
Sanderling Tracks

Newsletter of the Friends of Kohler-Andrae State Park

www.friendsofkohler-andrae.com



SPRING 2010



Superintendents Notes

By Jim Buchholz

Spring in Wisconsin always reminds me of a surprise party. You never know for sure when it will happen or how it will unfold from one year to the next. Last year at this time we had icy winds, freezing temperatures and piles of snow and ice throughout the park until near the end of April. This spring we experienced record high temperatures in the upper 70's and most of the snow had already melted by the end of March.

On the other hand, as I write this on April 8th, we again have blowing snow, freezing winds, and snow cover on the ground again...surprise! Despite this setback, the flocks of bluebirds, swallows, and blackbirds are here to stay as are the human flocks of campers, hikers, bikers, and birdwatchers.

The park staff and a dedicated group of volunteers are already busy preparing for the summer season ahead. A big thank you goes out to our Conservation Team volunteers who were busy all winter long helping us paint most of the nature center walls, clean up interpretive displays and restrooms, and many other improvements to the building. They also worked on repairing and staining picnic tables and routed signs in the park shop as well. I'm sure everyone will be impressed with what they accomplished in the off season to make the nature center shine like new.

Other volunteers headed by Bryan Casper have been working long hours to program and set up a

new interpretive touch screen kiosk for the nature center which will no doubt become one of the most popular displays in the nature center this year. Bryan and his crew will be giving a preview of the new touch screen technology at the spring volunteer potluck on April 23rd. Also on hand for the potluck program will be Sherry Speth to discuss her team's work on developing a rain garden for the nature center. If you don't really know what exactly a rain garden is, this will be a great opportunity to find out.

Like usual, there are several new development projects on the board this summer such as completing the park's new fishing pond, installing a new bridge along the Black River Trail, a campsite remodeling project in the south campground, and many other projects. Also, with the help of the park volunteers and the Friends of Kohler-Andrae, we are participating in a special Earth Day work day event on Saturday, April 25th.

I'll talk more about these at the annual volunteer potluck on Friday, April 23rd. Hope to see you there.

President's Notes

By Jim Mohr



Springtime has arrived. The park is turning green again. The deer are browsing on the fresh greens that are coming up. Birds are returning from their wintering grounds. The frogs are singing in the marsh while looking for mates. Campers are returning to the park, including Charmaine and I who are here as Camp Hosts for April. It is a wonderful time to be at the park.

A group of volunteers have been busy all winter at the nature center, painting, cleaning, and remodeling. Additional shelving has been added to the merchandise storage area. New at the nature center is a full wolf mount. It was obtained from the DNR, mounting was done by Ridge Creek Taxidermy and a case for the wolf is being built by Dan Mohr.

Construction is underway on a demonstration rain garden on both sides of the nature center entrance. The Master Gardeners have volunteered to do the planning and the planting. It is being funded by the Friends and a \$5,000 Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund match grant.

Also new at the nature center is a touch screen computer. It will have the touch screen on a shelf on the wall and a 42" flat screen TV on the wall above it. The TV will show whatever is on the computer screen. By touching the screen, our guests will be able to access information about birds in the park, trees, frogs, insects, Great Lakes shipwrecks and whatever else we decide to put on it. It is a work in progress. If anyone is Computer savvy and interested in helping with programming, we welcome your help. Please contact Bryan Casper or myself if you are interested. This project is being funded by the Friends Group and a \$1,000, C. D. Besadney match grant from the Natural Resources Foundation. We are learning as we go along. When the project is complete, we will share what we have learned with other State Parks and similar organizations interested in setting up a touch screen on their site.

After listening to Charlie Luthin's presentation about endowment funds at our annual meeting, the board has decided to set up an endowment fund for the Friends of Kohler-Andrae through the Natural Resources Foundation. We will sign the papers for the endowment at the spring potluck on April 23rd. An endowment fund is an excellent way to insure a long term source of funding for the Friends Group.

Volunteer Notes

**By June Platz,
Volunteer coordinator**

Is it a Wisconsin spring? We are having some gorgeous days and nights since March 20th. So why don't we just enjoy it? Even the rain looks good to me.

Luckily, we had a good snow cover for our two Ski/Hikes. The February 14th one was especially well attended. Thank you to all who volunteered to help or bring treats, or both. We could not do it without your help.

Things are getting spruced up at the park, inside and out. That must mean that it's time to start thinking about volunteering again.

If you have any ideas or suggestions to improve our Sanderling volunteer times, bring them along to the potluck on April 23rd. Thanks for being such good friends.

"Neigh-bors" for Trails



"Neigh-bors" trail work day is Saturday, May 1; rain date is one week later on Saturday, May 8th. Trail clean-up and wood chipping the south trail are on the agenda. Wear sturdy gloves and bring rakes and shovels if you have them. Meet at the trail parking lot at 8:45 AM. Work will be from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM.

Membership Renewal

Memberships expire on May 1. Our treasurer will be at the potluck on April 23rd to collect dues from those who wish to pay that night.

Please check your address label. If your date is 2011, your dues have already been paid.

If your date is 2010, your 2010-2011 dues are now due.

If your date is 2009, you will no longer receive the newsletter or invitations to friend's events.

Remember - Memberships run from May 1, 2010 to April 30, 2011.

Also note there is a new category - Lifetime - \$250.00.

Any questions, please contact our treasurer, Charmaine Mohr at 4526550 or duchessofcinders@aol.com be sure to put **membership renewal** in the subject line.

Officers and Board Members

Jim Mohr (President) 452-6550
(Newsletter)

Fran Grandlic (Vice President) 458-3934

Mary Butts (Secretary) 458-4518
Charmaine Mohr (Treasurer) 452-6550
(Newsletter Assistant)

June Platz (Volunteer Coordinator) 565-2577

Rhonda Griffith (Neighbors for Trails) 459-9098

Tom Butts 458-4158
Gary Boldt 457-2946
Sue Meyer 457-4329
Bryan Casper 458-2174
Ted Bergstrom 208-2847
Keith Herbst 452-0833

Board meetings are held on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Park office.

Guests are welcome. *Only board members can make a motion or vote at board meetings.*

E Newsletter

You can receive the newsletter via e mail instead of by snail mail. It would save the Friends group the money spent on printing and postage. The e newsletter arrives 3-4 days sooner than snail mail. If you are interested, send me an e mail at: jimohr@aol.com. Be sure to put **e newsletter** in the subject line so it gets past my spam filter.

Volunteers Needed Saturday, April 24 Kohler-Andrae State Park



9 AM – 3 PM

Meet at outdoor shelter for work assignments

Volunteers should wear work shoes/boots, long pants and gloves. Please bring shovels and rakes if you have them.

Noon refreshments will be provided.

Please register by calling 451-4088 or e-mail kelli.bruns@wi.gov by Wednesday, April 21

Friends of Kohler-Andrae State Park
Kohler-Andrae State Park
1020 Beach Park Lane
Sheboygan, WI 53081

PLEASE ENROLL ME IN THE FRIENDS OF KOHLER-ANDRAE ASSOCIATION

Name_____

*Please check

Street_____

___ General Membership \$10.00

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

___ Family Membership \$15.00

I would like to receive the newsletter via Email _____

___ Life Membership \$250.00

___ Donation \$_____

Telephone__ (_____)_____

E mail_____

Amount of check \$_____ payable to the Friends of Kohler-Andrae

___Renewal ___New Membership Your cashed check will serve as your receipt

Membership Year is from May 1 thru April 30

Mail to: Friends of Kohler-Andrae, Treasurer, 913 St. Clair Ave., Sheboygan, WI 53081