



The White Pine Gazette

A Quarterly Publication for the Friends of Toft Point

<https://www.uwgb.edu/natural-areas/toft-point-natural-area/friends-of-toft-point/>

Volume 83

Summer 2026

Dear Friends,

Recently we enjoyed a hike with two teen granddaughters at Toft Point. Amazing how much they remember and how much they have learned in school that they can apply during a hike with curiosity. And so many questions! Each of them mentioned how Toft Point is such a special place to explore – especially the mosses and striped coralroot orchids. I hope that each of you can hike at Toft Point with curiosity this summer.

At our most recent Stewardship Board meeting, I informed the Board members that this will be my last year serving as the President of the Friends of Toft Point. My commitments to a variety of different programs, including several *pro bono* clinics, Wills for Heroes and Street Law programs in Milwaukee, combined with the time needed for increasing family obligations, have made it increasingly clear to me that I cannot juggle all these obligations. Service for the Friends of Toft Point is deeply rewarding, but unfortunately, FOTP is the most difficult obligation to try to manage and schedule around, so this will be my last year as President.

The Stewardship Board now needs to identify a new president from either the current Stewardship Board members or from other Friends of Toft Point. I did promise to work closely with the next president to provide a smooth transition. In addition, we want to develop a list of candidates to fill other Board positions as they open in the future.

Please contact me if you are interested in serving on the Friends of Toft Point Stewardship Board or as president. If you are interested in supporting our work at Toft Point or have a question, please contact me at james.cauley@gmail.com

Finally, save the date for the Friends of Toft Point Annual Meeting and Potluck on Saturday, August 15th, at noon at Baileys Harbor Town Hall.

Thanks for being a Friend of Toft Point.

Jim Cauley, *President, Friends of Toft Point Stewardship Board*



*Yellow Lady Slipper.
Sandy Miller photo*

On the Trails by Sandy Miller, Docent Coordinator

The Friends of Toft Point docents are back on the trails welcoming visitors and providing information about the Toft family history, and the plants, birds and other animals that call Toft Point home. Docents welcomed nearly 300 visitors in May and June.

Cool spring temperatures with occasional foggy mornings and rain showers resulted in lush vegetation along the trails, including bountiful blooming wildflowers. Assistant professor Keir Wefferling from UW-Green Bay led a hike for docents at the end of May, pointing out many of the overlooked mosses and liverworts that live in the Toft Point State Natural Area.

If you enjoy being outdoors and sharing information with other people or welcoming people to a place they have

never visited before, consider being a Toft Point trail docent. Whether you volunteer once a week or once a month, this is the perfect opportunity for you to share your knowledge, enthusiasm and passion for Toft Point.

If you are interested in finding out more about being a Friends of Toft Point docent, contact Jim Cauley at james.cauley@gmail.com or Sandy Miller, docent coordinator, at millesj27@gmail.com. On-site training and written materials are provided to all persons who volunteer as a docent. You can start any time during the season, which runs May through October.

Photos by Sandy Miller

*Canada
Mayflower.*



Columbine along the trail.



Lupine in the field behind the barn.



Keir Wefferling (in burnt orange shirt) lead a docent hike May 25th.

A Favorite Summer Event!



Male (Somatochlora hineana).
Wikipedia photo

Partially retired, Mike Grimm worked for The Nature Conservancy as a conservation ecologist. He is credited with creating "The Door Peninsula Project" while leading other conservation projects, including work on Hines Emerald Dragonflies.

Join August 15th's annual meeting and learn more about Mike's work and this federally listed Endangered Species found at The Ridges in Baileys Harbor.



Mike Grimm
Photo courtesy of Door County Daily News

27th Annual Meeting and Potluck Lunch

It's our favorite summer event for
The Friends of Toft Point!

Saturday, August 15th, 2026
at the
Baileys Harbor Town Hall

Set-up begins at 11am with
the potluck starting at noon.

The annual meeting will follow at 1pm.

Guest Speaker
Mike Grimm
will talk on
Hines Emerald Dragonflies.

Please bring your own plates and
eating utensils along with a main dish,
salad or dessert to share.
Also bring a serving spoon with your name
on it in case it's left behind.

To help with planning,
call or email Jim Cauley at
414.332.6201 or james.cauley@gmail.com
if you plan to attend so enough
chairs and tables will be set.

