

# Lac Lawrann Spring 2010 CONSERVANCY

• NEWS AMONG FRIENDS •

## Notes from a Vice-President by Paul DeChant

It is always interesting in Wisconsin to be writing a column for a spring newsletter while looking out on ten inches of snow. Weighing several ideas about how to proceed I thought, we'll let the land decide.

So on Sunday February 21st, my wife, Susan, and I decided to take a winter walk at Lac Lawrann to see what the land could tell us about the upcoming season. We strapped on our snowshoes and headed out on Lac Lawrann's trails, walking out on the Railroad Spur trail, then up the Esker trail and back around the Lake Loop. An hour on snowshoes, up and down hills, is a good work out and a great way to spend some time outdoors on a winter Sunday afternoon. The weather somewhat cooperated, 32 degrees F with a very slight mist in the air. The snow was soft, wet and deep in places. However, buds still tight on the twigs were saying it's still winter. Mink tracks muddied the snow along a rivulet running near Lake Lawrann and the chickadees and nuthatches could be heard overhead. There was a woodpecker out there somewhere too. On the Esker trail some tracks...a coyote? The track's size is right, the location is right, the straight line, lumbering pace is right. There's a spot of blood on the trail, confirmation of a successful hunt? Maybe. On our return trip around the lake a small spot on the snow moves, then flies away! It moves very slowly because of the cold and it's easy to catch. It's a midge. Is this a sign of open water nearby and the coming season change? Or maybe it just came out from hiding in a crook of tree bark. Further along we find lots of ski tracks and footprints; a sure sign that people are using the trails. And that's a good thing. In a little while we overtake a family of five. We stop to chat and learn it was their children's first time on skis. The hills had posed quite a challenge for the kids, but the Railroad Spur and Lake Loop made for easier skiing and a chance for mom and dad to practice some semi dormant skills. This is just what Lac Lawrann is all about.



*Service Berries in bloom are a sure sign that spring is here.*

The winter gathering took place later that Sunday. Our Naturalist, **Kate Peterman**, and Friends President, **Gary Britton**, acknowledged and thanked our dedicated volunteers. Special thanks were extended to retiring Friends Board members **Nancy Bigler** and Treasurer **Bob Broman**. Bob also

gave us an update on the Conservancy Master plan that has been prepared by **Joanne Kline**, Kate Peterman and Bob with some assistance from **Dan Wilson**. **Craig Hoepfner**, Park Recreation and Forestry Director, gave the group an update on progress for the concept design of the new education center. The building committee, made up of Craig, **Rob Jacques**, Dan Wilson, **Cindy Boettcher**, and myself have been working on the concept design with our architectural firm, Zimmermann

Architectural Studios. Principal architects on the project, **Doug Barnes** and **John Klett** with assistance from **David Stroik**, have provided guidance for the entire project.

Gathering folks were treated to guest speaker **Paul Hayes**, co-founder of the Mid-Kettle Moraine Partners Group and retired environmental and science writer for the Milwaukee Journal. Mr. Hayes shared his passion for the Kettle Moraine and Ice Age Trail through a video and talk. It was an appropriate connection, given Lac Lawrann's location. The evening was brought to a fitting close by a great potluck dinner.

By the time you are reading this, that snow midge will be long gone and the red spot in the snow as well. Your seed catalogues will be rag-eared. Some of your orders will have arrived and a few seedlings may even be sprouting. Our thoughts will be focused on engaging nature in other ways. As soon as the ground finishes thawing that is. Just how far off is that Wildflower Sale in May? All in all it was a good Sunday afternoon. 🌸

Don't Miss it!  
"Wildflower Sale"  
May 8, 2010

## Friends Welcome New Board Member



**Sue Millin** is an education consultant assisting land trusts, government agencies, and school districts with strategies for and implementation of

new education and outreach programs. She has experience developing and designing educational materials for nonprofit groups, along with managing special events and growing funding sources. In the early and mid 2000's, Sue was Program Director for the Land Conservation Partnership where she developed and coordinated two county-wide efforts focusing on the preservation of farmland and natural areas. Prior to that she was Education Coordinator for the Washington County Land Conservation Department.

