

The Cherokee Marsh News

The newsletter of the Friends of Cherokee Marsh

Annual meeting to feature talk about bees

Mark your calendar for our annual member meeting, Saturday, January 31, 2015, 10 am – noon at the Lakeview branch library.

Our special guest this year is Dr. Hannah Gaines Day, a Research Associate in the Department of Entomology at UW-Madison. Dr. Gaines Day will talk on *What's the buzz: Wisconsin's bees and how you can help*.

Why are bees important? One in every three bites we eat depends on pollinators to transfer the pollen that plants need to produce seeds and fruits. Our most important pollinators are bees, but in recent years, their numbers have been falling.

Learn about the diversity, natural history, and importance of native and managed bees. Dr. Gaines Day will also review current research at UW-Madison and provide suggestions for how we all can help the bees.

At 10 am, before the presentation, we'll hold a short business meeting to elect directors for 2015-2016. Everyone, member and non-member, is welcome at both events.

If you need further enticement to attend, we'll have refreshments and our popular door prizes donated by local businesses.



Bee expert Hannah Gaines Day is our featured speaker for the annual meeting. Photo by Hannah Gaines Day.

Annual member meeting

Saturday, January 31

10:00 – 10:30 am—member meeting: annual report and elect directors for 2015-2016.

10:30 – 11:30 am—What's the buzz: Wisconsin's bees and how you can help with Dr. Hannah Gaines Day

11:30 – 11:45 am—Door prizes and social hour

Lakeview Branch, Madison Public Library, 2845 N. Sherman Ave., Madison



A bumblebee visits prairie clover. Photo by Hannah Gaines Day.

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Moonlight snowshoe walk!

January 24, details on page 7.

Show your support by renewing your membership

Show your support for Cherokee Marsh and the Friends of Cherokee Marsh by renewing your membership this December.

Your member dues provide resources to help protect, preserve, and restore Dane County's largest wetland. And just as important, your membership helps to demonstrate public support for protecting the marsh.

Is my membership up for renewal?

All memberships expire on December 31. If you joined the Friends after June 30, 2014, your membership is paid through December 31, 2015. For everyone else, it's time to renew. If you're not sure when you joined, contact us at info@CherokeeMarsh.org or 608-215-0426.

As a member, you'll receive our newsletter six times a year and will know that you're helping to protect and preserve a healthy Cherokee Marsh.

How to renew

You can save us time and money by renewing now.

Use the member renewal form on the last page of this newsletter or at CherokeeMarsh.org.

You can also renew and donate online at CherokeeMarsh.org. Pay online with your PayPal account or use a credit card. You don't have to be a PayPal member to pay online.

Support the Conservation Fund

When you renew, please also consider including a donation to the Cherokee Marsh Conservation Fund. We've raised an impressive \$13,355 since we established the fund last year.

In the coming year, the fund will begin paying dividends to support conservation at Cherokee Marsh. The dividends grow as the fund grows, providing a permanent source of funding for the marsh.

On the renewal form, check the **Cherokee Marsh Conservation Fund** box and indicate the amount of your contribution. You don't need to write a separate check.

Help bring schoolchildren to the marsh

New on this year's renewal form, you'll also find a checkbox to support transportation to bring local schoolchildren to Cherokee Marsh for field studies.

The field-study program, sponsored by the Madison Area School District, has taught generations of schoolchildren about wetlands and their importance. The school district funds the naturalist guides, but classes must provide transportation, and many schools struggle to find money to charter a bus. A donation of \$45 buys transportation for 20 kids.

A membership is a perfect gift

If you know someone who loves Cherokee Marsh, consider giving them a gift membership to the Friends this holiday season or as a birthday gift.



Bird and Nature walks continue!

Details on page 7.

Friends director wins North Star award

The Northside Planning Council has announced that Friends Director Paul Noeldner has won a North Star award for his enthusiastic and effective advocating for appreciating and enjoying the natural world at Cherokee Marsh and other locations on Madison's North Side.

Paul single-handedly proposed, organized, and helps lead our popular monthly Bird and Nature walks. Paul also works with Madison Parks and Madison Audubon to install bluebird houses in Northside parks and is a regular volunteer with natural area restoration projects.

