

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 81

Winter 2026

Dear Friends,

“Apricity” is the feeling of the sun on your face during a cold winter day. With recent temperatures above zero and the sun shining, I was able to enjoy sunshine warming my face—apricity. It may not be a word we commonly use, but it seems to be the perfect word to describe our joy from some sunshine. Also, I think back to the 19th century and the Toft family living at Toft’s Point in winter, with wood-cutting, ice-harvesting, ice-fishing and many other chores filling their days. I’m sure that Big Tom and Juleyanne Toft, their children, and neighbors, paused to enjoy the warm sunshine on their faces. Apricity also suggests April with spring ephemerals starting to grow. The dormant forest will wake from its winter rest.

The Stewardship Board is working on plans for 2026. We need to determine what projects can be done to preserve the historic structures, clear some of the growth along the main road, maintain the trails, train and schedule docents to guide visitors, and plan to support student research at Toft Point. We are working on a budget.

Of course, we need help with these tasks. Please contact me if you are interested in serving as a docent (with training and a very flexible schedule), 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.

In November the Board elected Mark Shropshire to a three-year term on the Stewardship Board. Mark helped paint cabins in September and is very interested in preserving Toft Point. Please congratulate and thank Mark if you run into him on a trail this year.

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.

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
immediately following.
More details in the summer newsletter.

Welcome new Stewardship Board Member



Mark Shropshire
FOTP Board member
Term expires 2028

I recall my most meaningful encounter with Toft Point happening in the Spring of 2018. We just had our offer to purchase one of the Baileys Harbor Condominium

Association units accepted not long after Thanksgiving 2017 and my wife, JoAnn, and I were excited to explore our new neighborhood.

It felt to us like we were entering a new world as we turned onto that winding Toft Point passageway to the secluded trail head. The peaceful walk, the glorious trees lining the way, the gradual revealing views of the water, the unexpected welcome of the cabins and the beauty of the rocky shoreline were almost magical in nature. Joining the Friends of Toft Point in the Autumn of 2022 and becoming Life Members in 2025 were easy choices.

Completing the Wisconsin Master Naturalist program in 2024 further solidified my desire to emulate gifted mentors, advocate for Mother Nature and commit to

preserving and protecting our diverse ecosystems. Ironically, the opportunity to serve on the Stewardship Board feels like a synergistic extension of my 40 year-long professional career as a physical therapist. I look forward to fostering collaborations that nurture our shared regional interdependence.



Charlotte Lukes said Roy took this photo almost 50 years ago when their van was parked outside of the Upper Range Light at The Ridges. The Lukes lived in the house for many years when Roy was The Ridges' naturalist. He found the frost on the windshield of their van.



Sam Gerarden and Andrew LaPlant were at Toft Point mid-January for some trail maintenance, clearing trees off the path. Thanks UWGB CCB Crew for keeping trails in good hiking and snowshoeing condition!

A Winter Memory from Emma Toft offered by Tom Hollingshead

Emma Toft was born in 1891 to Juleyanne (Panter) and Thomas Toft. She was the seventh of eight children (William - Olive - Mary - Thorwald - Samuel - Lucy - Emma - Elsie). The Toft family divided their time between a Baileys Harbor home and an area just northeast of town now known as Toft Point.

The following anecdote was most likely hand written by Emma circa 1971 and then later typed out and edited by Emma's niece, Virginia (Wilson) Johnson (daughter of Lucy). It's been edited again by Virginia's grandson Max Hollingshead, in an attempt to clear up confusing passages and sentence structure.

The log building with no roof in the woods on the way to the rocks was the ice house. No roof was used so the rain could dampen the sawdust and help keep the ice.

If the ice was thick enough and clear blue, we cut it in Mud Bay either up in the area off the Ridges' shoreline where it was quite deep or to the east-southeast of the little reef off the Old Garden. Brother Will would check and find the depth and also the grade. It must be clear blue ice. Then with an ice plow and the team of horses, he plowed it each way so there were square blocks and an opening to put the slide in as the pond was opened.

