

The BogHaunter

the newsletter of the Friends of the Cedarburg Bog
Volume 6, Number 4
Fall 2011

FOLLOW THE MONEY

Watergate whistle blower Deep Throat encouraged Washington Post reporters to "follow the money." Let's take that advice to understand one way the Friends of the Cedarburg Bog are helping to preserve, expand and enhance the Bog experience.

Creating trails for bog access and educational signs to better understand it; understanding the bog's relationship to ground water below and around it; improving handicapped accessibility at the north end of the Bog; undertaking invasive species control measures to protect the bog's unique and delicate ecosystem; a learning center kiosk to focus education and outreach efforts. These recent projects are important to bog users, but making them a reality has been financially dear.

Over the last three years, working in support of UWM and WDNR, the Friends have identified these and other worthy projects and then sought funding and volunteer effort to make them a reality. Typically this has meant identifying potential donors and writing often lengthy and surprisingly complex grant requests to compete for available grant monies.

The good news: The bog's unique beauty and significance attracts support, and the Friends' grant writers have been pretty good at "selling" our projects, garnering over \$85,000 in the past three years. The Bog has benefited from the vision and financial resources of organizations like:

- Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin
- Wisconsin Energies Corporation
- Friends of Wisconsin State Parks
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

The not-so-surprising bad news: the ailing economy has increased competition for shrinking pots of natural resources monies. With a queue of worthy projects, the FOCB will be seeking additional funding sources—corporate and private—as well as our historically successful avenues.

Although FOCB membership fees are not used to supplement project funding, members can help the FOCB fundraising effort. We'll be harnessing the talents and energy of volunteer members to develop and execute a comprehensive fund raising strategy to carry out the Friends' missions. And in many projects, we need volunteer "sweat equity" to match grant conditions. To be a part of this important effort, call Bruce Ross at 262.377.0377.

By Board Member Bruce Ross

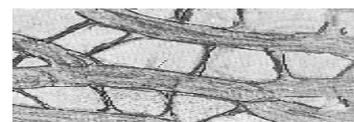
SPHAGNUM MOSS

Mention a bog and one of the first plants people think of is sphagnum moss. Sphagnum is an indicator plant for acid bogs, and it's also part of the flora of the Cedarburg Bog. The pH (measurement of acidity) of the Cedarburg Bog, which is actually a fen, is neutral to slightly alkaline, but a number of plants of acid bogs thrive in the challenging environment of its central string bog. Some of the other plants associated with acid bogs, like orchids, cranberry and sundew, grow out of "nursery" clumps of sphagnum.



Five or six species of sphagnum are found in the string bog, each with its own preference for sunlight, water, and nutrients. Long, stringy plants, a foot long or longer, grow in springy

clumps whose tops are living but whose bases have died due to lack of sunlight and oxygen or because the weight of the growing crown has pushed the lower portion down into the water. Sphagnum spreads mainly vegetatively by branching.



Its leaves and stems are composed of two types of cells – one contains chlorophyll and manufactures food by photosynthesis. The second type of cell is called a hyaline cell, and it's a large, air-filled cell that Charles Johnson, in Bogs of the Northeast likens to a miniature bucket. Hyaline cells maintain their structure after they die, allowing the moss to absorb water – up to 20 times its dry weight in water – which gives it rigidity.

The leaves of sphagnum moss grab minerals from their surroundings and give off hydrogen, and when those hydrogen ions leach into the water, the result is increased acidity. The dead, lower part of the plant also releases acid and tannins, slowing the actions of the bacteria that cause decay. Sphagnums are considered "bog-builders." Besides increasing acidity, they form a living mat that can get so heavy that it sinks and impedes water flow, which may hasten the transformation of a fen into a bog.

Another name for sphagnum moss is "peat moss," because it's found in peat bogs, and if it's present in a wetland, it will be one of the components of the peat. "Peat" is the slowly-decaying plant material that forms the base for all the plant growth in the Cedarburg Bog.

People have used sphagnum moss for millennia. Fresh and dried, it has stuffed mattresses and pillows, been packed onto wounds (its acidity

doesn't support bacteria) and babies' bottoms, been stuffed into chinks in walls as insulation, and used as a chlorine substitute in swimming pools. Sphagnum has been made into medicines, "peatwood" and "peatcrete". The semi-decayed peat serves as fuel for home use and electrical generation, a starter medium for a variety of plants including mushrooms and orchids, and a soil conditioner and fertilizer. It's hardly a renewable resource; by some estimates, the world holds more than 200 billion dry tons of sphagnum, but it forms at a rate of just a few inches per century.

ALL ABOARD

Last year's annual meeting, which marked the fifth anniversary of the Friends of the Cedarburg Bog, saw just a single change in the group's overall board of directors. It was followed by a 75% turnover in the organization's officers at the quarterly board meeting later in October.

This year, the changes are somewhat reversed, with significant board turnover proposed for the Oct. 2 annual meeting, and more modest role changes due when the board convenes at 7 p.m., Thursday, October 13 to elect its new officers.

