



Fall 2015

# Hartman Harrier

Newsletter of the Friends of Hartman Creek State Park

## GOODBYE SUMMER, HELLO FALL

By Megan Karth



**Annual Friends Meeting**  
**Tuesday September 15, 2015**  
**Hartman Creek Park Office**  
**Everyone is invited—see inside for more details!**

Welcome to the Fall 2015 Harrier. It is always hard to say goodbye to summer, which produces a frenzy of activity in the natural world as well as for us humans (who often think we are not part of nature). Flora and fauna spent the warm months trying to reproduce their own, and putting up food, or consuming it, in preparation for a long winter dormancy or hibernation, or a long migration to warmer climes. Insects have laid eggs for next year in all sorts of places, fledgling birds have left their nests and had an accelerated course in survival, dens are being dug by resident mammals on sandy hillsides or under supporting tree roots, mice looking for shelter in creative ways (that may conflict with their human neighbors), reptiles and amphibians and all manner of creatures getting ready for winter. Plants have flowered, set and scattered seed in many effective ways (maybe by clinging to your pant legs or your dog), guaranteeing next year's crop. By the time you read this, Monarchs should have started their migration to Mexico, hummingbirds and other species will be tanked up and moving south, offering opportunities for observing fall migrations through the park. Sumacs will be turning fluorescent red and orange, maples multiple vibrant colors, birches and tamaracks yellowing, making fall hikes a perfect time for stunning photographs. This quiet season, after children return to school and the park's human visitors decrease, provides wonderful opportunities for wildlife viewing. There is lots of time before snow falls, so get out this fall and experience nature at Hartman Creek State Park!

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Annual Report.....	2
Adventure Outfitters.....	4
Volunteers are Vital .....	4
VaV: Camp Hosts.....	5
Gold Seal Voting .....	5
Park Updates.....	6
Master Naturalist Class.....	7
Ice Age Trail Rerouting.....	7

### CONTRIBUTORS

- Mike Bergum
- Sue Eiler
- Bill Herrbold
- Megan Karth
- Matt Kolinski
- Tim Lencki

# FRIENDS OF HARTMAN CREEK ANNUAL REPORT

**Our annual meeting which includes the election of officers will be held in the park office at 6:00 PM on Tuesday September 15th. Everyone is invited!**

The current board members are: Bill Herrbold, President; Jim Trainor, Vice-President; Arpad Eiler, Treasurer; George Porto, Secretary. Other Board members are Jerry Olsen, Frank Schwamb, Darrin Mann, Cathy Yurk, Matt Kolinski, Mary Trainor, Megan Karth, Ken Karth and Jim Kneisler.

The officers are elected by the Board of Directors. Terms of office are two years, starting with the October meeting. There will be vacancies for President, Secretary and Treasurer. Several current board members have volunteered to serve if elected. New officers will be announced in the winter newsletter.

Our Board meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM in the office at the park. We invite all of our members to attend meetings and become active with FHCSP. You don't have to be a Board member to attend our meetings.

After reviewing this report if you have any questions or suggestions concerning the Friends activities please feel free to contact Bill Herrbold (email: [wherb@charter.net](mailto:wherb@charter.net); phone: 715-258-5849).

Dear Friends of Hartman Creek State Park,

We would like to give a special thank you to Mike Bergum, Park Manager, and his staff for the excellent job they have done in the park this year. Although understaffed, they continued to provide prompt, courteous service to our visitors and maintained the park in very good order.