Sue is a native of West Bend, returning after some time in other areas of SE Wisconsin to raise her family here. She enjoys the outdoors...camping, hiking, XC skiing, traveling, harvesting prairie seed, and hunting for morels & hickory nuts. Spending time with family & friends and going to art shows, theatre, and concerts are fun, too. Most recently upcycling new items from old wool sweaters has been added to her list of activities

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better, it's not" (Dr. Seuss) is Sue's favorite quote...a philosophy near and dear to all involved with Lac Lawrann Conservancy.

### WILDFLOWER PRE-SALE

Remember to renew your membership by May 7th to be considered a member.



## Volunteer Spotlight

**Jenny Tsuzuki Korbar** has been volunteering with Lac Lawrann for over 14 years. Jenny remembers her first wildflower sale well. **Lawrence Maurin** was still alive and helped direct parking cars, and this was before the parking lot so it was muddy. Jenny has only missed one flower sale since that sale in 1996. Early on in her volunteer career Jenny assisted putting the newsletter together with **Betty Glennon** and **Roger Bauer**. Many hours were spent, "proofing and editing the articles, we seemed to just get one done and had to start on the next." Many of the graphics were hand sketched by Jenny during those years of the newsletter.

While thinking back Jenny said, "I have volunteered helping with educational programs, walks, Flower Sale, spring burns, This Old Barn and other tasks over the years. The wonders of the world I have seen there. From the big owls nest, the turtles sunning themselves, a pair of sand hill cranes, the red fox, the herons, and the beautiful changes of season. The most memorable moment at LLC was the inside of the Maurin house during open ski and snowshoeing. There was information about Lawrence and Ann, but the beauty and solitude of almost touching nature in the middle of winter through the windows of their house was spectacular." Although Jenny does not think of it first, for the past 8 years she has been the one behind the mask. Jenny has spent more time as our mascot, **Shyber**, than anyone else.



*Jenny, aka Shyber, gives a thumbs up to a child at Celebrate Families.*

Shyber was named in an Earth Week contest in 1991 by **Melissa Steinbach** of Germantown, then a 2nd grader. Shyber is an acronym for Small-Headed, Yellow-Blotched, Endangered Reptile. This of course describes the Blanding's turtle (which has been downgraded to a threatened species). Blanding's Turtles are one of the species of concern that we protect at Lac Lawrann. Our Blanding's Turtle Mascot was created with love by **Joan Rosenberger's** daughter, Maggie twenty years ago. As Shyber, Jenny is always enthusiastic, ready to wave or give a hug whether at a Christmas Parade, Celebrate Families or most recently at a Mascot Night at the Kettle Moraine Bombers hockey game.

Jenny used to live close to Lac Lawrann and frequently walked the property as a way to relax, exercise and escape from it all. She continues to get out walking because, "there are so many wonders to be seen all times of year." And she encourages everyone to walk the lower prairie (along the ATC fenceline) in fall to see her favorite blue flower the fringed gentian. If anyone can help her get one to grow at her home she would really appreciate it.

Like many volunteers at Lac Lawrann Jenny has gotten very close to other volunteers. "Volunteers help through their hands with their hearts. They are the friends you will never forget. I can't begin to name all the enthusiastic people I have met. I feel lucky to be a part of LLC." 🐢



*Jenny poses with a group after a prairie burn*

# Winter of Wows *by Kate Peterman*

Wow, what a winter it has been. Usually in winter I look forward to a slower time, a time to look ahead, plan, get things in order and generally have a casual pace rather than the rush of deadlines and programs as in the spring, summer and autumn. Not this year. Lac Lawrann and our activities are really moving.

Friends of Lac Lawrann's new to us snowmobile and the great snow winter, has created a great stir on our cross country ski trails. I have run into a few people that were taking their kids (or themselves) out for the first time. Other than a few hills getting to and from, the Lake Loop and Railroad Spur offer a great ski for a beginner. Skiing all the trails are a good warm up for an expert or a great short ski for the intermediate that wants to squeeze it in before dark. After posting Lac Lawrann's trails on the website [SkinnySki.com](http://SkinnySki.com), we have received many new visitors that like to try all the area ski spots and some even comment on our trails.

