



“Snowflakes are one of nature’s most fragile things, but just look at what they can do when they stick together.” -Vesta Kelly

PRESIDENT’S UPDATE

Dear Friends,

The silence of snow now covers Chiwaukee Prairie belying the incredible biodiversity beneath, and providing us time to review the activities in 2008 and make plans for 2009 as we pursue *our mission: to acquire, restore, manage and preserve Chiwaukee Prairie and support research and environmental education.*

Land Acquisition: 2008 brought inquiries from a number of lot owners interested in selling. Because of confidentiality, we can only report that several appraisals have been done and negotiations are underway! This is very exciting and a little scary. Exciting since it may result in adding several lots to the prairie. Scary because the estimated costs to CPPF will likely leave us unable to take advantage of additional buying opportunities.

Restoration & Management: Despite canceling our January work party because of -37°F wind chills, the 3rd Saturday volunteers put in hundreds of hours mostly controlling invasive species. We plan extra work parties in 2009. State stewardship funds financed brush cutting and invasive control by Cedarburg Science, while DNR staff helped by chipping cut brush and mowing firebreaks. Both activities will continue in 2009. Unable to burn this year due to weather, The Nature Conservancy plans controlled burns in spring and fall 2009, including an area not burned for over 15 years. Zion firefighter and our newest board member, Alan Eppers, looks forward to helping with the burns. At the Dunes, an Eagle Scout project resulted in new trail signs and Troop 525 cut and pulled invasive sweet clover. Jim Major, Dunes Steward for 16 years, will continue management work in 2009.

Research: While outside researchers are studying Franklin’s Ground Squirrel, Blanding’s Turtle, groundwater levels, and more, our very own volunteers are gathering data on birds and rare plants. Before being rained out last June, our first annual **Bird Blitz** counted 71 species, among them Bobolink and Yellow-billed Cuckoo. We hope for better weather and more birders in 2009. In 2008, 15 volunteers were trained to monitor rare plant species in Chiwaukee and we hope to train 20 more next year (see article on page 3). This **Plants of Concern** monitoring program was supported in 2008 by a grant from We Energies, through the Wisconsin Energy Corporation Foundation. In 2009, a generous grant from the Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network will support the monitoring program and four Botany Blitzes planned to update the Chiwaukee Prairie Plant Checklist. Based on a 1912 list and last revised in 1986, the checklist names over 400 species. Program coordinator, Lori Artiomow, has already found several species not previously noted.

Education & Outreach: A great success in its first year, the *Botany for Beginners* classes will be offered again in 2009 (see article on page 3). We plan to do more outreach to Pleasant Prairie residents, especially children, to acquaint them with the most *pleasant prairie* in their Village. Power-point presentations, tables at conferences, and specially arranged hikes also will be offered again in 2009.

The preservation of Chiwaukee Prairie succeeds because Friends of the Prairie - be they financial supporter, volunteer, or professional; Eagle Scout, birder, or researcher; old Friend or new – are like the snowflakes, “just look what they can do when they stick together”. Thanks to all who give to this extraordinary piece of nature.

Pam Holy, President

We will continue until the last piece of land has been preserved

2009 Activities and Opportunities

We need volunteers for our **work party** on the **third Saturday of each month from 10AM to 2PM**. We meet on 121st Street and 2nd Avenue. Dress for the weather, bring work gloves, protective eyewear and, if you plan to stay the entire time, bring a lunch. **No experience necessary. On the job training.** We hope to see you there! Also, **extra workdays** are planned for next summer. Please check our web site or call us for dates and times. If you want to work in the Dunes, call Jim Major at (262) 656-0231.

Wisconsin **Plants of Concern** training will be on May 2, 2009 at UW Parkside. The training equips non-experts to monitor Threatened or Endangered native plants. For more information contact Lori Artiomow at (262)634-2276 or wisvoc@gmail.com. (See page 3)

Know native plants? If so, please come help us with a **BOTANY BLITZ**. Join us for one or more planned for **May 16, June 13, July 25, and August 29** to update the Chiwaukee Prairie Plant Checklist. Contact Lori Artiomow (info above) for details.

Botany for Beginners will be offered again in 2009 for those who want to know more about our native plants and Chiwaukee. (See the article on page 3.)