## **Park Highlights this Year**

- Hunting and trapping is permitted inside the park (*see [Park Updates](#) for more information*). There were no incidents in the park during the past year's hunting/trapping season.
- Apple trees will be planted near the park office in memory of Ron Stroud who passed away last summer. Ron was our maintenance co-worker and go-to-guy for issues with the buildings or equipment. He always found a way to fix a problem and was a great teacher to employees.
- Jarrod Kehring joined the staff of HCSP as the new Assistant Park Manager.
- The Great Lakes Endurance Run was held in the park last September with approximately 125 participants. Several members of the Friends volunteered to help with the event.
- Attendance at The Candlelight Ski/Snowshoe in January was way up this year due to mild weather. It was estimated that over 300 people enjoyed the hiking (due to lack of snow) and delicious snacks.
- Logging in the park went well and the timber sale produced \$50,000, which goes to the state.
- The Ice Age Trail is being rerouted in the park this fall (*see [Ice Age Trail article](#)*) to separate hikers from the ski trails and to take the trail through geologic areas hikers will find interesting.
- There was a good turnout on Volunteer Day, accomplishing trash and invasive plant removal at Pope Lake SNA, painting of 2 pit toilets and cleaning and preparing Hellestad House for the summer season. Lunch was provided by the Friends.

### **Park Highlights this Year (*continued*)**

- A Naturalist Guide was again hired for the summer and funded by FHCSP. Kara Janssen prepared and presented a number of activities for kids and families to participate in. She averaged about 25 participants at these activities.
- The goose population at the beach has been reduced, with assistance from the USDA Wildlife Services, which has also greatly reduced the goose droppings.

### **Activities by the Friends**

The Friends and the park staff sponsored a Master Naturalist Volunteer Training Course in the park during in fall of 2014 and spring of 2015. There were 24 students in the fall class and 14 in the spring class. The course was taught by Dr. Mary Trainor and Sue Eiler, both members of the Friends. The Wisconsin Master Naturalist (WIMN) program is a statewide effort to promote awareness, understanding and stewardship of the state's natural resources. Once trained, a Wisconsin Master Naturalist provides volunteer service in education, interpretation, stewardship or citizen science. Volunteer opportunities are available in state parks, nature areas and many other places. A class is planned for this Fall (see [Master Naturalist](#) course info in this newsletter for more info).

Friends member Cathy Yurk has been hard at work restocking and maintaining the Friends' merchandise for sale in the park office, an important source of funds for the Friends which goes to the park. Several new t-shirt designs and colors are available as well as books and caps.

### **Donations & Support From the Friends Group**

- The friends donated \$450 for the Field Journal for the Waupaca County Conservation Field Day which was held in the park.
- The Friends of Hartman Creek State Park donated \$1406 to purchase a new tepee for the park.
- The Friends donated \$2399 to purchase a stump grinder for the park.
- The Friends donated \$1050 to purchase 3 benches for the park.
- The Friends provided \$6289 to fund the Park Naturalist and Guide for the summer.
- The Friends provided \$2138 for Goose removal from the beach area.

The Friends of Hartman Creek State Park, known officially as Friends of Hartman Creek Inc., was fully recognized by the IRS as a tax exempt organization under Section 501 (c) (3) on July 3rd, 1996. We currently have 109 members. The Friends were organized for the charitable and educational purpose of supporting, assisting and promoting the Wisconsin DNR with interpretive, scientific, historic and related visitor services at Hartman Creek State Park.

Sincerely,

William P. Herrbold-President

## GOODBYE SUMMER



With the hot summer days winding down and a few maples beginning to show their colors, the end of our first season on the beach at Hartman Creek State Park is coming to a close. It has been wonderful serving campers and day visitors at the park. We were blessed with beautiful weather and lots of customers at our store in the beach shelter. We enjoyed meeting people and hearing their stories. The biggest hits were ice cream and kayak and paddleboard rentals. What is better on a hot day than ice cream and being on the water!

We look forward to serving customers next summer and have some exciting new ideas to enhance the experiences of park visitors. But no need to wait

till next year as there is still plenty of time to enjoy the park this fall. We will be open through Labor Day weekend, and then, weather dependent, the following weekends for late-season park users to enjoy the water. Call the park for our specific hours during September. Thanks for the opportunity to serve you all.

