

Water's Edge

Friends of Lakeshore State Park Newsletter - Fall 2008



You're Invited!

Friends of Lakeshore State Park ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, November 19, 2008
5 to 7:30pm

Miller Room - O'Donnell Park
910 East Michigan Street
414.277.0860

Learn about upcoming events
and plans for 2009.

Share your ideas and experiences.

Be a part of Board Member elections!

Meet the new Super

Hi! I'm Tom Kroeger. I am honored and excited to be the new Superintendent for Lakeshore State Park, Milwaukee's newest lakefront attraction. I am a lifelong Milwaukee-area resident and frequently enjoy kayaking, biking, fishing and bird watching at the lakefront. My educational background is in conservation and hydrogeology. For 25 years, I worked for a local engineering firm where I specialized in Brownfield redevelopment, wetlands and land restoration, and environmental property transaction assistance, with many of my projects in the Menomonee Valley and downtown Milwaukee. I was the Hank Aaron State Trail field team leader this summer. I look forward to meeting many of you as we work together in growing Lakeshore State Park to meet its full potential.



Ron Novak will be leaving his position as acting superintendent of LSP. Ron thanks all the Friends of the Park that he had an opportunity to work with. He will continue to be a part of the Park as a member and volunteer of the Friends group. I want to thank Ron for all of his hard work at the Park, and his help in mentoring me.

Tom Kroeger
Lakeshore State Park Superintendent

From the President

Another year has come and gone for the Friends, and we are very pleased with how you have supported our efforts to open up the Park to more and more people. This year we celebrated another successful "Summer Solstice" opening, several sponsored recreation events through the DNR, and Harley-Davidson's 105th Anniversary with over 100,000 HOG members visiting the Park in one day. The prairie is starting to take hold and there is great fishing in the lagoon with all kinds of different fish ranging from sunfish, blue gills, perch and trout.

Our new Superintendent, Tom Kroeger, has a great background to manage the Park and lots of experience to help the prairie grow. Check out his bio in this newsletter.

We just launched a bench sponsorship program. Ten beautifully crafted benches were installed in the Park this summer. The design was chosen to compliment the contemporary architecture in the area from the Art Museum to Discovery World. Individuals, groups, and companies can sponsor a bench and the proceeds will help the Friends Group sponsor and co-sponsor Park events and assist with the continuing stewardship of our unique environment.

For next June, we are planning the Gathering Waters Festival which will focus on wellness of our bodies and the Great Lakes. We are partnering with UWM's Great Lakes WATER Institute, the MMSD, REI and Discovery World. The Festival is partially funded by a grant from the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program. Stay tuned for details as they unfold.

When the Park building is finally built, the Friends will help sponsor events and educational programming and continue to recognize so many who step forward to support the Park. We are the doorway to Milwaukee, and as I have said in the past: Milwaukeeans are proudly stepping through that door at our Lakeshore State Park. Come to the Annual Meeting on November 19 to learn what's in store for next year. Thank you again for your support.

Todd Montgomery
President, Friends of Lakeshore State Park

Bench Sponsorship

Looking for a unique way to memorialize a loved one or pet or to support your favorite lakefront park? Show your support of the Park and sponsor a beautiful Lakeshore State Park bench of renewable wood and metal with a name or saying on a plaque and get a free year's membership to the Friends group. Pick your favorite spot of the benches installed this summer on the Park. Call 414.588.0617 for more details.



Visit the Friends online - www.friendslsp.org



Friends of Lakeshore State Park
c/o Historic Third Ward Association
219 N. Milwaukee Street, 3rd Floor
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Gathering Waters Festival

Lakeshore State Park ~ Saturday, June 13, 2009

The Park offers awesome views of Lake Michigan and Milwaukee's skyline and is a great venue to kick off summer with the **free** Gathering Waters Festival on June 13, 2009.

At the Gathering Waters Festival, you can: listen to music, get out on the water by canoeing, kayaking sailing or boat rides, come by boat or bike to the Park along the Hank Aaron State Trail, climb a rock wall, fly a kite, go fishing in the harbor full of good pan fish (we'll supply the poles), do Tai Chi or yoga, check out really cool exhibits comparing human and Great Lakes health, check on your own health vitals, see the Park's rain garden and learn how to plant your own, check out the Park's new prairie and learn about native plants, visit the Bike Village for bicycle safety for kids, bike tune-ups and sales, complete a Park Passport and scavenger hunts for door prizes and loads of fun activities for kids. There will be great local food and beer available for sale, too!

Visit www.friendslsp.org for more details as they unravel.

Summer Review

The second summer on the Park was spectacular with more visitors and events. Kicking off the summer was the Summer Solstice Celebration with 15 different outdoor activities and fun attended by nearly 1,000 visitors. In June, the Founder's Circle Member plaque was installed and in August, ten beautifully crafted benches were installed with financial support from a Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund grant. Bench sponsorships are available now so let us know if you're interested.

The Park hosted the AIDS and Easter Seals walks and a picnic with New Berlin Plastics. Harley-Davidson hosted a HOG Group Party (Harley Owners Group) on the Park for their two-day 105th anniversary. Over 100,000 tickets were sold and more than 75,000 HOG members were on the Park at one time! In October, an MPS Health Walk with over 2,200 local students and an MPS Race with 250 students were held at the Park. The DNR estimated that there have been over 150,000 visitors to the Park this year. 2009 is shaping up to be even better!

Board Member Elections

Are you interested in serving as a Board Member of the Friends of Lakeshore State Park? Submit no more than one page answering the following questions:



1. What is your background?
2. What qualifications will you bring to the organization as a board member?
3. Why are you interested in being a board member?

Please respond **by November 4** to
Bob Gosse at 414-412-8552 or via email
rgosse@summerfest.com.