FALL GREETINGS FROM FRIENDS OF PENINSULA!

From Friends President Chris Holicek

While the fall festivals in Door County always make October a busy month at the park, this year is especially busy! Thanks to your support, the Friends have been involved in a number of projects around the park.

Eagle Tower Deconstruction, Fundraising

The park landscape changed quickly and dramatically in mid-September with the deconstruction of Eagle Tower. But the change is temporary, and we’re confident that with the support of so many Friends and community members, the tower will be replaced soon. Look for an update from the Eagle Tower Fund inside the newsletter. Also, don’t forget the Park Office has an assortment of Eagle Tower merchandise available for purchase, such as hats (new!), plush eagles, and t-shirts. All proceeds benefit tower replacement.

Thank You Local Businesses!

We were fortunate to have support from two local businesses during the past few months. Wild Tomato donated the proceeds from their “Donation Creation” pizza during the month of August, and Grasse’s Grill in Sister Bay donated a portion of lunch proceeds during a day in September.

Funds from each of these efforts were divided between the Eagle Tower Fund and the White Cedar Nature Center Capital Campaign. Please contact us if your business can help support these important park initiatives.

2016 Gold Seal Awards

We recently received great news from Friends of Wisconsin State Parks (FWSP) that Peninsula was awarded two 2016 Gold Seal awards this year! The park won awards for “Best park/ trail to visit in all 4 seasons” AND “Best park/trail for kids to complete Explorer Books”! Thank you to all who nominated the park for an award this year.

Three Friends Board members: myself, Rachel Stollenwerk and Judy Ortiz, will be attending the awards banquet at the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks Annual Meeting in Stevens Point on November 5th to accept the awards. We will also be joining the FWSP for a variety of special workshops offered this year.

Be sure you get future newsletters!

In an effort to continue to put the environment first and conserve wherever possible, Friends of Peninsula State Park will send all future newsletters (except the Spring newsletter) electronically. If you do not have an email address, please write us a letter stating that fact and provide your current mailing address so we can continue to send you the newsletter through the post office. Our address is: PO Box 502 Fish Creek, WI 54212

We hope that everyone will support us in this effort. Thank you for your continued support!

Chris Holicek
Dear Friends,

Fall is a magnificent time of year and certainly my favorite season. Cool crisp mornings, apples being harvested, bright colored leaves floating gracefully or twirled by the wind, and migrating birds flocking to prepare for long flights are small tokens of the fall season. This time of year always reminds me of how fortunate we are to have state parks as places for reflection on our daily lives. The fall season also encourages me to strive to make sure they remain protected as public lands!

“Like winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them. Now we face the question whether a still higher ‘standard of living’ is worth its cost in things natural, wild and free. For us of the minority, the opportunity to see geese is more important than television.”

― Aldo Leopold

Peninsula State Park continues to recruit for a number of full time staff vacancies. We are actively recruiting for the Assistant Superintendent and a Facility Repair Worker positon. Joe Simon has recently joined the Peninsula State Park Team as our second new Enforcement Ranger. (Nicholas Hefter was hired as Ranger earlier this summer.) We are very happy to have him at Peninsula and appreciate the skills and knowledge he adds to our team. Please see the article introducing Joe.

Eagle Tower was deconstructed in September, as planned. The Friends Eagle Tower Fund Committee, which includes a variety of community members working together to help raise funds for a new tower, continues to solicit donations for a replacement. Please be sure to share the news and website information to any potential donors (eagletowerfund.com). Up to date information about Eagle Tower and pictures of the deconstruction are posted on both Eagle Tower Fund and Peninsula State Park websites.

Park Naturalist Kathleen Harris, Friends Board member Rachel Stollenwerk, President Chris Holicek and I met recently to kick off the Capital Campaign for the White Cedar Nature Center Addition. We are still looking for two or three more volunteers to help raise funds. If you are interested in joining the Capital Campaign, please contact me at the park. The Friends are anticipating raising additional funds to upgrade the parking lot and outdoor nature-scape area. The Friends have secured the final (third) phase of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant supporting the addition to the White Cedar Nature Center for a total of $120,000 so we are well on our way! Please visit the Friends website, peninsulafriends.org, or stop by the park office and nature center for additional information. Thank you for your help supporting both large park projects!

