

Lac Lawrann Winter 2009 CONSERVANCY

• NEWS AMONG FRIENDS •

From the Friends' President *by Gary Britton*

With the 2010 fiscal year beginning in November, the Board of Directors elected two Friends of Lac Lawrann members to positions on the Board. We welcome **Bruce Wilk** and **Ron Wosoba** as they begin their first three-year terms. They replace **Nancy Bigler** and **Bob Broman** who completed multiple terms of very significant service to Lac Lawrann and many of its activities. Bob and Nancy will be officially recognized for this service during the Volunteer Recognition and Appreciation program on February 21. **Jo Sadownikow**, who recently resigned from the board in order to have more time for her new baby and other family members, will also be recognized at that event. So put the date on your calendar and join the board in thanking all three of them, and other volunteers, for their dedicated contributions to Lac Lawrann.

Board members **Nancy Curtes**, **Mary Rozek** and **Jim Spaeth** were elected to additional three-year terms. In addition to electing new members, the board modified its structure of officers and the Executive Committee in order to spread the work load among more individuals. Rather than having one vice-president as in the past, the board now has

three vice-president positions, each with a specific area of responsibility. **Paul De Chant** and **Dan Wilson** were elected as Vice President for Educational Programs and Vice President for Buildings and Grounds, respectively. Vice President for Membership and Marketing remains vacant for the time

being. Other officers include **John Rozek**, Treasurer, **Jill Badzinski**, Secretary, and **Gary Britton**, President. The Executive Committee consists of all elected officers.

In other board business, Zimmerman Architectural Studios has been hired to do the conceptual design work for a new educational building at Lac Lawrann. See the report from the Building Committee for more details about the building plans.

With the expanded activities of the committees for Educational

Programs and Buildings and Grounds, in addition to the normally scheduled events, 2010 promises to be another busy and exciting year. Our first board meeting of the year will be January 20 at which time we will review the status of activities related to the strategic planning goals established at the beginning of 2009. You are invited to join us for this meeting as well as others throughout the year. Happy Holidays! 🎉



Balloons glide silently over the rolling terrain of the northern kettle moraine

Friends & Volunteer Appreciation Party

Sunday, February 21, 2010

3-6pm City Hall Atrium

Willing hands and giving hearts continue to make things happen at Lac Lawrann Conservancy.

From gardening to story time to fundraising, volunteers are the main supporters of all we do.

Please join us to recognize this wonderful group of volunteers.
Save the date!

Washington Co. Fair Park
"Celebrate Families"
Sunday, Feb. 14th, 2010
11am - 4pm

Welcome to New Board Members

Bruce Wilk is the Associate Director for the Threshold Incorporated. He has been with the agency since 1978. Originally from Random Lake, Bruce's educational training took him to UW Stout where he earned a master's degree in Vocational Rehabilitation. He serves on the Workforce Development Board for Washington, Ozaukee and Waukesha counties and the West Bend Chamber of Commerce Leadership board. He is a member of the WB Police & Fire Commission and a member of the Kiwanis Early Risers. Bruce and his wife Lyn, a pharmacy technician, live in West Bend and have two children, a daughter in Santa Fe and a son with a Natural Resources degree living in Winthrop, Washington. His interests include photography, Frisbee golf, canoeing, fishing, hiking, gardening, earth sculpting, genealogy, WW11 and locating great comfort food throughout Wisconsin.

Bruce and Lyn's favorite experience at Lac Lawrann was coming across a doe, watching it run away, and then finding a newborn fawn curled quietly at a 4-way path intersection!

Ron Wosoba is a retired elementary teacher and assistant elementary school principal from the city of Milwaukee. After serving for 32 years, he retired and moved to the Town of West Bend with his wife, Wendy. Both Ron and Wendy are avid birders and thus have acquired more than a passing interest in conservation, especially wildlife habitat. Their home adjoins part of the Cedar Lakes Conservancy area. Ron was brought up in a small town in rural Iowa and spent his formative years working summers on farms. This led to his strong interest in safeguarding farmland and farm buildings. He enjoys history, traveling and playing golf. At Lac Lawrann he and Wendy are very active in the Story Time in the Schools program as well as helping with "This Old Barn" and the annual spring Flower Sale. Ron is also a teacher naturalist at Riveredge Nature Center.



This Old Barn Raffle Winners

Big Cedar Bluegrass Band played a mix of bluegrass, western, and gospel music to a crowd overflowing our renovated Barn, enjoying the mild autumn weather. We added a few new items to the Raffle list this year and had some fun doing it.

