

# Bong Naturalist Association

A non-profit Friend's organization formed to benefit the park and its visitors. Our members provide volunteer help and raise money to fund projects that contribute to the interpretive and educational programs at Richard Bong State Recreation Area. Our members help support ongoing programs plus tackle projects both large and small that help the park.

## Major Accomplishments

- Raised funds and built an observation platform overlooking the refuge.
- Built a solarium addition to the Visitor Center.
- Developed several interpretive exhibits.
- Received grants and installed interpretive signs.

## Ongoing Projects

- Conduct educational nature programs for visitors & school groups.
- Research and restoration of native habitats.
- Trail maintenance and enhancement.
- Maintain interpretive exhibits.
- Staff the Visitor Center on weekends.
- Participate in plant & wildlife surveys.
- Help at fund raising events – (Nature Faire, Return to Romance, and Wolf Lake Run).

Please join us and contribute to the preservation and beautification of this important natural area.

For questions about any of the above or for more information about the Bong Naturalist Association please call

**Richard Bong State Recreation Area**  
**262-878-5600**



# Benefits of Membership

## All Levels

- The Heron, a newsletter, published four times a year and includes the program schedule.
- Discount on Friends merchandise.
- Invitations to members-only events.
- Reserved spots in select popular programs.
- Information on special events and nature outings.
- Ongoing training and education.
- A right to vote on procedures.
- A sense of satisfaction in giving back to the park.

## Patron/Steward/Benefactor

- Listed in special section of The Heron when dues are paid.



The Bong Naturalist Association is a volunteer organization, 100% of all funds benefit Richard Bong State Recreation Area.

With your help we can do even more for Richard Bong State Recreation Area!

# Donations

are always accepted

Send your tax deductible donation to:

BONG NATURALIST ASSOCIATION  
Richard Bong State Recreation Area  
26313 Burlington Road  
Kansasville, WI 53139

# From Prairie to Planes and Back Again

A brief chronology of the land that's now  
**Richard Bong State Recreation Area**

- Before 1800: Territory of grassland, wetland, and oak savanna traversed by Potawatomi American Indian tribes.
- Mid-1800's: Land was surveyed for statehood. Settlers from England and Germany arrive and till the rich soil for crops.
- 1954: U.S. Air Force purchased land from 59 owners to establish jet interceptor and/or Strategic Air Command Base.
- 1958: Air Base construction begins. Base is named in honor of Wisconsin's World War II Flying Ace, Richard I. Bong.
- 1959: Air Base project was cancelled.
- 1974: Department of Natural Resources buys 4,515 acres, which becomes Richard Bong State Recreation Area. (Wisconsin's first recreation area).
- Today: Wetlands restoration, prairie establishment, interpretive programs, camping, swimming, hiking, picnicking, skiing, hunting, fishing, trapping, falconry, all terrain vehicle/dirt bike riding, snowmobiling, dog sledding, dog training and trials, model airplane flying, horseback riding, hang gliding, ultra light flying, hot air ballooning, land sailing, model aircraft/rocket flying, and more.



# Membership Application

Yes, I'd like to become a member of the BONG NATURALIST ASSOCIATION!

## MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- Individual.....\$10.00/Year
- Family..... \$20.00/Year
- Protector.....\$50.00/Year
- Patron..... \$100.00/Year
- Steward.....\$250.00/Year
- Benefactor.....\$500.00/Year

Remember--Membership fees are tax deductible.

This is a gift membership from

(Name) \_\_\_\_\_  
to the person(s) listed below.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose this page with a check for the appropriate amount and mail to:

BONG NATURALIST ASSOCIATION  
Richard Bong State Recreation Area  
26313 Burlington Road  
Kansasville, WI 53139

# Richard Bong State Recreation Area



Richard Bong State Recreation Area entrance is located in Kenosha County, approximately 9 miles West of I-94 on Hwy 142.

## What is a Recreation Area?

A recreation area differs from state parks and forests by providing for recreational facilities & activities not traditionally found in state parks or forests.

Richard Bong State Recreation Area has a Special Use Zone that encompasses 1,200 acres. Special uses add color, interest, and variety for visitors and make Richard Bong State Recreation Area a unique place.

A state park admission sticker is required on all motor vehicles. You can buy either an annual sticker, for admission to all state parks and forests for the calendar year, or a daily sticker, valid only on the date of issue.

**Come out and see for yourself what a great place Richard Bong State Recreation Area is to visit and support.**

# MAKE A DIFFERENCE Join



Our members have fun while contributing to the preservation and beautification of Richard Bong State Recreation Area