The BogHaunter

Volume 18, Number 4 *FALL 2023*

President's Report *from Jim Reinartz*

2023 Activites and Accomplishments

Our seven-member Board of Directors is small but active and committed to the mission of the Friends. We continue to seek new volunteer directors who want to contribute their time and talents to the work of the Friends. We will be electing an eighth director at this year's Annual meeting.

The Friends educational programs have been very well-attended in the 2023 calendar year. 120 people joined our traditional winter hike to Long Lake in the heart of the Bog. It was an absolutely gorgeous day, as I remember it anyway, with a big friendly group having a good time in the wilderness. It may have been the only Sunday of the entire winter when we could have taken the hike all the way to Long Lake. The ice would not have been safe for a large group just the week before and there was a lot of thawing the week following the hike. I couldn't find a safe way onto Donut Lake on my reconnaissance walks, but we had a nice walk down Long Lake before we turned around and returned home to a bonfire.

After the huge response to the winter hike, we have offered or still plan to present 18 programs through the end of 2023, if I haven't lost count. Some of the programs this year were new topics that we have not offered before, including an off-site field trip to Horicon Marsh and a demonstration of methods and materials Native Americans used for making bows and arrows. We also brought back a nighttime star gazing program that we have not offered in a long time and John O'Donnell organized a "birding by canoe" adventure on Mud Lake.

During 2023 FOCB staff and volunteers have worked to revise and update the Friends' website. That project is nearing completion and our website will soon have a new look and improved functionality.

Our stewardship volunteers helped to control the invasive Oriental bittersweet in the Field Station Beechwoods State Natural Area and worked on invasive shrub control at the north end of the Bog on the island southwest of Watt's Lake. They also completed the annual "adopt-a-highway" litter pickup along Cedar Sauk Road that FOCB has done for years.

The Bog Guardian program continued preventing four invasive plants from establishing in the 28 mi^2 area surrounding the Bog, including teasels and wild parsnip which are being so destructive to habitats surrounding our area. We are working to eliminate a handful of populations of teasels and wild parsnip that were established before the start of the program and are making excellent progress with that task. Another invasive plant, wild chervil, is spreading rapidly along roadways south of the Bog Guardian area. We have added that to the list of species that we will monitor in order to prevent establishment in the Bog area; we found and eliminated one small patch in 2023.

The Friends continued monitoring programs to contribute to the scientific understanding of the Bog's wildlife communities. Bioacoustic monitors and wildlife cameras were placed in remote areas of the wetland. Sound recordings from 2022 made in the area west of Long Lake are being analyzed and the monitors were redeployed in the large marshlands north of Mud Lake for the 2023 breeding season. The Friends arranged for Wisconsin DNR forest health staff to visit the Bog to attempt to diagnose what is causing the apparent decline or unhealthiness of the white cedar trees in the wetland.

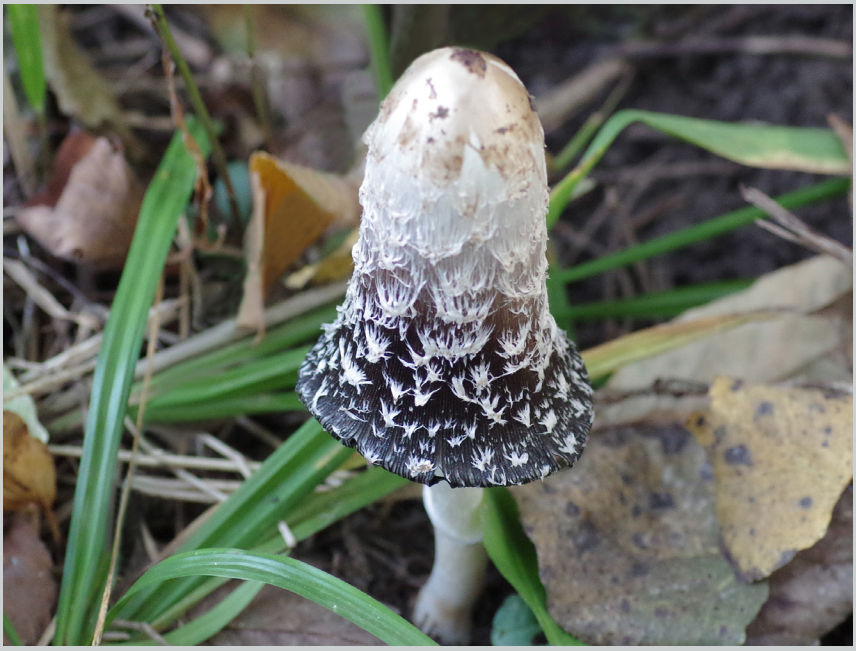
The Friends continued financial support of the Field Station's programs although due to retirement of university staff the Field Station did not offer its Natural History Workshop program in 2023. The Friends have worked closely with the interim Field Station Director to continue our programs and support the Station.

