

The BogHaunter

the newsletter of the Friends of the Cedarburg Bog

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SPRING 2012

MARSH MARIGOLD

"Marsh Marigold hath great, broad leaves, somewhat round, smooth, of a gallante green colour, sleightly indented or purld about the edges, among which rise up thicke fat stalkes, likewise greene; whereupon doe grow goodly yellow flowers, glittering like gold."

Gerard, 17th century herbalist

Your Grandma probably called them "Cowslips," the flowers that turn newly-thawed wetlands a riotous yellow in the last days of April. Skunk cabbage and pussy willow may whisper the arrival of spring, but there's no mistaking marsh marigold's announcement. Thoreau called them "A flower-fire bursting up, as if through crevices in the meadow where they grow," and Naturalist John Burroughs wrote that "they give a golden lining to many a dark, marshy place in the leafless April woods."

Named by early settlers for the fragrant, yellow, pasture-dwelling English cowslip (a primrose), marsh marigolds aren't related to either primroses or marigolds. Marsh buttercup would be the most accurate name for these members of the Buttercup family Ranunculaceae (Ranunculus is Latin for "little frog"). The scientific name, *Caltha palustris*, means "Cup of the swamp."

A flower as noticeable as this one is bound to amass a variety of common names. Marsh marigold is also called cowslips, bull's eyes, water starwort, palsywort, capers, water bubbles, and horse blob. "Cowslip" itself is from the Old English word for cow dung or cow slobber.

Marsh marigold is found in damp-to-wet ground around the world – in fens, swamps, river bottoms, wet meadows, ditches, and ephemeral ponds. It grows best in sunny places with saturated soil, and though it often grows on hummocks, it can begin uncurling its leaves and stems under water. Thirty-

five years ago, it was hard to find a marsh marigold in bloom in the Cedarburg Bog before the first week of May; now its flowers are commonly seen in the last ten days of April.

The flower has no petals but is made up of five to ten shiny yellow sepals (sepals are the outside, usually-green layer that protects the petals of a flower bud). A marsh marigold sepal's yellow color is in a waxy coating that can easily be scraped off with your thumbnail, leaving the tissue translucent.



Marsh Marigold

Each flower has both male and female parts, but their arrangement discourages self-fertilization. Because marsh marigolds are abundant sources of pollen and nectar – each of a flower's many pistils (female flower parts) has two nectar stores at its base – they attract more than three dozen species of early pollinators during the month they are in bloom. Sweat bees, flower flies, and bee flies feast, and while doing so, transfer some of the pollen they arrived with.

Marsh marigold plants continue to grow after the seeds are produced, and the dark, toothed leaves become large and rank. They spread by seed, and the cluster of split seed capsules looks like

a many-pointed star. If the autumn is long and warm, a few plants may sprout and bloom when the day-length is right.

Thoreau said that "the flower has no scent but speaks wholly to the eye." A bee's world view is vastly different than ours is; its perception of UV light makes the yellow sepals look purple and the center, where the nectar is found, black. Thoreau was wrong about the scent, but the flower's faint odor is more easily detected by insects than by humans.

Like many members of the Buttercup family, marsh marigold has acrid juices that discourage most grazers (except for moose). Some game birds eat the seeds. In spite of their toxic glucosides and alkaloids, the plant has been used for both food and medicine. Marsh marigold leaves are a tasty and nutritious pot herb, high in Vitamins A and C, iron, and minerals, but only after they are boiled in several changes of water to disarm the chemicals. Pickled flower buds are a substitute for capers.

The caustic sap was applied to warts, and historically, a flower tea was taken internally to cure "fits." The leaves were eaten to treat dropsy, coughs, and anemia, and the Ojibwe cooked the iron-rich leaves for new mothers.

The flower makes a yellow dye for yarn. A widespread folk tale says that the pale butter of winter turns bright yellow when cows feed on marsh marigold flowers in early spring.

For information about the plants of wet places, try [The Book of Swamp and Bog](#) by John Eastman.

Friends of the Cedarburg Bog

Supporting stewardship and appreciation of the Cedarburg Bog through land management, preservation, research and education

BIRD CITY AND THE BOG

The Cedarburg Bog finds itself increasingly surrounded by Bird City Wisconsin communities.

