

50+ Years of Land Preservation • 25+ Years as a Conservancy • 10+ Years Friends of LLC

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.

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Paul De Chant, Vice President  
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1115 S. Main Street  
West Bend, WI 53095

262-335-5085

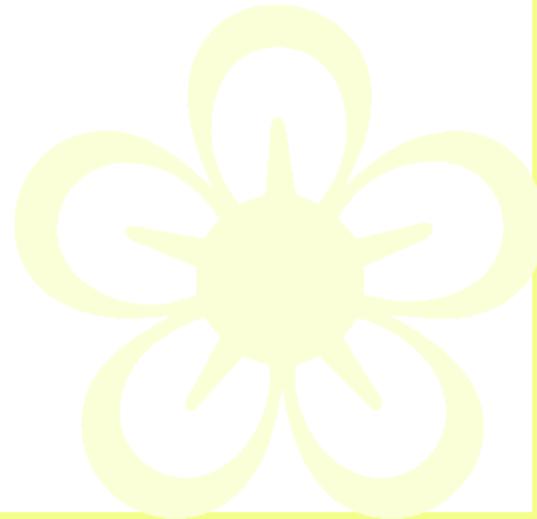
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PRESERVING AND ENHANCING LAC LAWRANN CONSERVANCY AS A NATURE SANCTUARY FOR ALL TO EXPERIENCE

✿ ✿ ✿ ✿ ✿ ✿ **What's happening this Spring** ✿ ✿ ✿ ✿ ✿ ✿

**Educational Programs**

(See Insert for Wildflower Sale Work Days)

- **Gardening with Wildflowers, Hartford Library – March 4, 7pm**
- **Aldo Leopold Weekend, WB Library – Sat, March 7, 12-4pm**
- **RSO: How to Manage your Land to Help Birds, WB – Thurs March 12, 7pm**
- **RSO: New Insect issues in Wisconsin, Cedarburg – March 17, 7pm**
- **RSO: The Ecology of Shorebirds, WB – Wed, April 1, 7pm**
- **Nature Bingo – Tuesday, April 14**
- **Spring Scavenger Hunt – Thursday, April 16**
- **Pond Ecology, Home School Days – Monday, April 20**
- **RSO: Wolves in Wisconsin, Cedarburg – Tues, April 21, 7pm**
- **The Good, the Bad and the Tasty...Garlic Mustard, WB Library – Wednesday, April 22, 7pm**
- **Spring Migration Bird Walk – Saturday, April 25, 9-11am**
- **Scout Day – Saturday, May 2**
- **Preschool Adventures – Wed, May 13, 20, 27 & June 3**

- **Night Hike, Things That Go Bump in the Night – Friday, May 15**
- **RSO: Urban Wilderness: Exploring a Metropolitan Watershed, Riveredge – Tuesday, May 19, 7pm**
- **Invasive Plant Workshop – Saturday, May 30, 1-4**
- **Hike-a-doodle-do – Fridays, June 5, 12, 19, and 26**

**Volunteer Days of Interest**

- **Home, Garden and Leisure Show, Fair Park – Fri -Sun, March 13-15**
- **Friends Board Meeting, PRF Conference Room, City Hall – Wednesday, March 18, 7pm**
- **Policy Committee tour and meeting – Wednesday, April 15, 1pm**
- **Wildflower and Perennial Member Presale – Fri, May 8, 3-6pm**
- **Wildflower and Perennial Sale – Saturday, May 9, 9-1pm**
- **Friends Board Meeting, PRF Conference Room, City Hall – Wednesday, June 10, 7pm**
- **This Old Barn – Friday, September 19**

For more information on the above please contact the Park Department at 262-335-5080. All activities are at Lac Lawrann unless otherwise noted.



• NEWS AMONG FRIENDS •

**From the Friends' President** *by Gary Britton*

As an example of the dedication that members of the board and other volunteers have for Lac Lawrann, consider the fact that at the January meeting of the board, all fifteen board members and five other volunteers were in attendance. And three days later, most of the board members and committee representatives spent their Saturday participating in the Strategic Thinking Session to develop goals and action plans pertaining to their vision of the Conservancy. Some of the details of this session are reported elsewhere in this newsletter. One of the areas that Friends of Lac Lawrann and the Conservancy Naturalist will be focusing on in coming months is increased educational programming. The first specific program is the offering of lectures in March and April in conjunction with Riveredge Nature Center. I am sure that many of you will want to attend those lectures. Turn the page to read about the lecture topics, dates, and the location for these lectures. The full schedule of lectures in 2009 was distributed at the Volunteer Party and will be included in subsequent newsletters.

