

# THE BOGHAUNTER

*the newsletter of the Friends of the Cedarburg Bog*

Volume 17, Number 4 Fall 2022



*Stream in the bog - photo by Michelle Inhofer*

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

FALL 2022

I just finished writing a brief summary of FOCB activities and accomplishments over the past year for the FOCB Annual Meeting and to post on our website. That summary was fun to write, being a chance to brag about what the Friends have accomplished over the past year. Here are some of the highlights of that summary:

- FOCB has presented 21 well-attended educational programs in 2022, starting with a huge response to our in-person winter hike to the heart of the Bog. At least six programs were new topics not offered before.

- Stewardship volunteers worked on invasive shrub control at Mud Lake boardwalk entrance, glossy buckthorn control along the Field Station boardwalk, and Oriental bittersweet in the Station's Beechwoods State Natural Area. For the fifth year, the Bog Guardian program prevented four invasive plants from

establishing in the 28 mi<sup>2</sup> area surrounding the Bog, including teasels and wild parsnip which are very destructive in surrounding areas.

- The Friends continued wildlife monitoring programs with bioacoustic monitors and wildlife cameras placed in remote areas of the Bog. And a new Osprey nest was discovered on one of the nest platforms we installed almost 15 years ago, so that both usable nest platforms now have active Osprey nests.

- We continued financial support of the Field Station's Natural History Workshop program and scholarships for students attending workshops.

- An exciting new Artist-in-Residency program was begun in the spring of 2022. During the year, painter Jeffrey Kunkel will produce 25 plein air oil paintings that will be shown at the Cedarburg Cultural Center in the spring of 2023.

- Two new members are bringing great novel energy and talents to our Board of Directors. Lisa Miller assumed the role of Editor of this newsletter and Chair of our Communication Committee; and Steve Sirkis is heading up a new landowner contact initiative for the Friends in cooperation with the DNR and the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust.

Our volunteer-run organization has been busy over the past year. When a lot is being accomplished, it is enjoyable to write about those achievements.

-Jim Reinartz

## IN MEMORY OF RICK WOLFF CONSERVATION WARDEN & TEACHER

Rick Wolff graduated from the UW-Stevens Point at the age of 22 with a degree in Resource Management in 1975. Following college, Rick worked with the Wisconsin DNR as a Naturalist, and later as a Park Ranger. In 1980, Rick was hired as a Wisconsin Conservation Warden and was assigned to Ozaukee County where he



*Rick Wolff*



served until his retirement in 2006. Rick came to Ozaukee County in 1980, the same year that I started work at the Field Station.

Rick was a dedicated and energetic warden for our County. He was responsive to the needs of the Field Station and the Cedarburg Bog. He cared very much for the Cedarburg Bog and adjacent natural areas and made them a focus of his studies to better understand the system that he was protecting. "Warden Wolff" was widely known for his love of the outdoors, his knowledge of Wisconsin wildlife, and his skills as a hunter. A high school cross country champion, Rick was a competitive cyclist, biathlon athlete, and cross-country skier, which must have contributed to his tremendous energy.

Since his retirement from the DNR, Rick taught about wildlife ecology, wildlife in winter, tracking, and mammals of the Bog for Friends of Cedarburg Bog

beneficiary of memorial donations; Rick's family and friends were very generous in his memory. In appreciation for his many contributions to the Bog over the years - thank you, Rick. You will be missed.

-Jim Reinartz



*Spotted Joe-Pye-Weed (Eutrochium maculatum) - Image by Michelle Inhofer*

## EXPLORING ETHNOBOTANY WITH LEE OLSEN

Lee Olsen has been gracious enough to share his wealth of knowledge with the Friends for many years. As Lee describes, Ethnobotany is the study of Native American uses and views of plants which includes names, mythology, medicine food, technology, and paleoethnobotany. Having first taught Ethnobotany for

aspect of how ancient Native Americans used plants, Paleoethnobotany, and the origins of plant taxonomy. Olsen gives a nod to a prolific Ethnobotanist in our area Huron Smith. As curator of Botany for the Milwaukee Public Museum in 1917 Smith

had several books published recording approximately 670 species, 280 of these were never recorded elsewhere.

