Superintendent’s Update

BY BRIAN MARKOWSKI

Hello Friends,

It’s hard to believe we’re closing in on the end of the 2018 camping season. As temperatures reach frost advisories, we begin winterizing our campgrounds and restroom facilities for another year. We would like to thank the Friends Board and all the volunteers for their support at Peninsula State Park.

The Friends donation of $750,000 towards Eagle Tower Construction was incredible. To achieve that kind of goal in approximately two years is amazing. The recent Wisconsin Natural Resources Board meeting accepted the gift and recognized the Friends of Peninsula State Park for all their efforts.

Eagle Tower is just one of the exciting projects coming up. Construction is expected to start by spring with completion by summer 2019. Adding electrification to 22 sites in South Nicolet Campground is also next on the list.

Additional projects are scheduled to begin in 2019, including: a wastewater facility upgrade, toilet/shower facility upgrades (including shower replacements in South Nicolet and vault bathroom replacements), waterline replacement, dump station replacement and relocation, campsite & park enhancement projects (including site graveling, new fire rings, picnic tables, grills and orientation signs) and Sunset Trail project. A Park Road project was also approved and is projected for the 2019-2021 fiscal.

A recent addition to Peninsula is an electronic admission sticker kiosk at the Terrace Entrance, which allows the use of credit cards. We are looking at the possibility of adding a second electronic pay kiosk outside the main office in 2019. In addition, we’ll be switching from ReserveAmerica Camping Reservation System to CAMIS Reservation System in mid-December. The new system will provide additional reservation features and improve customer service.

Thanks again for a great season. Before we know it, we’ll see the Friends’ new tracked gator grooming on the ski trails!
President’s Message

FROM CHRIS HOLICEK

Hi to everyone!

So much is happening this year with our Friend’s group. We have reached our fundraising goal for Eagle Tower which is exciting news! We have two more fundraising projects—the Expansion of the Nature Center and matching funds with the DNR for park enhancements. You will find more information about these projects in this newsletter. A highlight of the summer was our Nature Center Fundraiser Concert by violinist Beth Chafey-Hon at the Kress Pavilion. We had a successful silent auction at the concert. We appreciate all our friends and artists who contributed to this cause. Thanks to our business manager Steve Strucely for organizing this event. Our annual meeting and potluck, Saturday August 25th, was held at Weborg Shelter. Thanks to board member Gary Schulze for grilling fantastic food. Also, we were glad that Jan Primus, from our state Friends’ board, joined us. Our speaker was DNR specialist, Bernadette Williams, who presented a program on Jumping Worms. I would also like to thank Dave Bultman for his service as a board member. We do have a board opening, so if anyone is interested in becoming a board member, please contact us for an application.

As always, thanks to all our Friends volunteers who helped us this year. I would also like to thank the DNR for offering matching funds to State Friends groups for park enhancements and helping us make the building of a new Eagle Tower a reality.

Have a wonderful fall and enjoy our beautiful park!

Sincerely,
Chris Holicek.

New Sign on Shore Road

BY KATHLEEN HARRIS

Look for a new sign highlighting bird migration along Shore Road in Peninsula State Park. With eight miles of shoreline and diverse forest habitat, Peninsula is an official Migration Stopover Site. The Friends of Peninsula State Park provided a match for a grant from the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks to provide the funding for the sign. Naturalist Kathleen Harris wrote text and worked with local graphic designer Sharon Anderson of Inside the Door Graphic Design to create this sign and upgrade eleven others in the park.
Meet Our Business Manager

Steve Strucely was hired by the Friends as the part-time business manager in October 2017. He is responsible for raising funds and managing the budgets for major projects such as the new Eagle Tower, the Nature Center addition, and park enhancements. He is involved in promoting the Friends by serving as a media spokesperson, sending out press releases, and responding to inquiries from the public. He also assists with the membership program and helps coordinate volunteer involvement in a variety of areas.

