

# Lac Lawrann Spring 2011 CONSERVANCY

• NEWS AMONG FRIENDS •

## From the Friends' President *by Paul DeChant*

Spring at Lac Lawrann, and most of the upper Midwest, is a very uncertain season. This time of year we're all ready for the weather to get warmer so we can change our routines. It's time to put away the snowshoes, skis and parkas; put on a pair of hiking shoes, a lighter jacket and get out and walk the trails. Nature, however, often has a different program for us to follow. Spring is a season of fits and starts. At times there are periods of very slow, if any, change followed by a few teasingly warm days and then a return to snow. Just when you are thinking spring will never come, the first buds open and we're off to the garden even though the soil is too cold to get our plants or seeds growing.

While this state of affairs is nothing new to most of us, it does bear remarkable similarities to what has been unfolding at Lac Lawrann over the last few years. The Friends' goal of building a Learning Center to keep "Nature at your doorstep" is following our typical Midwest spring scenario.

The Friends group has worked diligently for the last several years, raising funds through our familiar events. The spring Flower Sale and This Old Barn are now well established destinations for many in and outside of our community. Our volunteers' steady work paid off with a great stretch of sunny days ending with the dedication of a newly repaired and updated Barn two years ago.

After the Barn opening there followed a period of what may seem to outsiders as relative inactivity. During this time others were hard at work behind the scenes. A truly dedicated team, were putting together a grant submission to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The results of their efforts was the announcement early this

winter of a \$250,000 matching grant from the Knowles Nelson Stewardship Grant. This bright sunny stretch means that, with matching funds from the Friends and other commitments, we are about 60% of the way towards realizing the construction of the Learning Center.

Again, like the plant hormones and enzymes that through the cold winter ready a tree's buds for the arrival of sap with the sun on a spring day, another group has been hard at work. The Building committee, as announced earlier, selected Zimmermann Architectural Studios to do some preliminary work on designing the

Learning Center. Basic layout was determined and some preliminary drawings were completed. After the announcement of the DNR grant, the Building committee met with the architects again to begin work on the final design. As with the beginning of any project there are more questions asked at this stage than there are answers given. How will we incorporate green building practices? Can we use solar energy for electricity? What about alternate heat sources? Can we use any of the resources available at Lac Lawrann in any part of the building? How will we sustain the building in the future?

Spring will eventually arrive. Warm sunny days and nights will prevail and the trees and flowers will bloom. The Learning Center will soon follow suit. New announcements will bring forth opportunities to participate and grow with Lac Lawrann.

With the right combination of efforts new opportunities to participate with and energize the Friends will burst forth. Watch for the ever changing landscape that is Lac Lawrann. 🌱



*Students learn about nature at their doorstep as they create a food web*

Don't Miss it!  
"Wildflower Sale"  
May 7, 2011



## Join the Maurin Society A Lasting Legacy Through Planned Giving

Your Estate Gift to the Maurin Society will secure the future of Lac Lawrann Conservancy as a vital community resource and fulfill the vision of Lawrence and Ann.

Contact us today. We will advise you on ways to name Friends of Lac Lawrann Conservancy in your estate plan with the aid of your attorney or tax advisor.

Friends of Lac Lawrann Conservancy, Inc.  
P.O.Box 755  
West Bend, WI 53095  
laclawrann.org  
262-335-5085

## Volunteer Needed

Lac Lawrann is looking for a scheduler for **Nature in the Classroom** visits.

- Coordinate monthly dates and times between teachers and visiting volunteers.
- Must have computer experience with Microsoft Word program and e-mailing attachments.
- Minimum of 8-10 hours per month (at your leisure) - September thru April.
- Training and support available throughout the year.

**WILDFLOWER  
PRE-SALE MAY 6TH**

Remember to renew your  
membership to be considered  
a member.



## Celebrating Families . . . by Sherry Ullius “Nature At Your Doorstep!”

Volunteers, **Sue Awve, Mickey Kazmierski, Jenny Korbar, Sue Millin, Julie Romagnoli, and Sherry Ullius**, shared about Lac Lawrann at the conservancy's tables. Children were invited to “help the owls fly by giving them their feathers”. Children stamped their fingerprints on large owls who were then perched on our “Celebrate Family Tree” door (more on the doors in another article). They then made bookmarks with



*Creating feathers at Celebrate Families*



*Megan, Shane and Paige Pfeifer pose with our owl family door*

animal print critters and found out more about Lac Lawrann and all our happenings.

