

THE BOGHAUNTER

the newsletter of the Friends of the Cedarburg Bog

Volume 18, Number 1 Winter 2023

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

WINTER 2023 - TREES OF THE BOG

The Cedarburg Bog is really the misnamed Saukville swamp. Our wetland is in the Town of Saukville, not Cedarburg, and a swamp is simply a forested wetland. The primary and ecologically controlling structure of a forest is its tree canopy. What are the trees of this Saukville swamp, and how are they faring?

Perhaps the best known, or most iconic, are the conifers, tamarack, white cedar, and a small amount of black spruce deep in the Bog and far from the public view. Our hardwoods historically include American elm, and now mostly historically green ash and black ash. We also have substantial components of paper birch, yellow birch, and red maple.

If you are keeping count, you will have noticed that we have lost half of the hardwoods once dominant in the Bog to invasive pests. The elms to Dutch elm disease and recently mature trees of both ashes to Emerald Ash Borer. We do still have American elm that reach reproductive size before they succumb to the disease, but no large trees. The ashes are not completely extirpated either since seedling and sapling green and black ash are still abundant in parts of the Bog; we can still harbor hope that some of these will prove to be resistant to EAB.

The conifers of the Bog are also not without their challenges. Seventeen years ago, the Bog lost a substantial portion of its mature tamaracks when their roots froze during an unprecedented bitter and snowless winter. Today, many of the white cedar

trees in the Bog appear to be struggling for a reason we don't yet fully understand. One hypothesized cause of this apparent decline is that the sudden loss of ash trees has produced a change in hydrology that is stressing the mature cedars. White cedar

Tamaracks that survived the 2005 root freeze are flourishing and tamarack seedlings and saplings are abundant in some of the swamp forest.

The Cedarburg Bog is a wonderful, very diverse, wetland. But you can see from

this brief summary of the status of the wetland's trees, that the plant communities of the Bog are changing. These changes have all been caused by factors external to the Bog and out of our control. The wildlife of the Bog, perhaps especially the birds, depend on the forest, and loss of white cedar for example could have a major impact on the bird community.

Wetlands are inherently unstable habitats, easily influenced by natural changes in water levels (think beavers), storms, fire, and erosion. At a time when the environment of our region is changing, the Bog's swamp is extremely valuable as the last large example of a native northern plant community in the southern half of the state.

The Cedarburg Bog's plant communities will adjust to these changes. Keeping our wonderful wetland static is not an option; nothing can halt the march of time or the modifications that are external and out of our control. But wetlands are

enormously resilient. Our job as friends of the Bog is to help guide it to a desirable, productive, and healthy, albeit altered, wetland community. As one of the historically least disturbed large wetlands in our region, the Bog can serve as a model for how to navigate these transitions.



Tamarack trees - photo by Kate Redmond

growing in mineral soils at the margins of the wetland are not currently showing any similar signs of stress.

We can hope that the mature cedar trees will recover from their stress, and it is encouraging that in many parts of the Bog sapling white cedars appear to be thriving.

One of the actions that we can take to help the Bog to a strong transition is to do what we can to control invasive species that continue to threaten the wetland. The Friends have worked to control the invasive shrub glossy buckthorn in over 600 acres of the wetland, and we are controlling four new invasive plants on 28 square miles around its periphery. Let's maintain and amplify our stewardship of our "Wetland Gem" and show that we are friends who care.

-Jim Reinartz



Kate Redmond and family at FOCB Recognition - photo by Michelle Inhofer

KATE REDMOND HONORED AT THE FRIEND'S ANNUAL PICNIC

With deep appreciation for her significant contributions and impact over the years, FOCB recently recognized Kate Redmond, one of our founders, with the installation of a bench in the public use area at the north end of the bog.

Kate's teaching is well known and much respected. She has consistently been FOCB's most sought-after hike leader. She has touched hundreds (thousands?) with her willingness to share her depth of knowledge and excitement with the natural world. Kate has a gift for knowing what will interest her audience and conveying her excitement in an accessible and fascinating way.

Her writing is perhaps even more remarkable than her teaching. She writes prolifically in a colloquial and friendly way,

but never dumbs-down her message or sacrifices scientific accuracy. She served as the Editor (and primary writer) of the Friend's newsletter, The Bog Hunter, from its inception in 2005 until 2019. Her long running and much-loved Bug of the Week articles written by the "Bug Lady" now total over 750 editions and counting. These are all archived on the Field Station website (<https://uwm.edu/field-station/category/bug-of-the-week/>).

Kate's photography is legendary. She never seems to be without her camera and her photographs are stunning. What's more, she shares those photographs freely with FOCB, the Field Station, Wisconsin Wetlands Association, many more organizations, and anyone else who can put them to good use. Whenever I am putting together a presentation, one of my first stops is to ask Kate what she has that I can use; I see her photographs everywhere.

