

Media Announcement: For Immediate Release



Media Announcement: Bong Naturalist Association (BNA) Receives Friends of Wisconsin State Parks Incentive Grant Award!

The Bong Naturalist Association (BNA), Friend's Group with Richard Bong State Recreation Area (RBSRA), in Kansasville, WI, is very pleased to announce that the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks (FWSP) has selected the BNA to receive an Incentive Grant award of \$1,500.

With this generous grant award and the BNA match, our focus is to enhance the visitor experience through displaying new interpretative signage and providing new educational programs.

Complementing our soon-to-be-completed accessible snapping turtle exhibit, new signage presenting information about the importance of snapping turtles in freshwater aquatic ecosystems and the turtle species found at Bong will be displayed in our solarium.

Microscopes! BNA will also be providing RBSRA staff and BNA/guest speakers with presentation-quality, student indoor/outdoor and portable wireless/remote microscopes to greatly expand the scope of our indoor and outdoor specialized programs offered. School groups, multi-generational groups and visitors of all ages and abilities will be able to enjoy the intricacies of nature.

RBSRA's wooded outdoor amphitheater is used for many musical, nature and cultural programs. With the assistance of the Incentive Grant, visitors will enjoy a more comfortable experience as BNA replaces 15 bench seats.

Patricia Loosen, Executive Director of the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks stated the following: "The Friends of Wisconsin State Parks would like to congratulate all 33 of the Friends groups who applied for Incentive Grant funding this year! We have awarded all 33 groups with a grant award and the total of grant funds being awarded is \$82,839 this year. The Friends groups are providing match dollars, so that the total amount of projects funded is \$224,600!

These projects are centered around Naturalist and outdoor education, exhibits, signage and programs for visitors to enjoy. Congratulations to **Bong Naturalist Association** for their grant award and we are excited that the visitors at Richard Bong SRA will be able to enjoy the new exhibits and displays this year!"

The BNA wishes to thank the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks Incentive Grant Program and is very grateful for providing us with the means and resources to enhance our new turtle exhibit and offer a greater depth of programming to our visitors of all ages, abilities and sensitivities.

Bong Naturalist Association / c/o RBSRA, 26313 Burlington Road, Kansasville, WI 53139
www.bongnaturalistassociation.org / <https://www.facebook.com/bongnaturalistassociation/>