



Spring 2016

Hartman Harrier

Newsletter of the Friends of Hartman Creek State Park



50th Anniversary of Hartman Creek

Saturday June 4th 2016

10:00am—4:00pm

Hartman Creek Park

See inside for schedule of events

HAPPY 50TH TO HARTMAN CREEK STATE PARK!

By Mike Bergum, Park Superintendent

A half century. Sounds like a long time, doesn't it. That is exactly how old Hartman Creek State Park will be this coming June and we are having a party!

The park has experienced many changes over the years including several increases in the size of the park, new facilities to provide for our visitors, expansion of the family campground and much more. To honor the park, its people and its history, we will be holding a 50th anniversary party on Saturday, June 4 from 10am to 4pm. Among the activities planned include programs on the history of the park, a free fishing participation and presentation program, free wagon rides and much more. In addition our many partners over the years will provide information on how they have contributed to the park and on what they hope to contribute in the future. Free food, drink and cake will also be provided by Friends of Hartman Creek State Park. Since this is also the free weekend in Wisconsin State Parks, no admission will be charged.

Come out and help us celebrate on this special day! See inside for details on events for the day.

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CONTRIBUTORS

- Mike Bergum
- Sue Eiler
- Ken Karth
- Megan Karth
- Matt Kolinski
- Phil Peterson
- Dwight Schafer
- Alice Williams



LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF...

I was elected President of the Board of Friends of Hartman Creek State Park last September. For 37 years my spouse Megan and I have lived about a mile from the park and always wanted to be more involved, but children, jobs and other things got in the way.

We have lived in Wisconsin for 40 years and I worked for Consolidated Papers for 24 years in waste water treatment. In 2001 I started working for the City of Waupaca, leaving shift work behind. Since retirement in 2014, I am as busy as ever, doing things that are meaningful to me. In addition to spending time with our family, I head up the Trustees Committee and serve on the board at my church, have a Meals-on-Wheels route and Megan and I monitor 36 bluebird boxes during the summer, as well as doing other volunteer work, and trying to maintain our old home and 5 acres. This year, I hope to volunteer doing some trail mowing and other tasks at the park. Some of my volunteer responsibilities involve more paper work than I like, because my real love is wood cutting and other outside jobs. Pastimes? Since we live in paradise, we are happiest close to home, even in winter, but hope to do a bit more travel in future.

Possibly in a lapse of judgement, we adopted a puppy from the Humane Society last July, but she has been a wonderful asset to our family, a friendly, energetic girl. Thanks to my two new knees in 2015, Juno and I put in 3-4 miles a day on park trails. Great exercise and stress relief, and we both enjoy the variety of birds and other flora and fauna that call the park home.

I encourage you to consider volunteering with the park or Friends group, and to just get out and enjoy this gem in our midst. No need to wait as long as I did to get involved!

Ken Karth, President of Friends of Hartman Creek State Park



NEW SUMMER NATURALIST—JAMES ABBOTT



I was born in New Haven, Connecticut and then moved to Maine at a young age. Growing up I spent a lot of my time camping, hunting and fishing where I developed a great appreciation of the outdoors. After serving in the Air Force, I attended college at the University of Maine and received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Recreation and Park Management with a concentration in interpretation in 1998. After graduation I joined the Florida Park Service and worked as a park ranger at St. Andrews State Park in Panama City, Choctaw GEOPark in Destin, and Black Water River State Park in Holt, Florida.

In 2002 my wife and I transferred back to Maine where I spent 9 years working in the paper industry and the past 4 years in field maintenance for the local school district. I have been married to my beautiful wife for 16 years and we have two wonderful daughters who keep us very busy. We very recently moved to Wisconsin and I am excited to learn about the area and share my love of the outdoors with other park guests.

Volunteer at Hartman Creek State Park this Summer!

POPE LAKE NATURAL AREA: RESEARCH CONTINUES

Phil Peterson, will again coordinate research efforts in this pristine segment of Hartman Creek State Park. Very little was known about the abundance of aquatic and terrestrial creatures found in this SNA (designated in 1984) so it was not possible to know if populations were stable, declining or increasing. Phil, with the help of numerous professors and volunteers, has taken on the huge challenge of researching these populations.

This year the emphasis is citizen science and many activities are already planned. Some species that will be monitored are: owls, cranes, frogs, salamanders, bats, nocturnal insects, beetles, and the waters and aquatic creatures in Pope Lake, Hartman Creek and the springs in the SNA. Every month from April through October will have at least 3 events, usually more. Volunteers also participate in removing invasive plants with methods least damaging to this fragile ecosystem.

Phil is looking for volunteers. This is exciting and rewarding work with the opportunity to learn and meet new people.

Anyone interested can call Phil at 414-238-5327 or email at pnpeterson11@gmail.com

For more information on Pope Lake State Natural Area, and other SNAs, visit: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/naturalareas/>

SUMMER PROGRAMS AT THE PARK

Would you enjoy learning how to provide a fun summer program for children? Do you enjoy the park and story-telling?

Two summer programs have been developed for the park this summer, and we're looking for volunteers to help out with these programs. Sue Eiler, volunteer naturalist, will train you to do either or both of these programs this summer. Volunteers will be supplied with all information and supplies in order to do the programs and be mentored. Times are flexible and according to the volunteer's schedule.

Please consider volunteering and contact Sue Eiler at aseiler@charter.net or by calling 715-258-8086.

Living History of Hartman Creek State Park 1966-2016: 50 years of being Hartman Creek State Park

This is the year that you get to be a part of living history. You have been provided with background information on the land and its inhabitants. Now it is up to you to provide the story. Everybody loves a story and here is how you will take facts and bring them into life.

Sound Off

This activity can be adapted to the seasonal sounds of insects, frogs or birds. It is for all ages, but primarily for younger children. Blindfolds and sound makers are passed out to children as they make sounds and listen for their partner. The goal is to introduce the idea of each type of animal has its own calls or songs.

VOLUNTEER AT THE PARK

Don't see one you're interested in? There are lots more ways you can help out! 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 Hellesstad House (or writing articles for a newsletter), we can always use more help! Contact us for more information!

Ways to Get Involved:

Email: friendsofhartmancreek@gmail.com

Call: Park Office 715-258-2372

Facebook: Friends of Hartman Creek

In Person: Stop in at the park office

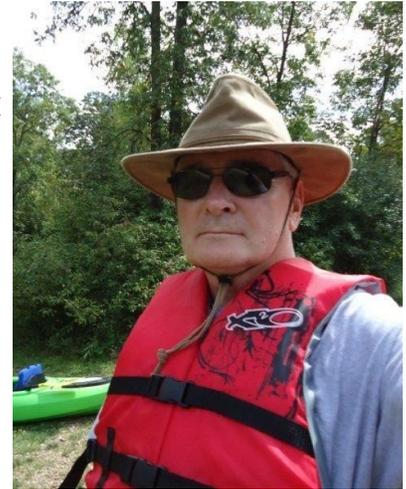
FEATURED VOLUNTEER: DWIGHT SCHAFER, MASTER NATURALIST VOLUNTEER

I grew up in Fremont on the Wolf River so we were always on or near the water and that connection has stayed with me. After retirement from a career in the Navy and as a nurse practitioner in college health, I moved to Waupaca several years ago and took up kayaking, and reconnected to the water.

One thing led to another and last spring I took the WI MN Volunteer Training at Hartman Creek State Park. That experience provided an awareness of the many opportunities open to volunteers, including water monitoring activities.

The majority of my volunteer hours last year were devoted to lake and stream monitoring on Hartman Creek, Emmons Creek and Pope Lake, under the direction of Phil Peterson, Program Coordinator for Pope Lake. These activities involve using probes and meters to measure temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, PH and stream flow. Surveys are done monthly, May to October. Stream data is recorded and reported to the Water Action Volunteers Program and the lake data to Citizen Lake Monitoring Network. The data is used by both private and governmental agencies to help in management of water resources.

