

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Volume 16, Number 4 FALL 2021

CEDARBURG BOG FRIENDS EVENTS

Unless otherwise noted, walks meet at the UWM Field Station on Blue Goose Rd.

To restrict spread of the coronavirus, all events at the UWM Field Station will be held mostly outside. Restrooms will be available inside. Masks must be worn inside, whether you are vaccinated or unvaccinated. Space is limited, registration is required.

To register, visit www.bogfriends.org (click on Programs & 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.

Stargazing

Friday, October 22nd, 7:30-9:00 PM

Enjoy an evening of stargazing at the Cedarburg Bog. The Northern Cross Science Foundation will introduce the group to the night sky. View planets, galaxies, nebula and other celestial objects through a variety of telescopes. Be sure to dress for the weather and bring a lawn chair.

A Walk in the Beech Woods

Sunday, October 24, 9 AM to noon

The Cedarburg Beech Woods is a State Natural area at the UWM Field Station. Hikers will enjoy the fall colors as Jim Reinartz explores this mature forest.

Fall Owl Prowl

Friday, November 5, 6:30 to 9 PM

Join Mary Holleback and John O'Donnell as they search for resident and migratory owls. Bring binoculars and a small flashlight.

How Do Trees Grow?

Sunday, November 21, 9 AM to noon

Enjoy the forest but want to learn more? Jim Reinartz will explain the special ways trees grow.

Fall Workday

We are planning a fall workday, visit the FOCB website for details soon!

Ways to Stay Connected with FOCB

Join our Email List
<https://bogfriends.org/mailling-list/>

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHHu5lWILc0mc4GTpDz5cOQ>

Like us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/TheFriendsoftheCedarburgBog/>

Follow us on Instagram
https://www.instagram.com/friends_cedarburgbog/



Hike at Fall Picnic - photo by Michelle Inhofer



Barn Owl - photo by John O'Donnell

FBMP – Forest Beach Migratory Preserve
4970 Country Club Road, Belgium
<https://wglbbo.org/>

MNP – Mequon Nature Preserve
Pieper Power Education Center
8200 W County Line Rd, Mequon
center@mequonnaturepreserve.com

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

GLC - Glacial Lakes Conservancy
529 Ontario Ave. Sheboygan, WI 53081
<https://www.glaciallakes.org>
(920)273-1143

EVENTS HAPPENING ELSEWHERE

CALENDAR

MNP

Trick or Treat around the Preserve

Saturday, October 10th 12:00 - 2:00

Walk around the Streich Family Wetlands and stop at different tables to grab candy and other fun items from the staff.

RNP

Frothy Forage

Saturday, October 9th

Riveredge's Frothy Forage has become the premier outdoor craft beer, wine, cider, and other delectable 21+ drink festival

GLC - Great Lakes Conservancy
25th Anniversary Event
October 9th

FBMP

Cocktails for Conservancy

Thursday, November 18th 5:30-8:00

Ozaukee-Washington Birding Coalition

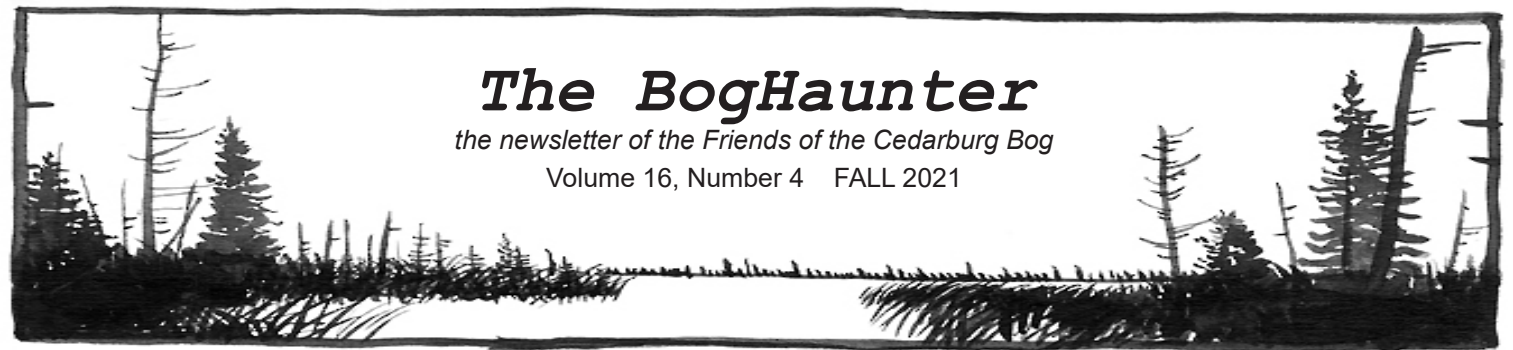
FOCB - Indoor/Zoom Event, January 5th

Project Snowstorm Revisited - Gene Jacobs

MNP - Indoor/Zoom Event, February 2nd

FOCB - Outdoor Event, February (tbd)

Owl Prowl



The BogHaunter

the newsletter of the Friends of the Cedarburg Bog

Volume 16, Number 4 FALL 2021



American white pelican - photo by John O'Donnell

RARE AND UNCOMMON BIRD OBSERVATIONS IN THE BOG

Every year is a good year to bird in the Cedarburg Bog. This year however the birding has really been exceptional! So far in 2021 there have been quite a few rare observations as well as a modest expansion of the official Cedarburg Bog Bird List. Two new entries to the bird list are the Tufted Titmouse and Carolina Wren. Both birds, seen in March, were further north than their usual range presumably due to the warming climate.



