

Lac Lawrann Summer 2010 CONSERVANCY

• NEWS AMONG FRIENDS •

Notes from a Vice-President *by Dan Wilson*

Hiking Conservancy trails this spring brought back a flood of memories from 1978: enjoying a wondrous spring walk with **Lawrence and Ann**; reveling at spotting numerous spring ephemerals including yellow ladyslipper orchids in full flower; catching the flash of color as a male oriole, and then an indigo bunting flitted through the branches above us; followed by a simple meal of soup and sandwiches; and ending with warm conversation in front of birch logs burning in the fireplace.

What wonderful people Lawrence and Ann were...devoting their efforts to enhance this precious gem on the outskirts of West Bend. What a generous vision they had, a "conservancy" for where, in Ann's words, "the rights of every living thing are respected". And, how it has grown; from those initial 20 acres in 1979 to 136 acres now!

Just thinking about the increase in use of the Conservancy is heart-warming. It started with Ann and Lawrence's friends and occasional scouting and birding groups and has grown to the thousands... school groups, families, and individuals who enjoy the year-round beauty of the Conservancy. Lawrence referred to the increasing visitation as "big business". What would he and Ann think today?

At the core of all these changes has been the exceptional collaboration between the City of West Bend Park Recreation and Parks, Recreation and Forestry

Department; Friends of Lac Lawrann Conservancy; and volunteers. Thank you **Gary Anderson, Steve Scharrer**, and especially now **Craig Hoepfner** (Directors of the WB PRF) for championing ALL efforts at the conservancy! Thank you **Kate Redmond** and now **Kate Peterman** for ALL you've done to move educational and management activities to new heights

The Friends organization under the leadership of **Dan Kline, Joan Rosenberger**, and now **Gary Britton** has met the ever-increasing demands to sustain the many mission-driven activities for "preserving and enhancing Lac Lawrann Conservancy as a nature sanctuary for all to experience". I am always amazed when I think about how their guidance has led to ALL that has been accomplished over the years. Thanks to ALL the donors who support the Friends, too!

Volunteer – "a person who voluntarily undertakes or expresses a willingness to undertake a service." Throughout the years, the volunteers have been the foundation of ALL that gets accomplished within and outside of the boundaries of the Conservancy; nature storytime, sixth grade science program, invasives fighting, educational programs, Flower Sale (another successful one just completed), trail work, etc. Again, thanks to ALL of you!

Continued on page 5...



Lawrence and Ann Maurin on their lake

Don't Forget!
"This Old Barn"
September 17th



Flower Sale Committee Wish List

- Hose reel for 150' hose
- Volunteers to water flowers - Flowers need to be watered 2-3 times a week. If you can cover just one day this summer it would help. It only takes about 20 minutes I have a list of days that need to be filled.
- Volunteers to help maintain gardens. Again, just a few hours helps a lot.

Call or email Lana at tess50@aol.com or call 335-2300

Flower Sale Items For Sale

- 2 Aldo Leopold benches- \$50 each
- 1 handcrafted willow trellis \$15
- 2 grey dogwoods and 1 pagoda dogwood- \$4 each

To New and Renewing Members

Thank you to our new and renewing members of Friends of Lac Lawrann. The membership year now runs from May 1 to April 30. With this change, several of you have not yet renewed for 2010-2011. Your support is vital to keep Friends of Lac Lawrann the dynamic and supportive group it is today. The Friends Board of Directors will soon be looking at financing a year round education center, increasing stewardship funding for invasive plant control, and working with others to increase our educational programming. Please check your address label to see if you are a current member. If not, please consider renewing at this time.

WE CARE!

Remember to designate LLC's number **442240** in Pick N Save 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 **\$108.83** to help with programs and expenses.

THANK YOU!!



Look for us on Facebook!

A Day to Remember By Angie Curtes



The Broman grandchildren Laura & Angela enjoy volunteering

Volunteering for the Lac Lawrann flower sale this year offered a special time to support a wonderful cause, see friends, laugh, watch how the flowers and plants draw people in and most of all observe the generational spectrum of the LLC volunteer clan!

The elder clan circled at the corner table throughout the day chatting, smiling, hugging and laughing.

