
Message from the Board President – Dick Heil

The conditions for the February 10th Candlelight Ski event could hardly have been any better. There was a good base of snow groomed for skiing, the evening sky was clear and there was no wind. We had a good turnout thanks to the favorable conditions and the efforts of our many volunteers to place the candles and perform the many other tasks necessary for a successful event. We also thank Island Orchard Cider in Ellison Bay for donating the cider enjoyed by many after skiing, hiking and snowshoeing.

The park is making the transition to spring conditions and to date, the thaws have been gradual enough to avoid major areas of flooding along the trails. Of course, springtime ice is always present to some degree until the temperatures warm enough to thaw the ground and allow standing water to drain into the soil, but so far it has not been a big problem. I find that the Ridge Trail is usually the first to shed its snow. After several months of hiking on snow, it's a great feeling to have your boots on solid, stable ground for a change. Soon, the seasonal park staff will return and begin removing winter deadfall trees from across the trails.

It may be a few months before many visitors start returning to Newport State Park, but the Society's board has been busy with several initiatives to benefit the park. We are awaiting DNR approval to mail the \$12,000 check to cover the naturalist's salary and benefits for 2018. It may seem odd, but you can't just send the DNR money for a worthy cause to benefit the park until they give you permission to do so. The board also recently funded our naturalist expenses to attend the Wisconsin Summit for Natural Resource Volunteers in Eau Claire as part of her continuing education. Finally, the board approved a \$5000 donation toward the construction of a Dark Sky information kiosk in lot 3. As an International Dark Sky Park, we want to have signage that will aid nighttime visitors who come to enjoy the night skies at Newport.

None of this would be possible without the contributions of the many donors to the Newport Wilderness Society. I'm pleased to report that our 2017 fund raising resulted in donations totaling \$34,158, a significant increase from 2016, largely due to a very generous donation from one of our members. You can see the honor role of our donors elsewhere in this issue.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars the April 21st, Earth Day Workday in the Park event. This is our traditional day for spring cleanup of the trails, buildings and campsites. We've seen a downturn in volunteers at recent workday events, so I encourage you to think about helping us out. We'd like to involve more members than those on the board doing these important jobs. See the article elsewhere in this issue for more information.

I'd also like to mention that Earth Day falls within International Dark Sky Week, which runs from April 15th through the 21st. International Dark Sky Week draws attention to the problems associated with light pollution and promotes simple solutions available to mitigate it. You can find more information at:

<http://www.darksky.org/dark-sky-week-2018/>

As I mentioned in the winter issue, the Newport Wilderness Society has been invited to sell merchandise on May 4th and 5th at the conference of the North Central Region of the Astronomical League to be held at The Lodge at Leathem Smith in Sturgeon Bay. The

Astronomical League is an umbrella organization of amateur astronomy societies. Newport's Naturalist, Beth Bartoli, will be a speaker at the conference, so we will be well represented.

I hope you have a chance to visit the park soon and take advantage of all it has to offer.

NWS Board Nominating Committee – Dick Smythe

The Nominating Committee, with all the vast resources at its disposal, is always on the lookout for possible new Board members. We may have a new member joining us in April and that would be most welcome. But we must not be complacent. We always can benefit from new ideas and new energy. So, please forward to me the names and contact info for any possible Board candidates.

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

Merchandising – Gene Kenny

Through the winter, merchandise sales have continued to surpass previous years. The addition of products to highlight Newport State Park's Dark Sky designation has certainly led the way. In addition, sales of short sleeve shirts, sweatshirts and hoodies for both adults and children have also sold well. A new line of "long sleeve" shirts in both navy and black colors depicting our dark sky will be added to our line-up for this spring.

The Newport Wilderness Society was invited to be a vendor for the North Central Region of the Astronomical League (NCRAL) Conference on May 4th and 5th in Sturgeon Bay. Along with a presentation by our Newport Park Naturalist Beth Bartoli, merchandise that emphasizes the Dark Sky certification will be offered there.

The sale of merchandise along with your donations helps the Newport Wilderness Society's mission to support the many wonderful attributes of Newport State Park.

