

THE CHEROKEE MARSH NEWS

The Marsh Gets a New Boardwalk

Jan Axelson

The much beloved boardwalk in Cherokee Marsh is returning, though in a different form. In 2005, Madison Parks closed off much of the boardwalk that crossed a wetland along the Yahara River, leaving two dead-end stubs. The wooden boardwalk had become expensive to maintain and prevented Parks staff from burning the area to control invasive plants.

To reduce damage to the sedge wetland, the new boardwalk will remain as two segments that don't meet in the middle. Teaching platforms will make it easy for school groups to gather to learn about the marsh. To lower maintenance costs and allow burns, the boardwalk is aluminum.

The boardwalk will rest on pads rather than being anchored to stakes driven into the marsh. The legs are adjustable to allow leveling the surface when the ground shifts. The edges will have a 2-inch lip for safety.

Young adults from Operation Fresh Start are installing the boardwalks and learning job skills along the way. The work began in mid-July and should be complete by the end of August.

As part of the same project Parks will also install aluminum boardwalk to replace 440 ft of the current wooden boardwalk east of the entrance road. The boardwalks are in the North Unit of Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park, at the end of N. Sherman Ave.



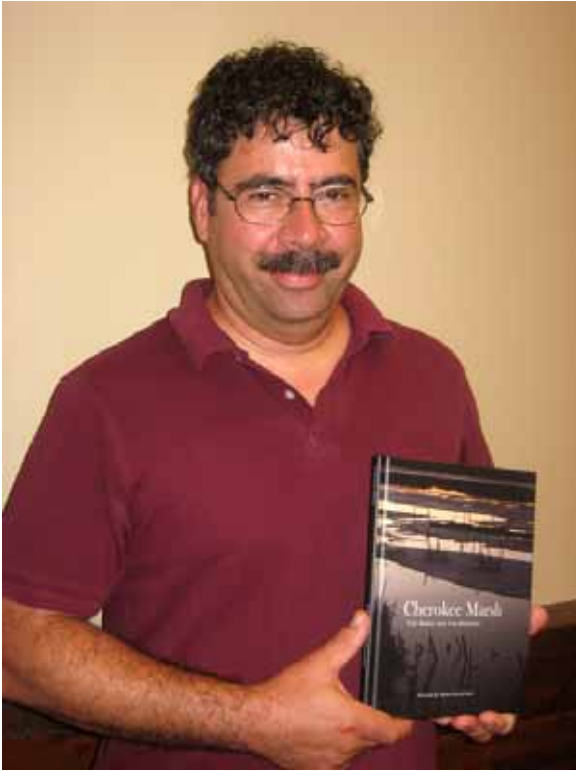
The new boardwalk (shown here under construction) has wide teaching platforms for school groups. Photo by Jan Axelson.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The Marsh Gets a New Boardwalk	1
Cherokee Marsh Inspires Photo Book	2
UW Engineers Study River Sediments	2
Wisconsin "Special Interest" Dragonfly Spotted	3
Environmental News Briefs	3
Meet Your Director: Dick Walker	4
Wisconsin Could Do More for Its Wetlands	4
Events Calendar	5
Membership Form	6

Cherokee Marsh Inspires Photo Book



When MATC photography instructor Mario Quintana first visited Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park, he knew he had discovered a special place. His photographer's eye saw varied landscapes with great beauty and a wealth of visually striking images. He also noticed that he just "felt good" while exploring the trails.

On a recent sabbatical, Mario embarked on a project to document the marsh in photos. This summer, Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton hosted a public exhibit of Mario's photos as part of her Art in the Office program.

Mario has now compiled photos from his exhibit in a book titled *Cherokee Marsh: the Magic and the Mystery*. The book will be available for order from blurb.com beginning in late August with all profits going to the Friends of Cherokee Marsh. For pricing and ordering information, see <http://www.CherokeeMarsh.org>.

Photographer Mario Quintana shows off his new photo book of Cherokee Marsh. Photo by Justin Sargent.

UW Engineers Study River Sediments

This summer, Dr. Chin Wu and assistants have begun to study the flow of sediments in the upper Yahara River in Cherokee Marsh. The goal is to better understand the sediments, including how the quantity varies with location, season, water level, and weather.