Help us celebrate:

Thursday, December 4, 5:30 – 8 pm

Warner Park Community Recreation Center

1625 Northport Dr, Madison

Registration and \$15 donation requested:

northsidemadison.org



You can count on Paul to always have a smile and some binoculars.

Meet your director candidates

The Friends of Cherokee Marsh's Board of Directors is responsible for planning, coordinating, communicating and managing the activities of our organization. At the annual member meeting (see page 1), members elect directors for the coming two years.

The board usually meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 5:30 pm at the Lakeview Branch of the Madison Public Library, 2845 N. Sherman Ave. All meetings are open to members and the public. To confirm the time or request an agenda, or if you're interested in joining the board or helping out on a committee, contact Jan at info@cherokeemarsh.org or 608-215-0426.

Half of the directors' terms end in even-numbered years and the other half end in odd-numbered years. Directors Jan Axelson, Paul Noeldner, Muriel Simms, Dick Walker, and Dorothy Wheeler are in the middle of their 2-year terms and thus aren't up for re-election. Due to other commitments, Kyle Lindemer is resigning from the board. We thank Kyle for his contributions to the board over the past year.

Here are statements from the six announced candidates for six open positions in January's election. For terms that will end at our member meeting in January, 2017:

Timothy Baker

Since moving to East Madison in 2008, I have found Cherokee Marsh to be a great place to walk and explore nature with my wife, Beth, and two small children, Della and Dorothy. Before that, as a Middleton resident and regular fisherman, I was interested in the marsh as an obviously important component of the lakes and wetlands system that defines the Madison area.

Concerned about the health of the marsh, especially in the face of potential development, I joined the FOCM board in 2010. It is my intent to help the FOCM strengthen efforts to educate the public and advocate for the health

of the marsh ecosystem. I am especially interested in native plants, birds, and aquatic life. I also serve on the City of Madison Committee on the Environment and enjoy a variety of outdoor activities including birding, fishing, hunting, and native plant restoration.

Janet Battista

I was one of the founding members of the Friends of Cherokee Marsh and continue to hold a strong interest in its future. The Marsh needs protection from polluting runoff, wetland erosion and invasive species. The public and especially young people need to learn about the tremendous resource we have in the Marsh. I am proud to be a Northsider with so many outdoor opportunities, and I hope to be able to contribute to the protection and enjoyment of Cherokee Marsh for all.

Dana Erlandsen

As a Northside resident who regularly walks, paddles, and skis in Cherokee Marsh, the Marsh is part of my life in all seasons. I would like to keep using my experience with other nonprofit organizations and as a lawyer to benefit Cherokee Marsh. I have worked to help to the Friends increase awareness of the Marsh, as well as to help protect and restore the Marsh so it can continue to serve as a haven for plants and animals, a filter for the watershed, and a bit of serenity in our neighborhood. I am proud of the work we have done—establishing the Fund for the Marsh, paying for buses so school children can learn about the marsh, leading public hikes and paddles, removal of invasive plants—and look forward to doing more.

Lesleigh Luttrell

The past two years have been an exciting time to be a Friend of Cherokee Marsh, and I'm happy to have contributed to some of our recent achievements, including establishing the Cherokee Marsh Conservation Fund. As a long time Northside resident, I have seen how important

continued on page 4

Woodpecker habitat expands

If you've been wondering what the story is on the "topped" trees along the entrance road to the North Unit, these trees are a part of the continuing effort to provide habitat for red-headed woodpeckers and other cavity-nesting birds such as Northern flickers, black-capped chickadees, Eastern bluebirds, and tree swallows.

The trees are along the edge of what will be restored prairie in the recent "Fifth Addition" acquisition along the south boundary of Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park's North Unit.



These "topped" trees will provide habitat for woodpeckers and other cavity-nesting birds. Photo by Jan Axelson.

Candidates *(continued from page 3)*

the Marsh is to people of all ages and how lucky we are to have this resource. I look forward to serving another term on the Friends Board and helping to protect, enjoy and share our amazing Marsh.

