



HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO FRIENDS OF NEWPORT STATE PARK      November 30, 2011

The most important subject discussed at a recent meeting of your Board of Directors was the annual request to the membership for financial support of the Society. We initiated this appeal in 2006 when the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) first introduced its program of budget reductions for state parks. The DNR's program of decreasing support has continued since then and is now being pursued ever more aggressively.

Funding of parks by the DNR is based in large part upon attendance. Our Newport Park, with its special designation as one of only two "limited-development wilderness parks" out of more than fifty state parks, is a treasure of which we are all very protective. Almost by definition, however, this designation places the park lower in attendance and funding when compared to parks operating on a more commercial basis.

At its core the wilderness approach requires strong on-going interpretive programs for our visitors. For several years, NWS has met Park Manager Michelle Hefty's requests for monies to sustain a Park Naturalist professional (i.e., Joan Wilkie) during the summer months. Now, Michelle and Naturalist Julie Hein-Frank are ready to embark on a much needed expansion of programs and services that will include more outside experts in various fields of study. This will provide our visitors with a wider choice of important subjects for interpretation that are not currently receiving the attention they deserve. This exciting development will require additional financial and volunteer support.

Your positive response to prior end-of-year appeals has been a very significant factor in funding the Park Naturalist, establishing and growing the NWS Endowment Fund (income from which plays an important part in funding programs), and ensuring that a strong interpretive program goes forward as a top priority.

Last year, we raised sufficient funds to pay for one-third of the newly dedicated interactive signage on the accessible nature trail, meet Joan's salary, and boost the Endowment Fund.

We truly appreciate your support, and look forward to your continued generosity at this time. What a wonderful accomplishment it would be to exceed the support you have provided over each of the prior four years! Our goal is \$18,000.

Thank you for your support of our special Park, which was recently awarded the "2011 Gold Seal Award for Quiet Reflection and Meditation" by the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks organization.

Jack W Travis, President

Marc A Savard, Fundraising Chair

(PLEASE SEE ENCLOSED DONATION FORM. The Newport Wilderness Society, Inc., is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, tax exempt organization. Donations are tax deductible within limits of law.)

PLEASE FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS DONATION FORM.

EITHER, SEND YOUR CHECK MADE OUT TO THE "NEWPORT WILDERNESS SOCIETY, INC.", ALONG WITH THIS COMPLETED FORM, IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE;

OR, TO PAY WITH YOUR CREDIT CARD OF CHOICE, VISIT <http://newportwildernesssociety.org> AND CLICK ON "JOIN/RENEW/DONATE"; AFTER FINISHING YOUR ONLINE TRANSACTION, MAIL THIS COMPLETED FORM IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE SO THAT WE MAY KNOW YOUR DONATION ALLOCATION PREFERENCE(S).

Please select as many designations from the following as to how you would like your donation used:

Endowment Fund.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Endowment income supports NWS programs)

Interpretation & Stewardship.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Includes services of a Naturalist)

Area of Greatest Need.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (As determined by NWS and Park Mgmt.)

Total Donation.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one of the following choices: Donation paid by enclosed check \_\_\_\_\_  
OR,  
Donation paid by credit card online \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you.

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