and gave the international students an opportunity to learn about our park and all that they may experience here during their stay in Door County.

Thank you to one and all. It takes so many of us to really make the park ready for our visitors and YOU made that happen!!

Lake Michigan Water Levels
by Jack Travis

As of June 2, 2017, the water level of Lake Michigan is 0.16 feet higher than it was on September 2, 2016. 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 580.25 feet on June 2, 2017; which is 33 inches above chart datum of 577.5 feet, about 4 inches above the May 2, 2017 water level, 43 inches greater than the lowest monthly average for the month of March and 19 inches less than the highest monthly average for the month of March¹.

On June 5, 2017, the water temperature was 45.5° F at NOAA Bouy 45002, which is in the middle of Lake Michigan off the coast of Rock Island, Door County, Wisconsin².

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

²<https://coastwatch.glerl.noaa.gov/marobs/php/data.php?sta=45002&day=157&units=e&zoom=a>

Newport Wilderness Society
Membership as of 5/30/2017
by Jack Travis

<u>Business or Organization Life:</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Couple Life:</u>	<u>70</u>
<u>Family:</u>	<u>86</u>
<u>Honorary :</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>Individual:</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>Individual Life:</u>	<u>44</u>
<u>Grand Total:</u>	<u>276</u>

Merchandise Report
by Amy Dwyer

Items Aplenty! Newport State Park is in full swing for the season, so be sure to stop by the park office when you come to visit.

We've got all your favorites in stock:

- T-shirts
- Sweatshirts
- Fire starters
- Bug spray
- Bandanas (including some with our park hiking map on them!)
- Field guides
- Children's books

... and so much more! We want to have something for everyone. If you cannot find what you wanted, please let us know what you'd like to see offered. Happy trails!

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING NEWPORT PARK!

Whitetails Unlimited, a national conservation nonprofit with headquarters in Sturgeon Bay, donated blaze orange vests for use by park visitors during deer hunting season.

MR Wildlife, LLC in Egg Harbor donated a deer leg for use in the naturalist programs.

Lisa and David Beckwith provided a generous donation to support Newport's Naturalist Program.

We thank all for their support!

PLEASE NOTE: NWS Annual Meeting

Newport Wilderness Society's 32nd ANNUAL MEETING

The 32nd annual meeting of the Newport Wilderness Society will be held on **Saturday, July 29, 2017** at the Lot 3 shelter of Newport State Park in Ellison Bay, Wisconsin. All members and guests of the Society are welcome to attend.

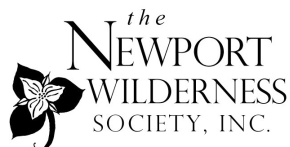
The festivities will begin at 5:00 p.m. with a pig roast dinner catered by Door County Custom Meats, LLC. It is not necessary to attend the dinner, but if you wish to do so, we ask that you send your payment (\$20 per person) by **July 15th** so that we have a firm count for the caterer.

Use the enclosed reservation form or visit the Society's web site (<http://newportwildernesssociety.org>) to download and print a reservation form, and then use your credit card to pay via PayPal.

If you plan to attend the meeting only, please send us a sign-up sheet so that we can prepare name tags for you and your guests.

Following the dinner, we will have a short business meeting followed by a guest speaker.

Our guest speaker this year is Janet Hutchens, the Friends and Volunteer Coordinator for the Wisconsin State Park System. We look forward to hearing from Janet and seeing everyone at the meeting.



p.o. box 187
 ellison bay wisconsin
 54210

**Newport Wilderness Society
 2017 Calendar of Events**

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

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Al Johnson's Swedish Restaurant & Butik ● Bay Shore Outfitters ● Blue Dolphin, Ltd. ● Champeau Floor Covering ● Chop Restaurant ● Cook Book Store ● Dogma Digs and Grooming Studio ● Dovetail Trading ● Ecology Sports ● Going Garbage & Recycling, Inc ● Hammersmith TV & Electronics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Husby's Food & Spirits ● Island Orchard Cider ● Innovative Printing LLC ● JJ's LaPuerta ● Joe Jo's Pizza & Gelato ● Jungwirth Ace Hardware, LLC ● Liberty Grove Market, LLC ● Ludwigen & Tischler DDS ● LURE ● Nicolet Bank | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pirate's Cove Adventure Golf ● Shoreline Restaurant ● Sister Bay Bowl ● Sister Bay Advancement Association ● State Farm Insurance – Carol DeVault ● The Garden Lady ● The Shoreline Resort & Condos ● The Wickman House ● Washington Island Ferry Line ● Voight Automotive |
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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/>