GREETINGS FROM FRIENDS OF PENINSULA!

From Friends President Chris Holicek

Hi to all Peninsula State Park Friends!

First is all thanks for all your support for this great Park! Hope you have enjoyed some summer days hiking, biking, or just relaxing in the Park.

This summer Edgewood Gallery held a Peninsula Park Donation show May 6-June 13th. Over 40 artists participated by making specific Peninsula State Park-related objects from outdoor sculpture to clay, furniture, jewelry, and paintings. J.R. and Nell, owners of Edgewood Gallery, have donated $6,000 a percentage of all sales, to the White Cedar Nature Center expansion project. We thank them so much.

We have the architectural plans, but need all project money in the bank before we can start construction. The expansion will include classrooms, more storage space, and inside toilets. If you would like to contribute, you can send a donation to Friends of Peninsula State Park.

Have a great fall!
Chris Holicek

Young Visitors to the Edgewood Gallery exhibit.

NATURE CENTER HAPPENINGS

Winding Down a Busy Summer!

Camera Corner of Green Bay rewired the large map in the Nature Center with visitor donations. All lights are working on the historic display, originally created by for a Wisconsin State Fair in the 1950s. Staff updated panels, too, and will be painting the bluffs and roads this fall.

Nature Center Host Wendy Nelson models a tin-foil hat made in honor of World UFO Day. Did you know a UFO reportedly landed at Peninsula’s golf course in 1976?

Nature Center Wish List

- Bird Seed & Suet
- Hot Cocoa Mix
- Dum Dum Suckers
- Pipe Cleaners
- Pony Beads
- Paper Plates
- Dog Biscuits for Pooches on Leash
- Volunteers to staff Nature Center on Mondays
Eagle Tower Wood Sales scheduled for September 30th

The Friends of Peninsula are excited to partner with the first annual Southwest Florida Fest (SWFF) and local business White Cottage Red Door in Fish Creek to host a Fundraising event September 30th. The event will be the first time reclaimed wood and metal from Eagle Tower will be made available to the public.

Local residents Bob and Paula Cummings started SWFF as a way for anyone that spends part of their winter season in Southwest Florida to get together annually and to benefit a different Door County charity each year. The charity selection process focuses on specific project based needs and has seen many years of success in SWF through Paula’s organizations, Marco Island Charities and Island Angels.

Hosting the event will be local business owners Chris and Jessica Hadraba and Lisa and Kevin Howard who opened the doors to White Cottage Red Door in the spring of 2017.

The event is open to the public. You do not need to be from Southwest Florida to join the fun!

The event will take place on Saturday September 30th from 1:00pm – 4:00pm at White Cottage Red Door located next to the Former Ray’s Cherry Hut at 8821 Hwy 42.

Tickets will be sold for $25/adult and $15/kids (12 and under) and include food and drink as well as a raffle ticket. The event will include live entertainment, cash and carry wood sales, raffle, silent auction and a live auction to include pieces of wood and metal from Eagle Tower. All proceeds will be donated to the Friends of Peninsula State Park.

The wood and metal auction will include limited “as is” pieces of the Tower as well as repurposed pieces. Carpenters and artists are encouraged to contact Eagle Tower Fund Campaign Director Rachel Stollenwerk at rstollen.etc@gmail.com if interested in repurposing materials as part of the fundraiser. The auction will be the first time remaining pieces of Eagle Tower will be made available to the public. There will be no presales.

We hope to see you there!
WELCOME BRIAN MARKOSKI

New Superintendent Joins Peninsula from Willow River State Park

Brian Markowski is originally from Eau Claire, Wisconsin where he grew up on a small hobby farm. His passion for the outdoors came from his father who was born in Ontario, Canada. Vacations for the Markowski family included traveling to Canada where they enjoyed camping and fishing. Wisconsin gun deer season was another family tradition, hunting the farmland country in Jackson County. Brian is the youngest of six, he attributes his values and work ethic to being part of a large close-knit family. In his free time he enjoys hunting, fishing, hiking, camping and traveling.

Markowski began his career working several different positions including Urban Forestry Consulting, Land Surveying and GIS Mapping. He began his work with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in 1997 as a Forestry Technician, providing wildland fire suppression based out of Black River Falls. In 2002 he transitioned to Eau Claire as a Wildlife Technician. Brian attended Criminal Justice Law Enforcement Academy and worked for the Eau Claire County Sheriff’s Department as a Reserve Deputy. In 2014 he was promoted to Park Manager at Willow River State Park. “I feel very fortunate to have worked in a variety of programs within the Department.”

Brian has enjoyed his years as Park Manager and has gained valuable knowledge from the Willow River team. “As Superintendent at Peninsula State Park I look forward to exciting opportunities to work with staff, meet park visitors and create new partnerships within the community.”

WELCOME JENNIFER BIRKHLER

Assistant Superintendent Joins Peninsula from Big Bay State Park

Hello Friends of Peninsula! I am extremely excited to be given this great opportunity to join the team here at Peninsula State Park as the new Assistant Superintendent.

I came from the shores of great Lake Superior where I spent the last four years managing Big Bay State Park on Madeline Island. Graduating from Beloit College many eons ago, I spent my years finding ways to be around the environment and people as much as possible, in jobs and at home. Growing up, I spent my summers in Northern Wisconsin and camping all over the country in a tent or an orange VW camper, visiting parks and forests and learning Park Rangers had the coolest job. Leaving my home State of Minnesota (yes, I am a Vikings fan) to travel to the land of “cheese” was a hard move, but finding a place with the Wisconsin DNR has made it all worth it. I started with the WDNR back in 2003 as a volunteer naturalist/laborer/office assistant, and eventually worked as an LTE for 4 seasons, all of which were at Big Bay.