Many of the Bog and State Natural Area's plants have historical uses for food, medicine, ceremonies, dyes, and more. In August, Lee held a class and hike for the Friends. For the first portion of the program Lee shared some of his Indian basket collection. The baskets were intricately woven

with materials such as Black Ash splints, sweetgrass, birchbark, and spruce root. He also showcased quill boxes made from porcupine quills.

The baskets were carefully dyed with Cedar for greens, Sugar Maple for purples, Dogwood and Birch for reds, and Milkweed and Sumac for yellows. Most plants, as Lee pointed out, can be used for both medicine and dyes along with a variety of other utilities such as canoes, hunting and trapping, cords and mats, as well as instruments.

The versatility of these plants was highlighted as we made our way outside and trekked into the Bog. He explained that Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) flowers were used for sweetening and flavor, and gave us a sample of the pods to taste. Bog Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) is even sweeter, but he cautions us as there are poisonous look a likes. As we continued along the boardwalk we pass Prickly-ash (*Zanthoxylum americana*) used to treat pain, cough, and fever. Just looking around and listening to Lee, you can imagine how life and community was built and sustained off of the land we know and love today. Lee Olsen is currently



*Lee Olsen demonstrates stripping roots and stems for materials - Images by Michelle Inhofer*

programs. His depth of knowledge and humorous approach to his teaching made him a favorite of those who attended his programs. The Friends are thankful to Rick and his family for making us the

more than 25 years at UWM, he is also proficient in linguistics of the Western Great Lakes, as well as ecology, cultural cosmology, plant taxonomy, and much more. Linguistics in particular are a crucial



Olsen Basket Collection - photo by Michelle Inhofer

compiling a complete ethnobotany of all tribes for our area, and Huron Smith's work can be found online at: <https://www.mpm.edu/research-collections/botany/online-collections-research/ethnobotany>

-Michelle Inhofer

## NEW BOARD MEMBER

### MEET STEVE SIRKIS



Steve Sirkis has recently been voted onto the FOCB Board of Directors as of July 7, 2022. Steve recently retired from a 35-year career in commercial real estate, serving

the last 18 years as a real estate project manager for a local development firm. Steve was responsible for leading complex projects from conception to completion, directing multidisciplinary teams of architects, engineers, contractors, accountants, lenders, brokers, tenants, attorneys and consultants. Property types included biotech labs, government office buildings, student housing, and retail shopping centers.

He has a lifelong passion for conservation, developed through his hiking, camping, fly fishing and birding activities. Formative experiences along the way include stints at Audubon camps as a camper and counselor, founding a high school ecology group, and earning an Environmental Studies degree

from the University of California-Santa Barbara. Steve started a birding hobby at Beber Camp in Mukwonago with his wife Trudy and has taught field identification and conservation concepts to youth ages 7 to 13 for the past ten years. Steve is looking forward to making additional contributions to conservation in Wisconsin through service with the Friends Board of Directors and land protection activities (owned completely without limitations or conditions and conservation easement acquisitions) with the Prairie Enthusiasts.

- Michelle Inhofer

## SEASONS OF THE BOG INTRODUCING CHUCK STEBELTON



In the next four issues of our newsletter we will be highlighting the wonders of the bog with a seasonal poetry submission from Chuck Stebelton.

As a former FOCB Director

and newsletter Editor, Chuck's name is a familiar one. Although his time with the Friends has come to a close, it is wonderful to have him lend his creative talents to the newest installment of Season's of the Bog, named by our previous contributor and Treasurer Andy Holman. Chuck Stebelton is author most recently of *An Apostle Island* (Oxeye Press, 2021). His previous poetry collections include *The Platformist* (Cultural Society, 2012) and *Circulation Flowers* (Tougher Disguises, 2005). He served as Literary Program Director at Woodland Pattern Book Center from 2005 to 2017. He has led workshops and field trips for non-profit arts organizations and conservancy groups including Friends of Cedarburg Bog, Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters, Woodland Pattern Book Center, Friends of Lorine Niedercker, and the Lynden Sculpture Garden. He is currently an ARTservancy artist-in-residence on the Milwaukee River Greenway and has held residencies at Lynden Sculpture Garden in 2011, 2014, and from 2018 to 2022 ongoing.

