

Lac Lawrann Fall 2009 CONSERVANCY

• NEWS AMONG FRIENDS •

Sixth Grade by Kate Peterman

Lockers, combinations, changing classes, changing clothes for gym class, anxious, and foreign. These are just a few of the thoughts running through the mind of a sixth grader. As they start science class they are bombarded with new vocabulary: kettle, esker, kame, moraine. The words are familiar, but what do they really mean. They next learn of sixth grade camp (two nights away) and a field trip.

Awesome! A field trip in the first month of school, maybe sixth grade isn't as bad as once thought.

Upon arrival at Lac Lawrann (or Riveredge), the student is greeted by a smiling volunteer with a passport to Wisconsin's Glacial Landscape. Four sites will be visited, there is room in the passport for a stamp, data and a poem to guide them.

*Long ago thick ice covered the land,
Frozen inside were rocks, gravel and sand
The glaciers were full of holes, valleys and tunnels,
Some of the holes looked like upside down funnels.
Into the funnels flowed melt-water, sand and stones,
When the ice thawed, I appeared as a cone.*

Students broken in groups, head out to explore the landscape and discover the gifts of the glacier. What will they see? What will they learn?

Thanks to grant funding, all West Bend School District 6th graders will either attend Lac Lawrann or Riveredge for a Glacial Landscapes Program. On their adventure they will determine what makes this area unique and learn about their history at the same time.

This partnership has blossomed from informal talks about a year ago, to expanding adult education through the Riveredge Speaks Out Program in West Bend and now a partnership with the West Bend School District. If you are interested in facilitating (or finding out more about) the sixth grade glacial walks please let Kate know at 335-5085 or laclawrann@ci.west-bend.wi.us 🍁

Signs Of Fall by Sherry Ullius

Doesn't this time of year bring a smile to your face? All the kids are back in school. It's "fall". For Lac Lawrann that signals school field trips to the conservancy. Fall days can be very special times to enjoy nature. Come walk the trails to observe leaves turning colors, the migration of birds, and lots and lots of insects to catch in sweep nets among the tall grasses and flowers in our stunning prairie.

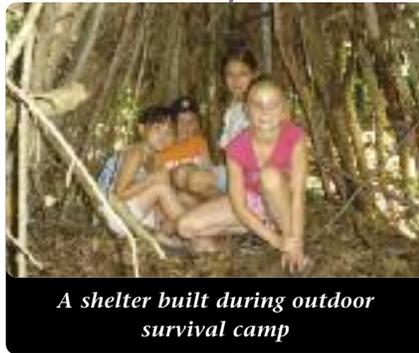
Fall also signals our return to the classrooms for "story time". Volunteer story readers bring a little of nature's wonders "indoors". As the weather cools, we connect story telling with the wonderment of seeds, the touch and feel of deer hides and antlers, the soft calls of owls, special habits of bear and woodchuck, and more.

What began almost nine years ago with a single visit to a classroom has increased this year to requests from 63

classroom teachers for us to come visit, not only once, but monthly during the school year. The kids recognize us in the halls wearing our green aprons, and they ask "are you coming to our class today?"

Story time is a 45 minute program with nine months of topics for kindergarten through grade three. Our volunteers travel to Hartford, Kewaskum, Campbellsport and Farmington as well as West Bend, visiting both public and private schools.

Sound like something you'd be interested in? We begin in September with our mascot SHYBER (Small Headed Yellow Blotched Endangered Reptile) telling his story about the beginnings of the conservancy, They Call My Pond Lac Lawrann. If you'd like to learn more about the program and how you might become involved to help in the classrooms or behind the scenes, please call the Conservancy office 262-335-5085 and tell Kate you'd like to volunteer for story time. Volunteers will be observing and training during the month of September. Come join us! Your smile will last all the way through to the end of the school year! 🍁



A shelter built during outdoor survival camp

Don't Forget!
"This Old Barn"
September 18th

Cooks and Volunteers Get Ready

Before we settle down to a toe tappin', knee slappin', hand clappin' evening at the Big Cedar Bluegrass Concert, let's start thinking about juicy, finger lickin', homemade desserts! Without all your famous recipes following those great brats and hamburgers, the night wouldn't be complete.

Please bring your homemade items Friday, September 18 by 5:30pm to the shed. We'll be there to prepare them for individual servings. Then enjoy a beautiful fall gathering in This Old Barn. Thank you for helping make our fundraiser a success.

P.S If your recipe isn't in our Lac Lawrann Cookbook we will add it to the new revision coming soon. Also we are in need of a gas or charcoal grill for the farm house.

