

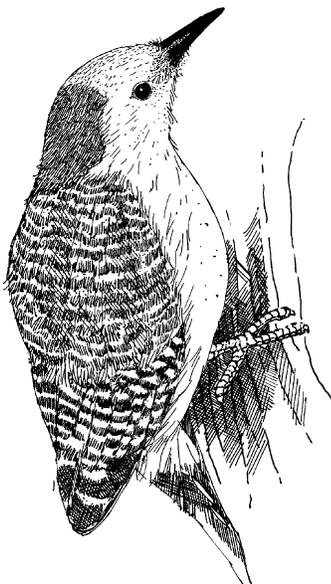
# President's Corner

*"The north wind doth blow,  
and we shall have snow..."*

*Anonymous*

In December it seemed we were headed for an "old fashioned winter" but as I write this we are in the midst of a January thaw. I think it's best that we not let our guard down and do remember that this is Wisconsin and it is the winter season. *(Editor's note: Sage advice. That was last week—followed by a January freeze!)*

With that thought in mind I want to remind you of our annual Candlelight Night at Interstate Park on February 9th. Hopefully there will be snow for cross country skiing and snowshoeing. This is a family event with horse drawn wagon rides, bon fires and refreshments—and it will go on with or without snow. Check out the enclosed flyer. Come and bring family and friends.



A warm welcome to Dwight Ferguson who has volunteered to join the board of directors. Dwight is a long time friend and neighbor of Interstate Park. Thank you Dwight for being willing to serve and for bringing our board to full strength.

Currently the board is in the process of reviewing the Friends of Interstate Park by-laws.

See you at Candlelight Night.

Angie Lundin  
FIP President

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## Board of Directors

President  
Angie Lundin  
Vice President  
Kris Kremer-Hartung  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Karen Sciacca  
Directors  
Gloria Adrian  
Mike Bauer  
Pat Killingsworth  
Pattie Killingsworth  
Joyce McKenzie  
Jim Sciacca  
Business Manager  
Avis Carlson  
Membership Chair  
Carol Petersen

## Next Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 22  
11:30 AM  
at the Ice Age Center

**\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$**

## Treasurer's Report

As of January 7, 2008  
Checking \$3,556.67  
Money Market  
\$22,614.38  
CD \$11,100.49  
Total = \$37,271.54

**\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$**



## *Superintendent's Notes*

Hi to all Friends of Interstate Park. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, Kurt Dreger, as the new Park Superintendent of Interstate Park and Straight Lake State Park. Many of you I know and to everyone else I am looking forward to meeting you. I received my educational background from the University of WI – Stevens Point where I graduated with a BS in Resource Management – Park and Recreation Emphasis and a Resource Law Enforcement minor. I started with the DNR in 1978 at Devil's Lake State Park where I worked three years as an LTE (limited term employee). I was hired full-time in 1982 at Yellowstone Lake State Park where I worked for three seasons as the lead Enforcement Ranger. I transferred to Interstate Park in 1984. Here I have led the enforcement staff for the past 23 years.

During my years at Interstate I was fortunate to meet my wife of 18 years, Terri (Jacobson) and start a family which includes our two boys Samuel (Sam), age five, and Matthew (Matty), age three. I'm looking forward to introducing my family to you personally at future events and gatherings.

I am honored to be given the opportunity to handle the challenges of managing Interstate Park and Straight Lake Parks and follow in the tradition of great Superintendents, Jeff Krueger, Bernie McGaver and Bud Nesvold. Working for them has given me a great understanding of the park, its operation and the need to look to the future. I of course cannot forget to mention retired Ranger Steve Jensen whose pride and knowledge of Interstate will be difficult to duplicate.

A quick look at things going on here:

The new overlooks on the Pothole Trail are 80 % completed and will be completed in spring.

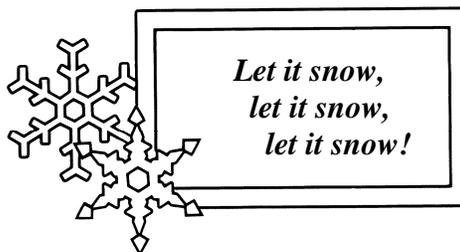
Plans are moving forward on the addition to the Interpretive Center.

The Straight Lake Master Plan is progressing.

Begin the process of filling my Ranger position.

Planning for the February 9, 2008 Candlelight Night event.

I look forward to meeting you individually and invite you to stop in for a visit. Any time you have a question or comment please feel free to contact me or one of the other great staff members here; Educator – Julie Fox, Visitor Services – Maureen Yunker, and Ranger Tom Faschingbauer.