I have also been a volunteer guide at Hellestad House (historic log cabin/nature center near Allen Lake), and helped with cat tail removal on Pope Lake.



MASTER NATURALIST FALL TRAINING

Fall 2016 Class

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

Saturdays from 9:00—4:00

September 17, 24; October 8, 29;
November 5, 12

Registration

Online at wimasternaturalist.org

Want to be reminded closer to the course date?

Email us at:
friendsofhartmancreek@gmail.com
and we'll send you a reminder!

CANDLELIGHT SKI & HIKE

The Candlelight Ski and Hike, held Saturday, January 30, set a new attendance record of about 1000 participants, according to Mike Bergum, Superintendent of Hartman Creek State Park. Cars were backed up down Hartman Rd trying to get into the park, due to unexpectedly high turnout. "Most folks were pretty understanding," said Bergum. Visitors seemed to be in good spirits, just looking to come and have some good, family fun.

Luminaries lit a one mile hiking trail that started between Mid and Hartman Lakes, wound through the woods and then back along the shore of Hartman Lake. The groomed ski trail, also lit with candles, followed a path on the south side of Hartman Lake, across Rural Rd (crossing supervised by park personnel), following the Pope Lake trail, about 1.6 miles total.

Snacks, cider and hot chocolate in the shelter (heated with a wood stove), were provided by Friends of Hartman Creek and numerous volunteer bakers. A huge charcoal grill held hot coals, ready for those bringing hot dogs or even steak for a winter al fresco supper on nearby picnic tables. A huge campfire, complete with free marshmallows and willow sticks, provided warmth and a cozy golden glow under the pines.

The event is held annually, generally on the last Saturday of January.

HARTMAN CREEK STATE PARK'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, JUNE 4TH 2016

10:00 AM—4:00 PM
HARTMAN LAKE SHELTER



- 10:00 am—2:00 pm** Hartman Lake Picnic Area
Vintage photos of the park in the enclosed shelter along with park information
Demonstrations by the many partners of the park including the horse and bike clubs, friends of Hartman creek, the Ice Age Trail Alliance and much more!
Demonstrations by DNR folks including forestry, wildlife, warden and more.
Free fishing program at the amphitheater
- 11:00 am—12:00 pm** Living history program given by longtime volunteer Sue Eiler
- 11:00 am—1:00 pm** Free food and drink at the enclosed shelter sponsored by the Friends of Hartman Creek
- 1:00 pm—2:00 pm** Presentation of awards
Those scheduled to speak include former park superintendents Merl Lange and Brian Hefty, current superintendent Michael Bergum and Friends president Ken Karth.
- 2:00 pm** Free cake and lemonade. Appearance by Smokey Bear
- 2:00 pm—4:00 pm** Music by band “Flip of the Coin”



Follow us on Facebook “**Friends of Hartman Creek**” for the latest updates about the Anniversary party and the park!

Details can also be found on our new website: www.friendsofhartmancreek.org

SHARING THE TRAILS *By Alice Williams*

A favorite activity for equestrians is riding the 8 miles of designated horseback riding trails in Hartman Creek State Park. These trails are shared with hikers. Horses have highly tuned senses, whose instinct is to run away from an unknown object or situation. Even a plastic bag flapping in the wind or a stranger walking down a trail can frighten a horse and endanger the rider. The inherent unpredictability of the horse is the reason standard multiple-use trail regulations give equestrians the right of way. What should you do if you meet a horse and rider? Here are a few guidelines that will ensure it is a safe and enjoyable experience.