At the January board meeting I introduced our two new board members. **Rob Jacques**, whose election to the board was announced in the Winter Newsletter, and **John Rozek**, whose brief biography appears elsewhere in this newsletter, attended their first meeting of three-year terms. We welcome both of them to Lac Lawrann leadership positions

and look forward to their participation in activities of Friends of Lac Lawrann.

Recall that we announced previously that the membership year will now run through the end of April. Thanks to those of you who have already renewed your membership for 2009, which will provide membership through April 30, 2010. Several of you have increased your "turtle level" of giving this year. We really appreciate that extra effort during these difficult economic times. If you have not made a 2009 dues contribution, this would be a good time to do so in anticipation of the pre-sale privileges for members the day prior to the public Wildflower



*This trillium can be found along the trails at Lac Lawrann; a similar one is available at the Wildflower Sale*

Sale. When you submit your membership information, be sure to include your e-mail address since we would like to increase our electronic form of communication in order to provide additional information for members and decrease mailing costs.

And speaking of the Wildflower Sale, I am sure that you are as anxious as I am for the spring season and the opportunity to see flowers start emerging; whether it is the spring bulbs in your own flower beds, the spring ephemerals in the woods at Lac Lawrann, or the potted plants on the tables at Lac Lawrann's premier fund-raiser, the Wildflower and Perennial Sale the day before Mother's day! Happy Spring! 🌸

**Wildflower Sale**

Saturday, May 9, 2009 is the 22nd annual Wildflower and Perennial Sale from 9am to 1pm. Want to beat the rush and have first pick of the plants – join the Friends of Lac Lawrann Conservancy. A \$30 (or more) donation provides you a great opportunity to come to the pre-sale on Friday May 8th from 3-6pm. Members and active volunteers will be checked in according

to our official lists.

Not sure if your membership is current; look at your mailing label. If it says membership expires April 2010 you are a current member and we thank you. If not, get your check in to Friends of Lac Lawrann Conservancy at PO Box 755, West Bend, WI 53095. See you at the Sale!



## Board Completes Strategic Thinking

Board and staff members took a fresh look at the future for the Friends organization and Lac Lawrann Conservancy during a day-long strategic thinking retreat on January 17. The Board confirmed the Friends mission of "Preserving and enhancing Lac Lawrann Conservancy as a nature sanctuary for all to experience". After an engaged dialog, the consensus vision for the future is "Lac Lawrann Conservancy is a hub for all people to enjoy, experience, learn, and care for nature."

Goals to reach the vision were organized around three primary themes; educational programming (five goals), property and facilities (five goals), and organization (four goals). Tactic/action steps, responsible parties, time lines, and expected outcomes were identified for each goal. The Executive Committee is initiating some actions now. The Board will review and adopt the strategic thinking results at the March meeting.

A special thank you goes to **Judy Rupnow** for her excellent facilitation. Anyone interested in more details should contact Dan Wilson for a copy of the report. ([dan.wilson@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:dan.wilson@ces.uwex.edu) or 644-8003)

## John Rozek Elected to Board of Directors

**John Rozek** was elected to the Friends of Lac Lawrann Conservancy board of directors at the end of 2008. He was Controller at Serigraph Inc. until his retirement earlier in 2008 and is now Finance Manager at St. Francis Cabrini Church. Prior to joining Serigraph John served in a similar position at Amity Leather. He has been very active in the West Bend community for several years. From 1999 through 2006 he was a member of the West Bend Park and Recreation Commission. John was on the Lac Lawrann Planning Team that worked on the Capital Campaign Feasibility Study in 2008 and has been a volunteer for the annual fall fund-raiser, This Old Barn. He joins Rob Jacques (see the Winter newsletter for separate article) as new board members with terms running through October 2011. Welcome, John and Rob, to the board and the growing list of volunteers at Lac Lawrann!

## With Partnerships Come Great Programs

Friends of Lac Lawrann Conservancy is partnering with Riveredge Nature Center to offer four adult lectures in 2009. "Riveredge Speaks Out: From Knowledge to Action - In cooperation with Friends of Lac Lawrann and Washington County Land and Water Conservation Division" promises to be a great partnership. The lectures will take place at the Washington County Public Agency Center, Room 1113, 333 E. Washington St., West Bend (south parking lot off of Indiana Avenue). The talks are free and open to the public; a \$5.00 donation is suggested. The programs are described below. Put them on your calendar and watch for two more in the fall. Riveredge also offers RSO lectures at the Cedarburg Cultural Center. See our website, [www.LLConservancy.org](http://www.LLConservancy.org) for details. In addition to this series, Friends of LLC and Riveredge are working jointly on developing a stronger partnership with the West Bend Joint School District.