Craig Hoepfner and his wife **Judy** hosted the Packer game for winners **Bryan** and **Kitty Downey**. They were picked up at their home, driven to Green Bay and treated to a wonderful pregame tailgate cook out! After receiving pictures of the outing Bryan wrote "Thanks so much for those great photos. They really captured the moment. You guys were great hosts making it a really fun day!"

We added an old fashion "Threshing Dinner" at the LLC Farmhouse won by **Tom Sheppard**. **Jim Spaeth** describes the evening. Always looking for a unique raffle prize for "This Old Barn" fundraiser, the committee suggested cooking an old-fashioned threshing dinner for eight people. Thinking this would be a fun undertaking, it became one of the 6 prizes. The lucky winner was Tom Sheppard of West Bend.

Tom, his wife, **Pam**, son **Andy** and daughter-in-law **Kelly**, daughter **Jane** and son-in-law **Rick** and friends **Debbie Spaeth** and **Margaret Markey** were welcomed to the Farmhouse decorated for the fall season. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages were served during the social hour. **Gary Britton** visited with Tom, his long time friend and fellow balloon enthusiast while committee members and volunteers mingled and kept glasses and food trays full.

Dinner included soup followed by the main course of pork tenderloin, Cornish hens, potatoes and a delicious vegetable medley. Apple pie alamode and pumpkin cake topped it off.

After dinner Debbie Spaeth made a special announcement. The Balloon Federation of America Board of Directors had voted to include Tom as an inductee into the National Balloon Museum Hall of Fame. He was a "Pioneer in Modern Balloon Competition". Congratulations Tom!



Special thanks to **Nancy Curtes** for coordinating the evening and to all the committee members and volunteers: **Vicki Aschenbrener**, **Jim Curtes**, **Marilee Muth**, **Carol Peterchak**, **Mary and John Rozek**, **Joan Rosenberger**, **Joan Ziegler** and **Jim Spaeth**.

Another new item was a Weekend Getaway in Door County. **Betty Novak** from Milwaukee and her family will enjoy a wonderful cottage right on the water in Egg Harbor. The town has lots of great shopping, ice cream parlors, water activities and festivals. Enjoy your huge sand beach with your family!

Big Cedar Bluegrass Season passes for 4 to all seven Stillwaters Concert Series was won by **Mary Jo Puhl** of Kewaskum. Enjoy Mary Jo and guests!

Gary Britton's Balloon Ride for 2 was won by **Bob Retko** of Cedarburg and his guest, **Kay Weinke**. They had an incredible flight! Other balloons joined them as they headed out in the fog over Holy Hill past Friess Lake up and over Loew Lake. Enjoy some of the pictures and try to win the Ride next year!

And finally the \$500 Cash Prize was won and we HOPE being enjoyed – maybe some great Christmas Shopping – by **Bob Rozek**.

GOOD LUCK TO EVERYONE NEXT YEAR!



Wisconsin's Glacial Landscape By Kate Peterman

About three hundred sixth graders from Silverbrook and Badger Middle Schools in West Bend came to Lac Lawrann and another 200 attended Riveredge Nature Center this past fall to get a hands on look and feel for the impact glaciers had on our landscape.

As the field trips began we broke into groups of 12 students to one facilitator and set up teams to carry out the inquiry.

The teams rotated reading the contour map, leading the group, and experimenting at sand boxes which they used to create glacial features. One of the stops was a timeline – a chance to put everything into perspective. In the grand scheme of things our beautiful Kettle Moraine scenery has not been here long. Here are a few highlights:

- **4.6 Billion Years ago** – Earth was formed
- **2.5 Billion Years ago** – Oceans were formed
- **520-405 Million Years ago** – Silurian Sea; Wisconsin was covered by this shallow inland sea which gave us our Dolomite bedrock and our state fossil – the trilobite.
- **30,000 years ago** – The beginning of the 4th glacial interval known as the Wisconsinian
- **About 20,000 years ago** – The glacier retreated (melted) from this part of Wisconsin leaving behind cone shaped hills, valleys, lakes, sinuous snake like curves, and teardrop shaped hills.

The retreat of the glacier left us a gem of a landscape. One of the main reasons Lac Lawrann is considered a natural area of regional significance according to the South East Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) is the incredible glacial landscape we have. Even from the air the Lac Lawrann esker is awe inspiring.



Aerial view of the esker trail route

The esker was formed by what could best be called an under glacier river (near the time of retreat) that moved glacial debris such as boulders, rock, sand and silt. The Lac Lawrann esker allows us to take in the views of the wetlands on both sides or notice varying sizes of rocks under our feet moved here by water thousands of years ago.

