

# Forest View

Winter/Spring 2025

Newsletter  
of the  
Friends of the  
Kettle Moraine

## Superintendent's Report

### Grateful for Partners and Volunteers

With nearly a million annual visitors and almost 30,000 acres to manage, the Northern Unit staff needs some extra help from partner organizations and volunteers. We are extremely grateful for the projects that our partners were able to complete this past year and the hours donated by our volunteers. Their efforts helped keep the Northern Unit a shining gem in the Wisconsin State Park System. Please see the list below of a few partner projects and volunteer efforts.

Thirteen couples and three individuals served as Campground Hosts at the Long Lake, Mauthe Lake, and Horse Camp campgrounds. They provided 1178 hours conducting light maintenance and sharing forest information.

We also want to express our thanks to some other special volunteers: three Trail Stewards who monitored the Tamarack and Zillmer trails and those who helped with special events including the Work Play Earth Day, Invasive Species Awareness Day, and Smokey Bear's 80th Birthday Bash. In addition we want to thank those who participated in workdays at Lizard Mound State Park and the New Fane Bike Trails.

A big thank you goes out to the Northern Kettle Moraine Horse Trail Association for the projects the group completed in 2024.

- New Prospect Horserider's Camp and bridle trail improvements
- Gravel enhancement in the corrals
- Pre and post season cleanup throughout the campground
- Bridle trail extension of a 15-mile Mauthe Lake Loop
- Installation of premier corrals at family camp
- Purchase and installation of 22 fire rings in the family camp
- Donation for a horse wash station in the family camp

We are thankful for the Northern Kettle Moraine Nordic Ski Club for their ongoing trail

enhancement and maintenance, consistent top-notch grooming of the Greenbush ski trails, and donation of an overhead door on the grooming shed.

Sheboygan County Cycling Club is a new partner. We appreciate their efforts to clear trees and brush from the trail, bench cut trail tread improvements, all their volunteer workdays, and winter grooming of the Greenbush mountain biking trails.

There is another partner group forming, New Fane Mountain Bike Association, which will work to enhance the mountain biking experience at New Fane. We look forward to working with this group on future projects!

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Ice Age Trail Alliance's Lakeshore and Washington/Ozaukee chapters for their continued support in maintaining the iconic Ice Age National Scenic Trail throughout the Northern Unit. In September, the Alliance held a trail building weekend that rerouted 4800 feet of the Greenbush Segment near Hwy 23. We also want to send out a special thanks to Kathy Claude and her team for their efforts on invasive species control along the trail this season!

Three Scouting America scouts completed their Eagle Scout Projects for the benefit of the Northern Unit. Myles Jacobi built a new information kiosk at the Forest Headquarters and Logan Christy built one for the Greenbush Group Camp area. Ben Mittag constructed and installed a new bike wash station at New Fane. We are proud of the work they accomplished!

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## Board of Directors Update

### October 2024 Board Meeting

The Board of Directors had a very full agenda on October 9 at the Ice Age Visitor Center. Below are the highlights of the meeting:

- Negotiations continue between the Friends and the Bureau of Park and Recreation Management on a Concessionaire's Agreement. This will be the first agreement for the Friends.
- Logan Christy, a Scouting America member, shared information about his Eagle Scout project, a new information kiosk at the Greenbush Recreation Area. He asked the Board if the Friends could help pay for some of the materials for his project. The Board awarded him \$600.
- New phone number for the Friends is (920) 313-1566.
- An overview of the process for the Southeast Glacier Plains Master Plan was provided. The plan includes the Northern Unit. A team will be working on this plan through 2025. The board shared two of their priorities for the plan: vegetation/invasive species and education/interpretation.
- The board agreed to support the efforts to create legislation for wake boat regulation. This effort is spearheaded by Wisconsin's Greenfire, which is part of a statewide coalition including the Wis. Conservation Congress, Wis. Wildlife Federation, Lakes at Stake, and others.
- Ice sales at the Mauthe Lake and Long Lake entrance stations were fraught with troubles and did not make as much money as anticipated. After some study, a decision will be made whether to continue the sales in 2025.
- Jackie Scharfenberg reported that the three Dinner and a Show events lost a total of \$860. Overall, the bake sales did well. The deluge

in June really hindered attendance and the July performer's fee was on the high side. The August event was the best attended and the bake sale sold out. Thanks was expressed for all those who provided bake goods.