**How to Manage Your Land (and Your Yard) to Help Birds**, if you enjoy seeing beautiful songbirds in your yard, come to a free lecture by **Vicki Piaskowski**. At this event, Vicki will discuss simple ways to make your yard bird-friendly and distribute free print copies of a new guide, called "The Birds Without Borders - Aves Sin Fronteras® Recommendations for Landowners: How to Manage Your Land to Help Birds." **Thursday, March 12, 7:00 pm.**

**The Ecology and Management of Shorebirds**, **Bill Volkert**, DNR Naturalist at Horicon Marsh, will discuss a group of birds that are among the greatest long-distance migrants in the world. Follow the spectacular migration of shorebirds and gain an insight into the lives of this large family of birds. As scientists increasingly understand the ecology of shorebirds, they are better able to develop management strategies to help these incredible wanderers maintain their place in nature. **Wednesday, April 1, 7:00 pm.** 🌸



*This tree swallow migrates to Central America; find out more about attracting migrants like this to your yard at the March 12 program*

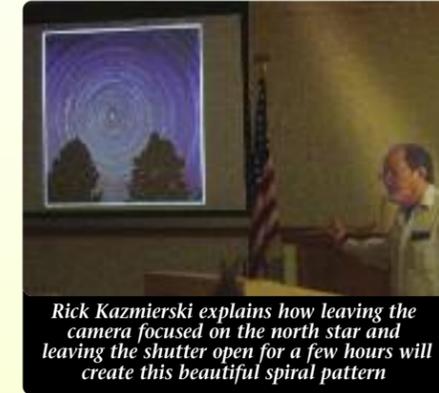
## Winter Gathering by Lee Krueger

Lac Lawrann Conservancy held its 2009 Winter Gathering in the Atrium of the West Bend City Hall on Sunday, February 15th.

The get-together started at 3 p.m. with snacks and a social hour. The formal portion of the meeting started with a message by Gary Britton, president of the Friends of LLC. Several awards were given to volunteers and past board members and Gary thanked the many volunteers who gave so generously of their time.

Next, **Mickey Kazmierski** introduced her husband **Rick** whose hobby is astrophotography. Rick, who is on the board of directors of the Northern Cross Science Foundation (NCSF), told about his organization and its 20 inch reflector telescope at Harrington Beach State Park. NCSF is dedicated to educating the public in astronomy and has monthly meetings either at its observatory or in Cedarburg. Its web site is [www.NCSF.info](http://www.NCSF.info)

Rick's talk was highly regarded with members of the audience speaking of how he presented interesting technical information in a way they could understand. He explained that 2009 was the International Year of



*Rick Kazmierski explains how leaving the camera focused on the north star and leaving the shutter open for a few hours will create this beautiful spiral pattern*

Astronomy and that the whole idea of astronomy started 400 years ago with Galileo's construction of a crude two-inch telescope.

Rick passed out a February "Sky Calendar" and told how it could be used in locating constellations and important stars. He explained that astronomy starts with recognizing constellations and key stars. Once located, many important galaxies can be seen with the naked eye or with simple binoculars. He told about distances in space and how they were measured.

The highlight of the evening was the beautiful pictures of the sun, moon, stars and galaxies taken by Rick, many using the observatory that he and his wife constructed in the backyard of their Trenton home. If you missed the winter gathering or want to see more, visit Rick's website at [www.SkyhawkObservatory.com](http://www.SkyhawkObservatory.com); the photos are remarkable.

After Rick wrapped up his presentation, attendees headed to the nicely set up food line. Conservancy volunteers and friends ate and chatted in the Atrium and then headed home.

It was a nice night with good food and a great show. Thank you Rick. 🌸

## Flower Sale Featured on WBCC – TV by Debbie Spaeth

Thanks to work and contributions by **Kate Peterman** (Video Footage), **Jim Curtes** (Voice-over), **Joan Rosenberger** (Historian and Flower Expert) and **Lana Voigt** (Flower Sale Chair), in conjunction with **Mike Ryan**, Coordinator, West Bend Community Cable TV (WBCC-TV), we have a new 15 minute feature on the Lac Lawrann Wildflower and Perennial Sale. It features a brief history of the sale, some live video footage from last year's preparations and day of sale, as well as photos of some of the plants we sell.

WBCC-TV will begin broadcasting the show in early March 2009. For information on specific broadcast times, see the Saturday Daily News or go to the City of West Bend website:

<http://www.ci.west-bend.wi.us> Then click on the "Channel 98 & 99 Program Schedule" from the list inside the blue scrolling box on the front

page of the web site. It is available on both Charter and AT&T Uverse. Enjoy the show! 🌸



*As an early bloomer, Skunk Cabbage is done blooming even before the leaves are fully formed*



*Jack-in-the-Pulpit is one of the many plants featured in the video and at LLC's wildflower sale*