One winter, a neighbor who had a summer residence in the head of the bay had someone put up ice for him but he needed more layers, so he asked Will if he would cut a certain number more cakes and a driver would come to get them.

So this clear windy morning with the wind in the northwest we drove to Mud Bay and out on the ice abreast the Old Garden. We had to open up the pond and put the slide in place resting on some cakes so as to make it easy to get out on the sleigh. Then we had to saw with the big heavy ice-saw more cakes loose for our load and the other man's load. His driver was there with a team and sleigh. He just stood near his team and kept tightening his belt on his long overcoat. He never asked or offered a hand. When Will and I had a load, Will said, "Jump on, Emma," and he gave the horses a clip with a whip and we were off.

When we returned for another load, the man was gone with his team and load. If he had been a real man he would have offered to help open the pond and load our sleigh and we would have helped him.

After the ice house was filled on a mild day in early spring, we started covering it with sawdust, both the four sides

and the top. Then when late autumn came, one had to shovel all the sawdust out so it would be ready for another fill in winter.

Sometimes there was no ice formed in Mud Bay but the ice men would be able to plow it at Kangaroo Lake or Sister Bay. Then it was hauled by truck, so much a cake. More than once I've helped shovel the road nine tenths of a mile so trucks would make it. I think we only had it from Kangaroo Lake once and then it wasn't considered clean and pure. Would any water be today?

Thank you Tom (aka Max) for offering these memories from Emma.



Emma Toft and Roy Lukes on the steps of the Upper Range Light.

Imagine the conversations these two enjoyed over their 18-year friendship! With appreciation to The Ridges for sharing photo of two very important local conservationists. Emma and Roy's wisdom is a gift to us all.

TRAILSIDE GUIDE to the MOSSES and LIVERWORTS of TOFT POINT STATE NATURAL AREA



Illustrated Glossary

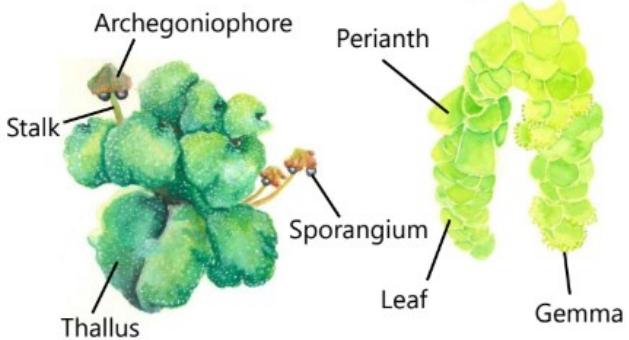
Acrocarp

Pleurocarp



Thalloid Liverwort

Leafy Liverwort



Sarah Baughman, Tony Klingert, Alex Powell, and Keir Wefferling are wrapping up work on the Trailside Guide to Mosses and Liverworts of Toft Point State Natural Area. We're super excited to share this work with the world!

This guide features an illustrated glossary of terms, a map of 11 bryophyte "hot spots", 31 species profiles with lists of co-occurring species, a resources appendix, and is rich in Keir's photographs and Sarah's watercolor paintings. We plan to print and share the guides later this spring (details to be determined)!

*Keir Wefferling, Professor and Botanist,
UWGB-Cofrin Center for Biodiversity*

Hook-leaved Fern Moss (pleurocarp) *Thuidium recognitum*

Recognition: Strongly costate, with costa filling the tip of the leaf. Stem leaves reach out away from the stem, in contrast to the appressed stem leaves of *Thuidium delicatulum*. We can see the difference between the stem leaves of these two species using a 10x hand lens, looking at a single "frond" held up to the sky, backlit.