*Tim Lencki, Owner  
Adventure Outfitters*

## VOLUNTEERS ARE VITAL

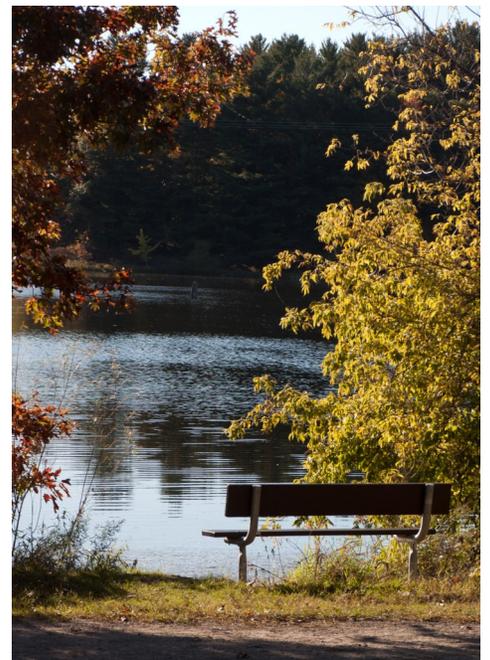
The rewards of volunteering can be many, for the recipient as well as the volunteer and lots of what gets done at our great state park is because of volunteers. Did you know that Friends of Hartman Creek State Park has an active board of directors, all volunteers? That volunteers do some maintenance, invasive plant removal, help erect the teepee, help with naturalist programs and open house days, submit articles and produce this newsletter, maintain a website and Facebook page, greet visitors at the Hellestad House Nature Center and teach Master Naturalist classes? Volunteers also act as campground hosts, adopt trails in the park and help with the Candlelight Hike and Ski each January. Volunteer Phil Peterson, with the help of Sue Eiler, spearheaded the Pope Lake State Natural Area study project that provided many research and learning opportunities. The Friends group also generates income to support park activities and projects that could not happen within the regular park budget.

With increased fiscal austerity, volunteers are more important than ever! If you want more information on volunteering contact Park Superintendent Mike Bergum in the park office (715-258-2372).

For example, volunteers are needed to:

- Inventory on a map all benches and their condition on all trails
- Paint benches on trails, beach and picnic areas
- Paint signposts
- Greet visitors at Hellestad House
- Help with removal of invasive plants (spring mostly, under direction of naturalist)
- Trim vegetation on trails (mostly dike trail)
- Help groom beach before 8 am each morning.

Many other opportunities exist. Do you have a special interest or talent or do you want to be active with the Friends group? Let Mike know.



# VOLUNTEERS ARE VITAL: CAMP HOST

BY MICHAEL BERGUM, PARK SUPERINTENDENT

Lynn and Carice Koch have camp hosted at Hartman Creek State Park since 1996 and have camped at the park since 1969! The Koch's enjoy providing visitors with a pleasant stay by helping to maintain the cleanliness of the campground and assisting park staff when needed. The Koch's take personal pride in going above and beyond what is required of them. It is not uncommon seeing them at the park's recycle station working to keep it in a clean and presentable order. So what exactly is the camp host program and how can you volunteer?

Camp hosting is a program set up by the state park system in the 1980s. The primary objective is to provide a free campsite in exchange for volunteer work provided. The type of volunteer work varies from park to park but primarily a host's job is to provide assistance to the park staff in maintaining a clean and presentable campground. Further, hosts often perform ambassador duties for their respective park, give out information relevant to the park and the surrounding area, and provide a friendly face for visitors during their camping stay.