The second **Annual Bird Blitz** will be held on Saturday, June 20, 2009 from 4:45AM to 10AM – birders welcome!

Breakfast on the Prairie for volunteers, birders, and donors will also be on June 20, 2009 starting at 9AM.

The **Annual Picnic** for volunteers and donors will be on Saturday, September 21 starting at 1PM.

SOS: From time to time we need advice or help with legal questions, computer work, writing projects, record keeping, research, grant applications and other issues. If you would be willing to advise us in these areas or you have other experience or knowledge that you think might be helpful, please contact us.

For **more information** on these opportunities, or with any **questions** about CPPF, please call one of the officers listed on this page or leave a message at cppf@chiwaukee.org. Visit our web site for work party plans, special events, and lots of information on flora, fauna, and history!

www.Chiwaukee.Org

LAND HO! (Money Needed)

Just as the economy turned down, opportunities to purchase land popped up. Lot owners may need to raise cash or fear a loss of value. Whatever their reasons, it provides us with a **great opportunity to acquire land**. We do understand that the down turn in the economy has hit the Friends of the Prairie, too. But, if you are able, please help us take advantage of this buying opportunity. As always, **all donations are reserved exclusively for the acquisition of land in Chiwaukee Prairie**.

Even though **Basic Membership** remains at the bargain price of \$10, more is always welcome!

Donate \$100 to become a **Blazing Star** and receive a gift of note cards by Kenosha artist Rebecca Venn. Donate \$500 to become a **Life Member** of Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Fund and receive a Certificate of Honor along with note cards by Rebecca Venn. Blazing Stars and Life Members are invited to the Breakfast in June and the Picnic in September.

CPPF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization so donations are **tax deductible and much appreciated**.

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If you use [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) as your search engine listing Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Fund as your charity, we earn a penny per search. Thanks!

## Special Thanks

For the past five years the Kenosha Bible Church has very generously provided us with a room for our monthly meetings. For a small non-profit without a home of our own, it is a major blessing and we thank Pastor Carlson and the congregation. Also, many thanks to Ferne Holy for the gift of our annual dinner.

## 2008 Board of Directors

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| Eric Howe, Treasurer                             | (262) 594-5853 |
| Bruce Sedloff, Secretary                         | (262) 909-1160 |
| Renate Hauser, Corresponding Secretary           | (262) 694-3631 |
| Dawn Feldman-Brown, Hike & Education Coordinator |                |
| Alan Eppers, Stewardship                         |                |
| Ann Jolicoeur, Publications                      |                |
| Kay McClelland, Naturalist                       |                |
| Donna Peterson, Honorary                         |                |
| Joan Rohan, Honorary                             |                |
| Lenny Weiss, Volunteer Coordinator               |                |
| Marcia Wensing, Steward                          |                |

## Advisors

Lori Artiomow, Biologist / Plants of Concern  
Marty Johnson, DNR Wildlife Biologist  
Sue Trageser, Membership Database  
Ingrid Verhulst, Non-profit Consultant  
Jerry Ziegler, The Nature Conservancy

## Botany for Beginners

The first of eight classes called *Botany for Beginners* was held on a cold blustery day at the end of April with the wind nearly blowing us into Lake Michigan. As the prairie had been burned the previous fall, the landscape was mostly blackened and dead-looking. There were tiny new red fern like leaves of Wood Betony showing and a few spears of green that would become grasses. Green leaves of the Edible Valerian were snuggled around the cluster of buds that would soon burst into flower.

Our last class was held at the end of September when the prairie was exuberantly full. Big Bluestem and Sawtooth Sunflower towered over our heads while the most beautiful blue Downy and Fringed Gentians did their best to delight closer to the ground.

Over the summer we discussed the history, geology, politics, pollinators, grasses, sedges, mammals, and stewardship of Chiwaukee Prairie, and, of course, the forbs or flowering plants. We saw and identified over 100 different plants.

