



PEN FRIENDS

2011 Spring Newsletter

www.PeninsulaFriends.org

Friends of Peninsula State Park --PO Box 502, Fish Creek, WI 54212 – Issue number eight-May 1, 2011

Meet Acting Superintendent Erin Brown

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Erin Brown, and I have been asked to fill in as the Acting Superintendent at Peninsula State Park. Since 2006 I have worked as the Park Manager at Potawatomi State Park. I was assigned to Peninsula in January of 2011, and expect my assignment here to last through the summer. The vacant superintendent position at Peninsula State Park is the highest priority position for the Wisconsin State Parks Bureau to fill. However, the process will take some time.

Managing Peninsula State Park is a big job, and I feel like I'm still getting my feet wet to some degree. I'm starting to meet and work with the various partners, including the Friends of Peninsula State Park. One of the major projects we've been working on together is the Nicolet Beach Shelter project. The project is supported by a Stewardship Grant awarded to the Friends. We're still in the planning stages of the project, but I'm confident it will be completed well in advance of the June 2012 grant deadline.

Recently, students from Fox Valley Technical College spent two days traversing the park with high tech GPS units. The students will design various maps from the data collected. The park will in turn use the data to update our park map brochures. I would like to thank the Friends for supporting this project by providing meals for the group.

Spring is always a busy time for park staff. Soon we'll be starting up the water, cleaning and opening buildings, trails, and campsites, treating poison ivy, and battling invasives. Before we know it, wildflowers will be in bloom and campers will be showing up in force. I can already see that the Friends of Peninsula State Park is an active and supportive group. I look forward to working with all of you while I am here.

Sincerely,
Erin Brown

Renew Your Friends Membership for 2011

Friends Annual Memberships are up for renewal each spring (exceptions being those who joined after November 1). Please fill out the form on the last page and return it with your check.

Membership dues are an important source of funding for the Friends. Last year annual memberships provided over \$10,000 to our Friends budget! As less state funding is available, our membership support becomes more vital than ever. Please consider upgrading your membership to become a Life Member.

Our membership continues to grow. Since the Friends group began in 2007 with just under 100 members, we have grown each year with over 220 memberships in 2010.

The three endowment funds established by the Friends provide additional funding support. Please consider a donation to these or a general donation for various projects. The Friends are dedicated to providing monetary and volunteer support to Peninsula State Park, and your membership is a key factor to continuing these efforts.

Letter From Friends President Chris Holicek

Hi to all Friends of Peninsula State Park! Please look at our updated website at peninsulafriends.org! Thanks to Dan Engelke for his research and his ideas and to Nick Meiers for putting it all together.

One of the new features is a column called **Peninsula Treasures** which I think you will enjoy. Under the **News** subheading is an article on the 10th year of Like to Hike. Complete five of the listed activities and purchase the 2011 pin for \$3.00 (or \$6.00 for those not participating in the program). The pin this year features the small mouth bass.

If you like to take photos of the park you can send them to the website under the Photo subheading.

Congrats to Kathleen Harris. Peninsula Park received the 2010 Gold Seal Award for Best Children's Programming. Bring the kids for more great activities this summer.

Many well wishes to Gene Tiser on his retirement as acting superintendent and welcome to Erin Brown who is working with us this spring. Come join us for the upcoming events: Door County Half Marathon May 7, State Park's Open House June 5, and the Friends Annual Meeting and Potluck Saturday, August 27. A special thanks to all the Friends board members and volunteers! Your efforts are greatly appreciated. Hope to see you in the Park!

FPSP Establishes Research Endowment Fund

Managing a 3,776-acre property isn't easy. Add a million annual visitors, a constant influx of pesky invasive species, and about a hundred big and small buildings, and one isn't left with much time - let alone money - to invest in environmental research. The Friends of Peninsula State Park (FPSP) recognized the need to nurture understanding of park resources. In 2010, it established a research endowment fund.

The research endowment fund will provide grants to college and graduate level students who conduct research that informs Peninsula management decisions. A review of Peninsula State Park's master plan (1981) is underway, making research especially timely. Lake Iris (*Iris lacustris*) studies and a reptile survey are proposed pilot projects. Future studies will address site history, sustainable camping practices, and biotic inventories.