And that's a good thing, as far as the Friends of the Cedarburg Bog are concerned because the program recognizes cities, villages, towns and counties that are committed to making their communities a better place for people, birds and other wildlife. That certainly is in sync with our mission.

The bog actually lies within one really big Bird City community: Ozaukee County was among the inaugural 15 places recognized on Dec. 2, 2010 in this innovative and collaborative approach to urban bird conservation modeled on the long-established Tree City USA run by the Arbor Day Foundation.

Joining the program recently were the City of West Bend, the Town of Grafton, and the Village of Newburg. Each was presented with a special Bird City Wisconsin (BCW) flag, a plaque and two street signs to honor their conservation achievements.

The statewide project has its roots in this area. Its statewide coordinator is Carl Schwartz, who is president of the Friends of the Cedarburg Bog. The BCW steering committee is led by Andrew Struck, Ozaukee County director of planning and parks and president of the Milwaukee Audubon Society. Noel Cutright, longtime friend of the Bog and a member of the Friends of the Cedarburg Bog stewardship committee, also serves on the BCW steering committee.



And BCW's distinctive logo and sign were designed by another member of the Friends board, noted landscape painter Tom Uttech, and his wife Mary,

a designer with the American Society for Quality.

The announcement on January 12 of 10 additional communities brought Bird City's ranks to 39. Schwartz said BCW was continuing to surpass its goals for growth and had spurred communities statewide to initiate a number of new bird conservation projects, many of them emphasizing habitat protection or restoration. It also has raised the profile of International Migratory Bird Day, celebrated across two continents, including at nearly three dozen public events this spring in Wisconsin.

Cutright added: "Every community that has qualified to become a Bird City should feel proud and wear a feather in their cap. Over and over again, it has been demonstrated that a place that is a haven for birds and is doing good things to benefit them is a better place in which to live and work."

Bird City accepts applications three times each year, with the next deadline July 1. Schwartz said he has had initial conversations with public officials and interested citizens in the neighboring villages of Saukville, Cedarburg and Grafton and hopes to see many more bog-area communities seek Bird City recognition by meeting at least 7 of its 22 conservation criteria.

BCW is using its web site, www.birdcitywisconsin.org, to guide communities through the process. The site walks birdwatchers, natural landscaping advocates, foresters, parks directors, city planners and other interested officials and public citizens through the application process, and includes how-to details on implementing new conservation strategies. It also features details on how each community earned recognition, providing tips for those who follow.

PHOTO CONTEST REMINDER

The Friends of the Cedarburg Bog Photo Contest is under way. For details and deadlines, please check <http://www.bogfriends.org/bog-friends-blog>.

BLUE BUTTERFLIES of SPRING

Most of the butterflies of the Bog overwinter in cocoons, but a few species of butterflies -- Mourning Cloaks, Question Marks and Commas -- pass the winter in adult form. In order to accomplish this unusual feat, they must find a cozy spot, a hibernaculum, that shelters them from the elements and maintains a specific mix of tempera-

ture and humidity so that they don't dry out. Glycerol (anti-freeze) in their blood allows their tissues to withstand the winter cycles of freeze and thaw. These are the first butterflies we see each year, and they may even emerge briefly during a warm spell in late winter. They mate and lay eggs in spring, and their caterpillars get first crack at the early greens.



A summer Azure butterfly

Spring Azures (*Celastrina ladon*) are among the earliest butterflies to emerge from a cocoon each year. They are tiny bits of sky that flicker through sun-dappled swamps, woods openings and edges of the Bog during April and May. Azures have wingspreads of $\frac{3}{4}$ " to $1\frac{1}{4}$ " (females are at the larger end of the scale), but despite their size, they are hardy enough to survive the frosty nights of early April.

Adult Azures don't live long or eat much. They may sip a little nectar or get liquid and minerals from the mud (a behavior called puddling). Males patrol for mates in forest openings and edges and along forest trails, sometimes ascending to the tree-tops in the thin sunshine of spring. A female will mate within hours of emerging. She lays her eggs the next day on the flower buds of host plants like maple-leaved viburnum, black cherry, and sumac, and then she dies.

