

The BogHaunter

the newsletter of the Friends of the Cedarburg Bog
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AMERICAN BEECH

Much of Wisconsin wants to be a forest, and when it succeeds, beech trees are an important component, at least in the counties that border Lake Michigan.

Plant succession is the ecological process in which plant communities replace each other, in a relatively predictable order, until an equally predictable final (climax) stage is reached, a stage which can repeat itself. In wetlands, decomposing cattails build soil that provides a footing for shrubs that build more soil, which eventually supports swamp forests.

On dryer soils, grasses are replaced by sun-loving shrubs that produce too much shade for the grasses to survive. Sun-loving trees shade out the shrubs and are themselves shaded out by mid-tolerant and shade-tolerant trees. The climax forest in this part of the state is dominated by sugar maple and beech; their saplings thrive in shade, making them the most shade-tolerant northern hardwoods.



Beech trunk

American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) is a distinctive tree, with smooth, gray bark wrapped around a sturdy trunk that ends in a swollen "elephant's foot." Its buds are long and skinny, and its irregularly toothed leaves are dark green above, turning yellow and then deep amber

in fall, and staying on the trees like pale ghosts after other trees become bare.

Beech trees can grow to 80 feet tall and live for more than 300 years, not even producing seed during their first four decades. They are slow-growing and may have massive trunks, 2 ½ feet wide. Forest-grown beeches have smaller crowns, while open grown trees are magnificently branched. Beech grow on a variety of moist-but-not-wet soils, often in bottomlands and along creeks, and their roots systems are shallow. They can tolerate cold winters but don't like extra-warm summers.

Although the pre-glacial range of American beech is suspected to have been larger, its present range is east of a line from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to Texas, with only a thin swath along the western edge of Lake Michigan. The beech-maple forests of the north become beech-magnolia forests in the south.

Beech make up a small part of the woodlands on the Bog's islands and are much more numerous at the north end of the Bog and in the adjacent Cedarburg Beechwoods State Natural Area. Their pyramid-shaped seeds, which are encased two or three to a spiny husk, are enjoyed by deer, fox, raccoon, opossum, squirrels, rabbits, turkeys, woodpeckers, jays, ducks, grouse, and more, and the tree is a popular nest site. More than 20 species of butterflies and moths (including gypsy moths and tent caterpillars) feed on the leaves. Seeds are spread by rodents and Blue Jays, which cache or bury them for future use.

Humans also eat the somewhat astringent seeds and extract edible oil from them. The roasted nuts have been used as a coffee substitute. Historically, Native Americans ate various parts of the plant and used it medicinally for ailments ranging from poison ivy to worms to lung

disorders to frostbite. Heavy and strong, beech wood is prized today, as it was on the frontier, for firewood, gun stocks, veneer, flooring and furniture.



Beech nuts

Unfortunately, its smooth bark invites carving by vandals, but whether caused by natural events or by graffiti, beech bark scars easily, and the bark isn't able to heal itself. Cracks in the bark open the door for a variety of mushrooms and for colonies of aphids and scale insects that feed on the sap.

Beech bark disease was introduced to Canada from Europe in 1890 when a new species of scale insect was accidentally imported. It spread slowly through the Northeast, arriving in Michigan in 2000. The disease arrived in Wisconsin (Door County) in 2009 and has been verified in 11 counties. Scales colonize cracks in the bark and alter it. Later – sometimes years later when the tree is stressed – a specific fungus (*Nectria*) enters the bark that the scales infested and kills it, opening the door to further insect and fungal infestations. *Nectria* may infect so much of the bark that it effectively girdles the tree.

Beech trees have an exclusive association with a parasitic plant called beech drops (*Epifagus americana*), which have neither chlorophyll nor leaves and which absorb their nutrition from the roots of the trees. Although the underground portion of beech drops

is present year-round, they are most noticeable when they bloom in late summer and early fall. They do not damage the tree.