Those rocks are either erratics (a non-native rock, carried here by the glacier) or our native bedrock, Dolomite. The

native bedrock being made up of calcium (shells from the marine organisms during our time as part of the Silurian Sea) will bubble when a dilute muratic acid is dripped onto

the rock. As the sixth graders tested rocks they quickly learned to discern granite and other erratics from the usual look of the native Dolomite. What an experience!

Perhaps this winter you can go on a glacial adventure of your own. Walk down a trail and imagine being as high as the clouds (1-3 miles up) standing on top of a glacier. No matter what, strap on your snowshoes, skis or winter boots and head to Lac Lawrann to see the gifts of the glacier. ❄️



Hikers enjoy the Rainbow Lake esker trail

Deceased & Memorials

Our condolences go out to the families of the following individuals who were members of Friends of Lac Lawrann Conservancy and are now deceased:

Mavis Gerhardt
Beverly Laatsch

Also keep in your thoughts **Lee Krueger** and **Lynne (Krueger) Ferge** who lost their mother and **Dick Gerhardt** and **Barbara Tyree** who lost **Mavis Gerhardt** last month. **Sue Schmidt** also lost her mother this fall.

Donations received in memory of:

Beverly Laatsch
Paul and Judy Ehmke
Sen. Glenn Grothman

Mary Schaub
Jill Semarad

Our dear volunteer, **Helen Kristaponis** is at Samaritan in West Bend and would welcome visitors.

WE CARE!
Remember to designate LLC's number **442240** in Pick N' Save's We Care Program. Sign up at the service desk with your advantage card and every time you use it while shopping a percentage of the total spent will be given to Friends. So far this year we have added **\$235** to help with programs and expenses.
THANK YOU!!

Thoughts for the Holiday Season By Kate Peterman

Thanksgiving comes and goes. Our thankfulness never goes away. During this season of reflection, I ponder all that we have accomplished at Lac Lawrann. This month marks the 30th anniversary of Lac Lawrann as a public Conservancy thanks to the forethought of **Lawrence and Ann Maurin** (founders and donors) and the Park, Recreation and Forestry Department director **Gary Anderson** with support from the Park and Recreation Commission. The agreements made to protect Lac Lawrann as a public nature sanctuary 30 years ago was unprecedented. The Park and Recreation Commission along with the Lac Lawrann Policy and Wildlife Committee continue to strongly support the mission and purpose of Lac Lawrann. I am thankful for these groups and the individuals that make them strong.

2010 is the 15th anniversary of the Friends of Lac Lawrann incorporating as a non-profit organization, thanks to a group of dedicated hard working volunteers, many of which are still pouring their heart and soul into Lac Lawrann. The Friends of Lac Lawrann volunteers have done 2 amazing fundraisers,

which are also lots of fun. Story Time in the Schools sponsored by Friends is now reaching 63 classrooms every month – quite a commitment. Thank you to all who make these things happen.

I am also thankful to the behind the scenes support team that keeps us improving... the Conservancy Stewards, who are out in the rain, cold and snow of winter, heat of summer, all to improve and maintain the diversity and habitats of Lac Lawrann; the Teacher Naturalists that share their love of nature with area school children; the teens who help with summer programs and special events, the Niche volunteers who prepare materials for Story Time, publicity and more; the construction crew who fix bird houses and benches, build trail signs, and every other project that comes up. I am thankful for my Lac Lawrann family. You all mean so much to me, the participants of our programs and the users of our property. 🐾

Happy Holidays!

Kate Peterman



Linda shares a bear story



Wendy tells how raccoons prepare for winter

We welcome the following new members who have recently joined Friends of Lac Lawrann.

Fred & Kay Bandle —West Bend

Jill & Kris Becker —Saukville

John Beistle —West Bend

Cheryl Boyer —West Bend

Jennifer Chamblee —Allenton

Johncarl Davis —West Bend

Shirley Decker —Fredonia

Gene & Gloria Derge —West Bend

Robyn King —West Bend

Deb Lauenstein —Slinger

Carolyn Macklem —Fredonia

Ken Meuler —West Bend

Madelynn Miezio —West Bend

Tim & Sally Mueller —West Bend

Christine Olson & Darrin Pilarski —West Bend

Fr. Don Schmidt —South Milwaukee

Paul Schmidt —Mathews, NC

Tony Spaeth —West Bend

Craig Walker —West Bend

Delisa White —Jackson

Bruce & Lyn Wilk —West Bend

Lac Lawrann Wish List

We are still making our wish list in time for Christmas! Whether it is an item, a willingness to volunteer or a cash donation please contact Kate Peterman at 262- 335-5085 or Gary Britton at 414-333-5664.