When her eggs hatch, the caterpillars - green, conspicuously segmented, and covered with white stubble - eat the flowers first and then the developing fruits. The flowers of their host plants tend to be frequented by ants (the unsung pollinators of flowers), which discover, care for and protect the caterpillars. In return, the ants harvest honeydew produced by the caterpillars. The larval stage takes about a month, but the resting/pupal stage is a whopper, lasting from early summer until the next spring.

To see an Azure with its wings folded is to miss the point. The lower surface of the wing is pale gray with an assort-

ment of black dots and lines. The upper surface confirms the name "Azure." The blue upper wings of the female are bordered with black, and the males' wings are pure blue.

By mid-June, Spring Azures are mostly gone, replaced by the nearly identical Summer Azures (they're sometimes referred to as the Spring Spring Azure and the Summer Spring Azure). The underwing of the Summer Azure is paler and its spots less distinct than the Spring Azure. A third butterfly, one that is on the scene through the flight periods of both the Spring and Summer Azures, is the equally-small Eastern Tailed-Blue, whose upper wings are quite a bit darker than those of the Azures and which is about two-thirds the size of a Spring Azure.



Eastern tailed-blue butterfly

Classification of the Azures is being reshuffled and DNA sequencing will probably be needed to unravel the relationships. What was once considered to be a single large and gloriously diverse species with several sub-species is now thought to be many species. Ten or eleven species of Blues and Azures occur in Wisconsin.

The Friends is developing a list of butterflies of the Bog and we hope to have it available at the kiosk in the Hwy 33 parking lot soon. A great website for photos and information about Wisconsin butterflies is <http://wisconsinbutterflies.org/>.

BOG WEAR

In order to meet your fashion needs, the Friends carries tasteful, seasonal items - Grip-ons ice cleats for winter (\$16) and peacock green Friends of the Cedarburg Bog T-shirts (\$15), designed by Tom Uttech, for the rest of the year. Either might be useful on an April day. You can purchase them in person at the Field Station, or we can send them to you. Add \$1.75 per item for shipping and be sure to tell us your size.

MUD LAKE MIGRATION CENSUS - BIRDING BY BOAT!

Bird censusing in the Cedarburg Bog dates back at the very least to the 1970s and 1980s when Dr. Charles Weise of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee was conducting breeding bird surveys covering wide areas of the Bog complex.

Periodic surveys have been conducted since then; however, regular weekly systematic surveys covering both the spring and the fall migrations were not initiated until three years ago when two routes were set up - one on the UWM boardwalk and the second on established trails into the forested areas and fields of the UWM Field Station. Both of these survey routes are "point counts" - meaning that all birds heard or seen at designated spots are tallied during a five minute period at each of six point spots.

In the early spring of 2011 a third bird migration census route was added to the mix. On April 9, soon after the ice had disappeared, the first systematic Mud Lake bird survey was launched with a big splash! And what a splash it has been! Thousands of individual birds and up to 137 separate species were recorded during the spring migration period of April 9 to June 16 and the fall migration period of August 22 to September 20.

Here are some of the highlights of the 2011 Mud Lake census: evidence of breeding of Ruddy Ducks (a very uncommon Wisconsin breeder, especially this far south), probable Least Bittern nesting (another uncommon Wisconsin breeder), sightings of Northern Harriers and Red-shouldered Hawks suggestive of a regular presence and possible breeding, a flyover of Cattle Egrets (rare in Wisconsin), and indications that Mud Lake not only maintains a sizable breeding population of rails, waterfowl, and bitterns, but also is an important spring migration staging area for these species.



Sandhill Crane

Counting birds by canoe and/or kayak has been quite a contrast to the two walking census counts. As with the land surveys, six semi-equidistant points were mapped out -- each with its own GPS coordinate readings. However, trying to hold an exact position in a light boat when the wind blows is no easy feat; and identifying waterfowl in an early morning mist and/or using binoculars in choppy waters can present challenges to an unsettled stomach!

All this aside, the inconveniences have been far outweighed by the rewards of being in a North Woods-like wilderness setting so close to Milwaukee: hearing the slap of a beaver's tail and listening to Sandhill Cranes bugle in the dawn, seeing the occasional otter, observing Bald Eagles and Northern Harriers hunt coots and Ospreys fish, but most of all being able to paddle silently around and through rafts of ducks, geese, and even swans reenacting the great Spring migration spectacle.

