

THE BOGHAUNTER

the newsletter of the Friends of the Cedarburg Bog

Volume 17, Number 3 SUMMER 2022

President's Report - Summer 2022

I took a walk at the north end of the Bog today. I call the "north end" all of the public land accessible from the Natural Area parking lot on Hwy 33. There is a lot of remarkable land to explore in the wild areas at the north end, both on and off trail.

The walk made me think of all that FOCB is doing and all the potential for additional conservation work the organization can accomplish. Our educational programs this season are exciting as always and have regularly been filling to capacity. We are so appreciative of our volunteer event leaders who are willing to give their time to share what they know about our Wetland Gem.

The informal trails through the upland island at the end of the southern boardwalk spur brought me to the center of another great opportunity for our stewardship work and a great opportunity for volunteers. That land is truly an island, surrounded by wetland. It was farmed at least until the 1970s when it was allowed to go fallow. In addition to the native shrubs and trees that have been moving into that old farm field since then, there are, of course, the invasive Autumn olive, honeysuckles, and buckthorn.

The FOCB Stewardship group plans to conduct some workdays to clear invasives from the island which will greatly improve the navigability of the informal trails. Work on that project and stewarding the north end in general is a great opportunity for one or more volunteers. The Friends of Cedarburg Bog is a volunteer organization in every sense. Volunteers are our strength. Please consider joining us for one of our volunteer work days. It's only with friends like you that we are able to maintain the natural habitat/beauty of the Bog. You can sign up to volunteer on our website at: <https://bogfriends.org/get-involved/>

-Jim Reinartz



Osprey in nest on a platform in the bog - photo by John O'Donnell

Another Osprey Nest at the Bog

In 2008 American Transmission Company installed five Osprey nest platforms in the vicinity of the Cedarburg Bog, three of them right on the Bog's border. A nest platform located in a small pond east of Hwy I between Cedar Sauk and Pleasant Valley Roads was used immediately and has been used ever since. Even in that first 2008 season that nest fledged two young, becoming the first successful Osprey breeding documented in Ozaukee County in at least 100 years.

None of the three platforms installed on the immediate boundary of the Bog were used in their first ten years. Then in 2018 Osprey began to build a nest on the platform south of Watt's Lake at the wetland margin. That nest has been used and productive for the past five years.

Now a second nest platform at the edge of the Bog is occupied with an Osprey nest. That nest is in the wetland just west of The

Bog golf course. John O'Donnell took this photo on 21 April 2022 when he found the active nest.

Osprey nearly disappeared from North America when their numbers fell substantially from 1950-1970 as a result of pesticide use including DDT. In recent decades, their population has been increasing dramatically. The full occupancy of the two usable nest platforms at the Cedarburg Bog is likely a sign of that population increase.

The third of the Bog's platforms was installed south of Mud Lake and east of the boardwalk into Mud Lake. Ospreys have never completed and occupied a nest on that platform although they did occasionally show interest in it years ago. The pole holding that platform is now listing badly and that nest site is unusable for an Osprey nest. The only two usable nest platforms on the margin of the Bog are now occupied.

-Jim Reinartz

Artist in Residence

The Friends of the Cedarburg Bog and the UWM Field Station are pleased to announce our first ever artist in residence program. Painter Jeffrey K. Kunkel got in touch with Field Station Director Gretchen Meyer, and offered to conduct a visiting artist residency at the Cedarburg Bog with a goal of completing 25 plein air oil paintings. She, along with the Friends, see the residency as a worthwhile project. As Meyer pointed out, “artist residencies have the potential to bring greater awareness of natural preserves such as the Bog to a broader public. The power of linking art and nature speaks in a way that can reach many people.”



Landscape painter Jeff Kunkel

Kunkel's first visit to the bog as an artist in residence was in late May of this year. I met up with him while he was here to see his work and learn more about him, his process, and his connection to the Bog. He hopes this project will extend awareness of the Bog's beauty and ecological importance, so we headed out to the swallow houses.

Jeff grew up in Wisconsin, and is a graduate of UW-Milwaukee. He and his wife have been active donors to the UWM

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

Foundation. Jeff now lives, writes, and paints in Oakland California

We walk around as he searches for the best view for his painting, checking the composition and lighting at each angle and turn. He decides on a location, and begins to set up his portable easel. He carefully arranges his paints, brushes, and pallet knives. He pulls out a 16"x20" canvas that already has an underpainting on it in a brilliant blue. He explains that he chooses a color that he thinks will work well with the subject matter. After removing a rectangular viewfinder the same shape as his canvas, he lines up the composition and begins sketching it out with a white charcoal pencil onto the canvas. This acts as a guide for Kunkel as he begins his painting.