"Friends want to ensure that Peninsula's second century is as successful as its first," said Chris Holicek, FPSP Board President. "The research endowment helps secure the park's future. It informs management decisions with sound science, while directly supporting the higher education of future natural resource leaders."

FPSP established the endowment with proceeds from its successful 2009 centennial merchandise sales. It invested \$20,000 into the fund, which will enable the organization to award an annual grant of \$500 - \$1,000. The principal investment is protected and managed by the Door County Community Foundation.

Additional donations are welcomed. Growing this endowment fund can only enhance the ability of park professionals to protect resources in a smart way. At the same time, it offers financial support to students on track for an environmental career. For more information contact Bret Bicoy, Door County Community Foundation, (920) 746-1786, bret@doorcountycommunityfoundation.org.

New Friends Website Up and Running

In case you have not seen the new Friends of Peninsula State Park website you will be in for a pleasant surprise at <http://peninsulafriends.org/>.

Nicholas Meiers, web master for the site, has constructed a very interesting, interactive and contemporary site. You will find links to all the activities, events, educational offerings, memberships and funds we sponsor.

One of the exciting new entries is **Peninsula Treasures**. This is a random fragment of educational information you may not have known about the Park. An example; what does a Dwarf Lake Iris look like? What is the "Escarpment"? We think you will like this addition.

One of the many ways you can help us is providing photographs for consideration on the website. We are in need of excellent images which capture the unique character of the Park; for example, photos of Eagle Bluff, Horseshoe Island, Nicollet Bay, and Eagle Light, etc., in different views, climatic moods and times of year. We are building a file of these images to use on the site from time to time. If you have some you would like to share please send to Dan Engelke danengelke1@gmail.com.

Oh What A Night

By Jeff Pfeifer

For a candlelight ski that is! An estimated 500 to 600 skiers and hikers enjoyed a wonderful winter evening, February 5, with temperatures in the mid to upper twenties. The one mile trail was tracked for skiing on one side and groomed flat for hiking on the other. We received very positive feedback from the participants on this year's format.

In addition to the campfire, cookies and refreshments at the warming shelter, guests were treated to a campfire at the half way point on the trail. A special thanks to Greg "Fuzzy" Sunstrom for providing photography again this year and to all the volunteers who helped to make this year's event so successful: Nick and Gail Anderson, Gary and Michelle Kemp, Jim and Pat Arnold, Bill and Jo Schaars, Vance and Margaret Waggoner, Gene and Ruthanne Tiser, Dan and Jean Engelke, Judy Ortiz, Cindy Christenson, Nicole Heth, Wally Nalaway, John Held, Jeff Pfeifer and Fuzzy Sunstrom.

Second Annual Family Ski/Snowshoe Event

By Gail and Nick Anderson

The Friends held the second annual family ski/snowshoe event, Saturday, February 12th. Weather conditions were ideal, with good snow, no wind and 20 degree temperatures. Enthusiastic skiers and snowshoers set out from the warming shelter near Parking Lot Five and enjoyed perfectly groomed trails meandering over the golf course. Snowshoers, led by Gary and Michelle Kemp, trekked along the woods to the Ephraim harbor overlook and then traveled over the course and in and out of the woods.

After enjoying perfect conditions and camaraderie, skiers and snowshoers returned to the shelter to enjoy a hot fire, cider, cocoa and cookies. Our special thanks to Dick Wilcox, chief trail groomer, for setting perfect rolling tracks around the golf course.

Our Intergenerational Transfer of Wealth

By Bret Bicoy

The United States is in the midst of the greatest intergenerational transfer of wealth in the history of the world. In Door County alone, estimates are that more than \$5 billion will transfer from one generation to the next during the first half of the 21st century. Never before has so much money been generated by the people of one nation, at a single point in time, that would pass on to their heirs.

Also consider that Americans are the most generous people in the world. Nearly 90% of U.S. households will make a gift to charity this year.

