



# 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 82

Spring 2026

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Dear Friends,

Winter storms hit Toft Point again. Hikers recently found many trees down along the road into the Toft homestead and on the south trail. The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay crew, led by Andrew LaPlant, has worked to clear the downed trees from the road and trails.

The Stewardship Board approved its budget and workplan for 2026. We continue to research what can be done to preserve the historic structures, clear some of the growth along the main road for emergency vehicle access, paint another cabin, maintain the trails, train and schedule docents to guide visitors, and support student research at Toft Point. The Stewardship Board approved student research funds for UW-GB, which then reviewed grant applications and awarded \$8,500 in grants for three students doing research at Toft Point.

We can always use some help. One of the most interesting volunteer opportunities at Toft Point is to serve as a docent. You do not need to know everything or be an expert naturalist. The main job is to simply provide a “caring presence” at Toft Point for a couple of hours on a morning or afternoon, and to answer questions as best you can. We provide training and materials for docents. You can “shadow” with one of our current docents to see what it is like. Professor Keir Wefferling offers nature hikes with docents to help answer questions. Schedules are very flexible. You can pick the dates that work on your calendar and sign up online for those times. One of the great benefits for docents is to simply go for a hike at Toft Point.

Please contact me if you are interested in serving as a docent, working on trail maintenance or cabin and barn preservation. Or perhaps you would be interested in serving on the Stewardship Board when there is an open seat.

If you are interested in supporting our work at Toft Point or have a question or concern, please contact me at [james.cauley@gmail.com](mailto: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*

*Save the date!*  
**Annual Meeting and Potluck  
Lunch**  
will be  
**Saturday, August 15th**  
at the  
**Baileys Harbor Town Hall**

Please mark your calendar  
to join us for a  
**noon potluck**  
with our annual meeting

## The White Pine Gazette is 25 Years Young!

Charlotte Lukes found the very first Friends of Toft Point newsletter Roy created on May 1, 2001. Membership included 16 single and 39 family members for a total of 59! Financials recorded income of \$940 in memberships and \$60 in donations equaling \$1,000. Mailing the newsletter cost \$34 for postage, leaving \$966 in the treasury. The newsletter listed all members with their hometowns.

The first newsletter promoted a special tour of Toft Point led by Roy, Saturday June 23, 2001. Folks were encouraged to meet at the Baileys Harbor Town Hall parking lot and carpool.

Wednesdays was a work day for anyone who could make it to help repair cabins, paint window trim and doors. Roof replacement was noted for the old boathouse. There was re-thinking of the barn and replacement of the rotted log at the base of one of the cabins. These were industrious projects from which we still enjoy their results.

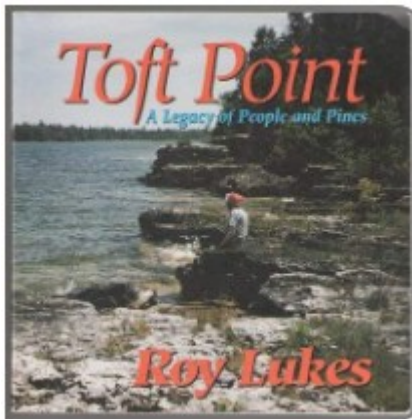
Here is Roy's message:

"Dear Friend,

"The newly formed board of directors of the Friends of Toft Point has chosen me to be the first president of this important group, and it is with this honor that I greet you. Coming to know and enjoy Toft Point during the past 37 years, and having the privilege

of gathering information and writing the book, "Toft Point, A Legacy of People and Pines," I am very excited to be a part of the Friends. Surely it will continue to uphold and protect the great legacy developed by the members of the Toft Family.

"Discussions of board members have suggested the possibility and need of a number of activities. It will be important for there to be members volunteering their time to patrol the trails at the Point and, using simple questionnaires, to learn more about the growing number of visitors including their names, from where they have



*Release date: January 1998*

come, how they learned about this special area, and why they have come. We will want to have several informal meetings and hikes in the near future to help volunteers learn more factual information about the Point and establish a schedule of volunteer dates and times.

