

# *The White Pine Gazette*

*Volume 33*

*Autumn 2013*

Dear Friend,

One of our major efforts as a Friends group has been to help the UW Green Bay Cofrin Center for Biodiversity fight to control the invasive non-native Phragmites on the shoreline of the Toft Point State Natural Area. When the Wisconsin DNR control program ended due to lack of funding, the University and our volunteers picked up where they left off.

Josh Martinez, the university's land steward, had monitored and mapped last year's DNR control areas, and in July checked on the results of their spraying. With this information we were able to target the colonies of Phragmites that had survived past treatment.

In mid-September Josh, who is certified to hand spray in wet areas, used a backpack sprayer for the dense patches at the shoreline. The volunteers focused on the scattered individual plants using a newly introduced method. The herbicide is applied onto a cotton work glove worn over a rubber glove. The saturated glove is then swiped upward over the leaves of the plant. This method has proven to be effective and avoids over-spraying protected plants.

Our thanks go out to the following hardy volunteers who worked several long hot days in muddy boots. They are Bill Johnson, Mitch Leavitt, Dave Link, Glenna Peters, Jim Rogers, Marc Savard and Joe Wallner. While we all agreed that the job was taxing, the job site rewarded us with sightings of Wilson Snipe, Leopard Frogs, Bald Eagles, hundreds of lovely native marsh plants and a young White-tail Deer that we surprised at the beach.

There are still some large Phragmites patches remaining on the south shoreline that Josh did not have time to treat. For these our Friends group has contracted with Bob Bultman of Restore Door Ecological Services. Our Invasives Endowment Fund is being put to good use and the fight will continue.

Nick Anderson, President



Mud Bay shoreline in late September

Roy Lukes photo

## Board of Directors & Terms

Nick Anderson – President	2016
Marc Savard – Vice-president	2014
Liz Wallner – Secretary	2014
Nancy Rafal – Treasurer	2015
Bill Johnson	2015
Mitch Leavitt	2016
Charlotte Lukes	2015
Ray Stonecipher	2016
Joe Wallner	2014

UWGB Advisor - Dr. Robert Howe  
Newsletter Editor – Charlotte Lukes

We thank retiring board members Jim Jennings and Roy Lukes for their service to the Friends.

We welcome two new board members, Mitch Leavitt of Baileys Harbor and Ray Stonecipher of Sturgeon Bay.

## Membership Report

Annual Members	191
Life Members	<u>99</u>
Total Membership	290

### New Life Members

Alice Essling.....Elmhurst, IL  
Mitch & Jean Leavitt .....Baileys Harbor, WI

### New Annual Members

Paul & Gloria Halverson.....Brookfield, WI  
Robert & Martha Judd.....Ellison Bay, WI  
Eileen & David Littig.....Green Bay, WI  
Julie & Randy Roenick.....Rochester, MN  
Bob & Sue Ryan.....Algoma, WI

Members who have passed away are Sarah Naber of Sister Bay and Rik Warch of Ellison Bay.

We are also sad to report that another member has moved on to a new job, (sad for us, good for him). That is Josh Martinez who was the Land Steward for UWGB. He devoted so much time and effort in helping our Friends group at the Point. He has taken a position with the DNR in northern Wisconsin. We wish him well.

### **NOTE**

Check your mailing label. It tells you the month and year that your membership expires. Please use the form near the end of this newsletter to renew. **THANK YOU!**

## Trail Docent Report for 2013

Eighteen trail docents submitted 93 visitor survey reports for the season from May 9<sup>th</sup> to October 24<sup>th</sup>. We thank the following for their volunteer work: Nick Anderson, Susan Basten, Jay & Nancy Dickson, Roxanne Hanney, Lee Ann Harling, Judy Hollingshead, Eugene Jarvis, Missy Kjellenberg, Lucy Klug, Roy & Charlotte Lukes, Karen Sandstrom, Marc Savard, Judy Turner, Joe & Liz Wallner and Jane Whitney.

The original tract had 312 vehicles and 815 people. The south addition had 141 vehicles and 304 people. Not every trail docent reported on activity in the south addition and the coverage of months during the season was about 50% on average.