When you combine this incredible intergenerational transfer of wealth with the remarkable generosity of Americans, the obvious conclusion would be that charitable giving through estate plans would be at record levels.

Yet in spite of our remarkable willingness to give back, only about 8% of estate plans include a charitable gift. Certainly our first obligation when we're gone is to ensure that our estates provide for our loved ones. But when our children are grown and can care for themselves, why don't more of us carve out a portion of our estate and make a gift to the charities we love the most?

After all, the gift to charity in our estate plans is the most painless gift we'll make. This gift is only made after we're gone and we don't need the money anymore!

This is the great mystery of charitable giving. Each year, almost all of us are willing to make a sacrifice and give of our hard earned money to the causes most important to us. Yet relatively few of us choose to make the most painless gift of all by including a contribution to charity in our estate plans.

Think about your own life. Undoubtedly you are a supporter of the Friends of Peninsula State Park since you're reading this article. You've probably walked through the park's meandering trails. Perhaps you've enjoyed the majesty of its forests or watched one of its sunsets that must be a gift from heaven above.

I'd imagine that your appreciation for this wonderful Park has inspired you to make a contribution to Friends of Peninsula State Park at one time or another. But have you ever considered including this wonderful organization in your estate plans? Doing so can be as simple as including a bequest in your will or naming Friends of Peninsula State Park a beneficiary of your retirement account (which, incidentally, is a particularly tax-efficient way to give).

You know what a treasure Peninsula State Park really is. And you know that it wouldn't be nearly as majestic a place without the support of the Friends of Peninsula State Park organization. Think about including a gift to the Friends in your estate plans – or frankly to any charity that makes Door County the wonderful place that it is. Your generosity will inspire others to join you in giving back to sustain the community we love.

Bret Bicoy is President & CEO of the Door County Community Foundation. In 2008, he and his wife Cari returned to Wisconsin to raise their six children in the community they love. Contact him at bret@doorcountycommunityfoundation.org.

Friends of Peninsula State Park in Pictures



Friends complete two year project on clearing Eurasian Honeysuckle along Shore Road from Eagle Lighthouse to Nicolet Beach.



Workers put restroom module in place at Nicolet Beach



Volunteers pass out water at Fall 50 Run.



An estimated 600 skiers and hikers enjoyed the annual Candlelight Ski.



Snowshoers and skiers enjoy a February event on the golf course.



Friends Volunteer Opportunities

Friends volunteer opportunities are many and varied. Working at the Nature Center, aiding in the control of invasives, assisting with the Candlelight Ski, Half-marathon, Spooktacular, and the Fall 50 provide opportunities for everyone to find something of interest. The Friends also try to provide support to park personnel for any needed project.

Last year volunteers covered the Nature Center so Park personnel could attend to other duties. Without these volunteers the Nature Center would have had to close on Mondays, due to a shortage of Park staff. (To give an idea of how many campers would miss out on the opportunity to experience the Nature Center, consider the number of visitors in 2010: May-915, June-3322, July-3514, August-4039, September-1950, October-904.)

The Fall 50 was a new event for the Friends and resulted in \$2,000 of support for the Friends ongoing effort to fund projects in the Park. A number of hearty volunteers stood out in the pouring rain giving directions, parking cars and handing out refreshments to over 1500 runners. (Amazingly, most of our wonderful volunteers said they had a great time!)

Spooktacular, a huge success once again, drew over 2000 visitors. The Friends ran the kids' games which were new this year, helped with set up, dressed up as spooky characters, parked cars, sold food, took donations, and helped out as needed. This activity not only benefits the Park financially but is good fun for everyone.

The weather cooperated this year by giving us snow for the Candlelight Ski, but after the success of last year's Candlelight Walk due to the lack of snow, it was decided to incorporate both events this year. This turned out to be the right decision since the event was the best attended ever.

The Battle of the Invasives continues with the help of numerous Friends volunteers. Over the last four years volunteers have controlled the spread of Garlic Mustard, Eurasian Honeysuckle, Buckthorn, Japanese Knot Weed, and Spotted Knapweed, among others. Along with protecting the native environment, the Friends have done much to enhance the view of the water along Shore Road.

