

# Friends of Whitefish Dunes

September 2021

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## NEWS

**DATE & TIME CHANGE—Annual Meeting:** Because of the current COVID situation, the Friends have cancelled the Annual Meeting that was scheduled for Saturday, September 18. NEW DATE: Thursday, December 9. TIME: Meeting at 10:00 a.m. Holiday potluck at 11:45 a.m. At the Park auditorium in the Nature Center.

**Mushroom Hike with Charlotte Lukes:** DATE: Saturday, October 2. TIME: 10 a.m. Meet at the Park Nature Center. Park sticker required.

**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 to volunteer, please email: [susan.cubar@gmail.com](mailto:susan.cubar@gmail.com).

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.

## Sale!

A selection of Friends merchandise (clothing) has been marked down to \$10 to clear space for our fall clothing order. As of September 1, the Nature Center will be open Monday, Wednesday—Saturday, 10 a.m.—3 p.m. The Nature Center will be closed Tuesdays and Sundays (but open Sunday, September 5, for Labor Day weekend.)

## Trail Ambassadors

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. Trail Ambassadors hike the Park, especially during the busiest hours, and pick up litter, answer questions from visitors about park resources, flora, fauna and other features, explain park rules and regulations when appropriate, and report damage or unsafe conditions. Online videos have been created for training, and each Ambassador gets a vest, brochures, etc. If you have questions or are interested in joining this year-round program, contact Doug Otopalik: [doug.otopalik@gmail.com](mailto:doug.otopalik@gmail.com).

## Wanted—Friends Book Sale Coordinator

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](mailto:swanpiper@yahoo.com)

## Annual Members

Membership dues are one of our key fundraising outreaches, and renewals by our annual members help support our projects. This past spring we mailed renewals to our annual members (not to LIFE members). Don't forget to send in your renewal for 2021.

## Our Wish List

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.
- **Dump Trailer** to transport skid steer from other properties for use at WF DSP and for other hauling. 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:** Rich Dirks is investigating this possible project.

## Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings of the Friends Board of Directors are held at 4 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. We have been meeting in the picnic shelter. All members and interested persons are welcome to attend. The next meeting is Wednesday, September 15.

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

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. Website: <https://thefriendsofwhitefishdunes.org>. Follow us also on Facebook.