Retiring from the board after serving two three-year terms, including three years as its founding president, is Daniel C. Kline, president and CEO of ParaTechnica, an IT management firm he founded in 2001. His retirement from the board follows that a year ago of founding treasurer Jack Isselman, president of the Newburg State Bank.

Also leaving the board at the end of her current term is Joan Sommer, who has served as the board's secretary for the last two years. Joan, who joined the board in 2008, is head of access services for Marquette University's Raynor Memorial Libraries. She also is a member of the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust, the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology and the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin.

Grafton artist Hank Klapproth, another founding board member whose term also expires, retired from the board earlier this year.



Standing for re-election to the board are Mary Holleback, adult programs coordinator at Riveredge Nature Center and chair of the Friends' education committee; Nicole Sidoff, Community Development Educator for UW Extension in Ozaukee County and Friends' events committee chair; and noted artist Tom Uttech, a founding board member and past president.

Proposed for election to the board at the annual meeting are two new candidates:

- **Jennifer (Jeff) Rothstein** is a member of the Ozaukee County Board of Supervisors and an environmental educator at the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center. She serves as vice chair of the supervisors' Natural Resources Committee and is a member of the county's Land Preservation Board.
- **John O'Donnell** is a nearly lifelong birder and a self-described "evolving naturalist" active with both the Bog Friends and the Riveredge Bird Club. He is a member of the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology, the Urban Ecology Center, the International Crane Foundation and the Sierra Club. John has been co-leading bird walks, owl prowls, and participating in bird migration census work at the Bog for the last three years. He has led national and international backcountry and natural history tours for the Sierra Club for almost 20 years.

When the reconstituted board meets at the Field Station on Oct. 13, it is expected to re-elect as its president Carl Schwartz, a member of the board since 2007 who took over as president a year ago. Carl is coordinator of Bird City Wisconsin, vice president of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology and a

member of the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust.

Also planning to serve a second term is Treasurer William Taylor. Bill retired from UWM's School of Business as a professor emeritus but continues his consulting practice and textbook writing. He has served as president of both the Riveredge Nature Center and the Ozaukee-Washington Land Trust Boards.

Kate Redmond, who returned to the executive committee as vice president a year ago after serving as secretary for the Friends' first four years, plans a shift back to secretary. Kate also edits the Friends' quarterly newsletter, *The BogHaunter*.



Gail Epping Overholt rounds out the proposed slate, returning to the executive committee as vice president after previously serving as president from 2009 to 2010. Gail has been with the UW-Extension as a Natural Resources Educator in southeastern Wisconsin since 2006. She previously was director of education at the Aldo Leopold Nature Center and at Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison. Gail coordinated the Wisconsin Ephemeral Pond Project, a Citizen-Based Monitoring program. Gail organized and led the recruitment and training of over 200 citizen volunteers and more than a dozen local partners, including the Bog Friends, over six counties in southeastern Wisconsin.

RACHEL CORNILS

You may already have gotten an invitation from our new Volunteer Coordinator, Rachel Cornils, to help with Stewardship opportunities at the Cedarburg Bog. Many hands make light work – and that includes litter pick-ups, bittersweet and buckthorn-whacking, boat removal,

and other stewardship projects. Where else could you have so much fun with a great group of people working to help preserve the Bog?

If you are interested in joining us, please let the Field Station (262-675-6844 or fieldstn@uwm.edu) or Rachel (rcornils27@gmail.com) know your contact information.

LIGHTS OUT

Many adult insects that grace the air, land and water around the Cedarburg Bog are "goners" by late fall. Most leave behind the next generation in the form of eggs that will hatch the following spring or of pupae that will emerge as adults when the weather warms.

In insects that have complete metamorphosis - egg to larva to pupa to adult - the pupal stage is the resting/changing stage where the ugly duckling turns into the beautiful swan. The larva enters its pupa looking worm-like, and exits 2 days to 10 months later (or more) looking vastly different - so different that it's not uncommon for the adult to have entirely different mouthparts, and therefore a different diet, than it did as a larva. The secret? Histoblasts.



After the larva tucks itself into its mummy-like pupal case, its previous body essentially turns to mush. The transformation is called "*histolysis*" (from the Greek "*histos*" meaning "web", "loom," "warp" or "tissue," and the Greek "*lysis*," for "loosening" or "dissolution").

But then, leucocytes in the blood feed on the liquefying tissues and return to the blood the building blocks needed to construct the adult. Special cells - *histoblasts* - that were present as "buds" in the larva start to re-organize that liquefied tissue, grabbing what they need to form the new organs that will operate the new body. Buds of adult structures like eyes and mouthparts and wings are visible in *bas relief* on the outside of the pupal case.

Some pupal cases lie on the ground, thinly covered by debris; others may be below the ground. Some cases can turn and twist, despite a "rigid," *chitinous* exterior. The ability to wriggle allows an underground pupa to move to the surface when it's time for the adult to emerge. A stiff "fringe" on the trailing edge of the segments of the case helps to prevent backsliding on the trip up through the soil.

WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

The Friends of the Cedarburg Bog is sponsoring a Photography contest. The contest runs until August 15, 2012; awards will be presented at the Friends' Annual Meeting and potluck in October 2012.