Friends volunteers help to support and preserve the Park for this generation and the ones to follow. Thanks to all who gave their time, knowledge, and resources. If you haven't volunteered before, please consider joining us this year. Contact me at kemps99@msn.com or 608.963.1916.

Working at the Nature Center

Frequently Asked Questions:

How much time would be required?

The Friends provide coverage of the Nature Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Mondays from May through September. You can sign up for one Monday (4 hours) or several Mondays. The choice is up to you.

Will I have to work alone?

Most volunteers enjoy bringing along a friend or a spouse. (They do not have to be a member of the Friends.) If you don't have anyone to work with we can try to pair you up with another Friend. Sometimes it's nice to have another pair of hands when it gets busy.

What would my duties be?

Basic duties include opening the center, raising the flag, putting out the open signs, greeting the campers, answering questions, and selling merchandise. A guide to almost everything you need

Nature Center (cont.)

to know is provided, and the staff at headquarters is available by phone for any unexpected situations that might arise.

Can I get training?

Every year Kathleen Harris, Naturalist, provides Nature Center training so you can become familiar with the building and your job. This year's training will be held on Monday, May 16th, at 9 a.m. Anyone who has worked before is welcome to come for a refresher course.

This year, more than ever before, we need new people to step forward and get involved because of a shortage of volunteers and staff. As a Nature Center volunteer host you can "make a difference" and prevent us from having to close on Mondays.

If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, contact me at kemps99@msn.com or phone: 608-963-1916.

Michelle Kemp
Friends Volunteer Coordinator

The Battle of the Invasives



Before you know it Friends will be involved in the 2011 battle to keep invasive species from spreading farther through the Park. For a number of years we have concentrated on specific high traffic areas to curtail the proliferation of everything from Garlic Mustard to Eurasian Bush Honeysuckle. This season we will continue to work with Kathleen Harris to prioritize our efforts. One new endeavor will be the removal of other plant species from the Dwarf Lake Iris colonies to improve their ability to grow, spread, and prosper. The Dwarf Lake

Iris is on the US list of threatened species.

This year we will meet every Tuesday from 9:00 to 11:00a.m. beginning May 3rd. I will send out an email each week to let everyone know where to meet. I will also let headquarters know so that volunteers can call (920) 868-3258 to get the location. If you are not sure your email address is on the list please send it to me at kemps99@msn.com.

I have been asked by a number of people to share some information about the various species we work with. In each issue going forward I will share information about invasives we target. In this issue I will cover Garlic Mustard and Eurasian Bush Honeysuckle, two of our primary species.

Garlic Mustard

This is an herbaceous biennial weed with an appearance that changes dramatically from year one to year two. It is native to Europe and was first brought to the U.S. as an herb to Long Island, NY, in 1868. In the first year the plants are only several inches in height with small scalloped leaves. In the second year the plants grow to 3-4 feet with triangular shaped leaves that are sharply toothed. When they go to bloom (usually in April) they have small white flowers. Once the plants go to seed the real damage is done because the seeds may survive in the soil from 5-7 years. Currently our control efforts combine hand pulling and the use of glyphosate herbicide. Unfortunately, we will probably not be able to eradicate it in the Park; however, through ongoing efforts, we can control its spread.

Eurasian Bush Honeysuckle

This upright shrub, as tall as 15 feet, originated in Eurasia (Japan, China, Korea, Manchuria, and Turkey). It was introduced in the U.S. as an ornamental and for wildlife cover and soil erosion control. In a forest landscape, it will take over the understory and quickly shade out everything on the forest floor. This will result in less food for birds and other animals, and serious infestations can even inhibit tree regeneration. The most effective means of control is to mechanically remove the bushes or low cut them and treat the stumps with glyphosate herbicide.

We have had good success with cutting and treating as can be seen on Shore Road from the lighthouse to Nicolet Beach. We also removed large growths near Nelson Point last season.

As we look forward to the upcoming spring and summer, most of us can't wait to get back to work on our efforts to control the invasive species that continue to threaten the long term well-being of the Park we love. Please plan to help the "Friends Team" every Tuesday morning that you can. Even if you can only work for a short time your efforts will have meaning and will be greatly appreciated.