Many docents helped with invasive plant removal. Those doing this extra work included Nick Anderson, Missy Kjellenberg, Lucy Klug, Karen Sandstrom, Joe & Liz Wallner and Jane Whitney. They were joined by Friends members Mitch Leavitt and Mary Smythe.

Vehicles were reported mostly from Wisconsin and Illinois, but also from Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas and Canada.

Thanks also go to Joe & Liz Wallner for hosting the spring docent organizational meeting and to Liz for all her work in setting up and maintaining the calendars for the docent sign-ups.

We are always looking for members to become new trail docents each year. Training is available and if you know one of the docents, give them a call to learn more about this valuable job.



Woolly Velvet Polypore, *Inonotus tomentosus* Beth Bartoli photo

**14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of  
Friends of Toft Point, Inc.  
Sunday, August 18, 2013**

President Nick Anderson called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm in the Baileys Harbor Town Hall after another delicious potluck lunch. There were 50 members and guests in attendance.

Liz Wallner read the minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting which were approved.

**Financial reports** were given by Treasurer, Nancy Rafal, showing 2012 income of \$ 4,420 and expenses of \$2,600.38. The general fund balance at the end of 2012 was \$12,121.32. The Operating Endowment Fund had a balance of \$20,214.42. The Invasives Endowment Fund showed a balance of \$645.92.

Charlotte Lukes gave the **Membership Report** saying we have 180 annual members and 98 life members for a total of 278 members.

The **Trail Docent Report** was presented by Liz Wallner. She thanked and recognized all those docents who had contributed to the excellent coverage this year. Ninety half-day work times were covered and she made a plea for more docents. Liz provided sign-up sheets for the rest of August, September and October and noted that training is available to anyone interested in volunteering. Nick also thanked the docents.

The **UWGB report** was given by Josh Martinez. He said that there will be no spraying at Toft Point this year by the DNR. However, there will be some spraying in northern Door this year as part of the three-year DNR program. He estimated that the Phragmites at the Point has been reduced by 95%. He noted that this has been a busy year for Phragmites treatment on his part. Last fall the DNR sprayed with the helicopter and back pack. This year Josh has worked with the DNR to reciprocate their efforts. He said he would be asking for FOTP volunteers to treat the remaining Phragmites. He thanked Mitch and Jean Leavitt for following up with the Garlic Mustard eradication while he was gone.

Josh said that students from the University of South Dakota will be studying the Hines Emerald Dragonfly again this year at Toft Point. He reported that the deer hunting season went very well last year. Five antlerless deer and one buck were taken. He noted that the deer population at the Point was under control and the university only allows responsible hunters to use the area during the gun season. Judy Hollingshead, along with others, expressed the desire to be notified of work crews and removal efforts well before the event so that we can make plans to participate. Josh said that he and Bob Howe are working on better ways to communicate with the trail docents.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Invasive Species:** (See Josh's report) Nick noted that docents, Lucy Klug and Karen Sandstrom, are still pulling the Spotted Knapweed and some Helleborine

Orchids were removed by Missy Kjellenberg. We will be treating the Japanese Knotweed near the end of August and will also work on the Phragmites in the fall. Jane Whitney continues to cut and bag the European Swamp Thistle.

**Trail Maintenance:** Nick reported that Josh has done excellent work in maintaining the trails and clearing trees that have come down. He noted that once down, and the trail cleared, the trees need to remain as close to where they fell as possible. This is UWGB Cofrin Biodiversity Center policy. Nick and Roy have also been active in maintaining open trails.

**Big Trees:** Roy reported that he has had success in measuring big trees this past year. Roy & Charlotte were invited to measure a large Horse Chestnut tree on Airport Rd on Washington Island. It may be a new state record. Steve Waldron, the science teacher on Washington Island, helped Roy measure a huge Ironwood tree not far from the Horse Chestnut. A new possible state record Sugar Maple was measured late last fall near Sturgeon Bay. Roger Anderson, owner of the tree, is very proud of it and will be sure to protect it.