Celebrate Families brings thousands of adults and children together for an afternoon of exploring many fun ways they can enjoy the community's resources doing things together, like hiking the conservancy's trails or participating in our educational programs.

On this fun February afternoon, Lac Lawrann's tables were set between Cabrini's Elementary School and Riveredge Nature Center. We couldn't have had better neighbors to share in this special event! 🐾

## Remembering Ron Wosoba

At the age of 70, **Ron Wosoba** passed away on January 28, 2011. After retiring from Milwaukee Public Schools, he and his wife Wendy moved to West Bend and almost immediately got involved in Lac Lawrann, first as a Teacher Naturalist, then in flower sale, This Old Barn, garden care, Story Time, prairie committee and most recently as a member of the Friends of Lac Lawrann board of directors. Ron's quiet spirit spoke volumes to the students' lives he touched. As an avid birder, Ron was able to see and hear the smallest of noises and always find wildlife to observe. Whether reading in a classroom for Story Time or leading a group of rambunctious kids down the trail, Ron's presence created a kind of quiet with the children turning their heads to hear what he had to share about nature. Ron will be truly missed by his Lac Lawrann family. 🐾



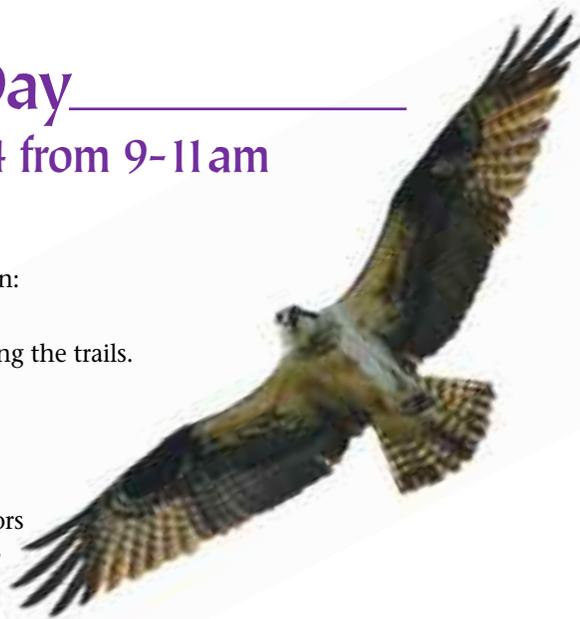
*The kids loved Ron's gentle spirit*

# International Migratory Bird Day\_\_\_\_\_

## Celebrate Birds at Lac Lawrann on May 14 from 9-11 am

### Choose your birding group:

- 9am **Adult Bird Hike...** Migratory and Residential Birds of Lac Lawrann: How many birds will we find during the height of spring migration? Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them. Be prepared for walking the trails.
- 9am **Children's Bird Walk...** Observing the Everyday Life of Birds: What do birds eat? Where do they nest? How do they spend their time?
- 10am **Pineview Wildlife Rehabilitation Center** will bring in live raptors to show us how they move, what they eat, and give us a close up look. 🦅



## Winter Wonderland by Kate Peterman



Just enough snow for tubing!

This past winter was a wonderland complete with snow for all but about two days of the chilly season. Our 1st annual Winter Wonderland, of course, landed on one of those not so wintery days. Even without snow for building forts and practicing survival techniques, all

those that came out had a good time.

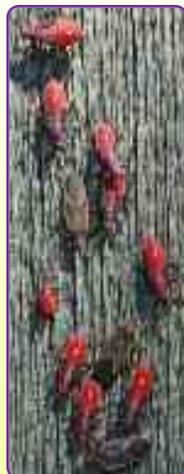
Thanks to the many volunteers who lead walks, crafts and kept the fire burning. Even without much snow in the open areas, the shaded portions of the ski trail made a great walking path to see animal tracks, identify trees and explore nature. A snowy hillside packed down by hundreds of skiers made for a short, but fun tubing ride. The fire was warm and marshmallows gooey. The kids loved spreading peanut butter on pinecones and rolling them in birdseed to create a natural bird feeder. All in all a great winter adventure. 🦅

## The Bug Lady Presents: Box Elder Bug\_\_\_\_\_

Box elder bugs (*Boisea trivittata*) are true bugs in the family Hemiptera (Hemiptera means "half-wing" and refers to front wings that are membranous on the tip half and opaque and leathery on the half closest to the body). Hemipteran wings cross over each other and make an "X" pattern. Box Elder Bugs are in the family Rhopalidae, the Scentless Plant Bugs.