Update on Lac Lawrann Building Plan

One result of the "Strategic Thinking" session held in January was to establish an ad hoc Building Committee to examine the immediate facility needs at the Conservancy. After reviewing earlier recommendations and current needs, the committee decided that the two most critical needs are:

- Year round meeting space for up to 75 people (two classrooms of students and their teachers)
- Restroom facilities that would be accessible from both inside the facility as well as outside

In June the Board of Directors authorized the Building Committee to prepare and distribute a request for proposals for the design and cost estimates of a basic education facility that would meet these immediate needs. A requirement for the plans is that the building could be added on to at a later time providing for the remaining space needs of LLC such as exhibit space, office space, meeting space and space for additional educational activities. Proposals in response to the RFP are due September 10.

The scope of the resulting educational building and associated fund-raising, if we proceed as anticipated, will be considerably less than what was in mind 18 months ago. Yet, it should provide a much needed basic facility at LLC. The Board and Building Committee see it as a chance to enhance the current educational activities and the additional programming that is needed. Feel free to contact Kate, Craig, or any of the board members for additional information.

– Gary Britton, President

Senior Citizen Award By Helen Yordi

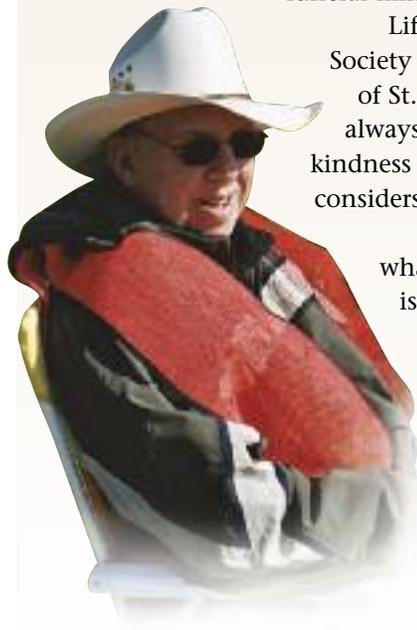


Stephanie Hundt congratulates Gary

the Washington County Fair on July 23 were very active in many organizations as board members, chairpersons and volunteers. They taught or helped in both civic and religious endeavors with a deep concern about the welfare of all.

Our own Gary Yordi was the only "guy" recipient who also shares these concerns. His nomination came from Stephanie Hundt. They met as volunteers at the Full Shelf Food Pantry ten years ago. They formed a special bond because they both have cerebral palsy but do not allow it to hinder them! Stephanie says that Gary is an amazing example of the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

The list of remarkable multiplicity of ministries and service opportunities that Gary has been involved with is lengthy but among them are St. Vincent De Paul, visits to the homebound, funeral ministry and a member of Relay for Life Team (American Cancer Society Fundraiser). Father Jeff Haines of St. Frances Cabrini Parish said "He always serves others with gentleness, kindness and a big smile and never considers it to be a task or duty."



At LLC he is ready to help with whatever needs to be done and he is always there with a handshake, a hug, and a kind word. He has done so much to make West Bend and the world a better place to live. 🎁

Thank you Gary!

Life on a Milkweed Plant by Kate Redmond -The Bug Lady

Greetings Bug Fans -

Milkweeds (and goldenrods) are famous for being hosts to a tremendous variety of insects and other arthropods. Insects that have milkweed in their diet at some part of their life cycle are poisonous to their predators because of the toxic cardiac glycosides contained in milkweed sap. They often sport Mother Nature's warning colors, yellow or red and black to advertise their toxicity. The BugLady read of one study in which captive Blue Jays who were fed monarch caterpillars, threw themselves against the sides of the cage to avoid the next batch of caterpillars that was served up. Here are a few of the critters that browse on milkweed. Many other insects feed on its leaves, stems, flowers and pods, and it provides a hunting place for predatory insects and small, predatory frogs.



Red Milkweed Beetles

(*Tetraopes* sp) are members of the long-horned beetle family (Cerambicidae), a spectacular group of beetles that can be both colorful and large and that bear long (sometimes very long) antennae. Typically, the adults are plant-eaters (wood, leaves, pollen, flowers) and

their grubs feed on wood. This group mainly chows down on common milkweed; its grubs feed on stems and roots of milkweed, and they overwinter within the stem. Their nickname - four-eyed beetles - is the result of the socket of the antennae being located in the center of the eyes, "dividing" them in two. There are 13 species in this genus north of Mexico; the New Jersey milkweed beetle is quite different than its Wisconsin cousin.



Monarch Caterpillars feed only on milkweed leaves, but the adults nectar from a variety of flowers. There are many generations per year, but those that emerge at the end of summer (called generation 5) migrate south, where all the monarchs east of the Rockies overwinter on the same mountainside in Mexico. In spring, the same generation that migrated south starts north. They lay eggs as they go and the new generations are the ones that return to Wisconsin. Eggs are laid singly on the undersides of milkweed leaves, and impossibly tiny caterpillars hatch a few days later. The mid-summer generations may have a total life span of about a month.

