

The BogHunter

the newsletter of the Friends of the Cedarburg Bog
Volume 11, Number 1 Winter 2015-16

THE BUCKTHORN OFFENSIVE

As the season starts to bring sleet, winter winds and gray skies, the Buckthorn Control Crew is getting out the wool and insulated boots. It takes some work to get comfortable and content with your clothing and gear while working in the elements of the Bog. Waterproof boots are still needed because the ice is not solid yet, and they have to be warm because your feet are in ice water all day. With two new crew members working with me in the Bog I am excited to be making progress faster than ever.



Buckthorn Control Crew

Doug Stadler (right) joined the crew in late summer 2015. Doug has worked with me and the Friends of the Cedarburg Bog in the past, doing winter buckthorn control. I also worked with Doug in the Kettle Moraine State Forest-Northern Unit doing invasive control work for a number of years. Doug is an excellent botanist and his enthusiasm and excitement for this work makes him a great addition to the crew. Doug said, "Just being out of doors brings me joy and a feeling of contentment. This position provides me with a chance to return to my true profession and passion: ecological restoration."

Josh Pletzer (middle) was hired at the same time as Doug. With experience working for the Nature Conservancy, AmeriCorps and various National Parks, Josh has extensive background doing

naturalist work. He has worked in western deserts and mountains and lived on the Galapagos Islands. Josh says "After weathering wind, rain, thunderstorms, and sandstorms, I am no stranger to working in adverse conditions and rugged terrain. In fact, I welcome the challenge." He is certified in Wilderness First Responder, and Leave-no-trace trainer.

With such an experienced 3-person crew, it has not taken us long to get oriented and comfortable with each other and our work in the Bog. We are averaging about 1 acre of buckthorn cleared per work day; but that varies a great deal depending on water depth, terrain and density of the buckthorn. There are seven different areas in which we currently work. We need this variety of work sites to be efficient since day to day variation in weather and water levels can change our working conditions rapidly. We have about 15 acres cleared in four different areas that we access from the UWM boardwalk. We have finished 20 of the 75 acres of recently acquired DNR land just west of The Bog Golf Course. Near the corner of Birchwood and Knollwood Roads, a 53 acre block is cleared of fruiting-sized buckthorn and follow-up surveys showed that we found, cut, and treated 98.7% of the buckthorn in that area. Together with my crew and our Volunteer Days we are proud to report that we have cleared close 100 acres of Buckthorn to date!

Right now, the crew is hoping for the best winter work conditions possible, defined as: good ice and not too much snow. Josh and Doug will continue working through the winter. Once the ice is solid, it will be much easier to get around and we will be able to start working on some of the more remote parts of the Bog interior. We have scheduled a DNR Natural Areas crew of at least 12 to work with us in the Bog for the entire week of January 11th 2016. We hope

to clear 40 to 50 acres that week with the experienced DNR crew. Some of the work we are doing now is clearing transects and lines in preparation for using that large crew efficiently.



Stumps of cut buckthorn

The Bog is a fantastic place; I think our crew draws its energy day after day from the Bog. If you want to meet our crew, or would like to volunteer some time, please get in touch with me at (414)-750-0867 or jamiebeaupre@bogfriends.org. We are always looking for volunteers. Jamie Beaupré, Buckthorn Project Manager

CEDARBURG BEECH WOODS SNA

The Cedarburg Bog is a 2,200 acre wetland in a basin that was scraped out as glaciers moved south through Wisconsin 26,000 years ago and again as they retreated. It's hard to picture that as recently as five or six thousand years ago, large parts of the now-plant-choked Bog were an open lake. The glacial activity that formed the Bog also formed the extreme topography of the adjacent uplands in the 80-acre Cedarburg Beech Woods State Natural Area.

The fourth and final stage of the glacial age that began a million years ago is called the Wisconsin stage because of the extent of the ice's track through the state, when the ice covered nearly one-third of North America. This period ended about 10,000 years ago; we're now in an interglacial period.

