

The White Pine Gazette

Volume 71

Summer 2023

Dear Friends,

Curiosity is defined as a strong eagerness to learn or know something. Recently we enjoyed a hike at Toft Point with two granddaughters, ages 10 and 12. Their questions and curiosity are inspiring. I don't remember all the questions and observations, but somewhere during our hike we discussed: Are thimbleberries related to maple trees? How did all the stones on the cobble stone beach get there? Why is the striped coral root orchid still blooming along the south trail when all of it has faded on the main trail? Toft Point inspires questions and wonder. During that hike we found hundreds of butterflies pollinating the bushes near the homestead and saw the sea of hawkweed blossoms closer to the cobblestone beach.

Curiosity draws many other people to Toft Point. On a recent hike we ran into Professor Keir Wefferling from UW-Green Bay and Ellie Scott, a UW-GB student majoring in Chemistry and Environmental Science. The Friends of Toft Point Stewardship Board awarded a student grant to Ellie for her research on **“Lichen Used as a Bioindicator of Air Quality at Toft Point State Natural Area.”** Additional funds were provided for a research assistant on the project. We are looking forward to seeing the results of her work. The Friends of Toft Point Stewardship Board is working closely with the Cofrin Center to make funds available early in the student grant application process to encourage more student research at Toft Point.

Previously, the Friends of Toft Point provided funds to support Hunter Papham's research on the Toft Point mammal population. See <https://diglib.uwgb.edu/digital/collection/p17003coll1>. He gathered information on mammals by using trail cameras and other methods, and his thesis includes many interesting maps and charts. Most importantly, his work established a good record of the mammals at Toft Point at this time, so that we can monitor whether the wildlife is changing over the years. Curiosity motivated him to dedicate his time and energy to studying these animals for many months.

We have also welcomed several new docents, Kathleen Harris, Sadie Nelson, and Julie Roenigk, to help answer questions from curious visitors. You do not need to be an expert naturalist to be a docent, although some of our docents are certainly expert. Docents bring their curiosity to Toft Point, learn from others, and share a caring presence with visitors to help preserve Toft Point. We could use more docents, especially for weekends, and someone to help manage the docent schedule, with help from Charlotte and others in learning the ropes. **If you would like to take on a more active role as a curious Friend of Toft Point, please email me at james.cauley@gmail.com.**

Finally, if you are curious, come to our August 19 Annual Meeting to hear Professor Amanda (Mandy) Banet, the newly appointed Director of the Cofrin Center for Biodiversity, talk about the Cofrin Center and Toft Point.

Thanks once again for your support,

Jim Cauley, President of the Friends of Toft Point

Stewardship Board and Officers

Jim Cauley	President	2023
Mitch Leavitt	Vice-President	2025
Nancy Dickson	Secretary	2025
Tom Hollingshead	Treasurer	2023
Jay Dickson		2025
Dave Link		2024
Charlotte Lukes		2024
John Maring		2024
Marsha Wilson		2023

Dr. Mandy Banet, UWGB CCB Director
Bobbie Webster UWGB Natural Areas Ecologist
Charlotte Lukes Newsletter Editor

Membership Report

Annual Members.....	216
<u>Life Members.....</u>	<u>175</u>
Total	391

NEW ANNUAL MEMBERS

Catherine Antczak	Madison, WI
Jim & Pat Blair	Ephraim, WI
Richard & Mary Brown	Green Bay, WI
Susan & George Dugan	Baileys Harbor, WI
Kathleen Harris	Baileys Harbor, WI
John & Margaret Herman	Madison, WI
Jone & Kurt Kiefer	Baileys Harbor, WI
Randy Roenigk	Rochester, MN & Sister Bay
Carol Rogers Slusser	St. Charles, IL
Margaret Watzka	Green Bay, WI

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Marilyn McDonald	Oberlin, OH
Joe & Sharon Neuman	Milwaukee, WI

UWGB Report

Bobbie Webster

Previous issues of this newsletter have introduced you to the Cofrin Center for Biodiversity's new Director, Dr. Mandy Banet. We are thrilled that, as of June 12th, Dr. Banet officially began her role. In just a short time she has already hiked the main trail at Toft Point, attended a Stewardship Board meeting and greeted and hosted participants of the boat tours.

