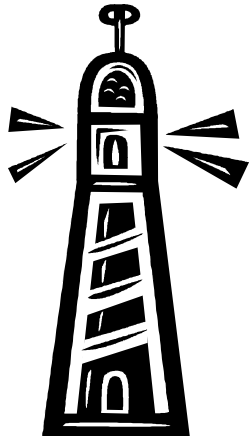


FRIENDS OF POINT BEACH



ECHOES THROUGH THE FOREST

Spring, 2011

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

WARM SPRING GREETING TO ALL:

AS I WRITE THIS SPRING MESSAGE, IT HAS BEEN SNOWING LIKE IT HAS NEVER SNOWED BEFORE. I KNOW SPRING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER, AT LEAST THE WEATHERMEN KEEP SAYING SO. HOPEFULLY, THE SNOW WILL MELT, THE BIRDS AND WILD LIFE AND YES, THE CAMPERS WILL BE SOON RETURNING TO POINT BEACH. AND, BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, SUMMER WILL BE HERE. I WANTED TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK ALL OF THE HARD WORKING VOLUNTEERS FOR ALL OF THEIR HELP THIS PAST YEAR. I ALSO WANT TO GIVE SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OF THE GENEROUS PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES THAT HAVE DONATED THEIR TIME, FOOD AND BAKED GOODS. WITHOUT YOU, WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH ANY OF THE PROGRAMS OR EVENTS WE SPONSOR AT THE PARK.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS BEEN BUSY SO FAR THIS YEAR. WE HAD THE SPRING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT THE TWO RIVERS FIRE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY ROOM ON APRIL 12TH FOLLOWED BY A BOARD MEETING.

THE FRIENDS GROUP AND THE PARK ARE AGAIN MAKING PLANS FOR A NATURALIST PROGRAM FOR THE SUMMER. THE FRIENDS GROUP HAS BEEN AWARDED A \$1000 GRANT FROM THE NATURAL RESOURCES FOUNDATION OF WISCONSIN - C.D. BESADNY CONSERVATION GRANT THAT WILL BE USED TO HELP FUND THE PROGRAM.

THE SPRING CLEAN-UP WAS HELD ON SATURDAY, APRIL 16TH IN THE RAIN. SEVERAL BRAVE HEARTS SHOWED UP TO HELP GET THE PARK IN TIPTOP SHAPE AFTER A VERY BRUTAL WINTER FOR POINT BEACH AND THE SURROUNDING FOREST.

WE WILL SOON BEGIN PLANNING FOR THE "BREAKFAST IN THE FOREST" EVENT THAT WILL AGAIN BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE "STATE FOREST AND STATE PARK OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND" (JUNE 5TH). VOLUNTEERS FOR THIS EVENT WILL BE NEEDED AS WELL. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING OUT FOR THIS OR ANY OF OUR EVENTS, YOU CAN CONTACT THE PARK OR MYSELF AT 920-793-3860. WE WOULD TRULY WELCOME THE HELP.

ALSO, IN JUNE, THE PARK WILL AGAIN BE HOSTING THE AMERICAN REGIMENTS FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR ENCAMPMENT. IF YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN THIS HISTORICAL REPRESENTATION, YOU ARE MISSING A REAL TREAT. THE ENCAMPMENT WILL BE HELD JUNE 25 – 26TH. THE FRIENDS GROUP IS ALSO SUPPORTING THIS GREAT EVENT.

I HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL SOME TIME THIS SUMMER AT THE PARK.

TERRY FARR, PRESIDENT

- June 5, 2011 Annual breakfast in the Forest
- June 25-26, 2011 American Regiments Encampment
- August—Annual Sand Sculpture contest

"CALL" OF THE WILD!

An adventure into the forest involves the use of all five senses. Sight is very important when you're on the trail or when you want to appreciate beauty. Taste is used when appetites are satisfied after an invigorating walk in the woods or a bike ride through the forest. Forest sounds tease the ears, whether they come from scolding chipmunks or hooting owls. Touch is used on the trail and in the campground. The fifth sense, smell, can suggest a variety of things to the camper. The smell of bacon being cooked over the campfire means that its time to have breakfast. In fall, the leaves on the forest floor produce an aroma which suggests autumn is here and winter won't be far behind. In spring, the fragrance of floral vegetation in the forest produces an intoxicating odor that says its time for new life. These smells are native to a state forest and they are also very positive smells. Are there any negative smells in the forest?

An encounter with a skunk would certainly produce a smell that would not be pleasing to our noses. Another odor which usually is found offensive is the odor associated with the historic "outhouse." The outhouse was first used in Europe about 500 years ago. I toured a castle in Heidelberg, Germany, that had the distinction of having some of the first outdoor toilets. These toilets may have been a bit more sophisticated than the toilets at Point Beach. However, the same purpose was served and I'm sure delicate noses detected the usual outhouse odors. The 5 star inns at this time had both "his" and "her" outhouses. Because most people couldn't read, symbols were used for his and hers. The "sun" which normally symbolized everything masculine was used for the men's outhouse and the "moon" became the feminine symbol. Men's outhouses eventually vanished because it was thought that men could go out into the woods or, if too nervous about that, they could use the women's outhouse. The sun and the moon symbols also allowed light to come into the outhouse because windows weren't used.