Dr. Wu, an Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at UW-Madison, says that the study isn't trying to prove a specific theory about the sediments. Instead, the goal is to provide data that will help the City, County, State, and

landowners make informed management decisions to improve the quality of water in the river and the lakes downstream.

Small white buoys in the main river channel and stakes along the banks anchor instruments that measure concentrations of sediment, barotropic pressure, and water level and depth. The locations range from near the Town of Windsor to the HWY 113 bridge. Each location has a label that identifies the item as part of an experimental study. The study will continue through this summer and will probably continue next year. If you happen across one of the study locations, please don't disturb it!

Wisconsin "Special Interest" Dragonfly Spotted

In July, members of the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association (SWBA) enjoyed a butterfly and dragonfly walk in the North Unit of Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park. The walk yielded 13 butterfly species and 10 dragonfly species.

On the boardwalk along the river, the group encountered a Jade Clubtail dragonfly, found in Wisconsin in only a few counties and listed as a State Special Concern dragonfly. The Jade Clubtail favors mud-bottomed ponds, backwaters, and lakes.



One of the many dragonflies that call Cherokee Marsh home is the Jade Clubtail. Thanks to Karl Legler for this photo from his book, Dragonflies of Wisconsin, available at the UW Arboretum Bookstore.

For a complete report on the butterfly walk, see the SWBA's July newsletter::

<http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabawba/SWBANewsletterJULY09.pdf>

Environmental News Briefs

This spring, to alleviate persistent flooding along HWY V near Paton Rd. in the Town of Vienna, ditches were cut on private land to allow the floodwater to drain into the upper Yahara River basin north of HWY 19. The controlled release of water began on May 21. The estimated quantity of water to be drained was 330 acre-feet, which translates to about a 3/8-inch rise in water level on Lake Mendota. HWY V reopened to traffic on June 15.

Although the drainage added water and nutrients to the Yahara River and its lakes, the Department of Natural Resources had no jurisdiction over the release other than requiring that the ditch spoils couldn't be deposited in wetlands.

Daily reports from the water release: project were reported here:

<http://waunakeerotary.org/whatsnew.html>

Dane County Supervisor John Hendrick has proposed restricting development on land determined to have hydric soil because these lands are likely to be prone to flooding. The Federal Register defines hydric soil as "soil that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic [without oxygen] conditions in the upper part." Lands along the upper Yahara River and Token Creek include areas of hydric soil.



Map of hydric soils and wetlands in Dane County

<http://danedocs.countyofdane.com/webdocs/PDF/PlanDev/ComprehensivePlan/draftplan/ancr/2005/HydricSoilsandWetlands.pdf>

Meet Your Director: Dick Walker

Nancy Helgesen Lyons



Dick Walker joined the Friends of Cherokee Marsh as a director back when the organization was in its early stages, and president Jon Becker contacted him to see if he would be interested in serving as a director.

Early in Dick's career, he was a chemist and geologist. He holds degrees from Indiana University and from the University of Illinois. Dick specialized in the study of how scientists communicate, penning many books and teaching many

courses on that topic. Dick began teaching at UW-Madison in the 1960s in the School of Library and Information Studies, and retired as a Professor Emeritus in 1995.

Besides volunteering with the Friends of Cherokee Marsh, Dick also has become an artist.

"I learned printmaking after I retired," Dick said. "I took an etching class from Andy Bakken, who is a master printer in Verona. I took a class from Larry Welo who is a print artist in Mount Horeb. He has a studio and gallery in Blue Mounds in the old opera house. I also took classes from Karin Katarkus, director of the Grace Chosy Gallery in Madison. I take the same printmaking class every semester at Madison Area Technical College, usually in the summer too. Some of my printmaking is done with oil-based ink on an aluminum plate. I do monotypes, etching, linocuts and woodcuts. "

"Prints by Dick Walker" is Dick's current print show, at the Sequoya Public Library, 513 S. Midvale Blvd. This show runs from August 1 to September 16.

Dick's wife Margy is also an artist. She is a potter. They have three children: a son who lives in Colorado, a son who lives in Minnesota, and a daughter who lives in Hawaii. Last year, Dick and Margy volunteered with literature tables at the North Side Farmer's Market for the artist's group they belong to, the Northside Artists Group.

