

EXCLUSIVE: 78-Year Old Genesee Man Threatened With Citation For Trying To Hike In State Park Closed By Evers
By Mark Belling, WISN-AM

A 78-year old Town of Genesee man, who says he has never committed an act of civil disobedience before, deliberately walked past barricades and DNR wardens in an attempt to hike at a state park closed by order of Governor Tony Evers.

Thomas McGivern indicated in advance he was going to show up at Lapham Peak Park for a morning hike he has been taking for many years. McGivern tells me he believes Evers' order yesterday closing many state parks is a violation of his rights, and stupid. As promised, he showed up at 11 AM and walked past barricades and was stopped by DNR wardens who were posted at the site on Evers' orders. McGivern told them he had a right to use the park and they would have to stop him. McGivern said another man joined him in the attempt to enter the park.

McGivern told the wardens he wanted to be cited so he could take his ticket to court and object on Constitutional grounds. The wardens took his name and information and said they would ask their superiors to decide if McGivern would be mailed a ticket.

Hundreds of Wisconsinites have objected to Evers' order that most parks be closed. So far, not a single Republican member of the legislature has objected to Evers' draconian closing of outdoor parks, some of which are hundreds of acres in size.

McGivern tells me he wants his name used and he feels a moral obligation to take a stand as he feels Evers' order is one of the worst violations of rights he has seen in his long lifetime.

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