Share what makes the Bog special to you by photographing its plant or animal denizens, natural beauty, or people enjoying the natural area. Photos must be taken in or around the Cedarburg Bog State Natural Area. Look for more details in the next newsletter.

WISH LIST

Occasionally we publish a wish list that includes equipment and supplies for field work and office projects. This time, the Education Committee is putting out a call for a few special people.

One of the missions of the Friends of the Cedarburg Bog is to tell people about this unique place. People protect what they know about. We'd like to develop a Power Point presentation about the Bog. We could increase our contact with the public if we had more trail walk leaders (we will train you). Members are also needed for the Education Committee. Interested? Please contact Mary at maryh@riveredge.us or at 800-287-8098.



FALL POTLUCK & ANNUAL MEETING

Join us on October 2 for the 6th birthday celebration of our Friends organization.

Guided walks along the University Boardwalk or at the Public area at the north end of the Bog off Hwy 33 will start at 3:15 PM at their respective locations.

A pot-luck supper at 5:30 will be followed by a campfire (and a short business meeting). You can roast marshmallows during the meeting.

**Join us at the UWM Field Station
for our**

Friends Fall Get-together,

Pot-Luck, and Annual Meeting

October 2, 3 - 7:00 p.m.

3:15 - hikes

5:30 - eats

6:30 - campfire & very short meeting

We supply brats, buns and beverage.

**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 RSVP at 262-675-2443 or
fieldstn@uwm.edu**

PLEASE - NO PETS ALLOWED

HONORED

Kate Redmond, vice president of the Friends of the Cedarburg Bog, has again been honored for doing the work she loves.

The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust recently awarded Kate its Outreach Award at its 20th annual fundraising dinner at Forest Beach Migratory Preserve.

The Land Trust said Kate demonstrates excellence in educating or sharing information related to land preservation or the environment. It noted that when she took on the challenge of developing a field guide to the Mequon Nature Preserve, the end product was a 170-page book on their Web site. As editor of the

Friends of the Cedarburg Bog newsletter, the land trust said, she has produced an exceptional publication that provides not only information about current events and activities at the Bog, but includes insightful, timely information about the area's plant and animal communities.

Kate (aka The Bug Lady) also writes weekly columns called Bug o' the Week. Bug o' the Week is archived on the UWM Field Station website.

Last year, Kate was named a Wetland Hero by the Wisconsin Wetlands Association, which recognizes individuals and groups whose work advances the *protection, restoration and enjoyment* of Wisconsin's wetlands and related ecosystems. Kate won in the enjoyment category, and her citation summed it up:



"For over 30 years, Kate Redmond has brought enjoyment to the general public as a passionate photographer, writer, editor, educator, field trip leader, and wetlands advocate. Each aspect of her work has focused on sharing her wide knowledge and appreciation of the natural world, as well as her eye for both its singular and collective beauty. Kate has freely donated her professional-quality photography,

writing ability, and other talents to a variety of nonprofit organizations in Wisconsin."

President's note: This article is appearing over the objections of the overly modest newsletter editor.

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

CALENDAR

Sturgeon Fest

October 1, 10 AM to 2 PM

Join us as we release lake sturgeon in the attempt to restore a breeding population of lake sturgeon into the Milwaukee River. Sponsor and release your *own* sturgeon!

For times and information, call 800-287-8098 or see www.riveredge.us.
At: Thiensville Village Park

Friends Annual Fall Pot-Luck

October 2, 3 to 7 PM

See information elsewhere in this newsletter.

At: UWM Field Station

Riveredge Bird Club

First Tuesdays except December.
Program – 7 PM

Free. The public is welcome.

At: Riveredge Nature Center Barn

Science for Everyone

Programs on Natural History.
Third Tuesday of the month (in Cedarburg) and fourth Tuesday of the month (in West Bend)
Tuesday, 7:00 PM

For directions and for topics, contact www.riveredge.us or 800-287-8098.

Admission: Free. \$5 donation suggested.

Fungi of the Field Station's Beech-Maple Forest

October 8, 1 to 4 PM

Search for fungi in the Field Station's beech woods, guided by Dr. Alan Parker. Bring a small brown paper bag and a mushroom field guide, if you have one.

Please register at 262-675-6844 or fieldstn@uwm.edu

Free, (a \$3 donation is suggested).
At: UWM Field Station

Friends of the Cedarburg Bog

Quarterly board meeting

October 13, 7 to 9PM

Members welcome

At: UWM Field Station

Fall in the Bog

November 13, 9 AM to noon

Explore the Bog in mid-autumn with Jim Reinartz.

Please register at 262-675-6844 or fieldstn@uwm.edu

Free, (a \$3 donation is suggested).
At: UWM Field Station

Riveredge Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 17, Dawn to Dusk (*come for all or part of the day*)

Be a field or a feeder counter; no experience is necessary. Participants are invited to join us after the Count to compile data and enjoy a potluck dinner.

For more information contact Mary Holleback at 800-287-8098 or at maryh@riveredge.us.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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3095 Blue Goose Road
Saukville, WI 53080

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BOG

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