

# News from Cherokee Marsh

February 2009

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## Our Annual Meeting

By Jan Axelson

At least 49 folks attended the FOCM annual membership meeting and presentation on January 17. Thanks to the many artists, local businesses, and bidders who participated in our silent auction, the local businesses that provided our great selection of door prizes, and Pierce's Market for help with the refreshments. And welcome to our new members who joined at the meeting!

Our directors, officers, and advisors for 2009 are:

### **Directors and Officers**

Jon Becker - President  
Justin Sargent - Vice President  
Jan Axelson - Secretary  
Aaron Stephenson - Treasurer  
Steve Ackerman  
Nan Cheney  
Sheri Harper  
Muriel Simms  
Richard D. Walker

### **Advisors**

Don Hammes  
Dorothy Wheeler

See the last page for our financial report for 2008.

## Thanks for Supporting FOCM!

Thanks to these donors for donating items to the silent auction held at our annual meeting, which netted \$322.50 for FOCM:

Jon Becker, Arts & Education Consultant  
Sarah Bradley  
Carolyn Gantner  
D&S Bait, Tackle & Archery  
Don Hammes  
Barb Jenkin  
Juliet Rake  
Steve Salt  
Dana Slowiak  
Lucy C. Taylor  
Jaime Ugaz  
Dick Walker and U-Frame-It

Thanks to these donors of door prizes for our annual meeting:

Jon Becker, Arts & Education Consultant  
Benvenuto's Italian Grill  
Culvers Northport  
Dane County Parks  
Hometown Bank Northport  
Jim's Meat Market  
Jung's Garden Center  
M&I Bank  
Massage East  
Pizza Hut

## Thanks to Our Volunteers!



Many thanks to all of the volunteers who came out in the frosty air to help with the volunteer days hosted by the Madison Parks Department, to put brush and coconut fiber mats on the ice. The brush bundles will help decrease shoreline erosion once they sink after the ice melts, by limiting wave action. They will also provide fish habitat. The fiber mats will provide plant bedding.

**Volunteers brave the cold to help with the Cherokee Marsh restoration. Photo by Jon Becker**

# The First Survey of Cherokee Marsh

By Jan Axelson



**“Surly Surveyor” Rob Nurre shares the findings from a survey of Cherokee Marsh in the 1800s. Photo by Jim Hughes**

A level, treeless, wet land with springs, brooks, and grassy growths—this is how a surveyor in 1834 described Cherokee Marsh. Surrounding the marsh were timberlands of black, white, and burr oak and expanses of prairie with “first-rate” soil. Land sold for \$1.25 per acre.

Former Lands Records Manager Rob Nurre reported these findings while performing in period costume as the “Surly Surveyor” at our annual membership meeting on January 17 at the Lakeview Branch Library.

With help from audience members, Mr. Nurre showed how survey crews used 66-foot chains to mark out the 6-mile-square townships you see on maps today. Surveyors placed posts every half mile and blazed nearby trees to mark the location in case a post was lost or moved. Some of the blazed trees

from the original surveys are still standing.

Mr. Nurre explained that in 1850, the U.S. Government granted all 40-acre sections that were at least half “swamp land” to the State of Wisconsin. The state could then sell the land to fund systems of drainage ditches to make the wetlands suitable for farming. Recent work in Cherokee Marsh has plugged old ditches to restore wetlands lost in the era when residents didn’t understand their value.

## April Frog Walk

Thursday, April 30: Cherokee Marsh Frog Walk to see property recently protected by the Land Trust and listen to frogs. An evening walk led by Natural Heritage Land Trust and friends. Registration is required as space is limited. 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm. Bring flashlight or head lamp. Dress for wet conditions--wear hiking boots or sturdy shoes.

Contact Martha at the Land Trust at 258-9797 or [Martha@nhlt.org](mailto:Martha@nhlt.org) to register.