In addition to public relation type duties, camp hosts also perform maintenance duties. The nice clean fire pits you come to expect when you camp at Hartman Creek are due the hard work of the hosts. After a camper leaves the hosts utilize a park UTV to go to each site and clean out the fire pits with shovels and also clean up any debris on the site. Other maintenance responsibilities include cleaning out grills at the beach and picnic areas and checking on toilet supplies in the shower building. Based upon the hosts ability and desire and the needs of the park, several other projects have also been worked on. Former hosts have helped paint picnic tables and other items, created and built kiosks and other construction projects, helped trim and mow areas of the park and many more! Are you interested in becoming a host? The park generally has one or two openings each year but demand can sometimes be high. We seek personable folks with a history of camping and the ability to do some minor maintenance work. If you are interested please contact the park office for more information.

## VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

It takes a lot of people to keep Hartman Creek State Park in good shape, and we're always looking for more volunteers to help. Whether it's walking a trail to check for needed maintenance, helping repair picnic tables, answering questions at the Hellestad House (or writing articles for a newsletter), we can always use more help!

### Ways to Get Involved:

Sign-Up Online:

Visit [www.hartmancreekfriends.org](http://www.hartmancreekfriends.org) and click on "Volunteer"

Email:

[friendsofhartmancreek@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofhartmancreek@gmail.com)

Call:

Park Office 715-258-2372

In Person:

Stop in at the park office

## FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN STATE PARKS GOLD SEAL AWARDS

Friends of Hartman Creek State Park (FHCSF) is part of a larger group, Friends of Wisconsin State Parks (FWSP). FWSP has a great website featuring information on all our state parks with maps, info on fees, special features, rules, etc. That and the WI DNR website on parks, should provide anything a person needs to know about our great state park system.

FWSP also sponsors several contests. The photo contest deadline (pictures are chosen for the 2016 FWSP calendar) is past. But the "Gold Seal Awards", a contest in which the parks themselves can be winners, is accepting online nominations until September 11, 2015 for the following questions:

Which park would you vote best for- viewing wildflowers, viewing winter animal tracks, for a picnic, for a workout, for family camping, for fall hiking and riding, to find fungi, to view exhibits, best dog beach, or to see migratory birds?

Go online to the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks website/ Gold Seal Awards to submit your entry. Those of us who love Hartman Creek State Park would probably vote it tops in a number of areas. And one good thing, knowing about our parks requires getting out and enjoying them. Win, win.

Friends of Wisconsin State Parks: <http://friendswiparks.blogspot.com/>

WI DNR Parks Website: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/>



## PARK UPDATES

Park Superintendent Mike Bergum recently took time out of a busy day to reflect on summer 2015 at the park and look ahead to fall.

### Highlights from this Summer

- **Park Use**—Park use has increased, including camping, single track bike trail and horse trail use, possibly because of a cooler summer. Firewood and ice sales increased, good news for the Friends (and park) as these sales generate funds that can be used for park programs, staff or infrastructure.
- **Naturalist Program**—Programs by naturalist Kara Janssen were well received, judging from feedback by attendees and will wrap up for the season around Labor Day weekend. *(Park events and programs can be found on our Facebook page or at the Friends website)*
- **Goose removal**—Resident Canada geese have been a problem in the beach area, creating a hygiene issue for swimmers and picnickers and generating complaints. Many control solutions were tried (oiling eggs, swan decoys, coyote cutouts, etc), without success. After much discussion and research, with financial support of Friends of Hartman Creek State Park, the park contracted a team from the USDA to humanely remove and euthanize the geese. In June, seven USDA employees corralled the geese and secured them in trucks for transport to Madison. The operation took less than ½ hour. So far the beach is much cleaner and visitors have noticed. Transient Canada geese visit but are not as much a problem as a resident population. The removal may have to be repeated for several years to be successful.
- **State Budget Ramifications**—Taxpayer funding for parks was eliminated from the Wisconsin state budget, but some flexibility was added that balanced the equation. Bergum says he can manage at least for this 2 year budget cycle. Camping fee increases took effect as soon as the budget was signed, park entrance fees will increase when the 2016 stickers go on sale December 1, 2015. Bergum said that campers have not complained so far, but this may change in fall when the park gets more out of state visitors with big rigs needing electricity. Cost of a day pass (\$10) plus electrical site (\$33 for out of state, \$28 in -state) may not be competitive with private campgrounds that provide more amenities.
- **Volunteers**—Current Adopt a Trail volunteers are very appreciated but more are needed. Wolf River Trail Blazers volunteered to groom the equestrian trails and already has mowed several times. Thanks Ron! Volunteer day in June was successful and lots got done.



