SUMMER GREETINGS FROM FRIENDS OF PENINSULA!

From Friends President Chris Holicek

It has been a great spring and summer in the park! As you may know, the DNR has decided to rebuild Eagle Tower with the help of our Friends group. The Friends, along with the Door County Property Owners and other concerned citizens, have formed the Eagle Tower Fund Committee under the Friends nonprofit status. The committee is helping to raise funds to rebuild the Tower through merchandise sales and requests for donations from the public. At present the cost is estimated to be $750,000.

Anyone can donate through our webpage, www.eagletowerfund.com, which can also be accessed from our Friends website, www.peninsulafriends.org. Also, we are selling plush eagles at the park office for $10.00 with all proceeds going toward the Tower Fund. In August pint glasses, mason jars, and T-shirts ($25) will be for sale, proceeds also benefitting the Tower Fund. Finally, handmade table runners ($45) will be available at the park office, all proceeds to Friends of Peninsula State Park.

The Friends are also moving ahead with fundraising for renovations for our Nature Center. (More information will appear in future newsletters.)

Kathleen Harris, our park naturalist, has again done a super job with educational programming this summer, including Fawn-tastic Fiesta featuring educational programming about deer and new signage along the nature trail. In July we had an historical Wisconsin fur trader display and program given by re-enactor Gary Marciniak.

We also celebrated the 100th birthday of Camp Meenagha, the girls’ camp, founded by Alice Orr Clark, with an educational display, games and treats.

The Friends funded three summer LTEs to help with the Nature Center, trails, and invasives. Thanks to them for all their efforts and accomplishments!

Our annual meeting, August 27, will be held at noon with a potluck at Weborg Shelter. Please join us!

Have a great summer and fall!

Chris Holicek
Dear Friends,

Summer is in full swing at Peninsula State Park! The air is filled with the smell of campfires, and around every bend there are hikers, bikers and people enjoying this magnificent state park.

Park staff has been working hard this year and everyone has been a great team player! The staff enjoyed the Wild Tomato Pizza at the summer staff party, a donation from the Friends. Thank you for acknowledging their hard work greeting customers, cleaning facilities and making the park a safe place to recreate while protecting the resource.

Peninsula State Park continues to recruit for a number of full time staff vacancies. We are actively recruiting for one Ranger, the Assistant Superintendent and a Facility Repair Worker position. Nicholas Hefter, has joined the Peninsula State Park Team as our new Enforcement Ranger. (Please see the information in the newsletter about Nic.) We are very happy to have him; he adds skills and knowledge to our team.

The Friends support of the Eagle Tower Fund has been an exciting venture. The Friends Eagle Tower Fund Committee includes a variety of community members working together to help raise funds for a new tower. Please be sure to share the news and look on the website for up to date information about Eagle Tower. The tower is scheduled for deconstruction mid-September. http://www.eagletowerfund.com/

The final approved plans for the White Cedar Nature Center renovation have arrived! Park Naturalist Kathleen Harris, Friends Board member Rachel Stollenwerk and I are looking for two or three more volunteers to help raise additional funds for the addition on behalf of the Friends. If you are interested in joining the Capital Campaign Committee for the Nature Center addition please contact me at the park (920 868 1938). The Friends have secured the final (third) phase of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant supporting the addition for a total of $120,000 so we are well on our way! The Friends plan is to raise an additional $150,000 to complete the project, which will also include upgrades to the parking lot and outdoor nature-scape. Please visit the Friends website www.peninsulafriends.org or stop by the park office or 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/

Please consider attending a Friends of Peninsula State Park Board meeting to find ways you can become more involved with all our efforts. The Friends Annual Meeting on August 27th is a great way to reconnect with all the great things happening at the park!

Fall is just around the corner! -Kelli Bruns
NEW PENINSULA PARK RANGER HIRED

Nicholas Hefter Hired as Park Ranger

Hello! My Name Is Nicholas Hefter. I grew up in Slinger, Wisconsin, in the southeastern part of the state. While growing up my parents would take my brother and me to all the different Wisconsin State Parks camping almost every weekend during the summer, and we both loved it. I graduated from Slinger High School in 2009. After high school, I went to Fox Valley Technical College where I received my Associates Degree in Natural Resources. I wasn’t quite sure what I wanted to do for a career; all I knew is that I wanted to work outside. After that, I transferred to the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point where I graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Science-Resource Management Law Enforcement. During my time at Stevens Point I went to Mid-State Technical College, where I graduated from the 520 hour Police Academy.

In the summer of 2013 I began working as a Limited Term Employee (LTE) for The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as a park ranger at Hartman Creek State Park and continued working for the department until my appointment here as a full time park ranger. Once I started as a park ranger, I knew this is what I wanted to do as a career. I also worked at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point as a Limited Term Police Officer during the falls and winters when I wasn’t at the park.

I met my beautiful fiancée, Kayla Kaminski, in 2012, and we are getting married in the fall of 2017. We both love to do all different types of outdoor activities, especially camping and fishing! I also enjoy growing pumpkins! I planted over 200 pumpkin plants this year on Kayla’s parents’ farm near Stevens Point!

I am very excited to be at Peninsula State Park and am looking forward to learning all the park has to offer!

