

The BogHunter

the newsletter of the Friends of the Cedarburg Bog

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BOG GUARDIANS AT WORK

The Bog Guardian Program is off to a good start. Dedicated volunteers completed two roadside surveys in search of six invasive plants that spread along roadways and threaten the Cedarburg Bog and Field Station natural areas.

The good news is that, as you can see on the map below, few infestations of these invasive plants were found in the project area, and they are definitely manageable.

Given their ability to spread rapidly, Teasel and Wild Parsnip have been given top priority. Bog Guardians eradicated most of the stands along roadsides this year, and marked the wild parsnip in the southern part of the project area to be cut before it can make seed next growing season.

Neighboring landowners who have Teasel or Wild Parsnip on their properties have been provided information about the threat that these plants pose, as well as an offer of help from the Bog Guardians to eradicate them.

Attention was also given to locating Purple Loosestrife, *Phragmites*, Crown Vetch, and Japanese Knotweed. Again, good news! Bog Guardian volunteers found relatively few infestations. Purple Loosestrife was found in the north-west corner of our project area, and scattered colonies of *Phragmites* were found elsewhere. All are manageable,



Japanese Knotweed

and plans are being made to address them. We are also reaching out to landowners, local businesses, and highway departments to join in this effort.

Data from these initial surveys have been recorded in a Geographic Information System (GIS), and the map shown (bottom left) will be used to inform the

community of the threats posed by invasive plants, and to seek support for our mission.

Initial surveys and eradication efforts could not have been accomplished without the help of dedicated Bog Guardian volunteers. We have a core group that have been with the program since it started, and we are looking for more volunteers in 2018. Volunteer opportunities include doing outreach to neighboring landowners and businesses, roadside surveys, control work, and data entry.

The Bog Guardian Program has been in the news! Articles published by the Ozaukee Press and Ozaukee Local Living have been valuable in our efforts to reach out to the community and foster support of the program. The Wisconsin Citizen-Based Monitoring Program and Wisconsin First Detection Network have also featured our program in their newsletters.

We are off to a good start toward accomplishing our goals of establishing a volunteer-based program and engaging landowners and businesses to help us protect the beauty and health of

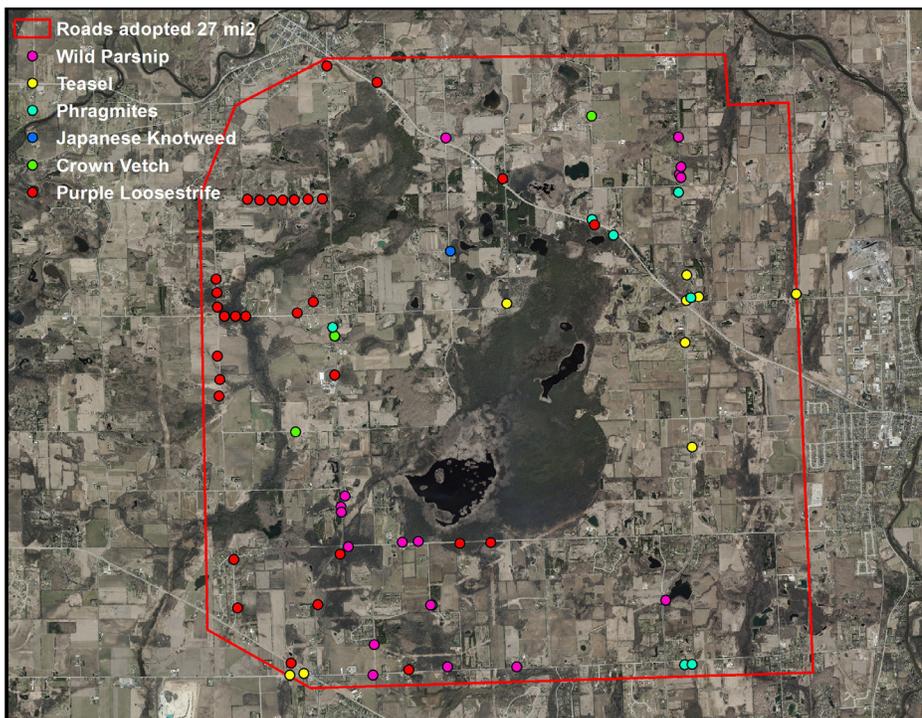


Common Teasel in bloom

our precious Natural Areas by keeping invasive plants out before they become established.

