

# *the* TRILLIUM

NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Fall 2017

## Message from the Board President – Dick Heil

Newport State Park was a busy place this summer. Events sponsored by the Society were well attended, consistent with the higher numbers of park visitors in the warmer weather. The August 12<sup>th</sup> Perseid Meteor Shower Event filled parking lot #3 for the first time in several years, so we parked cars along the road extending almost to lot #2. Newport Wilderness Day, traditionally held on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend, became Newport Wilderness Days as we changed to a two-day Saturday/Sunday format allowing us to leave Sunday morning unscheduled for those attending worship services. Saturday began with our “Coffee on the Beach” program with thanks to Base Camp Coffee Bar in Sister Bay for once again donating the delicious coffee and providing pastries. It was a great time to socialize with park visitors and acquaint them with the work of the Society. This year, we gained a new member over coffee.

The 32<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the Newport Wilderness Society was held on Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. As in the past, the meeting was preceded by a picnic supper, which the board decided would be a catered pig roast this year. While the pork and side dishes were delicious, we did not have enough members attend to make this an economical approach in future years. For next year, the board is considering a change to the meeting format, perhaps a morning meeting with coffee and pastries followed by a hike for those interested.

During the business portion of the meeting, the members present re-elected Neil Smith and Dave Vermillion to the board and elected Gene Kenny and Jeanne Rabel as new board members, all with terms expiring in 2020. Our guest speaker was Janet Hutchens, the Friends and Volunteer Coordinator for the Wisconsin State Park System. Janet described her role in promoting the partnership between the DNR and Friend’s groups like ours for the benefit of the Wisconsin state parks and trails. 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 re-elected to the positions indicated below for the 2017 – 2018 fiscal year:

- President Dick Heil
- Vice-President Dick Smythe
- Treasurer Jeanne Rabel
- Secretary Dave Vermillion
- Fifth Member Mary Hansen

In recent years, the Society has funded the Naturalist and Invasive Species Control positions at Newport with \$8,000 and \$4,000, respectively. As mentioned in the annual report, those disbursements were budgeted for fiscal 2016 – 2017 but delayed due to issues connected with Wisconsin’s conversion to a new enterprise resource planning system. When credible account balances finally became available late

in the fiscal year, Michelle determined that the Invasive Species funding would not be required. The funding of the \$8000 for the Naturalist from last fiscal year is awaiting DNR approval to write the check.

For this fiscal year, Michelle is again requesting \$4,000 to \$5,000 for the Invasive Species position but \$12,000 in Naturalist funding due to “catch up” changes in the DNR wage scale for this work. This 50% year-over-year increase will be a challenge for the Society to meet, making your membership renewals and donations even more important this year.

Finally, I’d like to thank the Wild Tomato Pizza Restaurant and Surly Brewing for making Newport Wilderness Society the beneficiary of their August “donation creation” specialty pizza program. Together they donated \$877 to the Society. We are deeply grateful for their support!

## Your NWS Board Needs YOU!

All NWS members are urged to keep alert for potential new NWS Board members! Please let me know of any possible candidates. During the next several months I will be visiting with several previously identified candidates, but that is not to suggest we don't have some work to do. For example, we currently have 10 Board members. Our By-laws require us to have a minimum of 11.

So... I will gladly follow-up with any candidates you may recommend. Let's see if we can't beef up our Board membership for the next year.

Dick Smythe ([dick.smythe@yahoo.com](mailto:dick.smythe@yahoo.com)) 920-854-3330

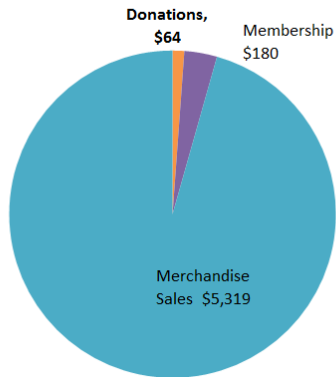
August 21, 1027... Watching the total Solar Eclipse  
*in a really cool spot!*



Can you guess where this “cool spot” is in Newport Wilderness Park?

## NWS TREASURER'S REPORT – FISCAL YEAR 2018 – July 1 thru August 21, 2017

### Newport Wilderness Society Year to Date Revenue



As the new treasurer of the Newport Wilderness Society I am pleased to present this first article for the Trillium. I want to extend a special thanks to Neil Smith for his fine work as the previous treasurer and for all of his assistance in getting me started in this endeavor.

Year to date revenue of \$5,563 exceeds expenses by \$2,735. Merchandise sales account for the vast majority of NWS revenue for this, the first two months of the organization's fiscal year. The International Dark Sky dedication and the annual meeting accounted for the majority of expenses for these two months.

NWS was pleased to receive a generous donation of \$8,000 in June by the Beckwith Foundation to support the work of the park naturalist. That donation is not reflected in the above table as it came at the end of the previous fiscal year.

NWS investments include an operating fund and an endowment fund and currently total \$161,526. These investments will support long-term and capital projects in the future.

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### Membership and Fundraising

Although the Newport Wilderness Society's fiscal year runs from July through June, our memberships are renewed on a calendar year basis. As in recent years, we will mail renewal forms in November to those members whose membership expires at the end of the year.

There will be a second mailing in December to all members asking that you consider donating to the Society to benefit a park program of your choice. Since the Newport Wilderness Society is a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the federal tax code, all donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Your membership renewals and donations are especially important this year as we try to meet the request to increase our funding of the naturalist position by \$4,000. Please watch for these appeals in your mail. Thank you!

