

# THE BOGHAUNTER

Volume 19, Number 1

WINTER 2024

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT *from Jim Reinartz*

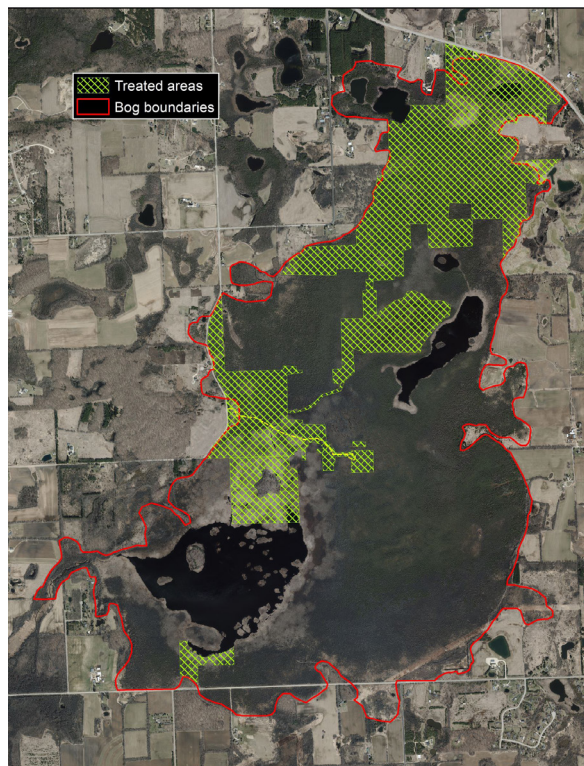
*A Lifetime of Work on Invasive Plants - or, Invasives - Why Bother?*

I started work at the Field Station in 1980. At that time little attention had been paid to invasive plants. Elton wrote "The Ecology of Invasions by Animals and Plants" in 1958. But there was little research published regarding invasive plants before 1980, and almost no policy action of any kind. Many of what now are our worst weren't really much of a problem then and people weren't paying much attention. For example, the first record of garlic mustard in Wisconsin is from 1938, but it wasn't until the late 1970s that anyone was suggesting that it may be invasive. I don't think that I had heard of it in 1980.

In 1984, Noel Cutright convinced me that purple loosestrife was a growing problem in wetlands and together we founded the Purple Loosestrife Task Force of Wisconsin and conducted a statewide survey to document its distribution in the state. That project led to the DNR taking over our citizen-based project and that work continues today.

By 1987 we became aware of the invasive nature of glossy buckthorn in the Bog and in 1988 Joanne Kline and I published "Glossy buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*), a threat to the vegetation of the Cedarburg Bog" in the Field Station Bulletin. In 1991 we completed a systematic survey of the vegetation of the Bog in part to map the distribution of buckthorn. That was also the year of our first control effort in 4 acres in the string bog at the end

of the Field Station boardwalk. Since 1991 we have never stopped working to lessen the impact of buckthorn in the Bog. We have done control projects totaling 880 acres over those 32 years.



Map 1. 576 acres of the Cedarburg Bog from which buckthorn has been removed in projects since 1991.

Inspired at the first "Plants Out of Place" conference in Wisconsin, a group of us founded the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin in 2001. In 2002 we began the process of creating IPAW's "Working List of Invasive Plants of Wisconsin". At that long-ago time no one had a formal list of invasive plants. The very act of defining "invasive plant" and creating a formal list was controversial because some of the species would have some commercial value to someone.

IPAW conducted a survey of naturalists to find those non-native plants that clearly "invade native plant communities and impact those native communities by displacing or replacing native vegetation". We published the first list of 67 invasive plants in the IPAW newsletter. That initial list was instrumental in encouraging the formation of the WDNR's Invasive Species Rule – NR40. Remember, this is long ago when many of those currently doing the best field work controlling invasive plants were in grade school or just a gleam in someone's eye.

The Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium (SEWISC) was founded in 2007 and I am proud to have been associated with the work that group has done ever since. They teach a day-long hands-on workshop on Invasive Plant Management Techniques that I think offers a vital educational service, and SEWISC influences an impressive amount of active control work, including their big new project to control buckthorn in the Bog.