For information on 2009 classes or to arrange hikes, please contact Kay McClelland at (262) 554-6326 or [kaymac57@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kaymac57@sbcglobal.net)

## Remembering Special Friends

Since our last newsletter, we have lost three of our very longtime supporters and devoted Friends. **Homer Bishop** is said to have known the name of every plant and insect he encountered while giving prairie tours. **Irene Yerdon**, a board member for nine years, worked tirelessly for the prairie and prepared thousands of native seed packets to put in newsletters. **Fred Ott** spent his entire adult life working on environmental issues and supporting conservation in Wisconsin. In a very real way, Chiwaukee Prairie is their memorial.



**Blanding's Turtle** is a timid, gentle resident of Chiwaukee Prairie. It sports a bright yellow throat, reaches a maximum of 10 inches long and weighs up to three pounds, with males larger than females. They reach sexual maturity only after 18 to 22 years and can live up to 70 years. Overwintering under or near water in mud or under vegetation, they emerge to mate in water in early spring and nest in June. They are unique in their ability to eat in or out of water, eating an omnivorous diet of grasses, berries, slugs, snails, insects, frogs, fish, and, their favorite, crayfish, found in abundance at Chiwaukee. Their hinged lower shell allows the turtle to protect its head, neck, and legs, as seen in the photo at left where a radio tracked "shy guy" is held by a researcher. Data are being collected on sex ratio, ages and numbers to determine the viability of our population. We continue our efforts to maintain and preserve Chiwaukee Prairie to provide habitat for the threatened Blanding's Turtle and all its neighbors.

## Come Monitor Rare Plants!



Christel Ocheltree, Dave Sanders, Mary McQuiggen, and Doug Robinson monitoring *Agalinis skinneriana*.

It's easy to become a rare plant monitor and provides a fun and very useful way to spend time on the prairie. Volunteers don't need to know botany and, after training, monitoring can take as little as two hours a year. You will be measuring and counting a group or "population" of a particular rare species which we will teach you to identify. Once trained, monitors are paired with an experienced volunteer until they become experienced. You can choose to monitor only one species or more than one.

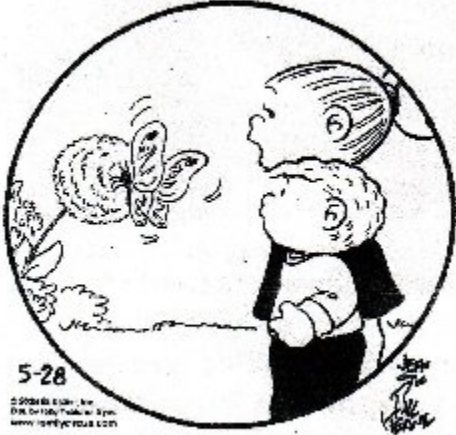
You will be part of a regional program, called Plants of Concern, which trains ordinary folks to be **citizen scientists** in order to track rare species. The data are used to inform land managers and track the effects of changes in climate and hydrology.

The spring training workshop will be on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at UW-Parkside. Training is available in field all season long. To register or get more details, contact Lori Artiomow at [wispoc@gmail.com](mailto:wispoc@gmail.com) or (262) 634-2276.

*Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Fund, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1802  
Kenosha, Wisconsin 53141*

*Address Service Requested*

**Family Circus** Bil Keane



**"If you're not too good at being a butterfly, they make you a moth."**

## Many thanks to all of you, our 2008 volunteers!

Lori Artiomow  
Cora Babel  
Ken Babel  
Thom Bowen  
Boy Scout Troop 525  
John Braig  
Jim Bullock  
Alice Bunker  
David Bunker  
John Bush  
Dana Cash  
Cathy Chybowski  
Jane Clare  
Robert Clare  
Dennis Cox  
Anthony Dreifke  
Brenda Dreifke  
Nathan Dreifke  
Dani Drikich  
Alan Eppers  
Dawn Feldman-Brown  
Adam Foust  
Rachel Goad  
John Harbeck  
Gus Hauser  
Renate Hauser

Nancy Hennessy  
Jenny Herrmann  
Judy Hoff  
Ferne Holy  
Pam Holy  
Genevieve Hostak  
Eric Howe  
John Hudnick  
Marieta Huff  
Bob Jagla  
Ethan Johnson  
Marty Johnson  
Mike Johnson  
Ann Jolicoeur  
Matt Kemp  
Janet Klemt  
Ron Larson  
Jo Lasdasky  
Kathy Lill-Bonner  
Kaytlin Lowery-Jolicoeur  
Joe Lundy  
Jim Major  
Heidi Makris  
Susanne Masi  
Kay McClelland  
Bob McDowell

