

Friends of Mirror Lake



Summer 2019 Newsletter

Meet Our President Anita Johnson



Hi Everyone! I'm Anita Johnson, the current president of the Friends of Mirror Lake State Park. Welcome to the park! I've been a member

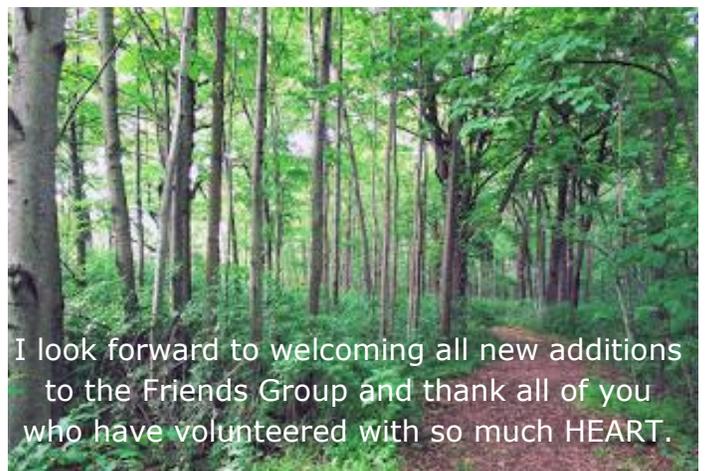
of the Friends Group since 2016 and served as secretary before being elected President.

I'm a retired Registered Nurse having worked in a variety of settings throughout my career. I've been an Operating Room Nurse where I was published in "Today's OR Nurse" for a procedure I developed and used in Neurosurgery; I was the administrator for Nursing Agencies in Chicago and Milwaukee; I was Director of Marketing for a brain injury rehab company and finally ended my career as a Regional Marketing Director for a Ventilator Hospital Company traveling all over the United States.

My husband Mike and I have been married for 47 years. We started our married life in Beaufort, South Carolina where Mike was serving in the Marine Corp. We have two wonderful adult children and four wonderful

grandchildren. Our golden doodle, Abby, travels with us wherever we go. I enjoy Camping, traveling, quilting, needle work, gardening, golfing, genealogy, and volunteering.

I will partner with the Park Administration of both Mirror Lake and Rocky Arbor State Parks in achieving the park's goals; provide leadership to the FOML. I'll Encourage the organization in strategic and long-range planning along with monitoring the financial status of the organization in partnership with the Treasurer, Park Administration, and Membership. I Encourage membership recruitment and retention of all current members to keep the organization growing and flourishing. I'll work closely with all the committees and the Park Administration to develop Plans for future park enhancements.



I look forward to welcoming all new additions to the Friends Group and thank all of you who have volunteered with so much HEART.

New Friend Members - Always Welcome Why we joined the Friends of Mirror Lake

by Carol Aslesen

Dave and I have lived in Wisconsin for about 25 years; first in Sparta, then Orfordville (near Janesville), and now in Buckhorn Community, a neighborhood just a few miles south of Mirror Lake. We have enjoyed canoeing all of our adult life. When we moved to Wisconsin, one of the first places we "discovered" for canoeing was Mirror Lake. We entered the lake from the park dock, took the portage around the dam, paddled down Dell Creek into Lake Delton, then turned around and paddled back. We have done that paddle a number of times over the years and it is a favorite trip. We enjoy the serene beauty of Mirror Lake, the high cliffs, and narrow gorge of Dell Creek. After retiring and moving to this area, we were pleasantly surprised to realize how close we live to Mirror Lake. Being retired, we looked for meaningful and useful ways to spend our time. Joining the Friends of Mirror Lake seemed to us like a perfect way to keep ourselves involved and active in a beautiful state park. A bonus of joining is that we are getting to know all of the many members of the Friends Group who share a love of outdoors and parks, along with helping to make the park a great place for everyone to visit.



**Volunteers
Needed**



**1 mile trail hike
5k and 10k trail run- chipped
New: Mini Marshmallow Mile for kids
Register at: <https://runsignup.com>**



Race Day Details:

Registration packet pick up: Saturday, Oct. 5, 7:00 am to 8:30 a.m. at the Beach Pavilion. **Events include:** 5K run, 10K run, a 1 mile hike, and a Mini Marshmallow Mile event for kids. All events begin between 9:00-9:30 a.m.

