

Friends of Nerstrand Big Woods State Park

Newsletter Spring 2020

AT THE PARK NOW

State parks are open, but visitor centers are closed. It's great to get outdoors, but be aware that our park is experiencing enormous numbers of visitors, especially on weekends, and social distancing may be difficult or impossible. If you need a park pass, you can purchase it online at https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/permit.html At this writing, the south side trails are closed due to water, and north side trails, though open, may be muddy. For the latest conditions, go to https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/park.html?id=spk00241#homepage

Spring wildflower season is fast approaching, typically running from mid to late April through early to mid May. The park will not be holding the Wildflower Ambassador program this year due to the virus situation. You can still come see the flowers, there just won't be the usual volunteers on the boardwalk. To protect yourself and others, consider coming on a weekday, when it's less crowded. To protect the fragile flowers, always keep your dog leashed, and stay on the trails.



Round lobed hepatica 4/12/2015

NATURE NEWS

Every year in March, the WWF and Mexican government issue their estimate of overwintering monarch butterfly populations in Mexico. This year, numbers were down by 53% from last year, but equal to the past decade's average. The monarchs have now left the sanctuaries and are moving into OK, AR, and TN. For more information, and to follow the migration, go to <https://journeynorth.org/monarchs>

JOIN US We need your help!

Your monetary donation helps us buy materials needed for park improvements, like rock for tent pads, materials for the picnic area and nature play area, and new trees, that are not part of the park budget. To donate/become a member, go online to

<https://www.parksandtrails.org/friends-groups/meet-friends/nerstrand/donate/> or send an email to woodstomp@northfieldwifi.com to receive a pamphlet that can be mailed to us with a check.

Your time donation helps us get things done. We have more tent pads to fix up, a restoration area to work on, and would like to be able to help with trail improvements and control of invasive species. We would also love to have someone fluent in social media to work with Facebook and/or other platforms! To volunteer with the Friends, please email woodstomp@northfieldwifi.com



Nov 2019 Friends volunteers spread rock on tent pads. L to R- John Andrews, Frank Weaver, Bill Jokela, Diana Hering

2020 PLANNED EVENTS (more info later)

- July 18- Art for Kids/Ice Cream social
- Sat Aug 22- Monarch butterfly program
- Sat Aug 29- Monarch butterfly hike
- Sunday Sept 20- Annual Meeting and Community Supper



Feb 2020 Sign painting Elaine Feikema, Norma Monroe, Bill Feikema (not shown)

What did you do in the park? Send a story and/or photo for the next newsletter to woodstomp@northfieldwifi.com

4/1/2020 See our website at <https://friendsnerstrandbigwoods.org/>