The second annual Mud Lake migratory bird count should get an early start this 2012 with the ice expected to retreat well before April.

by John O'Donnell



A Pied-billed Grebe

DID YOU KNOW....?

Although they swim around in the same spots as ducks and geese, Pied-billed Grebes are not waterfowl. Members of the Grebe family don't have webbed feet. Their legs are placed close to the rear of their body, and each toe has a series of lobes that help push the bird through the water. Pied-billed Grebes dive under the water and use their chicken-like bill to catch aquatic animals like snails, tadpoles, frogs and small fish. A common nickname is "Helldiver."

The Cedarburg Bog: designated a Wetland Gem and an Important Bird Area

SEE YOU AT THE BOG

Join us for these events, sponsored by the Friends of the Cedarburg Bog. All walks will meet at the UWM Field Station on Blue Goose Rd.

Space is limited, so please register at the Friends of the Cedarburg Bog website - Bogfriends.org (click on the Events tab) or by email at fieldstn@uwm.edu or call 262-675-6844. Walks are free and are open to the public; a \$3 donation is appreciated.

WOODCOCKS and FROGS AT THE BOG

April 23, 7 to 9 PM

Celebrate the early spring chorus of frogs, woodcock, cranes, and other wetland noise-makers.

AT THE NORTH END OF THE BOG

May 6, 9 AM to noon.

Explore the public trails at the north end of the Bog. Trip starts from the UWM Field Station parking lot.

THE BOG IN SPRING

May 20, 9 AM to noon.

Find out what plants and animals are up and about on a day in May.

BIRD WALK

May 27, 6:30 to 8:30 AM

Search for migrants and breeding birds of the Bog.

SOLSTICE WALK

June 20, 6 to 8:30 PM

Hike the Bog as the sun sets on our longest day.

WILD FOODS WORKSHOP

August 4

Join forager Mike Krebill for a foraging-themed hike and a sample of wild foods.

Stay tuned for more details

PLEASE - NO PETS ALLOWED

PHENOLOGY CONFERENCE

The Cedarburg Bog will have a starring role in an international conference on phenology that will be held at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee this fall. The overall theme of the conference is "Future Climate and the Living Earth."

Phenology is the study of Nature's calendar - of each year's first and last sightings of migrating or nesting birds, emerging butterflies, blooming flowers, calling frogs, flies on the garage door, maple tapping - just about any seasonal phenomenon you might notice. Journals of the great conservationist Aldo Leopold are revealing that many of today's spring "firsts" are notably earlier than they were in the 1930's and '40's.

Main conference events will take place at the UW-Milwaukee School of Continuing Education Conference Center from September 10 through the 12th, and field trips will be held on September 13. For more details about the conference, see <http://www4.uwm.edu/lets/sci/conferences/phenology2012/index.cfm>.

The Bog trip is one of two major field trips of the conference. It will be led by Field Station Manager Dr. Gretchen Meyer, whose research interests cover the areas of plant-animal interactions and conservation biology.

Participants will hike the Field Station's boardwalk trail and will observe phenological monitoring projects. The Cedarburg Bog is one of the largest, most diverse, and biologically interesting wetlands in southern Wisconsin. Its most unusual feature is the presence of a string or "patterned" bog, a vegetation type that is typically found much further north.



Wild Columbine

WISH LIST

Needed for Field Station housing, gently used:

- Kitchen table
- Kitchen chairs
- Easy chair or two
- Living room furniture

The Friends of the Cedarburg Bog is a 501 (c) 3 organization. Any donations are tax deductible.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE.....

Remember to check out our new website at www.bogfriends.org. The website features information about events, membership, volunteer opportunities, archived newsletters, information about the Bog, plenty of pictures, and links to other environmental organizations.

Thanks again to Dave Bishop, owner of Eco Web Design of Mequon, for a spectacular job.