The glaciers that created our modern landscape were not a solid "ice cube" pushing across the land; they were dynamic entities, with wind and water flowing through them, and they plowed up and carried along huge loads of gravel, boulders, tree trunks, and other debris. Rubble that dropped out when the glaciers reached their southernmost extensions formed terminal or end moraines.

In Southeastern Wisconsin, a second force was at work. The great Laurentide Ice Sheet that capped the globe split into a number of lobes that moved south, southeast, and southwest across the state, and the roughly parallel tracks of the southbound Lake Michigan lobe and the inland Green Bay lobe squeezed together over the area that would become the Kettle Moraine, leaving deposits at their edges called interlobate moraines.

The Kettle Moraine is characterized by a combination of ridges or hills and "kettles" - holes in the ground that were initially filled with huge chunks of glacial ice. When those ice chunks melted, they left deep holes, or kettles. The Cedarburg Bog area is like a mini Kettle Moraine, and the topography of the Beech Woods is decidedly kettle-y.



A kettle in the Beech Woods

Trails through the beech woods are neither straight nor level. The deep kettle holes and steep relief explain why it was never farmed. And, while it's not a virgin forest, it is certainly "old growth." Its climax/end-stage plant association includes sugar maple, American beech and white ash, and there are some very large beech, shagbark hickory, and red oak. White ash trees are now noticeably afflicted by emerald ash borer and when they fall, creating holes in the canopy, conditions on the woodland floor will, temporarily, favor sun-loving plants, and the

trees of the understory will race for the sun.

The Beech Woods is all tucked in for the winter, and for the plants and animals that live there, the physics of climate has flip-flopped. Summer trees act as umbrellas, and the warmest place in the woods is right above its canopy. Not much sunlight reaches the forest floor, and leaves trap moisture, making the air in the woods cool and damp, and the soil cooler still. Trees even determine how rain falls on the ground below.

In winter, bare limbs allow the sun to reach all the way to the ground, and a forest's floor may be its (relatively) warmest spot, while its canopy is the coldest. The canopy offers no shelter for a woods-dweller on a cold day.

When the ground eventually freezes, trees go into "drought mode;" with water unavailable to their roots and no leaves to absorb sunlight and produce food. Although the soil may be frozen, a good snow cover will ensure that its temperature doesn't fall too far below 32 degrees, and the microclimate that exists between the snow and the ground is vital to a variety of small mammals. The millions of leaves that fall in the Beech Woods provide insulation and shelter, as well as nutrients and mulch for future generations of plants.

TREES IN THE COLD

Every year, the UWM Field Station sponsors a series of high-quality workshops on specific aspects of natural history. Most are two day, Friday-Saturday courses scheduled from spring through early fall, and a complete list will appear in the next issue of *the BogHaunter*.

On January 8 and 9, Dr. James Reinartz, Field Station Director, will present *Ecology and Physiology of Plants in Winter: Surviving the Big Chill*. In this indoor-outdoor workshop, participants will learn about the adaptations that plants use to survive the low temperatures and drought conditions of winter.

For more information or to register please see www4.uwm.edu/fieldstation/workshops, or contact the Field Station at 262-675-6844.



Bitternut or Yellowbud Hickory

WISCONSIN BREEDING BIRD ATLAS II UPDATE

The first year of the Wisconsin's Breeding Bird Atlas II has come to a close and the Cedarburg Bog has shown to be a hotbed of bird activity. With the hard work and dedication of five atlasers, in just one year, more species have been officially confirmed as breeding in the Cedarburg Bog area than were confirmed in the first Breeding Bird Atlas twenty years ago. Some of these species, including Hooded Merganser, Marsh Wren, Pine Warbler and Swamp Sparrow, were not even observed in the Bog during the first Atlas. A majority of the species confirmed this year are the same species documented in the first Atlas. Some notable returning species included: Pied-billed Grebe, Blue-winged Warbler, Ovenbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Barred Owl, Northern Harrier, Scarlet Tanager and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Just as they were in the first atlas, the public is invited not only to take part in the field work but also to help fund the project by making a contribution or by sponsoring a species. The Friends of the Cedarburg Bog have committed \$100 per year over a five year period by sponsoring the Wood Duck, a species whose presence we have been encouraging by putting up Wood Duck nest boxes in the Bog. Some of these boxes were homes to both Wood Duck and Hooded Merganser families this spring! There is still four years remaining of this project, plenty of time to get involved in any fashion you can. For more information about the Atlas or about sponsoring a species, see wsobirds.org/atlas.