Widow skimmer dragonfly

MASTER PLAN NEARING THE FINISH LINE

As was noted in last Fall's newsletter, the first master plan for the Bog was developed in 1982. A new master plan for Cedarburg Bog and eight other fish and wildlife properties has gone through substantial public review and is likely to be presented to the DNR [Natural Resources Board](#) in August of 2015. This will also serve as the last opportunity where the public can [submit comments](#) or [provide testimony](#) on the master plan.

The draft master plan was released to the public on September 10 and the **initial** comment period closed on October 10, 2014. Many comments were received in writing and at the two open houses in Plymouth and West Bend and can be viewed on the [Northern Kettle Moraine Region Master Plan](#) website.

The final step in the master planning process is presenting the draft master plan to the [Natural Resources Board](#) (NRB) for adoption. The NRB may adopt the plan, modify the plan recommendations or request additional analyses. The [public may participate](#) by submitting written comments to the NRB and/or presenting oral testimony at the Board meeting.

The agenda for the NRB meeting, including the revised master plan, will be posted two weeks in advance of the meeting date. There you will be able to view a copy of the revised plan and find out when the Board plans on receiving the presentation for the [Northern Kettle Moraine Region Master Plan](#). Your comments can still count.

THE BOG'S NEW BREEDING BIRD

Recently, I checked on the Mud Lake nest box that was installed in late March because a Hooded Merganser hen was frequently seen entering and leaving the box beginning the third week in April.

Inside the box were eight very recently hatched Hooded Merganser ducklings. I could not see inside the box as I was in my kayak, so it was a process of reaching up and plucking out a few ducklings who were still wet with hatchling egg albumen. The hen was doing a wounded duck routine so I cut my inspection short after a few photos and moved away. About an hour later, these ducklings, less than a day old, were jumping into the water below and following their mom into the cattails behind the nest box. As far as I know, this is the first record of breeding Hooded Mergansers in the Bog...

This may be a banner year for the nest box program; all three of the other nest boxes installed this year appear to be occupied by Wood Duck hens; and several of the other boxes from the past three years also appear to be occupied. Since the hens are likely to return to a successful nest site in following years, we should see increased traction over time. I will send out a full report later this Fall/early Winter when the rest of the nest boxes can be accessed by ice with the help of a small but hopefully growing cadre of volunteers.

John O'Donnell, Board member



Hooded Merganser duckling

WI BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

Please check out the website of the 2nd WI Breeding Bird Atlas (WBBII) and learn how you can get involved! wsobirds.org/atlas

Please join us for the
Annual Fall Potluck
(and mini-Annual Meeting)
at the UWM Field Station

September 27, 2015

3 PM hike

5:30 PM eats

6:30 campfire (and meeting)

We supply brats, burgers, and beverages. Join us for the walk, the potluck or both.

If your last name starts with A to M, please bring a dessert.

If your last name starts with N to Z, please bring a side dish.

Please, No Pets.

Please RSVP at bogfriends.org
(Click on Events)

Questions?

Call 262-675-6844, or email
fieldstn@uwm.edu

MEET JAMIE, OUR NEW BUCKTHORN PROJECT MANAGER

My name is Jamie Sue Beaupré. I have been dedicated to preserving our incredible Wisconsin natural areas for almost my whole life. Even growing up on the north side of Milwaukee, I was not a stranger to the forest, visiting our land north of Kewaskum every weekend, hiking, fishing and camping. During my summers off, still in high school, I spent fulltime weeks pulling garlic mustard in the Kettle Moraine State Forest- Northern Unit with my mentor, teacher and uncle, Randy Hetzel. I fell completely in love with everything associated with a natural area. The mosquitos, the poison ivy, the magnificent Wisconsin white oaks along the Milwaukee River, the phenology of plant life throughout the growing season, and fighting invasives. I quickly felt the importance of this effort.