Justin Sargent

I belong to our Friends group because I feel strongly that we must act to safeguard the Cherokee Marsh. I have served as a board member and officer to help protect this precious natural area. I have swam, fished, hunted, hiked, and paddled in Cherokee Marsh and believe that our efforts have improved public awareness of this rich ecological gem. I would like to continue to serve on the board because the challenges to our ecology and conservation efforts are intensifying. I bring an extensive knowledge of the legislative process and grassroots advocacy to the board. I live on the North side of Madison with my wife Melissa and our 4 boys.

I appreciate your interest in the marsh and would be honored to have your vote for a new term as a director on the board.

For a term that will end at our member meeting in January, 2016:

Jim Krause

I am a resident of the North Lake Mendota Neighborhood adjacent to the southern portion of Cherokee Marsh,

and daily I witness its benefits and beauty. I will use my scientific background in the biological sciences and my appreciation of sustainability and understanding of the ecological role of our watershed to help enhance the future of the Marsh and our Madison lakes. I can achieve this goal by being an active member of the Friends of Cherokee Marsh and its Board of Directors.

I was born and raised in the State of Wisconsin and was educated in the University of Wisconsin system. My passion for science spans both university academic positions and the private sector as a biochemist and neuroscientist. My wife and I have recently relocated to the Madison area, and I have enthusiastically participated this past year with the Friends of Cherokee Marsh as a member in various activities that maintain the pristine nature of the Marsh (i.e., invasive species control, bird house building, and other activities). I have also participated with the Board members by observing several Board meetings. My goal is to work with other Board members to enhance our Cherokee Marsh treasure. This dedicated group has done a great job in fostering the goals of the Friends of Cherokee Marsh by citizen outreach, volunteer activities, raising awareness of the value of our Marsh and in collaborating with other groups to help maintain and preserve our valuable watershed.

Enjoy the marsh this winter

There are many ways to enjoy Cherokee Marsh in winter!

When it snows, Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park's South Unit has three miles of trails groomed for classic-style cross-country skiing.

Trails at the Conservation Park's North and Mendota Units and Yahara Heights County Park are open for hiking, snowshoeing, and skiing (ungroomed).

If you like to fish, Cherokee Lake, off Burning Wood Way in the Cherokee Park neighborhood, is a hotspot for ice fishing.

For trail maps and to find out more about these locations, visit

cherokeemarsh.org



When snow cover is sufficient, Madison Parks grooms the trails in Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park's South Unit for classic skiing. Photo by Jan Axelson.



Keep in touch!

"Like" our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/friends.of.cherokee.marsh

Join our email group:

www.groups.yahoo.com/group/cherokeemarsh

Looking back on work and fun in 2014

Jan Axelson

Each year as I put together a summary of the previous year's activities and accomplishments, I'm amazed and delighted to see what we've achieved. I'm grateful for the generous contributions of time, money, and resources that make our activities possible. Here in pictures is a sampling of what we did in 2014.



Bird-themed tunes get the crowd ready for a bird and nature walk.



A fire and hot cocoa warm snowshoers on our winter moonlight walk.



The aspen-girdling crew takes a break in the Cherokee Marsh State Natural Area.



Summer camp kids do art in the park.



Waukegan fifth-graders learn about prairies by collecting seeds at Yahara Heights County Park.



Visitors to the Madison Nonprofit Day event at the FEED Kitchens learn about the effects of stormwater runoff.



Fall is the season for collecting seeds of American lotus.

Madison Audubon programs bring kids to Cherokee Marsh

Rebecca Ressler

Excerpted with permission from the winter 2014–15 newsletter of the Madison Audubon Society

Madison Audubon's conservation educators love fall: Beautiful trees, great bird watching opportunities, and our in-classroom presentations and after-school programs are up and rolling again! With the help of many volunteers, Madison Audubon's educators, Rebecca Ressler, Brianna Duran and, recently, Carolyn Byers continue to build on their successful collaborations with the Dane County Salvation Army Community Center and Vera Court Neighborhood Center, while also creating new, exciting connections throughout south-central Wisconsin.

With the Salvation Army, Madison Audubon is piloting a new curriculum—Wisconsin Wildlife. Over the course of eight weeks, 29 elementary students will learn about native birds, insects, reptiles, amphibians, and bats. Adventures include field trips to Cherokee Marsh and Governor's Island, meeting a live bat and turtle, completing hands-on activities to learn about metamorphosis and echolocation, and writing and drawing in their nature journals.