Box Elder Bugs, as you would expect, feed on/suck sap from the tender parts of box elder trees, especially from the seed pods (some municipalities ban female box elders for this reason). They have been observed eating other maples, ash, and a few species of fruit trees, plus grapes and strawberries, and their feeding may scar fruits. Some tree damage is reported in boom years, when Box Elder Bugs may also browse on the ground and in gardens. They can fly several city blocks, or up to a few miles looking for food.

Box Elder Bug females were looking for a sheltered place



to overwinter last fall. Many may have made it into your home. Once inside, they generally make themselves scarce.

While they may be found on house plants, Box Elder Bugs seldom feed on them; it's a place in the sun that they're after. They become active again when they sense that spring has sprung. The Box Elder Bugs you see indoors in spring are intent on getting outside to lay eggs.

This time of year, rust-colored eggs are hidden in crevices on the ground and in tree bark. Box elder bugs have simple/incomplete metamorphosis, so the young look like mini-adults. They add a few adult structures like reproductive organs and wing buds as they eat and molt. The younger nymphs are all red; they add black markings as they age. Adults have three stripes on their prothorax (first segment of the thorax), a red abdomen, and red veins in their wings.

See the variety of ages in the photo? 🦋

# Wildflower Sale News *by Lana Voigt*

---

## Volunteers Wanted

The Wildflower Sale Committee is looking for volunteers. We need 1 or 2 people to work in the farmhouse kitchen on Tuesdays and Thursdays in April from about 10:00 AM until 1:30PM. You would need to assemble the "potluck" buffet, serve volunteers and clean up afterwards. This is a fun group of volunteers and if you are like the rest of us, you will look forward to your volunteer days.

We also need an individual to coordinate the distribution of Wildflower Sale advertising flyers. Flyers are generally distributed in about a 10 mile radius of West

Bend. We are not necessarily looking for someone to distribute them, but rather to allocate the distribution to volunteers. The time frame on this opportunity is approximately the last 2 weeks of April and would probably involve no more than 5-10 hours.

If you are interested in either of the above opportunities or just want to help with the Flower Sale Prep- give me a call or send me an email. Look forward to hearing from you! **Lana Voigt 262-335-2300 or tess50@aol.com**



*Nobie Scacia assembles a wonderful potluck lunch*

## Gift Certificates Now Available

Most of us, at some time or another, are looking for a gift for that person who has everything. This very scenario is what prompted the availability of gift certificates for purchases at the annual Wildflower and Perennial Sale. The certificates may be used for purchase of plants from our huge inventory or maybe for a "one of a kind" craft item. The sale is held annually on the Saturday of Mother's Day weekend. The gift certificates will be available year round however and in any denomination you may choose. If you are interested, you may purchase them from the Parks Department at City Hall during regular business hours. Give a special gift and support Lac Lawrann Conservancy. 🌱

# Help Us OPEN the DOOR *by Sue Millin*

---

The "Nature at your doorstep" theme which is now leading Lac Lawrann's outreach efforts is but a new description of the path followed in the past. From the original owners, **Lawrence and Ann...** to the current donors, friends and volunteers of LLC...an appreciation of the natural world and recognition of the benefits of concerned stewardship have been guiding principles.

Some new initiatives specifically designed to benefit the new Learning Center at Lac Lawrann are in the works with the hopes of raising awareness and funds for the new building. These initiatives



will kick off in September, and will involve students, businesses, civic groups and artists. Watch for more information in the next LLC newsletter. It's going to be lots of fun!

Until then, WE NEED YOUR HELP! Do you have unused DOORS in your basement, barn or office? Any type of door in any condition will be accepted...barn door, front doors, garden gates, whatever you can round up. If you are willing to donate a door or two, please call Kate at (262) 335-5085.