Observing them, I thought of the specialness of that moment to watch these friends gather with broad hearts and wisdom in a relic home, renewed, out of the fabric and hands of many golden volunteers. A communal place set back in the "wilderness" of the City of West Bend for those who have found the secret door. Through friendship and care for the Earth and each other, they all come - young and old- to join hands, to turn the soil, to plant the seeds for a hopeful future.

I was graced today to witness a moment in time that in years to come will never be the same, but also will, with different faces. To observe these corner table men and women was a testament to days past when gathering around the farm table was a daily occurrence. For Lac Lawrann volunteers, days of old have become a common ritual! Nowhere have I seen an organization so utterly real, rich and teeming with a diverse age spectrum of volunteers that not only come to achieve a goal, but come to be enriched by the experience of true friendships and genuine camaraderie.

The younger generation that has only been with Lac Lawrann for 10-20 years are those at the standing circle, in the rain, wind and sleet welcoming the new with flowers. The even younger volunteers have their place too at the circle, which grows and strengthens with each passing year. 🌱

Great friends, Audry Zell & Virginia Mann



Wildflower and Perennial Sale 2010 *By Lana Voigt*

On May 8th, I woke up to rain, strong winds and a temperature of 36 with an expected high of only 48! Well, it wasn't freezing and there was no snow forecasted, but my expectations of the day were less than optimistic. I went to the farm and volunteers began to show up, not grumbling about the weather, but rather smiling, laughing and anticipating the next 4 hours. This day was the culmination of 1700 hours of preparation and the weather was not about to dampen anyone's spirit. I shouldn't have been surprised. This is a most amazing group of volunteers.

But, what about the customers? Would they come out in this weather and would their disposition match the gloom of the day? My questions were answered by 8:30 when cars began to pull in and customers lined up in raincoats or with umbrellas. More than once I was offered the comment, "Weather won't keep us away. We always make it to this sale." They came and they shopped, maybe a little quicker than normal, but they shopped.

At the end of the day, when all was said and done, we had sales of just over \$17,000, not our best year, but considering the weather we were quite pleased. The plants we had purchased for the sale that did not sell, are going to be planted in the raised beds at the conservancy, to be part of next year's sale. These beds have already helped us reduce costs this year and we are optimistic of their continued benefits.

Though the 2010 sale is only a few weeks behind us, we have already met to begin plans for next year's sale. Our strong focus on Wisconsin native plants will continue since that was the spirit of this sale's beginnings 23 years ago. We also will strive to distribute a plant list very early next spring. We're hoping this will elevate the interest of contributors and shoppers.

Have a great summer and don't forget to stop and smell the flowers! 🌱



The Fascinating World of Wisconsin's Small Mammals

By Cindy Boettcher



Scott Craven "tests" us on our mammal knowledge

Is it a gopher or a squirrel? Can you tell the difference between a mole, vole, mouse or shrew? At the May Riveredge Speaks Out presentation, Dr. Scott Craven assured the audience that the number of small mammals in Wisconsin is a manageable group of about forty. Dr. Craven is Professor of Wildlife Ecology at UW Madison and joins Larry Meiller on Wisconsin Public Radio once a month to discuss

wildlife topics. He brought specimens to show how to identify small mammals we may encounter in our yard. His fast moving lecture was well attended by people from Ozaukee, Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties in addition to Washington County. Oh yes, what we thought was a gopher is actually one of the seven squirrels in Wisconsin – the 13 striped ground squirrel!

Riveredge Speaks Out (RSO) is a monthly lecture series tackling topics in a wide range of areas including natural

history, science, and the environment. Lac Lawrann is pleased to partner with the Washington County Land & Water Conservation Division and Riveredge Nature Center in sponsoring these talks at the Washington County Public Agency Center on the corner of Hwy. 33 and Indiana Avenue. Topics this year have included Urban Beekeeping and Wetland restorations. There are no lectures scheduled during the summer months but will resume September 8th with Marty Johnson discussing the use of prescribed burns as a management tool in natural areas. Watch the LLC newsletter for notices about the RSO lectures scheduled through the end of the year in West Bend. There are additional topics presented in Cedarburg at the Cedarburg Cultural Center. Riveredge Speaks Out lectures are wonderful opportunities for curious, life-long learners. There is no charge for the programs but a \$5 donation is suggested. 🌱

*Ok students, it's a test!
Which small mammal
doesn't belong?*



Summer Camp at Lac Lawrann *By Kate Peterman*

As a child you probably built forts in the woods in your backyard, the back 40 or on the other side of town. You explored creeks or wetlands in bare feet, you climbed trees, ran through prairies or corn fields. You connected to nature, you saw things grow and change over time. Kids today don't always get that chance.

