

THE BOG HAUNTER

Volume 1, Number 3

the newsletter of the Friends of the Cedarburg Bog

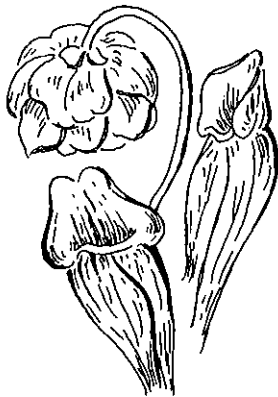
October, 2006

MAN BITES DOG!

The old saw of journalism says that "Dog Bites Man" isn't news, but that "Man Bites Dog" is. Insects eat plants every day, but in the Bog, some plants bite back!

Three kinds of carnivorous plants – pitcher plants, sundews, and bladderworts – inhabit the wet center of the Cedarburg Bog, and each uses a different strategy to catch its prey. Each also makes its own food through the process of photosynthesis.

Pitcher plants, the largest "meat-eaters," grow in a perennial rosette of green, pitcher-shaped leaves up to about eight inches tall. These leaves fill with rainwater in spring, and by summer the water of each pitcher holds a community of algae, plant grazers, and tiny predators.



Insects are attracted to the pitcher's lip by its color and possibly by its reservoir of water. Reddish streaks lead downward on the inside of the pitcher's lip; in the language of insects, dark red means meat, so they follow the trail.

Smooth, waxy cuticle coats the upper third of the inside of the

pitcher, and tiny plates break off when an insect hooks its feet to the wax. A field of downward-pointing needle-like projections discourages insects from turning back. Below the needles, the wax is glassy smooth. The prey slides into the pitcher, drowns and is digested by enzymes in the water. The living denizens of that water may help break up the prey so it is more easily processed.

A Michigan man who claimed to be 125 years old attributed his longevity to drinking the water from pitcher plants.

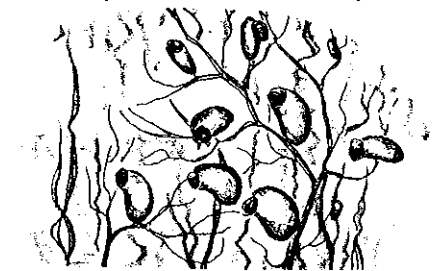
Two species of sundews grow in the central String Bog. Tiny (the whole plant may often be covered by a 50 cent piece) rosettes of round-leaved sundew grow on damp, slightly acidic surfaces, while the extremely rare linear-leaved sundew prefers wetter, sunnier, less acid spots.

The leaves of sundews are covered by "hairs," or glands, that produce sweet, glistening, sticky "dew." When tiny insects get stuck in the sundew's "glue," the glands bend toward the prey. Round-leaved sundew also partially folds its whole leaf around its catch. Digestion takes about a week. Sundews generally trap small insects like ants; they may trap (but can't engulf) prey as large as damselflies.

Bladderworts are the third group of carnivorous plant, and five species can be found in the Bog. Their rootless stems float in open water or creep in shallow water or across mud. A small, yellow "snapdragon" flower growing out of the water signals bladderwort's presence. Interspersed among the floating leaves are scores of tiny, oval bladders (when a plant is pulled out of the water, the faint, pop-

ping sound of closing trap doors may be heard).

Early naturalists thought bladders were floatation devices, but each is a water-filled trap, equipped with a trap door and activated by a trigger hair. When a tiny aquatic animal like a daphnia bumps into a hair, the trap door opens and the animal is sucked in by negative water pressure. Bladderworts digest their prey over a period of several days.



Dense growths of bladderwort indicate thriving populations of zooplankton. A researcher estimated that bladders on a large bladderwort plant may contain as many as 150,000 organisms.

Why the carnivorous habit? Decomposition is very slow in this aquatic system due to low oxygen levels, so nutrients are not recycled quickly. Invertebrates unlucky enough to fall prey to a meat-eating plant provide it with a needed mineral supplement.

BOG PALETTE

The Bog's autumn spectacle is in full swing, a treat for the senses. Its grand finale is more boisterous than the first, cautious steps of spring.

Wetland and upland produce a rainbow of color - blue of lobelia, dogwood berries, and of blue jays carrying acorns through a miles-high sky; red

of sumac leaves and jack-in-the-pulpit berries; green of katydids, green frogs and cedar boughs; gold and amber of ostrich fern, bur marigold, beech leaves, goldenrod, and tamarack needles; orange of jewelweed flowers, bittersweet berries, and small, surprising mushrooms; purple of ash and nightshade leaves and of asters; white of birch bark and ladies-tress orchids,



gray of beech trunks, herons, and of cranes, voicing soft migration calls.