I am excited to see snow for the first time in many seasons and hopefully there is more on the way. So come visit Interstate or Straight Lake and enjoy winter.

Kurt Dreger  
Park Superintendent

## Volunteer Thanks

Special thanks to all of our volunteers of 2007, including:

- ◆ Our Board of Directors (listed on page 2) and outgoing Directors Jane Mausser and Val Weber
- ◆ The Ice Age Center volunteer staff: Milt & Joan Stanze, Fred Brede, Wally & Avis Carlson, Patti Snell, Dick & Betty Ogren, Bill Perron & Cindy Stimmler, and Gretchen Johnson
- ◆ Bluebird Nest Box Monitor Rodger Meyer
- ◆ Adopt-A-Trail families, individuals and organizations
- ◆ Special event volunteers for Candlelight Night, the Spring Gathering of Friends, and the Annual Autumn Potluck, Program & Silent Auction

We couldn't have done it without you!

**We need you in 2008! Please contact Naturalist Julie Fox at (715) 483-3747 to volunteer.**

## Volunteers Needed

**2:00 p.m. Saturday, February 9, Candlelight Night**

To place luminary bags and candles along the 1-mile Quarry Cross Country Ski Trail, a 3/4-mile snowshoe trail, or 1-1/4 miles of the park road for the Candlelight Night event. Social and chili following set-up.

Please contact Kurt or Julie at the park at (715) 483-3747 if you are available and interested.

## Calendar of Events

### Thursdays through March

Nature Storytime

10:00 AM at the Ice Age Center. Pre-K children and parents. (Please share insert with others or post at daycare, church or school as appropriate.)

### Saturday, February 9

Candlelight Night

6:00-9:00 PM; trails and horse drawn wagon rides begin at the Camp Interstate Shelter across from the South Campground entrance. Fires and refreshments. (See insert for more information.)

### Tuesday, March 25

FIP Board Meeting

11:30 AM at the Ice Age Center.

## Friends of WI State Parks

The Friends of Wisconsin State Parks have had another successful year. They rolled out their updated and expanded website ([www.fwsp.gov](http://www.fwsp.gov)). On the website you can buy your State Parks Sticker, the State Trails Pass or buy the first FWSP 2008 Calendar. Also there is information about all the friends groups around the state and what they are doing. Individual memberships in FWSP will help the organization in helping the Friends around the state.

In July the FWSP will be having their summer meeting at Crex Meadows in Grantsburg. Anyone is welcome to attend. More on the meeting later.

Mike Bauer  
FWSP and FIP Board Member

## Volunteerism Pays Off

"She's worth her weight in gold," boasts Naturalist Julie Fox speaking of Ice Age Center Volunteer Patti Snell.

Patti, a summer employee at the park for many years and now a volunteer at the Ice Age Center, is employed at the Super Wal-Mart in St. Croix Falls. For the past two years Patti has logged enough volunteers hours to qualify for grant money to the Friends from Wal-Mart Foundation.

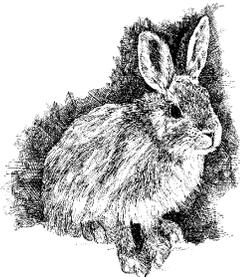
"She's an excellent and dedicated volunteer," said Fox, "and the additional bonus? She brings *us* money!"

# News from Glacier's Gifts

## SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNT COUPON

Happy New Year! Purchase a sweatshirt from Glacier's Gifts, present this coupon, and receive an additional 15% discount on any sweatshirt. This is in addition to your 10% Friends member discount.

This offer is valid through February 29, 2008.



Avis Carlson  
FIP Business Manager

## Friends Reminder

Happy New Year! This is the time of the year for renewal reminders. Notices are enclosed for those Friends who need to renew for 2008. Please don't delay; your prompt response saves time and postage, and will prevent you from missing any important Friends mailings or notices.

A 2008 Membership Application for new members is also enclosed. Please pass your newsletter on to others who enjoy the park, support the education program, and who may be interested in joining the Friends. Thank you!

Carol Petersen  
FIP Membership Coordinator



**H**appy New Year!

Another year gone by, and certainly an eventful one in many ways. Let's take a look back at the year in brief:

**Candlelight Night 2007.** Yet another chilly event lacking adequate snowfall for snowshoeing, but enough of the white stuff for a few determined skiers to get out on the trail. This year we're hoping for additional snowfall, and we're looking forward to additional fun with horse drawn wagon rides behind the Amador Clydesdales. What a wonderful way to spend a winter evening outdoors. Don't miss it!

