

Water's Edge

Friends of Lakeshore State Park Newsletter June 2017



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Chuck Ward
Founder,
Friends of Lakeshore State Park

President's Message

Congratulations Lakeshore State Park on your 10-year anniversary! A lot of cool things have happened on Lakeshore State Park over its 10-year life, as well as in the surrounding neighborhood. The Lakefront is astounding and continues to grow and change every year.

The park couldn't have matured into the beloved green space it is today, without the hard work of DNR staff, the leadership of the Friends Board, and the generous support of our volunteers and donors. All have contributed to making Lakeshore a treasured destination, situated on Lake Michigan's shoreline in downtown Milwaukee. Recently, the park has hosted the food network, and an insect hotel art installation of UWM students whose work will be distributed throughout the Wisconsin park system. Coming up, we will again host the Urban Island Beach Party in August and Doors Open in September.

Leveraging our funds, the Friends have applied for and received hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants for educational programs, capital infrastructure, as well as our ongoing efforts to fulfill a visitor and education center at the park. Examples of how our funding have helped the park include producing the Gathering Water's Festival, additional hours to support the park's naturalist teaching program, enhanced prairies with additional plants, information kiosks, shade shelters, interpretive signage and a bench sponsorship program created and installed, a water well and water service for the boat slips - just to name a few. All of these efforts begin with the help of our supporters. So I would like to thank all of you for making Lakeshore the Premier State Park in Milwaukee.

Congratulations to everyone who has contributed to the parks growth, I couldn't be more proud of all of our accomplishments.

Bob Gosse
President, Friends of Lakeshore State Park

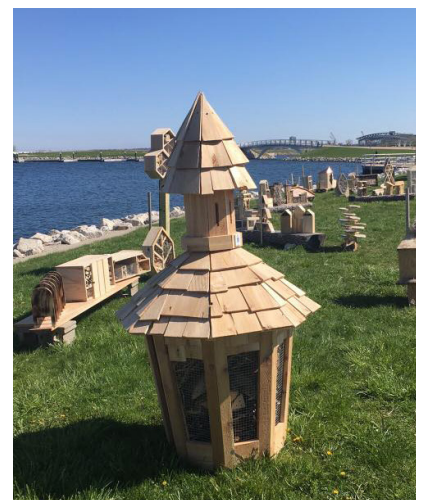
CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

Insect Hotel Art Installation

Students in Katie Martin-Meurer's 3-D Concepts class at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee made insect hotels from discarded wood to provide habitat for the decreasing population of bugs.

The insect hotels were first shown at Lakeshore State Park in May and will be installed permanently in state parks across Wisconsin. Martin-Meurer received \$1,000 from the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin's C.D. Besadny Conservation Grant Program to bring the project to fruition.

While Martin-Meurer and her students would love to see bugs living in them, the hotels will primarily serve as a means of educating passers-by. A QR code on the finished hotels will direct the curious to a website about the insect decline problem.



www.friendslsp.org

Tom's Notes

Spring is unfolding quickly at the park. We recently completed out LTE Hiring for the season and it looks like a great crew. Carolyn is returning as the Visitor Service Associate again, and Whitney is back as a Park and Recreation Specialist. Anne is also back as a Naturalist. We've added three new employees as well. Erik Carlson and Kendra Brown are on board as Park and Recreation Specialists, and Angela Vickio is joining us as a Naturalist. Angela is a former science teacher who is particularly interested in water and Great Lakes issues.

We have ambitious plans for Lakeshore's prairies this year. We've designated six areas of the park for focused attention this year as they transform from weedy fields to short grass prairies. The "Little Prairie" located on the south side of the large turf area is one of the major focuses. This spring we've already planted 1,400 prairie grasses, and removed weedy species from the entire Little Prairie. Watch for a dramatic change this year and next.

It looks like we have another record year for Special Events at Lakeshore, with popular events like the Urban Island Beach Party and Sturgeon Fest returning. We will also continue our monthly beach campfires. Watch the friend's Facebook page for dates and times for these and other events at the park.

Our education programs are increasing as well. We've already had several student groups at the park on some cold days in spring, as well as several student projects with UWM, including a field study for the proposed building green infrastructure, the UWM Insect Hotel Project that has received local and national media attention, and UWM geography students performing a visitor count again for the 6th year. We will again be partnering with Discovery World, Keeping Greater Milwaukee Beautiful, and Neighborhood House and Milwaukee Public Schools for education visits in the park. Watch for the new addition of visitor talks/tour this summer on a variety of Great Lakes Issues.

Tom Kroeger
Park Manager



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TO MAKE AN **IMPACT**
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Volunteers Needed!

Request for volunteers to help the Board with administrative duties such as stuffing envelopes, or mailings, etc. Please contact Sue Frautschi at susan.frautschi@gmail.com to sign up!