Guidelines for walkers and hikers on shared trails

- Stop when you see a horse and rider, say hello. Horses are far sighted and may be frightened seeing something unexpected on the trail, hearing your voice will help them relax. “Hello there, would you like me to move off the trail so you can pass?”
- Ask if it is alright for your child or you to pet a horse before approaching.
- Keep your dog on a leash and by your side when meeting a horse on the trail. Lunging, barking dogs can frighten horses and riders.
- If you are on the bridge near the dam and a horse approaches move to the nearby hiking trail. There is not room on the bridge for pedestrians and horses.

Guidelines for equestrians on shared trails

- Use only designated horseback riding trails and stay on the trail.
- Less experienced horses and riders should ride behind more “trail-wise” horses and riders.
- When meeting other trail users be prepared to let them know if you want them to pull off the trail or if you will, so you can pass safely. “My horse doesn’t recognize what you are, could you please say something so he know you’re a friendly human.”
- When encountering children or hikers with dogs, make sure the adult in the group has the child or dog physically under control before proceeding down the trail.
- To prevent erosion do not water horses in lake or streams in the Park, haul in water for horses.
- Keep the horse trail parking lot clear of manure and trash.

On the trail encounters between horseback riders and hikers can be enjoyable social exchanges with a few guidelines and allows everyone to enjoy being out in Hartman Creek State Park.

By Alice Williams, Owner of Windridge Farm, Amherst, WI and user of the horse trails at Hartman Creek SP.

CAMPGROUNDS OPEN FOR SEASON

The campgrounds at Hartman Creek are open and ready for you! The parks two campgrounds, the family and group camps, opened on April 1st. The shower buildings, along with the dump and fill station, will be open and running on May 6, but water is available for drinking purposes elsewhere in the park before then.

The family campground is made up of 103 campsites, including 24 electric sites and 23 sites that are available to walk-ins (not reservable). The rest of the sites, including the special teepee, can be reserved online or by calling the park: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/hartman/camping.html>

Firewood & ice are available for purchase just inside the park. Purchasing wood here helps stop the spread of harmful pests, and it directly benefits the Friends of Hartman Creek and the park. All profit from the sale of firewood and ice is invested right back into the park.

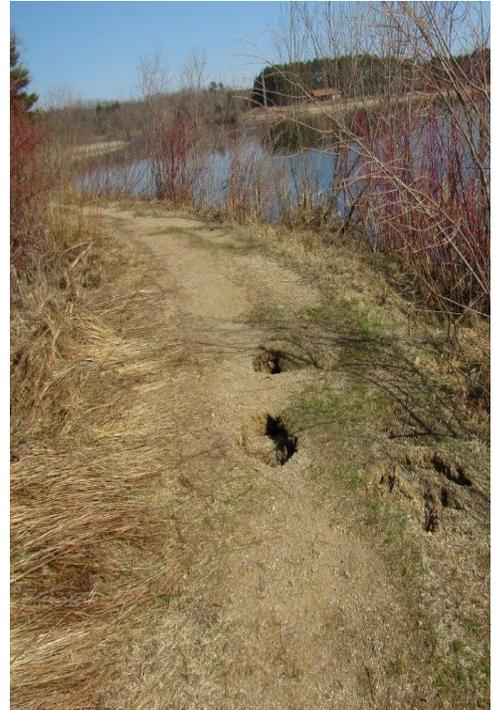
COEXISTING WITH NATURE

The park offers rest and recreation for its human visitors, the “vitamin N” that only nature can provide, the cure for Nature Deficit Disorder. It is heartening to see so many folks out hiking and biking and birding and swimming and doing countless other activities.

But this is not a theme park. Many wild creatures, plants and animals of the land and water, do not just visit, but call the park their home. At times the interactions between wild creatures and human expectations can cause frustration or even conflict.

Canada geese travel through in spring and fall, but over the years a large number became year round residents, inhabiting the beach, soiling it for swimmers and causing concerns about bacteria levels. Park staff tried a number of strategies to discourage the geese, all unsuccessful, plus putting in hours of cleanup each season. Finally last year the USDA was hired to perform a humane goose roundup, with plans to repeat the process several years in a row as needed. There will always be some resident geese, but in tolerable numbers, and the beach is cleaner and safer.