To learn more about the Bog Guardian Program and volunteer opportunities, please contact Jamie Sue Beaupre, Program Manager, 262 323-1887, or jamiebeaupre@bogfriends.org.

Jim Ellis, FOCB Board



BOARD TALK

Dear Friends,

It's winter again, one of my top four favorite seasons to be in the Bog! We are in the middle of our yearly membership drive, and the best way you can support the Bog is by becoming a member of the Friends! If you're a bargain hunter, a \$25 membership goes a long way toward supporting stewardship and education of our very own Wetland Gem. I hope you decide to join, renew or, become a Volunteer Bog Guardian, and I hope you can find time to come out and bask in the splendor of the Bog in winter! Our Annual Winter Walk and Chili Potluck is January 28. Hope to see you there!

Tim Vargo, Board President

THE MYSTERY OF BIRD SONG

What bird is that? How and why does it sing? What are the benefits of bird song to the singer, and how did bird song arise?

A new course titled INTRODUCTION TO BIRD SONG is being offered at the UWM Field Station in 2018. Students will meet on Tuesday evenings from February 6 through the end of March. Bill Mueller, Director of the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory will teach the course.



Eastern Bluebird

People who are just beginning to learn bird songs, as well as to those who want to hone their skills and delve more deeply into an understanding of bird song will benefit from the course.

See a course description and syllabus at <http://uwm.edu/field-station/workshops/spring-workshops/>.

The class is offered for continuing educa-

tion credits – workshop fee is \$80. Registrations are required, and space is limited. Register by credit card online at <http://uwm.edu/field-station/workshops/> or by phone at (414) 227-3200. Registrations sent by mail must include a check payable to UW-Milwaukee. A laptop or tablet is necessary.

ON THE TRAIL WITH JIM: New Snow

My snowshoes whisper in the new fallen snow. Beyond my breath in the crisp cold air, the night sky is brilliant with stars and a full moon shines on the horizon.



Full Moon in the Bog

The hustle and bustle of my day is behind me.

The snow sparkles in the moonlight. Pristine and unspoiled it is, as yet, untraveled by humans. Tracks on the trail tell me I am not alone. As I move into the woods, a delicate and lacy tapestry can be seen in the silhouettes of trees on the night sky. The frosted understory triggers memories of my first experiences of snow. I am as enchanted now as then.

Resting awhile, I hear the sounds of my breath. Excepting for the occasional mating duet of Great Horned owls, it is otherwise quiet. The silence is enormous. It provides the opportunity to reflect on the question of my place in the universe. It is an open question with answers uncertain and not yet discovered.

Leaving my solitude, I hold on to the images provided by this night's trek. I will treasure them until I return. Let it snow again soon!

Jim Ellis, Stewardship Chairman

Friends of the Cedarburg Bog

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

THE ICE PUSH RIDGE

Imagine standing at the edge of the Bog 8,000 years ago. The landscape would have looked radically different. Instead of today's hummocky swamps, marshes, and string bog, you would have seen a large expanse of open water, and as time passed, a patchwork of ponds and lakes.

Now think of the wetland as a giant ice cube tray. Water expands when it freezes, so the level of the ice is higher than that of the original tap water. In the case of the Bog, each time it froze, it pushed at the earthen borders that contained it. Not just at the start of winter, but every time there was a partial thaw or a crack in the ice where meltwater could flow in and re-freeze. The effect was especially powerful during sunny winters with minimum snow cover.