Post race events: S'more making over campfire, vendors, post race snacks and beverages, door prizes, awards ceremony, and kids activities/tent area

Accessible cabin for people with disabilities

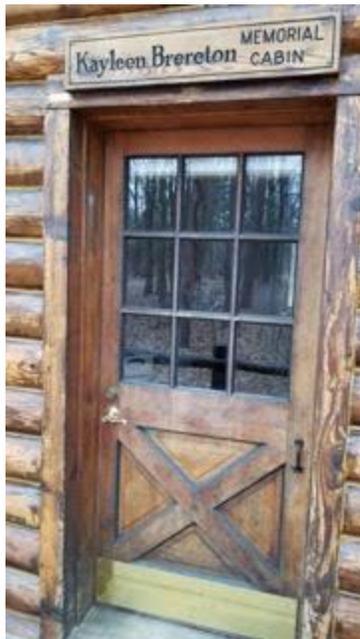
by Cindy Cseri



new lighting and windows, additional parking, and new railings at the look out. Hopefully these upgrades will improve the outdoor experience for the cabin's visitors and their families.



Remodeling was completed by Davis Furniture and Flooring of Reedsburg, Abbs Asphalt of Baraboo, and Bishoff Construction of Baraboo.



The Cliffwood campground is home to our "Cabin in the Woods." This barrier-free log house is the first such cabin in the Wisconsin State Park System. The cabin can accommodate up to six people and may be rented for a maximum of four nights per year. It

is located between sites 131 and 135. It's available for rental approximately May 15 through October 15.

This past fall the Friends spent a day staining the cabin a beautiful rustic color to protect the wood from the elements. This spring the roof was replaced, and the screen porch was converted into a three-season room with the installation of new windows. Also new this year is a hospital bed and a lift chair. There are new kitchen counters, a bathroom remodel to rival any in Architectural Digest,

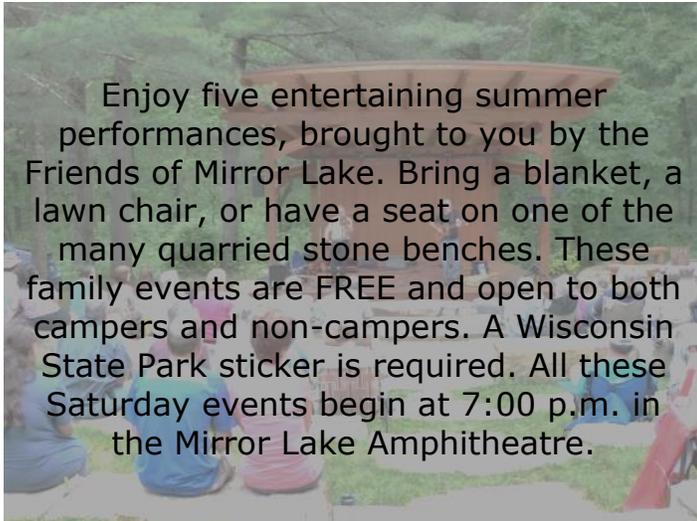
Clasen's European Bakery A Friend to the Friends

by Dan Frisch

Clasen's has been a great provider of bakery goods to Mirror Lake State Park in support of our hikes and other events. General Manager Tom Siewert has told me many times that he and his wife love going to the State parks. Tom, along with his staff, go out of their way to help me when I show up to pick up their wonderful baked goods. We send a great big thank you to Clasen's from all of the volunteers and staff at Mirror Lake and Rocky Arbor State Parks.

Clasen's (located in Middleton, WI) specializes in baked from scratch buttery pastries, German Hearth breads, and chocolates, using all natural ingredients. If you love chocolate, Clasen's Bakery is your dream come true! You can find their products in Middleton, Milwaukee, and many other cities in Southern Wisconsin. Thank you Clasen's for your generous support!!

Music in the Park



Enjoy five entertaining summer performances, brought to you by the Friends of Mirror Lake. Bring a blanket, a lawn chair, or have a seat on one of the many quarried stone benches. These family events are FREE and open to both campers and non-campers. A Wisconsin State Park sticker is required. All these Saturday events begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Mirror Lake Amphitheatre.

June 22 KG and the Ranger

Saddle up your imagination for a ride to the Old West. Their smooth harmony singing will bring back memories of cowboy stars of the Silver Screen.

June 29 Jake'O

With his Blues, Rock 'n' Roll, and R&B Jake'O returns to provide an experience the audience will be unable to forget with booming dynamic reverberating vocals.

July 20 Tim Johnson

Tim Southwick Johnson is an accomplished performer on acoustic guitar, mandolin, tenor guitar, ukulele, and harmonica. His original songs run the gamut from fun story songs to romping finger style instrumentals.