### Looking ahead to Fall

- **Ice Age Trail Reroute**—In mid -October 100-200 volunteers will descend on the park to work on rerouting a 2 mile section of the Ice Age Trail. (See accompanying article for specifics).
- **Fall Hunting**—The park is open for hunting and trapping from November 15 through December 15 (except for bow hunting which continues until January 3, 2016) and from April 1 through the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> turkey period, which ends on May 3, 2016. But the park is also used by those who just want to hike or bike, so care must be taken. Bergum said he rarely sees hunting for anything but deer in the park. He cautions hikers during this period to wear blaze orange for safety and vests are available to borrow from the park office. And he said opening day of gun deer season (Nov 21) will see as many as 100 hunters in park boundaries. “You would be crazy to hike the park that day.”
- **Fishing**—Lakes within the park are home to largemouth bass, northern and pan fish. All of these can be fished with a current license up to March 6, 2016. Check the Fishing Regulations booklet for bag limits and minimum length.

# MASTER NATURALIST CLASS FALL 2015

BY SUE EILER

Summer is so fleeting. I find myself hanging onto each day, holding it a bit longer, willing it to last. Alas, my efforts will fail. The first brisk wind will send me to my fleece. The golds and reds reflecting in my lake will evoke a sense of gain and loss simultaneously. Thoughts of cozy enclosures will help soothe my anguish. And, because fall is associated with school and a return to serious subjects, we have scheduled our next Wisconsin Master Naturalist training session at Hartman Creek. It is a perfect venue.

Wisconsin's citizens want to learn more about the state's wealth of natural resources. In the past, natural resources administrators, scientists and educators recognized that the state lacked a coordinated infrastructure to efficiently provide volunteer training, information, resources and support. They asked University of Wisconsin Extension's Environmental Resources Center to take the lead in developing and implementing a course hosted by organizations such as nature centers, state parks and museums modeled after successful Master Naturalist programs in more than 25 states.

The result is a 40 hour course designed to give a broad overview of geology, ecology, plants, fungi, wildlife, water and life in the water and effective interpretation. Six, seven hour long Saturday classes will consist of Power point presentations, review of printed handouts, interactive exercises, field work, hikes and volunteer guest speakers.

The heated shelter at Hartman Lake is the indoor classroom; lakes, streams, trails and woodlands our outdoor venue. Guest experts zero in on their respective areas giving students in-depth understanding of their subjects. This will only prime the pump for a lifetime of learning. There is so much to know, but we seek to present opportunities and avenues for students. Upon graduation, each will be asked to engage in 40 hours of volunteer service in one of three areas: interpretation, citizen science and /or stewardship in our State's non-profit organizations. Friends of Hartman Creek State Park has sponsored a number of these Master Naturalist trainings at the park since spring of 2014 and graduates of the program have overwhelmingly found it rewarding. Interested?

## MASTER NATURALIST FALL TRAINING

### Fall 2015 Class

Hartman Creek State Park  
N2480 Hartman Creek Rd  
Waupaca, WI 54981

### Saturdays from 9:00—4:00

September 12, 26; October 17, 31;  
November 7, 14

### Registration

Online at [wimasternaturalist.org](http://wimasternaturalist.org)

**Deadline is September 4**

## ICE AGE TRAIL REROUTING

The Ice Age Trail Alliance has several opportunities for volunteers due to a planned reroute of close to 2 miles of the trail within the park.