The challenge on this particular day is that it's hot and breezy. Today he plans to paint quickly due to the heat. "You have to trust your hand to move ahead of your brain," he says as the sun's strong rays beam down on us in the open field. At one point a strong wind nearly takes the canvas off of the easel. He explains that on days like this with strong winds and hot sun you have to come prepared. He uses a smaller canvas to combat the strong winds, as anything larger acts as a sail and would tip over his easel and setup.

Kunkel likes to work with oil paints. He admits they are messy, but he likes using them because they've been used by artists for hundreds of years and he likes that connection and history. As a serious writer for 35-40 years, he tells me that he's always been a visual person and it was a natural transition from writing to painting. For the last 25 years he's been painting part time, but has taken it on more full-time in the last 5 years after going back to school for art in his middle age.

Kunkel plans on a fall visit and a show held locally once the work is complete. We are happy to have Jeff lend his eye and talent to capture the Bog and surrounding area in such a unique way. We will provide further details for his show once they have been finalized. Examples of Kunkel's work can be seen at his website:

<https://jeffkunkel.org/jeffs-art/>

-Michelle Inhofer

Birding the Bog

The UWM Field Station has a nearly continuous 50+ year history of avian

research, systematic censuses of both migratory and breeding bird populations, and a plethora of published bird studies in the scientific literature. In 2006, the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative formally designated the Cedarburg Bog complex as an Important Bird Area (IBA) in the State of Wisconsin. Thus far, a total of 252 different bird species have been recorded within the overall IBA, and the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology Bird Haunts of Wisconsin publication and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's popular eBird program identify the Cedarburg Bog IBA as a bona fide Wisconsin birding hotspot.

Question: Why is the Cedarburg Bog and the surrounding Important Bird Area so "birdy?"

Answer: Geology, ecology, biodiversity, and stewardship. The Cedarburg Bog Important Bird Area encompasses approximately 4000 acres. It is comprised of three State Natural Areas blessed with a multitude of unique habitats, e.g., cedar swamp, hardwood swamp, black spruce bog, string bog, shrub-carr, upland pine and spruce plantations, upland deciduous forest, sedge meadow, native grassland, old agricultural fields, and six relict lakes surrounded by emergent vegetation. In many ways, the Bog is the heart of the Important Bird Area and the surrounding area the circulatory system. At 2200 acres, the Cedarburg Bog is the largest glacial bog in southeastern Wisconsin. As such, it has boreal features which harbor bird species associated with more northern latitudes. Geographically, the Cedarburg Bog IBA as a whole lies within a "tension zone" wherein many southern and northern bird species reach the outer boundaries of their breeding range resulting in an overlap of southern and more northerly bird species. The Cedarburg Bog IBA has long been known for the diversity of species, the geographic rarity of some breeding species, and for the "stopover" opportunities provided to migratory birds.

Birding in the Cedarburg Bog complex however is a challenge! Access to much of the Cedarburg Bog IBA is limited given that the outer perimeter of the IBA is largely privately owned or owned by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where restricted access is necessary to protect botanical rarities and to provide a controlled environment for researchers. There are some places where the outer edges of the Bog can be safely accessed; however, attempting to penetrate into the

core of the Bog is not at all recommended given that considerable physical effort is required and given that there are dangerous hazards associated with slogging and wading into a bog this size.

So -- what's the best and the safest way to bird the Bog?

Answer: Sign up for a Friends of the Cedarburg Bog outing! That's what four different groups did over the course of a very busy three day period during the 2022 Memorial Day weekend. The first outing started with a Friends of the Cedarburg Bog early morning bird walk on Friday May 27. The following morning, Saturday May 28, two separate groups of birders/canoeists associated with the Natural Resources Foundation explored the Bog for about 2 1/2 hours on foot and 1 1/2 hours by canoe. This event was a benefit for the NRF Bird Conservation Fund. Finally, on Sunday morning May 29, the weekend concluded with a two hour canoe/kayak exploration of Mud Lake sponsored by the Friends of the Cedarburg Bog and the Ozaukee-Washington Birding Coalition. Canoes were provided by the UWM Field Station.



Blanding Turtle - photo by Kat Wodtke

In the end, 45 participants and five leaders birded, walked, and/or paddled their way around a small southern chunk of the Cedarburg Bog. A total of 88 bird species was tallied over the three days, including specialties like Least Bittern, Sora, Osprey, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Bald Eagle, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Acadian Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, Henslow's Sparrow, Northern Waterthrush, Connecticut Warbler, as well as Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos. Also seen was a Northern Water Snake. Two participants even got a photograph of a Blanding Turtle, a species of Special Concern in Wisconsin. Special thanks go to Chuck Stebelton, Alex Mann, Braden Meyer, and Nathaniel Reinartz for

co-leading the birding events throughout the Memorial Day Weekend Birding Extravaganza.

