

Hidden Beach News

Dark Sky Preserve

The State of Michigan has a Dark Sky Preserve statute in place, so Negwegon Friends are seeking to have Negwegon enrolled.

Currently there are 3 state parks designated "Dark Sky Preserves" in Michigan: Lake Hudson State Recreation Area, Wilderness State Park and Port Crescent State Park.

With thoughtful planning, a community can preserve the night sky by implementing lighting that provides safety and eliminates or reduces light pollution.

Sherri Yezbick-Taylor, Photographer

Membership

Join, renew or update your contact information on the enclosed membership form. Be an active volunteer or support the park by being an informed friend of Negwegon State Park.



Stewardship Report: New Project

Daria Hyde, Michigan Natural Features Inventory, is heading an exciting two-year stewardship project researching the habitat of the Hines emerald dragonfly, a federally listed insect.

The mapping and controlling of invasive plant species that may harm the Hines emerald dragonfly's habitat is also included in this project.

This project is funded through a U.S. Fish and Wildlife grant. Jim Larson and Daria Hyde worked to obtain this funding.

Details about this 2 year project and how you can help are on page 3 of this newsletter.



Interpretive Shelter

The Friends of Negwegon State Park is proposing to build an interpretive Kiosk/shelter in the parking lot.

This structure, which would be unstaffed, would serve to introduce visitors to the many resources at the park by way of interpretive elements featuring: dark skies, back-country camping, archeological remains, historic stagecoach route, shipwrecks, school programs and the many natural communities-flora and fauna – which call the park home.

Partners have been identified, assistance from the DNR, MNFI, NOAA and the Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative has been promised, project estimates have been submitted and grants are now being prepared.

Project completion will depend on grant funding, planning and approval through the DNR Parks and Recreation Division. The installation target date will be the summer and fall of 2015. Questions may be directed to Jim Larson at JKL1933@gmail.com.

GLSI Education Projects in Negwegon October 2013

Friends of Negwegon continues its partnership with the Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative and Alcona Schools to support “community based” educational projects in Negwegon State Park.

Christie Thomas’ class visited the park in October to learn about the unique features found along the shore and forest ecosystems.

The class is part of a Great Lakes Adopt-a-Beach project that conducts scientific studies on their “adopted stretch of beach.” Study results are entered into the program’s data base.

Find out more at www.greatlakes.org/ADOPTABEACH





**Help!
Help!**

Help!

Are you interested in helping with a stewardship effort in Negwegon State Park? Would you like to learn to identify rare plants and animals as well as the invasive plants that threaten them? We are building a list of people interested in helping with a project beginning spring 2014 with volunteer opportunities continuing into the summer and fall of 2014. You do not need to commit now, but please let us know if this interests you.

What is the stewardship project?

Negwegon State Park harbors high quality natural communities and state and federally listed plants and animals that are of regional and statewide significance. Adults of the federally listed Hines emerald dragonfly (HED) have been documented at this park, but larval habitat has not been identified. Invasive plants are a primary threat to these coastal communities and a detailed map of these invaders is critical for prioritizing and directing treatment to areas where they pose the greatest threat.

Comprehensive surveys of invasive species and HED larval habitat will be conducted in the interior of the park over a two year period coordinated by Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) scientists, Huron Pines, and local DNR park rangers. Negwegon Friends are helping by seeking out interested volunteers to help carry out the work of the grant. Volunteers will not be limited to Friends of Negwegon members, anyone can help. This project is funded by a U.S. Fish and Wildlife grant.

When will you need volunteers?

There will be **two** training sessions. The first will be a project overview held in the spring of 2014. A **second** field training will be held in June or July when the adult dragonflies are flying so we can learn to identify them and their larval habitat. The volunteer field work will take place over the summer and fall beginning in June or July 2014.

What will I need to know?

In the spring workshop, you will get an overview of the project, learn how to identify many of the rare plants and animals found in the vicinity of Negwegon and learn how the field work will be set up and carried out. In the **second**

training, volunteers will be instructed on how to map observations of HED larval habitat and invasive plant species using a GPS device.

What will I do?

You will be part of a team along with MNFI, Huron Pines and DNR Park staff, using the skills you learned in the training, to systematically walk the interior of Negwegon to identify and map HED larval habitat and invasive plant species. Huron Pines and DNR Park staff will accompany the team and treat small infestations of invasive plants with herbicide as they are identified. This stewardship effort will begin in June or July 2014 and continue into the fall.

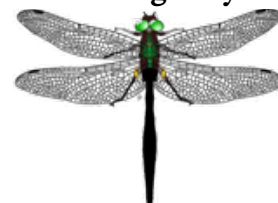
How often will I be working?

Volunteering will be based on your availability and Huron Pines, MNFI, and the park's staff schedules.

Call the Harrisville Park Office 989-724-5126 to leave your name and contact information.

You will be contacted with specific training and volunteer information for spring 2014.

More info about Hines emerald dragonfly:



Lifetime Members

Thank you for your long term support of Friends of Negwegon. Having a stable membership base helps to build a pool of informed park friends.

Because, as a lifetime member, you do not “pay” a membership fee each year, we rely on you to donate any amount to the organization from time to time. And you do! Thank You.

Thank You!

Thank you to all our members for your generous support. Eric Ostrander, Park Supervisor, extends his thanks to everyone who deposited fees for the Recreation Passport in the self-registration pipe at the Park. Eric notes, if you purchase the park pass through the Secretary of State you will get the Passport Perks offering you many discounts.

Logo

Anyone with computer graphics knowledge? The FONSP board has discussed developing a logo for the organization. If you would like to help with this project or offer advice please contact the Harrisville Park Office and leave your contact information. 989-724-5126



FONSP Website

Visit Friends of Negwegon State Park website. Just type in <http://www.fonsp.org/>

Check out projects, information, and volunteer opportunities.

You will find a membership form that allows you to type in your information before you print and mail it.

There is a link to our website on the DNR Negwegon State Park website: