

The Cherokee Marsh News



The newsletter of the Friends of Cherokee Marsh

Live bats delight at annual meeting

Anita Weier

Folks of all ages enjoyed learning about bats and seeing three of them up close and personal during a program following the annual member meeting Jan 9th at the Warner Park Community Recreation Center. About 150 people, including many young folks, attended the event.

The Bats Live! program about Nature's Nighttime Superheroes was presented by Jennifer Redell, a conservation biologist with the Bat Program of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. She stressed the importance of bats, who consume tons of insects nightly as well as pollinating plants. Redell explained the horrendous effects of White-nose Syndrome, which has caused the death of millions of bats in the United States. She warned that bats overwintering in caves or mines must not be disturbed, and said that care must be taken not to spread the fungus that causes the deadly syndrome.

During the annual meeting preceding the bats presentation, Dana Erlandsen summarized Friends' activities during 2015 that included helping fund student visits, sponsoring an eagle's nest in the marsh, assisting construction of a chimney swift house and supporting acquisition of 81 acres upstream from the marsh.



The live bats drew a record crowd! Photo by Jan Axelson.

Lesleigh Luttrell presented the treasurer's report showing a year-end balance of \$9,364.09. Timothy Baker explained our support for removal of common carp, an invasive species that muddies water and destroys shoreline vegetation. Janet Battista honored founding member Muriel Simms for her long and faithful service on the Board of Directors, and Jim Krause presented a Volunteer Award to Jim Hughes. The Friends gave a special thanks to Russ Hefty for all he has done to restore and educate about the marsh during his career with Madison Parks.

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Jennifer Redell shows off Mango, a fruit bat. Photo by Janet Battista.

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Annual meeting *(continued from page 1)*

Directors elected for 2016-2017 were Jan Axelson, Jim Krause, Paul Noeldner, Dick Walker, Anita Weier and Dorothy Wheeler. Their terms will expire at the 2018 annual meeting. Russ Hefty was elected for a term that will expire at the 2017 annual meeting. Continuing directors in the middle of their two-year terms are Timothy Baker, Janet Battista, Dana Erlandsen, Lesleigh Luttrell and Justin Sargent.

After the member meeting, the directors met briefly to elect officers for the coming year. They are President Jan Axelson, Vice President Timothy Baker, Secretary Janet Battista and Treasurer Lesleigh Luttrell.

Thanks to these generous Northside businesses and Friends members who donated many exciting door prizes:

Ale Asylum	Manna Cafe and Bakery
Altered States Alterations	Noah's Ark
Benvenuto's Italian Grill	Northside Family Restaurant
Café LaBellitalia	Northside True Value Hardware
Coffee Gallerie	UPS Store
Culver's of Madison	Madison Mallards
D&S Bait Tackle and Archery	Timothy Baker
Falbo's Bros. Pizzeria	Lesleigh Luttrell
Jim's Meat Market	Paul Noeldner
Jung's Garden Center	



We show off our new banner featuring our logo. Back row from left: Dana Erlandsen, Lesleigh Luttrell, Timothy Baker, Dorothy Wheeler, Jan Axelson, Justin Sargent, Jim Krause, Dick Walker. In front: Janet Battista, Anita Weier, and Paul Noeldner. Not shown: Russ Hefty. Thanks to Lakeview Library staff for taking the photo.

Read about the chimney-swift tower that volunteers from the Building & Construction Trades Council of South Central Wisconsin constructed at Cherokee Marsh last October in this article from the Union Sportsmen's Alliance:

unionsportsmen.org/wi-chimney-swift-bird-tower

16-unit development proposed

Cherokee Park, Inc. (CPI) has requested permission for a development to be called The Turn at Cherokee, which will consist of 16 homes on 6.2 acres at 5204 N. Sherman Ave, just north of the Cherokee Country Club.

According to the Letter of Intent that CPI has filed with the City of Madison, CPI intends to develop the site with public utilities, streets, and sidewalks in spring of 2016 with individual unit sales and home construction to begin immediately following.

The development plan is consistent with the Cherokee Special Area Plan previously adopted by the Madison Common Council. The City of Madison annexed the project area from the Town of Westport in 2015 and has allocated funds in the 2016 general budget to extend water service to the development area.

We are planning to review the site's stormwater management plan and other details as they become available.

Canoe/kayak launch meeting held

On January 27, Madison Parks and the Engineering Department held a second public information meeting to provide information and receive comments on proposed improvements to the canoe and kayak launch in Cherokee Park. The project is intended to replace the existing, informal launch at Burning Wood Way and Mosinee Ln.

In a change from the previously announced design, Engineering staff is now proposing a basic gravel ramp. In talks with the Department of Natural Resources, Engineering determined that the geocell mats included in the earlier design wouldn't be needed.

The project, first proposed in 2014, has been delayed because Parks would like to move the two existing canoe/kayak storage racks close to the launch site, and some neighbors have opposed moving the racks from their current location at the edge of the developed park to the open area near the launch.

Public comments at the second meeting showed that these concerns remain. Alder Rebecca Kemble is working with city staff to find a solution.

2015 Financial Statement

Balance 12/31/14 \$8,659.57

Income

Contributions	\$1,794.10	42 donations
Member Dues	\$2,364.18	107 memberships
Memorial/Honor Donations	\$2,486.10	45 donors (41 donors for Conservation Fund)
Other	\$57.07	Pierce's Foundation
Endowment	\$1,366.00	15 donors
Field Trip Transportation	\$348.82	8 donors
Interest	\$2.60	

Total \$8,418.87

Expenses

Display/ logo design/banners	\$217.01
Donations	\$300.00 Southern WI Butterfly Assoc/Wild Warner (nature center)
Education (transport)	\$1,100.00 Madison School District (field studies transportation)
Endowment	\$3,456.00 transfer to Cherokee Marsh Conservation Fund
Events	\$759.80 annual meetings/WI Wetlands Conference/Clean Lakes
Events - walks	\$391.52 winter hike / monthly walks incl naturalists fees
Fees	\$10.00 WI nonstock corporation fee
Insurance	\$400.00
Mailing/PO Box Rental/Checks	\$170.85
Organization Dues	\$175.00 Natural Heritage Land Trust / Clean Lakes Alliance
Printing	\$134.17 newsletters/brochures
Sponsorships	\$600.00 WSO Atlas Project / Endangered Resources Eagle Nest
Total	\$7,714.35

Balance 12/31/15 \$9,364.09

Change \$704.52

Bluebirds and more found on Christmas bird count

Jan Axelson

Dedicated birders again combed Cherokee Marsh and nearby Northside locations from dawn to dusk on December 19 for the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count. A core team of Paul Noeldner, Timothy Baker, Jim Hughes, and myself were joined at times by Barb Noeldner, Anka Keuser, Brian Schneider, and Jackson Foote. Feeder watchers Joleen Griffin, Jeanne Mawbey, Steve Lang, and Mike Rewey also helped out.

Some highlights were three red-headed woodpeckers still hanging about in the area where they've nested, two great horned owls, and two northern shrikes. (Shrikes are a gray, black-masked songbird that feeds on other small birds, rodents, and insects.) A small flock of bluebirds presented themselves at the entrance to the South Unit.

Most of the river had frozen the night before, but the river still yielded three bald eagles and a flock of cackling geese, which are similar to, but smaller than, Canada geese. A sunset flock of American robins and a belted kingfisher at Token Creek finished the day. Notable finds by the team covering Yahara Heights Park and areas north were a

pileated woodpecker, a Wilson's snipe, and a rough-legged hawk.

Cherokee Marsh had the only red-headed woodpeckers and cackling geese on the count, which covers a 15-mile-diameter circle centered on Madison.



Northern shrikes like to perch in treetops to look for prey.
Photo by Paul Noeldner.

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, Feb 7 AND

Sunday, Mar 6 AND

First Sunday of EVERY month

ALWAYS 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park, North Unit.

On Feb 7, join Naturalist Lois Komai to experience the "quiet time" and explore evidence of animal life in the snow and ways in which the plants and animals live and protect themselves during the winter.

On March 6, join Naturalist Dee Wylie to explore the nature trails and look for plants and animals that are getting ready for spring.

Sponsored by the Friends of Cherokee Marsh, Madison Parks, and Madison Audubon Society. If you have questions, contact Paul Noeldner at (608) 698-0104 or paul_noeldner@hotmail.com.

Save the dates

Evening at Cherokee Marsh (woodcock walk)

Friday, April 15, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park, North Unit

Garlic mustard pull

Saturday, April 9, 10 am - 1 pm

Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park, North Unit

Butterflies of Cherokee Marsh

Saturday, June 25, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon

Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park, North Unit

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.

Thank you to our volunteers!

Thank you to our team of volunteers who helped prepare, set up, and take down our candlelight walk on January 30. Over 200 folks turned out to enjoy the lighted paths.

Thanks to **Janet Battista, Barbara Binkert, Andria Blattner, Dana Erlandsen, Judy Gutsch and her crew, Jim Hughes, James Krause, Megan McCormick, Paul Noeldner, Cathy Spann, and Anita Weier!**

Field studies fully funded!

We're excited to announce that due to contributions from the Friends, including targeted donations from our members, the Madison School District will be able to fund transportation to Cherokee Marsh for field studies for all classes who sign up. This is the first time in many years that transportation has been fully funded. A big thanks to all of you who have responded to our call for donations.

Thanks for renewing

Thank you to all who have renewed your membership for 2016. If you haven't renewed or would like to join the Friends, please take a minute to fill out and send in the form on the last page of this newsletter or go to CherokeeMarsh.org to renew online.



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 (Vice President)

Janet Battista (Secretary)

Dana Erlandsen

Russ Hefty

Jim Krause

Lesleigh Luttrell (Treasurer)

Paul Noeldner

Justin Sargent

Dick Walker

Anita Weier

Dorothy Wheeler

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.