Milkweed Stem Weevils

are "short-snouted weevils." Weevils (family Curculionidae) are the biggest group in the Beetle order, and beetles rule! The BugLady loves this small, rumped pachyderm, which appears on milkweeds well before they flower.



Milkweed stem weevils (*Rhyssomatus lineaticollis*) gnaw into the leaves, and later the stems of Common Milkweeds. Females chew a series of holes in the stem and lay their eggs in the holes (this leaves noticeable scars); the larvae develop in the stem, eating the abundant pith material. Like many other beetles, they stop and drop to the ground when startled.

Have you hugged a milkweed today? 🌿

The Amazing Race By Kate Peterman

Have you ever seen the TV show Amazing Race? Isn't it incredible how they move from one country to another on a large scale scavenger hunt? Sometimes they hit roadblocks where one person on the team has to complete a task before they can move on. They are also confronted by a detour where they can choose doing one thing or another and the whole team tries to complete that task.

This past summer Lac Lawrann had its own version of Amazing Race. Contestants raced through the Conservancy on trails to the pine plantation, measuring the esker by



footsteps and ending at the campfire circle. A roadblock included gathering and eating

mulberries, while a detour included scooping up a damsel in distress (damselfly nymph) or fire breathing dragon (dragonfly nymph) from the pond. Each family (contestants) learned some of the history of Lac Lawrann and got a chance to see some of the more popular parts of the Conservancy. One team (family) mentioned how much they loved being able to do something together as a family. It was great to see adults, teens, kids, strollers

and kiddos in backpacks out on the trails. Maybe next year you can join in the fun. 🌿

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

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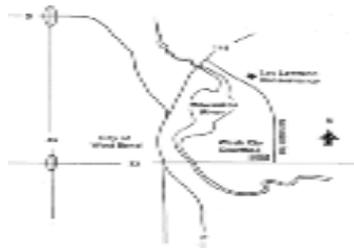
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PRESERVING AND ENHANCING LAC LAWRANN CONSERVANCY AS A NATURE SANCTUARY FOR ALL TO EXPERIENCE

Sign up for all educational programs with the West Bend Park, Recreation and Forestry Department at 262-335-5080.

*Denotes work days. We need your volunteer support! All activities are at Lac Lawrann unless otherwise noted.

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ What's happening this Fall? ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

Educational Programs

- **Preschool Adventures** – Wednesdays, 9/2-23
- **Things that go Bump in the Night** – Friday, 9/11
- **Grandparent's Day** – Sunday, 9/13
- **Riveredge Speaks Out Series (RSO) Climate Change & Global Warming** – Tuesday, September 15, 7pm (Riveredge)
- **RSO: Prehistory of Southern Wisconsin** – Thurs., October 1, 7pm (Rm. 1113 of Public Agency Building, 333 E. Washington)
- **Scout Day** – Saturday, 10/3
- **Home School Days** – Monday, 10/5
- **Prairie Seed Harvest** – Saturday, 10/10, 1pm
- **Luminary Walk** – Saturday, 10/17, 7pm
- **RSO: Emerald Ash Borer** – Tuesday, October 20, 7pm (Cedarburg Cultural Center)
- **Nature Stories** – Thursdays, 11/5 – 12/17 (except 11/26), Niche
- **RSO: Philosophy of Tap Water** – Thursday, November 12, 7pm (Rm. 1113 of Public Agency Building, 333 E. Washington)
- **RSO: Swamp Metalmark Butterfly** – Tuesday, November 17, 7pm (Cedarburg Cultural Center)

- **RSO: Why Leopard Frog Got its Spots** – Tues, December 15, 7pm (Cedarburg Cultural Center)

Volunteer Days of Interest

- **Conservancy Stewards (trails, grounds, invasive plants)** – Wednesdays 9am
- **Teacher Naturalist Training – Wisconsin Glacial Landscape** – Tuesday, September 1, 9am
- **This Old Barn preparation** – Tues, September 15, 9am & Thurs, September 17, 9am
- **This Old Barn event** – Friday, September 18, 6pm
- **This Old Barn Clean up** – Tuesday, September 22, 9am
- **Friends of LLC annual meeting** – Wednesday, September 30, 7pm, PRF Conference Room, Voting on executive board and annual budget
- **Moving Day (from LLC to niche)** – Tuesday, October 20, 9am
- **Policy Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, October 21, 3pm
- **Friends of LLC board meeting** – Wednesday, November 11, 7pm, PRF Conference Room
- **Winter Gathering** – Sunday, February 21, 2010 (tentative)