The Bog formed in a basin scraped out by the most recent glacier, so this freezing and thawing has been going on for a very long time. The result? An ice push ridge that formed around the perimeter of the wetland. The ridge is significantly above the level of today's wetland, suggesting that the water level was much higher historically (walking the University's trail means climbing down the ridge on a metal stairway).

The ice push ridge can also be seen on the West Island, where terraces on its north side tell us that when the lake level dropped, it dropped in two stages.



Ice push ridge (left) with a terrace (right)

INVASIVE SPECIES MINI GRANTS

The Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium (SEWISC) will offer mini grants for invasive species control work in 2018. Check their website (<http://sewisc.org/>) in mid-January for application information.

SHAGBARK HICKORY

The most distinctive tree in the uplands around the Bog is the Shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), which gets its common name from the loose strips of rough, gray bark that flake off of mature trees (the bark of young trees is smooth).



Bark of a mature shagbark hickory

In this area, shagbark hickory is found in woods that include oak, beech, maple, black cherry, and basswood, though it also grows in the open. Never a dominant part of the canopy, it likes sunny and semi-sunny locations with a variety of soils. In the Cedarburg Beech Woods State Natural Area, it's often found where mature trees have fallen, creating an opening in the canopy and letting sunlight in temporarily.

Historically, shagbark hickory undoubtedly benefitted from the fires set by Native Americans to encourage sun-loving berries, make travel easier, and provide habitat for deer. Hickory's thick bark allows it to survive a quick fire, and it sprouts easily from both stumps and roots. Fire knocked down competition from more fire-sensitive maples and other understory plants; today's lack of fire favors maples.

Shagbark hickory is a big, hardy tree, reaching 100 feet into the air and living as long as 350 years - a slow-growing tree with a deep taproot. Its branches grow alternately, and its compound leaves are huge - a foot or more long - usually having three big leaflets at the tip of each petiole and two smaller leaflets closer to the base.

Native Americans, and later settlers, prized hickory nuts. The name "hickory" comes from the Algonquin word pawcohiccora, which either refers to

The Cedarburg Bog is a Wetland Gem and an Important Bird Area.

a milky drink that was made from the nuts and used in cooking, or to the crushed, boiled, oily nutmeat. They had to compete for hickory nuts with foxes, squirrels, raccoons, chipmunks, mice, bears, waterfowl, and turkeys.

Shagbark hickory has been grown for its sweet nuts, especially in the north where pecans don't grow. But a tree may take 10 years to start bearing and 40 years to produce a big crop (mast). Mast years are sporadic, and the nuts are time-consuming to shell.

In frontier times, the bark was boiled



Shagbark hickory leaves and nuts

for a tea that treated arthritis, and other parts of the tree were used as a styptic and to treat ringworm, headaches, and toothaches. Today the bark is boiled to make a sweet syrup similar to maple syrup, and a hickory tree tapped like a maple will produce a small amount of syrup.

Hard and heavy, hickory wood is used in woodworking projects where strength is needed. It's been used to make bows, axe handles, spokes, ploughs, exercise equipment, floors, furniture, and ladders. The wood was and is used for smoking meats, and according to Bill Hilton Jr. in "This Week at Hilton Pond," a cord of split shagbark hickory wood has the heating power of a ton of anthracite coal and heated many frontier cabins <http://www.hiltonpond.org/thisweek030908.html>.

TRACKING OWLS

On March 6th at 7:00 PM, the Friends will join Riveredge Nature Center and the Schlitiz Audubon Center in sponsoring a program about tracking Snowy Owls using radio telemetry.

Gene Jacobs, Director of the Linwood Springs Research Center, will share some of his most remarkable findings from over 40 years of research on raptors including Golden Eagles and Saw



Snowy Owl photo by Dennis Malueg

Whet Owls.

Jacobs has been involved with Project SNOWstorm, a Snowy Owl tracking effort that was initiated during an irruption of the birds in the winter of 2013-14.