- Samantha Lindquist, Forest Superintendent, provided updates on various projects: "How to Use" sign for Kayak Launch, Ice Age Visitor Center Vegetative Rehabilitation, installation of window bird deterrents, funding for the Mauthe Lake fishing pier, Headquarter buildings' new roofs, windows, and overhead doors, and several Eagle Scout projects.

### 2024 Annual Meeting

The Friends of the Kettle Moraine annual board meeting occurred on Tuesday night, November 12, as part of the Volunteer Appreciation Event held at The Roadhouse in Dundee. Approximately 70 people attended along with three DNR staff members.

President Mike McFadzen conducted the annual meeting. The minutes of the 2023 annual meeting were read and approved along with a review of the 2024 Friends' financials. All board members agreed to serve for another year and two new nominations were received from the floor—Steve Erlbeck and Sharon Schwartz. The membership in attendance voted unanimously to accept the board members as presented.

Evening highlights included a tasty dinner prepared by The Roadhouse, decadent desserts provided by Jackie Scharfenberg, recognition of key volunteers and partner groups, and a fun, informative program, "Neighborhood Owls," presented by Howard April, Wehr Nature Center Naturalist. It was a delightful evening for all who attended. Funds from the Northern Unit helped offset the cost.

## Superintendent's Report

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Last but not least, we want to express our gratitude and appreciation to the Friends of the Kettle Moraine. They have continued to upgrade their offerings at the Ice Age Visitor Center Gift Shop and extended their merchandise sales to the two entrance Stations.

They applied and received Knowles/Nelson Stewardship Grants for an accessible bottle filler/drinking fountain, the accessible kayak

launch at Mauthe Lake, and the Tamarack Trail improvements. They also cost-shared the installation of Feather Friendly bird deterrents for the Center's windows. We continue to collaborate on the invasive species control efforts throughout the Northern Unit and the new Ice Age Visitor Center Vegetation Rehabilitation project.

With our limited staff and resources, we could not accomplish so much without our amazing volunteers and our dedicated, generous partners. A huge thanks to you all!

—Samantha Lindquist, Forest Superintendent



## Friends Sponsored Events

# Join Us!

### Friends Board Meeting

Thursday, January 30, starting at 6:00 pm,  
Ice Age Visitor Center

Tuesday, April 8, starting at 6:00 pm,  
Ice Age Visitor Center

Anyone is welcome to attend the Friends Board meetings. Interested and dedicated people are invited to join the board at any time. For more information contact the Friends at [friendsofthekettlemoraine@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthekettlemoraine@gmail.com).

### Snowshoe Adventure

Saturday, January 11, 10:00 am–12:00 pm  
Greenbush Group Camp Shelter (located at N5854 Kettle Moraine Drive, Glenbeulah – between Hwy 67 and County Road T near Greenbush)

Learn the ancient skill of snowshoeing and then venture along the trails at Greenbush. Snowshoes are provided for those who need them. To register call/text 920-313-1566 by Jan. 8. This program is best for people over eight years old.

### Candlelight Ski/Hike

Saturday, February 1, 5:30–8:30 pm  
Zillmer Trail Area (located at W833 Country Road SS, Campbellsport between County Road G and Hwy 67 near New Prospect)

Cross-country ski or hike in the Kettle Moraine State Forest–Northern Unit by candlelight. At the bonfire join fellow hikers and skiers for hot drinks and snacks provided by the Friends of the Kettle Moraine. The trail is perfect for novice skiers, with no steep hills or sharp turns.

### Welcome Spring Sunrise Walk

Thursday, March 20, 6:30–8:15 am  
Mauthe Lake Recreation Area Picnic Shelter (N1490 County Road GGG, Campbellsport)

On this first day of spring, join us as we explore how nature welcomes this new season. We will be walking the two-mile Tamarack Trail around Mauthe Lake. Make sure to wear appropriate footwear as the trail may be snowy or wet.

### Spring Symphony Night Hike

Friday, April 25, 7:30–9:00 pm  
Zillmer Trail Area (located at W833 County Road S, Campbellsport – between County Road G and Hwy 67 near New Prospect)

An early spring evening is the perfect time to search for those incredible sky dancers, woodcock and snipe. As the sky darkens, we will tune into those nighttime noise-makers, the frogs. This night hike is best for those over six years old.