Dani Baumann, Ozaukee County Coordinator



An otter slide at the stream bridge

2015 in the BOG

What an exciting time for the Cedarburg Bog and its Friends! I'm pleased to report that with your help, we have expanded our impact on the Bog and are poised to achieve even more in 2016. This past year, we've:

Worked to strengthen community support for the Bog, by: growing membership and financial support for the Friends; offering 14 wide-ranging events and classes; and conducting our first outreach--since the early days of the Friends--to the neighbors that surround the Bog.

Expanded our conservation impact on the Bog, by: seeking, receiving and beginning work on over \$240K in grants to mitigate the impact of buckthorn on the Bog's unique and sensitive ecosystem; clearing over 68 acres of buckthorn; and working with private citizens, the state and Ozaukee Washington Land Trust to facilitate transfer of golf course property into the boundaries of the Cedarburg Bog.

Extended the use of the Bog as a natural history classroom, thru: contributing \$5,000 to support the UWM's Natural History Workshop program; committing funding for UWM graduate studies that focus on the Bog; expanding our birding initiative by installing more cavity nesting boxes--which resulted in identifying a new Bog nesting species--the Hooded Merganser; and publishing 4 of the best naturalist newsletters anywhere!

Leveraged our energies with groups that share common goals, by: working closely with WDNR to shape, support and implement the Bog's draft Master Plan; and

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

reaching out to Riveredge, Schlitz Audubon Nature Center, OWLT and The Urban Ecology Center to develop joint programming.

Worked to build our organization in support of the Bog, by attracting three, talented new Board members and retaining the present Board; enjoying the most productive fundraising year ever--over 250% more than previous best year; developing capacity to manage and administer four employees; growing our endowment nearly fourfold; and documenting and refining our administrative processes.

And looking ahead, we will continue growing our positive impact on the Bog and its community. In 2016, beyond continuing our historical programming, we will be:

- Engaging our neighbors. This is an important group that we've been unsuccessful in passively attracting to our group. Aldo Leopold would appreciate that to protect the Bog, we must share a collective consciousness about its importance and fragility.
- Aggressively removing buckthorn as part of our two-year, 680 acre goal.
- Building a primitive boardwalk into Mud Lake.
- Formalizing partnerships with like-minded groups.

Please consider how you can be a part of our efforts to protect and learn from this remarkable property--volunteer, give gift memberships to your friends, donate to one or several of our initiatives, attend our events... Together, we make a difference.

Bruce Ross, FOCB President



Ice melting around a Pitcher Plant

The Friends of the Cedarburg Bog supports stewardship, understanding, and appreciation of the Bog through land management, preservation, research, and education.

Your 2016 Board of Directors

Bruce Ross – President
 Tim Vargo – Vice President
 Pam Resnick Ross – Secretary
 Bill Taylor – Treasurer
 Sharon Fandel (DNR Site Manager)
 Peg Edquist
 Jim Ellis
 Chris Ford
 Carrie Hiestand
 Andy Holschbach
 Mark Murphy
 John O'Donnell
 Jennifer ("Jeff") Rothstein
 Jim Reinartz (UWM Representative)
 Sue Schumacher
 Andrew Struck

Join us for the
Annual Winter Walk and Chili Potluck
 at the UWM Field Station
 January 31, 2016
 1:30 PM hike
 4:30 PM eats

We supply chili and beverages

Join us for the walk, the potluck, or both.

If your last name Starts with A to M please bring a dessert to share

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

Please – no pets.