The Friends' artist-in-residence, Jeffrey K. Kunkel, produced 26 plein air oil paintings in the Impressionist tradition that were shown at the Cedarburg Cultural Center in the spring of 2023. Some of the paintings sold during that exhibition period and the FOCB has others that are still for sale. Jeff's art has the potential to bring greater awareness of the Bog and Field Station natural areas to a broader public. Linking art and nature can reach. some people that strict science education does not. We plan to collaborate with the UWM Saukville Field Station to continue an Artist-in-Residence program in the future.

Stream in the Cedarbug Bog - photo by *Kate Redmond*

Fantastic Fungi

Contributing to the soil matrix for the last 1.3 million years!



Shaggy Mane fungus (*Coprinus comatus*) - photo by Kate Redmond

First, their names grab you – Horse's Hoof and Bird's Nest, Hen of the Woods, Turkey Tail, Scarlet Cup, Stinkhorn, Mary russula, Trumpet of Death (also known as Horn of Plenty), Inky Cap, Shaggy Mane, Puffball, and Destroying Angel Mushrooms.

Next, their exotic lifestyle. They seem to materialize overnight, in sizes and shapes ranging from basketball-sized Giant Puffballs to yellow, coral-shaped fingers to tiny, brilliant orange stems and caps.
The term "mushroom" generally refers to a variety of forms of fungi. Many wild mushrooms, along with the common grocery store mushrooms, have gills. The underside of the cap looks like spokes on a wheel - a series of slits, separated by membranes. Others, like the multi-colored Turkey tails that decorate stumps in fall, have small holes (pores) instead of gills.

Spores, the fungal version of seeds, are produced on the sides of the gills and in the lining of the pores. Gills and pores are oriented downward so the spores can fall out. Puffballs are covered by a "skin;" its spores are released when the skin gets dry enough to crack and split.

Mushrooms have been used for millennia for fabric dyes, tinder, religious ceremonies and, with caution, as food and medicine. Poisonous mushrooms are often called "toadstools," but there are no structures that separate edible from non-edible fungi. The tests of folklore aren't valid – animals safely eat mushrooms that people can't; "toadstools" don't tarnish silver spoons or rust tin cans; not all white mushrooms are safe; and the toxins can't be cooked, dried or processed away from most poisonous fungi.

How are mushrooms identified? Carefully. True identification often relies on a microscope, but there are "field marks" like color, shape, odor, habitat, and season, that can be used to make intelligent guesses.

Spore prints, themselves a beautiful art form, also help both professionals and amateurs to classify mushrooms. Place a ripe mushroom cap, gills down, on pale blue or green construction paper and cover it with a glass (wash your hands after handling unknown mushrooms). The next day, the mushroom will have dropped spores onto the paper, and the spore color and gill pattern may be used to categorize it. Some small mushroom feeders may also be trapped under the glass.

The mushrooms (fungi) we see on the ground or on tree trunks are comparable to the apples on an apple tree. They are the short-lived fruiting bodies of the "plant," (mushrooms used to be classified as plants but are now in a different kingdom of life). They often appear after a rain, and they bear the "seeds" (spores, in the case of fungi) that ensure another generation. Mushrooms can be harvested without damaging the supporting plant. But, if they are the "apple," where's the "tree?"

Mushrooms are the tip of what can be a very large iceberg. They grow from a network of pale strings called mycelia (the singular is mycelium). Strands of mycelia, large and small, are interwoven through soil, dead trees, wet leaves, the floor of ephemeral ponds, and many other substrates. Mycelia absorb food from their surroundings, and different species of mushroom "dine" on specific kinds of plants (morels, famously, grow near old elm roots). Fungi are important recyclers of the

nutrients locked in plant material, both living and dead. Scientists are learning about the amazing partnerships that are formed between mycorrhizal fungi and the living roots of a wide variety of plants, from orchids to trees.

In this mutually beneficial exchange, the fungus gets carbon and sugars, and its plant host receives minerals, especially nitrogen and phosphorous. The mycorrhizal fungi give their host an extended "root system" that helps it to glean nutrients and water from a wider area, and the fungi may also give protection from pathogens in the soil. Some scientists preach that mycorrhizal fungi make the world go 'round.

