

THE CHEROKEE MARSH NEWS

Meet Wildlife Biologist Lisa Hartman and "Uncle Butzie" at Our Annual Membership Meeting

Meet a live turkey vulture up close at our 2010 annual membership meeting on January 30. Our special guests will be wildlife biologist Lisa Hartman and her captive turkey vulture, "Uncle Butzie." Families and the public are welcome at this event.

Maybe you've seen a turkey vulture soaring over Cherokee Marsh or roosting in a tree. Learn the inside story of these fascinating birds, who have the largest breeding distribution of all the breeding birds in the western hemisphere.

Lisa's interest in turkey vultures began in 1983, when she became involved in a long-term research study on the birds. She and other researchers captured adult and young turkey vultures on their nests, marked them with wing tags, and monitored where they went.

Lisa will share her findings from studying turkey vultures in Wisconsin as well as stories and facts about these birds throughout the hemisphere.

In the "business" portion of the meeting, we'll elect directors for 2010 - 2011. See page 2 for more about the election and statements from the candidates.



"Uncle Butzie" perches on the arm of wildlife biologist Lisa Hartman.

It's Time to Renew Your Membership!

See page 5 for details.

2010 Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, January 30

10:00 - 10:30 a.m. - member meeting and refreshments

10:30 - 11:30 a.m. - *The Natural History of Turkey Vultures* presentation by Lisa Hartman with "Uncle Butzie."

Lakeview Branch Library, 2845 N. Sherman Ave., Madison (in the Northside Town Center / Sherman Plaza).

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Vote for Your Directors for 2010 - 2011

The Friends of Cherokee Marsh Board of Directors is responsible for planning, coordinating, communicating and managing the activities of our group. At our annual member meeting (see page 1), the members elect directors for the coming two years.

Directors normally serve 2-year terms, with half of the terms expiring in even-numbered years and the other half in odd-numbered years. Because we added director positions in 2009, some candidates are running for 1-year terms to maintain the balance.

Our board usually meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 5:30 pm at the Lakeview Branch of the Madison Public Library, 2845 N. Sherman Ave. All meetings are open to members and the public. To confirm the time or request an agenda, or if you're interested in joining our board or helping out on a committee, contact Jan at info@CherokeeMarsh.org or 608-467-5207.

Here are statements from the director candidates for five open positions in January's election. Directors Steve Ackerman and Justin Sargent are in the middle of their 2-year terms and thus aren't up for re-election.

One-year term

The terms of these candidates will end at our annual meeting in January, 2011.

Dana Erlandsen

As a walker, canoeist, and skier, Cherokee Marsh is part of my life in all seasons. I'd like to help the Friends increase awareness of the Marsh, as well as to help protect and restore the Marsh so it can continue to serve as a haven for plants and animals, a filter for the watershed, and a bit of serenity in our neighborhood. I am looking forward to serving with such a dynamic and talented board, and believe my experience with law, administration and nonprofits will be an asset. I have been an attorney in private and public practice for 20 years, and currently serve as chief counsel to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue.

David Clutter

For over 15 years I've worked as a conservation professional with county, statewide and national nonprofits and agencies, dedicating my life to protecting lands, waters and wildlife. I

currently serve as Director of Wisconsin Conservation Corps and Lands Programs for the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, and help to build capacity to steward Wisconsin State Natural Areas. Over the years I've acquired, restored and managed natural lands, and facilitated regional conservation planning and coalition development. I am very much looking forward to working with this strong, diverse and dedicated board of trustees, and helping to protect and restore one of Wisconsin's wetland gems.

Two-year term

The terms of these candidates will end at our annual meeting in January, 2012.

Jan Axelson

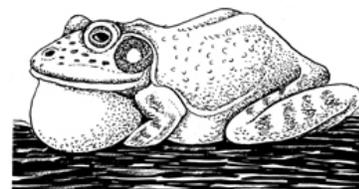
I'd like to see the Friends continue to serve as a voice for Cherokee Marsh. The marsh, upper Yahara River, and surrounding lands serve important functions in the watershed and provide a place to go to be close to nature. I want to work to increase awareness of the beauty and importance of the marsh, to preserve and restore public lands in the marsh, and to protect the ecosystem in the face of development in the watershed.

I live on the North Side of Madison and enjoy walking, paddling, birding, skiing, and volunteering in the marsh.

Muriel Simms

For 12 years I have lived in the Cherokee Park neighborhood and near the marsh. I enjoy the peace and tranquility here and I want that experience to continue. Thus, after I heard about the Comprehensive Plan that the city passed in January of 2005 and learned from others in the neighborhood that the plan did not protect the marsh and lakes as much as people had hoped, I became active. I and a neighbor met with Mayor Dave and city directors about the upcoming development plans, especially as they

(Continued on page 3)



Vote for Your Directors (continued from p. 2)

related to Wheeler Triangle. Also, we sent signed petitions to the city asking it to consider making Wheeler Triangle a park. After that, I worked with others to develop a plan of action that educated the plan commission and city council members about the ways that the Cherokee Marsh would be threatened by the new development. In addition to educating these two groups, we offered suggestions that would protect and preserve the marsh. While some people in the original group drifted away, I continued to stay on to work with the remaining folks who are intent on working with the city and the developers to plan this area in a way that will allow me the peace and tranquility I sought in the first place. I am willing to continue to be a Friends board member.

