

# The Cherokee Marsh News

*The newsletter of the Friends of Cherokee Marsh*

## Earth Day Celebration Recognizes Those Who Supported Land Acquisitions

*Lydia Maurer*

At our Earth Day celebration on April 22 at the Wheeler Triangle, the Friends of Cherokee Marsh showed appreciation for 363 acres added to Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park since 2008. The acquisitions included

more than 200 acres of wetlands now being restored and last December's crucial purchase of the 5.8-acre Wheeler Triangle parcel at the corner of Wheeler Road and Comanche Way.



*Pictured (from left) are District 18 County Supervisor and District 48 State Representative Melissa Sargent, Dane County Executive Joe Parisi, former landowner Dennis Tiziani of Cherokee Park, Inc., 18th District Alder Anita Weier, Natural Heritage Land Trust Executive Director Jim Welsh, District 12 County Supervisor Paul Rusk, recently retired District 12 Alder Satya Rhodes-Conway, Mayoral Assistant Katie Crawley for Mayor Paul Soglin, and neighborhood activist Muriel Simms. Not shown: Madison Parks Director Kevin Briski. Photo by Janet Battista.*

### Keep in touch!

Email group - news and discussion

[www.groups.yahoo.com/group/cherokeemarsh](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/cherokeemarsh)

Facebook page - news

[www.facebook.com/friends.of.cherokee.marsh](http://www.facebook.com/friends.of.cherokee.marsh)

Facebook group - photos, open discussion

[www.facebook.com/groups/cherokee.marsh](http://www.facebook.com/groups/cherokee.marsh)

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# Getting Down and Dirty

Alex Singer

On April 27th, young and old got down on their knees to plant over 4,000 shallow water plants along the 6,000+ foot waterline of two stormwater retention ponds in Cherokee Marsh Park along Wheeler Road.

The seven species of plants will help stabilize the now-empty shoreline and then provide wildlife habitat for birds, fish, insects and amphibians.

The newly installed ponds trap sediment before it enters the Yahara River and Cherokee Marsh, ultimately improving the water quality of Lake Mendota. Plans are underway to bring restored prairie up to the shores and install water plants.

Besides a contingent from The Management Group, the 60 participants included Friends of Cherokee Marsh, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and concerned citizens.

A couple weeks later, City of Madison staff plus a group from Operation Fresh Start planted around 350 native

shrubs and 23 bur and swamp white oak trees around the same area in order to mitigate the openings and fill in drainage ditches, ultimately creating various types of wildlife habitats and feeding sources.



Volunteers plant the shoreline of the Wheeler Rd. stormwater ponds. Photo by Janet Battista.

# Spring Events Highlight Birds, Blooms, and Bark

Jan Axelson

The annual Midwest Crane Count took place on the chilly morning of April 13. Counting in Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park's North Unit were Daniel Gómez Ibáñez Jim Hughes, Paul Noelder, and Jan Axelson. During the count period from 5:30 – 7:30 am, the counters found 20 sandhill cranes as well as wild turkey, bald eagle, and common snipe.

On May 8's morning warbler walk in the North Unit, participants were treated to eight species of warblers, 32 sandhill cranes, an olive-sided flycatcher, and four species of woodpecker. Also spotted were five Henslow's sparrows, listed as threatened in Wisconsin due to loss the habitat these birds favor: uncultivated fields and grasslands with tall and dense vegetation and litter layers. Thanks to Dan Graham and Kyle Lindemer from Madison Audubon for leading the walk.

On the evening of May 8, Madison Parks Conservation Technician Brandon Mann led a walk in Meadow Ridge

Conservation Park and the Mendota Unit of Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park. Brandon gave tips on how to identify native trees including cherry, red and white oak, and hickory. In the forest understory were wildflowers such as Dutchman's breeches, wood anemone, trout lily, and mayapple. Thanks to Brandon for leading the event.



Thanks to Paul Noeldner for the new prothonotary warbler house in the North Unit. Prothonotary warblers, a Wisconsin Species of Greatest Conservation Need, favor flooded bottomland forests.

## Have you contributed to the Cherokee Marsh Conservation Fund?

We asked Matt Zine, Conservation Biologist for the State Natural Areas Program, WDNR – Bureau of Endangered Resources to comment on the Cherokee Marsh Conservation Fund. He said:

*The Cherokee Marsh complex is the largest remaining wetland in Dane County, and biologically significant, possessing a variety of wetland community types, including marsh, fen, shrub-carr, sedge meadow, and low prairie.*

*These communities need help, however, as there is a constant threat from invasive species, and much past damage that is in need of restoration. The Cherokee Marsh Conservation Fund will provide a much-needed, permanent source of funding to help meet these needs.*

*For the sake of Cherokee's rich biological diversity, and to the benefit of us all, please help support this fund.*

To contribute or find out more, visit:

[CherokeeMarsh.org/conserv](http://CherokeeMarsh.org/conserv)

# 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.

## Help Clean Up Cherokee Marsh

**Saturday, June 15, 10 am – 12 noon**

Help clean up the upper Yahara River shoreline and other locations around Cherokee Marsh as part of Dane County's Take a Stake in Our Waters days.

### Yahara Heights County Park, Catfish Ct. entrance

From Madison, heading north on HWY 113/Northport Dr., just past HWY M, turn right on River Rd., then immediate right onto Catfish Ct. Meet in the parking lot for the dog exercise area. From there, we will head out to nearby locations.

## Butterfly Walk

**Saturday, June 22, 10 am – noon**

Observe a variety of butterflies as they take nectar from wildflowers and learn about butterfly identification, behavior, and lifestyles. Led by Dr. Douglas Buege. Bring binoculars if you have them; close-focusing ones work best. A few extra pairs of binoculars will be available. Wear long pants and a hat for protection from the sun. Co-sponsored by the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly



*Some of the Madison Area Weed Warriors volunteers show off their harvest from April 7's garlic mustard pull. As team leader Tammy Bieberstein (center) explains, "While it does not look like that much garlic mustard in the one big bag, it actually is a lot. If we pulled this much garlic mustard in a few weeks from now, we easily would have had ten or more bags of the stuff."*

Association, Madison Audubon Society, and Friends of Cherokee Marsh.

### Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park North Unit

6098 N. Sherman Ave. Head north on N. Sherman Ave. to the parking lot at the end of the road.

### Save the Dates

Times and other details for the events below will be posted on our website, Facebook pages, and email group.

### Cherokee Marsh, Upper Yahara River Tour

Saturday, August 3

### Cherokee Marsh Stormwater Ponds Tour

Wednesday, October 9



## Friends of Cherokee Marsh

PO Box 3390

Madison WI 53704

info@CherokeeMarsh.org

[www.CherokeeMarsh.org](http://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

Lesleigh Luttrell (Treasurer)

Lydia Maurer

Paul Noeldner

Justin Sargent

Muriel Simms

Dick Walker

Dorothy Wheeler (Secretary)

### Advisor

Don Hammes

# Membership Form

Join or renew online at [CherokeeMarsh.org](http://CherokeeMarsh.org)

## 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                       Osprey \$100  
 Family \$25                          Sandhill Crane \$250  
 Mallard \$50                          Great Blue Heron \$500  
 Additional donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Additional donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
 Additional donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Find out more about the Cherokee Marsh Conservation Fund at [CherokeeMarsh.org/conserv](http://CherokeeMarsh.org/conserv)

**Additional donation to the Cherokee Marsh Conservation Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Family member(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Second 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.