"There will always be an on-going need for maintenance. Bonnie Burnham and her Wednesday crews have already done much work on the buildings and trails, but there is more to be done. Scheduled hikes will be aimed at strengthening members' understanding of the Point's geology, plants and animals. Not to be overlooked will be a goal of pure enjoyment as well. Eventually there will be a need for volunteers to help with some basic research activities related to achieving a more complete understanding of the biodiversity of the Toft Point (State) Natural Area.

"Well-informed members will add immeasurably to this group's primary function as a supportive organization to the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, they being in direct charge of the management of this pristine place. An objective of the Friends is not to try to increase the number of visitors to the Point but rather to help them understand and to obey the courtesy rules and to have a safe and enjoyable visit.

"I surely look forward to meeting all of you and to working with you to help protect the fragile beauty of this amazing old-growth forest for generations to come.

"Sincerely, Roy"



*Emma Toft*

*Photo provided by Charlotte Lukes  
Photo credit: Herbert Horn*

## Remembering Judy Turner



Walking by the Toft Point kiosk, we appreciate the posted information and its designation as the trailhead. What some of us may not know is that Judy and John Turner built the kiosk. Charlotte Lukes knew them both.

Friends of Toft Point Life Members for the past 20 years, Judy passed away April 5th. Her husband John passed away in 2023. They owned a small cottage in Ephraim and spent their summers and weekends deepening their family's love for nature.

Through the years, Judy was an avid volunteer with The Door County Land Trust, The Ephraim Moravian Church, and Toft Point. *(Photo from Door County Pulse, Peninsula Pulse, April 29th, 2026)*

## Another Toft Point Resident!

The Natural Areas Crew and I observed a very small (1" diameter) painted turtle while working at Toft on Tuesday, April 28th. We don't have any other observations to note from the past, but we will keep our eyes peeled during future excursions. We saw the turtle near the

south end of the trail that hugs Moonlight Bay (approximate location depicted with yellow pin on map below).

*Andrew LaPlant, Natural Areas Manager*



*Painted turtle*

*Roy Lukes photo*

*Part of the Toft Family homestead, date unknown. Photo provided by Tom Hollingshead*



## Docent Spotlight: Andrea (Andy) Wagoner

Trail docents are already welcoming visitors to Toft Point. One of our docents, Andy Wagoner, shares why she volunteers as a FOTP trail docent and what brings her back for her sixth year.

### Can you tell us about yourself?

*I had a great career as a violinist with the Milwaukee Symphony for 38 years, but upon retirement I knew that my next chapter had to be getting close to the natural world. A few years prior to retirement, my husband and I bought a home in Egg Harbor and I started looking for places to volunteer that were both beautiful and offered the opportunity to learn. After a year or so of back-and-forth to Milwaukee I felt like I didn't live in either place! So now we spend the "6 month summer" here with only occasional trips to Milwaukee.*

### What inspired your interest in Nature, especially given your career in music?

*It's hard to point to anything in particular. My interest in nature has always been there, though family camping trips when I was growing up in Ohio no doubt contributed.*



*Thanks Andy for sharing your time and talent at Toft Point!*

*I played for many summers in the Grand Teton Music Festival, along with my husband, who also played with the Milwaukee Symphony. As wonderful as the festival was, what I really loved were our two days off a week when we went hiking in the mountains. I am just truly happiest outdoors.*

### When engaging visitors at Toft Point, do you tend towards the historical or natural aspect of Toft Point?

*I was initially drawn to Toft Point for the natural beauty, but the human history is fascinating and so deeply linked to the land, that I enjoy delving into those stories and sharing them with folks. I try to stay educated with both the history and the nature since I never know what people might be curious about. On days when I see only a handful of people, I can simply absorb the beauty! You never know what surprising thing you might see or hear!*

### Do you have a memorable docent experience to share?

*Two summers ago I had an interesting chat with "Doug" whom I suspected was in his 80's. Although he had a somewhat reticent way of talking about himself, he clearly was an environmentalist with a lot of knowledge! Another woman joined our conversation and pressed him for a last name. It turns out it was Doug La Follette, our former Wisconsin Secretary of State and one of the organizers of the first Earth Day and co-founder of Wisconsin Environmental Decade, now known as Clean Wisconsin. He wistfully said that they chose the name "Environmental Decade" naively thinking that most of our environmental problems could probably be fixed in a decade.*

### What gives you the greatest pleasure when conversing with Toft Point visitors?

*The time a docent has to converse with visitors. The ice breaker is seeing if the visitors have any questions and if they have been on the property before. The answers to those questions can lead conversations in many different and often fascinating directions.*

Andy volunteers as a docent about three or four times a month, often on Tuesday afternoons. She also enjoys being with and getting to know the other Toft Point docents which she describes as "a terrific group of friendly and conscientious people".