Ecology: Grows in large mats in dry, limy soil. We find it along the trail near the **Thimbleberry Patch** (HS#1) and also at the **Quarry Log** (HS# 9), along with *Orthodicranum montanum*, *Ptilidium pulcherrimum*, and *Orthodicranum flagellare*.

Alpine Thyme-moss (acrocarp)

Plagiomnium medium

Plagiomniums are often encountered on a walk in the woods, even in relatively disturbed sites, but in the western Great Lakes *P. cuspidatum* is much more common. This one is larger than our other species.

Recognition: Leaves are pale yellow/green with toothy margins near the base and a rounded/slightly acute apex. The shoots bear multiple red-orange seta, which are characteristic for this species. When mature, they will have oblong, pendant capsules.



Ecology: Found in carpets on soil and limey ledges like at the **Thimbleberry Patch** (HS#1) and in the **Old Quarry**, as well as in lower, wet regions where it can form large hummocks. Widespread in the Northern Forest.

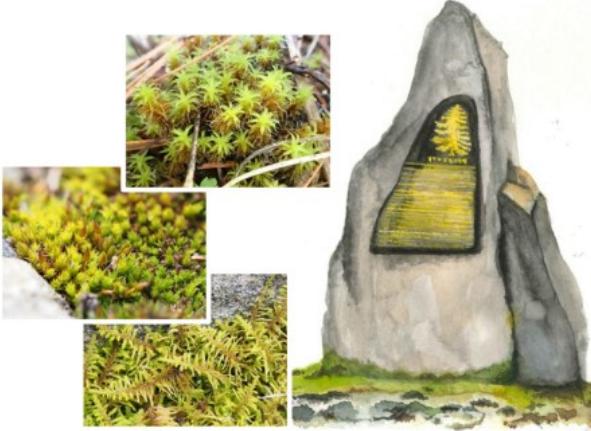
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Toft Rock

HS #8

45.07382, -87.0871

The plaque on this rock describes the history of Toft Point following the historical quarrying of what was referred to as Mud Bay Quarry, where Toft Point now lies. We also learn about the establishment of the Thomas Toft Family Homestead and their dedication to preserving the biodiversity of the area. The rock gives us a tiny glimpse at the bryo-diversity we can find at Toft Point, with most of the beings growing here concentrated at the base of the rock. Here you will likely find Sessile Grimmia (*Schistidium apocarpum*), Fir-tamarisk Moss (*Abietinella abietina*), and Sandhill Screw Moss (*Syntrichia ruralis*).



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Sarah's Rock

HS #5

45.07605, -87.0915



A charismatic boulder hanging out along the trailside. Topped with a tiny cedar sapling, this rock is loaded with a diversity of mosses and liverworts. When checking out this rock, look especially close for shiny, flat Shingle Moss (*Neckera pennata*), the light yellow-green liverwort Flatleaf Scalewort (*Radula complanata*), and Sessile Grimmia (*Schistidium apocarpum*), with its bright red sporophytes.



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Pellucid Four-tooth Moss (acrocarp)

Tetraphis pellucida

Look at those gemma cups! When the plant is growing in uncrowded conditions, propagules called gemmae grow at the ends of the shoots in cups formed by specialized, rounded leaves. The gemmae are splashed out by water and go on to form new growth. When plants are crowded, they shift to sporophyte production; the mature capsules are very satisfying to caress with a fingertip, releasing clouds of spores to the air.



Recognition: Leaves are rounded like those of *Plagiomnium* but lack the border of teeth. Capsules bear four teeth and look like bird beaks. Distinctive once you start to notice them; just check for gemmae in cups and/or capsules with four peristome teeth.

Ecology: *Tetraphis* can be found on the vertical sides of well decayed wood (stumps, logs) in forests. Look for it on **Quarry Log** (HS#9).