Dick Walker

I have lived in Madison for over 45 years, on Lake Mendota for over 26 of those years and the last 3 years in the Cherokee Marsh area, albeit off the water. I have always been concerned about the health of the lakes of the area and know that they are affected greatly by the health of

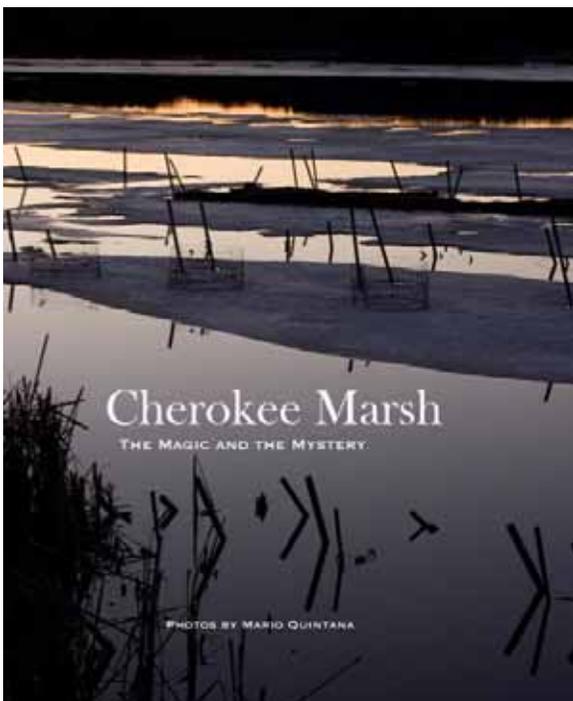
Cherokee Marsh and other sources of water north of the lakes and the cities around those lakes. I should like to continue to be a part of an organization whose primary interest is in the Marsh's well being, however that interest is expressed.

I feel that the Marsh and the areas surrounding it need to be protected against any further abuse and FOCM is one voice to be heard for its well being and long term survival.

I became a printmaker, taking my first art classes shortly before retiring from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 1995, where I served on the faculty for over 30 years. What started as a way to become more knowledgeable about prints, which I had collected for many years, turned into a learning process of production and preservation. Still active today while serving on several boards and other volunteer activities.



Cherokee Marsh Photo Book Is Available



Cherokee Marsh: the Magic and the Mystery, by MATC photographer instructor Mario Quintana, is available now. Mario is generously donating all profits from sales of the book to the Friends of Cherokee Marsh.

The magic and the mystery of one of Wisconsin's greatest wetlands treasures comes alive in this book of photographs taken from all seasons in the Cherokee Marsh, by award winning nature photographer Mario Quintana. Also featured in the book is a signature page featuring signatures from some of Wisconsin's most influential political leaders, and a beautiful map of the Marsh.

The price ranges from \$31.95 to \$46.95 depending on cover type, plus a flat shipping rate of \$6.99 for 1-5 books.

Order from:

<http://www.blurb.com/bookstore/detail/900065>

or click the link to buy the book at:

<http://www.CherokeeMarsh.org>

Fire Helps Cherokee Marsh Thrive

Jan Axelson

Flames rippled across thirty acres in Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park's North Unit this fall in a planned burn by Madison Parks. In the past, Native Americans ran fires through the landscape to improve hunting and harvests and to ease travel. In much the same way, Conservation Resources Supervisor Russ Hefty and his crew use fire to maintain healthy, diverse plant communities in the Conservation Park.

The fires took place over two days in November and included areas of wetland and woods. Because the new boardwalk along the river is aluminum rather than wood, the burn this year could include the wetlands along the boardwalk.

The areas burned included rare plant communities called sedge meadows. Sedges are grasslike plants that often favor wet soil. Without periodic burns, shrubs and trees invade the meadow, making it less suitable for ground nesters such as sandhill cranes and northern harriers.

In wooded areas, burning removes saplings of black cherry, green ash, and other woody plants that would fill in the understory. Supervisor Hefty says, "Early settlers in our area reported that the woods were open enough to drive a wagon through. Oak and hickory tolerate fire and allow enough light to reach the ground for grasses and flowers to grow."



November's controlled burn included both woodland and wetland areas along the Yahara River.

November is a good month for burning wooded areas because the fallen leaves provide fuel to carry the fire. In the wet areas, the vegetation is dry and the nesting birds are gone. The challenges of November burns are heavy morning dew and short days.

Before lighting the first match, the crew prepares a fire plan with defined start and stop points. The river provides a natural firebreak. In other areas, mowing or blowing away leaf litter to bare ground creates a break.

On the day of the burn, conditions must be right, neither too dry nor too windy. During the burn, the crew monitors the progress of the flames and maintains radio communication with the Madison Fire Department.

Sometimes the burns have delightful results. Last spring, in a recently burned area, a large patch of shooting star wildflowers appeared for the first time in memory.



The new aluminum boardwalk suffered no damage in the burn.