If you are interested in becoming a trail docent, contact Jim Cauley, FOTP president, at [james.cauley@gmail.com](mailto:james.cauley@gmail.com) or Sandy Miller, docent coordinator, at [millesj27@gmail.com](mailto:millesj27@gmail.com). On-site training and written materials are provided.

## UWGB—CCB Student Update by Dr. Keir Wefferling

On April 10th, students funded through the Cofrin Center for Biodiversity's Student Grant program presented on their 2025–2026 research projects. Several students were funded fully or in part by the Friends of Toft Point:

- Miranda Holloway presented on her work exploring carbon dynamics in peatmoss at Toft Point and The Ridges Sanctuary.
- Ben Whitaker presented on odonates (dragonflies and damselflies) in Door and Brown County wetlands.
- Taylor Shumaker examined the diversity and relative abundance of vascular plants growing on ridges of different ages at Toft Point and The Ridges Sanctuary.

These student-led projects and others like them provide invaluable data and lead to a deeper understanding of our beloved natural areas, and through the students, help to build better connections with our human and non-human communities. *Photos by Keir Wefferling*



*Sphagnum fuscum Mylia anomala*



*Sphagnum divinum*



*Sphagnum russowii Sph centrale*



*Sphagnum wulfianum*



*Sphagnum centrale Gaultheria hispidula*



*Sphagnum russowii*

# FOTP Membership Report, Stewardship Board, Trail Update

## Membership Report as of 4/30/26

Annual Members	204
<u>Life Members</u>	<u>201</u>
Total	405

### New Annual Members

- Warren and Kristi Entwistle, Baileys Harbor, WI
- Mary Hughes, Ellison Bay, WI

### New Life Members

- Amy Kurland, Palatine, IL

### 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

Charlotte Lukes, Membership

Jude Kuenn, Newsletter



Looking ahead to the 2026 field season, the Cofrin Center for Biodiversity (CCB) Natural Areas Crew will complete non-native woody invasive species inventory work initiated in 2025. As noted in previous newsletters, these mapping efforts will help identify priority areas for managing invasive species such as common and glossy buckthorn, Japanese barberry, and non-native honeysuckles. This work has been supported by federal funding through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, secured by the Door County Soil and Water Conservation Department.

In other news, the CCB was recently awarded funding from the Fund for Lake Michigan to support land management activities across UW-Green Bay Natural Areas, including Toft Point. These funds will strengthen invasive species control efforts led by our student crew. Target species will include the woody invasives noted above, as well as garlic mustard, garden valerian, hound's tongue, European marsh thistle, phragmites, and others.

Photo above is Sam Gerarden (Restoration Ecologist), and Kiera Danielczak (student Field Technician) carrying tree clearing supplies and equipment for trail clearing work conducted on 4/28/2026.

*Andrew LaPlant, Natural Areas Manager*



## 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 offer a research scholarship 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](mailto:james.cauley@gmail.com) if interested in helping.

Have an idea for a newsletter topic or story, or favorite Toft Point photos or poems? Please consider sharing them with us! Email Toft Point things of interest to [jmkuenn@gmail.com](mailto:jmkuenn@gmail.com). Thank you!

**Help Us Be Green!**

To help save paper, printing and postage expense, please consider receiving your newsletter via email.

Send [charlottelukes70@gmail.com](mailto:charlottelukes70@gmail.com) your email address and permission to do so.



### 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>

**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**  
**c/o C. Lukes**  
**3962 Hillside Road**  
**Egg Harbor, WI 54209**

**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.*



*Sphagnum centrale Sphagnum russowii*



*Peatmoss party*



*Sphagnum centrale Sphagnum capillifolium*

*Photos by Keir Wefferling*