**Interpretive Plan.** A year ago I wrote that I was in the process of updating the Interstate Park Property Interpretive Plan. Well I did it. But of course a good plan is never complete; a good plan should be a dynamic document that grows and changes to accommodate the growing and changing needs of our park resources and park visitors. So is the plan "done?" For now!

**Straight Lake State Park.** Another interpretive plan needed; the plan begun but not complete. The interpretive needs of our neighboring state park will be more thoroughly identified as the Master Plan progresses and is eventually finalized. In the meantime we continue to protect the resources, inform folks of the recreational opportunities available to them now, and provide occasional interpretive programs including bird walks and other guided hikes. There is great potential for the future of Straight Lake State Park. We will keep you posted!

**Changing staff.** Of course the biggest news at Interstate Park last year was the retirement of Park Manager Jeff Krueger and Ranger Steve Jensen. Combined they had nearly 70 years of dedicated employment with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources—almost all of those years at Interstate. They retired within one week of one another in early

summer. The remaining staff, along with new Ranger Tom Faschingbauer, pulled together to keep park operations running smoothly until a new park manager was hired. Good news—the vacancy was finally filled! Congratulations to our own Ranger Kurt Dreger on his promotion to Park Manager. The bad news—we now have a new vacancy so we're still short staffed. Kurt is hopeful that his Ranger position will be filled yet this spring bringing us back to full staff. We're crossing our fingers.

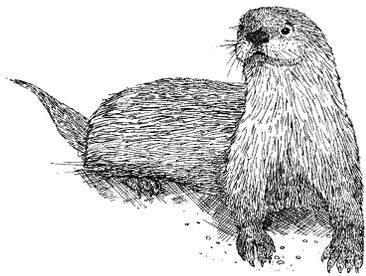
**Interpretive programs 2007.** Both annual and special events provided opportunities for park visitors to learn about the natural and cultural history of Interstate Park and northwestern Wisconsin. Local historians Rosemarie Braatz and Mike Prichard, Resource Management Specialist and birder Robin Maercklein, National Park Service interpretive staff, our own Naturalist Barb Walker, UW-Madison Department of Astronomy staff, and WDNR Wildlife Specialist Chris Cold were just some of the presenters who shared their talents and expertise with interpretive program participants last year. My thanks to each of them for enriching the experience of hundreds of park visitors.

**Interpretive programs 2008.** Tentatively scheduled: a Salamander Survey Workshop and a Purple Martin Workshop, both in March, and a program all about frogs (with a family and a field component) for our annual Spring Gathering of Friends in April. There's much more to come this summer, including a potential extension of the summer Nature Story-time program for 8-12 year olds.

**What else is new?** The Pothole Trail overlook will have a new look this summer, as will the Ice Age Center with construction on the classroom addition. Other projects are in the development phase and we hope to have more news to share as the year progresses. We will keep you posted!

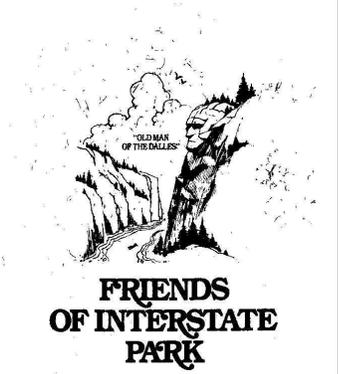
**The year ahead** promises to be another one filled with changes and challenges and lots of new opportunities. I hope you'll take advantage of those opportunities and spend some time with us this year here at Interstate Park.

Julie Fox  
Natural Resources Educator



# J O B   A N N O U N C E M E N T

## **Friends of Interstate Park BUSINESS MANAGER POSITION**



### **LOCATION**

Glacier's Gifts Gift Shop, Ice Age Interpretive Center, Wisconsin Interstate Park

### **DUTIES**

#### **Inventory**

Throughout the year, vendor wholesale catalogs are received. Shortly after the first of the year an on-site inventory must be done. Decisions on what to purchase in the coming year will be made by comparing the current inventory to the merchandise purchased in the previous year. Determine what sold well and what did not. This tells you what to place on reorder, what to place on clearance and how much additional new merchandise can be ordered. Use the last year orders as a purchasing guide.