On June 22nd and 27th Laura Jarosz from the University Advancement Department organized several boat tours to view Toft Point from the water. Dr. Mandy Banet and Erin Giese (Cofrin Center's Senior Research Specialist) led the tours with Dr. Chris Houghton (UW-Green Bay Professor) as the boat captain and tour guide. Many docents and Friends had the opportunity to see the natural area from off-shore, which brought a different perspective. CCB staff really enjoyed getting to know Friends docents and members and appreciated everyone's attendance.



This is the boat used to tour Toft Point in June.

C. Lukes

The Cofrin Center for Biodiversity's Development Director, Jacob Depas, who also worked half-time for the College of Science, Engineering and Technology, has left to pursue a new role at a non-profit organization. We are so grateful for all the relationships and projects Jacob cultivated at UW-Green Bay and we already miss him.

In May Dr. Keir Wefferling, along with students Alyssa Powell and Nick Gabbard, led a three-day bryophyte workshop at The Ridges Sanctuary on peatlands to identify and log populations of mosses. There were 20 participants and they visited sites on both the Ridges and Toft Point lands, including boreal rich fens, northern sedge meadows and northern wet-mesic forests.

Andrew LaPlant helped Dr. Keir Wefferling conduct plant surveys at Toft Point in late June when many sedges were in flower. Dr. Wefferling has now identified 22 species of sedges (*Carex*), 3 spikerush (*Eleocharis*), 2 bulrushes (*Trichophorum*) and one cottongrass (*Eriophorum*). Dr. Wefferling also led another botany hike at Toft Point in mid-June for our trail docents.

One of the important activities made possible by the Friends of Toft Point is student research at this natural area. Ellie Scott, a Junior Chemistry and Environmental Science major, is studying lichens this summer, which we are very excited about. We have limited data on lichen species richness and distribution at Toft and Ellie's work will be essential for building our knowledge. Another student, soon to be named, will be surveying upland plants near areas where Ellie will work.



The boat trip gave us a view of the big bayou in the southeastern part of Toft Point. Canadian wildfire smoke made the skies gray. C. Lukes

Friends of Toft Point – Membership Form

New____ Renewal____

Single Annual _____ \$10.00 Single Life Membership _____ \$250 (payable in 2 annual installments)

Family Annual _____ \$20.00 Couple Life Membership _____ \$400 (payable in 2 annual installments)

Contribution \$ _____ (Please check category) General Expenses _____ Student Research Fund _____

Operating Endowment Fund _____ Invasives Endowment Fund _____

Do you want your newsletter sent via email _____ or a hard copy via postal service _____?

Please print clearly

Name _____ Phone _____

Summer Address _____

Winter Address _____

E-mail _____

UW-Green Bay Foundation
Is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization
All dues and donations are tax deductible.

Make check payable to **UW-Green Bay Foundation-FOTP**
MAIL TO: UW-Green Bay Foundation
2420 Nicolet Drive
Green Bay, WI 54311-7001

Volunteer Opportunities

Trail Docent (training provided) _____

Trail Maintenance (supervised crews) _____

Invasive Plant Removal _____

Serve on Stewardship Board (6 meetings per year) _____

Help with Annual Meeting & Potluck in August _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Call Jim Cauley if interested in
helping 414-332-6201

Friends of Toft Point
% C. Lukes
3962 Hillside Rd
Egg Harbor WI 54209

Come to the Friends of Toft Point 24th Annual Meeting Saturday, August 19th

We will have joy in the return of our wonderful **potluck lunch at noon**
Set-up begins at 11 AM in the Baileys Harbor Town Hall

The annual meeting will follow and then we'll have a presentation by the Cofrin Center for Biodiversity's new Director, Dr. Mandy Banet.

Bring your own plate and eating utensils. Lemonade and coffee will be provided.

Bring a casserole, salad or dessert and your serving spoon with your name on it in case it is left behind. If anyone wants to volunteer to set up or do clean up let Jim Cauley or Charlotte know.

If you plan to attend, please email Charlotte Lukes to tell her, or leave a phone message – clukes@mwwb.net 920-823-2478