One of my first jobs while living in Bethlehem, PA after high school was going door to door asking local residents for donations to reduce mercury pollution in the eastern Pennsylvania. Next was working

multiple farm jobs, everything from caring for pigs, chickens and cows and feeding calves at the local Organic Valley Farm, to living and working at a 7-acre vegetable farm, to working at a fish hatchery raising and caring for sunfish, bluegill and trout. I've helped the DNR with registration during sturgeon season around Lake Winnebago; have years of experience surveying and monitoring wildlife, salamanders, snakes, native and invasive plants, and have done frog calling surveys; and I've have conducted survey work on bird and bat mortality caused by wind turbines.

My love for the Cedarburg Bog started when the man I recently married decided to take me to an ephemeral pond just north of Mud Lake and listen to the ear piercing tones of the spring peepers for our first date. A few years following, I received a job with the *Friends of the Cedarburg Bog*, working on buckthorn removal in the heart of the Wisconsin winter seasons 2011-2013. That was a great opportunity for me because at that time I was a seasonal worker for the Kettle Moraine State Forest-Northern Unit during the summer. I was employed by the Wisconsin DNR for a total of 8 seasons doing invasive control on over 19 species within the 30,000 acres of the Northern Unit. While managing and keeping my crew motivated, I also established a volunteer service learning program at the Forest. Grade school, high school and college groups come out to the forest each school year to help fight the good fight on invasives. I have always enjoyed working with volunteers and teaching people about the importance of this work, and am excited to continue that work with the *Friends*.



Jamie Beaupre'

We will be holding some training courses and workshops on invasive plant identification and successful control practices, and will keep you updated. Right now I am working in an area just east of Birchwood Road. I have received permission from some surrounding landowners around the area to access the Bog through their property. Everyone has been very welcoming and interested in the project.

When I start my daily venture into the Bog, I must have a number of things with me, compass, GPS, hand saw, cut-stump chemical, phone for safety, and long sleeves. Poison sumac has been a very close co-worker of mine in the recent weeks and we seem to be getting along pretty well so far. I am getting acquainted with my new office and the programs I will be working with like GIS ArcMap and Excel. I will be updating my Pesticide Applicator license in the upcoming weeks.

Having this position with the Friends group fills me with motivation and inspiration. I feel I am a vital part of current invasive species management in Southeastern Wisconsin. The health of this unique, special natural area is extremely important to me. The work I have put into learning effective management of invasive species and my knowledge of plant and animal life within the Bog has prepared me for this position. With the help of volunteers, landowner outreach, contractor and DNR invasive crews, the goal of clearing 680 acres of buckthorn is within our reach. Please help me spread the word about our monthly Weed Warrior Work Days and other opportunities to help with this effort. I'm excited to continue learning and growing with the team at the Cedarburg Bog.

PHANTOM CRANE FLY

Some astonishing crane flies in the family Ptychopteridae are making their appearance at the Bog now.

Phantom crane flies flicker through the dappled light of thick vegetation at the edges of wetlands. They're not huge; the fly's body is a slim half-inch, and if you join the tips of your thumb and forefinger, you'd be approximating the leg-span. They're like a flying daddy long-legs, but without the bulk.



Phantom crane fly

They float through the air with legs spread, wings flapping minimally, assisted aerodynamically by flared or inflated areas on their legs. Air sacs within the lower legs inflated by the fly's respiratory system increase buoyancy and provide surface area for the wind to push on. Phantom crane flies appear to move randomly, two or three feet off the ground, ricocheting off of the leaves.

Phantom crane fly larvae develop in the top layer of muck, eating decaying organic material and breathing through a long "snorkel" that extends from the tip of their abdomen to the surface of the water.

They tickle our imaginations – writers refer to them as drifting like "parachutes," "thistle seed," and "snowflakes," and of "seeing spots before the eyes."

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

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

NATURAL HISTORY WORKSHOPS

There are a few spots open in the Aquatic Invertebrates and Ecological Geology workshops this summer.