*All events require a valid Wisconsin State Park System vehicle admission sticker for parking.*



## Business Members

*Please Show Them Your Support*

### Badger Trails

Join us for the following hikes:

- Scuppernong Trail Hike – April 26, 2025
- Glacial Trails Backpack Hike – May 2–4, 2025
- Devil's Lake Hike – October 3–5, 2025

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### The Native Niche

(native species landscaping)  
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### Schlaefer Optometrists

Campbellsport

### Millonig's Kettle Moraine Studio

Campbellsport  
[millonigart.com](http://millonigart.com)

### Gourmet's Delight Mushrooms

Eden

### Tydish Running, LLC

Delafield  
[tydish.org](http://tydish.org)

## Legislative Corner

# Friends Endorse Reasonable Standards for Wake Boats

Current studies show that wake-enhanced boats create a wake three to 12 times greater than a ski boat. Wake boats kick up pollutants from the lakebed into the water column throughout the lake and erode aquatic vegetation.

Another huge issue is that wake boats cannot completely empty their ballast tanks, which creates a significant pathway for non-native aquatic invasive species. This lake-to-lake invasive spread worries regulatory agencies and lake users.

Wisconsin's Greenfire, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, and Lakes at Stake are part of a statewide coalition focused on protecting Wisconsin's lakes. The coalition represents Wisconsin fishing experts/enthusiasts, local units of government, lake property landowners, those concerned with spreading invasive species, and others. These lake enthusiasts are concerned about the devastating impacts of wake-enhanced boating on Wisconsin's lakes and other waterways.

The coalition's reasonable principles include:

- Wake-enhanced boating activities should occur at least 700 feet from any shoreline.

- Wake-enhanced boating activities should occur in water depths of no less than 30 feet.
- Boats moving from lake to lake must have proof of decontaminated ballast tanks before entering lakes to prevent the spread of invasive species.
- Local municipalities' existing right to enact and maintain local ordinances that are more restrictive than these state minimums should be preserved.

The powerboat industry is lobbying hard against these reasonable standards. Join the Friends of the Kettle Moraine by encouraging your conservation or natural resource organization to sign-on in support of these standards, which could potentially become law at the next legislative session.

To find out more about the concerns regarding wake boating go to the Wisconsin Green Fire website (<https://wigreenfire.org/wisconsin-lakes-coalition-policy-positions-on-wake-boats/>). Contact Meleesa Johnson at [mjohnson@wigreenfire.org](mailto:mjohnson@wigreenfire.org) to become a signatory on these common-sense standards.

—Mike McFadzen, *President*

### Welcome New Members

Steve Irlbeck  
Plymouth

Jeff Krosschell  
Randolph

Tydish Running, LLC  
Delafield

Regina Schurman  
Lisle, Illinois



## Resource Management

# 2024 Campaign a Success

Under the dedicated leadership of Connie Ramthun, the Kettle Moraine Stewards conducted 28 workdays from May through the end of October. A total of 38 individuals pulled, cut, and sprayed invasive species in the Haskell Noyes and Spruce Lake Bog State Natural Areas, Greenbush

remnant prairie, Zillmer Trail area, Jersey Flats prairie, at the Ice Age Visitor Center, and the Tamarack Trail around Mauthe Lake. These volunteers provided more than 260 hours of service! If you want to see the results of their efforts, check out the Haskell Noyes Woods where they have knocked back garlic mustard to just a few minor stands.

Thanks to all who helped with this year's campaign in the battle to keep invasive plants at bay.



## Forest Trivia

What special anniversary is the Wisconsin State Park System celebrating in 2025?

It is celebrating 125 years of existence. The current system started with the establishment of Interstate State Park in 1900.

**Answer:**

## Board and Staff Updates

### **A Fond Farewell to Raina**

We wish Raina Lyman a fond farewell as she leaves the Board of Directors to concentrate on her position at Envision Fond du Lac and her new home. We truly appreciated her unique insights to improve the workings of the Friends and her wonderful optimistic outlook for the group.

### **Welcome New Board Member Sharon Schwartz**

Sharon is a lifelong resident of the Kettle Moraine/Campbellsport area. She grew up with eight sisters and two brothers, a large family full of fun. She has raised two daughters and two sons, and she has six grandchildren.

Upon completing her bachelor's degree at Marian College, she started a career in business and accounting. Sharon is a business owner with an accounting home office for the last 27 years. She specializes in small business accounting, payroll services, and tax preparation.

Sharon also serves on the board of directors for a professional climbing guide service and performs audits for multiple non-profit organizations in the area.

Along with camping with her husband, John, and family, she enjoys hiking, running, snowshoeing, and biking. Sharon is always ready for an adventure, including mountain climbing and endurance events.