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FOTP Membership Report, Stewardship Board, 2025 Financial Report

Membership Report as of 1/30/26

Annual Members	198
Life Members	201
Total	399

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

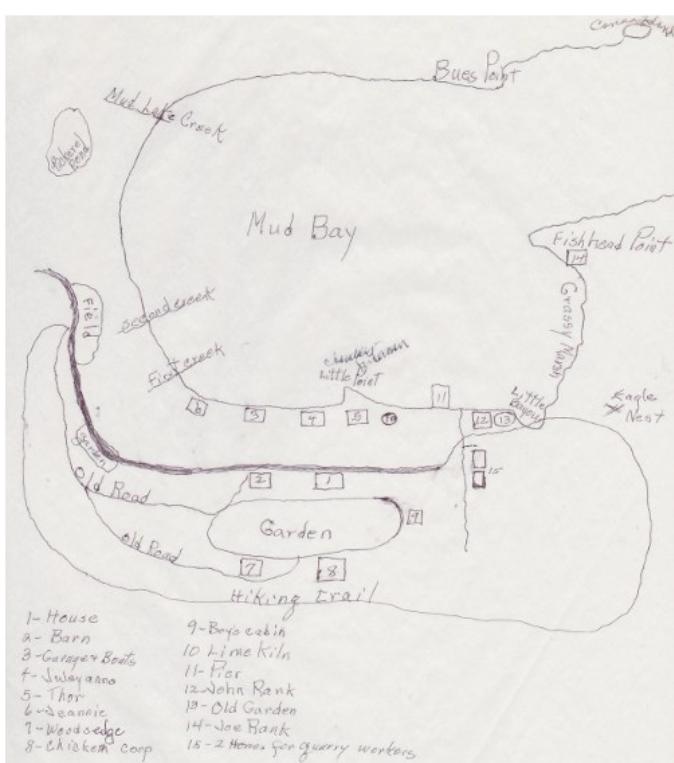
UWGB Cofrin Center for Biodiversity

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



Emma Toft's map of their land, circa 1971. Note more buildings and roads then. Historically known as Mud Bay, it's referred to as Moonlight Bay on current maps.

2025 Financial Report as of 12/31/25

Income and Expenses

Income

Annual Membership Fees	\$ 1,900.00
Designated Gifts	4,773.60
<u>Lifetime Membership Fees</u>	<u>2,225.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 8,898.60

Expenses

		<u>Budgeted</u>
Communications & Supplies	\$ 1,257.35	\$ 1,100.00
Contingency	0.00	1,400.00
Grants	7,930.16	9,000.00
Maintenance of Trails and Historic Buildings	247.32	2,500.00
<u>Other Work</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 9,434.83	\$14,000.00

Investment Activity

Investment Activity Gain	\$26,983.74
<u>Investment Activity Loss</u>	<u>- 5,113.21</u>
Total Investment Activity	\$21,870.53

Statement of Financial Position

Friends of Toft Point Funds		<u>2024</u>
Operating Fund	\$68,318.68	\$66,915.67
Student Research Fund	6,729.84	13,870.00
FOTP Krischan Botany Fund	2,115.00	2,115.00
	\$77,163.52	\$82,900.67

Friends of Toft Point Endowment Funds

Operating Endowment	\$142,998.30	\$118,005.83
Invasives Endowment	12,685.49	10,606.51
	\$155,683.79	\$128,612.34

Total Assets **\$232,847.31** **\$211,513.01**

Student Grants

	<u>Budgeted</u>
Jack Zamzow	\$ 2,720.15
Tony Klingert	2,939.68
Sarah Baughman	1,770.33
Total Grants	\$ 7,430.16
	\$ 10,650.00

Financials submitted by Tom Hollingshead, Treasurer

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 if interested in helping.



A moody January sky provides a day of solitude and winter grace for those who venture down the trail. Jude Kuenn 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.

Please 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



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.

Below: Emma's map (see page 6) notes this building as item 3 "garage + boats".

Right: Majestic cedars thrive at Toft Point. Jude Kuenn photos