**Old Business:** Nick said that the DNR and Toft volunteers will be netting and counting bats this Tuesday night out at the Point. He also mentioned the ongoing research on the Hines Emerald Dragonfly by people from the University of South Dakota.

Nick said the Friends of Toft Point, Inc. made a \$100 donation to the Adopt an Eagle program sponsored by the DNR to help finance the surveying of Bald Eagles in Wisconsin.

**New Business: Election of Board Members**

Due to the resignation of Tom Turriff earlier this year (whose term was completed by Roy Lukes) and the retirement of Jim Jennings, two new board members were sought. Mitch Leavitt and Ray Stonecipher have agreed to serve. Nick Anderson's term was ending and he agreed to continue serving on the Board. Calls for nominations from the floor were unanswered so a unanimous ballot was cast and all three were elected.

The **Weed Whacker Award** was presented to Josh Martinez by former recipient Lucy Klug. Josh was commended for the fine work he has done using all the acceptable methods at his disposal to help us identify and eradicate invasive species at Toft Point. Josh enthusiastically accepted the award and thanked all of the FOTP for this exceptional honor.

Nick reported that on September 12, 2013 at 7:00 pm Wisconsin Public Television will air a new program called "Emma Toft – One with Nature." Those who wish to preview this program can see it at Crossroads Learning Center on Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm.

Roy & Charlotte announced that they will be leading a members' hike at Toft Point on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am and 1:30 pm. Please RSVP to the email they are sending out.

There being no further business the 14<sup>th</sup> annual meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Liz Wallner, Secretary

A program followed; "The Mushrooms of Toft Point" by Charlotte Lukes.

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## Bat Research at Toft Point

In mid-August, as part of the ongoing monitoring of the bat population in Wisconsin, the Friends participated in an evening session of mist netting and counting of the resident bats of Toft Point. At 7:00 pm on August 20<sup>th</sup> we met Jennifer Redell, a DNR research biologist, and three of her assistants, along with Bob Bultman, one of Door County's most knowledgeable bat advocates. They proceeded to set up mist nets on poles about eight feet off the ground. Any bats captured in the nets could then be hand inspected for infections such as the white nose syndrome, a fungus disease that is decimating bat populations in the east and is spreading into Kentucky and Missouri.

The Friends group consisted of Mitch and Jean Leavitt, Roy and Mary Thilly, Laura and Mike Holt and myself. Our job was to count the bats as they emerged at dusk for their nocturnal insect hunt. At 8:15 we manned our posts at the big barn, the boathouse and the three cabins to begin the count. As predicted, the bats were soon spilling out of the buildings, silhouetted against the fading light. Before it became too dark the tally at the barn was 96 and 15 at the boathouse. The cabins had no confirmed residents.

We then focused our attention on the mist netting and saw, to our disappointment, that no bats were being captured. By 10:00 pm, when we folded the nets, not one bat had been snared. Evidently their acute radar had detected even the fine netting. Thanks to the hand-held Anabat detector we used, all of the bats counted were identified as Little Brown Bats.

Briana Kupsky, a Research Assistant at UWGB, is reviewing information from the August bat survey at Toft Point. In 2012 Little Brown Bats and Northern Long-eared Bats were recorded. This year Little Brown, Northern Long-eared, Red, Big Brown and possibly the Hoary Bat were recorded. All expected species were found except the Silver-haired Bat. Briana still had hundreds of Anabat files to examine as of September 23, 2013 when this information was received.

Toft Point was an enchanting place to be on that moonlit summer evening. Even the mosquitos were not a problem. We can thank the bats for that.

Nick Anderson

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## 2009 and 2013 Comparison of Toft Point Visitors

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2013</u>
Docents volunteering	16	18
Reports turned in	62	93
Main Trail Vehicles	187	312
Main Trail People	438	815
South Point Vehicles	75	141
South Point People	135	304

It is obvious that since the Town of Baileys Harbor placed a Toft Point road sign at the entrance our visitor numbers have really increased. We also know that many other places like State Parks and The Ridges Sanctuary have a fee to use their trails. We don't. So more people come here knowing there is no charge to hike.