See you there!

Annual Toft Point Bryoramble by Keir Wefferling

Keir Wefferling led the fourth annual Bryoramble at Toft Point and The Ridges Sanctuary on May 9th, with 18 folks attending from across the state, about half of them students. We found all sorts of goodies, learned a lot, laughed even more, and felt lucky to be visitors to this incredible area. We even sang some bryophyte songs.



Ruffwort (*Moerckia* sp.) growing in the white cedar swamp at Toft Point.

Keir led a hike with the Friends of Toft Point trail docents on May 25th. We found a lot in bloom and tried out the new *Trailside Guide to the Mosses and Liverworts of Toft Point State Natural Area*, illustrated by Sarah Baughman, with coauthors Tony Klingert, Alex Powell, and Keir Wefferling.

Undergraduate student Jackson Dooley is performing surveys on holoparasitic and

hemiparasitic plants at Toft Point SNA. So far we've located a robust population of pinesap (*Hypopitys monotropa*), lots of coralroot (*Corallorhiza maculata* and *C. striata*), bastard toadflax (*Comandra umbellata*), and dodder (*Cuscuta* spp.). These occurrence data will be used to better understand the distribution and community networks of native parasitic plants in our region.

Graduate student Miranda Holloway is continuing her work on peatmoss carbon dynamics and diversity at Toft Point and The Ridges Sanctuary, and will wrap up the field studies for her thesis this summer.

Keir Wefferling, with students and colleagues, is collecting water chemistry data (including temperature, pH, conductivity, and salinity) this summer from a number of peatlands, including the white cedar swamps, boreal rich fens, and northern sedge meadow of Toft



UWGB-CCB students collecting water chemistry data at Cedarburg Bog SNA.



L to R: James Riser and Joe Rohrer admiring *Rhytidiadelphus supinates*. Mark Shropshire photo

Point SNA. We hope to pair water data with plant community surveys to better understand indicator species (i.e., what can the presence of a given species tell us about the wetland plant community?) and the effects of water chemistry on bryophyte presence and absence.

Photos by Keir Wefferling unless otherwise noted.

Below: Northern oak fern (*Gymnocarpium dryopteris*), Toft Point.



Participants in the fourth annual Toft-Ridges Bryoramble at Toft Point, May 2026.

The Ebenezer, courtesy of Wisconsin Shipwrecks

Built in 1863 by E. Sorenson at the Soren Anderson shipyard in Fort Howard (Green Bay), the *Ebenezer* was a wooden hulled two-masted schooner built to carry stone. It was just under 92' long with a 22.5' beam and an 8' depth of hold. The ship was owned by J.A. Buckley and E.J. Wing of Manistee, Michigan. They were equal partners of the vessel, having purchased it from E. Sorenson, G. Gunderson and S. Anderson. Grand Haven, Michigan, was *Ebenezer's* home port.

Service History

1863: Built at Fort Howard, Wisconsin. In the years 1874 and 1875 she was valued at \$5,500 and rated B1.¹

May 17, 1869: Chicago, the *Ebenezer* collided with the smaller schooner *Hattie* of Sheboygan.

October 17, 1878: The *Ebenezer* was sold in Milwaukee at a sheriff's auction for \$1,000, which covered the cost of a claim for \$710.87 in seamen's wages.

1879: The Inland Lloyd's Register rated the *Ebenezer* B2 with a value of \$1,800.

June 14, 1879: The *Ebenezer* was severely damaged when the ore laden schooner *S. Anderson* collided with her approximately 20 miles south of Port Washington.

October 1880: Chicago, the *Ebenezer* was engaged in trade between Mud Bay and Manistee, Michigan.

Last Document of Enrollment Surrendered: Grand Haven: August 25, 1881: "Reported Lost".

Final Voyage

"On Friday evening, October 15, 1880, the *Ebenezer* was at anchor off Mud Bay loaded with stone when the Alpena Gale set in from the northwest. About 2:00 a.m. Saturday morning, the wind suddenly changed to the southeast, blowing heavy and increasing in severity all day, surpassing anything known in the area for 16 years.