### **Welcome New Board Member Steve Irlbeck**

Steve was raised in Madison, and is the oldest of four children. He is an Eagle Scout and lifelong fan of the outdoors. Steve attended the University of Wisconsin graduating with a degree in accounting and information systems. His career included time in Dubuque, where he worked in public accounting and earned his CPA. After leaving public accounting, he worked in roles spanning corporate accounting, project management, and financial analysis. He retired from Aramark Corporation's Healthcare division in 2020.

Steve and his wife Nancy, raised two sons in the suburbs of Chicago. Upon his retirement, they returned to the beautiful Northern Kettle Moraine region. His hobbies include hiking, biking, homebrewing, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.

### **Dustin Brochtrup Joins the Northern Unit Staff**

In the winter of 2018, Dustin graduated from UW-Stevens Point with a bachelor's degree in wildlife ecology and habitat management. After college, he took a position with the U.S. Forest Service and then in the spring of 2019, he became a wildlife technician in Hayward. He started his DNR career in 2020 as an LTE (limited term employee) Parks and Recreation Specialist with the southeast recreation crew and by November 2020, he was a permanent Park Ranger at Richard Bong State Recreation Area. After two years he accepted a Parks and Recreation Specialist position at Kettle Moraine State Forest–Southern Unit. He worked there for just over two years until accepting the Parks and Recreation Specialist position at the Northern Unit.

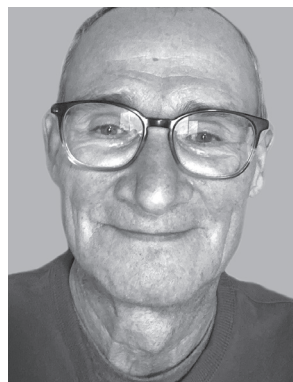
When not working, Dustin enjoys being outdoors hunting and fishing, or spending time with his wife and 1.5-year-old lab puppy. He looks forward to the opportunity to work in such a diverse landscaped property with so many recreational opportunities. Dustin is excited to continue growing his knowledge within the Wisconsin State Park System.



**Raina Lyman**



**Sharon Schwartz**



**Steve Irlbeck**



**Dustin Brochtrup**

## Special Events

# Leaf Stomp 2024 – A Wonderful Success!

After many months of planning, the 2024 Leaf Stomp stepped off on a beautiful Saturday, October 12. The final registration number was

180 and 158 folks came the day of the event to hike one of four segments of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail through the Northern Unit. The Friends made almost \$5000 on the event thanks to the 42 volunteers who helped out on the day. An extra big thanks goes out to the planning team members: Tom Lentz, Denise Olsen, Jim Powers, Jackie

Scharfenberg (chair), Richard Schulz, Sharon Schwartz, Jean Timpel, and Janice Wittkopp.

We also are grateful to our event sponsors who helped make the event a wonderful financial success.

We heard oh so many very positive comments about the event and suggestions on how we can make it better for next time. Planning for the Leaf Stomp 2025 will begin in early February. If you are interested in helping organize the next Leaf Stomp, please contact Jackie Scharfenberg, Administrative Assistant, at [friendsofthekettlemoraine@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthekettlemoraine@gmail.com) or at (920) 313-1566.

Mark your calendar for Leaf Stomp 2025 – Saturday, October 11!

### Event Sponsors

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## President's Corner

# Master Planning Begins

The Kettle Moraine State Forest–Northern Unit's Master Plan revision/update is in the starting phase. A property plan, also called a master plan, establishes the level and types of public uses, resource management, and facility development that may take place at a property.

Master Planning now happens on a larger landscape level instead of for each individual property in the Wisconsin State Park System. Southeast Glacier Plains Master Plan includes our region of the state and covers the largest, most populous, and likely the most complicated of the State Park System master plans. For many of us, it is the most important because

it affects the future of the Forest we love. Planners will be working on it throughout 2025 with expected completion in 2026. Many interests are vying for a piece of the Northern Unit. The Friends of the Kettle Moraine is tracking the Master Plan's progress. Stay engaged by attending our Board of Director meetings and following the Friends' website ([kmnorthfriends.org](http://kmnorthfriends.org)). For more information or to receive updates on property master plans, visit the Department of Natural Resources Property Planning web page at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/fl/PropertyPlanning/index>.  
—Mike McFadzen, President

## Volunteer Opportunities

# We Need You!

If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact Jackie Scharfenberg, Administrative Assistant, at [friendsofthekettlemoraine@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthekettlemoraine@gmail.com) or (920) 313-1566.