Gary Kemp
Invasive Species Coordinator

Students Respond

Dear Ms. Harris,

I would like to thank you for helping us on our field trip to Peninsula State Park. You helped with hikes, guiding, geocaching, planning it, and inferencing. Peninsula State Park is my favorite place to go on a field trip just because of you. You are just always so funny, fun, spontaneous, and cool. Plus you teach us a lot of cool things like campfire songs, the Hackley [Shipwreck], Asa Thorp, Freeman Thorp, and the Meenahga girls camp. I also like the way you teach things. You don't go too fast or you don't go too slow. You are my kind of teacher.

Sincerely,
Gretchen Chomeau

Dear Ms. Harris,

Thank you for showing us around the park with the pictures we had to glue in. I had a great time. I really liked those songs you taught us on the tennis court, especially the one about underpants. I also really liked going to the pioneer cemetery and learning about the founders of Fish Creek. I really want to know more about the Hackley Shipwreck. I thought it was weird that the guy's brother had a dream the Hackley was going to sink and then it did! Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Vivian Harris

P.S. Isn't it weird that we have the same last name?

Webmaster Nick Meiers Seeks Articles, Photos

I had the privilege of working with the Peninsula Friends board to design the new website, *peninsulafriends.org*. As we continue to develop the site, I'd like to ask for your help in making it even more useful for our visitors.

The next step in the website's development is to make it a resource for people looking to learn about the park. To do this, I'm looking for Friends members interested in writing articles for the website. You can write once or contribute regularly. We do not want to duplicate information already on the official DNR website. Rather, we want to provide first-hand accounts—written by YOU—about the park's trails, wildlife, camping, flora, history, and more. Have a favorite trail? Tell us about it! Take some good wildflower photos? Share them!

The goal is that when someone types, for example, "Peninsula State Park wildflowers" into Google, they will be directed to the Friends website where they will find photos of the park's flowers and know where to find them, thanks to Friends members. This is one way the Friends can educate our visitors about the park's many unique and valuable features.

I hope to hear from you soon! My email address is nick.meiers@gmail.com

Finally, here are some statistics from the website between Feb 22nd and April 13th. (We don't collect personal information from visitors, just information about how they use the website!)

- 308 total visits. 80 of those were repeat visitors.
- The average visitor viewed 6 pages.
- 7% of visitors left the site after viewing only one page.
- The average visitor spent 2 minutes and 49 seconds on the website.

Eagle Scout Builds Bat Houses for Peninsula State Park

Michael Berndt has crafted 80 bat house kits for Peninsula State Park as part of earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Families will build bat houses at summer events, but kits are also available to the public for a \$10 donation. All funds help support Peninsula award-winning nature education program. For more information call Naturalist Kathleen Harris at [920-868-3258](tel:920-868-3258).

Berndt, a member of Troop 559 Hales Corners, has camped at Peninsula since age four. "Part of the Peninsula experience," according to Berndt, "is going to watch the bats come out at the Welcker's Point Shelter at dusk. Every year my family and I watch hundreds of bats come out of their daytime resting place." Counts in 2010 totaled over 700 bats emerging each night by mid-summer.

Berndt and scouts he directed volunteered 154 hours towards this project. He raised over \$1,000 (including a donation from Friends of Peninsula State Park) in order to purchase supplies: plywood (\$550), caulk (\$80) and stain (\$160). He also secured a donation of shingles and screwdrivers.

This Eagle Scout project is especially timely given deadly white-nose syndrome, a fungus that harms bats during hibernation. Bats are Wisconsin's most important predator of night flying insects, such as mosquitoes. The Natural Resources Board recently imposed emergency rules to protect cave bats.

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/bats/>

Peninsula has a history of bat education. Several years ago, 2008 Gibraltar graduate Matt Christofferson conducted summer counts of bats at Welcker's Shelter and last year's Like to Hike pin featured a bat. 2010 bat pins are still available at the park.

