

The Cherokee Marsh News

The newsletter of the Friends of Cherokee Marsh

We're Having a Celebration!

On March 10, 2013, the Friends of Cherokee Marsh contributed \$1000 to start the Cherokee Marsh Conservation Fund as the first step in creating a permanent, sustainable source of funding to support conservation at Cherokee Marsh.

Our first goal was to reach \$10,000 in contributions, the minimum required for the fund to begin paying dividends to help the marsh. As we reported in the April/May newsletter, we reached and exceeded that goal in just over a year.

To celebrate this milestone, we're hosting an informal reception:

Sunday, June 1, 3 – 5 pm

Sequoia Room, Cherokee Country Club

5000 N. Sherman Ave.

We hope you can stop by. Light refreshments will be served.

The celebration immediately follows our monthly Bird and Nature Walk:

Sunday, June 1, 1:30 – 3 pm

Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park, North Unit

6098 N. Sherman Ave. Follow N. Sherman Ave. north to the parking lot at the end of the gravel road.

Come to one or both events!

To contribute or find out more about the Cherokee Marsh Conservation Fund, please see:

cherokeemarsh.org/consERVE

New Director Welcomed

Welcome to the newest member of our board of directors, Kyle Lindemer. A Northside resident and also an avid birder, Kyle led our May 15 Warbler Walk.



The Voyageur canoes are coming to Cherokee Marsh! Details on page 3. Photo courtesy of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.



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Thank You to Our Fund Donors

A big Thank You to everyone who has donated to the Cherokee Marsh Conservation Fund and is helping to create a permanent, sustainable source of funding to preserve and restore Cherokee Marsh!

Margaret L. Anderson
Jan Axelson and Jim Hughes
Timothy and Elizabeth Baker
Janet Battista
Barbara Binkert
Joan Brennan
Pat R. Brown
Thomas S. Cameron
Charles and Martha Casey
Cynthia Chin
Virginia Davis
Steve Deatherage
Dana Erlandsen
Howard Fenton
Marcia Finger
Laurel M Franklin
Janet Freeman
Carolyn Gantner
Pat Giesfeldt
Sue Gleason
Granite Ridge Apartments LLC

Don Hammes
Greta C Hansen
Reta Haring
R. Tod Highsmith
Lois Hindhede
Margaret Jensen
Susan Josheff
Lois Karn
Kris Knight
Jim Koltes
Kevin Kowalchuk
Arlene and Jeff Koziol
Ilene Lawson
Kyle Lindemer
Lesleigh Luttrell
Jim Mand
Robert Maurer
Patricia McWilliams
Julie & Dan Melton
Tim Nelson in memory of Linda Nelson
Paul and Barbara Noeldner

Julie Olsen and Tim Valdez
Ruth Oppedahl
Anne Pryor and Steve Ackerman
Michele Ritt and John Rademacher
Paul Rusk
Melissa & Justin Sargent
Tom Sather
Sandra Schmidt
Robert and Betty Schmidt
Stan Sheggeby
Muriel Simms
Dennis Tande and Mary Manering
Richard and Margaret Walker
Jim Welsh
Dorothy Wheeler
Larry and Jane Wilson

Weed Warrior Founder Wins Award

Congratulations to Madison Area Weed Warriors founder **Tammy Bieberstein**, who has won an Invader Crusader award from the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species. The Friends of Cherokee Marsh and other local groups nominated Tammy for her fourteen years of advocating and working to remove garlic mustard and other invasives from our parks.

Every spring, Tammy brings groups of volunteers to pull garlic mustard in eight of Madison's conservation parks, including Cherokee Marsh. These events have inspired groups such as the Friends of Cherokee Marsh to continue the work by sponsoring additional garlic-mustard events.

Tammy also speaks to neighborhood groups and scout groups and works with local schools to teach about invasives.



Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park is one of eight conservation parks where Tammy Bieberstein's Weed Warriors work to control invasives. Photo by Jan Axelson.

Paddle Cherokee Marsh in a Voyageur Canoe

Sue Josheff from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is bringing the DNR's two replica Voyageur canoes to Cherokee Marsh for three events. These 25-ft, 10-passenger canoes are replicas of the vessels used centuries ago by French voyageurs to cross Lake Superior and other large North American waters.

Events are free but you must make a reservation and have a returned confirmation email to attend. To register, email susan.josheff@wisconsin.gov with your name, phone number, email and the child's name and age if you are making a reservation for the Parent/Child paddle. Twenty slots are available for each paddle time.

All paddles launch from the School Road boat landing. 5002 School Rd. Heading north from downtown 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.

Sue will provide the 10-passenger canoes, paddles, and life jackets (PFDs). Please bring your own life jacket if you have one. The paddle events may be canceled due to weather.

Parent/Child Paddle

Sunday, June 15, 1:00 pm

This event is for children age six or over accompanied by a parent or grandparent. The canoes will be on the water for about 45 minutes depending on the children's interest. The Voyageur canoes are very stable so they are a good experience for children. If the 1:00 pm paddle fills up, a 2:00 pm paddle will be added.

Register by noon Saturday, June 14.

Adult Paddles

Tuesday, June 10, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Register by noon Monday, June 9.

Thursday, June 19, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Register by noon Wednesday, June 18.