If you are familiar with FOCB you probably know much of what I just briefly summarized. What fewer of you know is what a great Director of our organization she was. Kate was on the founding Board of FOCB and really put her mark on our organization. She was always honest and did not hesitate to contribute her perspective. At the same time, she was not one to "take her football and go home" if the board decided to go a different way on some issue. She also is an accomplished baker and, as far as I remember, brought treats to every board meeting and to many of the FOCB-sponsored workdays.

Kate is truly a friend of the Bog, extraordinarily generous with her talents. The Friends of the Cedarburg Bog are so deeply indebted to Kate for so many things it is hard to express them all.

-Jim Reinartz

WEATHERING THE WINTER - AVIAN STYLE

From the newsletter of the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory, Jan-Feb 2022 issue

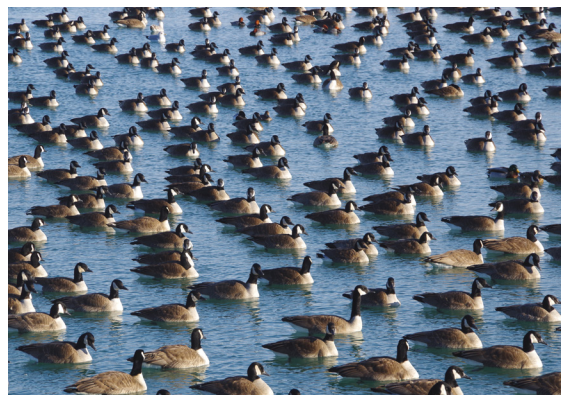
An old Scandinavian saying tells us that "There's no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothes." People take advantage

of the latest technology in winter gear to get through the season but birds weather the cold using a combination of behavioral changes and design features rather than polar fleece and Thinsulate.

Fall migration is about food availability rather than cold. Our summer residents are replaced by northern birds (the old explanation for this was that one species had turned into another – "transmutation"). Permanent residents have a jump-start on establishing new territories in spring, but birds that stay home and avoid the hazards of migration must find enough food to maintain a core body temperature of around 105 degrees, and that's a full-time job.

Behavioral changes are easy to see. The increasing popularity of bird feeding has a huge impact on overwintering birds, but some species also turn away from their summer reliance on insects (which are still available in winter but are much harder to find) and feed on seeds.

With few exceptions, birds don't breed in winter, so they don't have to forage for food for their young at a time when food is at a premium. Barred and Great-horned Owls are very early nesters, often courting and laying eggs in February and feeding young by mid-March, but their prey of small mammals is easier to come by than



Canada Geese - photo by Kate Redmond

caterpillars and worms.

Because they're temporarily not territorial, birds can form winter flocks with many eyes to hunt for food and many warm bodies that can roost together in a sheltered spot and share body heat. This is especially important for small birds, which have a proportionately larger surface area from which heat can be lost.

In the cold, birds fluff their feathers to minimize heat loss, and they groom their

feathers with an oil that both waterproofs and insulates them. They sun themselves, and they shiver to raise their metabolic rate, and birds that tuck their bills into their feathers are ensuring that the air they're breathing is warm. Birds may sit on one foot and tuck the other next to their warm body and then switch, or they may hunker down, covering both feet.



Cardinal - photo by Kate Redmond

Inactivity is always an option, and many birds will hunker down during a bad stretch. A Red-tailed Hawk can sit out a two or three day storm, staying put when hunting would be futile, but then it must find food. Some birds, including nuthatches and chickadees, cache food when it's abundant for use when it's not.

But the real magic is in birds' physical and physiological adaptations. If birds look like they have more feathers in winter, it's because most do—they grow extras during their fall molt, and their body heat warms the air spaces between the feathers. They also pack on some fat reserves, and with this extra padding, many are able to lower their body temperature (a chickadee by as much as 22 degrees!) to decrease energy needs at night. It's a risky ploy because extra energy may be needed to jump-start their metabolism on a very cold morning.

Most amazing is a bird's "zoned-heating system." Birds must eat enough to keep their core temperature steady, but their legs and feet (which are made up mostly of ligaments and tendons, not muscle) are always colder than their body. Most maintain their feet at a colder temperature than their body because keeping their feet toasty would require vast amounts of food, but their feet are kept from freezing by a system called "countercurrent heat exchange." Arteries carrying warm blood from the core to the feet are situated right next to veins carrying cold blood back

into the body, and the incoming blood picks up some heat from the warm blood as it passes so that the core doesn't get shocked. In addition, many kinds of birds use valves in their leg arteries to ration the amount of warm blood that is sent to their feet.

Light sleeping, deep sleeping, and true hibernation are mammalian strategies for weathering the winter — do birds use them? Observations of true hibernation in birds have been elusive, but a number of species, including some hummingbirds, chickadees, doves, swifts, and bluebirds, are able to save calories by going into a state of torpor, a daily form of mini-hibernation, in response to extreme weather. Birds in torpor have lower body temperatures (by as much as 50 degrees) and lower heart

and respiration rates.

So, the next time you see a chickadee sitting on a branch, fluffed up in the cold sunshine, think of everything that's going on to make that happen.