A Walk in the Park: Fox Valley Tech Maps Peninsula State Park

Take a 102-year-old park that has several trails based on old logging roads. Mix in a variety of recreational pursuits (from horse trails, closed in 1964, to present-day mountain bike trails). Add 14 wells, miles of sewer lines, and a treatment plant that can process 50,000 gallons of sewage a day. You have the infrastructure of Peninsula State Park - complex, to say the least.

Recently, Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) students, enrolled in Professor Bruce Cecka's Surveying II class, volunteered to help clarify the park's infrastructure, including the 40-mile trail system. Forty students spent two days at Peninsula using GPS to map everything from roads to sewer covers. "This graded project is a summative assessment," said Cecka. "Students learn how to collect data and draft GIS maps using ARC software." When preparing students for the size of Peninsula (3,776 acres), Cecka told them not to worry: "Think of it as a walk in the park."

Proceeds from nature merchandise sales at Peninsula State Park (facilitated by Friends of Peninsula State Park) funded the group's meals.

Trails, roads and campgrounds in Peninsula are well-marked, but published maps reflect "best guesses" as to exact locations. The units FVTC students used for this project were far more precise, with a sub-foot accuracy six inches.

For some FVTC students, it was their first time at Peninsula. "It's gorgeous along the lakeshore," said Natural Resources major Andrew Krisnich. "This project has given me surveying experience, and a fun time." Matt Jacob hadn't been to Peninsula since camping in Tennison Bay Campground as a boy. He was part of the team that mapped Skyline and Highland roads.

The collaboration between FVTC and Wisconsin State Parks is a win-win for all concerned. Students gain valuable real-life work experience. Peninsula staff are able to use high-tech data to improve maps for accuracy, safety and maintenance. And visitors know their tax dollars and donations to Friends of Peninsula State Park are being put to good use.

Thank You Business Members

Our Business members continue to generously support the efforts of the Friends and Peninsula State Park. Please give them your support and a big thank you.

Bay Shore Outfitters

Baylake Bank

Door County Kayak Tours

Ecology Sports

Ephraim Visitor Information Center

Fish Creek Kite Company

Gibraltar Grill

Great Northern Construction, Inc

Hat Head

Hide Side Boutique & Corner Store

Homestead Suites

Nicolet Bay Concessions

Nor Dor Sport & Cyclery

On Deck Clothing Company

Parkwood Lodge

Peninsula Pacers LLC

Peninsula Park-View Resort

Spielmans Kid Works

The Cookery Restaurant & Wine Bar

The English Inn

The Main Course

Thomas/Pfeifer insurance

Top of the Hill Café LLC

What Next?

Wild Tomato Wood Fired Pizza & Grille

Wilson's Restaurant & Ice Cream Parlor

Friends of Peninsula State Park – 2011 Membership Renewal

Please renew your membership and consider making a donation to one of the Friends' worthwhile endowments funds. (Lifetime members never need to renew.)

I am ___renewing my membership, ___ a new member, ___making a donation.

Membership level: Please circle membership level:

Individual \$25

Family \$40

Individual Lifetime \$300

Business \$150

Additional Contribution Opportunities

_____ For Now and the Future Endowment Fund

_____ Peninsula Research Endowment Fund

_____ The Interpretive Nature Endowment Center Fund

_____ General donation (including ski trail group)

_____ Total Enclosed.

Please make check payable to **Friends of Peninsula State Park.**

The Friends are a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All dues and donations are fully deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Please circle any changes in your contact information.

Name _____

Address (note winter/summer) _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

_____ Check here if you would like to receive e-mail updates about Peninsula State Park and the Friends.

Volunteer Opportunities: Circle those areas that are of interest to you.

Board and committee work

Nature Center host

Invasive species control

Cross Country Ski Group

Educational programs

Educational programs

Trail maintenance

Bird and plant surveys

Historical research & archives

Candlelight ski, Family snowshoe

Mail this form along with your check to: **Friends of Peninsula State Park,
PO Box 502, Fish Creek, WI 54212-0502.**

Visit our website: *www.Peninsulafriends.org*

Friends of Peninsula State Park

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Check out our new website: www.peninsulafriends.org

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