Volunteering – Amy Dwyer

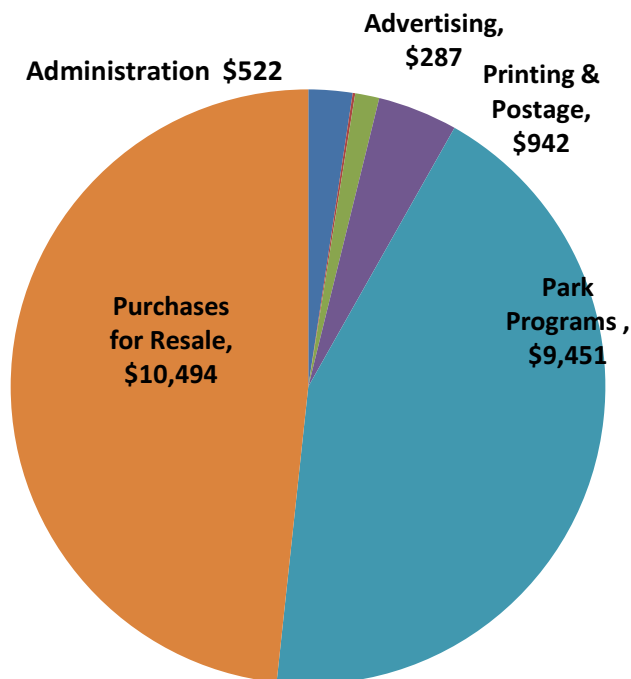
Do you know how many volunteers showed up to help at the candlelight ski we had in February? That's right – 25 hearty souls came together to help park staff create a truly beautiful backdrop for enjoying the unique experience of nighttime skiing! Thanks to each and every one of you for helping make that magical evening come together. And special thanks to **Island Orchard Cider** for donating delicious cider for us to enjoy and to Maury, who groomed the trails that night and all winter long!

More volunteer opportunities:

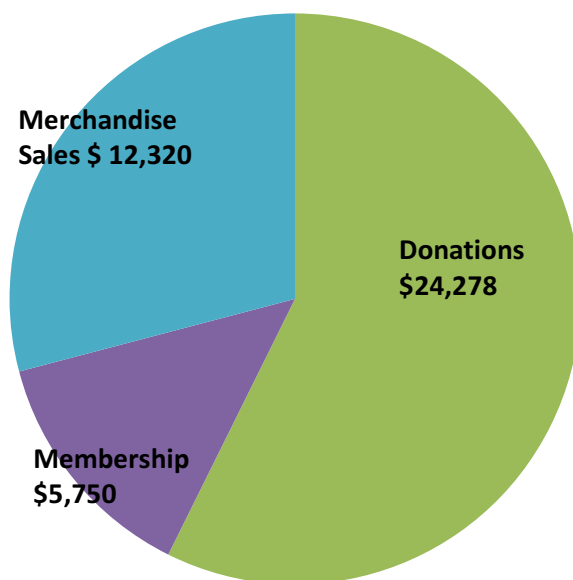
- **Saturday, April 21, Earth Day Spring Clean-Up** 9 am -12 noon. No special skills needed! Duties include trimming branches on trails, sprucing up the office area garden, washing windows, etc. Tools will be on hand, but feel free to bring your own hand tools. After the work is done, lunch will be provided!

- **Contact Beth Bartoli, our Naturalist**, who would be happy to have your assistance with several projects, including the restoration of the "History of Newport" kiosk building. Or assist at *star parties* and **Dark Sky** events with parking, directing visitors, or just being on hand. Happy trails!

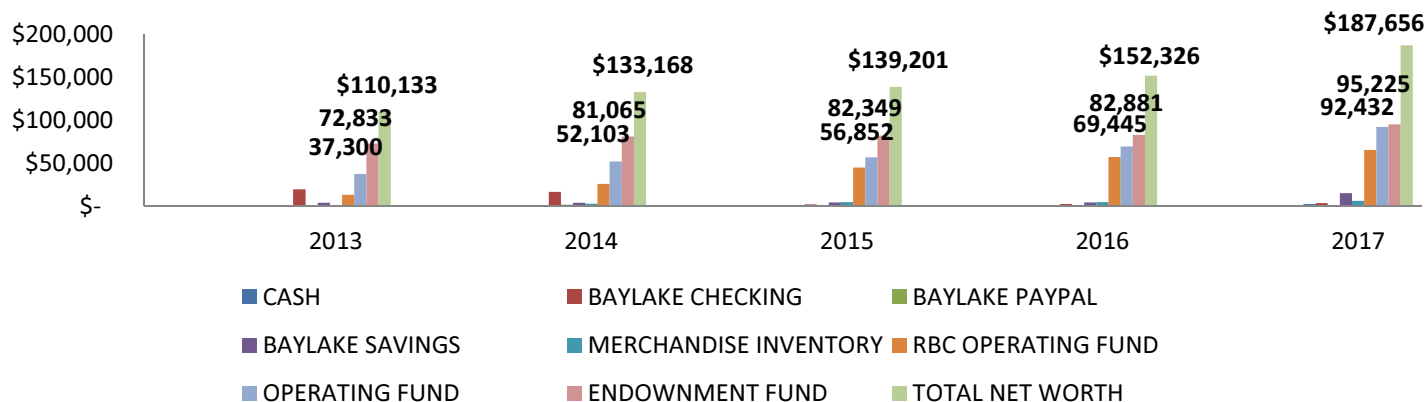
Newport Wilderness Society Year To Date Operating Expenses - FY 2018 \$21,723