If birding the Bog appeals to you, stay tuned and watch for future bird-related events posted on the Friends of the Cedarburg Bog website (bogfriends.org). Also, a digital guide on "Where to find birds in the Cedarburg Bog IBA" is available upon request by contacting the Friends of the Cedarburg Bog at: bogfriends@gmail.com and providing your email address.

-John O'Donnell

Biology Scholarships Awarded

We are happy to announce that we have awarded two biology scholarships to students taking workshops at the field station this year. **Elpiniki Tianis** and **Nathan Tennies** are the two UW-Milwaukee awardees.

Elpiniki is majoring in Psychology with a minor in Biology and is expected to graduate in December of 2022. As a native of Chicago, Elpiniki said she enjoyed bringing home specimens from local nature preserves. With her studies bringing her to Milwaukee, this fondness and appreciation for the natural world around her has expanded with her education. Elpiniki's scholarship will help fund her biological science field biology course. She said, "I know I will feel more confident in my ability to protect, observe, and identify aspects of this land."

Nathan is majoring in Mathematics with a minor in Biological Science, and is expected to graduate in August of 2022. He plans on working in the aquatic ecology field with a focus on aquatic plants and their ecology. Having already worked on several research projects modeling species distribution and surveying mangroves, he has developed a broader interest in wetlands as a whole. Nathan's scholarship will help fund his wetland delineation course. He has his sights on a wetland scientist job and said, "taking this course could increase [his] chances for being accepted."

Congratulations to both scholarship awardees and thank you to all of our Friends who have supported this scholarship.

-Michelle Inhofer

Seasons of the Bog: Spring

Photos by Andy Holman



Marsh Wren



Cinnamon Fern Spores



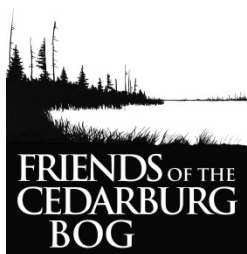
Chalk-fronted Corporal



Small yellow lady's slipper



Wood Frog



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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SUMMER 2022

CEDARBURG BOG 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 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.*

Quarterly Board Meeting

Thursday, July 7, 6:00 pm

All members are welcome to join the FOCB board meeting. The July meeting is being held in person and over Zoom. If interested in the agenda and to receive access to the meeting, please contact admin@bogfriends.org.

Birding Basics 1

Sunday, July 10, 9:00 AM – Noon

Nathaniel Reinartz will show participants how to get started with birdwatching. The morning begins with an introduction to birdwatching and then moves outdoors to search for birds in the field. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Birding Basics 2

Sunday, July 17, 6:00 – 9:00 AM

Expand your enjoyment of the natural world as Nathaniel Reinartz shares his enthusiasm for birdwatching. The Cedarburg Beechwoods and the Cedarburg Bog offer a great opportunity for new birdwatchers to explore this fun hobby. Prepare for insects and wet vegetation. This class will be entirely outdoors.

Bog Ethnobotany: Plant Use by Great Lakes Native Americans

Saturday, August 13, 9:00 AM – Noon

Into the Bog and through the woods, join ethnobotanist Lee Olsen in search of plants used by eight Great Lakes Nations for food, medicine, basket weaving, dyes, and technology. Lee will demonstrate utility uses (dyes, cordage, fiber, and construction), reveal medicinal

plants, and identify food plants. Bring good hiking shoes and dress for the weather.

Mushrooms and Other Fleshy Fungi

Sunday, September 11, 1:00 to 4:00 PM

Mushroom enthusiasts will have the opportunity to search the Cedarburg Beechwoods in the fall with retired biology professor Alan Parker. Dr. Parker has studied Wisconsin fungi for decades and is eager to share his vast knowledge of fungi.

Ferns

Sunday, September 18, 10:00 to 12:30 PM

What are ferns, and how and where do they grow? Naturalist Freda van den Broek will explain their natural history, structure, and identification. Meet at the north end of the Bog in the Hwy 33 parking lot. (No restrooms)

Save the date: FOCB Annual Meeting & Celebration of the Cedarburg Bog

Sunday, October 2, 3:00 - 6:30 PM

Join with the Friends of the Cedarburg Bog and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Field Station for the annual fall hike, pot luck picnic, and a camp fire. The Friends of the Cedarburg Bog will supply brats, burgers and beverages. Please bring a dessert or side dish to share. Come for the walk, the potluck or both!



Pitcher plant bloom - photo by Andy Holman



Birding by Canoe event - photo by Jeff Kunkel



Olive-sided Flycatcher - photo by John O'Donnell

Ways to Stay Connected with FOCB



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