The invention of the automobile progressed from simply (Model-T) to complex (Hummer). So it was with the progression of the outhouse. Eventually, two hole outhouses provided a seat for adults and a smaller seat for children. Children obviously did not want to fall into the "bottomless pit" and so the outhouse child's seat came about. It has similarities to the child's car seat used in automobiles. Of course, no seatbelt is necessary. Other outhouses had to allow for the number of family members. An outhouse at a Montana hotel was recorded as having twelve seats.

In Minnesota, the Hooper-Bowler-Hillstrom House, a historic site, has a 2-story outhouse connected to the house via a skyway. No more particulars were given involving interior positioning of the facility. Gays, Illinois also had such an outhouse. It stood next to a store which was torn down some years back. However, the citizens of that community elected to preserve the outhouse. So that structure still stands. Until the early 1970's, Brisbane, Australia, was largely without a sewer. Many suburbs had outhouses behind each house.

The "normal" outhouse was about 3 to 4 square feet wide and 7 feet tall. There were no windows, heat, or electricity. Odors required it to be positioned about 50 to 150 feet from the main house. So that the unpleasant odors wouldn't have to be inhaled, many people left the door open while using it.

Many outhouses were built during President Roosevelt's administration. At this time, the WPA, or Works Progress Administration formed teams of outhouse builders who constructed outhouses. If you canoe on the Flambeau River, you can find some of these outhouses at canoe campsites. They are still used today by river travelers.

What does this have to do with Point Beach State Forest? The outhouses at Point Beach have been renovated and are ready for use by summer campers. When you camp at Point Beach and have the need to use the outhouse facility, view it as a historical structure. However, unlike the outhouses of yesteryear which provided catalogues and newspapers for guests, toilet paper is available.

Kathy Beer
April, 2011



***Mark your Calendars -
June 25-26 is the re-
turn of the AMERICAN
REGIMENTS FRENCH AND
INDIAN WAR ENCAMPMENT.
IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THIS,
YOU ARE MISSING A REAL
TREAT.***

***MARK YOUR CALENDARS
AND COME SEE THIS SPECIAL
EVENT.***

EARLY TRAVEL ON THE GREAT LAKES

There are many ships that are sleeping peacefully beneath the Lake Michigan waters. We hear about the Christmas Tree ship every Christmas. Local museums have other relics that have been pulled from shipwrecks in the depths of the Lake. Some of these ships were frigates, some were steamers, and some were small crafts that embarked on daily outings never to return to port.

What about the other vessels? What about the vessels that were made from wood and were powered by biceps accustomed to chopping trees and shooting arrows? How did these boats look?

The following is an actual description of a birch bark canoe used in the fur trade. It comes from the "Diary of Nicholas Garry" as published in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada, Section II, 1900, pp. 93-94.

Our canoe is 36 feet in Length and about 6 feet extreme Breadth. It is Constructed entirely of Bark, Cedar Splints, and the Pitch of the Yellow Pine, with no Iron except a few Nails to fasten the Top of the Frame of Gunwale. The extreme width is six feet from whence it tapers gradually towards the Centre so as to have in some degree the Resemblance of a Head of a Violin. They are made of the Bark of the White Birch which is peeled from the Tree in large Sheets, left to dry for some time and then bent over a slender frame of Cedar Ribs, confined by Gunwales which are kept apart by slender Bars of the same wood running across. Around this, the Bark is sewed by the slender and flexible Roots of the young Spruce Tree called Wattape and also where the pieces of bark join so that the Gunwales resemble the Rim of an Indian Basket. The joinings are afterwards luted and rendered water-tight by a coat of Pine Pitch called Gum. In the third cross Bar an Aperture is cut for the Mast so that a Sail can be employed. Seats for the Paddlers are made by suspending a strip of Board on the Cords in such a manner that they do not press against the Sides.

Our French and Indian War Encampment group will most likely arrive using a motor and four wheels. However, several hundred years ago, they may have arrived in such a canoe.

Kathy Beer

April, 2011



POINT BEACH EVENTS - PAST AND PRESENT

January, 2011 - The annual ski-hike was held at Point Beach. A non-football weekend was once again selected. Attendance was good. The weather cooperated. It was neither a frigid cold night nor was there any lack of snow. These two things combined to provide a super experience for a nighttime ski or walk through the woods. The lodge was a gathering spot for those trail adventurers who wanted to warm up with a bowl of chili and a cup of hot cider or hot chocolate. A solo musician provided background music for participants who sat around the lodge to chat or meditate in front of one of the crackling fires.

March, 2011 - Kathy Beer, board member, received notification that the Besadny Conservation Grant she wrote and submitted in December will be awarded to the Friends group. It is to be used to expand the Summer Naturalist Program. This program will now extend into the fall months at Point Beach instead of finishing with summer's end. The grant is in the amount of \$1000. It is a matching funds grant.