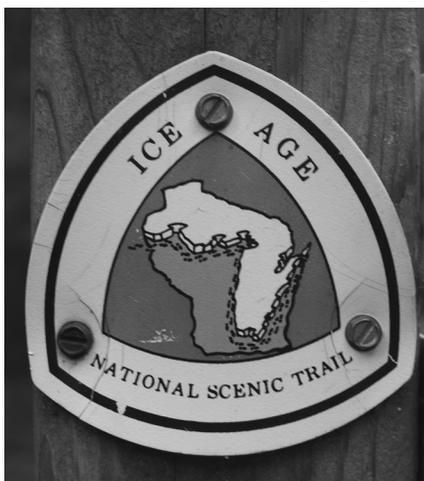
**September 12:** 1- day from 9am to 3pm to do corridor clearing in preparation for the reroute in October. Volunteers needed for all or just part of the day. Park entrance fees are waived for volunteers.

**October 13-18:** Volunteers needed to help build the new trail segment within the boundaries of Hartman Creek State Park. Since the trail was originally routed through the park much has changed and conflicts have developed between the needs of cross country skiers on park trails and hiking and snow shoe enthusiasts on the Ice Age Trail. The reroute will highlight glacial features of the area, enhancing the trail experience.

Mobile Skill Crews for the Ice Age Trail Alliance have built many miles of trail across the state and participants never forget the experience. Unskilled volunteers will get plenty of direction. This Portage/Waupaca County trail project promises to be loads of work and fun. A camp is set up, meals provided (even music we are told)! Volunteers are needed in all areas—even kitchen help—not just trail building. Park entrance fees and camping fees are waived for volunteers.

To get more information on what to bring, or to sign up, go to: <http://www.iceagetrail.org/event/mobile-skills-crew-trailbuilding-event-portage-waupaca-counties/>

For questions, call 608-798-4453 or email [info@iceagetrail.org](mailto:info@iceagetrail.org)

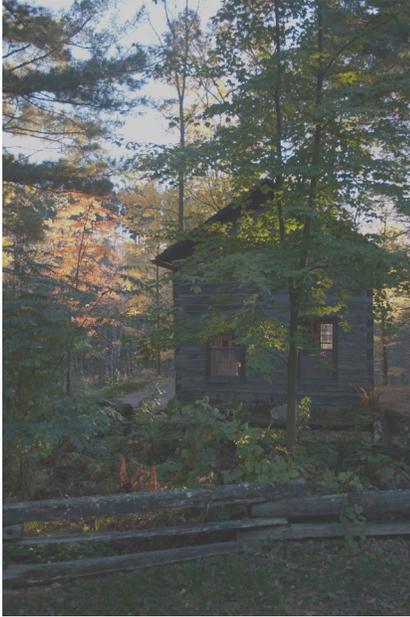


Friends of Hartman Creek  
State Park



N 2480 Hartman Creek Road  
Waupaca, WI 54981

<http://hartmancreekfriends.org>



The Friends of Hartman Creek State Park was organized for educational and charitable purposes to assist the Wisconsin DNR with interpretive, scientific, historical, educational and related services at Hartman Creek State Park.

To accomplish these goals the group has sponsored interpretive and environmental educational experiences including a paid naturalist in summer, provided educational materials for sale, and provided financial support for programs, facilities and resources at the park.

## ***50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HARTMAN CREEK STATE PARK IN 2016***



Want to get the newsletter early and in color? Be able to just click on the links we have in the articles?

Then sign-up to get the newsletter by email by emailing us at

[friendsofhartmancreek@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofhartmancreek@gmail.com).

*(We'll only use your email to send you the newsletters, nothing else)*

Next year is the 50th anniversary of Hartman Creek State Park! There's lots of planning underway to make it a fun and exciting 50th for the park, and you can start celebrating now with the 50th anniversary pins available for purchase in the park office.

*Watch for our Winter newsletter for more info on all the merchandise that directly supports the park!*