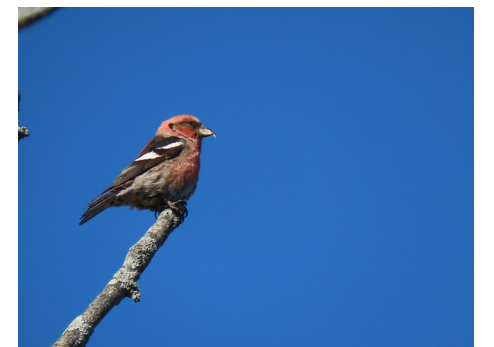
Prothonotary Warbler - photo by John O'Donnell

Cedarburg Bog.

Transitioning into Spring, on March 15, Braden Meyer recorded a Cackling Goose and several White-fronted Geese in Mud Lake just as the ice was receding. These two species are rare but regular in the Bog. In the process of scanning for the geese through his telescope, Braden also happened upon a brand new bird for the Bog record books -- a Lesser Black-backed Gull sitting dab smack in the middle of a large flock of Ring-billed Gulls. This made for a lot of excitement; however, more excitement was on the way! Two months later on May 15, Jim Frank heard what he thought was a White-eyed Vireo singing deep in the thickets bordering St. Augustine Road. Sure enough, on May 17, the bird was finally seen, photographed, and added to the expanding Bog bird list.

Then, on May 23, a Friends of the Cedarburg Bog bird walk group found a Prothonotary Warbler and a backcross variant of "Brewster's" Warbler-- a hybrid offspring of a Blue-Winged Warbler and a Golden-winged Warbler, one of the parents likely already a hybrid itself! The so-called Brewster's Warbler was not only very rare but completely unique in its plumage. The final topping on the cake for this day was a Connecticut Warbler which made a brief appearance before skulking back into the underbrush.

Come join us sometime on a bird walk and/or an owl prowling. But don't plan on



White-winged Crossbill - photo by John O'Donnell

seeing rarities. Rarities are only a bonus. Just being in the Bog is enough.

John O'Donnell



White-fronted goose - photo by John O'Donnell

New Video of the Cedarburg Bog

We have added a new video to our YouTube channel. The video, produced in partnership with EPIC Creative of West Bend, includes flyover footage that captures the vast beauty of the Cedarburg Bog with commentary by Jim Reinartz, Kate Redmond and Jim Ellis. There are also multiple images of Friends of the Cedarburg Bog educational events and stewardship activities in the Bog.

A big thank you to Jim Becker, President and Founder of EPIC Creative for making his production staff and resources available to work with us in creating the video. Jim, a former neighbor to the Bog, has fond memories of time spent in the Bog and was eager to give us a hand.

Please check out the video on our YouTube channel. There will also be a link to it on our Facebook page and it can be found on our website.

Jim Ellis



Leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*)

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

GOVERNOR EVERS SIGNS BILL ENCOURAGING MORE WETLAND AND FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION

From the newsletter of the Wisconsin Wetlands Association

Governor Tony Evers put his final approval on Senate Bill 91 (now 2021 Act 77) which focuses on restoring the natural capacity of wetlands to manage water. The legislation calls for the creation of a hydrologic restoration general permit for simple, voluntary projects that repair hydrology, often involving upper watershed wetland restoration and floodplain reconnection.

Instead of needing multiple permits, certain restoration projects may qualify for a single general permit that will be developed by the Department of Natural Resources. To be eligible, the projects must improve wetland and stream health by improving hydrologic connections, conditions, and functions. As more Wisconsin communities grapple with water-related problems, 2021 Act 77 will create an efficient review process for hydrologic restoration projects.

“Especially here in Wisconsin, wetlands are key to healthy, resilient watersheds,” said Wisconsin Wetlands Association Executive Director Tracy Hames. “Wisconsin has lost nearly half of its original 10 million acres of wetlands, so we need to facilitate restoration to improve storage and slow the flow of water across our landscape.” Wisconsin communities are facing more water-related problems each year and need more tools to confront these costly and destructive problems. Flooding damages homes, businesses, farms, roads, and wildlife habitat, impacting the economy and overwhelming the budgets of local governments. These same storms also intensify water quality problems by unleashing sediment and runoff into the surface water of lakes and rivers. “No single action will solve all the problems we face, but restoring healthy hydrology must be part of our overall strategy to build resilience,” said Hames. “This permit will encourage more consideration of wetland solutions to problems like flooding, erosion, sedimentation, run-off, and water quality.” This legislation was introduced by Representatives Oldenburg (Viroqua) and Steineke (Kaukauna), and Senators Cowles (Allouez) and Bewley (Mason). It received bipartisan support of 40 unique cosponsors over the last two legislative sessions.