.....AND OUR KIOSK



In the fall of 2011, Boy Scout Brandon Krauska with the help of other members of Troop 806, constructed an information kiosk in the public parking lot off of Hwy 33 at the north end of the Bog as his Eagle Scout project. The kiosk will feature a large map, information about the geologic and human history of the Bog, about what can be seen seasonally, and about trail etiquette and hunting.

Thanks to Brandon for his hard work in building a beautiful kiosk.

TREASURES OF OZ

On June 16th the third annual Treasures of Oz event celebrates "The Wonderful Waters of Oz." Grab your Treasures of Oz passport and travel to any or all of the eight Ozaukee County sites.

The sites are open for tours and activities from 9 AM to 3 PM. Get your passport stamped at each stop and trade the stamps for raffle tickets at the Treasures of Oz home base at the Forest Beach Migratory Preserve. Cyclists should check the website for information about "bike stamps." There will be tours, talks, exhibits, music and food (for sale) at Forest Beach, which is open from 1 – 6 PM.



Watts Lake, north end of the Bog

Members of the Friends of Cedarburg Bog's board of directors will offer special guided walks at 9 AM, 10:30 AM, noon and 1:30 PM. The first walk will pay special attention to the bog's birds, while the others will cover a wider range of flora, fauna and natural history. Or, visitors may hike the half mile, ADA compliant trail to beautiful Watts Lake on their own.

Treasures of Oz is a family-friendly event. Visit the Treasures website www.treasuresofoz.org for more information, maps, destinations and to download passports.

BATTING FIVE THOUSAND

The mission of the Friends of the Cedarburg Bog includes supporting stewardship efforts in the Bog and its uplands, but an important part of stewardship is knowing just what it is you're taking care of. The Friends has just received a \$4,900 grant from the Wisconsin Energy Foundation that will allow us to begin monitoring bat populations at the Bog and in surrounding areas. The Friends are working in partnership with the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory, which is headquartered at the Forest Beach Migratory Preserve near Belgium, WI.

The funding will allow the Friends to purchase an ANABAT electronic bat monitoring unit that will record and identify bats' nocturnal calls because unlike bird calls, most bat calls can't be heard by the human ear. Data collected by the project will supplement information gathered by the Wisconsin Bat Monitoring Program, a project run

by WDNR wildlife ecologists aimed at studying the numbers and distribution of the seven species of bat that call Wisconsin home for part or all of the year. A lethal fungus infection called "white-nose syndrome" is decimating hibernating populations of Eastern bats. As the disease gets closer to Wisconsin, it's urgent to have baseline data on our bats.

Bill Mueller of the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory staff will be the principal coordinator of the project, which will begin in April. The grant will enable us to acquire valuable equipment for the Field Station, and the Friends will work with environmental organizations like Riveredge Nature Center in Newburg, Lac Lawrann Conservancy in West Bend, Mequon Nature Preserve in Mequon, Schlitz Audubon Nature Center in Bayside, and the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust to educate the public about the intricate lifestyles and ecological importance of bats.

The bat study represents the 10th successful grant application written by the Friends in the past six years and is a testament to the importance of Friends groups.

CALENDAR

Nature activities for a wide variety of interests.

See the list of Friends-sponsored activities elsewhere in this newsletter

RIVEREDGE BIRD CLUB

First Tuesday of the month

Bird walk – 6 PM

Program – 7 PM

At: Riveredge Nature Center Barn.

Free. The public is welcome.

April 3 - Getting To Know Shorebirds

Fifth in our Back to Basics series, Bill Volkert makes sense of this large order of birds.

June 5 - "BIGBYing" The Milwaukee Lakefront. BIGBY is an acronym derived from Big Green Big Year but now is simply a shorthand word for GreenBirding.

SCIENCE FOR EVERYONE

Public programs on Natural History.

7 to 8:15 PM

Third Tuesday of the month at Riveredge Nature Center (RNC), Newburg; and fourth Tuesday at Washington County Public Agency Center (WCPAC), West Bend. This series no longer meets in Cedarburg.