I have outlined part of the history of invasive plant work in Wisconsin that I know well through my involvement. Yet I have seldom totally eradicated an invasive plant from a substantial area. Why do I still work to control invasive plants? I have seen this work obviously and dramatically improve the native communities in local areas that I care about. Even if those improvements are on a small scale, I know that they have made real contributions to biotic health and diversity locally, and it seems that local efforts must contribute to biodiversity globally. That's good enough reason for me.

## CONTINUED BUCKTHORN CONTROL WORK IN THE BOG HAS BEEN FUNDED

The Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium (SEWISC), working with the Friends, has obtained a major grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Sustain Our Great Lakes (SOGL) program to continue controlling buckthorn on at least 160 acres in the Bog. This work is focused entirely on areas where FOCB or the Wisconsin DNR have removed large buckthorn in the past and will preserve all of the effort that has already been expended to control buckthorn in those areas. The three-year project will cut and kill buckthorn that has grown and reached fruiting size in the years since the initial control projects.

Laborious hand work to cut individual stems and carefully apply herbicide to the cut stump is the only safe way to kill buckthorn in a wetland like the Bog having high-quality native vegetation. Removing every seedling by this process is impractical over large areas, so we have focused our efforts on removing plants that are near the size where they begin to form fruits. This treatment eliminates local fruit production and prevents the establishment of new seedlings. Re-treating areas after seedlings have been allowed to grow to near fruiting size maintains the local elimination of seed production and leads to a control program that can be maintained over time. The first two treatments are the most labor intensive and hence the costliest.

The Friends of Cedarburg Bog and the Wisconsin DNR have removed fruiting-sized buckthorn from 576 acres of the Bog through 20 projects conducted since 1991 (Map 1). FOCB has raised the funding for clearing

448 of those acres and has been responsible for all of the control work since 2014. Some areas of the Bog have been cleared more than once.

The areas that this new grant funding will treat (Map 2) were last treated 6 to 10 years ago. Most of the work will be done during the winter season when the Bog is frozen, and it is easiest to travel and work in the wetland. The work in the string bog at the center of the wetland (Map 2) can only be completed when the Bog is frozen.

The grant awarded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is a three-year grant for \$292,380. SEWISC and FOCB are applying for additional grants to provide matching cost share for the project totaling another \$175,000 of requests. FOCB is requesting funding from the Wisconsin DNR. SEWISC is applying for grants from the Fund for Lake Michigan, and the US Forest Service. Another \$50,000 in in-kind cost share will be provided by SEWISC and FOCB in the form of volunteer labor for a total project of \$517,380 if fully funded. FOCB's \$25,000 of in-kind cost share over the three-year project will be primarily volunteer time to direct and oversee the fieldwork of the

project and some paid time for our Administrative Assistant that will not be billed to the grant.

To generate FOCB's portion of the cost share for the grant, we have applied for a Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant from the Wisconsin DNR. The FOCB Board of Directors voted unanimously to support our grant application and our commitment to the control project. This will be a great project for the Friends and for the Cedarburg Bog. The SOGL grant was awarded to SEWISC and they will administer the project. FOCB will financially administer any funding obtained from the WDNR Stewardship Grant program.

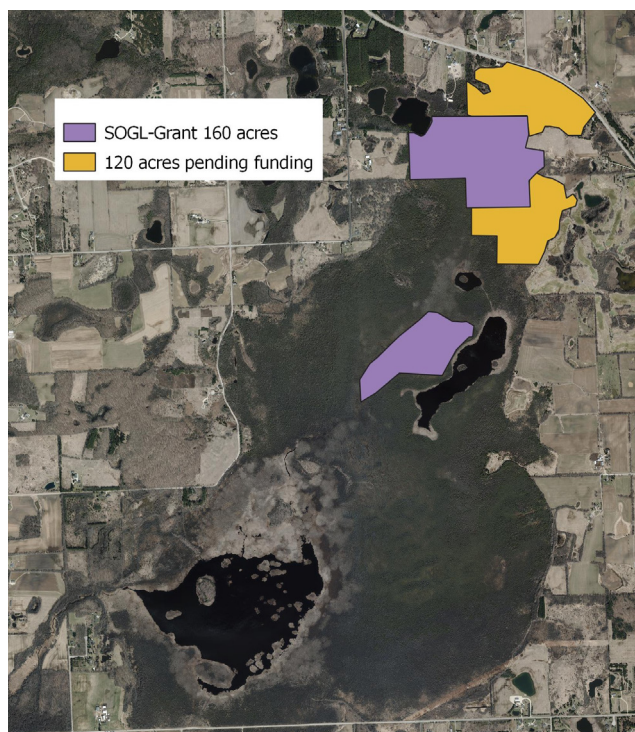
-Jim Reinartz

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

2023 was a transitional year for the Saukville Field Station (SFS). As the year winds down, it is good to reflect upon the challenges and successes that have occurred during the past year. SFS has hosted over 15 FOCB events; 7 inquisitive students from the Land Restoration School spent