Volunteer Corner

If you would like to write articles for our newsletter or help with layout and design, contact Jan at 608-467-5207 or info@CherokeeMarsh.org.

It's Time to Renew Your Membership

Your membership in the Friends of Cherokee Marsh is crucial to our efforts to protect, preserve, and restore the land and waters in the Cherokee Marsh watershed. Your dues provide needed resources to help us carry out our activities. But just as important, your membership shows that you care about the marsh and join with us in helping to protect it.

You can show your continued support by renewing your membership this December.

Our 2009 Activities

These are some of the activities your membership supported in the last year:

- Advocated to protect land and water quality in the Cherokee Marsh watershed via public purchase of land and conservation easements.
- Co-sponsored or helped promote a dozen walks and paddles in the marsh and surrounding lands.
- Co-sponsored or helped promote seven volunteer days, including winter work on the ice to improve wetland habitat, removing invasive plants in spring, and seed collecting in fall.
- Brought the "Surly Surveyor" historical re-enactor to our annual meeting and to local schools and sponsored a display of live reptiles at the Northside Farmers Market.
- Helped the Wisconsin Wetlands Association promote their Wetland Gems program with a public event in Cherokee Marsh, declared one of 100 wetland gems in the state.

- Worked with the Northside Artists Group to put on an Art of Marsh show for display at the Lakeview branch library, the State Capitol, and the UW Arboretum's visitor center.
- Sponsored a Natural Heritage Land Trust workshop on land protection in the Cherokee Marsh watershed.

This year, the Friends also obtained status as a Federal tax-exempt charitable organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Is my membership up for renewal?

All memberships expire on December 31. If you joined the Friends after June 30, 2009, your membership is paid through December 31, 2010. For everyone else, it's time to renew. If you're not sure when you joined, contact us at info@CherokeeMarsh.org or 608-467-5207.

As a member, you'll receive our emailed newsletter six times a year and will have the latest updates on what's happening in and around the marsh.

How to Renew

You'll find a renewal form on the last page of this newsletter, or you can find a form to print at: <http://www.CherokeeMarsh.org>

We appreciate and rely on your support!

Jan Axelson
President



If you received this newsletter in the mail...

we don't have your email address!

Our newsletter goes out six times a year by email to all members who provided an email address on their membership form. For this issue only, we mailed the newsletter to members whose email addresses we lack.

To begin receiving every issue of the newsletter, send your email address to us at info@CherokeeMarsh.org. Family memberships can have two email addresses. You can also access current and past newsletters at <http://www.CherokeeMarsh.org>

Environmental News Briefs

Learn about Water Creatures

Here are three new publications from the UWEX Environmental Resources Center:

Wonderful Wacky Water Critters

<http://clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/pdf/wav.wwwc.pdf>

Climate Change in Wisconsin

Focus on Climate Change: Wisconsin Land Use Megatrends is a new report from the Center for Land Use Education, a joint venture of the College of Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension. The report draws on state and national trends of weather patterns:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/landcenter/Publications/ClimateChangeMegatrends.pdf>

Events Calendar

NORTHLAND MANOR PARK PONDS INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Thursday, December 3, 6 pm

Blackhawk Middle School cafeteria, 1402 Wyoming Way

The City of Madison's Engineering Division, in cooperation with the Parks Division, has proposed constructing ponds in Northland Manor Park to filter storm water runoff before it reaches Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park and the Yahara River. The ponds would also reduce street flooding. Northland Manor Park is bounded by School Rd., Wheeler Rd., Ilene Ln., Debra Ln., and Northland Dr. Come to this informational meeting to learn more from City staff about the proposal.

CONSERVATION LOBBY DAY 2010

Tuesday, January 26

Monona Terrace, One John Nolen Drive

Join the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters for the 6th Annual Conservation Lobby Day. Each year citizens from across Wisconsin descend on the Capitol to share their conservation values with their Legislators and have a huge impact on conservation policies affecting all of Wisconsin. To donate, register, or for more information, visit:

<http://www.conservationvoters.org>

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, January 30, 2010, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Lakeview Branch, Madison Public Library, in the Northside Town Center (Sherman Plaza), 2845 N. Sherman Ave.

The membership meeting starts at 10:00 a.m. At 10:30, see a special presentation by wildlife biologist and vulture researcher Lisa Hartman with "Uncle Butzie," a live turkey vulture.

Macroinvertebrate Life in the River key

<http://clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/pdf/wav.riverkey.pdf>

Key to Life in the Pond

<http://clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/pdf/wav.pondkey.pdf>

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.

Directors

Jan Axelson (President)

Justin Sargent (Vice President)

Aaron Stephenson (Secretary/Treasurer)

Steve Ackerman

W. David Clutter

Dana Erlandsen

Muriel Simms

Dick Walker

Advisors (non-voting)

Don Hammes

Dorothy Wheeler

Read past and current newsletters online at

<http://www.CherokeeMarsh.org>

Join us 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.

Individual \$15

Osprey \$100

Family \$25

Sandhill Crane \$250

Mallard \$50

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'm interested in helping with

Field work Publicity Tours Education Board/Committee work Newsletter

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!