At Vera Court, Madison Audubon is leading two programs. I'm a Scientist! introduces different fields of conservation science to elementary students. Each week, kids visit a different natural area and use scientific tools like binoculars, magnifying glasses, soil probes, and secchi discs. Topics include ornithology, botany, soil science, and water science. The second program, Outdoor Adventures, is a service learning program for middle school students.



A snake skin found at Cherokee Marsh's South Unit generates interest. Photo by Rebecca Ressler.

This program is in response to National Audubon's newly released Birds and Climate Change Report indicating the importance of promoting habitat for birds in our community.

Activities for 2014–2015 include:

- Collecting native seed to restore Yahara Heights County Park together with Dane County Parks.
- Removing invasive species at Cherokee Marsh.
- Building bird feeders and houses for Vera Court Neighborhood Center.
- Marking stormwater drains to remind residents to dispose of leaf litter and pollutants correctly.
- Participating in a variety of citizen-science bird and wildlife counts.
- Creating bird-advocacy videos.

Madison Audubon thanks all our collaborators, participants, and volunteers for making these programs a success! If you're interested in making a difference in the community, consider volunteering at one of our upcoming education programs. Contact Rebecca at rressl@madisonaudubon.org for more information.

Madison Audubon Society's conservation education programming is made possible by a generous grant from the Theda & Tamblin Clark Smith Family Foundation. Additional support for our Vera Court Neighborhood Center partnership was provided by the Madison Community Foundation. Thank you!



Vera Court Middle School students show off the seeds collected at Yahara Heights County Park. Photo by Rebecca Ressler.

Events calendar

Don't miss out on last-minute events that don't make it into this calendar. For the latest event information, Like us on Facebook, join our email group, or visit CherokeeMarsh.org.

If you want to be added to our email notification list for volunteer events, email info@cherokeemarsh.org.

Monthly bird and nature walks

Sunday, Dec 7 AND

Sunday, Jan 4 AND

Sunday, Feb 1 AND

First Sunday of EVERY month

ALWAYS 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park, North Unit

Our free, monthly, family-friendly bird and nature walks will continue in 2015. Bundle up and take the kids for a free nature walk, fire and hot beverages. Look for chickadees, foxes, and other wildlife that stays in Cherokee Marsh all winter. We'll listen for calls and search for tracks and other signs of activity. Sponsored by the Friends of Cherokee Marsh, Madison Parks, and Madison Audubon Society. Contact Paul Noeldner at paul_noeldner@hotmail.com or 608-698-0104.

Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, Dec 20

Dawn to dusk

Join the team counting birds at Cherokee Marsh and other nearby areas for Madison Audubon's annual Christmas Bird Count. Participate all day or just a part. Beginners and experts welcome. To find out more, contact Paul Noeldner at paul_noeldner@hotmail.com or 608-698-0104.

Brush pile burning

Sunday, Dec 28, 12 noon - 3 pm AND

Sunday, Jan 18, 12 noon - 3 pm

Koltes/Westport Drumlin Prairie

Help the Prairie Enthusiasts burn brush piles in this natural area just north of the marsh. This event will take place only if there is snow cover. Details at:

theprairieenthusiasts.org/chapter/empire/empire.htm

Moonlight / candlelight snowshoe

Saturday, January 24, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park, North Unit

Tour the marsh on snowshoes by the light of the moon. We'll also have some candles set out to show the route. Then warm up with hot cider by the fire. Bring your own snowshoes. If there is no snow, the event will be a walk. Sponsored by the Friends of Cherokee Marsh. If you have questions or would like to help set up the event, contact info@cherokeemarsh.org. or call Jan at 608-215-0426.

Annual meeting + What's the buzz: Wisconsin's bees and how you can help

Saturday, January 31, 10:00 am – noon

Lakeview Branch, Madison Public Library

See page 1 for details.

Event Locations

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.



Friends of Cherokee Marsh

PO Box 3390

Madison WI 53704

info@CherokeeMarsh.org

www.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

Kyle Lindemer

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.