FRIENDS SPONSOR TWO RESEARCH PROJECTS

Research Focuses on Oak Wilt Fungus and Urban Planning

The Friends’ sponsored research is active at the Park this summer. The spread of Oak Wilt Fungus is an ongoing study by University of Wisconsin graduate student, Stephanie Jagemann. She has just been awarded a second year of financial support from the Friends. Although her research covers 11 sites throughout Wisconsin, Peninsula State Park is one of two sites without oak wilt fungus. The research focus is on two sap beetles that transport the fungus with their feet. Stephanie’s traps are checked weekly and beetles are taken to Madison for evaluation.

The Friends have also awarded a research grant to Sophia Parr, a student in the Urban Planning department at the University of Illinois-Chicago. As a result of her research, she will develop an extensive database documenting various assets contained within the Park. Her digitized inventory will include assets like roads, trails, signs, campsites, facilities etc. This digital database will differ from others in that its focus will have an urban planning format. This approach treats the Park as a small city. Among the many techniques that Sophia will employ is to survey Park visitors at certain locations. When completed, Peninsula State Park will have a unique tool to help manage assets and plan for the future.
Annual Meeting

Saturday, August 27, 2016

Please join fellow Friends for a potluck picnic lunch and learn what is new in the Park.

**Where:** Weborg Shelter in Peninsula State Park

**Time** 11:30 AM – Picnic lunch followed by a brief Board meeting and Park updates, including information on Eagle Tower from Park Superintendent Kelli Bruns.

**Public Program to follow at 1:00 PM**

**Wisconsin State Park’s Archaeologist Mark Dudzik Presents:**

*Peninsula State Park’s Cultural Significance*

and

**Friends of Peninsula State Park’s Research Grant Recipient Stephanie Jagemann Presents:**

*Oak Wilt Fungus Vectors in Wisconsin State Parks*

RSVP to Gail Anderson at 920-868-3499 or gailnick.anderson@gmail.com

Please bring a dish to pass. Beverages and hot dogs will be provided.

**Parking** at Weborg shelter is limited. Carpooling is recommended. Additional parking will be available in the day lot just north of the campground, Nelson Point and Fish Creek overflow lot. A Park vehicle sticker is required.

We hope to see you there. Feel free to bring a guest.
EAGLE TOWER FUND COMMITTEE UPDATE

Fundraising Goal Set, T-Shirts Available

Even with the slight delay in deconstruction the Eagle Tower Fund Committee is still on track to raise the funds necessary to rebuild Eagle Tower! The Tower is a symbol of our county that represents all Door County residents and businesses. Its existence strengthens our community and economy and allows us to recognize the importance of the natural and historical resources that make our home so unique.

The Eagle Tower Fund Committee is continuing to plan for and promote its fundraising initiative to raise $750,000 by July 1st of 2017. Please look forward to mailings or check out our website for information on how to support this initiative and have the opportunity to climb the Tower once again! If you would like to discuss a donation or recognition opportunities please contact Campaign Director Rachel Stollen-werk at rstollen.etc@gmail.com or 630-947-5985. We thank you for your support!

IMPROVEMENTS AT PARK ENTRANCE

Volunteers Improve Park Entrance using Native Plants

Friends of Peninsula State Park & Door County Master Gardeners came together to enhance the entrance sign to the park. Marsha and Steve Krzyzanowski volunteered their time and talents to help beautify the entrance of Peninsula Park by removing old plants and replacing them with native plants approved by Wisconsin State Parks Ecologist.

The Friends are supporting this project along with a small grant from the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks. Also, rejuvenating the area around the new flag pole is planned as a future project.
(Left) Chris Holicek and her cousin Kat set up at the park office a few different days to collect funds for Eagle Tower Fund.

(Right) Smokey Bear visits campers during Memorial Day Weekend at Peninsula.

(Above Left) Friends contractor Janet Rhiner, Nature Center Volunteer Mim Woods

(Above Right) Emily Irwin (Ephraim Historical Foundation) and Laury Day (grandson of Camp Meenhaga founder Alice Orr Clark) pose in front of an exhibit panel featuring Peninsula State Park’s two historic camps, Meenahga (1916-1948) and Camp Peninsular (Civilian Conservation Corps, 1935-1937). The exhibit features rare photographs and memorabilia and is open to the public through fall. The $5/adult and $3/youth entrance fee at the Anderson Barn Museum supports historic research and education. For complete information go to www.ephraim.org or phone 920-854-
A part of Camp Meenahga was brought back to life at Peninsula State Park as a 1931 Model woody wagon was on display. The car was used until the camp closed in the 1940’s. The woody wagon belongs to a Green Bay resident who hooked the vehicle up on a trailer to bring it to Peninsula State Park. Also on hand was another 1931 Model A which had been completely restored. In this photo, park naturalist Kathleen Harris plays the part of Camp Meenahga founder Alice Orr Clark.

(Left) Peninsula State Park Volunteer Nina Whipple poses at the Camp Meenahga Lookout site. Nina portrayed Alice Hotz the Diamond Merchant’s daughter at several programs this summer. Alice Hotz attended Camp Meenahga and is buried in Peninsula State Park. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of Camp Meenahga (1916-1948).

(Below) Peninsula Nature Center Volunteer Joyce Duncan in a 1931 Model A Wagon - part of the Camp Meenahag celebration.
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!