## **“Farming in the Yahara Watershed” Talk February 17**

Each semester, the Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies' Spring Community Environmental Forum focuses on a particular issue and explores many of its facets. This spring, the Forum topic is "The Future of the Yahara Lakes." The Nelson Institute Community Environmental Forum brings together speakers and audience members from all segments of the community -- businesses, state and local government, non-profit organizations, academia and others -- to learn about and discuss some of the most pressing issues facing the environment of Wisconsin, Dane County, and Madison. Our goal is to facilitate positive, productive and insightful interactions among this broad array of interests and UW-Madison students and faculty during each six-part series. Coffee and cookies will be served at 5:30 pm, and the program begins at 5:45 pm. This public event meets in conjunction with Environmental Studies 900. Free parking is available in the Engineering Parking Ramp (Lot 17).

5:30 - 7:00 pm

Building: Mechanical Engineering  
Street Address: 1513 University Avenue  
Room Number: 1103

The talks in the series are:

Feb. 17, Farming in the Yahara Watershed with Randy Wirtz, Professional Engineer, Strand Associates, Inc. plus additional panelists to be announced.

March 3, Controlling Urban Stormwater Pollution

March 24, Wetland Restoration: Can it Improve the Quality of the Yahara Lakes?

April 7, Organizing effective coordination and decision-making for Yahara Lakes

April 21, Future Scenarios for the Yahara Lakes

Contact Person: Molly Schwebach  
Phone: 608-265-6712  
Email: [mayoung3@wisc.edu](mailto:mayoung3@wisc.edu)  
URL: [www.nelson.wisc.edu/outreach/community](http://www.nelson.wisc.edu/outreach/community)

## **Current Events**

For the latest news about events in and around Cherokee Marsh, visit [www.CherokeeMarsh.org](http://www.CherokeeMarsh.org).

If you have a photo or article you would like to submit for the newsletter, please email newsletter volunteer Nancy Helgesen Lyons at [jandn@chorus.net](mailto:jandn@chorus.net) and put “for the FOCM newsletter” in the subject line.

Treasurer's Report:  
 Fiscal Period  
 1 JAN - 31 DEC 2008

## Friends of Cherokee Marsh Inc.

Budget:  
 Fiscal Year 2009  
 (tbc, by 2009  
 board of directors)

	1 JAN thru 31 DEC <b>2008 Budget</b>	1 JAN thru 31 DEC <b>2008 Actual</b>	1 JAN thru 31 DEC <b>2009 Budget</b>	1 JAN thru 31 DEC <b>2009 Actual</b>
<b>INCOME</b>				
General Fund	\$ 753.43	\$ 753.43	\$ 1,701.35	\$ 1,701.35
Contributions	500.00	470.00	2,000.00	
Interest	1.00	4.94	5.00	
Member Dues	1,000.00	1,095.00	1,500.00	
Grant A	15,000.00	5,425.50	15,995.00	
Grant B	5,000.00	-		
Fundraiser	2,000.00	-	500.00	
Reimbursements	-	36.92		
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 24,254.43</b>	<b>\$ 7,785.79</b>	<b>\$ 21,701.35</b>	<b>\$ 1,701.35</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
General	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00	
Insurance	1,200.00	358.00	1,200.00	
Equipment	500.00	368.57	500.00	
Printing	1,000.00	549.35	1,000.00	
Reimbursments	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Rental	100.00	0.00	100.00	
Assn./Prof. Memberships	50.00	0.00	50.00	
Fundraising	500.00	0.00	500.00	
Outings	500.00	32.49	500.00	
Special Projects	15,000.00	3,483.19	15,000.00	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 19,100.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,791.60</b>	<b>\$ 19,100.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>ACCOUNT BALANCES</b>				
Checking		<b>\$ 2,994.19</b>	<b>\$ 2,601.35</b>	<b>\$ 1,701.35</b>

### INVENTORY

EasyUp  
 Card Table  
 Banner  
 Easel  
 Tabletop Display  
 Quicken Software

### NOTES

Several budgetted expenses tied to the grant were not incurred or invoiced in 2008.

Prepared for  
 17 JAN 2009  
 Members Meeting  
 (2nd Annual)

16 JAN 2009

Submitted by  
 Aaron Stephenson  
 FOCM Board Treasurer  
 2008