GREETINGS FROM FRIENDS OF PENINSULA!

From Friends President Chris Holicek

Welcome Spring!

2018 has been busy for the Friends group. We started off the year with the First Day Hike. The weather was cold, but our group hiked and enjoyed cocoa and cookies at the Weborg Shelter. We also held our candlelight ski in February and everyone enjoyed the evening.

We will be funding two LTEs (Limited Term Employees) this summer to help with educational programming and trails. We can’t wait to see them in the park this summer and we’ll be sure to introduce you to them in a future newsletter.

We have updated our Friends brochure. Please pick one up when you are in the Park. We have also updated our website www.peninsulafriends.org. Our Eagle Tower information and fundraising is now located there. Thanks to Steve Strucely, our new business manager, and Nick Meiers, our Webmaster, for their efforts on this project. Also, please like us on our Facebook page: http://facebook.com/peninsulafriends

We are continuing our efforts to fundraise for the Eagle Tower Project and are nearing our goal. We are now working on raising funds for our Nature Center expansion. We are also selling our plush Jingle deer and Chickadees at the Park Office for the Nature Center and plush Eagles for the Tower.

This past summer we held an Eagle Tower fundraiser and sold items created by local artists, Tower steps, and branded Tower wood blocks. We also held an online auction for these items. The steps and blocks will again be available for purchase this summer.

We are holding a Nature Center fundraiser concert with violinist, Beth Chafey-Hon, on July 6 at the Kress Pavilion in Egg Harbor. Hope to see you there!

We thank all our volunteers and business members for their continued support.

Chris Holicek
President
In February, we embarked on planning for the expansion of the Nature Center at Peninsula State Park. The Friends have launched a campaign with a goal of $450,000 to support this effort. Funds raised will enable the construction of an addition to the Nature Center with a new activity/meeting room for up to 50 people, indoor accessible restrooms, and functional storage and program preparation space. An outdoor observation deck and expanded parking are also planned. Construction of the new addition is expected to start this fall, with completion targeted for summer 2019.

There is a great need for this expansion. The Nature Center has served as the site of many wonderful educational programs and activities for more than 50 years, but it has not been updated since it was first converted from an old winter warming hut in 1964. Interest in outdoor activities is growing, and now is the time to educate future generations about the importance of caring for and preserving our natural resources and history. An updated, modern facility will enable us to continue these important programs and effectively serve our visitors in the future.

The decision was made to move forward with the Nature Center campaign at this time because last year’s efforts to raise funds for the replacement of Eagle Tower were so successful, and we are nearing the goal of $750,000 for the Eagle Tower campaign as gifts continue to come in. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is proceeding with plans for the design and construction of the new tower.

Enjoying the chickadees at the Nature Center.
SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

Update from Park Superintendent Brian Markowski

Dear Friends,

After a year of high amounts of rainfall, Peninsula State Park continued to have close to 1.2 million visitors in 2017.

A few projects that you may have observed include, new tile in the shower buildings at Tennison Bay and Welcker’s Campgrounds. The shower facilities also had roof replacements, which included a new ventilation system. New outdoor showers were installed at Nicolet Bay Beach for our beach users. A new self-pay electronic kiosk was installed at the Eagle Terrace Entrance Station. Visitors can now purchase a state trail pass, daily or annual park admission with the use of their credit card. Customers receive a printed receipt that is date/time stamped to place on the driver side dash while at the park. Annual admission customers have 30 days to exchange their receipt for their annual sticker at any park office.

Another exciting addition to the park team includes our new Park Ranger, Morgan Pelnar. Morgan is originally from Two Rivers, WI and graduated from the University of WI – Green Bay in May of 2017 with a BS in environmental policy and planning. Previously, she was employed at Point Beach State Forest as an LTE laborer for four seasons and spent this last season at Peninsula State Park as a parks and recreation specialist. In her free time, she enjoys hunting, hiking, reading, and exploring new places and spaces.

The Candlelight Ski Event was a great success with the help of many volunteers, a special thank you to Gail Anderson and Sally Pfeifer for coordinating efforts. Also a big thank you to our Peninsula Trail Groomers for their dedication to our trails this season. Many nice comments were received by our skiers this winter. Please see our new ski trail condition reports on our DNR website dnr.wi.gov/trailConditions/.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Friends Membership Continues to Grow

Year to date the Friends of Peninsula State Park has welcomed new and returning Members totaling 20 businesses, 92 families, 54 individuals, and 121 life.

Membership dues are an important source of funding for the Friends. 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 every year. Since the Friends group began in 2007 with just under 90 members, we have grown each year with over 287 memberships in 2018. The three endowment funds established by the Friends provide additional funding support. Please consider a donation to these or a general donation to the Eagle Tower Fund or Nature Center Renovation project. 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.
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.

- The Cookery Restaurant and Wine Bar
- David/Pfeifer Insurance Agency
- Ecology Sports
- Edge of Park Bike and Moped Rentals
- Gibraltar Grill
- Going Garbage & Recycling
- Grasse’s Grill, LLC
- Great Northern Construction, Inc.
- Hat Head
- Hide Side Boutique & Corner Store
- Homestead Suites
- Nicolet Beach Concessions
- Nor Door Sport & Cyclery
- On Deck Clothing Company
- Parkwood Lodge
- Spielman’s Kid Works
- Vanden Heuvel & Dineen, S.C.
- What Next?
- Wilson’s Restaurant & Ice Cream Parlor

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