Sugar maples in the upland woods scroll from green through yellow to orange-red as

green chlorophyll pigment in their leaves dies and the remaining pigments can finally be seen. An early morning drive along rustic Blue Goose Road is breath-taking as the sun rises to kindle the Beech Woods.

DUCK SKIFFS

Duck skiffs, decoys, hip boots and mud are as identifiable with the Cedarburg Bog as red-winged blackbirds, tamaracks and cattails. Duck hunters used the Bog for years before the Wisconsin Conservation Department, the predecessor of the DNR, recognized the significance of this wetland.

Prior to 1946, the entire Bog was in private ownership. The era of public ownership commenced in 1946 when the Conservation Department authorized the purchase of 519

acres of property in the Bog for \$12.22 per acre on the recommendation of Commissioner Aldo Leopold.

During the first half of the 20th century hunters from the surrounding communities and from Milwaukee paddled the lakes in the Bog to engage in the sport of waterfowling. At least five individuals or groups of hunters purchased or leased property in the Bog for the primary propose of duck hunting. Interestingly, four of the five groups were from the Milwaukee area rather than the surrounding communities.

One of the first was my grandfather, August F. Kellner, a Milwaukee floral decorator. It's unknown how he discovered this inaccessible swamp 30 miles north of Milwaukee. How long he hunted the Bog before he purchased property is also unknown. What is known is that in 1926 he and his wife Martha purchased 54 acres on the north shore of Mud Lake for \$1,315.50 from a local farmer, Martin Fechter. I'm sure Martha was thrilled!

By 1928 August had constructed a hunting shack on the property. Tamarack stilts supported the approximately 10' x 15' cement-coated structure. The porch on the front of the shack faced the lake and had two sheet metal gates which slid up and down on steel tracks to allow for the storage of skiffs in the water beneath the floor. A pier and a plank-lined channel provided access to Mud Lake.

Court records show that in 1928 August leased the property for five years to a George Klug for the purpose of raising and trapping muskrats. August reserved the right to hunt, fish, pick berries, cut fall foliage and use the cottage on the property for himself and up to four guests. No doubt the venture failed with the onset of the Depression and a decrease in the demand for fur. No reference was

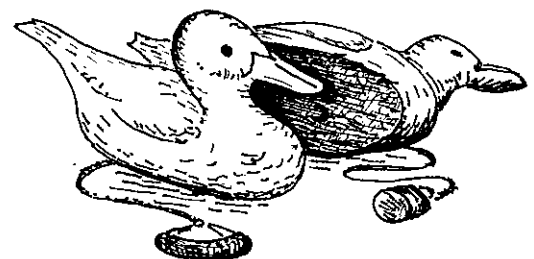
ever made to Mr. Klug renewing the lease for an additional five years.

Long Lake, on the east side of the Bog, was also the site of a duck hunting club. Fifty-two acres of land were purchased from the Bell family by four Milwaukee individuals in 1941. The 1948 plat map indicated that these men had expanded their holding to include 240 additional acres to the north, which completely encompassed Long Lake.

Named the Duck Puddle Club, the hunters built a cabin on the eastern shore of Long Lake that was accessible via an easement across the Bell's farm. The Club existed until about 2002, and now most of the land has been purchased by the DNR.

Tamarack Retreat, Inc, a third group of seven individuals from Milwaukee, purchased 112 acres on the northwest side of Mud Lake from the Weiss family in 1955. Prior to this purchase many of these hunters had leased the right to access Mud Lake from the farmer, Leo Biever, for \$10 per year

A relic, tin- covered shack built prior to World War II still remains on the property, but the pier and covered boat house succumbed to the effects of ice and several well placed sticks of dynamite in the late 50's! Currently, the third generation of hunters uses a "new" cabin and boat house located on the shore of the outlet creek flowing from Mud Lake.



Less is known about the nine or ten small parcels of land which once fronted the Bog north of Cedar Sauk Road.

Several rudimentary foot paths radiated to the north, traversing the tangled shrub and unstable bog mat to access the hook-shaped appendage leading to Mud Lake.

One hunter, George Hoeff, a Milwaukee shoe store owner, owned a small tract east of the current public access site. George leased the right to use his path to several duck hunters from Grafton and Cedarburg

Skiffs, canoes and rowboats were dragged into the marsh prior to the duck season, chained to trees or just turned upside down in the cattails. More than one hunter arrived in the pre-dawn to find his boat had been "borrowed" by another hunter for a day on the marsh.

The last privately owned access site off of Cedar Sauk Road is located ¾ of a mile east of Hilly Lane. This 13 acre parcel was used extensively during the 1950's and 1960's by Cedarburg and Grafton hunters.

Today, duck hunters still hunt the Bog from the shore and from floating islands named after hunters that preceded them.

