

Spring News from Friends of the Apostle Islands March 2017



Announcing Our New Website: www.friendsoftheapostleislands.org

We've posted some of your favorite photos to remind you of what makes the Apostle Islands so special and why we are a "Friends" group. Use our website to find out more about us and our activities, events, merchandise, lighthouse prints, and ways to get involved. Then take time to meet our team of dedicated board members who work behind the scenes for the sake of the park.



From our Sister Park in Costa Rica

We just received a note from our sister park in the Osa Peninsula in southwestern Costa Rica. Juan José Jiménez Espinoza, Administrador of the Reserva Forestal Golfo Dulce, writes that March 3-4 was their 4th International Festival of Migratory Birds. They were celebrating the passage of "our shared migratory birds," says Juan Jose, and their return to the north, including the Apostle Islands National Park. The American Redstart is just one of 150 birds that we share with our counterpart in Central America. In the summer the American Redstart adds color and song to the forests of our Lake Superior islands.

Juan José adds, "It is an honor and a pleasure to work on the conservation of these wonderful birds with allies like you." Together we are responsible for protecting their important habitat and sending them on their way back south each fall with new offspring in tow.

Thank you to Daniel Hernandez, for sharing his photo of an American Redstart in its tropical habitat. Daniel is a bird lover, photographer, and ally of the Golfo Dulce Forest Reserve.



Celebrate Earth Day With Us!

Saturday, April 22 * 5-8pm

At: Access Wisconsin

1113 Stephenson Lane

Waunakee, WI (minutes north of Madison)

Join Friends of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore for an evening of great food and drink, presentations on the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore and a benefit art auction at the beautiful Access Wisconsin gallery just north of Madison. Photographer Mark Weller has on display his large sized prints of the lighthouses and Wisconsin scenery.

- Delicious catered appetizers, wine and beer
- Program by Park Superintendent Bob Krumenaker and photographer Mark Weller
- Live and silent auctions of Apostle Islands prints
- Gallery tour and social sharing
- Meet John Frank, Author of **Apostle Islands Water Trips**

Cost: \$25 per person * [RSVP Online Now](#) * Note: Space is limited to first 50 guests
Questions? [Contact Karen Graff via Email](#)

Don't Miss This Year's Annual Cruise on August 10th

Every year we invite you to join us on an evening boat ride to an island. This year we have chosen Michigan Island (weather permitting) and the Park Service's beautiful new exhibits and restored lighthouse. Also featured will be the restored gardens, and cleared trails, thanks to our volunteer efforts over the past two years. \$45 covers transportation and food. More details will be available later this spring.

"Friends" Able to Purchase Solar Shares for Little Sand Bay Contact Station

With your help we bought six virtual shares in Bayfield Electric's new Community Solar Garden, which will produce roughly 1,600 kWh/year over the next 25 years. Superintendent Bob Krumenaker says, "This is an incredible commitment from the Friends! I expect that this will provide most, if not all, of

the electric power needed for the new Little Sand Bay Visitor Center, and put us over the top for it to qualify as a LEED-silver building.”



Bob adds that this summer visitors can expect to see the construction of the permanent shelter for the *Twilite* fishing tug at Little Sand Bay. He expects that the Visitor Center construction project, which is “shovel-ready,” will begin in 2018, but is subject to the overall NPS budget debates occurring in Washington.

Volunteer Opportunities

Contact [Erica Peterson via email](#) if you are interested in any of the following projects.

Gardening At Michigan Island Light Station

Volunteers will be needed in early June to prepare the new gardens for summer. The Park Service provides the transportation on this daylong event weeding, mulching, transplanting and planting. Participants must be flexible with rain dates to accommodate safe landing dates.



Gaylord Nelson Flower Garden Restoration Project

“Friends” are working to restore the native plant garden at the entrance to the Bayfield Visitor Center. Tender care will help us to highlight the many native plants that were planted years ago. Work dates and details will follow later this spring.

Island Trail Clearing

As you know from our last newsletter, damaging winds last summer brought down many trees across trails on the islands. “Friends” is helping the park fund a professional wilderness crew to clear the large debris. We will be putting together small groups who are interested in helping brush the remaining debris. The two pictures below show some of the storm damage at the Michigan Island Light Station.





New Picnic Table Coming to Presque Isle

"Friends" is able to purchase a sturdy, iron mesh, and handicap accessible picnic table to be placed near the dock this summer. This will replace the old wood table that is not accessible. Many boaters, campers and day users will find it in a convenient place to gather. Check it out next time you visit Stockton and put it to good use.



What is a Bryophyte and Why are "Friends" so Excited About Them?

Bryophytes are mosses and liverworts. On the islands they are tucked into the nooks and crannies of the rocky shorelines, and in the bogs. An example of a bryophyte is the sphagnum moss that forms the floating mats in the bogs behind Julian Bay and Raspberry Island's sand spit.