Newport Wilderness Society Year to Date Revenue - FY 2018 \$42,348



Newport Wilderness Society Net Worth



Revenue from merchandise sales continues to be robust. New merchandise with the dark sky theme is expected to further boost sales. NWS was fortunate to receive many small and several large donations during the last few months. In the coming months NWS will need to again transfer funds to DNR for the Naturalist position and may also need to transfer funds for invasives species control. Plans are also underway to fund a special kiosk to inform park visitors about dark sky viewing as part of the Park's designation as an International Dark Sky Park

This is the time of year that so many of us in northern Door look forward to. Snow comes but doesn't stay long, days are warming, and daylight hangs around a little longer. I even heard Sandhill cranes, their primal calls coming from overhead. The promise of spring spreads across the land. I am grateful to have this quiet time to catch up on things before the busy season bowls us over.

I am going on record as saying I love winter. And this winter has been a rare treat for me, as I have been able to be at the park working part time. It is beautiful and peaceful as our pace slows for the winter months. It is a good thing. I have kept busy working on some of the projects we have slated for our Dark Sky Park. And there are always "winter people" coming in to enjoy quiet sports on our trails. The snow has been really great for skiing, hiking and snow shoeing.

There is much in the works in preparation for the summer season. The biggest project is the addition of custom designed signage that is being made for the kiosk area by Lot 3. It will have everything one needs to know about Dark Sky parks, Newport in particular. There will even be an audio component, so watch for it late spring. There will also be new brochures, an updated map and visual aids to help with any confusion or questions as to where to go and what to look for. I am currently setting up dates for Dark Sky programs. These will take place regularly through the summer and fall. Check the NWS website or Facebook page for current information.

As our Dark Sky Park designation continues to draw attention to Newport, Door Peninsula Astronomical Society (DPAS) is hosting the North Central Region of the Astronomical League (NCRAL) Annual Convention in Sturgeon Bay on May 4th and 5th. They are using pictures of Newport for all advertising and literature, and planning trips to the park each evening of the conference. I will be one of the featured speakers on Saturday. The NWS will be selling Dark Sky merchandise at the event. Here is the link for more information: www.doorastronomy.org/ncral-2018.

Plan on coming out some night soon, as the winter nights are cool, crisp and clear. Keep your eyes to the skies!

Available NOW at the Liberty Grove/Sister Bay Library

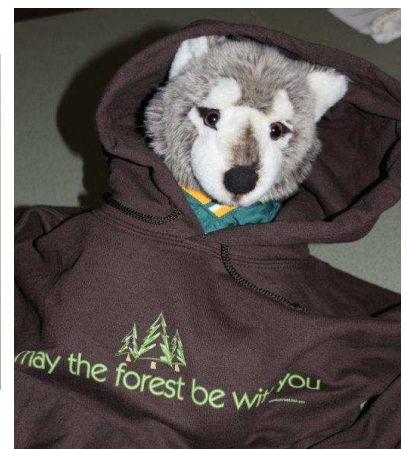
Calling all **Star Gazers!** The Door Peninsula Astronomical Society has generously provided two professional quality telescopes to the Liberty Grove/Sister Bay Library and two additional telescopes to the Sturgeon Bay Library. These telescopes are professional instruments which may be checked out with your library card for a period of two weeks. The telescope comes complete with Constellation maps, user manual and a star chart "for the month". A solar lens filter is also available. Enjoy the award-winning Newport Park Dark Sky with these powerful tools.