August 3 Spook Handy

The spirit of American Folk Music is alive and well in Spook Handy. He has performed alongside Pete Seeger at festivals and concerts since 2003.

August 17 Patchouli & Terra Guitarra

Their soulful fusion of blazing Spanish and world guitar instrumentals, heartstring tugging lyrics, lush vocal harmonies, and epic folk rock anthems infused with a visible onstage chemistry guarantees to make the

night an uplifting one of music that will leave you uniquely inspired and excited to pick that old guitar back up.

Shakespeare in the State Park

July 21, 1:00 p.m. Workshop/2:30 p.m. Performance

A traveling, seven member theatre company will have a short workshop for children and adults, followed by a 75 minute performance. Fun for the whole family.

A Welcome Addition

by Waldo Peterson



A new storage unit, built on the property of Mirror Lake State Park has been completed this spring of 2019, thanks to great partnerships that have developed over the years. The 54' x 40' building will be used to house the Lake Management District's weed harvester, park equipment, and various supplies used by the Friends for work projects and events. This \$51,000 building is possible due to the cooperative efforts of the Department of Natural Resources, which donated the land, and by cash donations from The Friends of Mirror Lake State Park, the Lake Management District, the Mirror Lake Association, and Sauk County.

Love Being a Park Camp Host

by Anita and Mike Johnson



We became Camp Hosts about eight years ago, after we retired. We were looking for a volunteer opportunity to match our interests in Wisconsin State Parks, our love for camping, and enjoyment of the outdoors. With careers in customer service, we understand that enhancing someone's experience in the park will increase their desire to happily return repeatedly.

As Camp Host and members of the Friends of Mirror Lake State Park, our goal is promoting the park to all campers and visitors. One of the most common ways for you to enhance your camping experience is by having a fire at your camp site. Whether you are warming up at night, telling scary ghost stories, cooking a meal, or reminiscing with family and friends, the camp fire is a wonderful way in which to create lasting memories. As Camp Hosts we are happy to sell you dry firewood right from our Camp Host Site.

Wood sales at Mirror Lake and Rocky Arbor is the main fundraiser for the Friends Group. In 2017 we sold more than 12,000 bundles of wood, which raised approximately \$72,000. We receive our wood from a local vendor and from fallen wood in the park

which we cut, split, and bundle ourselves. Firewood is sold at the Park Office in both parks and at the Host Camp sites in both the Blue Water Bay and Sandstone Ridge campgrounds at Mirror Lake.

All money raised through this fundraising activity goes back into the park and helps create a memorable experience for all visitors, through all seasons.

Some of the projects that the Friends Group have provided to the park as a result of the fund-raising activities over the years are:

- Summer outdoor musical performances at the Amphitheater
- Naturalist programs
- Construction of playgrounds
- Building of the park Amphitheater
- Organizing Hikes
- Picnic table maintenance and refurbishing
- Maintaining and replacing fire rings
- Face book Page and Newsletter to keep guests informed
- Partner with businesses and other non-profit groups to provide Earth Day activities
- Building of picnic shelters with electricity

Many more projects have been completed over the years through the work of the Friends of Mirror Lake and much more will be done in the future.

It is very fulfilling to be both a Camp Host and a member of the Friends Group. It is rewarding to see the hard work we put in helping to make your stay a memorable experience.

Like us on Facebook

Visit our website at www.friendsofmirrorlake.org

Reach us by email: friendsofmlsp@gmail.com

Call: 608-254-2333 (Park Office)

Newsletter Articles and Photos are welcome
Debbie McKinney, Newsletter Editor

Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

C/S/ZIP: _____

Email: _____

\$15 Family Membership

\$50 Corporate Membership

\$100 Gold Membership includes park sticker & pin

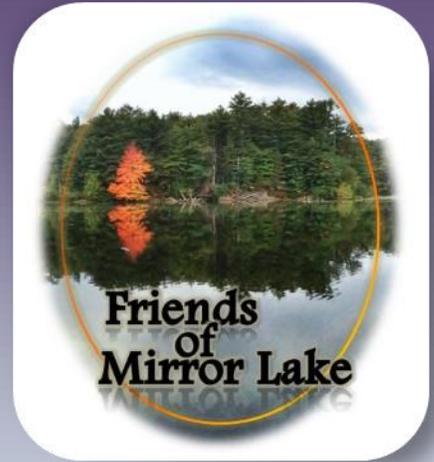
\$_____ enclosed is my donation for

Amphitheater programs

Naturalist programs

Facility improvements (fire rings, etc)

Other: _____



return completed form and check to address below

Friends of Mirror Lake State Park

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Baraboo, WI 53913

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