-Kate Redmond

CINDY BOETTCHER HAS RETIRED FROM THE UWM FIELD STATION

For over 21 years, Cindy Boettcher has been a vital part of the UWM Field Station staff. Instrumental in organizing the many events that FOCB offered each year, Cindy has been the voice and face of Friends of Cedarburg Bog events. She took registrations, answered questions, and communicated special conditions or changes affecting our programs. Without her attention to detail, our educational outreach simply would not have run as smoothly as it has over the years.

Cindy's friendly demeanor, patient help, and honest concern for everyone who showed an interest in the Friends were invaluable to the success of our programs. She made it a point to personally get to know more of the Friends than anyone else in the organization. We wish Cindy a wonderful and well-deserved retirement; she will be sorely missed.

-Jim Reinartz

Seasons of the Bog - Winter

Submitted by Chuck Stebelton, Written by Lorine Niedecker

*A monster owl
out on the fence
flew away. What
is it the sign
of? The sign of
an owl.*

*

*February almost March bites the cold.
Take down a book, wind pours in. Frozen—
the Garden of Eden—its oil, if freed, could
warm
the world for 20 years and nevermind the
storm.*

*Winter's after me—she's out
with sheets so white it hurts the eyes.
Nightgown,
pillow slip blow thru my bare catalpa trees,
no objects here.*

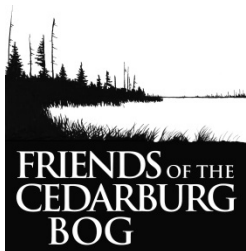
*In February almost March a snow-blanket
is good manure, a tight-bound wet
to move toward May: give me lupines and
a care
for her growing air.*

*

*People, people—
ten dead ducks' feathers
on beer can litter . . .
Winter
will change all that*

**Lorine Niedecker
(1903 - 1970)**

*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.

Please register at: www.bogfriends.org (click on Programs & Events).

Walks are free and open to the public; a \$5 donation is appreciated.

Questions? Contact (414) 897-1739 or bogfriends@gmail.com Please, No Pets.

Quarterly Board Meeting

Thursday, January 5, 6:00 pm

All members are welcome to join the FOCB board meeting. The January 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.

Winter Hike

Sunday, February 5, 1:30 - 4:30 pm

Winter presents the ideal opportunity to explore the interior of the Cedarburg Bog. Please join the UWM Field Station and the Friends of

the Cedarburg Bog for our Annual Winter Hike into the heart of this unique and beautiful ecosystem. Jim Reinartz, president of the Friends of the Cedarburg Bog will lead the way on this 4-mile hike followed by a bonfire and hot cocoa and cider at the UWM Field Station. Please bring your own mug and we will provide the beverages.

If ice conditions in the Bog are not safe, we will hike in the uplands instead. The Field Station website (<http://uwm.edu/field-station/>) will be updated several days prior to the hike with snow and ice conditions.

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.

Wood Duck Nest Box Monitoring

January 7, 9:30 am Mequon Nature Preserve

Join Nick Gall as he monitors duck nest boxes in the restored wetlands of the Mequon Nature Preserve. This is a family-friendly, approximate two-mile winter hike where we will explore frozen wetlands, look for animal tracks, and evaluate breeding nest box activity from 2022. Learn all about Wood Ducks and other cavity nesters and be informed on how to build, install, and maintain nest boxes for cavity nesters on your property! Snowshoes at no cost will be provided if snow levels require these.

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wood-duck-nest-box-monitoring-at-mequon-nature-preserve-tickets-429344720617>

Bioacoustic Bird Monitoring:

February 8, Mequon Nature Preserve

How often do you identify birds by sound? Do you

use the new Merlin App on your phone for bird sound identification? Bioacoustics is the study of natural sounds. Dr. Casper will discuss the development and use of highly sophisticated listening devices having the potential of revolutionizing monitoring and surveying birds, bat, and frog populations. The advantages of using acoustic monitoring in combination with traditional methods of bird population will be discussed plus examples of really cool sounds recorded from Ozaukee County sites like the Cedarburg Bog and Mequon Nature Preserve will be presented. This program is sponsored by both the Friends of the Cedarburg Bog and the Mequon Nature Preserve. It will be live and presented via Zoom from 6 to 7 PM at the Mequon Nature Preserve, 8200 W. County Line Road, Mequon. Information will be forthcoming about the Zoom linkage to this program.



Woodpecker-photo by Kate Redmond

Ways to Stay Connected with FOCB



Like us on Facebook

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Follow us on Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/friends_cedarburgbog/



Join our Email List

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

Implementation of the MOTUS Wildlife Tracking System in Wisconsin

March 1, 7 pm Riveredge Nature Preserve and Zoom

Dr. Phillips-Vanderberg, Science Director of the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory will present a program on the Motus Wildlife Tracking System. Dr. Phillips-Vanderberg will share with us what is happening with Motus in Wisconsin and beyond and what the long-term implications of this potentially huge amount of data can tell us about bird and bat movements. Information about a Zoom link and live program at RNC will be forthcoming.

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

RNC – Riveredge Nature Center
4458 County Hwy Y, Saukville
riveredgenaturecenter.org