A recent graduate of UW Stevens Point discovered a 1990's 'lost' collection of them in 22 boxes, unmaintained, uncurated, but in a salvageable condition. ***Bryophytes are indicators of habitat quality and climate change.*** The Park feels this collection is invaluable and presents baseline data that can gauge change over time and present a comparison for future collections in the APIS NL.

"Friends" is able to step in quickly and help the student secure the collection in Steven's Point's herbarium and make it available for future study. We look forward to reporting more about this discovery and contributing to its preservation.



Mural Bricks and Images Still Available

The following scenes in our Ashland Mural are still available. Purchase one and artist Sue Martinsen will add your name to the bottom of the selected image. You might consider choosing one to honor a friend or family member. Please contact [Mary via email](#) at the Friends.

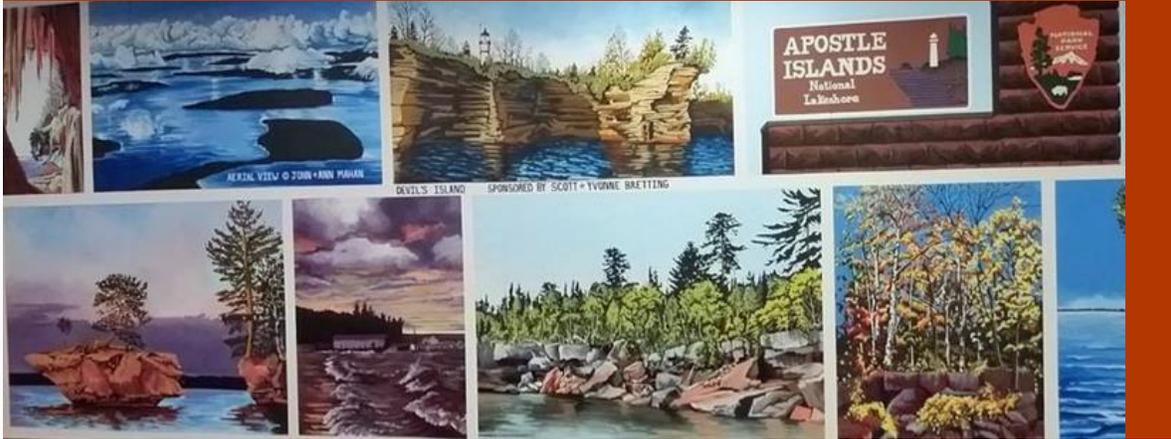
Areal View: \$1,000

Hermit Island Quarry: \$500

NE Shore of Stockton Island: \$1,000

Sunset Over Stockton Island: \$1,000

Lone Rock by Basswood Island: \$1,000



New Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light Exhibit

Friends have provided funding for the NPS to create a new exhibit, which will be donated to the Ashland Historical Society Museum and installed soon. Please visit the [museum online](#) or in person at their new location at 216 Main Street West in Ashland.



Park Superintendent Bob Krumenaker Will be on Assignment in Philadelphia for Four Months

Bob has been asked on short notice to fill a critical senior-level void in the NPS Northeast Regional Office, as the Acting Associate Regional Director for Resource Stewardship and Science. Bob writes, "While I'm honored to be asked to do this – and I said yes – I want everyone to know that the park will be in good hands while I'm away as Chief of Interpretation and Education Myra Foster will have the reins. We'll be in touch regularly, and you can expect continuity of policy, operations, and community involvement. The park has a great team, and great Friends, and I appreciate that my departure puts a little bit more on everyone's plate back home." Bob will depart for the big city right after the Madison "Friends" event on 4/22.



Take Note: Apostle Islands National Lakeshore is no longer printing a park newspaper. Instead, they are printing a two-page newsletter twice a year with current information to help you plan a visit to the park.

Did You Know?

The National Park Service has a Division of Natural Sounds & Night Skies

America's national parks contain many cherished treasures. Among them are captivating natural sounds and awe-inspiring night skies. The joy of listening to the quiet symphony of nature and the wonderment of seeing the Milky Way stretching overhead are unique experiences that can still be found in many of our national parks.

Sounds reveal the character of a park and starry nights are an important wilderness resource.

Internationally designated dark sky parks, unpolluted by light, include Canyonlands, Death Valley and Grand Canyon. Anyone who has camped or anchored on the outer islands of the Apostle Islands National Park on a clear, moonless night knows that our park rivals the skies of many of these parks. For more information check out these National Park Service webpages: [night skies and where to stargaze](#) and [listen to different soundscapes](#).



FRIENDS of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore is a 501 (c)(3) tax exempt organization - all donations are tax exempt. Feel free to share or forward this newsletter to those who may be interested in our organization. The FRIENDS Thank You!

Friends of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore
PO Box 1574
Bayfield, WI 54814