Volunteers Monitor Water Quality

Mary Manering

The Rock River Coalition (RRC) is a basin-wide, not-for-profit organization founded in 1994. Its mission is to educate and provide opportunities for people to work together to improve the environmental, recreational, cultural and economic resources of the Rock River Basin.

The upper Yahara River and Cherokee Marsh are within the Rock River Basin because the Yahara River flows into the Rock River in northern Rock County.

Clean water is a priority for the RRC. Stream monitoring is an important part of this effort, utilizing volunteers to conduct monthly stream sampling from April through October.

In December 2013, the Yahara Watershed Improvement Network or "Yahara WINS" awarded funding to the RRC to expand the volunteer stream monitoring program to the Yahara River watershed. As a result, two sites in the Cherokee Marsh area, the School Road boat landing and the HWY 113 bridge, will be monitored for water clarity, dissolved oxygen levels and several nutrients, including phosphorus, suspended solids and ammonia. Dennis Tande and I are the volunteer monitors, and Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District will conduct the lab work.

The information collected from these tests is entered into a state wide data base and subsequently used by many organizations involved with water quality. Any



Mary Manering measures water clarity by detecting the depth at which a Secchi disk at the bottom of a tube of collected river water becomes visible as Dennis Tande releases water from the tube. Photo by Jan Axelson.

data suggesting an acute change in the conditions of the testing sites are immediately reported to the Department of Natural Resources to initiate a prompt assessment and necessary interventions, if indicated.

To learn more about RRC, visit rockrivercoalition.org.

Wildlife Sightings Enjoyed at Bird & Nature Events

Jan Axelson

Each spring, Cherokee Marsh birdwatchers come out to spot colorful wood-warblers and other birds that are migrating through our area or arriving for the season.

Many wood-warblers (or warblers for short) use Cherokee Marsh and surrounding areas as a refueling stop on the migrations north. A few warblers, including common yellowthroat and yellow warbler, stick around and nest in the marsh.

Here are some highlights from recent bird and nature events at Cherokee Marsh.

The 32 participants on May 4th's Bird and Nature Walk were treated to good views of a red-headed woodpecker, bluebirds, warblers, many turtles, and a scope view of a bald eagle on its nest.

The red-headed woodpeckers are likely here as a result of the city's recent efforts to restore large areas to open savanna, which is the required habitat for these birds.

On May 15, despite rain and temperatures in the low 40s, 14 birders came out for our early morning Warbler Walk and found 15 warbler species, including Cape May, Blackburnian, golden-winged, orange-crowned, and magnolia. Other birds of note were veery, wood thrush, wild turkey, and sedge wren.

On the morning of May 19, the Peddling Pewees Birdathon team of Paul Noeldner, Barb Noeldner, Jim Hughes, and Jan Axelson birded the North Unit and found 44 species including scarlet tanager, red-headed woodpecker, and indigo bunting.

Another hotspot for birding this spring was the small wetland just north of Wheeler Rd at Ilene Ln, which



This scarlet tanager is one of the many colorful birds found in the conservation park this spring. Photo by Paul Noeldner.

brought out many birders to see a rare Kentucky warbler and many other warbler species.

April 14's Annual Midwest Crane Count yielded a total of 60 sandhill cranes counted by three teams at Cherokee Marsh. The counters observed one pair dancing and eight pairs unison calling, which the International Crane Foundation describes as "a complex and extended series of coordinated calls" performed by mated pairs.

Thanks to Paul Noeldner and Kyle Lindemer for leading our walks this spring. See Upcoming Events in this newsletter for more wildlife-watching events this summer.



Dr. Herbert Chen (fourth from left) and the participants in the recent Walk with a Doc event in Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park pause for a photo. Photo by Jan Axelson.

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.

Cherokee Marsh Conservation Fund Celebration

Sunday, June 1, 3 – 5 pm

Sequoia Room, Cherokee Country Club, 5000 N. Sherman Ave., Madison

Informal reception celebrating the establishment of the Cherokee Marsh Conservation Fund. Light refreshments provided. Note, this celebration immediately follows our June 1 bird and nature walk.

Monthly Bird and Nature Walks

Sunday, June 1, 1:30 – 3:00 pm

AND

Sunday, July 6, 1:30 – 3:00 pm

AND

First Sunday of every month

Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park, North Unit

Free, family-friendly bird and nature walks. Sponsored by the Friends of Cherokee Marsh, Madison Parks, and Madison Audubon Society.

Paddle Cherokee Marsh in a Voyageur Canoe

Tuesday, June 10, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm (adult)

AND

Sunday, June 15, 1:00 pm (child/parent)

AND

Thursday, June 19, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm (adult)

School Road Boat Landing

These paddle events require registration. See page 3 for details.

Butterflies of Cherokee Marsh

Saturday, June 28, 10:00 am – noon

Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park, North Unit

Observe a variety of butterflies as they take nectar from wildflowers and learn about butterfly identification, behavior, and lifestyles. 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. Sponsored by Madison Audubon, the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association, and the Friends of Cherokee Marsh.

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.

School Road Boat Landing

5002 School Rd. Heading north from downtown 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.

Keep in touch!

"Like" our Facebook page:

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

Join our email group:

www.groups.yahoo.com/group/cherokeemarsh

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 _____
- Additional donation \$ _____ in memory of _____
- Osprey \$100
- Sandhill Crane \$250
- Great Blue Heron \$500

Here is my additional donation to the Cherokee Marsh Conservation Fund.

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

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

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.