

Message from the Board President – Dick Heil

Newport State Park has made the transition from a busy and remarkably warm fall season to a quieter and peaceful winter season. Some strong gales in early December finally ushered in the cold weather followed by a series of clipper systems from our Canadian friends. The first significant accumulating snow of the season in Door County arrived soon after. The gales toppled many trees across the trails, so until they are cleared, hikes involve a bit of obstacle course work. Earlier in the season, the park staff marked many of the dead trees at risk of falling on the trails with an orange “bulls eye” and many of these had already been cleared.

Park Manager Michelle Hefty and I attended the annual Friends of Wisconsin State Parks event on November 4th. The venue for this meeting was Heritage Hill State Park in Green Bay. All Friends groups were invited to set up displays highlighting their activities of the past year. The theme of our display centered on the park’s designation as an International Dark Sky park and the importance of reducing artificial light for reasons of energy conservation, human health, and the impact on animal and plant life. At the award ceremony following the banquet, Newport State Park was presented the Gold Seal Award as the best state park system property for star gazing.

Speaking of the night sky, the Newport Wilderness Society has been invited to sell merchandise next May at the conference of the North Central Region of the Astronomical League to be held in Sturgeon Bay. The Astronomical League is an umbrella organization of amateur astronomy societies. Currently their membership consists of over 240 organizations across the United States. If you’ve been in the park office recently, you’ve seen the selection of dark sky and astronomy themed merchandise that the Society sells to raise money for the park. These have been very popular with park visitors, and we’re confident that the attendees at the Astronomical League conference will feel the same way. By the way, Newport’s Naturalist, Beth Bartoli, will be a speaker at the conference, so we will be well represented.

I’m pleased to report that we were finally able to send the \$8000 check to the DNR for fiscal 2016 - 2017 funding of the park naturalist. As I reported in the last issue, this payment was delayed due to issues connected with Wisconsin’s conversion to a new enterprise resource planning system. The Society’s budget for the 2017 – 2018 fiscal year includes that delayed payment plus an additional \$12,000 payment for funding the naturalist this year. The year-over-year increase is due to “catch up” changes in the DNR wage scale for this position and is expected to remain at that level going forward. Michelle has decided that most of the invasive species control work in the coming year can be funded by the DNR trail maintenance account. Given that, the Society will only need to make a relatively small payment toward that effort. Any unspent donations designated for invasive species control will held in reserve until needed.

Looking ahead, the Society is preparing for the 2018 Candlelight Ski/Snowshoe/Hike at Newport State Park to be held on the evening of Saturday, February 10th. This is one of our premier events and we’re hoping for a good base of skiable snow this year. See the article elsewhere in this issue for more information.

NWS Board Nominating Committee – Dick Smythe

We are pleased to introduce new NWS Board Member, Sheryl Honig. Thank you, Sheryl for serving. In addition, all NWS members are urged to keep alert for potential new NWS Board members! Please let me know of any possible candidates. I will gladly follow-up with any candidates you may recommend. We know there are talented and interested individuals in our membership who could enhance our Board.

Dick Smythe (dick.smythe@yahoo.com) 920-854-3330

Membership and Fundraising

We recently finished our annual membership renewal and donation appeal campaigns. The Society’s membership year coincides with the calendar year. Renewal letters were mailed to 140 members in October and donation appeal letters were mailed to 270 members and friends of the Society in late November. We appreciate the responses received from so many of you and will report the results in the spring issue of *The Trillium*. If you haven’t yet renewed your membership or sent that donation you planned to make, add that to your New Year’s resolutions. At tax time, remember that the Newport Wilderness Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, so your dues and donations are tax deductible within limits of the law.