Junior Naturalist Camp is a great way to inspire children to connect with nature. Students ages 6-12 attend a 4 hour, 4 day a week program where they discover nature by exploring wetlands, getting off the beaten path and eating cherries right off the tree. Some students who come year after year want to come back as volunteers – the experience is touching.

Younger campers spend more time looking at bugs and large plants, older campers get a chance to connect to nature too and learn a skill such as orienteering or determining board feet in a tree. The time spent at camp is frequently the only chance the participants have to relax and explore in nature. It is a wonderful experience that culminates in a

weenie roast over the campfire. For some kids it is also their first taste of the best camp food ever -- S'mores, yummmm!! 🍪



Campers enjoying one of the many hiking trails

Notes from a Vice-President *...Continued from page 1*

Enough of the past...looking forward brings as much joy as glancing back. Some things in the planning stages include:

- Education Center – an Ad-Hoc Capital Campaign Committee has been formed to start developing a proposed capital campaign. The Ad-Hoc Building Committee has been asked to continue working with Zimmerman Architectural Studios in the design, planning, and eventual construction of the building.
- Master Plan - The Board is being asked to address the need for an updated Conservancy Master Plan for all 130+ acres (outside of the farmstead). Thanks to another Ad-Hoc Committee, the detailed outline of what to include in the Plan has already been developed.
- Interpark - The Board will consider supporting the “Interpark” prairie restoration. Not so affectionately known as “Buckthorn Woods”, restoring this area between the Stodola and Royal Oaks Park Prairies will create 20 acres of contiguous prairie.
- Rainbow Lake Trail Extension – A trail to Rainbow Lake has already been laid out. Two Eagle Scout projects taking place this summer, several days of work this fall, and abandoning a dug well should have the trail open for use next year.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – A MOU between the Friends and WB PRF is being developed to more clearly define the Conservancy buildings and grounds responsibilities of both entities.
- Farmhouse Roof – Solutions and estimates are being sought for taking care of the leaking roof.
- This Old Barn – Planning is well on the way. Mark your calendars for September 17th!
- Riveredge Speaks Out – The collaboration between Riveredge and the Friends worked so well this past year that talks are going on about increasing the evening programs held in West Bend next year.
- Vice Presidents – A new Board structure including Vice Presidents of Education (**Paul De Chant**), Buildings and Grounds (**Dan Wilson**), and Marketing and Membership (**Sue Millin**) are in place to help share the many responsibilities related to the ever expanding efforts of the Friends.
- Story Time in the schools will be going into over 65 class rooms in the Fall and new programs are being developed.
- And more, and more, and more!

So, a special thanks to ALL who have everything to do with our collaborative success! 🍪

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

Sue Millin, VP Membership & Marketing

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



What's happening this Summer



Educational Programs

- *Hike-a-doodle-do* – Fridays in June or Aug.
- *Campfire Cooking* – Saturday, June 12
- *Jr. Naturalist Camp* – 6-7 years, June 14-17 or July 12-15
8-9 years, June 28-July 1
10-12 years, July 26-29
- *Muckin' in the Mud* - Saturday, June 19
- *Amazing Race* – Saturday, July 10
- *Outdoor Survival* – Saturday, July 10
- *Trees Please* – Saturday, July 17
- *Pedal Power* – Saturday, July 24
- *Native American Skills* – Saturday, Aug. 14
- *Butterflies and Flutter-bys* – Saturday, Aug. 21

Volunteer Days of Interest

- *Conservancy Stewards* – Wednesdays, 9-12pm
- *Garden work day* – Various, 8am
- *Friends board* – Wed., June 9, 7pm - PRF Conference Room
- *Amazing Race at LLC* – Saturday, July 10, 9am
- *This Old Barn Preparations and Set up* – Sept. 14 & 16, 9am
- *This Old Barn* – Friday, Sept. 17, 5:30pm
- *This Old Barn clean up* – Monday Sept. 20, 9am
- *Luminary Walk* – Saturday, October 23, 7pm

Italicized events denote work days. We need your volunteer support. Sign up for all educational programs with the West Bend Park, Recreation and Forestry Dept. All events are at Lac Lawrann Conservancy unless otherwise noted.