Calling all Shutterbugs!

Your Newport Wilderness Society's Website wants to be refreshed. Share your favorite Newport photos with the world! A great way to promote the amazing beauty and variety found in Newport Wilderness Park is by showcasing pictures you have taken. You know they're good – share them. Email them to our webmaster at dcchamp42@gmail.com. Note: By sending your pictures, you give permission for them to be used on the NWS website – nowhere else.

Some of the great merchandise available at the Park Office



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, May 5, there will be 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 | ● Jerry's Flowers | ● Risser Law Office |
| ● Blue Dolphin, Ltd. | ● Jungwirth Ace Hardware, LLC | ● Shoreline Restaurant |
| ● Champeau Floor Covering | ● Kick Ash Products | ● Sister Bay Advancement Association |
| ● Dovetail Trading | ● Liberty Grove Market, LLC | ● Sister Bay Bowl |
| ● Ecology Sports | ● Joe Jo's Pizza & Gelato | ● Sister Bay Mobil |
| ● Going Garbage & Recycling, Inc | ● Ludwigsen & Tischler DDS | ● State Farm Insurance-Carol DeVault |
| ● Hammersmith TV & Electronics | ● Nicolet Bank | ● Top Shelf Gourmet |
| ● Husby's Food & Spirits | ● Night Sky Ventures | ● The Wickman House |
| ● JJ's LaPuerta | ● Pirate's Cove Adventure Golf | ● Wild Tomato |

2017 Fundraising Drive Results

In November 2017, the Newport Wilderness Society mailed invitations for donations to support our Naturalist salary and benefits, the Nature Center Fund, the "As Needed" Fund, the Invasive Species Control Fund, and the Endowment Fund. Thanks to our donors' generous responses, the year-end fund drive yielded \$12,703 for the As Needed Fund, \$1,350 for the Endowment Fund, \$19,685 for the Naturalist Fund and \$420 for the Invasive Species Fund, altogether totaling \$34,158. This fiscal year, the Newport Wilderness Society has sent \$8000 to the DNR for the Naturalist salary and benefits (a delayed payment from fiscal 2017) and is awaiting DNR approval to send \$12,000 for fiscal 2018. The Society has also pledged \$5000 this year toward the construction of a new Dark Sky information kiosk at lot 3. We are very grateful for our donors' generosity which has enabled the Society to benefit Newport State Park. We would like to recognize their contributions below.