June, 2011 - Breakfast in the forest is usually scheduled the first Sunday in June. It always corresponds with the state forest open house weekend. Breakfast will be served in the lodge, rain or shine. Bring the whole family, relatives, and friends and enjoy a pioneer breakfast in the lodge. Hike or bike a trail before or after breakfast and appreciate spring in the forest.

June 24-25, 2011 - Once again, a historic time capsule will open at Point Beach State Forest. Visitors will be able to view and interact with a French and Indian War Encampment. There will be tents next to the lodge, soldiers checking equipment, women cooking turkeys over an open fire, a priest keeping everyone on the straight and narrow, and you may even spot a birch bark canoe along the shoreline if you allow your imagination to round out the picture. It's educational and entertaining. Come to the forest. Enjoy and learn!

August, 2011 - This is the month of the annual sand sculpture contest. The date has not yet been determined. That's usually done by the summer forest naturalist. Watch for information on the website regarding this event. There are categories for every type of artist. Young or old, rich or poor, beginning or advanced, the beach has a spot for you.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Your contact organization Friends of Point Beach State Forest
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**NATURAL RESOURCES FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT TO LOCAL
COMMUNITY:FRIENDS OF POINT BEACH STATE FOREST RECEIVES \$1000.
FOR THE SUMMER NATURALIST PROGRAM.**

Madison, WI—(April 1, 2011)—Local efforts to care for our state's natural resources were recognized by the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, which provided \$1000. to support the Summer/Fall Naturalist Program through its C.D. Besadny Conservation Grants.

"Our Foundation works to save endangered wildlife, protect natural lands, and promote conservation education. The Besady Grants are specifically for small-scale projects that have a big impact in local communities. This year, we gave away nearly \$25,000 to 28 projects across the state. We're pleased to support the great work of Friends of Point Beach State Forest," said Charlie Luthin, executive director of the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin.

The grant money will be used to support and extend the summer Naturalist Program. In previous years, the program concluded shortly after the August Sand Sculpture Contest. The additional funding will allow the naturalist to work into the fall and also to enhance summer program offerings.

The C.D. Besadny Conservation Grant Program promotes the responsible stewardship of Wisconsin's natural resources at the local level by providing matching grants for small-scale, natural resource projects and programs. Named after C.D. "Buzz" Besadny, former head of the Department of Natural Resources and Natural Resources Foundation co-founder, the program honors Besadny's dedication to the conservation of Wisconsin's natural resources; funds are also provided from the Foundation's Teachers' Outdoor Environmental Education Fund. Public and private organizations, including schools, and governments may apply for the grants.

“Grants awarded program range from \$100 to \$1,000 and must be matched 100% by recipient organizations either through cash or in-kind donations,” said Luthin. “Since the program’s inception, the Natural Resources Foundation has contributed more than \$330,000 to 441 projects, covering every county in Wisconsin.”

Projects funded in 2011 included educational signage at Rock County Parks State Natural Area, educational materials for Devil’s Lake State Park, benches for an outdoor classroom at Hudson High School, and development of a “Kids for the Earth” program at Pheasant Branch Conservancy.

The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin is a 501c-3 non-profit organization based in Madison, Wisconsin. For 25 years, the Foundation has worked with citizens, businesses, non-profits, and the government to promote the protection and enjoyment of Wisconsin’s public lands, waters, and wildlife. Since its inception in 1986, the Foundation has contributed more than \$3.5 to conservation projects throughout the state. For more information, visit Wisconservation.org.

Continued from page 5—Point Beach Events Past and Present

October, 2011 - Watch for details concerning the fall festivities. We’re following a different format from previous years, so look for information on the website.

Whatever event you decide to attend, we are all current caretakers of the forest. We are here to enjoy its offerings and to preserve it for future generations, so that they, too, can learn from it.

Kathy Beer, April, 2011

Sand Sculpture Contest Rules

Teams

- Family Group: maximum of 5 with 2 adults and all others less than 15 years old. If all youngsters are children of the adult(s), group may be larger than 5.
- Juvenile Group: maximum of 5, all less than 13 years old.
- Open Group: maximum of 5, any age.

Materials

- No adhesive is permitted. Sculptures may not be wetted down or sprayed with any solutions other than water.
- No artificial colors may be used.
- Naturally-occurring inanimate objects from the lake, such as rocks and shells, may be used.
- The use of green plant materials, except for algae, is an automatic disqualification, whether it has been brought in or gathered from the park. Please stay away from dune and forest plants.


Tools

- Hand tools may be used (masonry, garden, etc) and pails, water cans and buckets are allowed.
- Molds are permitted, but must be removed prior to judging.

Location

- Building cannot begin prior to 8:00 AM.
- Sand sculptures may be built between the first beach access point and the contest sign.
- Sculptures may not be built on sand dunes.
- The size of the building area cannot exceed 5 sq ft or 3ft x 7 ft. Measuring ropes are available to mark off building area prior to building. Ropes are located at the registration table.
- After judging is completed, sculptures must be dismantled and all holes must be filled in.

*All judges’ and park staff decisions are final. *



FRIENDS OF POINT BEACH STATE FOREST

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