Mary McQuiggen  
Bob Moreland  
Susan Morgan  
Dan Neururer  
Kathy Neururer  
Christel Ocheltree  
Rich Odegaard  
Francis Patten  
Heather Patti  
Ellen Powell  
Christine Regenfuss  
Dave Regenfuss  
Doug Robinson  
Leighanne Robison  
Stan Rosenstiel  
Sue Rummery  
Dave Sanders  
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Bruce Sedloff  
Kento Sekitoya  
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Liam Simpson  
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Mary Spengler  
John Szulczewski  
Kim Tlusty

Susan Tragesser  
Christopher Walls  
Jim Walls  
John Walls  
Jeff Weiss  
Lenny Weiss  
Marcia Wensing  
Joy Wolf and her UW-P  
Field Methods Class



### JOIN US!

Restoration  
Plant monitoring  
Botany or Bird Blitz  
Special Projects

OUR APOLOGIES IF YOUR NAME WAS OMITTED

## FRIENDS OF THE PRAIRIE

Linnea Anderson  
Lori Artiomow  
Quan & Cindy Banh  
Mary Jane Bates  
Lila Berge  
David Buchanan  
Miriam Bugnacki  
Gretchen Burgess  
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Thomas Fugette  
Lisa Geer  
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Ferne Holy  
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Joy Wolf  
Elisabeth Wright  
Irene Yerdon  
Dan & Helen Zelinger

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Naomi Schleper  
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Vickie & Charlie Talbert  
Betty & Joseph Thomas  
Barbara & Joe Vass  
Johanna Verhulst  
Joanne Wanasek  
Marcia Wensing

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Kenosha Orchid Society

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Anita Sculthorpe

### **Terryl & Jack Shouba\*\***

### **Thomas Zuhlke\***

*\* New \*\* Renewing Life Member*

## **CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED IN HONOR OF:**

Donna Peterson  
Joan Rohan  
Joan Schorsch

## **CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED IN MEMORY OF:**

Homer Bishop  
Charles Gaskell  
Donna Griffiths  
Eve Grubisic  
Matilda Petrovich Grubisic  
Nondi Hinrichs  
Ronnie Hopps  
Betsy Kobbervic  
Karla Krampert  
Jeffery McClelland  
Edwin E. Raymond Jr.  
Doris Van Vlissingen  
Irene Yerdon

## **GRANTS/GIFTS SINCE 1989**

H.M. Benstead Jr. Foundation

Citizen-Based Monitoring  
Partnership Program

Citizens Natural Resources  
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Col. L.C. Christensen Charitable  
Foundation

Dain Rauscher Investment  
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Dairyland Charitable Foundation

Equitable Foundation

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### **Frey-Lukow Family Fund via Racine Community Foundation\*\***

Friends of the Arboretum (Virginia  
Kline Award)

Paul Gergen

Greene Manufacturing Co.  
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John Harbeck

### **The Hinrichs Foundation \*\***

Jupiter Transportation Co.

Kenosha Orchid Society

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Herbert H. Kohl Charities

### **Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin\*\***

New Vision

### **Olympia Brown Unitarian Universalist Church \*\***

### **Root - Pike Watershed Initiative Network \*\***

Chester A. Satler, M.D.

Snap-on Tools Corporation

E.C. Styberg Foundation

Society of Tympanuchus Cupido  
Pinnatus

State of Wisconsin - Stewardship  
Friends Grant Program

### **We Energies, through the Wisconsin Energy Corporation Foundation\*\***

We Energies (employee match  
grants)

Wild Flower Preservation Society -  
Illinois Chapter

*\*\* Received in 2008*

*Donations received between  
12/1/07 and 11/30/08.*

*If an omission or error exists,  
please contact us.*

## **Visit us on the web:**

**[www.chiwaukee.org](http://www.chiwaukee.org)**

[cppf@chiwaukee.org](mailto:cppf@chiwaukee.org)