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### NWS Benefits from Pizza & Beer Sales

The Wild Tomato Pizza Restaurants in Fish Creek and Sister Bay named Newport Wilderness Society the beneficiary of their "Donation Creation" pizza program for August. This program donates a portion of the proceeds from the donation creation pizza sales to benefit worthy causes. The Surly Brewing Company also participated in the program through donations from sales of a designated Surly Brewing beverage. In addition, the two companies gathered volunteers to plant milkweed seeds on the Monarch Trail on August 30<sup>th</sup>. The proceeds from the Wild Tomato Pizza and Surly Brewing donations totaled \$877! We greatly appreciate their efforts to benefit the Society and the park.

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### Merchandise Report by Gene Kenny

We had an outstanding summer for the sale of merchandise, including tee shirts, sweatshirts, caps and a variety of camping items. Field guides and children's books continue to be a big hit and an increase in inventory this year certainly helped. Sales also benefited by the great turn out for the Perseid meteor shower and the activities by the Naturalist including the growing and releasing of Monarch butterflies and routine hikes through the park trails.

During the next few months, new tee shirts for both adults and children that include a new Newport State Park logo and an image of the night sky and Milky Way are coming. Also, redesigned park stickers that highlight the park's International Dark Sky designation were ordered.

**News from the Naturalist**  
**by Beth Bartoli**

As wonderfully busy as summer has been here at Newport, fall brings a different kind of busy. As certain as the daylight wanes and nights get cool, our pace changes after Labor Day. Weekends still bring lots of visitors and campers, but the weekdays give us a little breathing room and a chance to catch up a bit.

Summer programs were very well received this year. Our new International Dark Sky Park designation has garnered much interest and many inquiries. Night viewing programs brought in a lot of astronomy buffs, photographers and star seekers. The Perseid meteor shower on August 12<sup>th</sup> brought in a good crowd. Even with the moon making an appearance, everyone seemed to enjoy hanging out, gazing towards the heavens, trying to catch the fiery trails etched in sky by the meteors.

We were wowed by another astronomical event this summer; the solar eclipse on August 21<sup>st</sup>. Though we could only see about 80% of totality because of our northern location, hundreds of people showed up at our picnic and beach areas to communally view this spectacle. As the clouds of the morning cleared, everyone ended up sharing the solar viewing glasses during peak coverage so all had a chance to view the eclipse. It turned out to be a wonderful time of sharing this extraordinary event.



As many of you know, we have had an active monarch “nursery” in the Nature Center for the past few summers. This year turned out to be a very good for the monarchs. As of this article, we have released 110 beautiful monarchs with another 10 still to come. As a comparison, the total released last year was 75. And thanks to Surly Brewing, Wild Tomato and Prairie Nursery, volunteers came and planted milkweed seeds along areas on the Monarch Trail to ensure great habitat for future monarch generations.



Though things are winding down, there are still programs going on through the fall season. Come join me!

**Volunteers Needed Saturday, October 28!**

***Come One, Come All, Help Clean Up for the Fall from 9:00 am-12 pm!***

Thanks to all those who gave of their time, energy, and expertise for two recent events at the park – the Perseid Meteor Shower viewing and Newport Wilderness Days. Volunteers assisted with selling park passes, parking, describing the night sky, leading hikes, and setting up food and drink for volunteers. Thanks, too, to Joel Kersebet from Base Camp for donating the coffee provided at Wilderness Days!

Next up is our **Fall Work Day, scheduled for Saturday, October 28, from 9:00 am – 12 pm**. Some typical tasks accomplished that day include removing overhanging limbs on trails, putting small gardens “to bed” for the winter, and removing cob webs and cleaning windows at the picnic shelter. The work is never hard and the camaraderie it affords makes it quite enjoyable. Just knowing that you’re lending a hand might be reward enough, but in this case if you stick around after the work is done you can enjoy lunch provided by the Newport Wilderness Society with your fellow volunteers! The park provides the necessary tools, but items you might find helpful to bring along if you have them are: loppers, work gloves, and water to drink. See you there! ☺

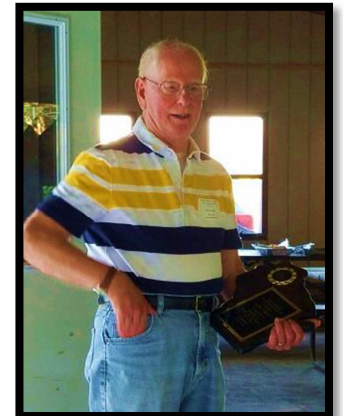
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**Newport Wilderness Society’s 32<sup>nd</sup>  
Annual Meeting  
on Saturday, July 29, 2017**



Guest speaker, Janet Hutchens, the Friends and Volunteer Coordinator for the Wisconsin State Park System.

**Past President,  
Jack Travis Retires  
from the NWS Board**



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**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!**



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54210

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**Newport Wilderness Society  
2017 Calendar of Events**

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

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

- Al Johnson's Swedish Restaurant & Butik
- Bay Shore Outfitters
- Blue Dolphin, Ltd.
- Champeau Floor Covering
- Chop Restaurant
- Cook Book Store
- Dogma Diggs and Grooming Studio
- Dovetail Trading
- Ecology Sports
- Going Garbage & Recycling, Inc
- Hammersmith TV & Electronics
- 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
- Ludwigsen & Tischler DDS
- LURE
- Nicolet Bank
- 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