The Field Station is offering a new one-day workshop on Invasive Plant Management Techniques, and a new weekend workshop on Wetland Restoration - both still have openings. Visit the UWM Field Station website for more information about the workshop program: www.uwm.edu/fieldstation/workshops

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

UWM Field Station
3095 Blue Goose Road
Saukville, WI 53080



FRIENDS EVENTS

Unless otherwise noted, walks meet at the UWM Field Station on Blue Goose Rd. Space is limited, so please register. To register, visit bogfriends.org (click on Events). Walks are free and open to the public; a \$5 donation is appreciated. Questions? Contact (262) 675-6844 or fieldstn@uwm.edu. Please, No Pets.

**Friends of the Cedarburg Bog
Quarterly Board Meeting**
July 9, 7 to 9 PM
Members welcome

Dragonflies for Beginners
August 2, 10 AM to noon
Meet at the north end of the Bog,
Hwy 33 parking lot. (no restrooms)

The Life of Ferns
September 13, 9 AM to noon
Learn about the natural history and
structure of ferns. Meet in the Hwy
33 parking lot at the north end.

A Walk in the Bog
July 5, 9 AM to noon
Experience the sights and sounds
of the Bog in early summer.

Photography on the Prairie
August 16, 9 to 11:30 AM
A low-tech approach to getting
pictures you like. Bring a camera.

**Fall Potluck and
Mini-Annual Meeting**
September 27, 3 to 7 PM
Details on page 2.



Fern spore cases

CALENDAR

Noel J. Cutright Bird Club

Free and open to the public held at **RNC** on the 1st Tuesday at 7 PM

July 7 - *Feather Tailed Stories* - Allan Block talks about his photography and his blog.

August 4 - *Shorebirds on Lower Green Bay*

September 1 - *Wisconsin's Endangered Terns*

Science for Everyone

Programs on Natural History held at **RNC** on the 3rd Tuesday and at **LLC** on the 4th Tuesday 7 to 8:15 PM

September 15 – Plants on the Frontier.

September 22 – check the **LLC** or **RNC** websites for topics and driving directions.

Programs are free, \$5 donation appreciated.

A Summertime Herb Walk

July 7, 1 to 4 PM **MNP**

Herbalist Laurie Dohmen tells about native and traditional herbs. This indoor/outdoor workshop is free and open to the public.

Annual Dragonfly Count

July 25, 10 AM to 3 PM **RNC**

Join us for all or part of the day to record the kinds and numbers of dragonflies and damselflies at Riveredge. Bring a lunch.

Roger Kuhns' Monologue - Ecosystem

Recovery: Unexpected Adventures

July 29, 7 to 8:30 PM at **RNC**

Based on Roger's work at the Cedarburg Bog, Iceland, Hawaii, Canada's Boreal Forest, the Great Barrier Reef, and Wisconsin's Niagara Escarpment. Pre-registration requested at 800-287-8098 Fee \$5 donation appreciated.

Native Landscaping Workshop

August 7, 6 to 7:30 PM **MNP**

Join us on to learn how you can turn your backyard into a rich, native habitat!

Knee Deep in Prairie

August 12, 8 AM to 4 PM **RNC**

Immerse yourself in all things prairie. Explore the prairie, go on a tour, attend workshops. This all-day event includes lunch.

Registration required.

Annual Fly-In Celebration

August 22, 3:30 to 10 PM **FBMP**

Join Ozaukee Washington Land Trust for an evening of eating, drinking and celebrating our brotherhood of land. Hikes, silent auction, supper and music. Registration required.

RNC – Riveredge Nature Center

4458 County Hwy Y, Saukville
riveredgenaturecenter.org
(262) 375-2715

LLC – Lac Lawrann Conservancy

300 Schmidt Rd, West Bend
lclawrann.org
(262) 335-5080

MNP – Mequon Nature Preserve

8200 W County Line Rd, Mequon
mequonnaturepreserve.org
(262) 242-8055

FBMP – Forest Beach Migratory Preserve

4970 Country Club Road, Belgium
owlt.org
(262) 338-1794