Duck Bay Trail Club (<\$100) - Endowment

Kaye Wagner - Baileys Harbor, WI

Duck Bay Trail Club (<\$100) - As Needed

Patricia Alarie - Neenah, WI

Amazon Smile

Beth & Don Bartoli - Kenosha, WI

Nick Brashi - Ellison Bay, WI

Linda Brooks - Sister Bay, WI

Rosemary Caruk - Evanston, IL

CHOP Restaurant - Sister Bay, WI

Daniel Connolly - Manitowoc, WI

Donna Danielson - Wheaton, IL

Jack Travis & Diane Morgan - Ellison Bay, WI

Roy & Helene Dilulio - Ellison Bay, WI

Thomas & Joan Dunn - Madison, WI

Martin & Hillary Ford - Ellison Bay, WI

James & Janet Foster - Pleasant Prairie, WI

Raymond & Kathleen Fuchs - Appleton, WI

Anthony & Cheryl Furlick - Wauwatosa, WI

GE Foundation - Fairfield, CT

Jim & Joanne Gustafson - Ellison Bay, WI

Jayne Harding - Ellison Bay, WI

Harlan & Judyann Hirt - La Grange, IL

Steve & Marjorie Karges - Janesville, WI

Ron Klimaitis - Ellison Bay, WI

Bob Lindahl & Wilma Van Arragon - Ellison Bay, WI

Les & Roxann Lucas - Milwaukee, WI

LURE Restaurant - Sister Bay, WI

Phyllis Mielke - Sister Bay, WI

Paul & Gabriele Moylan - St Louis, MO

Peter & Jean Ann Nowak - Lake Villa, IL

Edward & Maryjo Osowski - La Grange, IL

Gwynne Schultz - Sister Bay, WI

Shelley Shea - Lakewood, CO

Ann Sheridan - Sturgeon Bay, WI

Jeanne Smith - Madison, WI

Gerald Swanson - Ellison Bay, WI

The Bridges - Ellison Bay, WI

Catharina Thomsen - Ellison Bay, WI

Kaye Wagner - Baileys Harbor, WI

John & M. Jane Whitney - Baileys Harbor, WI

Jane & Karl Wise - Baileys Harbor, WI

Carl & Sandy Zapffe - Ellison Bay, WI

Barbara Ziegler - Nauvoo, IL

Duck Bay Trail Club (<\$100) - Naturalist

Roy & Helene Dilulio - Ellison Bay, WI

Joy & Fred Lang - Jerry's Flowers - Sister Bay, WI

Robert Judd - Ellison Bay, WI

Charlotte Lukes - Egg Harbor, WI

Michael & Barbara Madden - Sturgeon Bay, WI

John Maguire - Fairfield, IA

Demaris & Antonio Martinez - Portland, OR

Peter & Jean Ann Nowak - Lake Villa, IL

Duck Bay Trail Club (< \$100) - Invasive Species

Robert Judd - Ellison Bay, WI

Marilyn McDonald - Oberlin, OH

Sand Cove Trail Club (\$100-\$249) - Endowment

Michelle Bratzke - Lindenhurst, IL

Werner & Sue Krause - Ellison Bay, WI
Neil & Barbara Smith - Gurnee, IL
Tom & Jo Ann Turriff - DePere, WI

Sand Cove Trail Club (\$100-\$249) - As Needed

Richard & Mary Joan Barry - Chicago, IL
Arthur & Kathryn Budzak - Ellison Bay, WI
Robert & Nancy Davis - Ephraim, WI
Daniel Dineen - West Bend, WI
Richard & Susan Farrell - Ottawa, IL
Donald & Barbara Fuhrmann - Riverwoods, IL
Norma & Wallace Hammerberg - Ellison Bay, WI
Kendra Heckmann - Neenah, WI
Richard & Carol Heil - Ellison Bay, WI
Lail Herman - Evanston, IL
Gene & Helen Kenny - Ellison Bay, WI
Tom MacDonald - Ellison Bay, WI
Steve & Daphne Racker - Chicago, IL
Margaret Schnackenberg - Glenview, IL
William & Judith Schuele - Muskego, WI
Brent & Megan Sieling - Schliesman - Madison, WI
Neil & Barbara Smith - Gurnee, IL
Richard & Mary Smythe - Sister Bay, WI
John & Judy Turner - Ephraim, WI

Sand Cove Trail Club (\$100-\$249) - Naturalist

Ecology Sports - Sister Bay, WI
Terry & Jeanne Heidenreiter-Rabel - Ellison Bay, WI
Deborah K Johnson - Fairfield, IA
Paul & Gabriele Moylan - St Louis, MO
L. J. & Sharon Neuman & Lavin - Hartland, WI
Neil & Barbara Smith - Gurnee, IL
Gregory & Jean Wilde - Mequon, WI

Sand Cove Trail Club (\$100-\$249) - Invasive Species

Don & Coggin Heeringa - Sturgeon Bay, WI
L. J. & Sharon Neuman & Lavin - Hartland, WI
Neil & Barbara Smith - Gurnee, IL

Fern Trail Club (\$250-\$499) - Endowment

Edward & Linda Heyes - Hortonville, WI
Don Luker - Sister Bay, WI
O'Leary Family Giving Fund - St Paul, MN

Fern Trail Club (\$250-\$499) - As Needed

R. David & La Vonne Callsen - Ellison Bay, WI
Ecology Sports - Sister Bay, WI
L. J. & Sharon Neuman & Lavin - Hartland, WI
Mary Rosecky - Ellison Bay, WI
Sister Bay Bowl - Sister Bay, WI
Mary Jo Stock - Greendale, WI
Surly Brewing Company - Brooklyn Center, MN
Beth Varney - Lombard, IL
Wild Tomato-Fish Creek - Fish Creek, WI
Wild Tomato-Sister Bay - Fish Creek, WI

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

Dr. G. Leonard Apfelbach - Sarasota, FL

Hotz Trail Club (\$1,000 and up) - As Needed

Mary & Doug Chomeau - Creve Couer, MO
Dennis & Mary Fales - Venice, FL

Hotz Trail Club (\$1,000 and up) - Naturalist

Lisa & David Beckwith - Wheaton, IL