

Friends of Whitefish Dunes

August 2021

Candlelight Walk: On the beach at Whitefish Dunes. *Date: Saturday, August 21. Time: 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.* Park sticker required. There will be telescopes set up in the parking lot for stargazing if conditions permit. Volunteers are needed for set up, take down, lighting candles, and more. Go to: <https://thefriendsofwhitefishdunes.org/2021-candlelight-walk>

Annual Meeting: ~~Our Annual Meeting will be held in the Auditorium at the Nature Center. Sticker required. Date: Saturday, September 18. Time: 10 a.m. Sweets & beverages. ON HOLD due to COVID.~~

Fall Dunes Work Day: *Date: Saturday, October 16. Time: 9 a.m. to noon. Lunch provided by the FRIENDS. Park sticker required. To sign up, please email: susan.cubar@gmail.com .*

Through Labor Day, call the park for scheduled naturalist activities and presentations (920) 823-2400 or check the park's website: <https://dnr.wi.gov/calendar/events/parks/index.asp> or the Friends Facebook page: XX

New Program: Trail Ambassadors

About a dozen Friends volunteers took to the beach and trails in the Park in July. The Friends have formed the "Trail Ambassadors" to help provide for the safety and well-being of visitors by preserving and protecting trail resources and by educating visitors in an effort to promote an enjoyable experience for all. From maintaining the cleanliness of the park by picking up litter, to educating park visitors about park resources, flora, fauna and other features of the park, park rules and regulations, and reporting on damage or unsafe conditions. Online videos have been created for training, and each Ambassador gets a vest, brochures, etc. Interested in joining this year-round program? Contact Doug Otopalik: doug.otopalik@gmail.com.

2021 Officers and Board of Directors

OFFICERS

John Swanson, *President*; Dick Weidman, *Vice President*; Liz Story, *Secretary*; Julia Stoneman, *Treasurer*.

DIRECTORS

Susan Cubar – membership; Rich Dirks – trails; Adele Douglass; Don Gustafson – pollinator garden; Doug Otopalik – trail ambassadors; Jim Perry – Facebook page; Carl Scholz; Lynn Zawojski – events

Thank you to outgoing president Lynn Zawojski, secretary Adele Douglass, and treasurer Susan Cubar for your years of service to the Friends. Thanks also to Chuck Birringer, who maintains and

updates the Friends website: <https://thefriendsofwhitefishdunes.org> and Jim Perry, who maintains the Friends Facebook page.

Brachiopod Boardwalk Progress

The reconstructed Brachiopod Boardwalk was completed and opened early last summer (2020). This was a joint project of the Friends and the DNR. The Friends also provided a new information kiosk there, which was dedicated to the support and service of Friends members Carl and Ruth Scholz. We are currently working on additional upgrades to this trail that include new signage, trail grading near the boardwalk, and two accessible parking spaces. We've been notified that we have received a Knowles-Nelson grant of \$20,000 (which we will match) to complete the work on this project! We're working with a naturalist/designer to replace and create new signage along the trail. Plans also include two accessible parking spaces adjacent to the trail and some regrading. Thanks to all who have contributed funds and/or hours to this project.

Wish List

New Friends President John Swanson has led the Board in creating a "wish list" of projects to guide our work and budget over the next year. Projects include:

- **Brachiopod Trail:** Interpretive Signage. In progress. Accessible Parking: In progress.
- **Pollinator Garden Signage:** \$500-\$900. COMPLETED. ID tags added.
- **Fire Ring** with lockable top (in picnic area): COMPLETED.
- **Native American Village:** Repair, rebuild, and expand existing structures. Update signage.
- **Document storage** in a cloud drive for Board. In progress.
- **Trailer** to transport skid steer from other properties for use at WF DSP. Researching options.
- **Nature Center Kiosk:** Will be built near the nature center to hold the Park map/directory created by the DNR & other information. Applying for a grant to help fund.
- **Access Trail to Cave Point Park:** Work with Door County Parks and DNR to design, fund, and construct.
- **Old Baldy:** Upgrade the board walk up to the platform. Consider handrails. Remove trees that obstruct the view for park visitors.
- **Electric Vehicle Charging Station:** Dirks is investigating this possible project.
- **Friends Book Sale Manager:** Do you love books? Do you have a few hours each month to help stock and order the books that the Friends sell in the Nature Center? Contact: John Swanson: swanpiper@yahoo.com

Monthly Meeting Date, Time & Location Changed

Monthly meetings of the Friends Board of Directors have been changed to 4 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. We have been meeting in the picnic shelter.

Friends of Whitefish Dunes, Inc., 3275 Clark Lake Road, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235.