Turkey tail fungus (*Trametes versicolor*) - photo by Kate Redmond

The largest and oldest known fungus lies beneath 2,200 acres of Malheur National Forest in eastern Oregon. That's about the size of the Cedarburg Bog, which equals more than 1,660 football fields. It has been decomposing the remains of the plants above it for an estimated 2,400 years. No one has found anything in the Bog that matches a 2,400 year old fungus (yet).

-Kate Redmond

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

Autumnal Bog Blooms

As nature signals the end of summer with the length of night increasing each 24 hour period, the trees and plants of the Bog slow their chlorophyl production and soon cease all together. Once the chlorophyll is destroyed, the anthocyan and carotenoids present in their leaves are revealed through their distinctive colors we know and love each autum.

However, many late bloomers are still on display in the Bog. The bright red clusters of Jack in the Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*) stand out in the low-lying areas of the wetland. In the coming months they will benefit from their decidious neighbors, needing a thick layer of leaves to make it through the winter. In the meantime, the berries will surely be enjoyed by birds and mammals alike.

White Turtleheads (*Chelone glabra*) are still attracting pollinators. With their fused petals forming a tube-like structure, these sturdy plants create a perfect platform for bumblebees to land.

Orange Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*) is another late bloomer with a signature shape having a modified sepal that functions like a pouch. Although it is irresistable to pollinators, Jewelweed is also self-seeding, occuring from its small flowers near the base of the leaves that never open and instead self fertilize and produce seeds.

We hope you can join us at the Bog soon to see what's in bloom!

-Michelle Inhofer

Orange jewelweed encapsulates a water droplet - photo by Michelle Inhofer

Jack in the pulpit berry cluster - photo by Michelle Inhofer

White Turtlehead - photo by Michelle Inhofer

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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Ways to Stay Connected with the FOCB

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

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

Join our Email List
https://bogfriends.org/mailing-list/

Friends of the Cedarbug Bog Events

Unless otherwise noted, walks meet at the UWM Saukville Field Station on Blue Goose Rd.
Registration Required. 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, October 12, 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

Horicon Marsh Field Trip

Friday, October 6th 2-3:30pm
Meet at the Horicon Marsh Education and Visitor Center
N7725 Highway 28 Horicon, WI 53032
Join Liz Herzman and the Friends for our very first Field Trip for an exciting trek and tour through the Horicon Marsh. There will be up to 2 miles of hiking with mostly flat terrain. There is no fee to enter the area or building, however you want to come early and go through the Explorium there is a $6 fee. You can find and share the information found here. https://horiconmarsh.org/visit/explorium/
Registration is Now Open, Event Cap: 20

Stargazing

Friday, October 20th, 8pm-10pm
Join us for an evening of stargazing with the Scott Nehring. We hope to see planets and other celestial sights. Bring your binoculars!
Now Open for Registration

OWBC Owl Prowl

Friday, November 10th 7-9pm w/ John O'Donnell
Join the Cedarburg Bog Owl Prowl team of veteran birders as we prowl the Bog for owls. We will be looking for Barred, Great-Horned, Northern Saw-whet, and Eastern Screech-Owls for sure and maybe a rare species such as Long-eared Owl. There are no guarantees as owls can be fickle; however, we have never struck out when weather conditions are right! Bring binoculars, water, and a small flashlight. We will be standing in place for extended periods of time so dress warmly. If the weather is poor, this outing might be postponed. We will let you know in the afternoon by email if there is a postponement. This outing is not recommended for children under 10. The group size is limited to 20.

Ozaukee-Washington Birding Coalition

The 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.
Visit www.bogfriends.org for full event details.

The "Big Sit"

Saturday, Oct. 7 Beginning @ 6:30 a.m. @ Forest Beach Migratory Preserve

The Noel J. Cutright Bird Club, in cooperation with the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory, will host its 15th annual "Big Sit!" at Forest Beach Migratory Preserve, five miles north of Port Washington, on Saturday, Oct.7. The count will begin at 6:30 a.m. on the Bill Cowart Memorial Hawk Watch Platform at the northeast corner of the preserve. Arrive anytime and stay as long as you can.

Contributing to Science & Enhancing Your Birding & Record Keeping Through eBird

Tuesday, Oct. 17, 7 p.m. at Riveredge Nature Center

IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM

The Cornell University Lab of Ornithology quietly launched eBird in 2002. In less than 15 years, eBird became the largest citizen science and bird conservation project ever.Have your cell phones handy and join Alex Mann and Braden Meyer as they show you how to get started and how to use eBird information in ways you probably haven't even thought of!

OWBC Partners

LLC - LacLawrann Conservancy
300 Schmidt Rd, West Bend
laclawrann.org

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