Sandhill Crane pair

Roy Lukes photo

## Toft Point Mushrooms - New Additions

Late summer and fall have been very wet and that is good for finding more mushrooms. My Door County list has grown to 598 species. The site with the most, 244 species, is Whitefish Dunes State Park. Now Toft Point is in second place with 150. I sent full descriptions of 20 more species found at Toft Point since early September to the UWGB web site. We also gave them 68 more photos to add for the new species and better pictures for some that are already in the site.

Two species found are also new to Door County. They are *Agaricus cretaceus* and *Gomphidius glutinosus*. Fortunately when I found one of these and did not have a camera, my friend Beth Bartoli had hers and was able to get good photographs.

A very different type of fungus was found on a small *Mycena* species growing on the ground in the woods. It is called the Pin Mold or Bonnet Mould in England. It is parasitic on several species of mushrooms. It was first discovered by a German naturalist in 1818. The Zygospores are produced in black balls at the ends of fine filaments which coat the *Mycena* mushroom.



Golden Pholiota, *Pholiota aurivella*

Beth Bartoli photo



Pin Mold *Spinellus fusiger*

Beth Bartoli photo

Some people despair at the wet soggy autumn, but I rejoice for the welcomed moisture that will aid trees going into the winter season and help mushrooms continue their important work as nature's recyclers.

Charlotte Lukes

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To those receiving this newsletter via the US Postal Service you can get it sooner via E-mail. It is converted to a Pdf file and most people who have internet and E-mail can download the free Adobe Reader. This saves the Friends of Toft Point paper and postage. Send a note to the editor, Charlotte Lukes at [Rnclukes@mwwb.net](mailto:Rnclukes@mwwb.net) to make the change.

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Emma Toft – One with Nature is a half-hour video which premiered on Wisconsin Public Television on September 12, 2013. Roy Lukes is one of the people interviewed. The entire program is packed with information about Miss Emma and Toft Point.

I have copies for sale. I paid \$25 each for them and will send you copies for that price.

Contact me, Nancy Rafal, FOTP, Inc. Treasurer, at [mrsticket@gmail.com](mailto:mrsticket@gmail.com) if you would like a copy. Or you can send a check, made out to me, to this address:

Nancy Rafal  
PO Box 340  
Baileys Harbor, WI 54202

Please let me know by December 31, 2013.

## Big Tree Update

A grand total of 37 tree species, mostly native and a few non-natives, have been measured and photographed thus far over the past seven years. Our group doing the field work includes Nick Anderson, Dave Link, Roy Lukes and Marc Savard. Mike Madden and Tom Turriff have also helped. We always welcome notices of un-recorded trees.

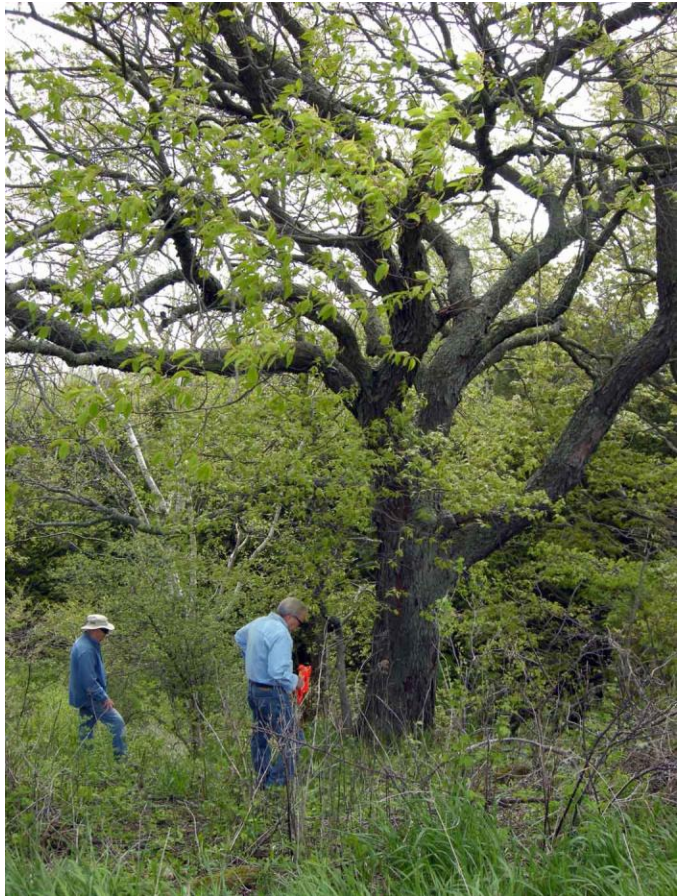
Species that have been measured the most are White Ash, Eastern White Cedar, Eastern Cottonwood, Sugar Maple and White Pine. Strangely two species which have yet to be recorded are the native Tamarack and Red Pine. Hopefully these trees will be discovered, measured and added to our list before the end of the year.