"Eric's Blind", "Sorenson's Bog", "Phil's", "The Hardware Men", "The Minister's Blind"(he never Hunted on Sunday), "Cudahy's," "Grandpa's", and "McBroom's" are historical references to men who have long since hung up their

shotguns but who shared the thrill of the annual migration of waterfowl.

by Board Member Don Bezella

A HIKE IN THE BOG

Trails on the DNR property at the north and south ends of the Bog are open for hiking year-round. From the pull-off at the south edge, near the intersection of Cedar Sauk and Horn's Corners Roads, a short but rugged trail ends at Mud Lake. Muscle your canoe in and have a nice float.

A trail beginning at the public parking lot off Highway 33 between Saukville and Newburg, just west of Lakeland Road, eventually forks; the east branch leads to a handicapped accessible fishing pier in Watts Lake, and the west branch ends in a brushy field.

Hunting is allowed on DNR land (the majority of the Bog property) and hikers share the woods with a variety of hunters. Fall-winter hunting seasons are:

9/1 - 10/30 - Morning dove

9/1 to 12/5/06 - Various waterfowl seasons.

9/16/06 to 1/31/07 - Archery, antlerless, youth, bow, and gun deer seasons

9/16/06 to 2/28/07 - Small game

9/23 to 11/6/06 - Woodcock

Blinds and boats for hunting may appear not more than seven days before the start of waterfowl season and must be removed not more than seven days after the waterfowl season.

Non-hunters should wear bright, *not* earth colors and make some noise as they hike during hunting season.

SUMMER KITCHEN UPDATE

Restoration on the stone summer kitchen and smoke house at the UWM Field Station has begun in earnest. Robert 'Wil' Williams from Port Washington, a noted mason and historian and his assistant Tim Schwahn are making daily progress toward stabilizing the structure. They have removed deteriorating mortar, strengthened the foundation, and saved loose bricks and stones for later application. Based on its style Mr. Williams estimates that the structure is nearly 150 years old

Next steps will include roof construction, window replacement, and finally application of mortar that will replicate the lime and sand mixture used by the original craftsmen. When complete, the building will be structurally sound and appear exactly as it did when German and Irish farmers began to cultivate the area.

We are particularly grateful to Charlie Mayhew and Bill and Jackie Niehaus for their generous contributions toward this endeavor--and to Wil Williams, who has been most generous with his time and talent.

Additional funds are needed to complete construction. Please send contributions, labeled "stone house renovation," to: *Progress Report on Stone House Renovation* at FOEB/c/o UWM Field Station/3095 Blue Goose Rd/Saukville, WI 53080.

MOTH OF THE MONTH

A spectacular black-and-white moth inhabits the air space over the bog on warm fall afternoons.

Christened "Buck Moth" for its appearance during deer season, it measures from 1 1/2" to 2 1/2", has a white stripe through each black wing, and sports an orange tuft at the tip of its abdomen.

Eggs are laid in clusters on the twigs of oak, wild cherry and willow. The caterpillars, which hatch in spring, eat buckbean and a variety of woody plants and have stinging spines.

In late fall, caterpillars burrow into the ground to pupate and, although most emerge the following fall, some wait until the next spring or even the second fall to mature.

GOT QUESTIONS?

Please address comments or questions about the Bog or the newsletter to *The Bog Hunter* editor Kate Redmond at the Field Station address. Your question could turn into a future newsletter article!

FRIENDS ON LINE

Visit our website at www.bogfriends.org. Thanks to Jim Schendel and Gretchen Meyer for their hard work

DATES TO REMEMBER

Begin with One Step:

Eric Larsen will talk about his incredible journey on foot to the North Pole.

Please pre-register and prepay (\$5) at Riveredge Nature Center, 1-800-287-8098.

Riveredge Nature Center Barn
September 28, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Photography Workshop

October 6th, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Discuss the ins and outs of film cameras.

October 7th - all day. Take and analyze pictures.

Fee \$20.00

Member event. UW Field Station.

Register at 262-675-2443 or fieldstn@uwm.edu.

Annual Meeting & Potluck Supper

October 15, 3:00 - 6:00 P.M.

Details at right

Member event

The Friends will supply brats, burgers, buns and beverages. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

WE'RE CELEBRATING!

And you're invited!

October marks the first birthday of the Friends organization.

JOIN US

at our annual meeting for walks,

a little business (very little),

and a

potluck supper*

to celebrate one year of

accomplishments

and our

plans for the future.

The festivities start at

3:00 p.m.

on

October 15th

at the Field Station.

Please give us a call

(262-675-6844)

or email

(fieldstn@uwm.edu)

to let us know you're coming.

SEE YOU THERE!