Hikers who use the dike trail across Hartman Lake from the beach will notice numerous holes on the trail, which need to be avoided to prevent injury. We can thank our resident muskrats for these excavations. Yes, they are a nuisance, but this is muskrat habitat. Staff mark the hazards, fill holes, and then fill them again. Watch for curious muskrat heads popping up in the lake to enhance your hike.



On other trails fallen limbs or whole trees can be a problem. Many of our resident oaks have succumbed to oak wilt and can tumble in a good wind. DNR foresters monitor the woods and plan harvests and selective cutting as appropriate, and park staff deal with hazard trees. Adopt a trail volunteers report fallen trees, and any visitors who notice a tree across a trail should report it. But nature does what it does, and we need to be observant of hazards, and prepared for the condition of the trails and weather changes.

Even park buildings are home to some uninvited guests. The historic Hellestad House log cabin often has evidence of resident mice and tiny spiders spin webs on the windows as fast as they can be removed. Volunteers vigorously clean the building, but us humans come and go, while the critters live here. Who are the interlopers, really?

So much to learn and experience at the park, an ecosystem we are part of, but share with others.



BLUEBIRDS IN THE PARK *By Megan Karth*

Have you noticed bluebirds in the park or along the roadside? And have you seen nest boxes in or near Hartman Creek SP? If so, thank the efforts of Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin and local volunteers. The bluebird, mostly through loss of habitat and nesting sites, was in severe decline in Wisconsin and other states. Since its inception 30 years ago, BRAW, through nest box construction and citizen monitoring across the state, has increased production of Eastern Bluebirds so there are now healthy populations of this iconic bird. Hartman Creek State Park hosts boxes monitored by BRAW volunteers.



How does one attract and help bluebirds? Location, location, location! They need open habitat, about 1-3 acres per box, with short or sparse grass and well-spaced trees. They need a cavity (or box) in which to nest that is not easily raided and perches (10 feet high is ideal) close by so they can swoop down on moths and other insects. The box should be in the sun at least from sunrise till noon and natural color is preferred to prevent the box from getting too hot. The box should be cleaned out each year and left open when the bluebirds leave to discourage woodpecker destruction.

BRAW volunteer monitors must follow a set of strict protocols and abide by the Migratory Bird Act. They check boxes for nests, eggs and chicks weekly, and remove a nest after chicks have fledged (flown away) so that the parents will start another brood. The birds should not be needlessly disturbed but are amazingly tolerant of monitors lifting tiny hatchlings to determine age. Bluebirds arrive early in spring but will not build a nest till there are adequate insects to feed a family, so when too cold or rainy, they will wait. Swallows, who arrive later than the bluebirds, may quickly adopt a box, right out from under a bluebird pair, because swallows, who can catch bugs in flight up to 10 miles from the nest, have an advantage when food is scarce. Other cavity nesters also compete for the boxes and these birds are also counted and reported.

MEET OUR NEW SUMMER NATURALIST

James Abbot will be coming on board in late April and starting programs in May.

As in other years, Friends of Hartman Creek State Park has funded the position of a summer naturalist for the park.

Watch the Friends Facebook page, our new website and local papers for more information on Mr. Abbott and for calendar of programs.

Welcome James!

There are many challenges to successful breeding including ants, black flies (mostly in western WI), house sparrows, wrens, cats and raccoons. In the Hartman Creek area, raccoons have been the biggest problem and many tactics have been tried to discourage these wily predators. The latest effort is applying a hardware cloth tube over the entry hole, too long for the coon to insert its arm. (See photo). Tried experimentally at first, the guard did not deter the parent birds and some boxes with repeated raccoon hits last year, were able to have successful fledges when the excluder was applied.

So look for bluebirds at the park, and thank the visionaries 30 years ago that worked toward their recovery.