A diverse array of organizations also supported the bill, including conservation, sporting heritage, local government, and real estate affiliated groups. Senate Bill 91 (2021 Act 77) builds upon 2019 Act 157, which appropriated \$150,000 to Ashland County to demonstrate simple wetland restoration practices that can be used to manage runoff and reduce downstream flood risks.

BLACK TERN NESTING PLATFORM PROJECT UPDATE

Earlier this year, Grafton High School student Braden Meyer proposed an ambitious project for his Eagle Scout project (see the Spring 2021 Bog Haunter for details) to encourage Black tern nesting in Mud Lake. Braden Meyer raised a little more than the \$1500 needed to procure the necessary materials and a remote access video camera for monitoring any and all activity around the platforms. Construction began in early April with the platforms being installed on April 25, 2021 -- just about the time that the terns begin to return to Wisconsin from their over-wintering sites in South America and Mexico. Even though several Black Terns were in the area on at least one day in May, none accepted the free lodging offered to them this year. The platforms were taken out on July 24th.

Braden said, *“I would like to say thank you to the Friends of the Bog for its help with the completion of my project.”*

The Friends as well as Braden are already optimistic that next year (2022) will be the year that the Black Tern returns to its old nesting grounds in the Cedarburg Bog. And when they do, Braden will once again have the welcome mats out for them!

John O'Donnell

SEASONS OF THE BOG

In the next four issues of our newsletter we will be highlighting the wonders of the bog with a retrospective seasonal photo essay. This array of beauty will feature the visual talents of Andy Holman, current FOCB Treasurer. We hope you enjoy some of the summer spectaculars as much as we do!

Michelle Inhofer

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

Seasons of the Bog: Summer

Photos by Andy Holman



The stream in the bog



Marsh cinquefoil



A wet raccoon kit emerges on the boardwalk



A Pitcher plant bloom



Maiden hair fern

WALKING WITH THE FERNS

It was 68 degrees and sunny for the September 12th Introduction to Ferns hike. Led by the ever talented Freda van den Broek, she shared her passion and expertise about ferns and fern relatives with the attendees. Not long after we began, we encountered the Field Horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*). It was easily spotted along the trail just before the boardwalk with its branched stem and bushy appearance. A few other fern relatives were also spotted further along the boardwalk where the conditions were a bit wetter, such as the Water/Swamp Horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*) and the Common Scouring Rush (*Equisetum hyemale*).

The Bulblet Fern (*Cystopteris bulbifera*) was the first true fern seen and identified by its fine, narrow, and arched appearance along with its signature pea-like bulblet fronds. Further along Freda pointed out the broad and triangular Rattlesnake Fern (*Botrychium virginianum*) under heavy canopy cover, describing how fern sightings change from year to year. Some ferns tend to grow in clusters like that of the Fragile Fern (*Cystopteris fragilis*) or weedy colonies such as the Bracken Fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), while the Rattlesnake Fern is much more sparsely dispersed.



Freda van den Broek - photo by Michelle Inhofer

Another interesting find were several trees covered in white Woolly Aphids. These fuzzy backed sap-sucking insects completely covered branch after branch, giving the appearance of dancing snowflakes on the trees. Once the sap is extracted from the trees the Woolly Aphids secrete a sticky honeydew which drops to the ground causing a black sooty mold, which is actually a fungus, to grow beneath the trees. It was interesting to see, especially so late in the year.

Off of the boardwalk in a swampy wooded area the Cinnamon Fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*) stole the show with its vibrant yellows and rustic browns coloring as far as the eye could see. It is clearly a favorite for the early fall, and easily identified by its color. In a similar area both the Marsh Fern (*Thelypteris palustris*) and the Intermediate Wood Fern (*Dryopteris intermedia*) were spotted, although sparse among the stately clusters of the Cinnamon Fern.

There were many other wonderful stories and finds. A huge thanks to Freda for leading such a wonderful hike, and we hope many of you will be able to attend in the future.

Michelle Inhofer



Woolly Aphids - photo by Michelle Inhofer

BOARD OF DIRECTOR NEWS

Andy Holschbach, Chuck Stebelton and Tim Vargo are leaving the Board of Directors at the end of September.

Andy has been active on the Stewardship Committee since coming on the Board in 2015 and has been promoted to a new position with Ozaukee County Land & Water Management Department.

Chuck has been our stalwart Bog Haunter Editor since coming on the Board in 2019. He too has taken on added responsibility in his job.

Tim is the Manager of Research and Community Science at the Urban Ecology Center. Tim Vargo has completed 9 years on the Board. He has served as Vice President, President and, most recently, Chair of the Governance Committee.

Each of them has given generously of their time and talents. While each of them will remain Friends of the Cedarburg Bog, we will miss their active involvement and their leadership

We wish them well as they move on.

Jim Ellis