Please RSVP: at the Friends of the Cedarburg Bog website (bogfriends.org). Click on the events tab, or you may call 262-675-6844 or email fieldstn@uwm.edu.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

UWM Field Station
3095 Blue Goose Road
Saukville, WI 53080

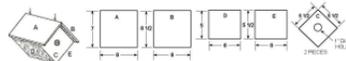


FRIENDS EVENTS

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**
January 14, 7 to 9 PM
Members welcome

Annual Winter Walk
January 31, Hike 1:30 PM;
Food 4:30 Take a walk on the Bog
(ice conditions permitting), then
warm up at our annual Chili Potluck
(see details in the newsletter)



Housing for Wildlife
March 5, 1 to 2:30 PM **RNC**
Join us at *Riveredge* and learn how
to attract cavity-nesting birds like
wrens, bluebirds, Wood Ducks, and
even owls. We'll discuss different
nest box styles and cover the basics
of how to build them, where to

place them and how to
maintain them. This workshop
is for amateur and experienced
bird lovers. A joint Riveredge-
Friends of the Cedarburg Bog
event.
Fee: \$5 fee for all participants
(RNC All Access Trail members –
free)

Late Winter Owl Prowl
March 11, 7 to 8:30PM
Join us as we look for
resident and early migrant
owls at the Field Station.
Dress for the weather;
binoculars are
recommended. (Blizzard
date March 18)



Short-
eared
Owl

CALENDAR

Noel J. Cutright Bird Club
Free and open to the public held at **RNC** on the 1st
Tuesday at 7 PM Free. Open to the public.

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
Check the **LLC** or **RNC** websites for topics and driving
directions. Free, \$5 donation appreciated.

**Workshop - Ecology and Physiology of Plants in
Winter: Surviving the Big Chill**
January 8 and 9, **UWM Field Station**
Registration **required**. See details elsewhere in this
newsletter.

Winter Wonders Luminary Walk
January 22, 5 to 7 PM **LLC**
Enjoy a full moon and sparkling snow on candle-lit
trails at our Winder Wonders Luminary Walk. Finish
the hike with a campfire and warm drinks. Event is
free.

Winterfest!
January 23, 12 to 4 PM **UEC Washington Park**
Washington Park is the perfect place for an
afternoon of adventure. Join us as we celebrate with

fun, including a dog sled demonstration, ice
skating, sledding, snowshoeing, cross country
skiing, arts and crafts, free food and beverages,
and more.

Ozaukee Treasures Network Winter Conference
February 4, 5:30 PM **RNC**
Nick Miller, Science Director for The Nature
Conservancy's Madison office will be talking
about a new wetland tool and Andrew Struck
will be updating us about the county's new
parcel project.
Please RSVP to coordinator@treasuresofoz.org

Winter Frolic
February 6, 10 AM to 4 PM **MNP**
A family friendly, indoor-outdoor event -
activities include a winter farmers market,
petting zoo, tractor rides, dog sled demo, Frozen
princess meet and greet, food and more! Event
is free, see website for details.

Night Ski and Snowshoe
February 5, 12, and 27, 5 to 8 PM **RNC**
Enjoy the beauty of a crisp snowy evening.
Refreshments await at the end of the trail. Call
or check our website for current snow

conditions before venturing out.
Snowshoe rental available.

"Maple Sugarin' at Riveredge
Check the **RNC** website for maple
sugaring activities in February and
March.

- RNC** – Riveredge Nature Center
4458 County Hwy Y, Saukville
riveredgenaturecenter.org
(262) 375-2715 (800) 287-8098
- LLC** – Lac Lawrann Conservancy
300 Schmidt Rd, West Bend
lACLAWRANN.ORG
(262) 335-5080
- MNP** – Mequon Nature Preserve
8200 W County Line Rd, Mequon
MEQUONNATUREPRESERVE.ORG
(262) 242-8055
- UEC** – Urban Ecology Center
Washington Park
4145 W Lisbon Ave, Milw
URBANECOLOGYCENTER.ORG
(414) 964-8505