

The Cherokee Marsh News

The newsletter of the Friends of Cherokee Marsh

Historic photos capture the marsh and its people

Retired school district naturalist guide Micky Thomas donated to us her collection of slides taken over the years in Cherokee Marsh. The images, many from the 1970s, show what has remained the same and what has changed over the last 40 years.

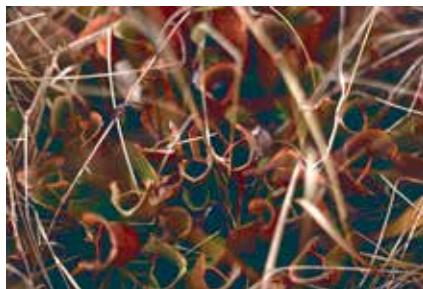
Schoolchildren learn about wetlands on the wooden boardwalk that once connected Hickory Island (in the background of the photo) with the viewing stand along the river.



Some of the school-district naturalist guides from the early years take a break. From left: Gene Henry, Jean Barreras, Micky Thomas, Lu Severson, Pat Woicek.

More photos on page 2!

Pitcher plants, which are more common in the acid bogs or northern Wisconsin, once grew in Cherokee Marsh.



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Historic photos *(continued from page 1)*



Folks relax by the boathouse pier in the North Unit.



The wooden boardwalk required much maintenance, especially in flood years.



Chorus frogs like this still sing in spring in the marsh.



In this aerial view, at the bottom right is the upper Yahara River; center left is Token Creek flowing into the Yahara. At the top is Lake Mendota. Center top, below Lake Mendota, is the dredged wetland that became Cherokee Lake and the land bridge that once separated the lake from the river.



Grass of parnassus is a fen plant that once grew in Cherokee Marsh, but we have no recent records of sightings.

Friends participate in shoreline restoration project

Jan Axelson

The Friends of Cherokee Marsh are adopting one of the floating bog interceptor (FBI) structures in the marsh.

A project of the UW Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, the FBIs aim to reduce shoreline erosion by reducing wave action on the shoreline and enabling wetland plants to gain a foothold. Dane County's Land and Water Resources Department has also contributed to the project.

Currently leading the project is graduate student Michael Busch under the direction of University of Wisconsin-Madison Professor Chin Wu. Michael and other engineering students have installed the structures along the northeast shore of Cherokee Lake, where the shoreline is at risk for erosion due to wind and waves.

This summer, the project has 20 structures that each will hold a set of planting beds. The plant chosen for the beds is bur-reed, a hardy wetland plant with grasslike leaves and spherical flower clusters.

The project is a work in progress, with each year's results inspiring improvements to the design. Debuted this year are redesigned planting beds to help the plants remain rooted in the structures.

If you would like to help with planting and monitoring our adopted FBI, contact us at info@cherokeemarsh.org or (608) 215-0426.

We first reported on the FBIs in 2012. You can read the story here:

cherokeemarsh.org/newsletter/cherokee_marsh_news_0612.pdf

Scouts clean up boat launch

Justin Sargent

Cub scouts of Pack 127 do a number of fun conservation projects as part of their commitment to community service. This spring they removed trash from the Cherokee Marsh boat launch road off of Wheeler Road.

The scouts were surprised that they were able to fill several garbage bags full of trash including cans, glass bottles, plastic bottles and bags, metal pieces, styrofoam, and even a pellet gun.

When the cub scouts invest time and energy in conserving the health of our environment, they become stronger community members and better stewards of our environment. Cub scouts on the Northside of Madison view the Cherokee Marsh as a vital resource to spending time in nature, which is a strong element to the scouting program.



The planting beds in the FBIs have a new design this year.
Photo by Michael Busch.



In the new design, each plant has its own compartment.
Photos by Michael Busch.

County Parks announces volunteer picnic

If you have volunteered at Yahara Heights Park or other county parks this year, you and your family are invited to a picnic at Badger Prairie Park to thank you for all you do.

Mingle with fellow volunteers and Parks staff. Food and drinks provided with meat and vegetarian options.

Thursday, August 20, 4:30 – 7:00 pm. A short program begins at 6 pm.

Badger Prairie Park, 6720 U.S. 151, Verona, WI 53593

Meet at Shelter #1, on top of the hill. Head south on US-151 S/US-18 W toward Verona. Take exit 81 (the first Verona exit) toward Maple Grove Dr. Turn right onto Maple Grove Dr. Take an immediate left into the park.

RSVP by August 13 to Rhea Stangel-Maier, Stangel-Maier@countyofdane.com or (608) 224-3601. Please include the number attending.