Wisconsin Could Do More for Its Wetlands

The National Wildlife Federation has released a report on the state of wetland protection in the Great Lakes ecosystem, including Wisconsin. The report identifies strengths and weaknesses in wetland protection by the states bordering the Great Lakes.

Among the recommendations for Wisconsin are better laws to regulate draining of isolated wetlands, completing the state's wetlands inventory, and improving compliance and enforcement.

See the complete report, titled *Protecting and Restoring the Kidneys of the Great Lakes*.
http://online.nwf.org/site/PageServer?pagename=glnc_restoration_wetlands_report

Events Calendar

ART OF THE MARSH

Last chance to see this exhibit of art that reflects Cherokee Marsh. Presented by the Northside Artists Group and the Friends of Cherokee Marsh.

Through August 13 at Lieutenant Governor Barbara Lawton's office in the State Capitol (East 16).

CANOE CHEROKEE MARSH ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

August 22 (Saturday), 8:30 am to 11:30 am

Sponsored by The Madison Audubon Society.

Learn about the history and restoration efforts in Cherokee Marsh. This should also be peak bloom for the thousands of American Lotus Water Lilies that help buffer the shoreline. We hope to see a number of Great Egrets and other wetland birds.

Bring your canoe or kayak and meet at the School Rd. boat landing. Take School Rd. north from Northport Dr. until the road starts turning east. Instead turn left onto the gravel road and proceed to the pier and parking lot. You will see the sign for Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park.

Contact the leader, Russ Hefty at (608) 233-8513 or rhefty@ci.madison.wi.us only if you have a question about the trip.

RIVERINE EARLY DETECTORS WORKSHOP

August 29 (Saturday), 9 am to 1 pm

Training for citizen monitors to identify, report, and control invasive species in and along rivers and streams. In the Lake Mills Community Center in Jefferson County. Sponsored by the Rock River Coalition, River Alliance of Wisconsin, and the Department of Natural Resources. See <http://www.CherokeeMarsh.org> for a link to more information.

MEET THE FRIENDS AT THE NORTHSIDE FARMERS MARKET

August 30 (Sunday), 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

Visit the Friends of Cherokee Marsh tent at the market. We'll have musical entertainment by the Knotty Pines (a trio of singing naturalists), prairie flowers to admire, and possibly some live critters, plus information and conversation about the marsh.

In the Northside Town Center (Sherman Plaza) at the corner of Northport Dr. and N. Sherman Ave..

LATE SUMMER WALK

September 9 (Wednesday), 6 pm to 8 pm

Sponsored by the Friends of Cherokee Marsh and Madison Parks.

Focus on the largely unknown and unique features of the Mendota Unit of Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park. Led by Russ Hefty, Conservation Resource Supervisor for Madison Parks.

Meet at Meadow Ridge Park on Meadow Valley Drive. Heading north on HWY 113 (Northport Dr.), turn left onto Knutson Dr., then left on Green Ave., and right on Meadow Ridge Ln., which ends at the park on Meadow Valley Dr. Park on the street.

FALL COLOR WALK

October 11 (Sunday), 2 pm to 4 pm

Focus on fall colors. Led by Russ Hefty, Conservation Resource Supervisor for Madison Parks. Sponsored by the Friends of Cherokee Marsh and Madison Parks. Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park, North Unit, 6098 North Sherman Ave. Meet in the parking lot.

Friends of Cherokee Marsh, Inc.

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www.CherokeeMarsh.org

*To protect, preserve, and restore
the beauty, value, and health of the
Cherokee Marsh and upper Yahara
River watershed*

Read this newsletter online at www.CherokeeMarsh.org.

Join the Friends or renew your membership!

Your contribution of time, talent, or funds will help preserve and restore the crucial wetland ecosystem of Cherokee Marsh. The Friends sponsor and promote activities and events such as:

- Planting native species, collecting seeds, and controlling invasive species.
- Wetland educational events and opportunities.
- Paddle outings, hikes, and cultural events.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Osprey \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sandhill Crane \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mallard \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron \$500 |

Additional donation \$ _____

Memberships are per calendar year.

Memberships paid after June 30 are valid through the current and following year.

In addition to my contribution, I can also help with

- Field work Publicity Tours Education Board/Committee work

Other _____

Name _____

Family member(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Include your email address to receive our newsletter. We won't sell or distribute your email address.

- Don't publicize my financial support.

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!