Fee: Free (\$5 Donation Appreciated)

April 17 – Woodland Harvest – Demonstrating a New Future for Farming

Woodland Harvest Riveredge educator Keith Hiestand will talk about "permaculture" as a framework for sustainable agriculture based in nature's image. RNC

April 24 – Soil, Its Importance to Gardening and Good Food

Mary Ann Ihm, founder of Wellspring and author of a new book titled The Wellspring Story, the First 30 Years, examines soil as a vibrant and active community. (WCPAC)

FRIENDS OF THE CEDARBURG BOG

Quarterly board meeting

April 12, 7 to 9 PM

Members welcome

At: UWM Field Station

ANNUAL MIDWEST CRANE COUNT

April 14, 5:30 to 7:30 AM

A great Citizen Science opportunity. Contact your county coordinator.

Milwaukee, Ozaukee: Lee Arhelger, 91lee@337lee.com, 414-453-5243,

Washington: Bob Raffel, protectsandhillcranes@gmail.com, 262-966-2280.

For information or other counties: <http://www.savingcranes.org/annual-midwest-crane-count.html>

EXPLORING THE VERNAL POND

April 14, 1 to 2:30 PM

Join a naturalist to explore the vernal pond and find out what makes a wetland a wetland and find the animals that spend part of their lives underwater.

Fee: Adult \$6, 12 & Under \$4

Member: Adult \$4, 12 & Under \$3

At: Riveredge Nature Center



Dot-tailed Whiteface dragonfly

BECOME A WATER QUALITY MONITOR

April 28, 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Learn how to assess the water quality of a stream or river, identify aquatic invertebrates,

and do five tests. Monitors conduct tests monthly during the summer, and submit data to a statewide website.

Adult Program

Call 262-375-2715 to register.

Fee: Free (\$5 Donation Appreciated)

At: Riveredge Nature Center

SPRING NIGHT HIKE

April 28, 7 to 8:30 PM

The frogs will be singing and the land will be alive with night sounds. Discover what happens in prairies, forests and wetlands at night.

Pre-registration suggested at 800-287-8098 or www.riveredge.us.

Fee: Adult \$7, 12 and under \$5

Member: Adult \$5, 12 and under \$4

At: Riveredge Nature Center

LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS

May 5, 10 AM and 11 AM sessions

Master Gardener Melinda Myers will answer questions, followed by a book signing (books will be available for purchase).

Tickets are \$5 in advance at West Bend Park and Rec. Department or the West Bend Area Chamber of Commerce.

At: Prairie Center, West Bend Mutual Insurance Company, Paradise Dr. and 18th Street.

ANNUAL WILDFLOWER and PERENNIAL SALE

May 12, 9 AM - 1 PM

Shop for prairie, wetland and woodland wildflowers and for garden perennials at this 25th annual sale.

At: Lac Lawrann Conservancy, 300 Schmidt Road, West Bend

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY WALK

May 19, 9 AM

Enjoy a guided bird walk at the height of spring migration.

At: Lac Lawrann Conservancy, 300 Schmidt Rd., West Bend



Wild Geraniums

BIRDATHON/BANDATHON

May 19, - Dawn to Dusk:

Join the Riveredge Bird Club for this all-day birding and banding event. Bird with a group or solo. For more information contact Mary H. 800-287-8098 or maryh@riveredge.us

At: Riveredge Nature Center

RUN WILD AT THE PRESERVE

5K RUN/WALK

June 2

All proceeds will support a student wildlife monitoring program.

For information, call Kristin Gies 262-242-8055 ext 106 and check www.mequonnaturepreserve.org.

At: Mequon Nature Preserve
8200 W County Line Road
Mequon WI 53097

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

June 3rd, 9AM to Noon

2nd Annual Friends of Harrington Beach Pancake Breakfast. Enjoy the free admission on Open House Day for the State Parks. The Pancake Breakfast is a fundraising event for the Future Handicapped Accessible Cabin.

At: Harrington Beach State Park

RIVEREDGE BUTTERFLY COUNT

June 30, 9:30 AM to noon, 1 to 3 PM.

Optional butterfly review at 8:30 AM.

Discover the beautiful world of butterflies in this annual, national count. Come for part or all of the day, bring a lunch, binoculars are helpful.

Pre-registration suggested at 800-287-8098 or www.riveredge.us.

At: Riveredge Nature Center



Thirteen Striped Ground squirrel

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

UWM Field Station
3095 Blue Goose Road
Saukville, WI 53098