"On Saturday night, the *Ebenezer* dragged ashore and was thrown on the rocks inside of the quarry dock. Although all hands were saved, the schooner was pounded on the outside by the seas and on the inside by the cargo of stone to a total wreck. Captain E. Swinton was offered \$150 for what was left of the *Ebenezer* and thought that was all the wreck was worth, but there is no record of such a transaction taking place."

Footnote

1. In the late 1800s, a B1 rating for a merchant vessel meant it was considered "second tier" but still seaworthy. B1-rated ships were frequently relegated to carrying bulk, non-perishable goods (like coal, grain or timber) on shorter, less demanding routes. Because the hull was deemed second-class, underwriters required higher insurance premiums to charter or load a B1-rated ship compared to a premium, top-classed "A1" vessel. The "1" defines the ship's equipment (masts, sails, anchors, etc.) in good, well-maintained working condition.

Sources

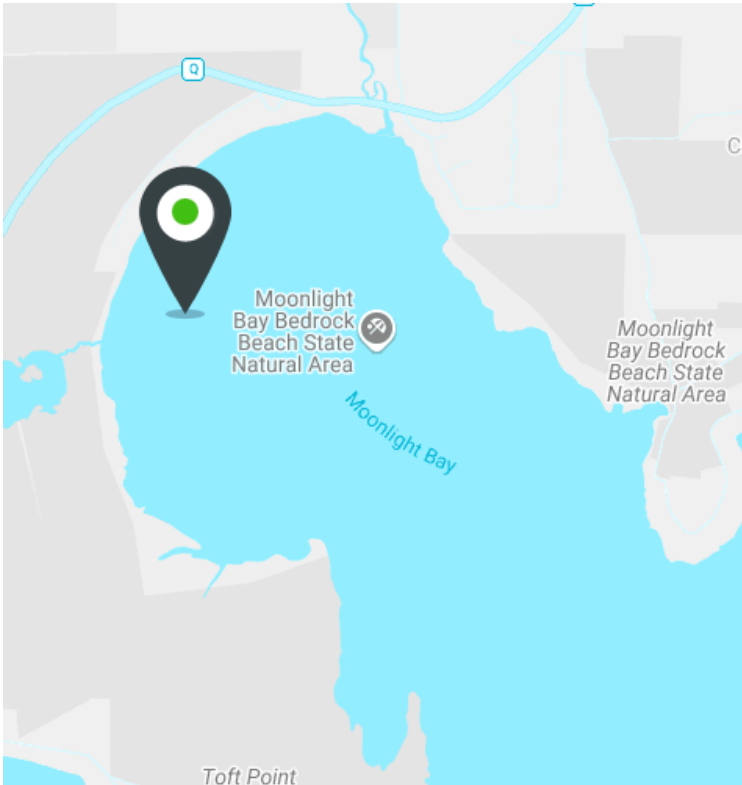
- *Schooner Days in Door County* by Walter M. and Mary K. Hirthe
- Wikipedia for vessel rating definition
- Wisconsin Shipwrecks <https://www.wisconsinshipwrecks.org/Vessel/Details/155?region=UpprLakeMichigan>

A ship lies grounded in the shallow waters of Mud Bay (part of Moonlight Bay), off Toft Point. Photo was taken by Ferdinand Hotz in 1915.

*Photo credit:
Wisconsin Historical Society, W0147YI.*



The Ebenezer, courtesy of Wisconsin Shipwrecks



Wisconsin Shipwrecks' marker confirmed where the *Ebenezer* grounded.

June's setting sun, Moonlight Bay. Paul Kuenn photo



From Lucy Toft's Journal of Anecdotes shared by Tom Hollingshead

Some Apples That Were Given to Us

One Sunday evening, my friend Alice came to my home because her father had asked her to go out and see her grandparents and she wanted me to go with her. Alice's grandparents lived about two miles from the village so we walked there.

After we had stayed a while, Alice's grandparents gave us each a large shiny red apple. I think they were Wolf Rivers. We took our apples and started back home. When we had gone a short distance on our walk, we had to cross a small creek.

As there had been quite a lot of rain, the creek was flowing fine and I was very much interested in it. I coaxed Alice to go with me into the farmyard that the creek ran through. We walked a ways and then came back.



Just as we reached the road, we could see the owners coming. They always went to the Catholic Church at Baileys Harbor. When church was over, they would both go into the saloon and get a good jag on before they came home.