12 weeks residing in the Farmhouse to learn the principles and applications of ecological restoration; 8 area High Schools had an opportunity to explore the Bog; 3 classes from MATC in addition to students from UWM's Geography and Geology explored the diverse ecosystems on the property; a new SFS logo was designed through a collaborative effort of Station staff, relying heavily upon the artistic talents of Sage DeLong, and lastly we hosted a Halloween Haunted Hike in the Beechwoods to bring more UWM students to the Field Station.

Improvements and updates to the SFS buildings and property were also undertaken. We installed a new front welcome



Map 2. 160 acres of buckthorn control funded by the SOGL grant obtained by SEWISC and 120 acres of additional control for which funding is pending.



sign, courtesy of UWM Campus Planning, along with replacing the old, rusting signs that marked the boundary of the Field Station property. Trail markers were replaced with new, reflective, color-coded markers. The Manager's Residence received a new roof and windows. FOCB Stewardship group conducted a workday to help control Oriental Bittersweet in the Beechwoods and the Station's LTE staff worked on removal of autumn olive, buckthorn and Dames rocket. Joint efforts with the WiDNR occurred to look for and document Beech Bark Disease, and Beech Leaf Disease. At the SFS's outlying properties, we partnered with the Prairie Enthusiasts to conduct 2 controlled burns on Benedict Prairie and to remove burdock from the Neda Mine SNA. Station staff were also busy removing 45% of the glossy buckthorn from Downer Woods.

From the administrative side, we transitioned to a new website (still a work in progress) and initiated an Instagram account. Both sites link to, and will help advertise FOCB programming. Kate Redmond's Bug of the Week is more prominent on the new page, as it should be. Her photos and writings generate over 2500+ hits per month! Speaking of 'bugs', Mary Powley, PhD student in the Cariveau Lab (University of Minnesota) conducted a Bumble Bee census at the Station this summer and found a robust population of *Bombus affinis*, the endangered rusty patch bumblebee. We also celebrated the retirement of long time Field Station staff, Gretchen Meyer and Cindy Boettcher. Their wealth of knowledge and breadth of experience will be missed.

As I look forward to continuing my role at SFS in 2024, I plan to build upon the momentum of 2023. The Natural Sci-

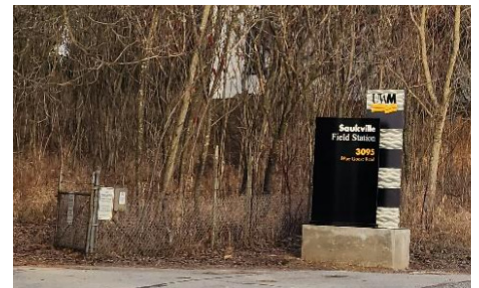
ence Workshop program will return with 6 offerings. UWM will continue to support FOCB's programming. New paint and updates for the Office/Classroom will be completed. New building and ground signs will be installed. We will expand our presence on campus, especially with underrepresented groups such as the Robert Hernandez Center, Electa-Quinney Institute, and others.

We expect grant funding to make energy efficiency upgrades including LED lighting, and we look forward to joining Wisconet, an elite environmental monitoring network across Wisconsin that provides timely and accurate data for Wisconsin resource management, research, and industry decision-making. We will also be updating and improving the educational kiosk at the head of the Bog Boardwalk Trail, including the addition of benches. Invasives species removal from our nat-

ural areas will also remain a top priority.

The UWM Saukville Field Station is grateful to the FOCB and their members, and we look forward to continuing our long-standing collaboration in the new year. Please join SFS and the UWM community on Sunday February 11 th for an evening hike through the Beechwoods SNA, followed by sweets and apple cider.