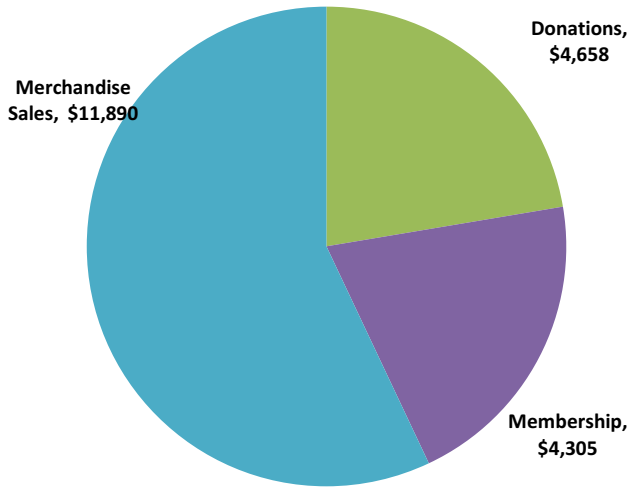
Raffle Winners Selected

The raffle drawing for the winner of the beautiful, framed night sky photograph taken at Newport by NWS member Dennis Moutray was held on October 28th. As you can see from the photo below, it was a very serious affair (the raffle prize is displayed on the wall behind the pumpkin). We sold 130 tickets which raised \$493 for the Society after deducting ticket printing costs. The lucky winner was from Kenosha and was thrilled to hear the news. We thank Dennis Moutray for his generous donation!

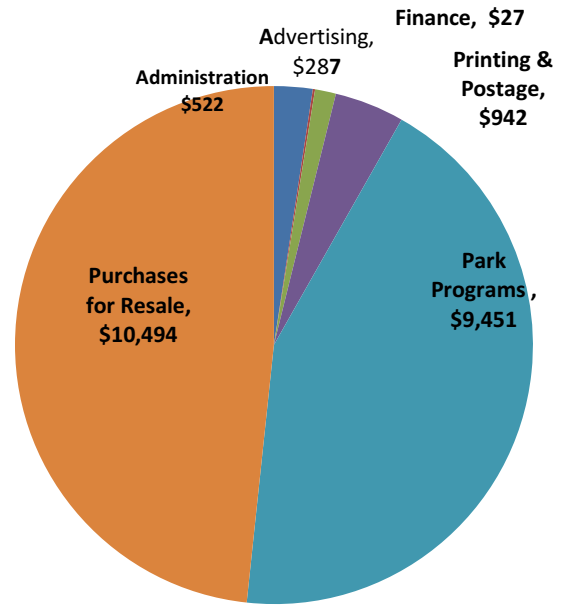


Treasurer's Report -- July 1, 2017 to November 30, 2017

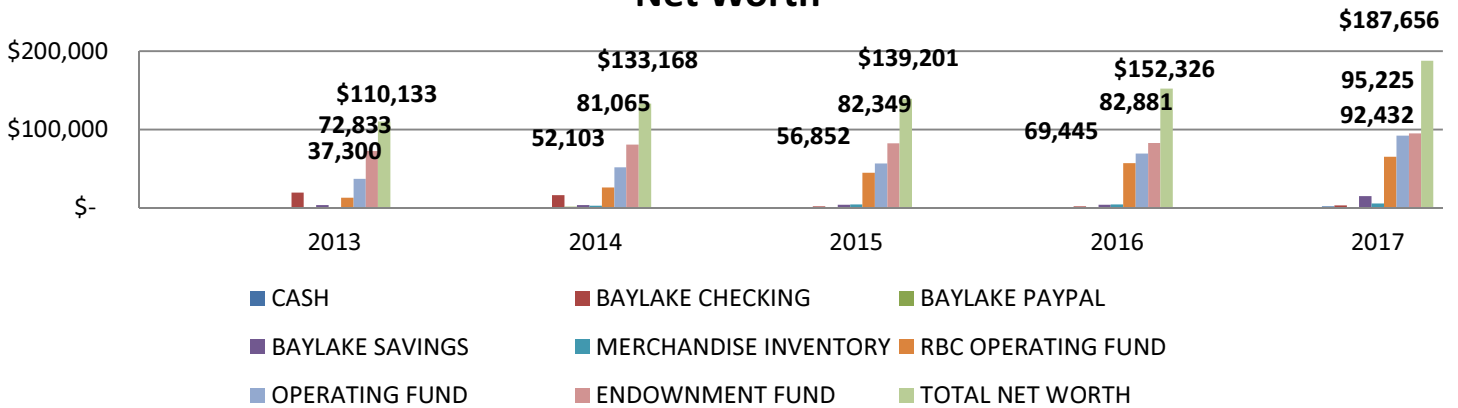
**Newport Wilderness Society
Year to Date Revenue - FY
2018
\$20,853**