A new species, a European Larch located near the village of Egg Harbor, will soon be measured and added to the list. Even though it quite closely resembles our native Tamarack, both of which are now in their beautiful smoky gold fall color, the needles and cones of the European Larch are roughly twice the length as our native Tamarack's cones and needles.

New Door County champion trees recently measured include an Eastern Hemlock on Rock Island and a Black Cherry on the Door County Land Trust Legacy Preserve in southern Door County.

Measurements of the Eastern Hemlock are: circumference 114 inches, height 72 feet and  $\frac{1}{4}$  average crown spread 14 feet, giving it a total of 200 points. That makes it the new biggest of its kind in the county.

The Black Cherry has a circumference of 92 inches, height of 37 feet and  $\frac{1}{4}$  average crown spread of 14 feet, giving it 143 points. It ranks as the third largest Black Cherry measured so far.



Tom Turriff and Marc Savard measure the Land Trust Black Cherry  
Charlotte Lukes photo

There are still many trees to find and measure in Door County. Our hope is to have all the biggest trees photographed and recorded so that the Friends of Toft Point, Inc. can publish a booklet for sale to the public.

Keep looking for the big trees in Door County and alert any one of the big tree team members about the trees so that they can be recorded and included in this book.

Roy Lukes



### Mission Statement of the Friends of Toft Point

To support the Maintenance Plan of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, to help preserve the flora and fauna of Toft Point and to help educate visitors about the natural history and the Toft Family history of this State Natural Area and National Natural Landmark.



Don Bartoli & Roy measure the new record Eastern Hemlock  
Charlotte Lukes photo

**Friends of Toft Point, Inc.-Membership Form**    New \_\_\_ Renew \_\_\_

Single Annual \_\_\_ @ \$10.00 - Single Life Membership \_\_\_ @ \$250 (Payable in 2 annual gifts)

Family Annual \_\_\_ @ \$20.00 - Family Life \_\_\_ @ \$400 (Payable in 2 annual gifts)

Contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for General Expenses \_\_\_\_\_ for Operating Endowment Fund \_\_\_\_\_

for Invasive Species Endowment Fund \_\_\_\_\_

Please print-

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Summer address \_\_\_\_\_

Winter address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

The Friends of Toft Point, Inc.  
is a 501 ( c ) (3) non-profit organization.  
All dues and donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Make Check payable to: **Friends of Toft Point, Inc.**  
MAIL TO: Charlotte Lukes  
3962 Hillside Rd  
Egg Harbor, WI 54209

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**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

**Trail Docent** (training provided) \_\_\_\_\_

**Trail Maintenance** (supervised crews) \_\_\_\_\_

**Invasive Plant Removal** (supervised) \_\_\_\_\_

**Big Tree Recording** (with assigned crew) \_\_\_\_\_

**Serve on Board of Directors** (six meetings per year) \_\_\_\_\_

**Help with Annual Meeting & Potluck in August** \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Fill in form and mail to: **Nick Anderson, PO Box 586, Fish Creek, WI 54212**

Friends of Toft Point, Inc.  
C. Lukes, Editor  
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The Slimy Gomphidius *Gomphidius glutinosus*

Beth Bartoli photo