Upcoming Master Planning for Door County State Parks is still scheduled to begin in 2016. You can find additional information at the following DNR website and sign up for current updates: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/masterplanning/doorcounty/

We are also seeking a new chair for the Candlelight Ski at the park, held the first weekend in February. The chair would need to coordinate volunteers for a great winter night in the park.

I wanted to extend a special thank you to Gail Anderson and Dan Engelke for their service on the Friends Board and support of Peninsula State Park. Gail and Dan are no longer serving as active board members but their support will always be appreciated.

Please consider attending a Friends of Peninsula State Park Board meeting to find ways you can become more involved with all our efforts! Mark your calendars for the First Day Hike on January 1st, as well as the Candlelight Ski and Hike on February 4th.

Kelli Bruns
NEW PENINSULA PARK RANGER HIRED

Joe Simon Hired as Park Ranger, Returns to Door County

Joe Simon joins us from Duluth, Minnesota, to become our new full-time Ranger. As a boy, he lived in Sturgeon Bay and moved to southeastern Wisconsin at age 10. The first overnight camping trip he recalls happened on Rock Island, and his lifelong passion for skiing and winter sports began at Potawatomi State Park.

While attending UW-La Crosse, he chose to pursue degrees in Recreation Management and Communication Studies. This decision was heavily influenced by the outdoor experiences he had growing up. His family loved exploring the Door Peninsula and the variety of recreation opportunities in the upper peninsula of Michigan.

Joe spent a cumulative seven summer seasons working for the Boy Scouts and Outward Bound in Ely, MN. He also spent four winters as a ski instructor at Copper Mountain and Keystone Resort in Colorado. Most recently, Joe has had temporary park ranger positions at the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore and with the Army Corps of Engineers along the Mississippi. He is excited to join the team at Peninsula State Park and begin learning the cultural and

EAGLE TOWER UPDATE

Eagle Tower Fundraising Goal Targeted for October 15th

The Eagle Tower Committee has officially kicked off fundraising for the rebuilding of Eagle Tower! Our goal is to raise $750,000 by July 1st 2017. Since our kickoff in September we have successfully raised $150,000 through MANY generous donations. $50,000 of the amount raised will be donated to the DNR this month for the selection of an architect to design the new site plan. Thank you to those who have helped us get to this point!

While we start the architect selection process we hope to continue moving closer to our $750,000 goal. Please consider making a donation this year and help us prepare for the next steps to rebuild Eagle Tower. Donations over $1,000 will be permanently recognized at the base of the Tower. Additionally, please stay tuned for more information on wood sales and join us the week of October 17th to learn about the wood analysis process from Forest Products Lab.

Donations can be made out to the Friends of Peninsula State Park – Eagle Tower Fund and mailed to PO Box 353, Egg Harbor WI 54209

Further details regarding fundraising, tower history, shared stories and answers to frequently asked questions can be found on the Eagle Tower Fund website at www.eagletowerfund.com. We look forward to updating the website with more ways to donate, recognition opportunities and future events to learn more about our progress.

If you are a business owner please consider becoming engaged and help spread the message and generate awareness during fall colors. We are also looking for volunteers to help staff information tables during fall color weekends and programming during the week of deconstruction.

If you can help or have questions, comments or need additional information please visit the website at www.eagletowerfund.com or contact Campaign Director Rachel Stollenwerk at rstollen.etc@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support! Eagle Tower Fund Committee
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FALL 50

Annual Event will be held on Saturday, October 22nd

Putting on something as monumental as a 50-mile run takes a lot of help. The Fall 50 partners with several different non-profit organizations in Door County, including the Friends of Peninsula Park. The Friends receive $2,000 for helping out with this race and the money is used to help fund many of our ongoing projects.

We need your help to make this possible! We are looking for volunteers to help out at the Fish Creek Station with parking, traffic, and in the refreshment tent from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. In addition to helping produce a great event, you'll get a free t-shirt and an invitation to the post-race party and awards ceremony!

If you are able to volunteer please contact Rachel at rachelmparr@gmail.com

NEW FRIENDS BOARD MEMBERS

Dave Lea

Dave Lea did most of his growing up in the San Francisco region of California. He was drafted in 1970, trained as a medic and was sent to Germany. After taking a "European Out" he stayed and worked there for a total of five years. He met and married another "Germanized" American, Renny Miller. Since she is a Milwaukee gal, they chose to locate in Wisconsin when they returned in 1976. Dave finished his interrupted college studies at UWGB and graduated with a degree in Music Education; vocal, instrumental and special ed. He taught band for two years in the Catholic schools in Sheboygan before diving into a factory job to pay the bills and support three children.