-Paul Engevoold  
Interim Director



New signage at the entrance to the Saukville Field Station

## ANNUAL WINTER HIKE RETURNS WITH CHILI POTLUCK

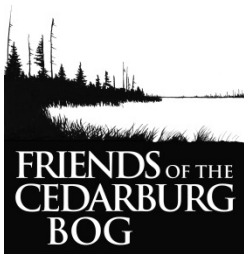
**Sunday, February 4th, 1:30pm - 5:30pm**

Winter presents the opportunity to explore the interior of the Cedarburg Bog. Jim Reinartz (Field Station Director Emeritus) will lead the annual hike into the heart of the Bog. This is a 4-mile hike, and weather or snow and ice conditions can make this hike challenging. In the past we have hiked in bitter cold, on a warm day with wet slush over the ice, in deep snow, with no snow at all on very slick ice, and when we were lucky, with a little snow over solid ice. If ice conditions in the Bog are not safe, we will hike in the uplands instead. We will provide updates several days prior to the hike with snow and ice conditions.

The Friends of the Cedarburg Bog are hosting a Chili Dinner Potluck after the Winter Hike at 4:30pm. The Friends will have lots of chili ready as well as beverages. Bring a dish to share (side dish, salad, dessert) all are appreciated and enjoyed! It's a wonderful way to finish up the hike but please join us for the potluck even if you don't plan to hike.

Register Here Today: <https://bogfriends.org/event-registration/>

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



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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## FRIENDS OF THE CEDARBURG BOG EVENTS

**Unless otherwise noted**, events meet at the UWM Saukville Field Station on Blue Goose Rd.

Registration required. Please register at: [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 (414) 897-1739 or [bogfriends@gmail.com](mailto:bogfriends@gmail.com) Please, No Pets.

### Quarterly Board Meeting

Thursday, January 4, 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](mailto:admin@bogfriends.org)

### How Trees Grow

Sunday, January 7th, 9am - Noon

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

### Intro to Lichens at the Bog

Saturday, January 20th, 9am - Noon

Join MNP's Jamie Schiesel for an introductory lesson on the fascinating world of lichens. From the various forms they take to the substrates they choose.

### Winter Hike

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

Winter presents the opportunity to explore the interior of the Cedarburg Bog. Jim Reinartz (Field Station Director Emeritus) will lead the annual hike into the heart of the Bog followed by chili potluck. See more on page 3.

### Winter Walk at the Bog

Friday, February 23, 9am-10:30am

Join DNR Wildlife Educator, Liz Herzmann, as we explore the sights, sounds and signs at the Bog. We'll venture out searching for tracks, scat and other signs of the active winter animals at the Bog.

### Identifying Woody Plants

Saturday, March 2nd, 2023, 9am - noon

Learn to recognize the characteristics of our native tree and shrub species necessary to identify them in the winter with naturalist Danielle Bell. Invasive woody species will also be discussed to help identify them during winter when it is best to remove them from the landscape.

## 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/](https://www.instagram.com/friends_cedarburgbog/)



Join our Email List

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

## 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](http://www.bogfriends.org) for full event details.

### A Citizen Science Perspective on the Bald Eagle Nest Watch Project in Southeast Wisconsin by Beth Berger Martin

Wednesday, January 10th, 7 p.m. Hybrid live and Zoom program at Lac Lawrann Conservancy

In coordination with the Wisconsin DNR, the Badgerland Bird Alliance (formerly Madison Audubon) launched the Bald Eagle Nest Watch (BENW) project in 2018 with the goal of monitoring and better understanding how Bald Eagle populations are doing in Wisconsin. It has grown

to include more than 100 nests in 36 counties! While Bald Eagles have made a remarkable recovery in Wisconsin, they continue to face significant threats. BENW is looking for more volunteers to assist in finding and monitoring nests.

Registration for in-person attendance: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4CADA23A1FB6-46387323-bald#/>

To join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86441798331?pwd=cktpVkJ6aW03L3F6TVBzd1BVU2owdz09>

Meeting ID: 864 4179 8331 Passcode: 527508

## OWBC PARTNERS

**LLC** - LacLawrann Conservancy  
300 Schmidt Rd, West Bend  
[lACLAWRANN.ORG](http://lACLAWRANN.ORG)

**MNP** - Mequon Nature Preserve  
Pieper Power Education Center  
8200 W County Line Rd, Mequon  
[MEQUONNATUREPRESERVE.ORG](http://MEQUONNATUREPRESERVE.ORG)

**RNC** - Riveredge Nature Center  
4458 County Hwy Y, Saukville  
[RIVEREDGENATURECENTER.ORG](http://RIVEREDGENATURECENTER.ORG)