The tracking devices allow scientists to monitor the minute-to-minute movements of these birds. <http://www.projectsnowstorm.org/maps-2014-15/goose-pond/>

The interior of the Bog, with its flat landscape and low vegetation, is good winter habitat for Snowy Owls.

The program, part of the Science for Everyone series, will be presented at Riveredge and will be followed by a short owl prowl on the Riveredge Nature Center's grounds. Fee: \$5 donation requested.

Annual Winter Hike and Chili Potluck
at the UWM Field Station
January 28, 2018

1:30 PM hike
4:30 PM eats

Come for the walk, the potluck, or both!

We supply chili and beverages.
Please bring a side dish or a dessert.

Remember, No Pets.

RSVP at bogfriends.org
(Click on Events)

Questions?
Email fieldstn@uwm.edu or call
262-675-6844.

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.

Quarterly Board Meeting
January 11, 6 to 8 PM
Members welcome.

Tracking the Mammals of the Cedarburg Bog
January 21, 9 AM to noon
Join Julia Robson on this indoor/outdoor exploration of the fascinating mammals which inhabit our area. After an inside introduction, we'll go outside and look for mammal signs and tracks in the Bog. Dress for winter!

An Owl Prowl on Ground Hog Day
February 2, 6:30 to 8 PM
Join Mary, Tom, and John as they search for Saw-whet, Screech, Barred, and Great Horned Owls (but we probably won't see a ground-hog!). Dress for a cold night and bring a small flashlight and binoculars.



Winter Hike and Chili Potluck
January 28 1:30 PM hike; 4:30 supper
See information elsewhere in this newsletter.

Wood Ducks and Other Wetland Birds in the Bog
February 24, 1 to 3:30 PM.

The Friends' Wood Duck nest box project has been very successful. We'll start indoors, exploring the lifestyles of Wood Ducks and other water birds of the Bog. Then we'll walk in the Bog to see what various nest cavities can tell us about prior inhabitants. Winter boots recommended.

Banding and GPS Telemetry Tracking of Snowy Owls, Saw-whet Owls, and Golden Eagles in Wisconsin
March 6, 7 to 8:45 PM at RNC
See information on page 3 of this newsletter.

CALENDAR

See the Treasures of Oz website treasuresofoz.org and the websites of our partner organizations for more details about these and many other events.

Noel J. Cutright Bird Club

First Tuesday of the month, 7 PM at RNC
Check the RNC website event calendar for topics.
Free and 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.

January 16 - *Exploring the Ice Age Trail*

Winter Identification and Management of Native and Invasive Species

January 25, 9 AM to 3:30 PM at RNC
Dress for winter and bring a lunch. Free guides to invasive plant ID and management.

Night ski, Snowshoe, and Candle-lit hike
Fridays in January & February,
4:30 to 8 PM at RNC

Winter Frolic

February 3, 2018, 10 AM to 4 PM at MNP
Celebrate winter with outdoor activities like ice fishing, sleigh and tractor rides, and more, and an indoor farmers market, music, and entertainment.
Free and open to the public

Milwaukee Riverkeeper Citizen-based Water Quality Monitoring Program

February 20, 7 to 8 PM at LLC
The Riverkeepers is monitoring program whose volunteers collect data that directly influences decisions about the Milwaukee River Basin. Find out what they do and how.
Open to the public; a \$5 dollar donation appreciated.

Maple Sugaring for Fun and Profit

February 24, 9:30 to 11:30 at RNC
Check the Riveredge website or call 262-375-2715 for more information or to pre-register.

Tapping the Sugarbush

February 24, 1 to 2:30
Check the Riveredge website or call 262-375-2715 for more information about these events or to pre-register.

RNC – Riveredge Nature Center
4458 County Hwy Y, Saukville
riveredgenaturecenter.org
(262) 375-2715 (800) 287-8098

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

LLC – Lac Lawrann Conservancy
300 Schmidt Rd, West Bend
laclawrann.org
(262) 335-5080

C/O UWM Field Station
3095 Blue Goose Road
Saukville, WI 53080