When they got down to us, they both began yelling. They thought that we stole the apples out of their orchard. We tried to tell them where we got the apples from but they kept on yelling at us and said they would get the sheriff after us. I just stood there petrified and Alice kept telling me to come on! I was so scared you can perhaps imagine what I had already done.

Finally I left and we decided to go up on the hill and walk home through the woods. We kept peeking out to see if the sheriff was coming but we got home safely and heard no more about it.

Friends of Toft Point Membership Form

Are you interested in helping to preserve this important natural area? Consider joining the Friends of Toft Point. This group provides docents to monitor trails and assists visitors. They also remove invasive plants and help in the maintenance of trails and historic cabins on the grounds. The organization raises money to fund projects and offers research scholarships for UW-Green Bay students to study site biodiversity.

Volunteer Opportunities

Help with annual August meeting and
potluck _____
Invasive plant removal _____
Serve on Stewardship Board _____
(six meetings per year) _____
Trail docent (training provided) _____
Trail maintenance (supervised crew) _____

Return with membership form, or contact
Jim Cauley at 414.332.6201 or
james.cauley@gmail.com if interested
in helping.



What a wonderful place to sit and enjoy oneself!
Mitch Leavitt photo.



Your membership includes:

- The quarterly *White Pine Gazette* Newsletter
- An Invitation to the Annual Meeting
- Opportunities to volunteer

UW-Green Bay Foundation is a
501c(3) non-profit organization.

All dues and donations are tax deductible, as
provided by law.

Memberships and/or donations can be made
online:

[https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/donor-form/?
svcid=renxt&formId=0cd77980-2b8d-4159-8d13-
5c5a46f3c177&envid=p-cUM3yBC0Hk-
m726lPe553g&zone=usa](https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/donor-form/?svcid=renxt&formId=0cd77980-2b8d-4159-8d13-5c5a46f3c177&envid=p-cUM3yBC0Hk-m726lPe553g&zone=usa)

Or, if preferred, make check payable to:

UW-Green Bay Foundation—FOTP

Mail to:

UW-Green Bay Foundation
2420 Nicolet Drive
Green Bay, WI 54311-7001

Date _____ Email Newsletter? _____ Yes

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

New _____ Renewal _____

Membership Categories:

\$ 10 Single Annual
\$ 20 Family Annual
\$250 Single Life (payable in two annual installments)
\$400 Family Life (payable in two annual installments)

Additional Contribution \$ _____ **

** Please select category for gift to be applied:

_____ Annual Fund
_____ Invasives Endowment
_____ Operating Endowment



Friends of Toft Point
5517 Schauer Road
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

Mission Statement: To support the management plan of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay to help preserve the flora and fauna of this property and to help educate visitors about the natural history and the Toft family history of this State Natural Area and National Natural Landmark.

This is a pristine and fragile area with rare plants and biota. Because of this, please do not bring dogs or other pets, drive beyond the designated parking area, wander outside the trail, camp/picnic, smoke or build a campfire, or bike. Parking is very limited so if the lot is full, please carpool from Baileys Harbor Town Hall to help minimize visitor impact to the site.

Membership Report
as of 6/30/26

Annual Members	205
<u>Life Members</u>	<u>204</u>
Total	409

Stewardship Board

Jim Cauley	President	2026
Mitch Leavitt	Vice President	2028
Sam Hoffman	Secretary	2028
Tom Hollingshead	Treasurer	2026
Kurt Kiefer		2027
Dave Link		2027
Sandy Miller		2027
Mark Shropshire		2028
Marsha Wilson		2026

Dr. Mandy Banet, Director
 UWGB Cofrin Center for Biodiversity
Andrew LaPlant, Natural Areas Manager, CCB
Dr. Keir Wefferling, Assistant Professor and Botanist,
 Curator of the Gary Fewless Herbarium, CCB
Tom Hollingshead and Mark Shropshire, Membership
Jude Kuenn, Newsletter

New Annual Member

- Michele Juza, Luxemburg, WI

New Life Members

- Christopher and Lucy Ecke, Wausau, WI
- Julie Gerrits, Milwaukee, WI
- Anna and Paul Starr, Shorewood, WI



Velvet-leaf blueberry (*Vaccinium myrtilloides*), growing at the wooded/swampy edge of the boreal rich fen, Toft Point. *Keir Wefferling photo*