#### **Make Buying Decisions**

#### **Place Orders**

This needs to be accomplished by early April (also there will occasionally be a need to order/reorder throughout the selling season). Place your orders by fax, e-mail and telephone depending on the vendor. Encourage them to accept our credit card in payment.

#### **Merchandise Arrival**

Check packing slips against actual goods received. Determine the retail price based on the cost (normal guideline: 100% increase of cost). Assign a PLU number (if new mdse). Prepare pricing and PLU # tickets and attach to the mdse. Program the cash register to reflect PLU # and price (also reprogram any PLU already being used if the price changes for any reason).

#### **Place on Selling Floor**

By mid to late May the selling floor must be made ready for the season. Make decisions on any old mdse. that you will offer on clearance, remark the price and program those changes in the register. Check selling floor weekly and restock as necessary. Keep area clean and dusted weekly and t-shirts refolded as needed throughout the summer selling season.

#### **Other Responsibilities**

Deliver or post naturalist program flyers in St. Croix Falls and Taylors Falls weekly from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. Deliver or post special event flyers at other times of the year as needed.

### **TIME COMMITMENT/STIPEND**

Estimated time commitment is 150 hours throughout the year for a \$1,000 annual stipend.

### **OTHER**

There is a 12 month probationary period with a quarterly evaluation for this position. Upon hire it is required that a bond be furnished to the corporation in the sum of \$5,000 at the expense of the corporation.

Please direct questions to Business Manager Avis Carlson at (715) 483-3426. To apply for the position send a resume to the Friends of Interstate Park at PO Box 703, St. Croix Falls, WI 54024.



*Interstate Park  
Ski Trail Groomer  
Volunteer Position Description*



Our Mission is:

To provide the highest quality State Park experience, resource stewardship and service possible.

**Working Conditions**

Mostly outdoors in winter weather, possibly strenuous at times.

**Equipment Provided**

Property will provide snowmobile, grooming equipment, truck and trailer, snowmobile helmets, gas and oil, and all equipment maintenance. Other equipment and hand tools will be provided as needed.

**Knowledge and Time Requirement**

Cross-country skiing experience is preferred. A training session will be provided to teach proper techniques of operating the snowmobiles and using the grooming equipment. Time will vary by snowfall and availability of other volunteers. Average time per outing is 2 to 4 hours.

**Qualifications**

Volunteers are selected based on their interests and availability in providing volunteer services to help maintain state parks cross-country and winter use trails.

**Benefits**

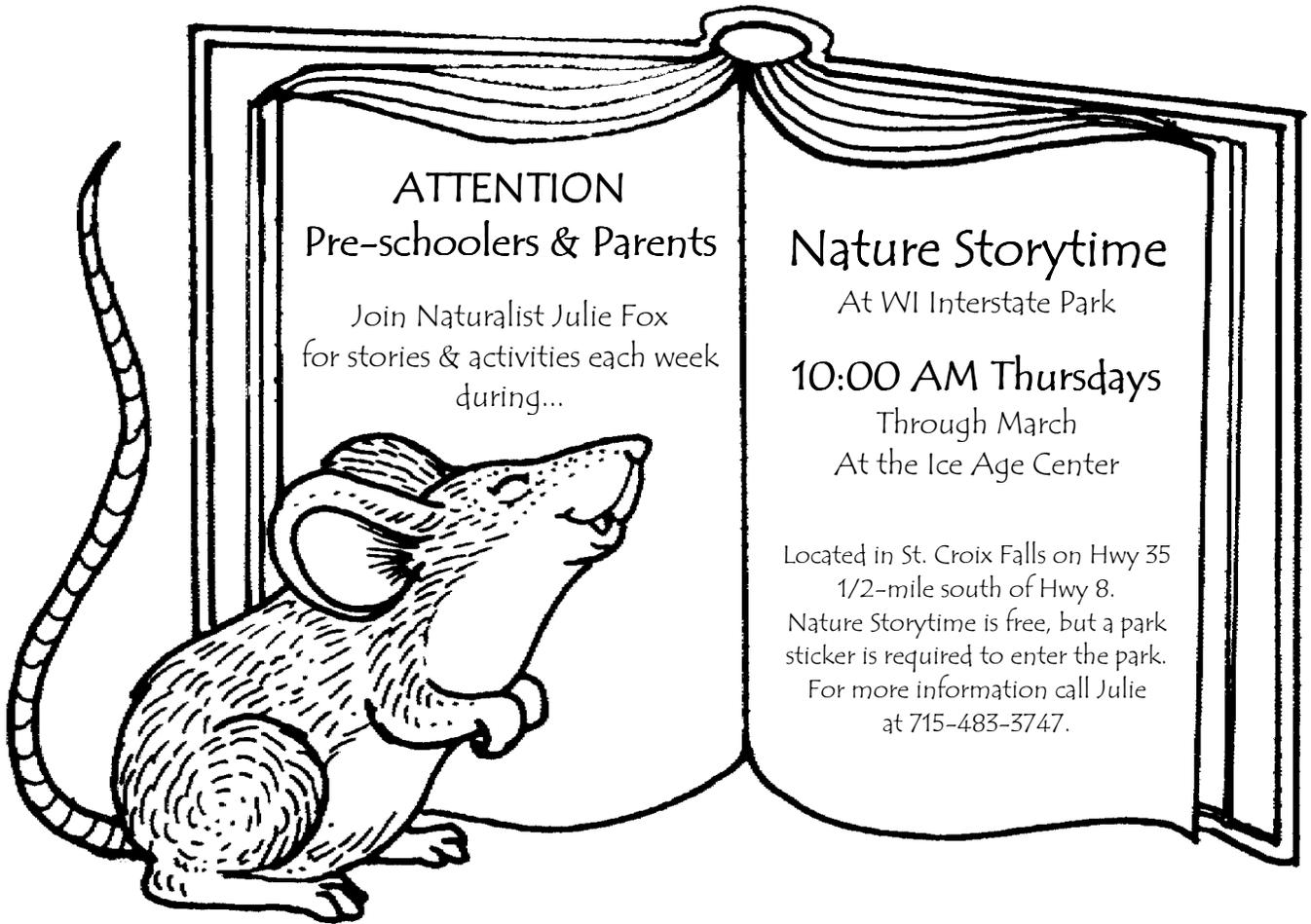
Ski trail groomers take pride in preparing and maintaining Interstate Park cross-country skiing and multiple use trails in the most safe and enjoyable conditions.