In 1997 the family moved to Fish Creek to help Renny's mother, who was getting on in years, and Dave was able to dabble in teaching again as a substitute for a year or so while tuning pianos and finding various other jobs. After working in several shops in Egg Harbor, Sister Bay and then Nelson's Hardware in Fish Creek, he joined forces with his daughter, Corinne, in 2003, to take over Sweetie Pies, a little bakery in Fish Creek. This has enabled him to exercise many of his dubious skills: baking, accounting, creative advertising, website programing, computer trouble shooting, etc. But, above all, he enjoys working with a wonderful, supportive and talented team!

Dave is chairperson of the Fish Creek Baha'i group, as well as Sustain Door. He is presently treasurer of the Gibraltar Historical Society and recently pitched in with the Eagle Tower Fund Committee.

Andrew Holdmann

Andrew was raised in the Milwaukee area and attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has been a teacher for eleven years, including the last seven teaching social studies at Gibraltar High School.

Andrew enjoys exploring the outdoors with his two young boys, and is excited to work with the Friends of the Park Board.
Door County Residents Report Bobcat Sighting

An odd, high-pitched call has been heard at twilight by more than a few Door County residents this past year. After a long-term decline in Wisconsin, the bobcat population seems to have stabilized (Brian Dhuey and John Olson, DNR Wildlife Biologists, “Bobcat Harvest 2014” DNR report) and may even be slightly expanding. According to DNR Wildlife Biologist Josh Martinez, “Bobcat are common in Door County.” Like other DNR biologists, Martinez conducts track surveys in winter and routinely comes across prints made by Lynx rufus.

Common doesn’t mean abundant, however. “I could not give you a definite answer on how many breeding pairs are in Door county because we do not [conduct a] detailed survey in the county. From my observations and reports I can easily say there are over a dozen pairs in the county.” At least 2,500 bobcat are thought to live in Wisconsin.

Bobcats are loners, aside from summer when females are raising two or three kittens. This spotted mammal feeds on rabbits, mice and even bats. Sometimes, a wobbly new fawn may be its prey. On average, males roam an average of twenty-nine square miles looking for a meal. Females travel less, about 18 square miles. (Nathan Roberts, DNR Furbearer Research Scientist, “Bobcat Research in Northern Wisconsin 2015.”)

If you’re lucky enough to spot this small cat, look for a short banded tail with black tip and white below. Tufts of hair on the ear tips increase this cat’s ability to hear. In studies where the tufts are removed, the cat’s hearing decreases. The bobcat lives across the continental United States. It share a bit of range in the northern U.S. with its cousin the Canada Lynx (Lynx canadensis). However, the lynx has bigger paws for snow travel and an even shorter tail. It’s spots are also less visible.

Bobcat tracks were documented near Eagle Terrace in Peninsula State Park in 2015.

NATURE CENTER WISH LIST

Your Generosity Makes a Difference!

Friends of Peninsula State Park supports nature education at Peninsula each year by funding the seasonal naturalist position. Thousands of visitors each year learn and explore through nature programs at the park.

Can you help support the program by meeting any of the supply needs below?

- Angler to check and fix (if necessary!) two dozen fishing poles - ready for spring season. (Estimated time: 1-2 hours.)
- Office Help: photocopy chickadee cards, bear brochures, tally Nature Center numbers. (Estimated time: 1 - 2 hours.)
- Raking/Blowing Leaves in Early November. (Estimated time: 1 - 2 hours.)
- Donations of Bird Seed and Suet
- Painting Diorama (large map model) Parking Lots. (Estimated time: 1-2 hours.)
THANK YOU FRIENDS 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 Property Services of Door County
- Nicolet Bank
- Ecology Sports
- Edge of Park Rentals
- Ephraim Visitor Information Center
- Gibraltar Grill
- Going Garbage & Recycling
- Great Northern Construction, Inc
- Hat Head
- Julie’s Park Café & Motel
- Nicolet Bay Concessions
- Nor Dor Sport & Cyclery
- On Deck Clothing Company
- Parkwood Lodge
- Peninsula Pacers LLC
- Spielman’s Kid Works
- The Cookery & Wine Bar
- Thomas/Pfeifer Insurance
- What Next?
- Wilson’s Restaurant & Ice Cream Parlor

Get more Friends news all year long at http://www.peninsulafriends.org!