### Candlelight Ski/Hike

February 1, 5:30–8:30 pm (Saturday)  
Zillmer Trail Area (located at W833 County Road SS, Campbellsport—between Hwy 67 and County Road G near New Prospect)

Before the start of the event, we need volunteers to help set up by placing luminaries along the Brown Loop at Zillmer. During the ski/hike, volunteers staff the refreshment stand and provide general information about the Friends of the Kettle Moraine and the Northern Unit. At the end of the night, assistance is needed to clean up the trail and staging area.

### Invasive Species Coordinator Apprentice

For many years Connie Ramthun has led crews of volunteers in the battle to keep non-native invasives at bay. She is looking for an apprentice

to give her a hand this coming year and to learn the ropes of coordinating the work crews. If you are interested, please contact Connie at [connieramthun@gmail.com](mailto:connieramthun@gmail.com).

### Leaf Stomp Planning Task Group

October 11, 2025, is the date for the second Friends' fundraiser, Leaf Stomp. We are looking for a team of people to help plan and organize this year's event using what we learned from the first Leaf Stomp. This includes finding event sponsors, organizing hiker amenities, assisting with marketing, and finalizing the day-of details. The team will begin meeting in early February with monthly meetings through September.

### Gift Shop Inventory Day

Before we begin making orders for the 2025 season, we need to inventory the current stock of merchandise at the Ice Age Visitor Center. If you're up for counting T-shirts, books, and other items, please mark your calendar for Friday, January 10, with a snow date of January 11. We will start at 9:30 am. Lunch will be provided if we go past the lunch hour.

## Gift Shop News

# Handcrafted in the Kettle Moraine

For many years, the Gift Shop has carried the hand-crafted, unique walking sticks created by Mickey and Bonnie Beth who live less than ten minutes from the Ice Age Visitor Center. They started crafting walking sticks on a whim in the late 1980s. This quickly grew into a full-time business. Now, in their 80s, the couple is moving to retire from their business. We wish them all the best!

But it's not too late to get your own Mickey-carved, Bonnie-finished, beautiful, signed, and dated walking stick. Each piece carries Mickey's signature "Happy Hiking Signs." They consist of two animal eyes to watch and protect you, a sun for good weather, and a happy and safe trail. What a great message to carry with you as you hike your favorite trail.

The Gift Shop at the Ice Age Visitor Center carries a wide assortment of T-shirts, books, and other nature related items and is the largest fundraiser for the Friends of the Kettle Moraine. Your purchases help fund

the many projects the Friends of the Kettle Moraine support to enhance and protect the Northern Unit. Remember Friends members receive a ten percent discount on items they buy.

—Jackie Scharfenberg,  
Administrative Assistant



Friends of the Kettle Moraine  
P.O. Box 143  
Campbellsport, WI 53010



**Friends of the  
Kettle Moraine  
Board Members**

Mike McFadzen – *President*  
Jamie Sue Beaupré –  
*Vice President*  
Jackie Scharfenberg –  
*Treasurer*  
Gary Nickel – *Secretary*  
Tom Lentz  
Connie Ramthun  
Mark Sesing  
Janice Wittkopp  
Steve Irlbeck  
Sharon Schwartz

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November.*

**Have You Moved?**

*Please let us know your new  
address so we can keep in  
touch with you. Call or text  
(920) 313-1566 with your  
new address.*

## Friends of the Kettle Moraine Membership

### Membership Levels

- \$20 Individual
- \$30 Family
- \$50 Contributing
- \$100 Patron
- \$500 Life Membership
- \$50 Business
- \$1000 Steward  
*(acknowledged at the Ice Age Visitor Center)*

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Contribution

*All memberships are tax deductible  
to the full extent allowed by law.  
Make checks payable to the Friends  
of the Kettle Moraine. Please mail  
your check and membership form to  
Friends of the Kettle Moraine, P.O.  
Box 143, Campbellsport, WI 53010.*

### Yes! I Am Interested in Volunteering

- Contribute Newsletter Articles
- Prepare Mailings
- Help with Fundraising
- Enhance Web Presence
- Help at Special Events
- Assist at the Ice Age Visitor Center
- Other

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

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City

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State

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Zip

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Phone

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Email Address

## Who are the Friends of the Kettle Moraine?

The Friends is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting conservation, recreation, and education within the Kettle Moraine State Forest–Northern Unit. The goals of the organization include:

- To publicize the unique recreational and educational experiences that are available in the Northern Unit.

- To develop a public appreciation for the Northern Unit and its resources.
- To recruit public involvement in the activities and input in deciding the future management of the Northern Unit.
- To provide financial assistance for educational programs and other forest projects.