**Newport Wilderness Society
Year To Date Operating Expenses FY
2018
\$21,723**



**Newport Wilderness Society
Net Worth**



Year to date Newport Wilderness Society (NWS) has welcomed new and returning members totaling 45 families, 22 individuals, and 17 organizations. In addition, 2 couples became lifetime members, and one organization joined as a lifetime member. Merchandise sales exceeded merchandise expenses by over \$1,300 in just five months. The biggest NWS expense for this period was the Society's donation of \$8,000 to DNR to fund the park naturalist. This explains why expenses exceeded revenue during this period. Although not reflected in this time period, yearend donations have already exceeded \$2,000 with more coming in almost daily.

Volunteers Needed Saturday, February 10!



Thank you to the volunteers in attendance for our Fall Work Day in October! Park Manager, Michelle Hefty, put us to work trimming trails and cleaning up outside the park office. As always, work was followed by play; in this case, take-out sandwiches enjoyed around the table together.

One troubling part of the picture, however, is that all nine of the volunteers that day are either on the park Board or are park employees. We'd love to have other members join in the fun! Please consider increasing your involvement with the best state park in Door County by volunteering in 2018!

Next up: Our Candlelight Ski/Hike, to be held **Saturday, February 10, 2018**. It's a magical night, especially if there is snow on the ground. We light the trail with candles and finish up at the warming hut where refreshments await. Volunteers are needed to light the path with candles, assist in the parking lot, build and tend the fire, help set out refreshments and clean up at the end of the evening. Please contact Amy Dwyer at: wattsupindoor@gmail.com if you'd like more information or are ready to step-up and volunteer! Be sure to put *NWS Volunteer* in the Subject line. Please note that 2018 park stickers will be required for entry into the park. They can be purchased at the main office prior to the event or you may self-register that evening.

New Year's Day Hike, January 1, 2018 by Greg Wilde

The Newport State park First Day Hike is a tradition that is meant to be challenged by frigid temperatures, gusty winds with a little snow mixed in. It is, after all, winter in Door County. The 2018 First Day Hike met all of the benchmarks for a January walk in the woods.

Temps below zero (-1) - check.

Some snow on the trails - check

Winds to drive the wind chill well below zero (-16) - check.

All were offset by sun and startling blue skies.

Twenty hikers and one golden retriever gathered on New Year's morning for a two mile hike on Upland Trail. The forest did a wonderful job in sheltering the group from the wind resulting in a very comfortable walk. And a beautiful walk it was, highlighted by a fresh recent snow and bright sunshine.

After the hike, the group adjourned to the Range Station for hot cocoa, marshmallows and muffins - a great start to 2018.

Blue Moon on January 31st

There will be a "blue moon" on January 31st. Newport Park's Naturalist, Beth Bartoli, will be leading a Clearing Class hike at Newport Park that afternoon.

There are two definitions of a Blue Moon in astronomy; both are a type of Full Moon. If the moon actually looks blue, it is caused by a rare type of dust in the atmosphere. However, in some areas, this particular Blue Moon may look red, because it will cause a total lunar eclipse, also known as a Blood Moon. The term "once in a Blue Moon" means that something is very rare.

After the hike, class members will then assemble at the shelter by Lot #3 to watch the moon rise at 5:17 PM. All NWS members are invited to watch the moon rise. If you wish to attend, please contact Dick Smythe. We are all invited but please contact Dick Smythe (dick.smythe@yahoo.com) 920-854-3330. so that he can inform the Clearing Class leader, Mari Jo Young.

Merchandising by Gene Kenny

Merchandise sales throughout the Fall months continued to soar. Sales through December were more than 30% above the previous fiscal year. The sale of Dark Sky merchandise, which arrived in October, led the way.

The display area in the visitor center was also redesigned this year. More merchandise is now on display for visitors to see.