I have already immersed myself in the park, learning the roads and trails and catching up on all the activities it has to offer. I know I will be a wonderful asset to the Peninsula team and look forward to working with each and every one of you. My 10-year old daughter and I are jumping right into this new adventure and hope to meet many new “friends” here in Door County. Don’t hesitate to stop and say hi, and leave behind a few insider tips for must do activities, stores, great local food, music and more for our new life in Door!
Hello Friends! My name is Abby Lewandowski and I am the Assistant Naturalist at Peninsula State Park this summer.

Growing up, I loved spending time outside, which is a passion that led me to major in wildlife ecology at UW-Madison. It was a unique major that emphasized identification, which really comes in handy when visitors have questions about what kind of wildlife or plants they have seen around the park.

As a person who loves arts and crafts, I really enjoy implementing educational art projects with kids and families at the Nature Center. As a bird enthusiast, I’m always excited to lead birding hikes at beautiful Weborg Point. Conducting kayak tours every Friday is something completely new to me. Not only is it fun and exciting, but the view of Eagle Cave from the water is truly astounding. The Nature Center is a job in and of itself, between cleaning and upkeep, interacting with visitors, and answering questions.

As the season comes to a close, I wanted to extend my thanks to the Friends for the support you provide, and for the opportunity for me to work at this wonderful park. Thank you!

This summer, Parks and Recreation Specialist Elijah Aulik and Naturalist Kathleen Harris worked to preserve a geodetic marker that had fallen on hard times at Peninsula State Park. In 1934, it was one of several markers placed by land surveyors in Peninsula State Park. Unfortunately, this one was damaged in winter. Peninsula communicated with staff at the National Geodetic Survey to have permission to archive and move the marker to the Nature Center. Look for it along the sidewalk.

If you are interested in funding a small sign explaining the importance of geodetic markers, please contact Friends of Peninsula State Park (contact@peninsulafriends.org). Estimated cost for an outdoor sign and frame is about $100. The proposed verbiage for the sign is below.

Look at the bronze disc embedded in the concrete column. In 1934, federal surveyors placed this geodetic marker near Ten nison Bay, along Shore Road, for use as a reference to pinpoint locations. These land surveyors used compasses, special scopes for detecting elevation and angles, and 66-foot chains to measuring distance. Satellites (which led to modern GPS) were first used in 1964.

Park staff moved this geodetic marker here after it was damaged one winter. It is now listed as “archived” in the National Geodetic Survey database.

Can you see the word “Sven”? Sven’s Bluff rises to the south, one of three prominent peaks in Peninsula State Park. Together with Norway and Eagle bluffs, they are part of the Niagara Escarpment.
“ENDLESS SUMMERS” AT PENINSULA

Reunion Plans Underway for “Endless Summer Kids”

Until the late 1950’s, there were no restrictions on the length of time you could camp at Peninsula State Park. Many families camped continuously from Memorial Day until Labor Day. An endless summer camping at Peninsula is a cherished childhood memory held by many.

I wrote about the “Endless Summers” and some of the kids who were fortunate to have this experience in my book, “The Park—History and Stories of Peninsula State Park.” Dan Ost was an endless summer kid. Over lunch in Appleton this past May, Dan said “we should have a reunion.”

Here’s the plan for formulating such a reunion, tentatively scheduled for September 2018. Through the power of connections, we need to get the word out. If you or someone you know was an “Endless Summer Kid” and would be interested in a reunion, have them send me their contact information. We will create a reunion roster and keep everyone informed of plans as the develop. We aren’t kids anymore. Our numbers are declining with the passing years. Time for a reunion.

Reunion events will be restricted to those who have officially registered by submitting their contact information for the reunion roster. Guests of registered “Endless Summer Kids” will be welcome with prior notification of their participation.

If you would like to register, send your contact information to:
Norm Aulabaugh, 2541 S. Tollefson Road, Orfordville, WI 53576-9443  (608) 879-2841 nra@ticon.net

FAREWELL TO BUG WOMAN!

Peninsula Says Goodbye to Long-time Favorite Educator

Peninsula’s White Cedar Nature Center proclaimed August 8 “BUG WOMAN DAY” in honor of DNR forest entomologist Linda Williams.

“As a DNR colleague who has invited Linda to Peninsula for nearly two decades,” said Naturalist Kathleen Harris, “I can say unequivocally she will be missed!”

For nearly twenty years, Linda has helped share a forest message with park visitors. On the official “Bug Woman Day”, fifty-six people of all ages participated actively in her program and about forty more filtered in later.

“Linda’s teaching style is engaging, based on fact, and informs visitors what they can do to protect Wisconsin woodlands,” Harris said. “In addition to sharing basic information about insects and using plenty of visual aids, Linda shared site specific information about ash trees and forest pests, as it relates to not moving firewood. I was impressed that she walked through our Monarch Waystation Meadow with the group, first just observing, before having the kids practice ‘sweeping’ the meadow to collect insects. Her programs offer authentic educational experiences in the outdoors.”

Thank you Linda for your contributions to Peninsula! We will miss you!
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

Current Friends Membership
(274 Total Members)

- Life 43%
- Family 32%
- Individual 17%
- Business 7%
- Honorary 1%

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