Events calendar

Don't miss out on last-minute events that don't make it into this calendar. To receive updates about events and volunteer opportunities, sign up at:

CherokeeMarsh.org

Monthly bird and nature walks

Sunday, August 2 with Estelle Katz **AND**

Sunday, September 6 with Ami Rupnow, **AND**

First Sunday of EVERY month

ALWAYS 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Free, monthly, family-friendly bird and nature walks.

Sponsored by the Friends of Cherokee Marsh, Madison Parks, and Madison Audubon Society. Contact Paul Noeldner at paul_noeldner@hotmail.com or 698-0104.

Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park, North Unit. 6098 N. Sherman Ave. Travel north on N. Sherman Ave to the main parking lot at the end of the gravel road.

Upper Yahara River paddle tour

Saturday, August 8, 8:00 am - 11 am

Bring your paddlecraft and tour the upper Yahara River at Cherokee Marsh. Tour fragrant thickets of American lotus looking for a variety of wetland birds and other wildlife.

Led by Russ Hefty, Conservation Resource Supervisor for Madison Parks. Sponsored by Madison Parks, the Friends of Cherokee Marsh, and Madison Audubon.

School Road Boat Landing, 5002 School Rd. Heading north from Madison on Northport Drive/HWY 113, turn right onto School Rd. Where the road curves right onto Wheeler Rd. take an immediate left into Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park. Follow the gravel road to the boat landing.

Prairie seed collecting

Tuesday, Aug 18, 9 am - noon

AND

Wednesday, Sept 23, 9 am - noon

Help collect seeds of prairie flowers for use in restorations in county parks. Wear long pants and long sleeved shirt. Bring drinking water. Gloves and pruning shears will be available; bring your own if you prefer. Contact Rhea at 224-3601. Sponsored by Dane County Parks.

Yahara Heights County Park, Caton Ln entrance. Heading north from downtown Madison on HWY 113/Northport Dr., just past HWY M, turn right on River Rd., then right on Riverview Dr., and right on Caton Ln. For volunteer events only, drive into the park from the end of Caton Ln.

Indian mound walk at Yahara Heights

Saturday, Oct 3, 9 am, Catfish Ct entrance. For details, check our website or the Oct/Nov newsletter.

Phragmites bundling

Bundle and cut invasive giant reed grass in the Cherokee Marsh State Natural Area, Friday mornings, mid-Aug through Sept. For details, contact Jan at info@cherokeemarsh.org or 608 215-0426.

New!

Sign up to receive updates about events and volunteer opportunities at:

CherokeeMarsh.org

Thank you to new member Nancy Schlimgen for her additional gift of \$20 to the Friends in memory of Pat Woicek. Pat was a long-time school district naturalist guide and promoter of wetland education.



Friends of Cherokee Marsh

PO Box 3390

Madison WI 53704

info@CherokeeMarsh.org

CherokeeMarsh.org

To protect, preserve, and restore the beauty, value, and health of the Cherokee Marsh and upper Yahara River watershed.

Directors

Jan Axelson (President)

Timothy Baker

Janet Battista (Vice President)

Dana Erlandsen

Jim Krause

Lesleigh Luttrell (Treasurer)

Paul Noeldner

Justin Sargent

Muriel Simms

Dick Walker

Dorothy Wheeler (Secretary)

Advisor

Don Hammes

Membership and contribution form

YES! I want to be a Friend of Cherokee Marsh.

The Friends of Cherokee Marsh are dedicated to protecting, preserving, and restoring the beauty, value, and health of Cherokee Marsh and the upper Yahara River watershed. Your contribution of time, talent, or funds will help preserve and restore the crucial wetland ecosystem of Cherokee Marsh.

Memberships are per calendar year. New memberships paid after June 30 are valid through the current and following year.

- Individual \$15
- Family \$25
- Mallard \$50
- Additional donation \$ _____
- Additional donation \$ _____ in honor of _____
- Osprey \$100
- Sandhill Crane \$250
- Great Blue Heron \$500

Additional donation \$ _____ in memory of _____

Additional donation to the Cherokee Marsh Conservation Fund:

- \$25
- \$50
- \$100
- \$ _____

Find out more about the Cherokee Marsh Conservation Fund at CherokeeMarsh.org/conserve

Additional donation to fund transportation to bring schoolchildren to the marsh for field studies:

- \$25
- \$50
- \$100
- \$ _____

Name _____

Family member(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____ Second (family member) Email _____

Phone _____ Don't publicize my financial support.

I'm interested in helping with: Field work Publicity Tours Education Board/Committees

Other _____

Please mail this form and payment to:

Friends of Cherokee Marsh, PO Box 3390, Madison WI 53704

Thank you for joining us in our effort to protect this valuable resource!

The Friends of Cherokee Marsh is a Federal tax-exempt charitable organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.