**Duties**

As a representative of the Department of Natural Resources, a Ski Trail Groomer volunteer will participate in some or all of the following activities as agreed upon with the Park Manager.

- ◆ Operate snowmobiles, drags, and other grooming equipment to condition and track cross-country ski trails in a manner to accommodate classical skiers and to pack snowshoe trails.
- ◆ Alert park staff to equipment, trail, and sign defects or problems.
- ◆ Use e-mail and daily logs to communicate hours worked, trails groomed, and trail conditions.
- ◆ Operate a park vehicle to haul snowmobile and grooming equipment to trailheads. Operate other utility vehicles and equipment as needed to prepare trails for winter use; including trimming brush and hanging and removing signs.
- ◆ Consider safety first by wearing a helmet, dressing appropriately for the weather, carrying and using a park radio or personal cell phone while grooming trails in remote areas of the park.
- ◆ Assure key, building, and equipment security.
- ◆ Assist with special events especially the Candlelight Night event in February.
- ◆ Additional duties may be assigned.

For questions, or to request a volunteer application form, please contact Ranger Tom Faschingbauer at (715) 483-3747.



**ATTENTION  
Pre-schoolers & Parents**

Join Naturalist Julie Fox  
for stories & activities each week  
during...

**Nature Storytime**

At WI Interstate Park

**10:00 AM Thursdays**

Through March  
At the Ice Age Center

Located in St. Croix Falls on Hwy 35  
1/2-mile south of Hwy 8.

Nature Storytime is free, but a park  
sticker is required to enter the park.

For more information call Julie  
at 715-483-3747.



**Friends of Interstate Park  
2008 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Student - \$5.00/1 yr.

\_\_\_ Individual - \$10.00/1 yr.

\_\_\_ Family - \$15.00/1 yr.

\_\_\_ At this time I would like to become a Lifetime Member. **Save \$5.00 by renewing for two years!**

Enclosed is \$100.00.

\_\_\_ Individual - \$15.00/2 yr.

Enclosed is my donation of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Family - \$25.00/2 yr.

Send to: Membership, Friends of Interstate Park, PO Box 703, St. Croix Falls, WI 54024, or stop by the park.

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**\_\_\_ YES! I WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER!**

I am interested in: \_\_\_ Ice Age Center \_\_\_ Adopt-A-Trail \_\_\_ Special Events \_\_\_ Newsletter \_\_\_ Other

I would be available: \_\_\_ Weekdays \_\_\_ Weekends \_\_\_ Anytime

\*\*\*\*\*

**KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS**

Date paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Method of payment \_\_\_\_\_

Amount paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_