January brought us to the Health and Business Fair at the New Jackson Recreation Center. There was a good deal of interest in the trails system. The easy connection to the Eisenbahn State Trail was quite a hit as well. Many new visitors are planning to come for a walk at Lac Lawrann then go for a bike ride down the Eisenbahn.

Each month this winter, there was a new Riveredge Speaks Out program to look forward to on a Wednesday evening. Great speakers and a good crowd made for amazing adult educational programs. I look forward to more this

spring (see the calendar for a list).

Lac Lawrann volunteers have worked very hard the past two months scavenging items from the old Gehl Company building to use in the future Education Center and a few things for the Schmidt farmhouse to use now. It will be wonderful to be able to say that many items are reused in our education center – things as small as outlet covers to as large as restroom partitions. Not only does this fit with our mission and goals it should also save some money down the line.

Celebrate Families and the Winter Gathering for Volunteers and Members rounded out the winter with plenty of things to do. Recycled bead necklaces made from old magazines and yarn was a new activity for kids visiting Lac Lawrann's booth at Celebrate Families. Next year's project is already in the planning stages. If you have any CDs/DVDs that you no longer need we will be collecting them for a turtle craft.

The Winter Gathering made for a great time for long time friends and new friends to get together. We learned a bit about glaciation and the great impact the last glacial age had on our landscape. Lac Lawrann was shown to be part of not only a West Bend preservation plan, but a plan throughout the entire mid-kettle moraine, an area linking the Kettle Moraine State Forest Northern and Southern Units. We were able to celebrate our accomplishments and look forward to more.

What a winter! I wonder what spring has in store. 🐾

## Wood Duck House Report

Greetings from the duck house man. I actually got myself in gear this fall and got to survey the duck houses before the snow flew. My wife and my friend, **Dan Zell**, helped me this fall and we all spent about 6 hours checking the duck houses and repairing them. We had a total of about 12 houses at one time, but 2 of them have been retired due to decay. One house was repaired this year and one house was repositioned.



### Here is the house to house report:

1. One of Lawrence's old metal boxes which is on a tree to the east side of the big lake half way up the steep hill towards the prairie. The bottom is rusting out but I reinforced it. It did have some bird feathers in it but no egg pieces. 2. Retired box 3. Lawrence's other metal box on the small pond below the dam East of Lawrence's driveway. No evidence of any nesting. 4. Wooden box on the north side of the big lake just down the hill from the pine plantation. There were a lot of downy feathers in this box. No egg pieces but something hatched out in this box. 5. Newer wooden

### *by Dave Bateman*

box that fell down last year. It was re-positioned on the pond above the small dam along Lawrence's driveway. 6. Older wooden box on the tree near the intersection of the lake loop trail and railroad spur trail. There were

3 duck egg shells in this box and lots of feathers. Ducks hatched here. 7. The south facing duplex box on a metal pole on the big lake. No evidence of use. 8. The north facing duplex box on a metal pole on the big lake. Some feathers were in this box. Unknown type of feathers. 9. Newer type wooden box on the pond south of Schmidt Road. There were some feathers, a squirrel nest, and two live mice in this box. 10. Wooden box on the big

lake facing east. No evidence of use. The top has been replaced. Lots of beaver chews on the trees nearby. 11. Retired Box 12. Newer wooden box near Lawrence's house on the big lake. One duck egg shell and lots of downy feathers indicate ducks hatched from this box. This has been the most productive box.

Last year, I tried sawdust and dried leaves for bedding in the boxes. This year, I am trying leaves and woodchips from the city garage. We will see if that encourages our nesting. I hope 2010 will be a productive year. See you on the trails. 🐾

Lac Lawrann Conservancy is part of the West Bend Parks System.

Craig Hoepfner,  
Director

Kate Peterman,  
Conservancy Naturalist

Friends of Lac Lawrann Conservancy, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation providing volunteer and financial support for the Conservancy and its programs.