T-Shirts and sweatshirts for both adults and children which included a revised Newport State Park logo and an image of the night sky, made great holiday gifts. Plus, a redesigned park sticker which highlights the Newport State Park's International Dark Sky designation sold well. Park visitors have continued to purchase a variety of field guides and children's books.

The sale of merchandise helps the Newport Wilderness Society's mission to support the many wonderful attributes of Newport Wilderness Society in our mission to support Newport State Park and all its wonderful attributes. Come join us for the candlelight ski and see what the park has to offer..

Newport Wilderness Society **2018 Calendar of Events (subject to change)**

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Friday, Feb. 2 | NWS Board Meeting, 2:30 pm, Hotz Wilderness Room |
| Saturday, Feb. 10 | Candlelight Cross-Country Ski/Snowshoe/Hike 5:30 pm |
| Friday, Apr. 6 | NWS Board Meeting, 2:30 pm, Hotz Wilderness Room |
| Saturday, Apr. 21 | Earth Day Workday in the Park, 9 am - 12 pm |
| Friday, June 1 | NWS Board Meeting, 2:30 pm, Hotz Wilderness Room |
| Friday, July 6 | Exec. committee Meeting 2:30 - 3:30 on, Hotz Wilderness Room |
| Sunday, July 1 | Committee Annual Reports (except Treasurer) due |
| Saturday, July 28 | NWS Annual Meeting, 9:30 - 10:30 am, Lot 3 Shelter |
| Friday, Aug. 3 | NWS Board Meeting, 2:30 pm, Hotz Wilderness Room |
| Sunday, Aug. 12 | Perseid Meteor Shower Event, 8:30 pm Lot 3 |
| Saturday, Sept. 1 | Newport Wilderness Days |
| Sunday, Sept. 2 | |
| Friday, Oct. 5 | NWS Board Meeting, 2:30 pm, Hotz Wilderness Room |
| Saturday, Oct. 27 | Fall Work Day in the Park, 9 am - 12 pm |
| Friday, Dec. 7 | NWS Board Meeting, 2:30 pm, Hotz Wilderness Room |

Dark Skies for Bright Stars

NORTH CENTRAL REGION OF THE ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE ANNUAL CONVENTION

Hosted by Door Peninsula Astronomical Society. MAY 4-5, 2018 at The Lodge at Leathem-Smith

Door Peninsula Astronomical Society (DPAS) will host the meeting in Sturgeon Bay, WI to celebrate the recent designation of nearby *Newport State Park* as an International Dark Sky Site, the first in Wisconsin and only the 13th in the entire United States. Any attendees wishing to visit this Dark Sky site should bring viewing equipment. Newport Park may be visited the day before or after the meeting. On Friday evening members of DPAS will open our observatory and Astronomy Center for viewing and tours of the facilities. During the day Saturday we will be having an astronomy photo contest and astronomy related poetry contest.

Among the several speakers will be **Beth Bartoli**, the Naturalist at Newport State Park in Door County, our recently designated Dark Sky Site. The designation was awarded after years of work by Beth, the staff of the park and our Door Peninsula Astronomical Society. She helps conduct astronomy programs at the park and states "We never tire of seeing that 'aha' moment on the upturned faces of our visitors as they gaze toward the heavens." The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Newport State Park are committed to protect our dark sky through lighting projects, community education and outreach. Members of DPAS cordially invite you and your guests to join us here in beautiful Door County, Wisconsin for an informative and relaxing weekend with fellow amateur astronomers.

PLEASE SUPPORT THESE LOCAL BUSINESS MEMBERS OF THE NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY

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- 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
- Husby's Food & Spirits
- Island Orchard Cider
- Innovative Printing LLC
- JJ's LaPuerta
- Joe Jo's Pizza & Gelato
- Jungwirth Ace Hardware, LLC
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- LURE
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- Shoreline Restaurant
- Sister Bay Bowl
- Sister Bay Advancement Association
- State Farm Insurance – Carol DeVault
- The Garden Lady
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- The Wickman House
- Washington Island Ferry Line
- Voight Automotive