-Michelle Inhofer

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

## *Seasons of the Bog: Fall*

*Poetry by Chuck Stebelton*

### LONG LAKE, ROUND RIVER

In future islands,  
a subtle terrain.  
All is periphery,  
arrowgrass. Red shift.

...

The acrimonious marsh wren  
and the superior pintail.  
Very superior. Old pale.

...

And the salt loving phragmites.  
The good, the bad. The loosestrife.

...

Wild geranium,  
Wood betony  
Meadow loop.  
Yellowthroat,  
Cinnamon fern  
Meadow loop.  
Veery, tamarack.  
Imprint of a lake  
Meadow loop.

...

This familiar September hour  
turns like a digitized '78.  
Its rounds per minute.  
Autumn soon come.

...

An off key sparrow,  
"Old Sam Peabody,  
Peabody,  
Peabody"  
in the dialect  
of next year's  
summering ground

...

A river without islands is like.  
A lake within a river.

...

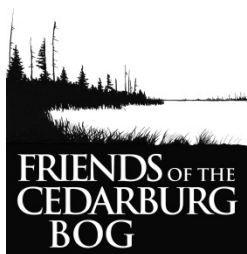
White breasted  
ventriloquist.  
Red breasted  
ventriloquist and  
three heuristics.  
Blue-headed vireo,  
Red-eyed vertigo.

..

A wide wind. Open  
as a canopy.  
As specific as arrowgrass.  
As talkative as prickly ash.

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





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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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### **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](http://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](mailto:fieldstn@uwm.edu). Please, No Pets.

#### **Quarterly Board Meeting**

*Thursday, October 6, 6:00 pm*

All members are welcome to join the FOCB board meeting. The October 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](mailto:admin@bogfriends.org).

#### **Glacial Geology of the Cedarburg Bog Area**

*Sunday, October 9, 10:00 AM – Noon*

Geologist Bill Kean will lead a trail walk through the Field Station property to experience life on the edge (of a glacier from 12,000 years ago).

#### **A Walk in the Maple Beechwoods**

*Sunday, October 23, 12:30 – 3:00 PM*

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.

#### **How Trees Grow**

*Sunday, November 13, 12:30 – 3:00 PM*

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

#### **Fall Owl Prowl**

*Friday, November 18, 5:30 – 7:30 PM*

The Cedarburg Bog team of birders will lead the search for resident and migratory owls at the Field Station.



*Great Blue Lobelia (Lobelia siphilitica)-photo by Michelle Inhofer*

### **Ozaukee-Washington Birding Coalition**

The newly formed **Ozaukee-Washington Birding Coalition (OWBC)** has scheduled events coming up. The coalition consists of the Friends of the Cedarburg Bog, the Lac Lawrann Conservancy, Mequon Nature Preserve, and Riveredge Nature Center. Each organization will offer events and handle registration for the event.

#### **Big Sit! @ Forest Beach**

*Saturday Oct. 8, 6AM*

The Noel J. Cutright Bird Club, in cooperation with the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory, will host 14th annual Big Sit! at Forest Beach Migratory Preserve five miles north of Port Washington.

The count will begin at 6 a.m. on the Bill Cowart Memorial Hawk Watch Platform at the northeast corner of the preserve. If the simple joy of birding is not enough to attract your participation, those arriving for the early morning shift will find bagels and donuts on

hand. BYO beverages. Not an early bird yourself? Arrive anytime and stay as long as you can. No Registration Required. Contact Carl Schwartz with questions at: [cschwartz3@wi.rr.com](mailto:cschwartz3@wi.rr.com)

#### **How to - Program on Bluebird Boxes**

*Saturday, October 8, 12 noon*

Live (and Zoom) at Lac Lawrann Conservancy

#### **Owl Prowl at Lac Lawrann Conservancy**

*Friday, November 11, 6:30 PM*

Co-hosted by the FOCB, this event will have a short indoor talk followed by a walk.

### **Ways to Stay Connected with FOCB**



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Join our Email List

<https://bogfriends.org/mailling-list/>

**LLC**– Lac Lawrann Conservancy

300 Schmidt Road, West Bend

[laclawrann.org](http://laclawrann.org)

**FBMP** – Forest Beach Migratory Preserve

4970 Country Club Road, Belgium

<https://wglbbo.org/>

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