- Volunteers to help with nature based education for K through 2nd grade.
- Volunteers to lead nature hikes at Lac Lawrann and maintain trails.
- Volunteers to help tend flower gardens.
- A volunteer with computer skills to maintain membership data.
- Taxidermy hides or mounts of WI birds and mammals for use in education programs.
- Cash donations for the maintenance endowment and education building fund.
- A small greenhouse for the Flower Sale

Ski Trail Grooming Crew Now Forming *by Bob Broman*

When we have abundant snow on the ground, nearly four miles of cross-country ski trails appear at Lac Lawrann and adjoining Royal Oaks Park. The Friends has purchased a "new used" 2005 Arctic Cat for the Parks Department to replace the worn-out 1991 snowmobile.

Grooming of trails begins shortly after the first six to twelve-inch snowfall. Then, the snowmobile is brought out to pull the Trail Tenderizer grooming tool which compacts the tread and lays down a set of tracks for the skier.

Normally, the job takes two to three hours, and once done, weekly regrooming helps refresh the tread by covering over deer, dog, and people tracks and cutting through drifts. Often, a



January thaw shuts down the trails until a new heavy snowfall again appears.

If you'd like to be part of the volunteer effort to keep the ski trails in shape, contact Kate Peterman at 262-335-5085. Once the new snowmobile is on hand, and preferably when there's some snow on the ground, an informational meeting to learn about the grooming and the use of the equipment will be held at the Schmidt farmstead. 🇺🇸



Bob says, "Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!"

Education Center Committee Progress Report *by Paul DeChant*

At a special meeting of the board in October, it was decided to hire Zimmerman Architectural Studios to do the conceptual design work for a new educational building at Lac Lawrann. The first phase of the building would include a classroom / meeting room for up to 75 people and toilets accessible from both inside and outside the building. The purpose is so hikers and other visitors to Lac Lawrann can use the toilet facilities, even when the building isn't open. This plan is scaled back considerably from what was envisioned at the end of the 2005 Nature Center Alternatives Assessment and during the 2008 Financial Feasibility Study.

The Education Center Committee began the conceptual design process on November 16th by meeting with the team from Zimmerman Architectural Studios. That first session began by examining the goals and objectives of the "Friends" organization and ended with the development of some very broad concepts associated with "nature education centers" and farmsteads.

The second meeting took place on November 30th. More pictures were examined of existing structures,

both old and new. These images were meant to capture the essence of the concepts discussed at the first meeting. This time the discussion centered on what did the group like and dislike about the images portrayed by the structures shown in these pictures. As the process evolved, a series of questions were generated. What story do we want to tell with this building? What is it that evokes the essence of a farmyard or a country schoolhouse? Are there materials on site, or re-cycled materials near by, that we can use to help fulfill our goal of sustainability in the building? The session ended with the group walking the site to view all the buildings and to gather information on site views, elevations and sun angles. (It's pretty low on November 30th.)

The next meeting will take place on December 14th. At that time the committee will discuss what questions to pursue in more detail and when to hold a meeting for public input. The format of the meeting will be such that it will help the architects to further define what we as "Friends" need in the initial phase of the "Education Center". Look for an announcement in the future for meeting dates, times and location. 🇺🇸

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

Mary Rozek

Jim Spaeth

Sherry Ullius

Bruce Wilk

Ron Wosoba



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

What's happening this Winter

Educational Programs

- **Nature Story Time** – Thursdays, 10am, Niche
- **Riveredge Speaks Out** – Jan. 13 and Feb. 10, 7pm, Public Agency Center Room 1113
- **Winter Wonders Walk** – Saturday, February 20, 1-2:30pm
- **The Land Ethic, Celebrating Aldo Leopold** – Sat, March 6
- **Nature Bingo** – Tuesday, April 6, 1-3pm
- **Spring Scavenger Hunt** – Thursday, April 8, 1-3pm
- **Pond Ecology: Home School Day** – Monday, April 19, 1-4pm
- **Spring Migration Bird Walks** – Sat, May 1 & 15, 9-11am

For more information on the above please contact the Park Department at 262-335-5080.

All activities are at Lac Lawrann unless otherwise noted.

Volunteer Days of Interest

- **Niche Helpers** – 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 10am-1pm, Niche
- **Conservancy Stewards** – Wednesdays, 9am-12pm
- **Friends Board Meeting** – Wednesday, January 20, 7pm PRF Conference Room
- **Celebrate Families** – Sunday, February 14, 11am-4pm, Wash. Co. Fair Grounds
- **Appreciation Party** – Sunday, Feb. 21, 3-6pm, City Hall Atrium
- **Friends Board Meeting** – Wednesday, March 17, 7pm PRF Conference Room
- **Policy Committee tour & Meeting** – Wed, April 21, 1pm
- **Wildflower and Perennial Sale** – May 8 (presale May 7)
- **This Old Barn** – September 17