Steve started his career in nonprofit management with the American Heart Association in 1981. He and his family moved to Wisconsin in 2007 when he took a position as business manager with Luther Preparatory School in Watertown. He and his wife Kathy have many fond memories of traveling to Door County to be with extended family every summer when their two sons were younger. Peninsula State Park was always one of the highlights of their visits.

Please contact Steve if you are interested in volunteering with the Friends or supporting their work with your gifts. He can be reached at manager@peninsulafriends.org or 920-868-6256.

Help the Nature Center Grow

BY STEVE STRUCELY

The Nature Center has been at the core of educational programming at Peninsula State Park since 1964. Kathleen Harris has served there as the park naturalist for more than two decades. She has taught hundreds of kids and their families about the importance of caring for and preserving our natural resources. She says, “I think we deliver really great programs, we do a great job. But we could do so much more if we had room for larger group gatherings and storage for all of our materials and exhibits.”

An addition is planned for the Nature Center that will provide more space and better facilities for teaching future generations. It will include:
» Accessible indoor restrooms
» Additional storage and functional work space
» Activity/meeting room for up to 50 people

$260,000 has been raised to date towards the goal of $350,000 needed to complete the project. 100% of the funds must be raised before work can begin. Please help us make the addition a reality by depositing a gift in donation boxes at the park and local businesses, mailing a check to the Friends at the address on this newsletter, or visiting PeninsulaFriends.org and clicking on “Nature Center Expansion” in the top menu.
Honor Your Family & Friends With a Gift to the Park

BY STEVE STRUCELY

The memorial bench program at Peninsula State Park has been discontinued. In its place, the Friends are offering the opportunity to make gifts in honor or in memory of loved ones to help replace aging picnic tables, grills, and fire rings at the park. A tribute wall will be installed at the Nicolet Beach shelter in late spring 2019 with the names of those who are being honored and remembered. Additional space will be available for gifts made after the wall is in place.

Gift levels are $1,000, $1,500, and $2,500 or more. Examples of amenities that could be provided at each level are:
- $1,000 gift = 2 picnic tables, 1 small grill
- $1,500 gift = 2 picnic tables, 2 small grills, 1 fire ring
- $2,500 gift = 2 picnic tables, 1 small grill, 1 large grill, 2 fire rings

Please visit PeninsulaFriends.org/tribute to download a gift form or make a gift online.

Take Home a Memory of The Park

FROM DAVID LEA

You’ve probably seen them at the park office – a variety of furry friends just waiting for a good home. We’re talking about the plush versions of some of the animals you may see at the Park, like bunnies, foxes, skunks, squirrels, and chickadees. You will also find T-shirts, hoodies, and caps with emblems to remind you of your visit. There is also a nice selection of books, prints, and pins, as well as branded blocks made of wood from the old Eagle Tower.

The Merchandise Committee led by Dave Lea is hard at work evaluating the products offered for sale and updating our inventory to keep it fresh. Later this fall, we will be moving to a new point of sale system called Springboard in order to streamline the management of our merchandise and make the purchase process even smoother for our customers.

Proceeds from your purchases are a key source of funds that enable the Friends to support the interpretive, historical, educational, and visitor service programs at Peninsula State Park, including special projects like rebuilding Eagle Tower and expanding the Nature Center. Check out the selection of items the next time you are at the Park. A plush animal or a branded block from the Tower makes a great birthday or Christmas gift. And don’t forget – Friends members receive a 10% discount!
Membership Report

BY GARY & MICHELLE KEMP

Year to date the Friends of Peninsula State Park have welcomed new and returning members totaling 20 businesses, 99 families, 54 individuals, and 123 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 296 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 in continuing these efforts.

Friend’s members receive a 10% discount on all merchandise sold at Park Headquarters or the Nature Center plus newsletters and updates on all the ongoing projects at Peninsula Park.

Contact Us!  920-868-6256  PO Box 502, Fish Creek, WI 54212  manager@peninsulafriends.org  PeninsulaFriends.org