For more information on attracting bluebirds:

Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin (BRAW):
<http://www.braw.org/>

North American Bluebird Society:
<http://www.nabluebirdsociety.org/>

For information on the boxes at the park, email
mkkarth@hughes.net

SUGARBUSH *By Sue Eiler*

Ah, breakfast in the campground....finally, the family is all together and has the time for a leisurely meal. Pancakes are one delicious menu item and real maple syrup is a real treat. We humans crave our sweets, and just imagine a couple of hundred years ago if the only sugar you could get was coursing through your maple trees.

The primary tastes recognized by our taste buds are salty, sweet, bitter, sour and a new one recently added called umami, described as savory. Of all these, the buds at the tongue tip process sweet. Bitter is relegated to the back of the tongue, where the gag reflex gets activated as a defense against poisonous foods

Red maples are found throughout the park, and just north of the campground is the Portage-Shawano trail of the Menominee. Did they walk around here to gather an essential staple of their diet? If so, they would have slashed trees, inserted a stick at the lowest end to let sap drip into a bucket formed by birch bark. Hot rocks were often dropped into the bucket to start the boiling-down process. Another method was to freeze it over-night and discard the ice, the amber liquid remaining.

Pioneers to this new land quickly discovered the value of native sugar and often kept a stand of maples called a sugar bush. Sometimes a sugar shack was built where the laborious process could commence day and night to boil off the water. It takes 40 gallons of sap to create one gallon of syrup. Birch trees yield syrup, but their ratio is 150 gallons to one. The boxelder tree, also of the maple family, yields a tasty sap.

Today sugaring is big business, complete with reverse osmosis, special tubes and plastic bags for collection. This eliminates drowned squirrels and the occasional early spring insect in open buckets. Canada leads the world in production and in the US, Wisconsin comes in behind Vermont, New York and Maine.

Maple syrup contains some pretty important nutrients, among them calcium, potassium, manganese and zinc, the last two important for maintaining energy and immunity from disease. It also has some pretty powerful anti-oxidants, something Native Americans somehow understood, often consuming the sap as a spring tonic to cleanse both liver and kidneys.

So, go ahead and enjoy some nutritious maple syrup and support a Wisconsin product. You might even have thoughts of your fore bearers and how they relished each drop of this precious liquid.

JOIN TODAY AND HELP SUPPORT THE PARK!



Mail To:

Friends of Hartman Creek
N2480 Hartman Creek Rd
Waupaca, WI 54981

*Also can be dropped off at
the park office*

Name _____

Type of Membership:

Individual (\$10)____ Family (\$25)____ Organization (\$50)____

Individual 5 Year (\$40)____ Family 5 year (\$100)_____

Address _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Would you like to be contacted about volunteering opportunities? Yes No

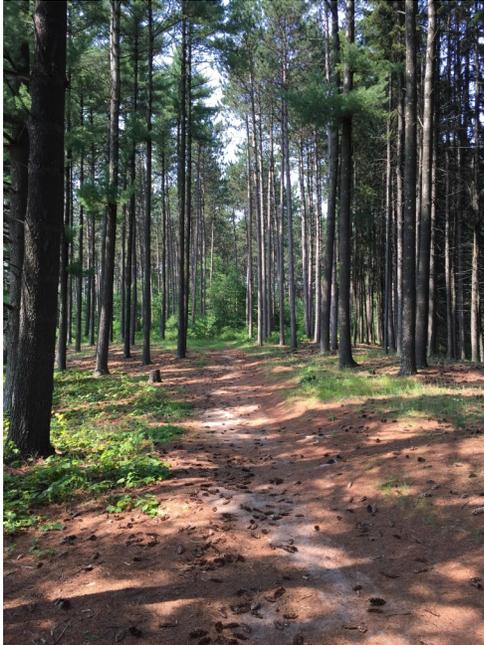
Best way to contact you: Email Phone

Friends of Hartman Creek
State Park

N 2480 Hartman Creek Road
Waupaca, WI 54981



friendsofhartmancreek@gmail.com



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.

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

This 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.