Gary Britton, President

Paul De Chant, Vice President

Dan Wilson, Vice President

John Rozek, Treasurer

Jill Badzinski, Secretary

Karen Christianson, Legal counsel

Board Members:

Sue Bausch

Kristine Bruendl

Nancy Curtes

Robert Jacques

Sue Millin

Mary Rozek

Jim Spaeth

Sherry Ullius

Bruce Wilk

Ron Wosoba



1115 S. Main Street  
West Bend, WI 53095

262-335-5085

laclawrann@ci.west-bend.wi.us

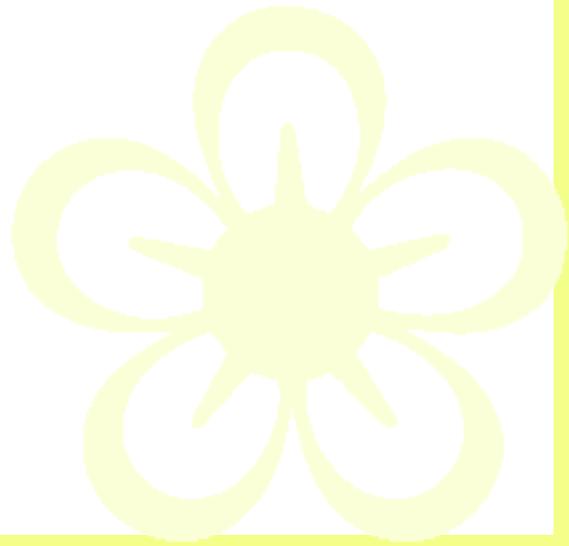
www.ci.west-bend.wi.us



design & printing by:



**K-KOM**  
INTEGRATED MARKETING  
THAT WORKS.  
1-800-373-2520



PRESERVING AND ENHANCING LAC LAWRANN CONSERVANCY AS A NATURE SANCTUARY FOR ALL TO EXPERIENCE

## What's happening this Spring

### Educational Programs

(See Insert for Wildflower Sale Work Days)

- Aldo Leopold Weekend, WB Library – Sat, March 6, 12-4pm
- RSO: Wetland Restoration within the Chaos of our Shifting World, WB – Wed, March 10, 7pm
- Attracting Bluebirds and other Cavity nesters, Niche – Sat, March 13, 9:30am
- RSO: Clues, Maps, Buried Soil, and Persistent Plants: Restoration Planning to Transform the Altered Menomonee Valley, Cedarburg Tues, March 16, 7pm
- Online Program Registration for Summer Programs – Tues, March 30
- Nature Bingo – Tues, April 6
- Spring Scavenger Hunt – Thurs, April 8
- RSO: Restored Wetlands: Are they for the Birds, WB – Wed, April 14, 7pm
- Pond Ecology, Home School Days – Mon, April 19
- RSO: Something Fascinating About Pitcher Plants, Cedarburg Tues, April 20, 7pm
- Spring Migration Bird Walk – Sat, May 1st & 15, 9-11am
- Scout Day – Sat, May 1

- RSO: The Fascinating World of Wisconsin's Small Mammals, WB – Wed, May 12, 7pm
- Preschool Adventures – Wednesdays, May 12, 19, 26 & June 2
- Night Hike, Things That Go Bump in the Night – Fri, May 14
- RSO: The Black Death and Pandemic Diseases throughout History, Cedarburg – Tues, May 18, 7pm
- Hike-a-doodle-do – Fridays, June 4, 11, 18, and 25

### Volunteer Days of Interest

- Home, Garden and Leisure Show, Fair Park – Fri -Sun, March 12-14
- Friends Board Meeting, PRF Conference Room, City Hall – Wed, March 17, 7pm
- Prairie Burn – Wed, April 21, 9am
- Policy Committee tour and meeting – Wed, April 21, 1pm
- Wildflower and Perennial Member Presale – Fri, May 7, 3-6pm
- Wildflower and Perennial Sale – Sat, May 8, 9-1pm
- Friends Board Meeting, PRF Conference Room, City Hall – Wed, June 9, 7pm
- This Old Barn – Fri, September 17

All Programs at Lac Lawrann Conservancy unless otherwise noted. RSO stands for Riveredge Speaks Out. WB location is the Public Agency Center on the corner of Indiana and Washington (Enter off Indiana) in West Bend. Cedarburg location is the Cedarburg Cultural Center at W62 N546 Washington Avenue in Cedarburg.