I look forward to working with you all on this exciting initiative. 🌱

# Photography Contest



**May 8 – November 1, 2011**

**Entry Deadline is November 1, 2011**

## CATEGORIES

**Lac Lawrann Flower Sale Plants...** Show us the creative ways the plants you have purchased at our annual flower sale have been used in landscapes, container gardens or stand alone photos.

**Lac Lawrann Conservancy...** Lac Lawrann provides a gorgeous natural backdrop for photography. Why not wander the trails looking for that perfect shot. Each bend in the path opens up a new vista, and if you are quick on the draw, you might capture a bird, a snake or even a deer.

**Please enter with a printed 8x10 (mounted) and digital version of your photo**



*Friends of Lac Lawrann: Preserving and Enhancing Lac Lawrann Conservancy as a Nature Sanctuary for All to Experience*



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.

Paul De Chant, President

Dan Wilson, VP Building & Grounds

Nancy Curtes, VP Education & Programs

Sue Millin, VP Marketing & Membership

John Rozek, Treasurer

Jill Badzinski, Secretary

Karen Christianson, Legal Counsel

Board Members:

Kristine Bruendl

Robert Jacques

Mary Rozek

Candy Sarauer

Jim Spaeth

Barb Tyree

Sherry Ullius



1115 S. Main Street  
West Bend, WI 53095

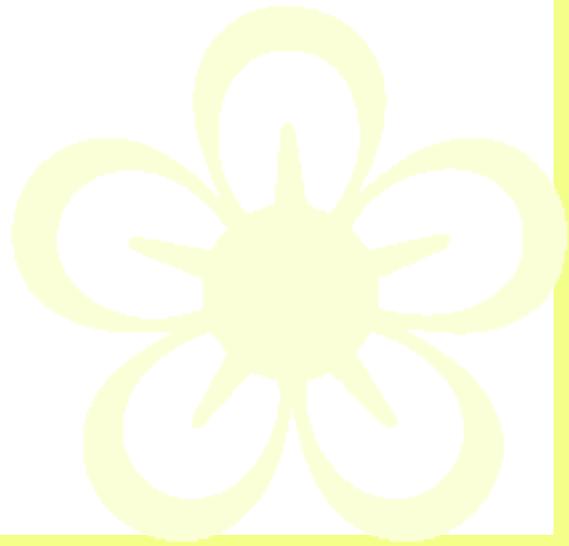
262-335-5085

laclawrann@ci.west-bend.wi.us

www.laclawrann.org



Non Profit Org.  
**US POSTAGE PAID**  
WEST BEND, WI 53095  
PERMIT No. 50



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)

- Pond Ecology, Home School Days – Monday, April 18
- SFE: Blanding's Turtles in Wisconsin's Central Sands, Cedarburg – Tuesday, April 19, 7pm
- Policy Committee Tour and Meeting – Wed., April 20, 1pm
- SFE: Discovering the Black Hills: 30 yrs of travel and research in western SD, WB – Tuesday, April 26, 7pm
- Field Trip Guide Training – Wednesday, April 27, 10am
- Field Trip Guide Training – Thursday, April 28, 1pm
- Preschool Adventures – Wednesdays, May 11, 18, 25 & June 1
- Migratory Bird Day, Bird Walks and Rehabilitators – Saturday, May 14, 9-11am
- SFE: Chasing the Ghost Birds: Ultralight-Led Crane Migrations, Cedarburg – Tuesday, May 17, 7pm

- Night Hike, Things That Go Bump in the Night – Friday, May 20
- Scout Day – Saturday, May 21
- SFE: Bats in Wisconsin and White-nose syndrome, WB – Tuesday, May 24, 7pm
- Hike-a-doodle-do – Fridays, June 3, 10, 17, and 24

### Volunteer Days of Interest

- Policy Committee tour and meeting – Wed., April 20, 1pm
- Wildflower & Perennial Member Presale – Fri., May 6, 3-6pm
- Wildflower and Perennial Sale – Saturday, May 7, 9-1pm
- Friends Board Meeting, PRF Conference Room, City Hall – Wednesday, June 8, 7pm
- This Old Barn – Friday, September 16